

ECP disqualifies Dasti  
F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has disqualified Jamshed Dasti as Member of the National Assembly (MNA) over fake educational degrees. The ruling, announced on Tuesday, follows a reference submitted by the speaker of the National Assembly, along with two petitions that challenged the authenticity of Dasti's educational documents.



@thefrontierpost

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

www.thefrontierpost.com

Vol. XXXIXII

No. 164

Regd. No. 241

MUHARRAM 20 1447 -- WEDNESDAY, JULY 16 2025

PESHAWAR EDITION

12 PAGES

PRICE. 30



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif exchanging views with President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## Pakistan committed to enhance cooperation with Indonesia: PM

Saqib Mushtaq

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday reiterated that Pakistan was committed to enhancing bilateral cooperation with Indonesia in all avenues, including economic, strategic, trade sectors, as well as in the field of defense and defense production.

The prime minister, in a meeting with Indonesian Defense Minister Lieutenant General (R) Syafrie Samsudin, who called on him here, said that Pakistan and Indonesia enjoyed a longstanding friendship rooted in shared cultural, religious and historical bonds supporting each other at international forums, according to a PM Office press release.

Recalling his cordial meeting with the Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto on the sidelines of the G-8 summit in Cairo, Prime Minister Shehbaz conveyed his best wishes to him. The meeting underscored the deep-rooted historical, brotherly and friendly bilateral relations between Pakistan and Indonesia.

During the meeting, both sides emphasized the importance of enhancing multifaceted bilateral cooperation. The prime minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to explore and expand collaboration with Indonesia in joint ventures of investment in mutually beneficial projects. He also reviewed ongoing initiatives under the Pakistan-Indonesia Defense Cooperation Agreement and agreed to accelerate the implementation of projects in key areas of mutual interest.

Lieutenant General (R) Syafrie Samsudin conveyed best wishes of the President of the Republic of

### Shehbaz, Zardari discuss country's political, security, economic situation

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Tuesday called on President Asif Ali Zardari here and discussed matters related to the country's political, security and economic situation. During the meeting, they also discussed the law and order situation of the country and steps being taken against terrorists. The prime minister informed the president about the government's initiatives to improve the country's economy. The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to work together to ensure the stability, development and prosperity in the country. Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Advisor to the Prime Minister on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah were present in the meeting.

Indonesia Prabowo Subianto for the prime minister and people of Pakistan. He reiterated Indonesia's desire to further strengthen defense ties with Pakistan and to explore possible areas for cooperation, especially in defense production.

**Shehbaz for providing world-class education, modern digital classrooms at Daanish University, schools:** Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif directed the relevant authorities to make significant investment in digital and modern classrooms in Daanish Schools and Daanish University, besides focusing on the education of international standards in modern disciplines.

The prime minister, chairing a review meeting on the progress in the construction of Daanish Schools across the country and Daanish University in Islamabad, said, "As Khadim-e-Pakistan, I consider it my foremost responsibility to provide international-standard education to

the children of my country."

He directed that the teachers at Daanish Schools should be provided with the best salary packages and that recruitment should be made through a transparent and merit-based system. Calling for accelerated construction of Daanish Schools in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan, he said that Daanish Schools system had grown into a full tree, which he had sowed in Punjab.

The prime minister observed that hundreds of students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds graduated from Daanish Schools and were making their mark globally. "The dream of serving children from marginalised segments of society through Daanish Schools is coming to fruition. Thousands of children across the country will benefit from these institutions. I will always strive to ensure equal opportunities for quality education to every segment of society," he resolved.

### Indonesian delegation meets Field Marshal

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Lieutenant General Sjafrie Sjams-oeddin (Retd), Minister of Defence of Indonesia leading a delegation comprising representatives from various services and intelligence agencies called on the Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff at General Headquarters, on Tuesday.

During the meeting both sides exchanged views on bilateral defence collaboration, regional security dynamics and avenues to further strengthen military ties. The meeting underscored the longstanding friendship and cooperation between the two countries. Field Marshal highlighted the importance of mutual cooperation in maintaining peace and stability in the region.

Minister of Defence of Indonesia appreciated the role of Pakistan Army in fight against terrorism and reaffirmed Indonesia's commitment to enhancing defence relations with Pakistan.

### Torrential monsoon rains claim 8 lives

F.P. Report

MULTAN: Torrential monsoon rains wreaked havoc across Punjab, killing eight people and injuring 38 others in various weather-related incidents over the past 24 hours.

According to the Meteorological Department, more heavy rainfall is expected across the province till Thursday, raising fears of landslides in hilly regions and urban flooding in low-lying areas. In Rawalpindi, a passenger bus overturned near Chakri Interchange due to slippery conditions, killing four passengers and injuring 22. In Okara, lightning strikes claimed the lives of two individuals.

A madrasa roof collapsed in Minchinabad, resulting in two student fatalities and 12 injuries. In Dera Ishtiaq, the collapse of a hut injured four people. Heavy rainfall pounded Lahore, Faisalabad, Okara, Sahiwal, and Gujranwala, causing a sharp drop in temperatures and flooding in low-lying areas. In Kasur, Pattoki, and Gujranwala, entire neighbourhoods went underwater.

In Nankana Sahib, Allahabad, Shahkot, and Chunan, continuous downpours resulted in power outages due to the tripping of several feeders. Streets in Chunan resembled rivers after four consecutive days of torrential rain. Sangla Hill saw intermittent rain affecting the electricity supply. The monsoon system has triggered flood-like situations in rivers and seasonal streams.

At Taunsa, the Indus River's water level rose further, and medium-level flooding was recorded at Guddu Barrage, where water increased by 20,211 cusecs in 24 hours. Floodwaters entered more villages near Kashmore as the Indus River overflowed.

The Suleiman mountain range received torrential rainfall, swelling seasonal hill torrents (Rod Kohis). A high flood wave was reported in Dera Ghazi Khan, cutting off Sakhi Sarwar and tribal regions from surrounding areas.

Meanwhile, Indus River has been in medium flood at Guddu Barrage, the control room said in its report as water level surging at the barrage after monsoon rains.

Medium flood persists at Guddu Barrage on Tuesday as the Indus River's water level surging at the waterworks with 20,000 cusecs increase within last 12 hours. The inflow in Indus at Guddu has been 3,75,500 cusecs while the outflow has been recorded 3,35,800 cusecs. The water has also been released to three off taking canals of Guddu Barrage, control room stated.

## Divided EU weighs action against Israel over Gaza war

BRUSSELS (AFP): EU foreign ministers on Tuesday discussed options for action against Israel over the war in Gaza — but looked unlikely to agree on any. The bloc's foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas has put forward 10 potential steps after Israel was found to have breached a cooperation deal between the two sides on human rights grounds.

The measures range from suspending the entire accord or curbing trade ties to sanctioning Israeli ministers, imposing an arms embargo and halting visa-free travel. Despite growing anger over the devastation in Gaza, EU states remain divided over how to tackle Israel and diplomats say there appears to be no critical mass for any move.

"I can't predict how the discussion will go," Kallas said, ahead of the foreign ministers' talks in Brussels. She said the main focus would likely be on how the EU could leverage improvements to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

That comes after Kallas on Thursday announced a

deal with Israel's Foreign Minister Gideon Saar, to open more entry points and allow in more food. Gaza's two million residents face dire humanitarian conditions as Israel has severely limited aid during its war with Palestinian militant group Hamas. "We see some positive signs when it comes to border crossings open, we see some positive signs of them reconstructing the electricity lines, providing water, also more trucks of humanitarian aid coming in," Kallas said Monday.

But she said the situation in Gaza remained "catastrophic." "Of course, we need to see more in order to see real improvement for the people on the ground," she said. Saar, speaking at a meeting in Brussels on Monday, was confident Israel would avoid further EU action.

"I'm sure not any of them will be adopted by the EU member states," said the foreign minister. "There's no justification whatsoever." While the EU appears unable to take further moves against Israel, just getting to this stage has

been a considerable step. The bloc only agreed to review the cooperation deal after Israel relaunched military operations in Gaza following the collapse of a ceasefire in March.

Until then deep divisions between countries backing Israel and those more favorable to the Palestinians had hamstrung any move. In a sign of that, Hungary looked likely to maintain a block on more sanctions on Israeli settlers in the West Bank despite French minister Jean-Noel Barrot making a fresh plea for action.

The war was sparked by Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack on Israel, which led to 1,219 deaths, most of them civilians, according to an AFP tally based on official figures. Of 251 people taken hostage by Hamas, 49 are still held in Gaza, including 27 the Israeli military says are dead. Hamas-run Gaza's health ministry says that at least 58,386 Palestinians, most of them civilians, have been killed in Israel's retaliatory campaign. The UN considers those figures reliable.

## Dar denounces US-Israel strikes on Iran at SCO forum

TIANJIN, China (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to regional stability, multilateral cooperation, and peaceful dispute resolution during his address at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Foreign Ministers meeting in Tianjin on Tuesday.

Speaking at the high-level gathering, Dar emphasized the SCO's role as a stabilizing force in a world facing profound geopolitical challenges. He praised China's leadership in advancing the organization's agenda and welcomed Belarus as the newest full member. Dar strongly criticized Israel's military actions in Gaza, labeling them a "reckless disregard for international norms" that has led to a dire humanitarian crisis. He urged an immediate ceasefire and reiterated Pakistan's support for a two-state solution based on pre-1967 borders with East Jerusalem as Palestine's capital. The foreign minister also denounced recent attacks

on Iran, including US strikes on nuclear facilities, calling such actions against SCO member states "unacceptable." Dar expressed concern over recent escalations in South Asia, referencing the Pahalgam attack allegations that brought Pakistan and a neighboring nuclear-armed state to the brink of conflict. He stressed that disputes must be resolved through dialogue, not coercion, and called for structured talks to address long-standing issues.

"Pakistan remains committed to ceasefire agreements and regional stability, but we cannot accept the normalization of arbitrary force," he stated. Dar advocated for institutional reforms within the SCO, including the adoption of English as a third official language and enhanced Secretariat capabilities. He also highlighted the need for economic collaboration, proposing greater use of national currencies to mitigate global financial shocks and backing the creation of an alternative development funding mechanism. He also underscored the



China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship Belt and Road Initiative project, as vital for regional connectivity and shared prosperity. The deputy prime minister called for renewed engagement with Afghanistan through the SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group and emphasized a unified approach to counterterrorism, rejecting its use for political gains. He also flagged climate change as a critical challenge requiring collective action. In closing, Dar reaffirmed Pakistan's dedication to the "Shanghai Spirit" of mutual trust and cooperation, urging member states to pursue a future "defined not by confrontation, but by collaboration."

## Saif: Imran unaware of ongoing protest activities

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Adviser to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Information and Public Relations, Barrister Dr. Saif, held a meeting with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan.

Following the meeting, Barrister Dr. Saif stated that there is a severe lack of basic facilities being provided to Imran Khan by the prison authorities. He revealed that both Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi are being subjected to extreme psychological torture in prison. According to Imran Khan, blatant violations of human rights are taking place inside the prison. He is being kept in solitary confinement and denied access to TV, newspapers, books, and even basic clothing. Meetings with him have been severely restricted, leaving him completely unaware of outside developments.

Barrister Dr. Saif further stated that Imran Khan was unaware of the Chief

Minister's visit to Lahore and the ongoing protest activities. "I briefed him regarding the Chief Minister's visit and the protests taking place there," he added.

Regarding Bushra Bibi's condition, Barrister Dr. Saif revealed that she is also facing mental harassment in jail. She is being given contaminated water and her food supply is being obstructed. Recently, she was bitten on the foot by a poisonous insect, which left her ill for a week.

Imran Khan has reportedly vowed that after his release, he will not forgive the officers and officials responsible for the cruelty inflicted upon him and his wife. Barrister Dr. Saif emphasized that despite all the torture, both Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi remain strong and resilient. Imran Khan declared, "Those who believe they can break my resolve by harming my wife will fail and be disgraced. If anything happens to my wife, I will not forgive those

responsible."

Barrister Dr. Saif also stated that detailed discussions were held regarding the upcoming Senate elections and the protest movement. Imran Khan has finalized and provided the priority list of PTI Senate candidates. Mishaal Yousafzai's name has been finalized for Dr. Sania Nishtar's seat, while other candidates include Murad Saeed, Faisal Javed, Mirza Afridi, and Pir Noorul Haq Qadri. Azam Swati has been nominated for the technocrat seat, and Rubina Naz for the women's seat.

During the meeting, Imran Khan issued clear directives for the immediate launch of a nationwide protest movement. Expressing deep regret and anger over internal disputes and social media campaigns among party leaders, he issued strict instructions that his message be conveyed to all party leaders: stop personal attacks and avoid using social media against each other.

### Reserved seats: PHC seeks KP govt reply

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: A divisional bench of Peshawar High Court (PHC) comprising Justice Sahebzada Asadullah and Justice Farah Jamshed adjourned on plea regarding oath-taking of elected members on reserved seats for today (on Wednesday).

The petitioner's lawyer, Aamir Javed Advocate, stated that the court had already decided on this matter. He mentioned that on March 27, 2024, the court had directed the members to take oath, and the Chief Minister and Speaker were given 14 days to administer the oath.

The lawyer also mentioned that a contempt of court petition was filed, and the court had directed the parties to administer the oath within 7 days.

The lawyer highlighted that the Constitution has been amended, granting the Chief Justice the authority to nominate someone to administer the oath under Article 255(2). However, Justice Sahibzada Asadullah noted that if the Speaker, Governor, and Chief Minister fail to administer the oath, the Chief Justice has the authority to nominate someone for this purpose.

The lawyer mentioned that the Election Commission has restored the members to their seats, but they have not yet taken oath. The Election Commission has written to the Chief Minister and Governor to administer the oath to the members on reserved seats.

## Naqvi, Pezeshkian vow deeper bilateral cooperation

TEHRAN (APP): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi held an important meeting with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, Pakistan-Iran relations, and bilateral cooperation were discussed in detail. Mohsin Naqvi congratulated President Pezeshkian on Iran's great victory in the war.

Mohsin Naqvi stated that the Iranian Supreme Leader and the entire nation stood firmly against aggression. He added that the prudent leadership and excellent strategy of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei played a decisive role in the war, which is a source of pride for the Muslim Ummah. He said that Pakistan strongly condemned the attack on Iran at every forum, the

Pakistani Parliament was the first to pass a resolution condemning the imposition of war on Iran and supported Iran's legitimate right to self-defense. He also conveyed Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's message of goodwill and best wishes to President Masoud Pezeshkian.

President Pezeshkian stated that Iran attaches great importance to its relations with Pakistan. He emphasized that Iran will never forget the support extended by Pakistan during the war. The Iranian President further said that the Zionist regime is trying to create division among Muslim countries. He stressed the need for unity and harmony among Islamic nations. He emphasized that if Muslim Countries fully understand the importance

of Islamic unity, they can form a united front against the Zionist regime.

President Masoud Pezeshkian expressed satisfaction over the current bilateral relations between Iran and Pakistan. He underlined the importance of diplomatic exchanges and constructive dialogue to expand comprehensive cooperation between the two countries. He thanked Pakistan for its sincere support during the war impose. He emphasized that there are immense opportunities to enhance collaboration between the two nations.

Iranian Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni, the Iranian President's Special Assistant, the Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan, and the Ambassador of Pakistan to Iran were also present at the occasion.

## ECP awards extra reserved seats in KP Assembly

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has announced its decision regarding the reserved seats in the KP Assembly, approving the PML-N's request for an additional seat.

According to the verdict, PML-N has secured one more seat in the KP Assembly. As per the updated tally, PML-N now holds 9 reserved seats, as does Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F), while the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has five.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Parliamentarians (PTI-P) and

the Awami National Party (ANP) have been granted one additional seat each. In a notable development, PML-N has also been awarded a minority seat in the KP Assembly. The ECP further announced that a toss would be held between ANP and PTI-P for one of the 26 reserved seats for women that remains undecided. This decision comes a day after the hearing was concluded and the verdict was reserved.

**Governor's Secretariat urges immediate summoning of KP Assembly session for oath of reserved seat:** The Governor's Secretariat of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on

Tuesday formally requested the immediate summoning of the Provincial Assembly session to administer the oath to members elected on reserved seats for women and non-Muslims. This move follows directives issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in compliance with the Supreme Court's decision.

In a letter addressed to the Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister, the Principal Secretary to the Governor, Zubair Arshad, cited the ECP's correspondence dated July 14, 2025, emphasizing the urgency of convening the assembly session.





## Sharjeel: Yellow Line BRT project making swift progress

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon stated that the progress on the Yellow Line BRT project is satisfactory, with work advancing swiftly on two key components, the construction of depots and the new structure replacing the former Jam Sadiq Bridge.

He emphasized that the government's objective is to complete the project ahead of schedule to provide the citizens of Karachi with access to modern and high-quality public transport services. Sindh Senior Minister and Provincial Minister for Information and Transport, Sharjeel Inam Memon, reviewed the construction work of the Yellow Line BRT at the Jam Sadiq Bridge. Speaking to the media on the occasion, he provided detailed insights into the ongoing development projects and key issues facing the province.

Speaking to the media on the occasion, Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon said that the Sindh government's priority is to integrate all BRT lines in the city, including the Green Line, Orange Line, Red Line, and Yellow Line, which will significantly ease traffic



congestion in Karachi and provide citizens with pollution-free travel options. He added that electric buses (EV buses) are being introduced under the Yellow Line and other BRT pro In response to a question about the Red Line BRT, Sharjeel Inam Memon acknowledged that there had indeed been some challenges; however, the pace of construction has now picked up again, and the progress is satisfactory.

He said that the Sindh government is set to launch double-decker buses and Pakistan's first electric taxi service (EV Taxi) in Karachi in August. Additionally, Pink EV scooters will be provided free of cost, especially for women, to ensure safe and conven-

ient transportation. Sharjeel Inam Memon added that all these initiatives are part of the Sindh government's broader vision to reduce environmental pollution in Karachi and to provide a modern and efficient transport infrastructure. Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon said that water has been drained from most areas of Hyderabad following the recent rains. But some issues were encountered due to the power suspensions caused by HESCO. The administration used generators to drain water from the affected areas, and it seems that the drainage in the remaining areas will be completed tonight.

Sharjeel Inam Memon stated that Sindh government has attained thou-

sands of kilometers of roadworks and sanitation schemes in Karachi during its tenure. He noted that garbage was once one of the city's biggest problems, but it has now been brought under control, and a functional daily sanitation system is in place.

Responding to questions from journalists, he said that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government should be allowed to function in accordance with its mandate, but Ali Amin Gandapur appears to be acting more like a member of the opposition.

Regarding the MQM, he said that they should abandon the politics of hatred and instead focus on addressing public issues; otherwise, their statements are not worth paying attention to. Regarding the children of the PTI founder, he said that if they wish to come to Pakistan and take part in politics, they should be allowed to do so; however, the politics of chaos will never be tolerated.

Regarding the building collapse in Lyari, Sharjeel Inam Memon stated that the building was constructed illegally without any approved plan. He also confirmed the formation of an inquiry committee and the arrest of several individuals in connection with the incident.

## Drug smuggler convicted for life imprisonment

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Anti-Terrorism Court Peshawar has convicted a drug smuggler, Waqar, to life imprisonment and imposed a fine of one million rupees, on Tuesday. ATC Judge Muhammad Iqbal Khan convicted the culprit after the prosecution proved the charges. During the trial, the court was informed that Waqar was smuggling narcotics and was apprehended by excise officials in the Peshawar area of Pashkhar.

A large quantity of narcotics, weighing thousands of grams, was recovered from the possession of the accused. After proving the guilt of the accused, the court sentenced Waqar to life imprisonment and imposed a fine of one million rupees.

## Encroached state land reclaimed

LAHORE (APP): Acting on the directives of Ombudsman Punjab, a province-wide operation was launched to reclaim illegally occupied government land. As a result, 300 kanals of state land, valued at approximately Rs 499.3 million, was successfully recovered from encroachers.

The action was taken following public complaints received at the Regional Offices of the Ombudsman Punjab regarding illegal occupation of government property. In addition to reclaiming the land, unauthorized structures built on it were demolished.

## PFA seals store, imposes fine

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Food Authority (PFA) conducted a grand food safety operation on Lahore-Sheikhupura Road, targeting unhygienic and non-compliant food businesses. As part of the operation, 16 food points and production units were inspected, resulting in one grocery store being sealed, 11 businesses fined a total of Rs328,000, and an FIR lodged against a serious violator.

PFA Director General Muhammad Asim Javaid told media on Tuesday that several food outlets were penalized for using sub-standard cooking oil and washing utensils with non-food-grade detergents.

The inspection teams also observed foul-smelling freezers, poor hygiene conditions, and a lack of medical and training certificates for food handlers. He said that round-the-clock inspections are being carried out across Punjab to ensure the availability of safe and healthy food for the public. Strict action, including sealing and legal prosecution, will be taken against violators of food safety regulations.

The DG added that surprise inspections are also being conducted at both small eateries and upscale food outlets, particularly in posh areas. He urged the public to report any food safety violations by calling the PFA helpline at 1223.

## Police conduct crackdown against beggars

RAWALPINDI (INP): Rawalpindi police conducted special crackdown against professional beggars to stop increasing trend of begging, here on Tuesday.

During operation, police have arrested 25 beggars from different areas over the past two days. The detained individuals include both men and women of various ages. According to police spokesman, many of them were not only begging but were also involved in criminal activities such as theft and drug dealing.

Special police teams have been set up to focus on beggars who cause problems for the public specially those who block roads and block traffic at busy intersections.

The campaign is part of the Punjab Chief Minister's plan to clean up the roads, bazzars, and shopping malls from professional beggars and improve public safety. Police spokesman said the crackdown will continue to stop the growing number of professional beggars in the city.

## CM meets PA Speaker, discusses political and administrative affairs

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif met with Punjab Assembly (PA) Speaker Malik Muhammad Ahmed Khan to discuss the overall political and administrative situation of the province, here on Tuesday.

During the meeting, the Speaker commended the Chief Minister for establishing the Punjab Enforcement and Regulatory Authority (PERA), terming it a landmark initiative to combat

inflation, hoarding, profiteering, encroachments, and land grabbing.

He also appreciated the Punjab government's timely and effective relief measures during the ongoing monsoon season.

Talking on the occasion, CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif said that the establishment of PERA is aimed at providing direct relief to the common citizen. "The welfare of every individual in Punjab is my top priority," she said, adding that "this vision drives every major decision

taken by the provincial government. Ensuring access to basic facilities is a commitment I stand by."

The Speaker praised the Chief Minister for serving the people beyond political affiliations, stating that citizens across all segments of society are expressing satisfaction with the government's performance.

He added that, for the first time, development is being equally prioritized in both urban centers and underdeveloped regions of Punjab.

## KMC to solarize major arteries by Sept 30

KARACHI (APP): The Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) has initiated the solarization of key roads across the city.

Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has set a deadline of 30th September for the illumination of major city arteries using solar-powered streetlights.

The project, part of KMC's broader green energy initiative, includes the solarization of Shahrah-e-Faisal, Marine Drive (Clifton), Shahrah-e-Iran, and Shahrah-e-Firdous.

The procurement process for the project has been completed, and a large consignment of over 1,000 solar poles and lights is expected to arrive in Karachi by the second

week of August.

"These are not just streetlights — they are a long-term investment in sustainability," Mayor Murtaza Wahab said during a high-level meeting. "This initiative will not only improve public lighting but will significantly reduce electricity costs and provide an environmentally friendly solution with a five-year post-installation operation and maintenance plan."

The Mayor Wahab issued clear instructions to avoid any further delays and warned that strict action would be taken in case of non-compliance with the set deadline.

In the same meeting, the Mayor Karachi also direct-

ed the engineering department to establish public washrooms in every district and high-traffic areas of the city, to address a long-standing civic need.

Moreover, he instructed the relevant departments to expedite the ongoing development works at Hassan Ali Hoti Market, Empress Market (Phase II), and the Kemari Fish Market, setting 31st August as the completion deadline.

The meeting was attended by Municipal Commissioner Syed Muhammad Afzal Zaidi, Financial Advisor Gulzar Abro, Technical Services Director Tariq Mughal, Media Director Danyal Siyal, and other senior officials.

## Punjab Cabinet Committee holds meeting, reviews security situation

LAHORE (APP): The 33rd meeting of the Punjab Cabinet Committee on Law and Order was held on Tuesday at the Punjab Home Department under the chairmanship of Provincial Health Minister and Committee Chairman Khawaja Salman Rafique, where the overall law and order situation in the province was thoroughly reviewed.

Provincial Ministers Malik Sohaib Ahmed Bharath and Chaudhry Shafay Hussain participated as special guests while Punjab Home Secretary Dr. Ahmad Javed Qazi and senior representatives from law enforcement agencies briefed the forum in detail.

The committee lauded the performance of the Home Department and security agencies in ensuring peace during first Ashra of Muharram. It approved the deployment of one wing of Pakistan Rangers each in Attock and Dera Ghazi Khan, while extending the deployment in Mianwali for an additional three months.

Proposals concerning the provision of resources to police forces operating in the Kacha areas were also discussed. The committee granted approval for the procure-

ment of new tracked Armored Personnel Carriers (APCs) for enhanced operational capability in the region.

In accordance with the directives of Chief Minister Punjab, the committee approved the purchase of modern equipment worth Rs. 1 billion to support ongoing law enforcement efforts in the Kacha belt. The forum also sanctioned the appointment of 90 price control magistrates across various districts to improve market regulation and consumer protection.

Speaking on the occasion, Khawaja Salman Rafique reiterated the provincial government's resolve to safeguard the lives and properties of citizens. "Our brave personnel who sacrifice their lives for the nation are our heroes," he said. Referring to a recent tragic incident, the minister said, "Nine innocent citizens from Punjab were brutally martyred while returning from Balochistan—an act of sheer barbarism."

Chaudhry Shafay Hussain stated that the government remained in close contact with the families of the victims and prayed for the elevation of their ranks in the hereafter. He emphasised the impor-

ance of equipping the Punjab Police with modern weapons to maintain peace.

Malik Sohaib Ahmed Bharath commended the Home Department's role in countering sectarian content on social media so far during Muharram and announced that police personnel would receive necessary training to operate advanced equipment in the Kacha areas.

Home Secretary Dr. Ahmad Javed Qazi assured the committee that all necessary resources were being allocated for effective operations across sensitive regions.

The meeting was attended by Additional IG Police, Special Secretary Home Fazal-ur-Rehman, and senior officials from CTD, Special Branch, and other concerned departments while Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Fawad Hashim Rabbani and Additional IG South Punjab Muhammad Kamran Khan were also present.

Commissioners, deputy commissioners, regional police officers and district police officers from border divisions and districts joined the meeting via video link.

## Govt orders comprehensive review of dangerous buildings: Saeed Ghani



F.P. Report

KARACHI: Sindh Local Government Minister, Saeed Ghani, has directed that a comprehensive survey be conducted of all buildings declared dangerous, following complaints that some structures may have been wrongly classified as hazardous.

The Local Government Minister made these remarks on Tuesday while chairing the first meeting of a provincial-level committee formed to review decrepit and dangerous buildings across Sindh. The minister emphasised that committees already exist under the supervision of the respective Deputy Commissioners for the survey of such buildings. He directed that each of these committees must include one representative each from the Association of Builders, the Pakistan Engineering Council, and the Pakistan Council of Architects and Town Planners.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary of Local Government Sindh, Waseem Shamshad, Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab, Karachi Commissioner Syed Hasan Naqvi, SBCA Director

General Shahmir Bhutto, SBCA Director Admin Mushtaq Soomro, ABAD Chairman Hassan Bakshi, PEC representative Lt (Retd) Muhammad Iqbal, member of the Pakistan Council of Architects Suhail Bashir, Engineer Arif Bilgrami, Deputy Commissioner South Javed Latif Khoso, and MC Lyari Hammad ND Khan, among others.

Detailed discussions took place on 588 vulnerable buildings and 59 extremely dangerous ones identified in Karachi and other parts of Sindh. The Karachi Commissioner, in his briefing, reported that 29 out of the 59 critically dangerous buildings have already been vacated, with the residents' data recorded. Efforts are under way to vacate the remaining buildings swiftly to avoid any untoward incidents.

Saeed Ghani reiterated that the survey process must be expedited, and a report be submitted in the committee's next meeting within a week. He acknowledged that some residents have raised valid concerns regarding incorrect classifications of their buildings.

The minister announced that the Sindh government would cover three

months' rent for the affected families of the Baghdadi Lyari building collapse, as well as for those evacuated from the 29 already vacated buildings. He further said that the committee would later present recommendations for occupants holding tenancy under pagri or ownership rights, including possible compensation or alternate support.

He assured that the Sindh government is treating this long-standing issue with utmost seriousness and transparency. The committee includes stakeholders from both public and private sectors, such as planners, architects, engineers, and ABAD representatives, who will provide evidence-based and decisive recommendations.

Ghani added that based on input from all technical experts, a short- and long-term rehabilitation policy would be developed for residents of the affected buildings. The committee will also decide on how to properly rehabilitate tenants, pagri-holders, and owner-occupiers post-survey. It will submit reports on buildings that, with minor to moderate maintenance, can be made habitable again.

He instructed that district-level committees, led by Deputy Commissioners, must submit daily survey reports to the Karachi Commissioner, who will then compile and present the final report in future committee meetings.

Committee members unanimously pledged that no injustice would be allowed and that every effort would be made to rehabilitate residents wherever feasible.

For structurally salvageable buildings, measures would be taken to restore them for residential use, while for those deemed irreparably dangerous, a phase-wise evacuation and policy will be developed in consultation with engineers, technical experts, ABAD, and other public-private stakeholders to safeguard residents' rights and ensure proper resettlement.

## Govt backs digital remittance for overseas youth



F.P. Report

KARACHI: The federal government is keen to facilitate overseas Pakistanis and Pakistani youth in Gulf countries, mainly by providing a technological solution that enables them to send remittances to their families with ease through a domestic payment scheme, PayPak.

This was stated by Mr. Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, Chairman Prime Minister Youth Programme (PMYP) in a meeting held with stakeholders recently in Karachi, including Mr. Ibrahim Amin, Chairman of PAFLA, and Mr. Najeeb Agrawalla, CEO of ILINK.

The federal government is working extensively to serve Pakistanis in the country and overseas by addressing their core issues through all innovative, technological, and affordable means. In this regard, the government is keen to explore strategic collaboration on empowering overseas Pakistani youth through digital remittance

services and expanding PayPak's reach under the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, he said.

A significant number of overseas Pakistanis comprise youth and they are assets of the country because of their commendable role in contributing to the economy of the country, hence, the PM Digital Youth Hub is exploring various options to honor their services for the nation with dedicated facilities and offerings, Chairman PMYP said.

Commenting on the occasion, CEO - ILINK Mr. Najeeb Agrawalla said, "We aim to take initiatives to facilitate secure and structured remittance flows from non-resident Pakistani workers, especially those based in Saudi Arabia, UAE and other Gulf countries, while also promoting the use of PayPak for Hajj, Umrah, and other cross-border transactions including IBILL service for non-resident Pakistanis."

As a major payment service provider, ILINK

proposed extending its technological expertise and platform capabilities to support the development and implementation of both initiatives, he said.

PAFLA Chairman Mr. Ibrahim Amin highlighted that over 4 million Pakistanis reside in Gulf countries and strive to contribute honestly to the national economy through their hard-earned income. Unfortunately, many of them lack access to reliable and user-friendly technological payment solutions.

PAFLA, in collaboration with Pakistani diplomatic missions, Pakistan's banks, and different agencies, will do its best efforts to approach freelancers, blue- and white-collar Pakistani workers through outreach and engagement efforts across Gulf countries, he added.

Pakistan received over \$38.3 billion in remittances from different countries in the financial year 2024-25. Overseas Pakistanis residing in different Gulf countries contribute a major share to the remittance values.





**PESHAWAR:** In connection with the upcoming Senate Elections 2025, the Provincial Election Commissioner of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, called on Speaker of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, Babar Saleem Swati, at the Speaker’s Chamber.

## Jirga held to address security situation in Bajaur

### F.P. Report

**PESHAWAR:** In light of the recent wave of terrorism in Bajaur, a high-level jirga was convened on Tuesday at the Civil Secretariat in Peshawar. The gathering brought together senior officials from the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government, police, and security forces, alongside political leadership from Bajaur, tribal elders, and prominent religious scholars.

The jirga was organized in response to a series of deadly terrorist attacks that have shaken Bajaur over the past two months, claiming numerous innocent lives. Among the notable martyrs were Maulana Khan Zeb, Assistant Commissioner of Nawagai Faisal Ismail, Tehsildar Abdul Wakeel, and several personnel from the security forces and police.

This jirga continues a

longstanding tradition of consultation between the government and Bajaur's tribal leadership, aimed at resolving issues through dialogue and consensus. Participants paid tribute to the martyrs and expressed deep sorrow and solidarity with their families. A collective prayer was also offered for the elevation of their ranks.

The jirga acknowledged the significant sacrifices made by the people and elders of Bajaur in the pursuit of peace. Speakers emphasized the urgent need to strengthen cooperation between the public, the government, and law enforcement agencies. They stressed that future security measures must be taken with consideration for the well-being of the local population.

Acting Chief Secretary and the Inspector General of Police reassured the jirga participants that the government is fully aware

of public concerns and is committed to making the restoration of peace its top priority. They emphasized that joint efforts, mutual trust, and community engagement are essential to eliminating terrorist elements.

In a bid to ensure lasting peace in Bajaur, the jirga unanimously called for unity among all political parties, tribal elders, the general public, the provincial government, local administration, and law enforcement agencies. Security forces reiterated their commitment to conducting decisive actions and announced that all necessary and meaningful actions would be taken collectively.

It was also announced that intelligence-based operations would be carried out to target militant elements precisely, minimizing civilian hardship. The acting Chief Secretary pledged that

Bajaur would be freed from militancy, paving the way for a new era of prosperity and sustainable development in the region.

He directed the district administration and police to establish a liaison committee comprising government representatives, law enforcement officials, public figures, and tribal elders. This committee will meet at least weekly to discuss strategies and actions for maintaining law and order, ensuring public awareness and transparency.

Additionally, the Chief Secretary indicated that other jirga demands—including compensation for the martyrs, action against extortion networks, and related concerns—would be brought to the attention of the provincial government. The jirga concluded with a collective prayer for peace and stability in the region.

## Peshawar declared polio-free in environmental samples after two years

**PESHAWAR (APP):** In a significant public health breakthrough, all environmental samples collected from Peshawar have tested negative for the poliovirus for the first time in two years, according to Pakistan’s National Institute of Health (NIH) Polio Laboratory.

The lab confirmed that six environmental samples collected from various testing sites across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa,

including Peshawar, were free of the poliovirus.

This marks a major milestone in the ongoing fight against polio, particularly as Peshawar was previously categorized as a high-risk area.

An NIH official stated that out of 24 sewage water samples collected nationwide last week, 13 tested negative while 11 came back positive.

Despite the detection of the virus in other parts

of the country, the clean status of Peshawar’s samples is a promising development.

Polio-positive samples in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have decreased from 14 in January to just 7 in June, with four of these from the southern districts.

Other provinces have also shown improvement. In Balochistan, the number of positive samples dropped from 19 in

January to only 4 in June.

In the Quetta block, six out of seven samples tested negative.

Punjab has also seen a decline, with the number of affected districts dropping from seven to five.

Health officials are optimistic that with continued vaccination efforts and strict monitoring, Pakistan can sustain and expand this progress toward eradicating polio nationwide.



**PESHAWAR:** Khyber Pakhtunkhwa’s Provincial Minister for Agriculture Major (Retd) Sajjad Barkwal chairing a meeting of district officers from various wings of the Agriculture Department.

## Malakand agri sector awaits attention: Barkwal

### F.P. Report

**PESHAWAR:** Khyber Pakhtunkhwa’s Provincial Minister for Agriculture Major retired Sajjad Barkwal chaired a meeting of district officers from various wings of the Agriculture Department in Malakand district, held in Peshawar. Special Assistant to the Chief Minister for Science, Information, and Technology, Dr. Shafqat Ayaz also attends the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, Provincial Minister for Agriculture Major retired Sajjad Barkwal emphasized

the significance of Malakand’s agricultural sector, stating that it "awaits dedicated attention, and with improved focus, the district can yield premium crops." He directed district officers to prioritize maximizing benefits from projects under the Annual Development Program (ADP), stressing that special attention must be paid to fully utilize ongoing ADP schemes.

Provincial Minister underscored the importance of consulting local representatives in planning and executing development projects, affirming that

developmental initiatives and other activities in Malakand will be carried out in consultation with provincial cabinet members and assembly members belonging to the district.

Citing the agricultural priorities under Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur’s leadership, Provincial Minister stated, "Special focus is being placed on agricultural development across the province under CM’s vision. Adequate measures are being taken to cultivate barren land." He highlighted the success of new cultivation initiatives, noting

that olive and saffron farming projects launched in various districts are yielding encouraging results. Emphasizing technology’s role, he added, "Optimal use of information technology is indispensable for agricultural progress."

Dr. Shafqat Ayaz, Special Assistant for Science and Technology, endorsed the Minister’s stance, pledging, all possible support will be extended to enhance the use of information technology in agriculture. He assured full cooperation with the Agriculture Department in this regard.

## Meeting held on projects of housing department

### F.P. Report

**PESHAWAR:** Special Assistant to the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Housing, Dr. Amjad Ali, has issued instructions to concerned authorities to ensure plantation and provision of sports facilities in housing schemes.

He issued this instruction during a meeting with Parliamentary Secretary for Housing MPA Ali Shah at his office in Civil

Secretariat Peshawar yesterday. The meeting was also attended by Director General PHA, Deputy Director General PHA, Director Admin and other concerned officers.

On this occasion, officials of the Provincial Housing Authority gave a detailed briefing on the department’s aims and objectives, staff, public facilities, and completed, ongoing, and proposed housing schemes.

The meeting was

informed about the current status and ongoing measures in Jalozei Housing Scheme, Mega City Nowshetra, Dangram Housing Scheme Swat, Warsak One and Two Peshawar, Rehman Baba Complex, Ehsaas Apna Ghar Project, PHA Residencia Surizai Peshawar, Jurma Housing Scheme Kohat, Civil Quarter Peshawar, New Peshawar Valley, Bani Gul Township Bannu, High Rise Flat Hayatabad

Peshawar and Malazai Housing Scheme and the details for public facilities and the Dastak App. Parliamentary Secretary for Housing MPA Ali Shah appreciated the steps and efforts of the Housing Department.

He also thanked Special Assistant Dr. Amjad Ali said that they would work together for the betterment of the public interest and make the dream of the helpless and poor people of their own homes a reality.

## Return of Khan’s sons will dismantle PML-N’s propaganda: Shafqat

### F.P. Report

**PESHAWAR:** Special Assistant to the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Science and Information Technology, Dr. Shafqat Ayaz, has termed the return of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan’s sons to Pakistan as a “significant political development” that will reinvigorate the party’s momentum ahead of the August 5 movement.

Speaking to media representatives, Dr Ayaz said the decision of Imran Khan’s

sons to align themselves with their father’s struggle sends a strong message of unity, commitment, and ideological clarity. “Their return exposes the hollowness of the smear campaign perpetuated by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), particularly by Rana Sanaullah, who has repeatedly resorted to character assassination and political slander,” he remarked.

Dr Ayaz said that those who refrain from questioning the foreign lifestyles of their own party leadership’s families are now visibly

rattled by the Khan family’s symbolic and moral stand. “This is a movement rooted in principle and sacrifice—not political opportunism,” he noted.

He further stated that the PTI’s struggle is for constitutional supremacy, rule of law, and national dignity. “Despite unprecedented political persecution, Imran Khan continues to inspire millions. The decision of his sons to join him on Pakistani soil is a testament to the authenticity of this movement.”

Dr Ayaz added that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa’s

people stand firmly with Imran Khan, and that August 5 will mark a turning point in the nation’s democratic journey. “This announcement will breathe new life into our campaign for justice, democracy, and civilian supremacy.”

Concluding his remarks, Dr Shafqat Ayaz said: “The return of Imran Khan’s sons has dealt a critical blow to the propaganda and double standards of PML-N. The nation has made its choice: we reject repression and deceit. Imran Khan represents the future of a free and dignified Pakistan.”

**PESHAWAR (APP):** From the icy heights of the Karakoram to the parched plains of Dera Ismail Khan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) is a land of striking ecological contrasts, teeming with species found nowhere else in Pakistan.

Yet, behind this natural richness lies a growing challenges are the steady shrinking of wildlife habitats due to deforestation, urban expansion, climate change, and population explosion.

Despite being home to some of Pakistan’s rarest wildlife, KP’s ecosystems are now in peril. Forest cover is vanishing, wetlands are drying, and rivers are being polluted, leaving many native species with nowhere to go.

Pakistan’s broader biodiversity includes over 786 species of birds, 200 species of mammals, and a myriad of reptiles, amphibians, and fish. KP, in particular, hosts key populations of these, including the endangered snow leopard, brown bear, and markhor — the latter making a comeback through successful conservation models in the north of Pakistan.

“Our land is brimming with unique species that are not found anywhere else,” says Dr. Mumtaz Malik, former Chief Conservator of Wildlife. “But shrinking habitats due to population explosion and deforestation are a silent killer. Wildlife is being squeezed out of existence.”

Dr. Malik warns that climate-induced threats such as prolonged droughts, flash floods, and glacier melt are accelerating habitat loss. “Resulting the number of endangered species is rising sharply. We’re losing not

just animals, but entire ecosystems.”

Pakistan is already facing an alarming trend ie 90 species are categorized as endangered, vulnerable, or critically endangered. Among them are globally significant animals like the Siberian crane, Indus dolphin, musk deer, and houbara bustard many of which find refuge in KP’s fragile ecosystems.

The Indus dolphin, one of the world’s rarest mammals, and the snow leopard, the ghostly predator of northern ranges, are symbolic of the struggle. These species rely on very specific environmental conditions that are rapidly disappearing.

Dr Mumtaz Malik said Wildlife corridors which are essential pathways that allow animals to migrate, feed, and breed are being fragmented by roads, cities, and agricultural sprawl.

“Animals such as jackals, foxes, and mongooses are now being pushed into colder, suboptimal habitats, putting their survival at risk.” Even worse, these species are coming into closer contact with human settlements, leading to new health threats. “Foxes and mongooses are scavenging on sick poultry, exposing themselves to dangerous pathogens,” says Dr. Mumtaz Malik. “We are witnessing a rise in disease transfer due to these unnatural interactions.”

He said the plight of the houbara bustard (Chlamydotis macqueenii) encapsulates the problem. A migratory bird that arrives each winter from Central Asia, the houbara has become a frequent target of illegal hunting and trophy expeditions, despite its

endangered status.

“This is a bird that, if disturbed once, may never return to the same migratory route,” Dr. Malik explains. “It is exceptionally sensitive even the loss of a single mate can delay breeding by several years.”

Experts now fear that without immediate intervention, the houbara could vanish from Pakistan’s skies by 2040.

Despite these threats, Pakistan has made significant strides in conservation. The Ten Billion Tree Tsunami, spearheaded by the KP government, has turned barren lands into green sanctuaries. In KP’s Ghari Chandan area, more than 3.2 million trees have revitalized ecosystems, bringing back cranes, monkeys, and pheasants once thought lost.

Shahid Noor, Conservator of KP’s Southern Forest Circle, said that millions of trees have been planted under farm forestry and forest enclosures that increased frequency of migratory birds and strengthened wildlife habitats in KP. “Our focus is on indigenous species trees that support native wildlife,” he said.

Scientific surveys and genetic studies are also underway. In Kaghan and Siran valleys, DNA research is being used to monitor black bear populations. Similar projects are tracking pheasants and grey langurs, providing crucial data to guide conservation policy. A shift in policy is also evident. New compensation mechanisms now support communities affected by human-wildlife conflict, encouraging cooperation over confrontation.

Under the Prime Minister’s Protected Area Initiative, KP has designated 15 new national parks, expanding protected areas to 14.23% of Pakistan’s land with a goal of reaching 20%.

Wildlife parks are being developed in biodiversity hotspots such as Kumrat, Anso Lake, and Palas Kohistan. Breeding centers and modern zoos have been set up in Swat and Peshawar to ensure public awareness and species revival.

Salahuddin Khan, DFO Wildlife, confirms that hunting regulations have also been revised to ensure sustainability. “Community-managed reserves and licensed game hunting are now monitored to prevent overexploitation,” he says.

Yet, the battle is far from over. Experts warn that enforcement remains weak in remote areas. Poaching continues, and infrastructure projects often move ahead without environmental assessments.

“Conservation is not about fences and forests alone. It is about people and communities must be part of the process,” says Dr. Malik. “Without local involvement, no initiative for wildlife conservation can last.” As Pakistan faces the realities of climate change and biodiversity loss, its success in preserving KP’s wildlife will be a test of national resolve. The stakes are not just ecological they are existential.

“This is not just a biological issue rather it’s a national emergency,” warns Dr. Malik. “Each species lost is a thread pulled from the web of life. And soon, the whole system may unravel.”

**PESHAWAR (APP):** Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi has said that welfare organizations are shining beacons of humanity, and the active participation of youth in social work is highly commendable.

“These young people represent the bright future of our society, laying the foundation for a compassionate and human-friendly social structure,” he said.

He made these remarks on Tuesday while addressing an award distribution ceremony organized by the Pakistan Development Foundation (PDF) at Governor House, where he was the chief guest. During the event, 27 volunteers and social workers were honored with awards for

their outstanding contributions in various fields of social service.

The ceremony was attended by Chairman PDF Muhammad Bilal Sethi, renowned literary figure Abaseen Yousafzai, Rukhsana Naheed, Rabia Basri, welfare workers, and people from various walks of life.

Speaking on the occasion, Muhammad Bilal Sethi highlighted the objectives and mission of the Foundation and thanked the Governor for hosting the event at the Governor House.

Governor Kundi appreciated the efforts of the Pakistan Development Foundation in promoting education, supporting underprivileged students, providing healthcare facilities,

and offering aid during natural disasters.

He described the foundation as a symbol of mission, passion, and dedication.

He congratulated the award recipients and praised their selfless services to humanity. “Pakistanis have a strong tradition of engaging generously in charitable work, and it is encouraging to see the youth carry this legacy forward by working with various welfare groups to help the poor, orphans, sick, and needy,” he said.

The Governor emphasized that the youth are a beacon of hope and will ensure the development of a better and more empathetic society.

He said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has the highest

proportion of young people in the country and stressed the importance of involving them in the province’s progress and keeping them informed about its resources.

Expressing hope for a peaceful, prosperous, and developed Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Governor Kundi said the doors of the Governor House are open to all segments of society.

He assured that such welfare initiatives would continue to receive encouragement and support.

He also announced upcoming award ceremonies at the Governor House, including one to honor athletes who have brought pride to the province and another to recognize the contributions of farmers.





## In brief

### Awareness session held F.P. Report

MARDAN: An awareness session focusing on fumigation and sanitation was organized by the District Health Office in Tehsil Mardan. The session was attended by sanitation staff from the Tehsil Municipal Administration (TMA) and Water and Sanitation Services Company (WSSC) Mardan. Public Health Coordinator Dr. Rubina Riaz from the District Health Office emphasized the importance of proper waste disposal and timely cleaning of blocked drainage systems. She highlighted that maintaining hygiene and improving the drainage infrastructure are crucial for disease prevention, especially during the monsoon season when stagnant water can lead to the spread of mosquito-borne diseases. Dr. Rubina stressed that along with effective fumigation practices, consistent sanitation efforts are vital to ensure public health standards. The session aimed to enhance coordination between the relevant departments and improve sanitation management across the tehsil. Fumigation is a pest control method that involves filling an area with gaseous pesticides to suffocate or poison pests within. It is primarily used to eliminate mosquitoes, insects, or rodents that can transmit diseases such as dengue, malaria and typhoid. Fumigation is typically carried out during or before the rainy season (monsoon) when water accumulation becomes common, creating breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Regular and well-planned fumigation is essential to prevent outbreaks and maintain a healthy environment in urban and rural communities.

### Plantation drive kicks off F.P. Report

SHANGLA: District Education Officer (DEO) Shangla formally inaugurated the monsoon plantation campaign at the DEO office in Alpuri. He planted a sapling in office lawn alongside the Sub-Divisional Education Officer (SDEO) Chakisar marking the beginning of the seasonal tree plantation drive. The event was attended by SDEO Alpuri Abdul Haleem, SDEO Bisham Wali-ur-Rehman, and SDEO Martung Rafiullah. Speaking on the occasion, DEO Muhammad Aurangzeb emphasized the significance of forests and greenery for environmental sustainability. Quoting from the Holy Qur'an and Hadith, he highlighted the spiritual and social benefits of planting trees, calling it a "Sadaqah Jariyah" (ongoing charity). He issued directives to all Sub-Divisional Education Officers to actively implement the plantation campaign at the sub-divisional and school levels. He stressed the need for collective action to ensure a green, clean, and healthy environment for future generations.

### Plantation drive launched F.P. Report

BANNU: Deputy Commissioner Bannu, formally inaugurated a large-scale tree plantation campaign at Akram Khan Durrani School and College. As part of the campaign, over 600 valuable fruit-bearing saplings were planted within the college premises. The inauguration ceremony was attended by DC Faheem Khan as the chief guest. Principal of the college, Rukhsar Khan, TMO Bannu Muhammad Yousaf Khan, PSO Inayatullah Khan, officials from the district administration, and representatives from various relevant departments were also present in large numbers.



HYDERABAD: Vehicles passing through stagnant rainwater accumulated after heavy rainfall in city.

## Martyred families get financial assistance

### F.P. Report

JAMRUD: On the direction of the Inspector General Police (IGP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) fifty thousand rupees financial assistance was granted to ten heirs of martyred police in Khyber. In this connection a simple gathering was held in the District Police Officer (DPO) office, Shahkas, Jamrud where Deputy Inspector General (DIG) welfare KP Kashif Mushtaq Kanju gave away cheques to the relatives of the Martyred police.

On the behalf of IGP, KP Zulfiqar Hameed, the DIG welfare also handed over a condolence letter to each of the deceased family in which great homage and respect was paid to the departed soul besides bravery and matchless sacrifice of the Shaheed was written. Speaking on the occasion DIG welfare Kashif Mushtaq Kanju said that police Shuhada are their pride and the KP police will never forget the sacrifices of their martyred soldiers.

Wellbeing of the martyred families was their top priority, he added and said under the strict direction of IGP, KP, the police welfare department not only supplies timely financial support to the heirs of Shuhada but also ensures provision of education and health and other basic needs of the martyred police families.

DPO, Khyber Rai Mazhar Iqbal valued sacrifices of Martyred police and said the nation was owed to their families and would grant all the incentives they deserved. Relatives of the Martyred police thanked the IGP and other police officials for the financial support.

## PO killed in police custody by his accomplices Syed Waliullah Shah

NEWSHERA: A proclaimed offender Ajmal wanted in several serious cases, including extortion, murder, kidnapping, and drug trafficking, was killed when his partners opened firing on police encounter in Nowshera district.

According to details, Ajmal was being taken to the crime scene for investigation when his accomplices suddenly opened fire on the police party near Chardh Pul on GT Road. In the firing, Ajmal was hit by his accomplices' bullets and died on the spot.

The police returned fire, but the culprits managed to escape. A case has been registered against the following day, and the police are conducting raids to apprehend the suspects.

Ajmal was wanted in several serious cases, and during interrogation, he had confessed to killing a kidnapped person named Zahid after torturing him. The police party was taking him to the crime scene for investigation when the attack occurred.

## Proposed site inspected F.P. Report

KOHAT: Chairman Public Safety Commission Kohat and Member Provincial Assembly Daud Shah Afridi has on Tuesday visited the proposed site for Dhoda/ Khairatoo Chowk on Indus Highway along with the Deputy Commissioner Kohat Abdul Akram Chitrali, area elders and authorities concerned of the National Highway Authority where they inspected the site for the construction of the proposed interchange.

On this occasion, they reviewed various aspects of the traffic system improvement, public convenience and regional development. MPA Daud Shah Afridi said that the construction of an interchange at Dhoda Chowk is the need of the hour because many dangerous accidents have been occurred due to the lack of an interchange in which many precious lives have been lost. The construction of an interchange at Dhoda Chowk is a long-standing demand of the people of this area.

Daud Afridi said, the interchange will prove to be an important project not only for Kohat but also for the surrounding areas and it will also improve transportation and eliminate daily accidents. He directed the concerned authorities to complete the feasibility report of the project at the earliest so that the construction process can be started.

## PPP slams political victimization, threatens protest

### F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: The PPP Lower Dir President Nawabzada Ahmad Zaib Khan has alleged political victimization in Adenzai Tehsil, accusing Tehsil Chairman Haji Feroz Shah and local authorities of targeting PPP-affiliated village council chairman Malik Saeed Khan, his brother Malik Nasir Khan, and others through false FIRs.

Addressing a press conference at Chakdara Press Club, Ahmad Zaib said the FIRs were lodged at the behest of a local MPA, while police officer Fazal Shah, who was investigating the matter, was suspended within 48 hours in an act of revenge.

He claimed that Malik Saeed Khan had spent large sums from his own pocket on development work, while the Rs 100 million in government funds were distributed only among PTI-aligned chairmen. Zaib warned that if the cases were not withdrawn and the officer not reinstated, PPP workers would begin protests. After the press conference, PPP leaders also held a protest outside the press club.

**Cleanliness drive:** Acting on directives from KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur and the Chief Secretary, The Lower

Dir administration launched a five-day special cleanliness campaign in various tehsils.

In Timergara, Tehsil Chairman Mufti Irfan ud Din of the JUI-F inaugurated the campaign by cutting the ribbon and sweeping the streets, joined by TMO Kashif Rasheed, Finance Officer Bacha Muhammad, and other staff. Speaking at the event, the chairman said the campaign was being held in accordance with the provincial government's instructions and aimed to ensure a cleaner and healthier environment for all residents. Meanwhile, a cleanliness awareness walk was held in Samarbagh, led by Assistant Commissioner Zeeshan Najeeb and SDPO Aleem Khan. Sanitation workers and locals participated, carrying banners with messages such as "Cleanliness is half of faith."

The AC urged citizens to dispose of waste in designated bins and to cooperate fully with TMA staff, stressing that a clean environment is essential for a healthy society. "Without cleanliness, a healthy society cannot be built," he said. "With public support, it is possible to keep our towns clean and green," the AC remarked. Special sanitation measures will be carried out across the district

during the five-day campaign, with public participation seen as key to its success.

**High court demanded:** PML-N Lower Dir General Secretary Advocate Sardar Javed Tajik has called for the establishment of a High Court bench in Timergara to provide better access to justice for residents of Lower Dir, Upper Dir, Bajaur, and Chitral. He highlighted that over 2,000 out of 7,000 High Court cases belong to Dir districts, and locals are forced to travel long distances for hearings.

Speaking to the media, Tajik also welcomed the Chakdara-Dir Expressway but urged that it be routed through Timergara, the district headquarters and a key business hub. "This would benefit the broader region, including Bajaur and Afghanistan," he said.

He accused the provincial government of failing to ensure security and said its performance had pushed the province toward collapse. While acknowledging that a government change might hurt the PML-N and PPP coalition politically, he added it would ultimately benefit the people, as the PTI-led government's rift with the center had stalled development and deprived KP of new mega projects.

## Court convicts seminary head, son and guard

### F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: The court of additional session judge in Samarbagh sentenced three men, including the head of a seminary and his son to life imprisonment in the rape and murder case of a seven-year-old girl in Jandol area.

The convicted men include Maulana Ziaul Haq Haidari, his son Abu Bakar, and their bodyguard Sanaullah. The court handed down life terms, as well as additional sentences of 25 years, three years, and two years, and imposed a fine of Rs500,000 on the convicts.

The verdict comes more than a year after the tragic incident that sent shockwaves across the region. According to police and prosecution, the girl, had

been living at an orphanage-cum-seminary in the Mandizo area of Jandol when she was reportedly assaulted and murdered. The District Prosecution Office, led by DPP Rafiullah, pursued the case vigorously, while Assistant Public Prosecutor Ubaidullah argued it in court.

The FIR was registered at Munda police station on May 23, 2024, under sections 302 (murder), 376 (rape), and 201 (causing disappearance of evidence) of the Pakistan Penal Code, along with Section 53 of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Child Protection and Welfare Act. Sartaj, the victim's father, while registering the FIR, told police that the seminary administration informed him on May 17 last year that his daughter

had died and asked him to collect her body. However, he alleged that his daughter had been killed days earlier and that her body had been concealed to hide the crime.

Following the post-mortem report, which confirmed evidence of sexual assault and murder, Sartaj nominated Maulana Ziaul Haq, his son Sbu Bakat, and their bodyguard Sanaullah, in the FIR. Police arrested Ziaul Haq on the night of May 18, and Abu Bakar and Sanaullah the following day. The suspects were produced before a magistrate and sent to the district jail in Timergara. The conviction has been widely welcomed by local residents and rights activists, who had called for swift justice in the wake of the gruesome crime.

## Coastal Highway Project to resume after two decades

### F.P. Report

THATTA: After remaining dormant for two decades, the ambitious 350-kilometer Coastal Highway project along Sindh's southern shoreline is finally gaining momentum. A renewed partnership between the federal and Sindh governments has led to a breakthrough agreement to resume work on the long-delayed project, with support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The first phase of the project, spanning 91 kilometers from Bhambhore Creek to Keti Bunder, will be completed under a 50:50 cost-sharing arrangement. The Sindh government has already initiated repair and widening work on the previously constructed 39-kilometer stretch near Bhambhore Creek.

Originally envisioned during the Pervaz Musharraf

era, the Coastal Highway was designed to provide vital connectivity across Sindh's underdeveloped coastal belt and to act as a barrier against sea intrusion, which continues to threaten fertile agricultural lands and displace local communities. Once completed, the highway will link Karachi, Thatta, Sujawal, Badin, and Tharparkar districts, directly benefiting an estimated 35 million people.

Despite its strategic importance, progress on the project remained limited. During the tenure of former Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah, only 11% of the planned road (approximately 39 kilometers) was constructed. The project was later merged with the Ghoraketi Bunder road, leading to its suspension.

However, on March 6, 2013, the Sindh government reignited interest in the initiative. It began rehabilita-

tion and expansion of a 20-kilometer stretch from Zero Point (Bhambhore) under the Public Works Department's Scheme 1826, for which Rs. 9.31 billion was allocated. The provincial government also succeeded in securing federal cooperation for the remaining 82 kilometers up to Keti Bunder. The federal government has since approved an additional Rs. 9 billion in funding.

The remaining 259 kilometers from Keti Bunder to Ali Bunder is expected to be financed through a loan from the Asian Development Bank. ADB has commenced preliminary studies and environmental surveys. However, a significant engineering challenge has emerged in navigating the highway over several creeks and the Indus River, particularly between Keti Bunder, Kharochan, Shah Bunder, Jati, and Ali Bunder.

## How technology changing the way children learn and interact

### Muhammed Moiz Butt

**D**ID you know that, on average, people spend more than six hours a day looking at screens? For students like me, that includes schoolwork, watching videos, playing games, and chatting with friends. Ever since the COVID-19 pandemic, technology and devices have become a big part of how we learn. Schools moved online, and now many students use websites like Google Classroom, Microsoft Word, and even cool AI tools to help with assignments and research. These tools make learning easier and faster, but they also bring some problems we need to understand.

One of the biggest problems with social media is cyberbully-

ing. That's when people say mean things online or try to make others feel bad about how they look, talk, or who they are. Sometimes bullies say, "It was just a joke," but if their words hurt and they don't stop, that's not a joke—it's cyberbullying. It can make students feel really sad, anxious, or even sick. If someone ever says something that hurts you online, it's important to talk to a parent, teacher, or another adult you trust.

Another issue is that using devices too much can make it hard to concentrate. Studies show that always searching things online makes our brain lazy—we don't remember stuff as well because we rely on Google instead of using our memory. Also, switching between apps all the time can make it harder to

focus. If we're not careful, it becomes harder to pay attention in class or remember what we studied. Luckily, doing things like meditation, sports, or brain-training games can help us stay focused and improve our attention span.

Spending too much time on screens can also hurt our eyes. Screens give off blue light, which can cause dryness, eye strain, and make our eyes feel tired. That's why doctors suggest following the 20-20-20 rule: after every 20 minutes of screen time, look at something 20 feet away for 20 seconds. It really helps your eyes relax!

But even with these problems, technology has a lot of good sides. Thanks to the internet, we can now learn so many things that aren't taught in school.

During lockdowns, we used Zoom and Google Meet to attend classes, and we still use online tools to do homework and projects. You can also learn new skills like drawing, coding, or even how to speak another language—all from your computer or phone!

Technology also helps us stay connected with our friends and family. We can video call, message, and email each other easily. It's also great when schools send homework or updates online. Plus, we can use social media to talk about things that matter—like saving the environment, helping others, or standing up for what's right.

One of my favorite things about the internet is how it can inspire people. There are so many stories about real kids doing

amazing things. For example, William Kamkwamba built a windmill for his village in Africa to make electricity. Yusra Mardini, a girl from Syria, swam across the sea to escape war and later became an Olympic swimmer. Stories like these remind us that we can do great things, too.

Of course, none of this works well without rules. That's where parents and teachers come in. They can help by setting limits on screen time, reminding us to take breaks, and encouraging fun activities away from devices—like playing outside, reading, or spending time with family.

In the end, I think technology is an amazing tool—if we use it the right way. It helps us learn, stay in touch with people, and even become better versions of ourselves. As students, we just



need to be smart about how much time we spend on screens and make sure we take care of our minds, bodies, and eyes. With the right balance, technology can really help us shine.





## Egypt grand museum delay puts tourism hopes on hold

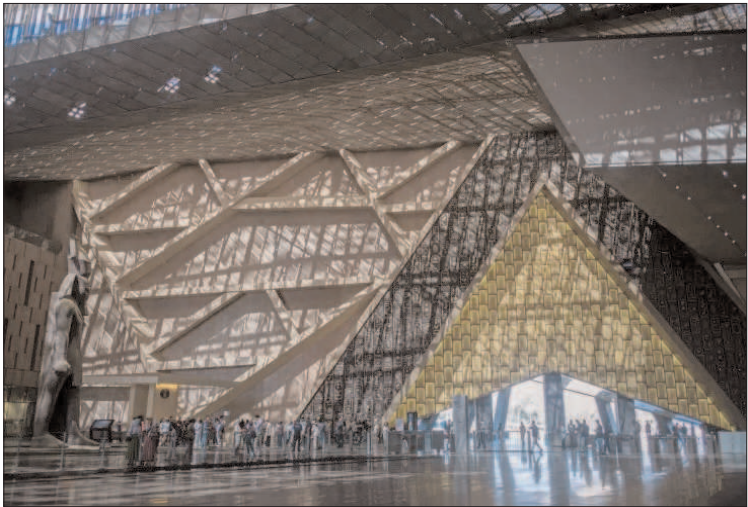
CAIRO (AFP): In the shadow of the Grand Egyptian Museum, souvenir shop owner Mona has been readying for the tourist boom she hoped the long-awaited opening would bring -- now once again out of reach. "I had bet everything on this opening," she told AFP from her shop, just steps from the iconic pyramids of Giza, which the much-anticipated museum overlooks.

Originally scheduled to fully open this month, the museum was expected to attract up to five million visitors annually, fuelling optimism across Cairo's battered tourism sector. "We planned our entire summer and fall packages around the museum opening," said Nadine Ahmed, a 28-year-old agent with Time Travel tours.

"But with group cancellations, refunds and route changes, we've lost tens of thousands of dollars." Though parts of the museum have been open for months, the main draw -- the treasures of Tutankhamun -- will remain under wraps until the official launch. Less than three weeks before its July 3 opening, the government announced another delay, this time pushing the landmark event to the final quarter of the year.

Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly cited regional security concerns and the desire to host an event of "global scale". The vast museum, two decades in the making, has faced repeated delays -- from political upheaval and economic crises to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Ahead of the expected launch, Mona, who asked to be identified by her first name only, took out a loan to renovate her store and stock up on goods inspired by the museum's collection. A few streets away, Mohamed Mamdouh Khattab, 38, prepared months in advance, hiring



and training extra staff and expanding his inventory.

"The opening of the museum is a key milestone," said Khattab, who owns a sprawling bazaar of handcrafted jewellery and ancient replicas. "It's a project that should have been launched a long time ago," said the vendor, whose family has been in the industry since the 1970s. Tourism accounts for about 10 percent of Egypt's workforce, but the sector has struggled -- from the fallout of the 2011 Arab Spring to militant attacks and the Covid shutdown.

Still, signs of recovery have emerged: Egypt welcomed 3.9 million tourists in the first quarter of 2025, up 25 percent from the same period last year -- itself a record. At a Giza papyrus workshop, 30-year-old tour guide Sara Mahmoud hopes the opening will revive visitor numbers. "Big openings have brought a lot of tourism to Egypt before," she said, pointing to the 2021 Pharaohs' Golden Parade and the reopening of

the Avenue of the Sphinxes.

"These events get people excited -- we saw the crowds coming in." Such momentum could make a real difference, said Ragui Assaad, an economist at the University of Minnesota. "Any initiative that directly increases foreign exchange earnings is likely to have a good return on investment," he told AFP.

"If you compare it with all the other mega-projects, which do not increase foreign exchange earnings... this is a far better project." He was referring to a sweeping infrastructure drive under President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, including the construction of a massive new administrative capital east of Cairo. The stakes are high: since 2022, Egypt's currency has lost two-thirds of its value, squeezing household budgets and straining every layer of the economy. "There were days when I sold just one bracelet," Mona lamented, thinking back to the years when "tourists arrived in droves".

## 18 survive speedboat capsizing in Indonesia's Islands

PADANG, Indonesia (AP): Residents of Indonesia's Mentawai Islands found several people stranded after a speedboat carrying 18 people capsized during a storm the day before, authorities said. All were in good condition.

The boat, carrying mostly local administration officials, capsized while on its regular two-hour journey from Sikakap, a town in the Mentawai Islands district in West Sumatra, to the town of Tuapejat, according to Lahmudin, heads of the local Disaster Management Agency, who, like many Indonesians, uses only a single name. Ten passengers, including three children and a local parliament member, clung to the wreckage and were found on Guluk Guluk beach, while the other was found near the village of Matobe, according to Mentawai Islands district chief, Rinto Wardana.

Seven, including the two crew members, had managed to reach the Mapinang fishing hamlet, after swimming for hours in the choppy waters, to seek help, Wardana said, adding they survived thanks to their ability to swim. All survivors were transported to Tuapejat, where their families had been waiting for news.

An investigation is underway, "but survivors said the boat was hit by high waves in a sudden storm," Lahmudin said. A rescue ship and an inflatable boat had been deployed for the search, with the assistance of local fishermen and residents, said Rudi, the local search and rescue agency chief who also goes by a single name. Videos released by the National Search and Rescue Agency showed the operation taking place overnight in rough seas as rain fell.

Wardana praised the quick response of the joint search and rescue team and community, vowing to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of shipping safety procedures, especially during extreme weather seasons. He also urged boat operators to always pay attention to weather forecast information. Indonesia is an archipelago of more than 17,000 islands where ferries are a common method of travel. Accidents occur regularly, with weak safety enforcement often blamed.

A ferry sank near Indonesia's resort island of Bali early this month, leaving at least 18 dead and 17 missing after a two-week search operation that involved more than 1,000 rescuers, three navy ships, 15 boats, a helicopter and divers. The search operation officially closed.

## Germany's top court dismisses complaint

BERLIN (Reuters): Berlin is not required to intervene in US drone activities at the Ramstein air base in southwestern Germany, the country's top court ruled on Tuesday in dismissing a complaint brought by Yemeni nationals whose family members were killed in a strike.

The constitutional court's ruling rejected the complaints of two men living in Yemen who lost two relatives -- one an imam who had preached against al Qaeda and the other a police officer -- in a 2012 US drone strike. The men say they have since been living in fear for their lives and that Germany bears joint responsibility for the deaths because the drone missions were supported from Ramstein.

At issue was the question of whether Germany had a responsibility to ensure a relay station at Ramstein that sends satellite data to drones did not violate international law. The court ruled that, while Germany did have a general duty to protect fundamental human rights including those of foreigners abroad, the conditions triggering that duty were not met. Berlin was acting within its purview on foreign and security policy when it accepted the United States' interpretation of what was allowable under international law, the court said.

## Sudan's RSF kills about 300 people in North Kordofan

KHARTOUM: A group of human rights lawyers in Sudan have accused the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) of raiding and setting fire to villages in the state of North Kordofan and killing nearly 300 people, including children and pregnant women.

The statement by Emergency Lawyers late came as fighting rages between the RSF and the Sudanese army in the western areas of the country. The two sides have been locked in a civil war since 2023, and the army has taken firm control of the centre and east of the country, while the RSF is trying to consolidate its control of the western regions, including North Kordofan and Darfur.

Emergency Lawyers said the RSF had attacked several villages around the city of Bara, which the paramilitary force controls. In one village, Shag Alnom, more than 200 people were killed in a "terrible massacre", the group said. The victims were either "burned inside their homes" or shot. In the neighbouring villages, 38 other civilians were also killed and dozens more have been forcibly disappeared.

The next day, the RSF carried out "another mas-

sacre" in the village of Hilat Hamid, killing at least 46 people, including pregnant women and children, the group added. "It has been proven that these targeted villages were completely empty of any military objectives, which makes clear the criminal nature of these crimes carried out in complete disregard of international humanitarian law," Emergency Lawyers said, placing the responsibility with the RSF leadership.

The United Nations' International Organization for Migration (IOM) said that intensified fighting in the region forced more than 3,000 people to flee the villages of Shag Alnom and al-Kordi. Many have sought refuge in the surrounding parts of Bara, according to the UN agency.

The United States and human rights groups have accused the RSF of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. Its soldiers have carried out a series of violent looting raids in territory it has taken control of across the country. The RSF leadership says it will bring those found responsible for such acts to justice. Sudan's civil war has created the world's largest humanitarian crisis,

driving more than half the population into hunger and spreading disease, including cholera, across the country.

At least 40,000 people have been killed, while 13 million have been displaced. The International Criminal Court (ICC) has launched a new probe into war crimes in the western Darfur region, senior prosecutor Nazhat Shameem Khan told the UN Security Council that her office has "reasonable grounds to believe that war crimes and crimes against humanity" are being committed there. Khan said her office has focused its probe on crimes committed in West Darfur, and interviewed victims who have fled to neighbouring Chad.

She said the depth of suffering and the humanitarian crisis in Darfur "has reached an intolerable state", with famine escalating and hospitals, humanitarian convoys and other civilian infrastructure being targeted. "People are being deprived of water and food. Rape and sexual violence are being weaponised," Khan said, adding that abductions for ransom had become "common practice". — Aljazeera

## 'Lives controlled by crime': Explosive allegations hit South Africa police

JOHANNESBURG: When Patricia Blows heard a senior police official's explosive allegations against South Africa's political and law enforcement elite last week, her thoughts went straight to the stalled investigation into her son's killing nine years ago.

Angelo, an apprentice boilermaker, was about to turn 28 when he was shot in an apparent robbery in March 2016 while walking home from work in Langlaagte, Johannesburg. To this day, the investigation has gone nowhere despite Blows providing the police with evidence they said they lacked, including witness statements she collected herself.

The lack of progress in the case began to make sense last week when the police commissioner in coastal KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) province, Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi, claimed he had uncovered a crime syndicate involving politicians, senior police officers, correctional services officials, prosecutors, the judiciary and businesspeople in his province. According to Mkhwanazi,

speaking at a news conference on July 6, the systemic corruption rises all the way to the country's police minister, Senzo Mchunu, whom he accused of disbanding a task force set up to investigate political killings in KZN to protect his shady associates.

Like millions of South Africans, Blows was outraged by Mkhwanazi's allegations -- but not entirely surprised. "I immediately thought of our battle for justice. I just couldn't find an open door. It still hurts like hell," said Blows, a community activist from Blackheath on the Cape Flats, a part of Cape Town plagued by violent drug-trafficking gangs. "I had fresh hope in Mchunu. Now this? Then doubt drifted in, and I had an overwhelming fear for [Mkhwanazi's] safety," Blows said from her suburb on the outskirts of the Cape Flats, where a police station came under attack about a month ago, presumably in retaliation for the arrest of a local crime boss.

Mkhwanazi's revelations triggered an outpour-

ing of support from crime-weary South Africans and politicians alike, who almost universally admire his no-nonsense approach to crime. Last month, after a series of police shootouts with criminals, he was quoted as saying he cared more about impact than strategy. His popularity reflects a national malaise as well as a regional one that is particular to volatile KZN. The province regularly features among the country's crime hotspots and is notorious for its history of political violence that dates back to the 1980s when the apartheid regime fomented tensions among the Black supporters of the African National Congress (ANC) and its rival Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) in an attempt to undermine the planned transition to democracy.

National quarterly statistics for January to March indicated a decrease in violent crime compared with the same quarter in 2024. Murders decreased by 12.4 percent to 5,727, or an average of 64 per day, according to the Institute

for Security Studies.

Still, violent crime is a major problem. According to the World Population Review, South Africa has the fifth highest crime index in the world, following Venezuela, Papua New Guinea, Afghanistan and Haiti. South Africa also ranks 82nd in the world on the corruption perception index compiled by the NGO Transparency International. In this context, Mkhwanazi has become a hero to many South Africans who are fed up with the government's failure to address chronic social ills.

Not even an investigation into his conduct in March could dampen the support for Mkhwanazi. The Independent Police Investigative Directorate dropped the case after a "Hands off Mkhwanazi" campaign, which was revived on social media after his July 6 news conference. Dressed in special operations fatigues and surrounded by armed guards, Mkhwanazi told journalists: "I am combat ready. I will die for this badge. I will not back down." in 2017. — Aljazeera

## Indigenous Australians lose landmark climate court case against govt

SYDNEY (AFP): Indigenous Australians living on a string of climate-threatened islands on Tuesday lost a landmark court bid to hold the government responsible for lacklustre emissions targets.

Scattered through the warm waters off Australia's northernmost tip, the sparsely populated Torres Strait Islands are threatened by seas rising much faster than the global average. Torres Strait elders have spent the past four years fighting through the courts to prove the government failed to protect them through meaningful climate action.

Australia's Federal Court found the government was not obliged to shield the Torres Strait Islands from climate change. "I thought that the

decision would be in our favour, and I'm in shock," said Torres Strait Islander Paul Kabai, who helped to bring the case. "What do any of us say to our families now?" Fellow plaintiff Pabai Pabai said: "My heart is broken for my family and my community." Federal Court Justice Michael Wigney criticised the government for setting emissions targets between 2015 and 2021 that failed to consider the "best available science".

But these targets would have had little impact on global temperature rise, he found. "Any additional greenhouse gases that might have been released by Australia as a result of low emissions targets would have caused no more than an almost immeasurable increase in global average tempera-

tures," Wigney said. Australia's previous conservative government sought to cut emissions by around 26 percent before 2030.

The incumbent left-leaning government in 2022 adopted new plans to slash emissions by 40 percent before the end of the decade, and reach net zero by 2050. Fewer than 5,000 people live in the Torres Strait, a collection of about 274 mud islands and coral cays wedged between Australia's mainland and Papua New Guinea. Lawyers for traditional land owners from Boigu and Saibai -- among the worst-impacted islands -- asked the court to order the government "to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to a level that will prevent Torres Strait Islanders from becoming climate

refugees". Sea levels in some parts of the archipelago are rising almost three times faster than the global average, according to official figures. Rising tides have washed away graves, eaten through huge chunks of exposed coastline, and positioned once-fertile soils with salt.

The lawsuit argued some islands would soon become uninhabitable if global temperatures rose more than 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. The World Meteorological Organization has warned this threshold could be breached before the end of the decade. While Australia's emissions pale in comparison to the likes of China and the United States, the fossil fuel powerhouse is one of the largest coal exporters in the world.

## Japan launches govt body to address concerns over foreigners

TOKYO (Reuters): Japan on Tuesday set up an administrative body aimed at easing citizens' concerns over the rapid rise in the number of foreigners in recent years, as policies concerning non-Japanese residents emerge as a key issue in national election.

The body would serve as a cross-agency "control tower" to respond to issues such as crime and

over-tourism involving foreigners, the government said. Japan has long sought to maintain a homogeneous population through strict immigration laws, but has gradually eased them to supplement its shrinking and ageing labour force. The number of foreign nationals hit a record of about 3.8 million last year, although that is still just 3% of the

total population.

The formation of the administration body comes after a group of lawmakers in Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba's Liberal Democratic Party in June proposed measures to realise a "society of orderly and harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals". Those measures included adopting stricter requirements for

foreigners switching to a Japanese driver's license and for buying real estate properties.

"Crimes and disorderly conduct by some foreigners, as well as the inappropriate use of various administrative systems, have created a situation in which the public feels uneasy and cheated," Ishiba said at the kick-off ceremony.

## 'Dialogue' must be at heart of China, Australia ties

SYDNEY (AFP): "Dialogue" must be at the heart of ties between Canberra and Beijing, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said on Tuesday as he met President Xi Jinping in the Chinese capital.

Albanese is on his second visit to China as prime minister, seeking to bolster recently stabilised trade ties even as geopolitical tensions remain high. Relations between Beijing and Canberra have charted a bumpy course over the past decade, a period marked by repeated disagreements over national security and competing interests across the vast Pacific region.

Ties improved in December when China called off a ban on imported Australian rock lobster, removing the final obstacle to ending a damaging trade war waged between the countries from 2017. Albanese met Xi in the Great Hall of the People and said he welcomed "the opportunity to set out Australia's views and interests". "Australia values our relationship with China and will continue to approach it in a calm and consistent manner, guided by our national interest," Albanese, the leader of Australia's centre-left Labor government, said.

"It's important we have these direct discussions on issues that matter to us and to the stability and prosper-

ity of our region. As you and I have agreed previously, dialogue needs to be at the centre of our relationship," he said. Xi, in turn, hailed the "benefits" of improved ties between China and Australia, saying the relationship had "risen from the setbacks and turned around".

"No matter how the international landscape may evolve we should uphold this overall direction unwaveringly," he said. Albanese told reporters after meeting Xi that the two countries had "strategic competition" in the region but continued to engage in order to "support peace and security". China is one of Australia's most important economic partners, accounting for nearly one-third of its total trade.

Albanese is accompanied on his visit by a delegation of key business leaders who will attend a round-table of CEOs in Beijing. His trip will last and will also take him to the southwestern city of Chengdu. Albanese is also accompanied by a travelling media pack, members of which said they were briefly surrounded by security guards and told to hand footage to police.

A small group of reporters were filming outside Beijing's Bell and Drum Towers when they were stopped by security guards. National broadcaster ABC's reporter Stephen Dziedzic said he was

"quickly surrounded by a number of security guards, who said they were going to call the police and we didn't have permission to leave". "We had the necessary permissions, we had the right visas, but nonetheless perhaps that hadn't been passed all the way down the chain," he told ABC.

Australian broadcaster SBS, which also has a correspondent on the trip, reported that journalists were briefly surrounded and told to hand footage to police. The group was allowed to leave after Australian diplomats intervened, the ABC and SBS reported. Albanese's trip also comes as China's sweeping territorial claims ruffle feathers in the region, particularly pertaining to the South China Sea. Another key point of contention is the fate of northern Australia's Darwin Port, whose Chinese-owned controller could be forced to sell it to a local buyer by Albanese's government.

Albanese said he raised with Xi the case of Australian writer Yang Hengjun, who has been detained in China since 2019 on spying charges and was given a suspended death sentence. He warned against expecting an immediate outcome, telling reporters "that's not the way these things work" but instead required "patient, calibrated advocacy".

## France, Eq. Guinea to clash at UN top court

PARIS (AFP): France and Equatorial Guinea will cross swords Tuesday at the top United Nations court, in a long-running dispute over a luxury Paris mansion confiscated by French authorities.

The central African nation has asked the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to issue emergency orders preventing France from selling the building, seized after Vice President Teodoro Nguema Obiang Mangue, known as Teodorin, was convicted of corruption. French authorities seized the property, which boasts a cinema, a hammam, and marble and gold water taps, after convicting Obiang under a law targeting fortunes fraudulently amassed by foreign leaders.

In 2021, France's top appeals court gave Obiang -- the eldest son of the long-standing president of Equatorial Guinea, Teodoro Nguema Mbasogo -- a three-year suspended sentence and 30 million euros (\$35 million) in fines. France also confiscated assets, including the luxuri-

ous building near the Arc de Triomphe, which has an estimated value well above 100 million euros.

In its latest complaint to the ICJ last week, Equatorial Guinea argued French police entered the property last month and changed the locks on several of the doors. Equatorial Guinea called on the court to order France to give it "immediate, complete and unhindered access" to the building. Lawyers for Equatorial Guinea will address judges at the Peace Palace in The Hague at around 10:00 am (0800 GMT), before France responds at around 4:00 pm.

The mansion was also at the centre of an earlier case filed by Equatorial Guinea in 2016 at the ICJ, which rules on disputes between UN member states. Equatorial Guinea argued the building served as the country's embassy in France and that Paris had broken the Vienna Convention, which safeguards diplomats from interference by host countries.

But the UN court sided with France, which said the building was merely Teodorin Obiang's residence and served no diplomatic purpose. The ICJ upheld France's objections that Equatorial Guinea had only tried to designate it as such after the investigation into Obiang began, and that the country already had an embassy in Paris.

A request for emergency orders -- provisional measures, in the court's jargon -- takes precedence over all other court business. The ICJ is currently wrestling with a busy caseload, including a high-profile case brought by South Africa against Israel, alleging its actions in Gaza have breached the UN Genocide Convention. The court will also deliver a key ruling on countries' climate change obligations next Wednesday. While the ICJ is the highest United Nations court, whose rulings are binding, it has no way of enforcing its decisions. For example, it has ordered Russia to stop its invasion of Ukraine -- to no avail.



**The Frontier Post**

Rehmat Shah Afridi (Late)

Founder

**Bilal Shah Afridi**

Chief Executive

**Ja'il 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

# It's beyond time to end the scandal of IPP

**I**T comes to something when a senior member of a recent government – the former justice secretary, no less – describes actions by the state that were part of his remit as “overbearing, unfair and almost totalitarian”. Yet this is how Alex Chalk KC, who held that office for 14 months in the government of Rishi Sunak, describes imprisonment for public protection (IPP) orders – which can keep someone in prison indefinitely after conviction for a relatively minor crime.

Ousted from government by his party's defeat at the last election, and also from his parliamentary seat, Mr Chalk has returned to his legal practice. It is from this perch that he is now asking his successor, Shabana Mahmood, to consider new proposals — from the Howard League and a former lord chief justice, Lord Thomas — with a view to righting this now longstanding wrong, according to The Independent.

At The Independent, we make no apology for returning once again to the iniquity of IPP orders that go against so much of what should constitute any civilised judicial system. Two features stand out. There is the glaring disproportionality in so many cases between the crime and the punishment, with some prisoners having served almost 20 years (and still counting) for offences such as robbing someone of their mobile phone or laptop. This is not, by the way, to diminish such crimes, but to point up the disparity between the standard tariff for such a conviction and the actual time served by many of those still subject to IPP orders.

The other feature is the cruelty of imposing a sentence that has no end, which has been described by the UN as psychological torture. With no prospect of a release date, more than 90 such prisoners have taken their own lives. Altogether, more than 2,500 are still languishing in jail on IPPs.

This is in spite of these indefinite prison terms having been abolished in 2012, just seven years after they were introduced. The clear mistake then was not to have made the abolition retrospective. It applied only to new convictions, not to those already in jail, leaving the glaring injustice that one day could make a difference between someone left to serve what could become a lifetime sentence and someone convicted of a similar crime with a clear idea of the timetable for release or parole.

The failure to make abolition of IPP orders retrospective has had consequences of its own. At least some of those still not released are now so damaged by their experience and will be so hard to rehabilitate that they could indeed present a danger to society if they were released. This is the very opposite of what a penal system should set out to achieve and amounts, in Mr Chalk's words, to nothing less than a failure on the part of the state.

At which point, there is an obvious and not unreasonable question for the former justice secretary to answer. If the injustices and perverse effects of IPP orders were so apparent when he came to office — as they were — why did he not do something about it? Why did he not condemn the policy in the same terms as he is doing now and make the changes he is demanding be made by his successor?

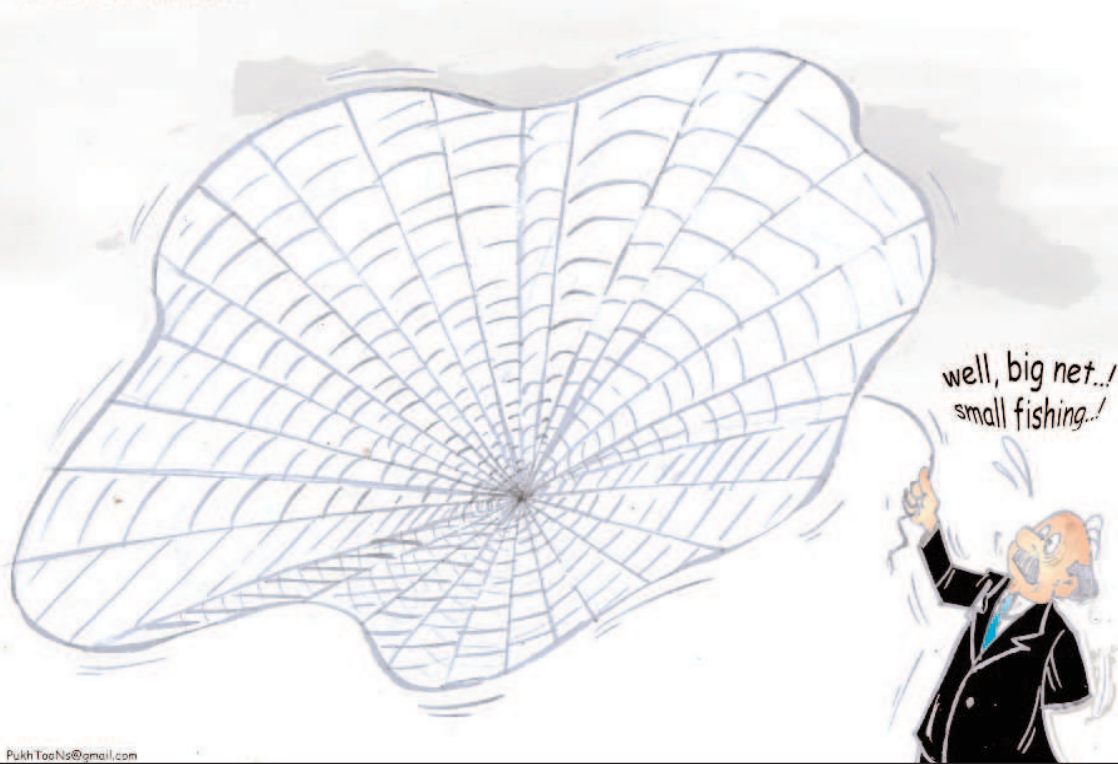
Part of his answer is that he did do something. He reduced from 10 to three the number of years that a released IPP prisoner was on licence and so subject to recall. That is not nothing, but it was nothing like enough. Two small pleas might also be made on his behalf in mitigation. As he says, there was “not a single vote” in even the change in the licence period that he made, because of the general lack of public sympathy for prisoners.

As he does not say — but is a sentiment with which the current government could well concur — a year can be too short a time in UK politics when it comes to getting anything done. The ponderous nature of the legislative process can be a minus as well as a plus. On the other hand, the size of the Labour government's majority and the years it still has to run mean it has time on its side.

**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.

Tax net expanded... Govt.



# Israel's West Bank 'emirate' gambit reveals

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal

**I**SRAEL is aggressively implementing plans to shape Palestine's future and that of the broader region, sculpting its vision for the “day after” its genocide in Gaza. The latest bizarre iteration of this strategy proposes fragmenting the West Bank into so-called emirates, starting with the “Emirate of Hebron.”

This unexpected twist in Israel's protracted search for alternative Palestinian leadership first surfaced in the staunchly pro-Israel US newspaper The Wall Street Journal. It then quickly came to dominate all Israeli media.

The report details a letter from a person identified by the newspaper as “the leader of Hebron's most influential clan.” Addressed to Economy Minister Nir Barakat, Jerusalem's former Israeli mayor, the letter from Sheikh Wadee Al-Jaabari appeals for “cooperation with Israel” in the name of “coexistence.”

This “coexistence,” according to the “clan leader,” would materialize in the “Emirate of Hebron,” which would “recognize the state of Israel as the nation state of the Jewish people,” in exchange for reciprocal recognition of the “Emirate of Hebron as the representative of the Arab residents in the Hebron district.”

The story may seem perplexing. This is because Palestinian discourse, regardless of geography or political affiliation, has never entertained such an absurd concept as united West Bank “emirates.”

Another element of absurdity is that Palestinian national identity and pride in their people's unwavering resilience, especially in Gaza, are at an unprecedented apex. To float such clan-based alternatives to legitimate Palestinian lead-

ership seems ill-conceived and is destined to fail.

Israel's desperation is palpable. In Gaza, it cannot defeat Hamas and other Palestinian factions that have resisted the Israeli takeover of the Strip for 21 months. All attempts to engineer an alternative Palestinian leadership there have collapsed.

This failure has compelled Israel to arm and fund a criminal gang that operated in Gaza before Oct. 7, 2023. This gang functions under the command of Yasser Abu Shabab. It has been implicated in a litany of violent activities. These include hijacking humanitarian aid to perpetuate famine in Gaza and orchestrating violence associated with aid distribution, among other egregious crimes.

Like the clan in Hebron, Abu Shabab's criminal gang possesses no legitimacy and no public support among Palestinians. Why would Israel resort to such disreputable figures when the Palestinian Authority, already engaged in “security coordination” with it in the West Bank, is ostensibly willing to comply?

The answer lies in the current extremist Israeli government's adamant refusal to acknowledge Palestine as a nation.

Thus, even a collaborating Palestinian nationalist entity is deemed problematic from an Israeli perspective.

While Benjamin Netanyahu's government is not the first Israeli leadership to explore clan-based alternatives among Palestinians, the prime minister and his extremist allies are exceptionally determined to dismantle any Palestinian claim to nationhood. This was explicitly stated by extremist Finance Minister

Bezalel Smotrich. He famously declared in Paris, in March 2023, that a Palestinian nation is an “invention.”

Thus, despite the PA's willingness to cooperate with Israel in controlling Gaza, Israel remains apprehensive. Empowering the PA as a nationalist model fundamentally contravenes Israel's overarching objective of denying the Palestinian people their claim to nationhood and, consequently, statehood and sovereignty.

Though Israel has consistently failed to establish and sustain its own alternative Palestinian leadership, its repeated efforts have invariably proven disruptive and violent.

Prior to the Nakba of 1948, the Zionist movement, alongside the British authorities colonizing Palestine, heavily invested in undermining the Arab Higher Committee, a nationalist body comprising several political parties. They achieved this by empowering collaborating clans, hoping to dilute the Palestinian nationalist movement.

When Israel occupied the remainder of historic Palestine in 1967, it reverted to the same divide-and-conquer tactics. For instance, it established a Palestinian police force directly commanded by Israeli military administrations, in addition to creating an underground network of collaborators.

Following the overwhelming victory of nationalist candidates in the 1976 elections in the West Bank, Israel cracked down on Palestine Liberation Organization-affiliated politicians, arresting, deporting and assassinating some.

Two years later, in 1978, it launched its “Village

Leagues” project. It hand-picked compliant traditional figures, designating them as the legitimate representatives of Palestinians. These individuals, armed, protected and financed by the Israeli occupation army, were positioned to represent their respective clans in Hebron, Bethlehem, Ramallah, Gaza and elsewhere. Palestinians immediately denounced them as collaborators. They were widely boycotted and socially ostracized.

Eventually, it became evident that Israel had no alternative but to engage directly with the PLO. This culminated in the Oslo Accords in 1993 and the subsequent formation of the PA. However, the fundamental problem persisted: the PA's insistence on a Palestinian state remains anathema to an Israel that has shifted dramatically to the right.

This explains the Netanyahu government's unwavering insistence that the PA has no role in Gaza in any day-after scenario. While the PA could serve Israel's interest in containing the rebellious Strip, such a triumph would inevitably recenter the discussion of a Palestinian state — a concept repugnant to most Israelis.

There is no doubt that neither the Abu Shabab gang nor the Hebron emirate will govern Palestinians, either in Gaza or the West Bank. Israel's insistence on fabricating such alternatives underscores its historic determination to deny Palestinians any sense of nationhood.

Israel's persistent fantasies of control invariably fail. Despite their profound wounds, Palestinians are more unified than ever — their collective identity and nationhood hardened by relentless resistance and countless sacrifices.

# Can Netanyahu deliver a ceasefire Gaza can trust?

Hani Hazaimeh

**W**ITH news swirling of a potential ceasefire agreement in Gaza, brokered during a high-profile meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and US President Donald Trump at the White House last week, Palestinians — particularly those in Gaza — find themselves once again suspended between cautious hope and deep skepticism. The promise of peace may be inching closer, but the lingering question remains: can the world really trust Netanyahu to honor such an agreement? And more fundamentally, can a permanent ceasefire hold in the face of Israel's historical record of violating its own commitments?

The Gaza Strip, shattered by relentless airstrikes and years of blockade, is yearning for a pause, for a reprieve. Entire neighborhoods have been reduced to rubble, families torn apart and basic services like food, water and electricity remain scarce. In this humanitarian wasteland, any talk of a ceasefire sparks a flicker of hope — but that hope is deeply guarded.

Both Netanyahu and

Trump have much to gain politically from a ceasefire. Netanyahu is mired in domestic turmoil, battling corruption charges, protests and an increasingly fractured coalition. Trump is keen to present himself once again as a global statesman capable of forging historic deals. The stakes are high — but so too is the distrust.

Palestinians have seen this story play out before. Ceasefire after ceasefire — brokered by Egypt, Qatar or the UN — has collapsed due to Israeli violations, continued settlement expansion or renewed military operations. Despite declarations and photo-ops, Israel has consistently returned to tactics that violate Palestinian sovereignty and humanitarian norms.

The Netanyahu government, heavily influenced by its far-right members, has shown little willingness to seriously engage with the Palestinian cause beyond security concerns.

And yet, Palestinians are not rejecting the idea of peace — they are rejecting hypocrisy. A genuine and lasting ceasefire must be more than a tactical maneuver or an electoral prop. It

must include an unequivocal end to Israeli military operations in Gaza, the lifting of the suffocating blockade and a credible international mechanism to monitor compliance on both sides. Any agreement must address not only the symptoms of war, but also the root causes: occupation, displacement and political disenfranchisement.

While the US continues to play the role of chief negotiator, the international community cannot remain a bystander. It must step forward — not just to endorse any agreement, but to provide binding guarantees that Palestinians' rights will be protected and upheld.

The Arab world, the EU and the UN should demand oversight mechanisms that ensure Israel complies with its commitments and that the Palestinian people are not once again left to suffer the consequences of broken promises.

International actors must insist on a framework that goes beyond ceasefire management and toward a sustainable political solution.

The people of Gaza cannot endure another “pause” that merely resets the countdown to the next

war. They need assurance, accountability and, above all, dignity. The ceasefire must not be a reward for violence nor a temporary de-escalation until the next round of bloodshed. It must be the beginning of a broader peace process that affirms the right of Palestinians to live freely in their homeland, with access to food, water, safety and a future.

Netanyahu and Trump may seek to shape the headlines in Washington, but history will judge them by what follows on the ground in Gaza.

If the proposed ceasefire does not include real protections, real oversight and real political engagement, it will join the long list of failed truces that have left Palestinian civilians to bury their dead in silence.

A meaningful ceasefire must be built on trust — but trust is earned, not imposed. And until Israel demonstrates a consistent commitment to peace and until the world holds it accountable for its actions, Palestinians will remain wary of agreements signed with smiles abroad and broken with bombs at home.

The people of Gaza are watching. The world must do more than just watch with them — it must stand with them.

# Strengthening Pakistan-UAE Media Cooperation A framework for cultural diplomacy and journalistic inclusion

Asif Ali Yousafzai

On July 7, 2025, Pakistan's Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, H.E. Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, held an official meeting in Dubai with H.E. Mohammed Saeed Al Shehhi, Secretary General of the UAE Media Council.

The discussion centered around strengthening bilateral cooperation in the media sector to promote mutual understanding and foster positive narratives between the two nations. Ambassador Tirmizi appreciated the UAE's support for the Pakistani diaspora and acknowledged their substantial contribution to the development of the Emirates.

H.E. Al Shehhi expressed the UAE Media Council's interest in closer collaboration with Pakistan, acknowledging the richness of Pakistani culture, its natural landscape, and the growing potential of its tourism sector—particularly the scenic northern regions.

While this engagement may appear ceremonial on the surface, it represents a pivotal opportunity to institutionalize long-term cooperation in the fields of journalism, culture, and public diplomacy. Media is no longer just a tool of information—it's a strategic channel for enhancing bilateral ties and shaping transnational perceptions.

The Pakistan-UAE relationship, rooted in shared values and deep people-to-people linkages, now demands formal platforms that can sustain consistent cultural exchange and media collaboration.

**A Strategic Opportunity for Pakistani Media in the UAE**

With the UAE emerging as a creative media hub in the region—hosting world-class infrastructure, tax incentives, and cross-cultural production

—Pakistan's media professionals are well-positioned to explore opportunities such as: Co-produced television content and web series, Joint cultural and tourism documentaries, Broader representation of Emirati life, values, and society through Pakistani media platforms.

This would not only diversify Pakistan's soft power abroad but also allow Pakistani creatives to tell inclusive, internationally relevant stories in a dynamic regional setting. Despite this potential, a large number of Pakistani journalists in the UAE—particularly those affiliated with the Pakistan Journalists Forum (PJF-UAE)—continue to operate without formal media accreditation. While many are experienced and active in the field, high licensing fees and procedural hurdles have prevented full inclusion.

Although several PJF journalists are already licensed by the UAE Media Council, a significant number remain unaccredited—not due to a lack of professional merit, but because of unaffordable licensing costs. This lack of official recognition limits their access to press conferences, public events, and institutional engagement—ultimately constraining the quality and reach of bilateral coverage. A structured and inclusive accreditation mechanism could benefit both host and home country by ensuring:

Professional vetting through consular registration Reduced or tiered licensing fees for verified community journalists, enhanced trust and transparency between media institutions of both nations, such measures would elevate the role of Pakistani journalists as responsible narrators of the UAE story, and vice versa.

zones—Pakistani media professionals are well-positioned to explore opportunities such as: Co-produced television content and web series, Joint cultural and tourism documentaries, Broader representation of Emirati life, values, and society through Pakistani media platforms.

This would not only diversify Pakistan's soft power abroad but also allow Pakistani creatives to tell inclusive, internationally relevant stories in a dynamic regional setting.

**Accreditation Challenges for Pakistani Journalists in the UAE**

Despite this potential, a large number of Pakistani journalists in the UAE—particularly those affiliated with the Pakistan Journalists Forum (PJF-UAE)—continue to operate without formal media accreditation. While many are experienced and active in the field, high licensing fees and procedural hur-

dles have prevented full inclusion.

Although several PJF journalists are already licensed by the UAE Media Council, a significant number remain unaccredited—not due to a lack of professional merit, but because of unaffordable licensing costs.

This lack of official recognition limits their access to press conferences, public events, and institutional engagement—ultimately constraining the quality and reach of bilateral coverage.

A structured and inclusive accreditation mechanism could benefit both host and home country by ensuring:

Professional vetting through consular registration Reduced or tiered licensing fees for verified community journalists, enhanced trust and transparency between media institutions of both nations, such measures would elevate the role of Pakistani journalists as responsible narrators of the UAE story, and vice versa.

**Vison for a Cultural Exchange Program**

Beyond the media domain, opportunities abound in cultural storytelling, music, performing arts, and visual exhibitions. Governments and private stakeholders in both countries should work toward establishing a formal Pakistan-UAE Cultural Exchange Program, enabling:

Cross-border artistic collaborations

Joint festivals and creative residencies

Shared audience engagement across cinema, theatre, and art forums

In a region where narratives often cross borders before policies do, cultural diplomacy becomes a strategic imperative.

**Moving from Dialogue to Delivery**

The July 7 meeting sets

the stage for broader, deeper cooperation. The momentum must now shift from statements to structured initiatives. A joint media task force, consular facilitation for journalists, and public-private partnerships in creative industries could serve as foundational steps.

For two nations bound by history and human capital, a shared media and cultural future is not just possible—it is essential.

**Author's Note:**

Having worked in journalism and media reporting across the UAE and Pakistan for many years, I have witnessed the steady evolution of Pakistan-UAE relations. This moment presents an inflection point—if supported by real frameworks, the media can become a lasting bridge between our peoples.

**Writer is senior journalist and media analyst and UAE correspondent for The Frontier Post**



# Build regional stability from the ashes of Netanyahu’s war on JCPOA

TEN years ago, on July 14, I joined my counterparts from China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union to announce the conclusion of a unique achievement of diplomacy, bringing a peaceful end to an unnecessary crisis founded on lies and a blatant policy of securitisation to divert global attention from the real nuclear threat to peace in West Asia. The entire world celebrated the conclusion of the Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), except for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and other leaders in the Israeli nuclear apartheid regime, who saw – and continue to see – peace and stability as the only real “existential threat”, and who publicly pledged to destroy the deal.

Today, some of our successors are clamouring to deal with the aftermath of an aggression against Iran, right in the middle of new nuclear negotiations. This aggression came from the rogue, non-NPT (the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons) possessor of nuclear weapons in West Asia – Israel. It targeted safeguarded nuclear facilities of an NPT member and coupled the act with other war crimes by targeting civilian quarters, childcare centres, scientists, and off-duty military commanders. The butcher of Gaza went even further with Israel’s latest aggression and broke a millennia-old tradition by targeting national leaders. This indicated a clear and publicly stated attempt to bring chaos and instability to the entire region.

The only power to have ever used nuclear weapons – the US – rushed to the aid of this rogue aggressor as its campaign began to falter. In a reckless and unlawful move, it targeted Iran’s nuclear facilities in a futile attempt to halt the country’s peaceful nuclear progress – much of which, ironically, was achieved after the US unilaterally withdrew from the JCPOA.

At the same time, the successors of my E3/EU counterparts – the representatives of France, Germany, and the UK,

along with the EU, have been simultaneously boasting about “Netanyahu doing their dirty work”, and threatening, in absolute bad faith, to invoke the “dispute resolution mechanism” in the JCPOA and United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 2231, which legally endorsed the nuclear deal. They do so while they have, in words and deeds, terminated their status as JCPOA participants by disavowing the most fundamental pillar of the JCPOA, in calling for the dismantlement of Iran’s peaceful enrichment program –

•••••

The only power to have ever used nuclear weapons – the US – rushed to the aid of this rogue aggressor as its campaign began to falter. In a reckless and unlawful move, it targeted Iran’s nuclear facilities in a futile attempt to halt the country’s peaceful nuclear progress – much of which, ironically, was achieved after the US unilaterally withdrew from the JCPOA. At the same time, the successors of my E3/EU counterparts – the representatives of France, Germany, and the UK, along with the EU, have been simultaneously boasting about “Netanyahu doing their dirty work”, and threatening, in absolute bad faith, to invoke the “dispute resolution mechanism” in the JCPOA and United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 2231, which legally endorsed the nuclear deal. They do so while they have, in words and deeds, terminated their status as JCPOA participants by disavowing the most fundamental pillar of the JCPOA, in calling for the dismantlement of Iran’s peaceful enrichment program – while embarrassingly failing to fulfil, even minimally, their own economic and financial obligations towards Iran through at least seven of the past 10 years. On July 20, 2021, I argued against the ability of the E3/EU to invoke the JCPOA “dispute resolution mechanism” – erroneously and self-servingly called “snapback”, a term that was never used in the JCPOA or UNSC Resolution 2231 – in my 140-page letter to the Secretary-General of the UN, which was circulated as UN General Assembly (UNGA) document A/75/968 and Security Council document S/2021/669. My well-documented legal arguments have now been further strengthened by the more recent statements and actions of the E3/EU, in which they have clearly terminated their status as “JCPOA Participants”. The Iranian armed forces, relying on home-grown military capability, have once again destroyed the myth of Israeli invincibility, exposing the thin skin of the bully. At the same time, the brave and proud Iranian people thwarted the delusion of Netanyahu and his cohorts to dismember Iran.

•••••

while embarrassingly failing to fulfil, even minimally, their own economic and financial obligations towards Iran through at least seven of the past 10 years. On July 20, 2021, I argued against the ability of the E3/EU to invoke the JCPOA “dispute resolution mechanism” – erroneously and self-servingly called “snapback”, a term that was never used in the JCPOA or UNSC Resolution 2231 – in my 140-page letter to the Secretary-General of the UN, which was circulated as UN General Assembly (UNGA) document A/75/968 and Security Council document S/2021/669. My well-documented legal arguments have now been further strengthened by the more recent state-

Javad Zarif

ments and actions of the E3/EU, in which they have clearly terminated their status as “JCPOA Participants”.

The Iranian armed forces, relying on home-grown military capability, have once again destroyed the myth of Israeli invincibility, exposing the thin skin of the bully. At the same time, the brave and proud Iranian people thwarted the delusion of Netanyahu and his cohorts to dismember Iran. Once again, Iran proved that even two nuclear powers, combined, cannot bring a millennia-old civilisation state to its knees.

Nevertheless, it is now evident that Israel’s illusion of regional supremacy and “aggression at will” is founded on destabilising Iran, followed by other regional powers – resulting in instability, division, and chaos in Muslim West Asia. This is neither in the interest of the countries in the region nor of our friends in China and Russia, whose national interests are founded on stability; nor is it compatible with the US and Europe’s global pivot agenda. Yet Netanyahu and his hypocritical “Bibi-Firsters” in the West have shown that they are callous enough to engulf the world in “forever wars” to prolong their corrupt politi-

cal careers and expansionist delusions – founded on apartheid, genocide, and aggression against Arab neighbours in the region – coupled with blackmail, never-ending scandals, and extortion in the West.

The international community needs to immediately address this fundamental threat to regional and global peace and security, which also endangers the national interests of almost all countries and the prosperity and welfare of the people of the region and beyond. I have personally witnessed, in more than four decades of

diplomacy – including well-documented Israeli obstructions in the negotiations for the exchange of American hostages in Lebanon with Lebanese and Palestinian hostages in Israel in 1991 – that the Israeli political establishment has been, and always will be, willing to sacrifice the treasure, freedom, and blood of its closest allies for even the most trivial gains. Anyone harbouring the illusion that Israel will provide them with help and security will one day wake up to the ugly reality that they have been ruthlessly erected as Israel’s first line of defence, without any reciprocity.

The essential pillar of Netanyahu’s policy is chaos, discord, and instability. The only real “existential threat” – to

him – is regional cooperation: Be it the establishment of a zone free from nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East – called for by the UNGA consistently since 1974 – or the establishment of a regional security and cooperation scheme in the Strait of Hormuz region, called for in paragraph 8 of Security Council Resolution 598 in 1987.

As Hamad bin Jassim bin Jaber Al Thani, the former prime minister of Qatar, has warned, our region – and indeed the entire world, including the permanent members of the Security Council – cannot prosper under the persistent shadow of Israeli domestic politics driving regional adventurism. It is high time for the UNSC to take practical measures to create a regional framework for dialogue, confidence-building, and cooperation among countries of the Hormuz region or Muslim West Asia, with a proper umbrella of global guarantees from the UNSC and its permanent members.

Iran has offered ideas such as the Hormuz Peace Endeavour (HOPE) in 2019 or the Muslim West Asian Dialogue Association (MWADA) in 2024. Everyone in our region and beyond has a very high stake in thwarting the agenda of regional destabilisation. Other countries in the HOPE or MWADA region, including Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Türkiye, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen, who have now seen some of the horrifying realities of Israel’s concocted dangerous future, should take the matter in their own hands, present individual or joint initiatives, improve Iranian proposals or provide plans of their own, and collectively and without further delay ask the UNSC to adopt a resolution for regional arrangements drafted primarily by the countries of this region.

The lesson of the past 10 years since the conclusion of JCPOA must have illustrated to everyone that coercion will ultimately harm even its initiators. Diplomacy for a future of common vision, hope and positive-sum outcome is, has always been, and will forever remain the only reasonable way. Time is of the essence.

# Time to put principles above profit

Chris Doyle

FRANCESCO Albanese is such a threat to world peace and security, according to the US, that she joins four International Criminal Court judges and the court’s chief prosecutor on its sanctions list. She is the first UN expert in history to be the subject of sanctions. The US has also written to the UN secretary-general to demand she is sacked.

Albanese has not killed anyone. She has not stolen anything. She has not committed any crime. Her mortal sin is to stand up for international law and human rights, and demand that this applies to Israel.

Albanese will not be deterred. She has been labeled a terrorist, a Marxist and an anti-semitic by those wishing to smear her and get her fired. She has not blinked.

What is the report she has published that the US dislikes? It is entitled “From Economy of Occupation to Economy of Genocide,” an examination of the economic underpinnings of Israel’s genocide.

Much of the media and political focus of those determined to ensure accountability for Israel’s crimes has understandably focused on states. The campaign for an arms trade ban has been supercharged in major weapons-exporting states, with some results. Others want states to rip up free trade agreements with Israel.

But one of the core foundations of Israel’s occupation and genocide has been corporate complicity. This underpins the scaffolding of the regime of occupation and apartheid. For years, this has been a central feature of global civil society’s efforts to hold Israel to account.

This is what Albanese examines in this ground-breaking report. To what extent have major corporate actors become sponsors of these crimes? To what extent can they do what states, for legal or public relations reasons, cannot? She cites more than 60 international companies involved in “the transformation of Israel’s economy of occupation to an economy of genocide.” She called on the International Criminal Court to look to prosecute the chief executives of these companies.

One of the most incredible aspects of Israel’s 58-year-old occupation is how profitable it is. These companies are not generally motivated by ideology, but by good old-fashioned corporate greed.

They make money. Given that, as the report points out, the Israeli defense budget has doubled since October 2023, they make considerable quantities of money.

Albanese is clear that the report is not a mere list of such companies but an attempt to expose the system and how it enables genocide. The UN already has a database of companies that trade and do business in settlements, though many member states oppose or ignore this. This should change. This corporate network is vital for Israel not just to maintain its occupation, but to expand it. The arms companies are well known, but less so is the fact the Occupied Territories are a testing ground for weapons and artificial intelligence systems. But there are also civilian businesses, banks, insurance companies and major tourism companies that, for example, rent properties in illegal Israeli settlements. One 2025 survey found 760 rooms in illegal settlements were available for rent on just two platforms. When you examine the entries for these properties, the unknowing tourist would have no idea they would be holidaying in occupied territory. Banks and financial institutions are also in Albanese’s crosshairs.

•••••

intelligence systems. But there are also civilian businesses, banks, insurance companies and major tourism companies that, for example, rent properties in illegal Israeli settlements. One 2025 survey found 760 rooms in illegal settlements were available for rent on just two platforms. When you examine the entries for these properties, the unknowing tourist would have no idea they would be holidaying in occupied territory. Banks and financial institutions are also in Albanese’s crosshairs. The report points out that “major global banks have underwritten Israeli treasury bonds, which have bankrolled the devastation, and the largest sovereign wealth and pension funds invested public and private savings in the genocidal economy, all the while claiming to respect ethical guidelines.”

Major tech firms also stand accused. Many have offered their cloud services for use by the Israeli authorities, including the country’s military. Israel’s genocide in Gaza has seen the military deploy facial recognition software, target-selection algorithms and automated targeting systems such as Lavender, all provided and tested by tech giants.

Heavy machinery firms have provided bulldozers and other equipment that have destroyed huge parts of Gaza and the West Bank. Israeli authorities are recruiting drivers for such bulldozers, reportedly paying them per property destroyed. They get about 2,500 Israeli shekels (\$744) for demolishing a small building and 5,000 shekels for a large one.

How will this corporate network be dismantled? One of the most incredible aspects of Israel’s 58-year-old occupation is how profitable it is. These companies are not generally motivated by ideology, but by good old-fashioned corporate greed.

They make money. Given that, as the report points out, the Israeli defense budget has doubled since October 2023, they make considerable quantities of money. Albanese is clear that the report is not a mere list of such companies but an attempt to expose the system and how it enables genocide. The UN already has a database of companies that trade and do business in settlements, though many member states oppose or ignore this. This should change. This corporate network is vital for Israel not just to maintain its occupation, but to expand it. The arms companies are well known, but less so is the fact the Occupied Territories are a testing ground for weapons and artificial intelligence systems. But there are also civilian businesses, banks, insurance companies and major tourism companies that, for example, rent properties in illegal Israeli settlements. One 2025 survey found 760 rooms in illegal settlements were available for rent on just two platforms. When you examine the entries for these properties, the unknowing tourist would have no idea they would be holidaying in occupied territory. Banks and financial institutions are also in Albanese’s crosshairs.

•••••

rate complicity end? Consumer pressure will matter, as it did with the anti-South African apartheid campaign. Already, consumer pressure has hit businesses and pension funds. Options for strategic litigation for those who are seriously complicit are being examined.

Ultimately, however, states need to do more. Trade with settlements should have been terminated decades ago. And why are states selling arms to Israel?

Given their role in the global system, private corporations need to be held to account just as much as political leaders. It is a legal duty for states, under the UN’s Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, to ensure businesses in their territory and jurisdiction adhere to international law and punish such abuses. It is time to put principles above profit.

# The Berlin police lied and the lie is now used to justify repression

Hebh Jamal

ON May 15, a pro-Palestinian demonstration was held in Berlin to commemorate the 77th anniversary of the Nakba, the ethnic cleansing and expulsion of Palestinians from their homeland. What unfolded that day was not only a case of police violence, but a coordinated effort by German authorities, the media, and politicians to turn fiction into fact in order to further criminalise Palestinian protest.

According to a public statement issued by the Berlin police, a demonstrator had violently assaulted one of their officers, resulting in serious injury and hospitalisation. The police claimed the officer was dragged into the crowd, deliberately attacked, knocked to the ground, and then trampled or kicked by protesters. The message was clear: Pro-Palestinian demonstrators are violent, irrational, and dangerous.

But this entire story is a lie.

Video evidence, meticulously analysed by Forensis, an independent research agency founded and led by members of Forensic Architecture, has unequivocally disproven every single one of the Berlin police’s claims. The footage shows an officer with the number BE24111 written on the back of his uniform jacket advancing into the crowd with colleagues to arrest a protester. As they push people around, BE24111 starts punching protesters in the head and kicking them. He appears to injure himself during this violent fit and retreats with his colleagues.

There is no violent mob. No one is dragging him into the crowd. No one knocks him to the ground. No one kicks him. On the contrary, the footage shows demonstrators actively distancing themselves and shielding one another from BE24111’s assault. It was the officer, not the crowd, who carried out violence.

Despite the truth being uncovered, the damage has already been done.

The Berlin Police’s false narrative was quickly amplified by media outlets and government officials, unleashing a wave of fearmongering and political opportunism. A police union representative appeared on Welt TV channel and described the demonstrators as a “gang of murderers” who “would have killed the officer if they could have”. The tabloid BILD ran a headline reading: “Jew haters kick police officers” and quoted Stephan Weh of the German Police Union as saying, “when a colleague is dragged into a crowd and trampled, losing consciousness multiple times, we have to say it’s pure luck that he survived the night [...] This madness must end before one of our colleagues loses his life at such a gathering.” The Public Prosecutor’s Office stated it was “an attack on the organs of the rule of law” and launched a formal investigation into the incident under charges of “dangerous bodily harm” and a “serious breach of the peace”. The very people assaulted by police may now face criminal prosecution based on

Police Union as saying, “when a colleague is dragged into a crowd and trampled, losing consciousness multiple times, we have to say it’s pure luck that he survived the night [...] This madness must end before one of our colleagues loses his life at such a gathering.”

Video evidence, meticulously analysed by Forensis, an independent research agency founded and led by members of Forensic Architecture, has unequivocally disproven every single one of the Berlin police’s claims. The footage shows an officer with the number BE24111 written on the back of his uniform jacket advancing into the crowd with colleagues to arrest a protester. As they push people around, BE24111 starts punching protesters in the head and kicking them. He appears to injure himself during this violent fit and retreats with his colleagues.

There is no violent mob. No one is dragging him into the crowd. No one knocks him to the ground. No one kicks him. On the contrary, the footage shows demonstrators actively distancing themselves and shielding one another from BE24111’s assault. It was the officer, not the crowd, who carried out violence.

Despite the truth being uncovered, the damage has already been done.

The Berlin Police’s false narrative was quickly amplified by media outlets and government officials, unleashing a wave of fearmongering and political opportunism. A police union representative appeared on Welt TV channel and described the demonstrators as a “gang of murderers” who “would have killed the officer if they could have”. The tabloid BILD ran a headline reading: “Jew haters kick police officers” and quoted Stephan Weh of the German

Police Union as saying, “when a colleague is dragged into a crowd and trampled, losing consciousness multiple times, we have to say it’s pure luck that he survived the night [...] This madness must end before one of our colleagues loses his life at such a gathering.”

Video evidence, meticulously analysed by Forensis, an independent research agency founded and led by members of Forensic Architecture, has unequivocally disproven every single one of the Berlin police’s claims. The footage shows an officer with the number BE24111 written on the back of his uniform jacket advancing into the crowd with colleagues to arrest a protester. As they push people around, BE24111 starts punching protesters in the head and kicking them. He appears to injure himself during this violent fit and retreats with his colleagues.

There is no violent mob. No one is dragging him into the crowd. No one knocks him to the ground. No one kicks him. On the contrary, the footage shows demonstrators actively distancing themselves and shielding one another from BE24111’s assault. It was the officer, not the crowd, who carried out violence.

Despite the truth being uncovered, the damage has already been done.

The Berlin Police’s false narrative was quickly amplified by media outlets and government officials, unleashing a wave of fearmongering and political opportunism. A police union representative appeared on Welt TV channel and described the demonstrators as a “gang of murderers” who “would have killed the officer if they could have”. The tabloid BILD ran a headline reading: “Jew haters kick police officers” and quoted Stephan Weh of the German

strategy to criminalise pro-Palestinian activism, protest and speech under the guise of fighting extremism.

On June 10, less than a month after the incident, the Interior Minister Alexander Dobrindt also seized the moment, declaring in the Bundestag: “An officer at an anti-Israel demo in Berlin was dragged into a crowd by aggressive demonstrators and seriously injured... The police need the best possible equipment and appropriate powers. We will make this clear in the law.”

The state is not just spinning falsehoods; it is also bent on using them to legislate repression.

strategy to criminalise pro-Palestinian activism, protest and speech under the guise of fighting extremism.

On June 10, less than a month after the incident, the Interior Minister Alexander Dobrindt also seized the moment, declaring in the Bundestag: “An officer at an anti-Israel demo in Berlin was dragged into a crowd by aggressive demonstrators and seriously injured... The police need the best possible equipment and appropriate powers. We will make this clear in the law.”

The state is not just spinning falsehoods; it is also bent on using them to legislate repression.

bans on organisational activities.

Other groups have already been proscribed. In May 2024, Palestine Solidarity Duisburg association was banned and its website shut down by the court.

On June 10, less than a month after the incident, the Interior Minister Alexander Dobrindt also seized the moment, declaring in the Bundestag: “An officer at an anti-Israel demo in Berlin was dragged into a crowd by aggressive demonstrators and seriously injured... The police need the best possible equipment and appropriate powers. We will make this clear in the law.”

The state is not just spinning falsehoods; it is also bent on using them to legislate repression.

Palestinian surgeon, was barred from entering the country to speak at an event.

My husband and I were placed on a black list after we were supposed to speak at the same event. For a year now, we have been subject to interrogation, harassment, and invasive searches every time we travel outside the country.

Various “symbols” of pro-Palestinian solidarity have also been suppressed. The phrase “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free” was officially banned by a Berlin judge in August 2024, for allegedly expressing support for terrorism.

Then, in an even more chilling move, the city of Berlin banned all Arabic-language chants at demonstrations in April of this year, effectively criminalising an entire language and silencing entire communities, particularly the Palestinian one, which is the largest in Europe.

Meanwhile, police brutality at pro-Palestinian demonstrations in Germany has become disturbingly routine. Protesters are regularly kettled, beaten, and arrested without cause or explanation.

What once might have seemed exceptional is now standard operating procedure.

The fight to end German complicity in genocide is being violently suppressed, both in the streets and in the courts. State-sponsored censorship, racialised policing, and violent erosion of civil liberties are carried out under the false banner of public safety.

While the German state continues to claim that it is “atoning for its past” by cracking down on anti-genocide protests, in Gaza, the genocide is raging at full force. Bombings continue, little children are starving to death, and aid seekers are massacred at aid distribution zones.

The Israeli military is pushing forward with plans to create a large concentration camp for Palestinians in the southern Gaza Strip in preparation for their ethnic cleansing.

Acting to stop this horror has never been more urgent.

In these dark times, those who stay silent about the German state’s lies and repression must consider carefully what they are acquiescing to. Today, it may be the pro-Palestinian activists and people of conscience who are criminalised, but tomorrow it will be others. German democracy is collapsing, and state repression will not stop at a racialised community of protesters.





## Stock Exchange turns bearish, loses 562 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) benchmark KSE-100 Index turned around to bearish trend on Tuesday, losing 562.67 points, a negative change of 0.41 per cent, closing at 135,939.87 points against 136,502.54 points last trading day.

A total of 879,118,158 shares were traded during the day as compared to 841,456,115 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 38.608 billion against Rs 37.051 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 478 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 110 of them recorded gains and 345 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 23 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were Bank of Punjab with 61,318,327 shares at Rs 13.13 per

share, K-Electric Limited with 56,728,152 shares at Rs5.27 per share and Trust Modaraba with 44,591,951 shares at Rs 7.72 per share.

PIA Holding Company LimitedB witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 2,876.82 per share price, closing at Rs 31,645.05, whereas the runner-up was Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited with Rs 460.68 rise in its per share price to Rs 23,796.18.

Hoechst Pakistan Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs106.27 per share closing at Rs 3,145.00 followed by Atlas Honda Limited with Rs46.47 decline in its share price to close at Rs1,095.57.

**Rupee gains 05 paise against US Dollar**

The Rupee on Tuesday appreciated by 05 paise against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 284.66 against the previous day's closing

of Rs 284.71.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs287.50 and Rs288, respectively.

The price of the Euro decreased by 01 paise to close at Rs 332.73 against the last day's closing of Rs 332.74, according to the State Bank of Pakistan.

The Japanese yen decreased by 01 paise and closed at Rs 1.92, whereas a decline of Rs 1.22 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs 382.79 compared to the previous day's closing of Rs 384.01.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal decreased by 01 paise each to close at Rs 77.50 and Rs 75.90, respectively.

**Gold prices dip by**

**Rs700 to Rs359,000 per tola**

The price of 24 karat per tola gold decreased by Rs.700 and was traded at Rs.359,000 on Tuesday as compared to its sale at Rs. 359,700 on the last trading day, All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewelers Association reported.

The prices of 10 grams of 24 karat also decreased by Rs600 to Rs.307,784 from Rs. 308,384 and for 10 grams of 22 Karat it went down by Rs.550 to Rs.282,145 from Rs. 282,695. The rates of per tola and ten gram silver decreased by Rs73 and Rs 62 to Rs.4,014 and Rs.3,441 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$7 to \$3,365 from \$3,372 whereas that of silver decreased by \$0.73 to \$38.30 from \$39.03, the Association reported.

## Hashoo Foundation leads youth civic immersion in Capital

### F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Hashoo Foundation (HF) facilitated the Nation Insight Tour-a civic exposure visit that brought 30 youth from Swat to Islamabad for an immersive educational and policy engagement experience at the National Assembly and other key public institutions.

The Nation Insight Tour marks a significant milestone in the Countering and Preventing Terrorism in Pakistan (CPTP) project. Funded by the European Union, led by NACTA, and implemented by UNODC in partnership with civil society organizations like Hashoo, CPTP aims to strengthen community resilience against violent extremism and acts of violence through inclusive, youth-focused programming.

The Partnerships for Change initiative in Swat is implemented by HF in partnership with the University of Swat and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Centre of Excellence on Countering Violent Extremism (KPCVE). Anchored in

HF's flagship Social Lab and its award-winning SMaRT (Sustainable Methods and Resilient Technologies) Village models, the initiative has equipped 30 young Agents of Change with future-ready technical and soft skills under the Education 4.0 framework.

Applying their learning in a selected community in Swat, these youth-with the support of seed funding provided through the project-successfully transformed it into a fully functional SMaRT Village of Gulibagh.

During their time in Islamabad, the Agents of Change visited the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) Secretariat at the Prime Minister's House, where they engaged in an interactive session with Chairman PMYP Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan. Following this discussion, he remarked:

"Initiatives like Partnerships for Change are a strong reflection of our shared commitment to youth empowerment. By equipping young Pakistanis with future-ready skills,

Education 4.0 and exposure, we are shaping a generation ready to lead with purpose, drive innovation, and contribute to sustainable national development."

The Islamabad visit also offered trainees a rare, first-hand opportunity to witness Pakistan's legislative and policy-making processes and engage directly with the institutions that shape the country's security, governance, and development frameworks.

The Assembly and Senate visits under the Nation Insight Tour were designed to deepen civic understanding, encourage democratic participation, and promote national integration among youth from conflict-affected and marginalized communities.

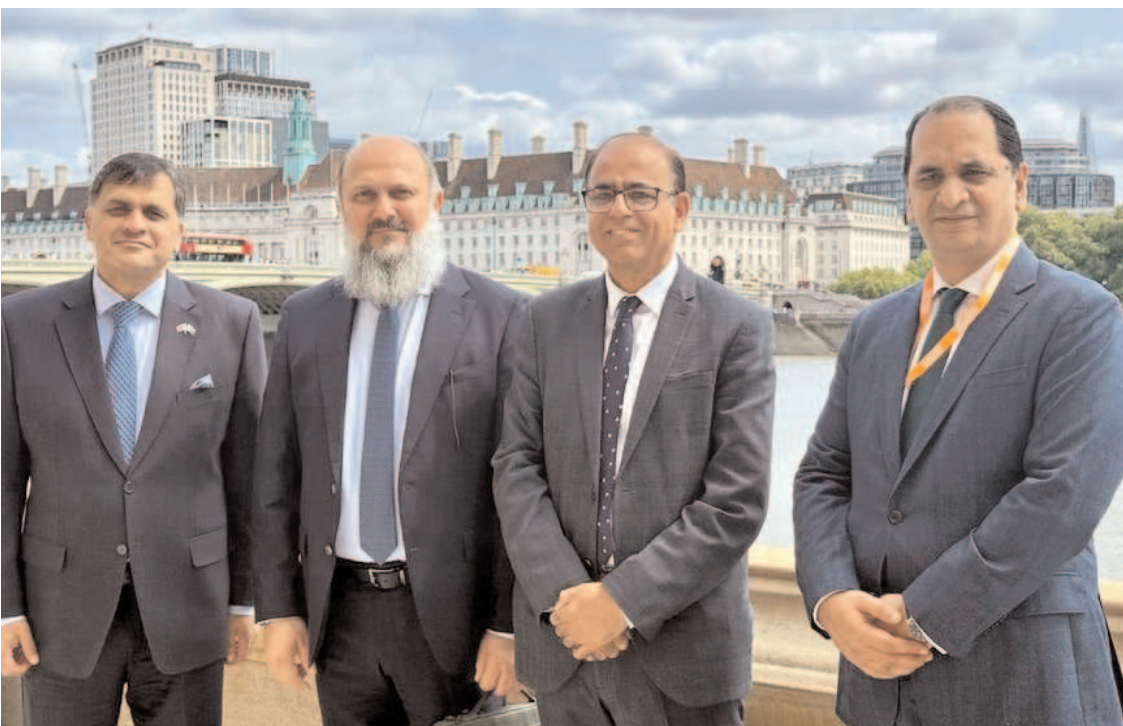
Commenting on the significance of the visit, Haris Qayyum Khan, CEO of Hashoo Foundation, said: "The Nation Insight Tour opens doors for youth from marginalized regions to connect with the institutions shaping Pakistan's future. It is not enough to equip young people with technical skills; they also

need civic exposure and platforms to engage with national governance and policy-making processes."

Ghanira Siraj, an Agent of Change currently incubating her social enterprise around eco-tourism at the Social Lab, shared her reflections on the visit to the National Assembly: "The Nation Insight Tour helped me connect everything we learned at the Social Lab to how real decisions are made in Pakistan. Visiting the National Assembly and meeting policymakers showed me that our ideas can go beyond Swat and make a larger impact at the national level."

30 youth have developed 6 social enterprises that addressed socio-economic challenges with green solutions such as biodiversity conservation, eco-tourism, food innovation and preservation, access to clean water, and sustainable livelihoods.

The 2 months mentorship aided by a Pitch Fest and Nation Insight Tour has further facilitated their journey to take their business to next level.



LONDON: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan with UK PM's Trade Envoy Mohammad Yasin MP, Federal Secretary Commerce Jawad Paul, and High Commissioner Dr. Mohammad Faisal at House of Commons, London - reaffirming commitment to deeper UK-Pakistan trade and investment ties.

## Big industry grows by 2.29% in May 2025

ISLAMABAD (APP): The output of the Large Scale Manufacturing Industries (LSMI) witnessed an increase of 2.29 per cent during the month of May 2025 compared to the same month of last year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

On month-on-month basis, the LSMI's production in May 2025, also increased by 7.39 per cent when compared with that of April 2025. Overall the LSMI output showed a decline of 1.21 per cent during July-May 2025 when compared with the same period of last year, according to the PBS data.

The provisional quantum induces of Large Scale Manufacturing Industries (LSMI) for May 2025, with the base year 2015-16, have been developed based on the latest data supplied by the source agencies.

The main contributors towards overall growth of -1.21% are Tobacco (0.12), Textile (0.46) Garments (0.80), Petroleum Products (0.33), Pharmaceuticals (0.16), Automobiles (0.78), Other transport Equipment (0.15), Food (-0.41), Chemicals (-0.33) Non Metallic Mineral Products (-0.51), Cement (-0.25), Iron & Steel Products (-0.43), Electrical Equipment (-0.38), Machinery and Equipment (-0.18) and Furniture (-1.69).

## Shipping activity at PQ

KARACHI (APP): Five ships, Tanja, Kumasi, Gas Emerald, Horizon-1 and Rome Trader carrying Container, LPG and Coal, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Engro Vopak Terminal, Sui Southern Gas Terminal and Pakistan International Bulk Terminal respectively on Monday.

Meanwhile two more ships, Ullswater and Fuwairit are carrying LPG and LNG also arrive at outer anchorage during last 24 hours.

Ten ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them six ships, Kumasi, Tanja, Gas Emerald, Horizon-1, Sereno and ND Aristela are expected to sail on Tuesday.

Cargo volume of 219,715 tonnes, comprising 149,605 tonnes imports cargo and 70,110 export cargo carried in 6,461 Containers (3,465 TEUs Imports & 2,996 TEUs Export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

Twelve ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them four ships, Jin Wang Ling, Ullswater, Floria Maris and Fuwairit & another ship 'GFS Prime' scheduled to load/offload Iron Ore, LPG, Mogas, LNG and Container are expected to take berths at MW-1, SSGC, FOTCO, PGPC and QICOT respectively on Tuesday.

## Federal Minister chairs meeting — to ensure sugar price stabilization

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for National Food Security & Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain on Tuesday said that the government is fully committed for providing relief to the public.

He said that all possible measures are being taken to ensure the availability of sugar at affordable prices.

He further emphasized that strict implementation of the retail price will be ensured and hoarding or profiteering will not be tolerated. He stated this while chairing a meeting with the Pakistan Sugar Mills Association (PSMA) to address the implementation of the government-notified ex-mill price of sugar and ensure its smooth availabil-

ity in the market.

The meeting was attended by the Chairman and senior members of PSMA, along with senior officials of the ministry.

During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on the enforcement of the ex-mill sugar price and steps needed to ensure immediate and uninterrupted supply of sugar across the country. The association appreciated the government's decision and assured its full cooperation in stabilizing prices.

The Pakistan Sugar Mills Association agreed to supply sugar at the ex-mill price of Rs. 165 per kg. It was mutually agreed that the impact of the price

reduction would start reflecting in the retail market within the next two to three days.

Speaking on the occasion, Rana Tanveer Hussain further emphasized that strict implementation of the retail price will be ensured and hoarding or profiteering will not be tolerated.

The Minister highlighted that an effective mechanism has been devised to curb artificial price hikes and ensure consistent supply. He reiterated that public interest remains the top priority of the government and that the ministry will continue to work in close coordination with the sugar industry to maintain price stability.

## ICCI urges further cuts in power tariffs

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) has urged the government to further reduce power tariffs in order to strengthen Pakistan's industrial competitiveness in global markets.

It urged that high energy costs have long been a major barrier to productivity and growth in the country's industrial sector, said a press release issued here Tuesday.

President Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, along with Senior Vice President Abdul Rehman Siddiqui and Vice President Nasir Mehmood Chaudhry, underscored the urgent need for a sustainable and

industry-friendly energy policy, adding that without timely reforms, the private sector would continue to face serious challenges in expanding and competing internationally.

Over the years, elevated electricity prices have drastically eroded industrial output and weakened our global market position, President Qureshi stated. "Now is the time to take bold, corrective measures to reverse this trend."

The ICCI leadership stressed the importance of stable and predictable electricity rates not only for industries but also for households, calling on the government to work hand-in-hand with the business

community to ensure long-term affordability and reliability in power supply.

They maintained that acknowledging the private sector's concerns and addressing them through practical, effective solutions will help rejuvenate industrial activity, promote investment, and accelerate national economic progress.

Reiterating ICCI's commitment to being a constructive partner, the Chamber's leadership assured full cooperation with the government in creating a conducive business environment that enables sustainable growth and enhances Pakistan's global economic standing.

## Director inspects veterinary hospitals

FAISALABAD (APP): Director Livestock Dr. Syed Nadeem Badar has conducted surprise inspections of various veterinary hospitals and a cattle feed mill in Faisalabad on Tuesday to assess quality of livestock services being provided to farmers.

His visited Civil Veterinary Hospitals in Abbas Pur, Thikriwala, Chak 213/R-B and Greenish Cattle Feed Mill in Jaranwala.

During inspection, he thoroughly reviewed official records including attendance registers, OPD data, hygiene and sanitation standards, Kisan Livestock Baithak logs, Chief Minister Punjab Livestock records, supply chain status, medicine and vaccine stock registers, tentative tour programs, daily diaries, fee slip records, tree plantation logs

and Artificial Insemination (AI) documentation.

He directed the field staff to prioritize Phase-II of Punjab Livestock Campaign (PLC) and improve farmer seating arrangements at the hospitals besides ensuring cleanliness and availability of fresh drinking water as well as maintaining uninterrupted supplies of antibiotics and vaccines.

He said that ongoing vaccination drives must be completed promptly while ensuring strict adherence to cold chain protocols.

He also directed the veterinary staff to enhance farmer awareness regarding foot-and-mouth disease, Congo virus and animal care during the monsoon season.

He stressed the need for promoting the use of ADPRS Farmer App and timely

uploading of livestock data to SMS portal 9211.

The Director Livestock also met with the farmers from nearby villages to gauge feedback on service delivery.

### Lost & Found

I have lost Invoice of my Changan Carwan Carry Unregistered Model 2020 Chassis No. NKMAAB 3DL1001716 Engine # JL466Q9K69U501426. If anyone found please contact Kashif Rasheed S/o Abdur Rahsheed University Road Tehkal Payan Peshawar. Contact # 0333-9291078

### Court Notice

In the court of sadia Bibi civil judge Ilaqa Qazi district Swat. Case #.151/1. institution 03/09/2022. Next Hearing date 21/07/2025. Nisar Ahmad etc. VS, Zahir Shah. Notice to:- 28) Inayat Ullah s/o Abdur Rashid r/o searai Giligram Saidu sharif district Swat. above mentioned defendant cannot be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed under order 5, Rule 20 CPC that if the said defendant will/shall not appear personally or through a dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8.30 am on 21/07/2025, in the proceeding will be taken ex-parte. No arguments of by any nature shall be coming entertained thereafter. Given under my hand and seal of the court.

## PTCL Group and TPL Corp form partnership to boost digital infrastructure

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's largest telecommunication and digital services provider, PTCL Group (comprising PTCL & Ufone 4G), has entered a landmark partnership with TPL Corp, a tech conglomerate with investments across various industries.

This collaboration covers the deployment of Machine-to-Machine (M2M) devices, secure Data Centre hosting, and managed network connectivity across TPL Corp and its operating companies.

The agreement was signed by Asif Ahmed, Group Chief Business Solutions Officer (GCBSO), PTCL & Ufone 4G, and Ali Jameel, CEO, TPL Corp, during a ceremony held at TPL Corp's headquarters in Karachi. Senior leadership from both sides attended the event.

Through this alliance, PTCL Group will deliver integrated technology solutions that support TPL Corp's operational scalability, strengthen its digital infrastructure, and enable

smarter business operations nationwide.

Speaking at the signing, Asif Ahmed, Group Chief Business Solutions Officer, PTCL & Ufone 4G, said, "PTCL Group is committed to empowering Pakistani enterprises with future-ready ICT services. By leveraging our extensive network, enterprise-grade Data Centers, and managed services, we aim to accelerate TPL Corp's journey toward greater efficiency and innovation. We are proud to serve as their trust-

ed technology partner."

Ali Jameel, CEO, TPL Corp, shared, "At TPL, we continuously seek innovation and efficiency in everything we do. Partnering with the PTCL Group enables us to unlock new levels of operational capability through reliable, secure, and intelligent digital infrastructure. This alliance aligns with our strategic objective to lead the market with technology-first solutions, and we look forward to a long and impactful journey together."

## Nissan to end vehicle production at Oppama plant

TOKYO (APP): Nissan Motor Co. said Tuesday that it will end vehicle production at its flagship Oppama plant in Kanagawa Prefecture near Tokyo by the end of fiscal 2027, transferring the operation to a factory in southwestern Japan, as part of restructuring efforts.

The struggling automak-

er will consolidate the production of current models and those set for production at the Oppama plant at its subsidiary, Nissan Motor Kyushu Co.

"Nissan made a tough but necessary decision...but I believe it's a vital step toward overcoming our current challenges and building a sustainable future,"

Nissan CEO Ivan Espinosa said in a statement.

The company is also slated to shutter the Shonan plant of its unit, Nissan Shatai Co., located in Hiratsuka, also in Kanagawa, but does not plan on closing or integrating any other domestic locations, Espinosa said during a press conference.





In brief

Pak cueist victorious in IBSF World Masters

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani cueists Muhammad Asif and Hasnain Akhtar earned victories in the IBSF World Masters, U17, U21 & Men 6Red Snooker Championships 2025 at Manama, Bahrain. According to details, in Last 24 Round, Asif beat Tony Morgan (Wales) 3-0 (74(55)-10, 106(90)-0, 89(61)-11). In Last 16 round result, Bashar Abdul Majeed (Qatar) outplayed Shahid Aftab (Pakistan) 4-2 (76-59, 6-77(65), 18-74, 74-29, 64-50, 60-47). In Day 1st U17 result, Hasnain defeated Abdulla Al Musleh (Qatar) 3-0 (72(35)-2, 65(40)-9, 81(31)-14). In Last 16 Round Asif will face Mohamed Shehab (UAE) on Wednesday.

Sports Board Punjab goes digital

LAHORE (Monitoring Desk): In a significant move towards digital transformation, the Sports Board Punjab has decided to shift its entire record-keeping and office system to an online, computerised format. The initiative marks a new era of paperless operations and modernised administrative efficiency within the provincial sports administration. Under the direction of Director General Sports Punjab Khizra Afzal Chaudhry, a dedicated training session on the Online Filing System was organised for staff at the Sports & Youth Affairs Department, Punjab. According to the private channel, the training, facilitated by PITB expert Hamza Khalid, aimed to educate employees on digital file management, online notings, and inter-departmental document transfers. Participants included officers and employees from both the Sports Department, Punjab, and the Sports Board Punjab. Notable attendees included Deputy Directors Yasmin Akhtar and Chand Parveen, along with IT Head Jawadullah, Assistant Director Bilal Akram, Muhiuddin, and administrators from Nishtar Park Sports Complex. During the session, PITB's expert provided hands-on guidance on how to manage office work digitally, covering essential operations like digital notings and sending documents online between departments. Speaking about the initiative, DG Sports Punjab Khizra Afzal Chaudhry said that the training is a crucial step in preparing the department for a paperless future. She emphasised that the goal is not only to bring modernity to office operations but also to enhance speed and efficiency within the legacy system of document handling. "The objective of this training is to familiarise staff with the online office work system, which will bring innovation and agility to our daily operations," she added.

Archer wants to play against India

L O N D O N (Agencies): Jofra Archer says he can play in England's final two Tests of the series against India after making a triumphant comeback in the win at Lord's. The fast bowler missed more than four years of Test cricket because of injuries but played a vital role in the tense 22-run victory that gave England a 2-1 lead in the series. The 30-year-old took a wicket with the third ball of his comeback, then took three wickets in India's second innings as England defended a target of 192.

# Windies seek legends' help after Australia debacle

KINGSTON (Agencies): West Indies will seek the advice of legendary former players Sir Viv Richards, Sir Clive Lloyd and Brian Lara following the Test side's crushing defeat by Australia. They were bowled out for just 27 - the second-lowest score in Test history, and the worst since 1955 - as they lost the third Test in Jamaica to succumb to a series clean sweep. In response, Cricket West Indies president Dr Kishore Shallow has called for an emergency meeting to review the series and the final match in particular. Given the side's ongoing struggles with the bat, Richards, Lloyd and Lara - "our greatest batsmen ever" according to Dr Shallow - have been invited to attend the meeting. They will join fellow West Indies batting greats Shivnarine Chanderpaul and Desmond Haynes, and former fast bowler Ian Bradshaw, who already serve on the cricket strategy and officiating committee. "This engagement is not ceremonial," a statement from Dr Shallow read, "These are men who helped define our golden eras, and their perspectives will

be invaluable as we shape the next phase of our cricket development. "We intend for this gathering to result in tangible, actionable recommendations." Shallow insisted the team is in "a rebuilding phase" and investment is being made to reignite the "spirit that has long made West Indies cricket a force in the world". He added: "Progress is rarely straightforward. It takes time, perseverance and belief, especially in our most difficult moments. "There is much work to be done. But we must do it with purpose, and we must do it together." An accident waiting to happen' West Indies have been battling with "systemic issues" for 25 years that have left them with players "ill-equipped" to deal with the challenges they faced against Australia, according to Trinidadian commentator Fazeer Mohammed. "It was almost the perfect storm," he told BBC Sport. "You've got Mitchell Starc, a world class bowler, deadly in any sort of situation and even deadlier with the pink ball,

coming up against players really ill-equipped to deal with those sorts of challenges. "Everything was set up for something like this to happen. You never really factor in 27 all out but, in the general context of West Indies cricket, this was an accident waiting to happen." While Lara has been drafted in to help find a solution to the problems facing the current side, Mohammed believes the iconic left-hander's heroics were part of the reason a lot of the issues were masked for so long. "What lies behind it is the failure to address the fundamental challenges in our domestic game - in our regional game," he added. "We have many different challenges. Fundamental to those would be costs because we have many different territories - it's very costly to travel around the Caribbean, to host tournaments. "There's an air of resignation about it. People will this morning be arguing amongst themselves and debating about how this can happen, who needs to be fired, who needs to be dropped, who needs to be got rid of.



Jayden Seales was last man out as West Indies were routed for 27.

"It's the same sort of knee-jerk reaction and then they'll shrug their shoulders and say 'well this is how it is now'." It is almost two and a half years since West Indies last won a Test series - 1-0 in Zimbabwe - and three years

since their last home series victory, 2-0 against Bangladesh. "I don't think all is lost by any stretch of the imagination," Mohammed said. "It requires at a very fundamental level at the schools, at the under-19, under-23 levels a

serious financial investment in growing the quality of the game - male and female. "But also there has to be, first and foremost, that recognition that Test cricket still means something to us in the Caribbean."

## Man City sign kit deal worth reported £1 billion

LONDON (AFP): Manchester City have signed a blockbuster new kit deal with Puma worth a reported £1 billion (\$1.34 billion) over the next 10 years. City's extension of their contract with Puma ranks as the largest kit manufacturing partnership in Premier League history. Having agreed a £65 million per year deal with the German company in 2019, City's new arrangement is believed to be worth a £100 million per year until 2035, according to British media reports. That figure shatters the £90 million per year deal signed by Manchester United with Adidas in

2023. Spanish giants Real Madrid and Barcelona are both reported to have kit deals worth in excess of £100 million per year. "We joined forces with Puma with the ambition to challenge ourselves and go beyond the expectations. We have achieved this and more over the last six seasons," City Football Group chief executive Ferran Soriano said. "Puma have seamlessly integrated into our organisation, and we have enjoyed many historic moments together, engaging fans globally." Puma chief executive Arthur Hoeld added:

"Puma's partnership with Manchester City has been a great success both on and off the pitch. "Trophies, a perfect stage for our performance products and commercial success were exceptional." City's massive deal comes after the club's first season without major silverware since 2016-17. Pep Guardiola's men finished third in the Premier League after winning the title for the previous four seasons. They also suffered a shock FA Cup final defeat against Crystal Palace and crashed out of the recent Club World Cup in the last 16 against Saudi Pro League side Al-Hilal.

## Pakistan cricket team to depart for Bangladesh tour tonight

KARACHI (Monitoring Desk): The Pakistan national cricket team is all set to depart for Bangladesh tonight (Tuesday) for a three-match T20 international series scheduled on July 20, 22, and 24. The 15-member squad will be led by Salman Ali Agha and features a mix of emerging and experienced players. The squad includes players such as Abrar Ahmed, Ahmed Daniyal, Faheem Ashraf, Fakhar Zaman, Hasan Nawaz, Hussain Talat, Khushdil Shah, Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Mohammad Harris, Mohammad Nawaz, Sahibzada Farhan, Saim Ayub, Salman Mirza, and Sufiyan Muqem. Mohammad Harris and Sahibzada Farhan will serve as the designated wicket-keepers.

Mike Hesson will serve as the head coach for this tour, accompanied by Shane McDermott as fielding coach, Grant Luden as strength and conditioning coach, and Naveed Akram Cheema as team manager. Following the Bangladesh series, the team will travel to the United States for a T20I series against the West Indies from August 1 to 4 in Florida. Afterwards, Pakistan will face the West Indies in a three-match ODI series from August 8 to 12 in Trinidad and Tobago. Prior to departure, the national squad completed a six-day intensive training camp at the National Bank Stadium in Karachi. The camp not only included the 15 players selected for the Bangladesh tour but also featured additional white-ball players including Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan, Naseem Shah, Shaheen Shah Afridi, and Mohammad Wasim Jr. The camp concluded with a floodlit intra-squad practice match between Salman XI and Saim XI, allowing the coaching staff to closely observe and evaluate player performance ahead of the international fixtures.

## Pakistan Army dominates Junior Table Tennis Nationals in Wah Cantt

WAH CANTT (APP): Pakistan Army emerged as the undisputed champions of the 30th Chairman POF Board National Junior Table Tennis Championship 2025, clinching top honors in multiple categories, including the U-19 Boys and Girls singles, U-15 Boys and Girls, as well as mixed doubles events. The championship, organized by the Islamabad Table Tennis Association in collaboration with the POF Sports Directorate, was held at the POF Sports Complex Gymnasium Hall in Wah Cantt. In the highlight match of the event, Pakistan Army's Mohammad Ahmed claimed the U-19 Boys title by defeating Sindh's Mohammad Abbas in

straight sets (11-6, 11-3, 11-9). Abbas appeared visibly nervous throughout the final, allowing Ahmed to secure an easy victory and the prestigious national title. In the U-19 Girls final, Army's Hanqa Hassan overpowered her teammate Hoor Fawad 3-1 to clinch the gold. The U-15 Boys final also saw an all-Army clash, with Noor Khan defeating Abdul Mohammad 3-0 to emerge champion. Punjab, however, managed to break Army's streak in the U-19 Girls Doubles, where the duo of Kulsoom and Aleena beat Army's Hanqa and Hoor 3-0 to secure the title. In other finals, Army's Fatima Danish outclassed Sindh's Iman Hassan 3-1 in the U-15 Girls, while Army

pairs dominated the mixed doubles events: Abdul Mohammad and Hanqa won the U-19 mixed doubles, defeating Ahmed and Hoor 3-1, and in the U-15 mixed doubles, Abdul Mohammad paired with Fatima Danish to overcome Army's Noor Khan and Iman Hassan for another title. In the closing ceremony, Major General Kashif Azad, HI(M), Director General Commercial, POF distributed prizes among the winners and lauded their performances. Islamabad Table Tennis Association Secretary, Rafiq Sarhadi expressed his gratitude to the POF Sports Directorate and administration for their support in successfully hosting the national championship.

## ICC Women's CWC warm-up match schedule announced

ISLAMABAD (APP): The International Cricket Council has announced the warm-up match schedule for the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 which will see eight competing teams prepare for the round-robin tournament with matches across four venues in Bengaluru and Colombo. In all, nine day-night matches will be played from 25-28 September at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Centre of Excellence 1 ground (both Bengaluru), R. Premadasa Stadium and Colombo Cricket Club (both Colombo), said a press release. The opening day of the warm-ups will see hosts India and England, finalists of the 2017 edition, play at the BCCI Centre of Excellence 1 ground while South Africa and New Zealand will play at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium.

On the same day, sub-continental rivals Sri Lanka and Pakistan will play at the Colombo Cricket Club and Bangladesh will take on a Sri Lanka 'A' side at the R. Premadasa Stadium. Defending champions Australia, the only team not playing on the opening day of the warm-ups, start with a match against arch-rivals England at the BCCI Centre of Excellence 1 ground on September 27, when two more matches will be played. The last set of warm-ups will be played on September 28. The ICC Women's Cricket World Cup, which returns to the sub-continent after 12 years, will be played from September 30 to November 2 at five venues. Warm-up venues M. Chinnaswamy Stadium and the R. Premadasa Stadium will also host matches of the main tournament, with the ACA Stadium in Guwahati, the Holkar Stadium in

Indore and the ACA-VDCA Stadium in Visakhapatnam the other venues. Warm-up schedule (all matches start at 3 p.m. Indian Standard Time): Sept 25 Bengaluru- India vs England at BCCI Centre of Excellence 1 ground; South Africa vs New Zealand at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium. Colombo- Sri Lanka vs Pakistan at Colombo Cricket Club; Bangladesh vs Sri Lanka 'A' at Colombo R. Premadasa Stadium. Sept 27 Bengaluru- Australia vs England at BCCI Centre of Excellence 1 ground; India vs New Zealand at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium. Colombo- Sri Lanka versus Bangladesh at Colombo Cricket Club. Sept 28 Bengaluru- South Africa vs India 'A' at BCCI Centre of Excellence 1 ground. Colombo- Pakistan vs Sri Lanka 'A' at Colombo Cricket Club.

## England call up Dawson as Bashir ruled out of fourth test

LONDON (AFP): England have recalled spinner Liam Dawson for next week's fourth Test against India after the injured Shoaib Bashir was ruled out for the rest of the series. Dawson made the last of his three Test appearances eight years ago, but the 35-year-old is in line for an unexpected return to the international stage at Old Trafford. Despite having already broken the little finger on his left hand, Bashir took the winning wicket in a dramatic finish to England's 22-run victory over India in the third Test at Lord's on Monday. Bashir is set for surgery in the coming days and will miss the remainder of the five-match series, with England holding a 2-1 lead before the next Test in Manchester. Dawson's recall comes after his outstanding form in county cricket for Hampshire. The left-armed has been named the Professional Cricketers' Association Player of the Year in the past two seasons. "Liam Dawson deserves his call-up. He has been in

outstanding form in the County Championship and consistently puts in strong performances for Hampshire," selector Luke Wright said. Dawson was part of the England squad to win the 50-over World Cup in 2019. After three years out of the England setup, he made his international return in the T20 series against West Indies earlier this summer. Dawson has been picked ahead of fellow left-armed Jack Leach, despite the latter being centrally contracted. Leach was replaced as England's first-choice spinner by Bashir last year, although he featured in three Tests in Pakistan and was part of the squad to tour New Zealand over the winter. Chris Woakes could be rested in Manchester after struggling to find his best form so far in the series. But Woakes' fellow pace bowler Jofra Archer has no intention of taking a break. In his first Test match back after an injury-enforced absence of over four years, Archer enjoyed a memorable return.

He routinely bowled at speeds over the 90mph mark, took a wicket with his third ball of the match and grabbed two vital scalps on the final day. England have carefully managed Archer's return following previous setbacks, but now the 30-year-old wants to make up for lost time, with the Ashes series starting in Perth on November 21. "I can play the other two Tests if they let me. I don't want to lose this series. I told (ECB managing director) Rob Key that I wanted to play the Test summer and I wanted to play the Ashes," he said. "I think one tick is already there and I will do everything possible in my power to be on the plane (to Australia)." Archer's ability to summon express speed was a huge boost to England's attack. "I think everybody put their body on the line, so it'd be a bit bad if I didn't as well," he said. "Most of the last day is a blur. It's nice to bowl fast but getting wickets is the most important thing."

## ‘World’s oldest marathon runner’ dies aged 114 in road accident

NEW DELHI (AFP) : India's Fauja Singh, believed to be the world's oldest distance runner, has died in a road accident aged 114, his biographer said Tuesday. Singh, an Indian-born British national, nicknamed the "Turbaned Tornado", died after being hit by a vehicle in Punjab state's Jalandhar district on Monday. "My Turbaned Tornado is no more," Fauja's biographer Khushwant Singh wrote on X. "He was struck by an unidentified vehicle... in his village, Bias, while crossing the road. Rest in peace, my dear Fauja." Singh did not have a birth certificate but his family said he was born on April 1, 1911. He ran full marathons

(42 kilometre) till the age of 100. His last race was a 10-kilometre (six-mile) event at the 2013 Hong Kong Marathon when 101, where he finished in one hour, 32 minutes and 28 seconds. He became an international sensation after taking up distance running at the ripe old age of 89, after the death of his wife and one of his sons, inspired by seeing marathons on television. Although widely regarded as the world's oldest marathon runner, he was not certified by Guinness World Records as he could not prove his age, saying that birth certificates did not exist when he was born under British colonial rule in 2011. Singh was a torchbearer for the Olympics at Athens 2004 and London 2012,

and appeared in advertisements with sports stars such as David Beckham and Muhammad Ali. His strength and vitality were credited to a routine of farm walks and a diet including Indian sweet "laddu" packed with dry fruits and home-churned curd. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute on social media. "Fauja Singh was extraordinary because of his unique persona and the manner in which he inspired the youth of India on a very important topic of fitness," said Modi on X. "He was an exceptional athlete with incredible determination. Pained by his passing away. My thoughts are with his family and countless admirers around the world."





## In brief

### IRSA releases 294,200 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 294,200 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 334,400 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1528.00 feet which was 126.00 feet higher than the dead level of 1402.00 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 219,300 cusecs and 193,000 cusecs, respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1185.35 feet, which was 135.35 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 23,100 cusecs and 9,200 cusecs, respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 220,300, 323,500, 335,800 and 240,800 cusecs, respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 43,500 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 21,700 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

### PFA discards adulterated milk

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) in Rawalpindi discarded approximately 2,500 litres of adulterated and unhygienic milk early on Tuesday morning. According to the PFA spokesman, the teams checked 25 vehicles carrying milk at the Islamabad toll plaza in the Hakla and Thallian rest areas and tested around 120,000 litres of milk, of which 2,500 litres were found sub-standard and contaminated, and destroyed on the spot. A total fine of Rs 148,000 was imposed on the drivers of the vehicles carrying sub-standard milk, he added. The PFA urged the public to lodge their complaints, if any, at 1223.

### 5 drug suppliers arrested

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Rawalpindi Police continued an effective crackdown against drug suppliers netting five accused with more than nine kilograms of charas from different areas on Tuesday. According to a police spokesman, the Waris Khan Police nabbed two suspects recovering 3.57 kg of the contraband item from them. Similarly, the R A Bazaar Police also captured an accused with 2.4 kg charas. Likewise, the Mandra and Chaklala Police also arrested one accused each on the recovery of 1.632 kg and 1.6 kg charas respectively from their possession. Appreciating the police for continuing anti-drugs operation without any letup, City Police Officer Syed Khalid Hamdani said all steps were being taken to eradicate the scourge of drugs from the Rawalpindi district as per the vision of Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz.

### Bike lifter nabbed

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police, Lohi Bher Police Station team have arrested a wanted member of a notorious motorcycle-lifting gang and recovered three stolen motorbikes from his possession on Tuesday. A public relations officer told APP that the arrest was made through the effective use of both technical surveillance and human intelligence, leading to the capture of the suspect, identified as Samim Farhad. He said that the accused was involved in multiple incidents of motorcycle theft across various sectors of Islamabad. Three stolen motorcycles were recovered during the operation, while several cases had already been registered against the arrested suspect. He said that SSP Operations Islamabad.

## Govt launches multi-pronged strategy to tackle water crisis: Talal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry on Tuesday informed the Senate that the federal government has launched a comprehensive plan to tackle the worsening water shortage in the federal capital, including mandatory installation of rainwater recharge wells in new housing projects and the establishment of a high-level task force to develop a sustainable water supply strategy.

Responding to a question raised by Senator Fawzia Arshad, the minister stated that Islamabad's current daily water demand is estimated at 120 million gallons, while the available supply stands between 65 and 80 million gallons.

The supply is sourced from a combination of dams and tube wells.

However, the underground water table has seen a significant decline due to over-extraction, particularly from tube wells.

To mitigate the shortfall, new Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are being formulated to make rainwater recharge wells mandatory in all new constructions, especially residential units. The initiative aims to facilitate groundwater replenishment and stabilize falling water levels.

Chaudhry further said that a task force has been constituted by the Prime Minister, headed by the Interior Minister and co-chaired by Dr Tauqir, with participation from federal departments and elected representatives of the area. The task force is working on a master plan for Islamabad's

long-term water security.

As part of the plan, feasibility studies for four dam sites—Tarbela, Chiniot, Shahdara, and others—have been initiated. The Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) has been tasked with conducting these studies, and the first tender is expected to be floated shortly. Originally, the feasibility process was expected to take 18 months. However, the committee overseeing the project has recommended reducing the timeline to six months. Meetings of the task force are being held every 15 days, with two already completed. Terming the issue "longstanding but now receiving focused attention," Senator Talal Chaudhry assured that measurable progress would be visible within the current year.

## Pakistan, Uzbekistan join hands to create job opportunities



ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis Chaudhry Salik Hussain met with Uzbekistan's Ambassador to Pakistan, Ali Sher Takhtaev. During the meeting, various proposals regarding employment opportunities for Pakistanis in Uzbekistan were discussed.

In the meeting, an agreement was reached to establish a joint working group to facilitate employment opportunities for Pakistanis in Uzbekistan, said a press release here on Tuesday. Ambassador Ali Sher Takhtaev stated

that Uzbekistan and Pakistan have historic, religious, cultural, and trade relations.

There are extensive opportunities for cooperation between Uzbekistan and Pakistan in the fields of information technology, medicine, agriculture, and labor. Through joint efforts, economic prosperity in the region can be promoted and new employment opportunities can be created for the people of both countries.

Federal Minister Chaudhry Salik Hussain mentioned that Pakistan has initiated pilot projects

related to labor supply with South Korea and Japan, which have yielded very positive results.

Pakistan is also interested in starting a pilot project with Uzbekistan to provide employment to Pakistanis. Over 12 million Pakistanis are employed abroad, and currently Pakistan is among the top 10 countries worldwide in remittances.

During the fiscal year 2025, overseas Pakistanis sent a record \$38.8 billion in remittances to Pakistan. The goal is to increase this amount to \$50 billion within the next 2 to 3 years.



RAWALPINDI: A traffic warden removing a wrong side parked car with help of fork lifter on 6th Road. —APP Photo

## RMC directed to ensure continuity in anti-encroachment operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Commissioner Rawalpindi Engineer Amir Khattak on Tuesday directed the Rawalpindi Municipal Corporation (RMC) to ensure continuity in anti-encroachment operations so that the cleared areas were not re-occupied.

The operations should continue without discrimination in the city as a zero tolerance policy had been adopted to eliminate encroachments on the instructions of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz. Commissioner Khattak was chairing a review meeting at his office regarding the ongoing anti-encroachment operations in the garrison city.

Additional Commissioner Coordination Syed Nazarat Ali, RMC Chief Officer Imran Ali, Assistant Commissioner City Iman Zafar and other officers concerned attended the meeting.

The commissioner said that creating ease in the daily life of citizens, pro-

viding way for pedestrians, and improving traffic flow were among the top priorities of the administration.

All the institutions, he said, were working under a coordinated strategy to make Rawalpindi city a model city. The most important thing in that regard was the elimination of encroachments, which not only caused traffic disruption and accidents but also affected the beauty of the city.

He asked the municipal officers to carry out the operation against encroachments on a regular basis so that the areas cleared were not occupied again. The meeting was informed that effective operations against encroachments were underway in different areas of Rawalpindi.

It was further informed that since the operations started in August 2024, a total of 200 truckloads of goods placed at encroached places had been seized, with 8,144 different types

of encroachments, including 5,663 carts placed on the sides of roads and parking areas, 1,222 illegal counters, and 577 platforms built in front of shops and houses were either removed or demolished.

Moreover, encroachments at 682 locations along the Leh Nullah, especially from Ganj Mandi and Dhok Najo Bridge to Katarian Bridge, were also removed.

The anti-encroachment operations had been carried out in important areas and markets of Rawalpindi, including Bara Market, Talwara Bazaar, Old Vegetable Market, Kalan Bazaar, Bohar Bazaar, Moti Bazaar, Liaquat Market, Iqbal Road, Raja Bazaar, Namak Mandi, Ganj Mandi, Murree Road, Circular Road, Bani Bazaar, Saidpur Road, 6th Road, 5th Road and Double Road, Commercial Market, and Charah, Kuri and Service roads in Sadiqabad area.

## Gilani urges joint strategy to tackle global challenges

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate and Founding Chairman of the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers Conference (ISC), Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani and ISC Secretary General Ek Nath Dhakal on Tuesday discussed the upcoming international peace conference set to take place in November in Pakistan.

During the meeting, Chairman Gilani underscored the significance of the ISC as a platform to strengthen regional dialogue, promote peace, and advance development efforts both within the region and globally. "The ISC will serve as a vital forum for fostering cooperation and understanding across borders," he remarked.

Calling for unity in the face of growing global tensions, Gilani emphasised the urgent need for a collective strategy to address conflicts and other international challenges. "Now more than ever, we need joint efforts to resolve the pressing issues confronting our world," he said.

Mr. Dhakal expressed full confidence in



Chairman Gilani's leadership, stating that his experience and global stature would help make the ISC more inclusive and effective. He also shared the organisation's strategic plans, which include applying for observer status at the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and enhancing collaboration with the United Nations to better pursue peace and development goals.

Both sides reaffirmed

their commitment to strengthening parliamentary cooperation, promoting regional peace, and addressing shared global challenges through dialogue and mutual understanding.

Speaking to Pakistan Television, Chairman Gilani warmly welcomed Mr. Dhakal and said, "His visit marks the start of preparations for the International Conference on Peace in Islamabad,

which aims to promote global peace and mutual understanding."

Mr. Dhakal thanked Chairman Gilani for the warm reception and conveyed greetings from the people, government, and Parliament of Nepal. He stressed the importance of enhancing ties between Pakistan and the ISC and fostering stronger friendships among all member nations, including Pakistan and Nepal.

## ANF recovers over 186 kg drugs in 7 operations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 7 operations across the country against drug traffickers managed to recover over 186 kg drugs worth more than Rs 72.8 million and arrested 6 accused.

According to an ANF Headquarters spokesperson, in an operation at Jinnah International Airport, Karachi, 4.3 kg ice was recovered from a parcel booked for Australia. In another operation, ANF recovered 380 grams Ice from a parcel at a courier office in Lahore. The spokesperson further informed that in an operation at Faizabad Bus Terminal, Islamabad, 23 kg ice & 1000 grams suspicious material were recovered from the possession of an accused. ANF Peshawar conducted a raid near Ring Road, Peshawar and recovered 19.2 kg hashish from the possession of two suspects rounded up during the operation.

In 5th operation near Ring Road, Peshawar, 5 kg heroin was recovered from the possession of two motorcyclists. In another operation near Ring Road, Peshawar, 8.4 kg hashish was recovered from the bag of a drug trafficker.

At a company warehouse in Hawksbay Road, Karachi, 105 kg ice & 20 kg heroin concealed inside machinery stored in two containers were confiscated. Separate cases have been registered against the accused under the CNS Act.

## Court rejects request to release car used in murder case

ISLAMABAD (APP): The District and Sessions Court of Islamabad on Tuesday rejected a plea to release a car allegedly used in the murder of TikToker Sana Yousaf, marking a significant development in the case.

The decision came after

police confirmed the vehicle's connection to the suspect. The court heard the case related to the vehicle rented by the accused, Umar Hayat, in the murder of TikToker Sana Yousaf.

During the proceedings, the owner of the car filed a petition seeking custody of the vehicle, arguing that neither he nor his car was involved in the crime. The petitioner also stated that he was not named or wanted in the investigation.

However, police opposed the request, telling the court that the suspect had used the vehicle both before and after committing the crime. Police further informed that the car had been recovered on the

suspect's identification.

Police added that the vehicle owner did not provide the rental agreement or any CCTV footage to support his claim. Investigators also mentioned that both the vehicle owner and the driver are still required to provide their statements in connection with the case.

After hearing arguments from both sides, the court dismissed the petition seeking the car's release, allowing police to keep it as evidence in the ongoing investigation.

## British Council launches free online conference for Teachers

ISLAMABAD (APP): The British Council has announced a free three-day online professional development conference for English language teachers across South Asia, set to take place from 17 to 19 July 2025. The South Asia Teaching English Online Conference 2025 invites primary and secondary school educators to engage in a rich and dynamic learning experience focused on current trends and future directions in English language teaching.

Centred around the theme "Supporting Teachers' Professional Development," the event will feature nine expert-led sessions, including three panel discussions. The sessions are designed to equip teachers with practical strategies and deeper understanding of three core themes: inclusive education, integration of 21st-century skills, and the transformative use of digital technology and artificial intelligence in English classrooms.

The conference opens with

a focus on inclusive practices, guiding teachers on how to create classrooms where every learner—regardless of background or ability—feels supported and valued. Sessions will offer actionable insights on designing equitable learning environments and teaching strategies that cater to diverse needs.

The second theme

addresses the incorporation of 21st-century skills into language education, encouraging teachers to nurture students' critical thinking, collaboration, cre-

ativity, and global citizenship. These skills, considered essential for success in an increasingly complex and interconnected world, will be explored through real classroom examples and regional best practices.

The third and final theme looks at the role of digital technologies and artificial intelligence in enhancing both teaching and learning. With tools ranging from AI-assisted lesson planning to interactive online learning environments, the conference aims to give teachers a toolkit of strategies to meaningfully engage their students using technology. The sessions will also demystify the role of AI in education and demonstrate how it can be used inclusively and responsibly.

standing of three core themes: inclusive education, integration of 21st-century skills, and the transformative use of digital technology and artificial intelligence in English classrooms.

The conference opens with a focus on inclusive practices, guiding teachers on how to create classrooms where every learner—regardless of background or ability—feels supported and valued. Sessions will offer actionable insights on designing equitable learning environments and teaching strategies that cater to diverse needs.

The second theme addresses the incorporation of 21st-century skills into language education, encouraging teachers to nurture students' critical thinking, collaboration, cre-

## Japan provides funds for project 'Human Resource Development Scholarship'

ISLAMABAD (APP): The government of Japan on Tuesday extended grant aid worth approximately 379 million Japanese Yen for the implementation of the Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) FY 2025 Program in Pakistan.

A formal signing ceremony was held here, where Notes Verbale were signed and exchanged between Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, AKAMATSU Shuichi and Secretary at the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Dr. Kazim Niaz. Additionally, a Grant Agreement outlining the implementation details of the project for fiscal year 2025 was signed between Chief Representative of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in Pakistan, Naoaki MIYATA and Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Miran Mohiyuddin Soomro.

The JDS Program is part of Japan's commitment to strengthen the administrative capacities of the government of Pakistan which was initiated in 2018. The program offers highly capable Pakistani government officers the opportunity to pursue Master's and Ph.D. degrees at leading



Japanese universities. These officers are selected from those involved in planning and implementing social and economic development policies.

Through the JDS Program JICA has so far sent over hundred government officers to Japan, out of which nearly 70 scholars have successfully completed their studies and returned to Pakistan, contributing their enhanced knowledge and skills to the country's development. The focus areas of study under this program include public administration and finance (Disciplines of Public Policy and Development Studies), Industrial

Promotion and Investment Climate, Energy Policy and Response to Climate Change and Agribusiness and Food Security.

On this occasion, Ambassador AKAMATSU stated, "The Government of Japan fully understands the importance of social and human capital development in Pakistan and believes among the key enablers is a responsive and accountable public administration. Building the capacity of young outstanding civil servants in various technical areas is thus imperative in strengthening public administration that can effectively address the multi-dimensional development chal-

lenges in this country."

Naoaki MIYATA, added, "This program will make a significant contribution to human resource development in Pakistan. JDS fellows will acquire advanced knowledge and skills which will enhance their capacities in policy planning and implementation. We believe these individuals will play pivotal leadership roles within the Government of Pakistan, contributing to national development and the well-being of the people. Moreover, the JDS Program is a testament to the enduring partnership and friendship between Japan and Pakistan."



Reconstruction work started

HERAT CITY (Pajhwok): Reconstruction work has been initiated on six school buildings at a cost of nearly 16 million afghanis in western Herat province, an official announced on Tuesday. Funded by a partner organisation, the structures were being reconstructed in Kushk Kuhna, Rabat Sangi and Injil districts of the province, said Education Director Maulvi Rahmatullah Jabar. He said the projects would cost 15.7m afghanis.

Homes built for IDPs

AIBAK (Pajhwok): Local officials in northern Samangan province say 120 shelters have been constructed at a cost of more than 42 million afghanis and handed over to internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returning refugees. Refugee and Repatriation Director Qari Mohammad Khalid Khaksar said the project was implemented by the ACHRO in less than a year in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Cabinet meeting focuses on vital economic, social and cultural issues

KABUL (BNA): The Islamic Emirate Cabinet meeting convened held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mullah Mohammad Hassan Akhund. Key topics discussed included the expropriation of land for the Herat-Khaf railway and the transfer of water from the newly constructed Shah and Arous dams to surrounding areas. A statement released by the Prime Minister's Office highlighted the meeting's focus on vital economic, social, and cultural issues facing the nation. During the discussions, it was announced that a delegation from the Ministry of Finance has been tasked with closely overseeing the land acquisition process required for the fourth phase of the railway project. The delegation is expected to provide a comprehensive report for implementation to the Prime Minister's office. Furthermore, to streamline the delivery of water from the Shah and Arous dams located in the

Shakardara district of Kabul province, it was decided that a dedicated meeting will be held. The meeting will be chaired by Sheikh Mawlawi Noor-ul-Haq Anwar, the General Director of Administration Affairs, and will involve representatives from the Ministry of Water and Energy and the Water Supply Company. The outcomes of this discussion will also be submitted to the Prime Minister's office for further consideration.

Over 1.3m Afghans returned in 2025: UN



ISLAM QALA (TOLONews): The United Nations has called for urgent international support to respond to what it describes as an overwhelming wave of Afghan returnees, with more than 1.3 million people having returned so far in 2025, according to a statement from the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). During a visit to the Islam Qala border crossing, Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) Roza Otunbayeva said, "What should be a positive homecoming moment for families who fled conflict decades ago is instead marked by exhaus-

tion, trauma, and profound uncertainty." She warned that "the sheer volume of returns, many abrupt, many involuntary, should be setting off alarm bells across the global community." The statement emphasized that Afghanistan, already dealing with drought and a chronic humanitarian crisis, "cannot absorb this shock alone." UNAMA said that despite efforts by UN agencies and local authorities, "the pace and scale of returns are overwhelming already fragile support systems." With 70% of Afghans living in poverty, the influx is further straining limited resources. Women and children face the gravest risks, returning to conditions where "access to basic services and social protection remains severely constrained," the statement noted. UNAMA also raised concerns over the severe underfunding of humanitarian operations. "Agonizing choices between food, shelter, and safe passage are now unavoidable," it said. The UN warned that without immediate reintegration support, including livelihoods and infrastructure, there could be "remit-tance losses, labour market pressure, renewed displacement, mass onward movement, and risks to regional stability." Otunbayeva appealed directly to donors and regional partners: "Do not turn away. The returnees must not be abandoned. What we are witnessing are the direct consequences of unmet global responsibilities." The statement concluded by urging for an "integrated approach" that addresses both urgent humanitarian needs and long-term development in areas of return.

Girls deserve opportunities, not restrictions, says EU

KABUL (Amu TV): Marking World Youth Skills Day, the European Union on Tuesday reaffirmed its support for youth in Afghanistan, emphasizing that girls in particular deserve more opportunities—not restrictions—to learn, work, and thrive. In a statement shared by the EU Delegation in Afghanistan, the bloc said it continues to invest in vocational skills that build resilience, generate employment, and create hope for Afghanistan's future. "From metalworking to coding, tailoring to agribusiness, Afghan youth are shaping a better future," the EU said. The EU also underscored its support for private sector development and entrepreneurship, describing them as vital drivers of skills growth, innovation, and economic stability. "By boosting start-ups, MSMEs [micro, small, and medium enterprises], and local businesses, we help young Afghans turn ideas into jobs," the statement added. The EU made particular note of the challenges facing Afghan girls and young women under Taliban rule, where bans on secondary and higher education for females have drawn interna-

tional condemnation. "Afghan girls deserve more opportunities—not restrictions—to learn, work, and thrive," the EU said. "We work with our partners to ensure young women gain the skills and support they need to lead their communities toward a brighter future." Since the Taliban's return to power in August 2021, girls have been barred from attending secondary school, and women have been largely excluded from universities and the workforce, drawing criticism from rights groups and international donors.

Supreme Leader of IEA visits hospital

KABUL (BNA): In a significant visit, Amir al-Muminin, the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA), toured Mirwais Hospital in Kandahar. The visit, reported by Mawlawi Zabihullah Mujahid, spokesman for the IEA, was aimed at assessing the medical care provided to patients at the facility. During his visit, Amir al-Muminin engaged directly with the patients, inquiring about their health conditions and well-being. He emphasized the importance of compassionate care and provided essential guidance to the medical staff and hospital officials to enhance patient services. Accompanying the Supreme Leader was Mawlawi Noor Jalal, the Minister of Public Health, underscoring the government's commitment to improving healthcare across the region.

Spin Boldak power project started

SPIN BOLDK (TOLONews): Initial work has begun on the electricity transmission project to Kandahar's Spin Boldak district, following directives from the leader of the Islamic Emirate. For years, the lack of electricity in Spin Boldak has disrupted not only daily life for local residents but also hindered commercial and industrial activities in the area. Residents of the district say they are facing numerous challenges due to the absence of electricity. Mohammad Isa, a resident of Spin Boldak, said: "We desperately need electricity. It must be provided to us because our need is great. We lack all facilities, hospitals, schools, roads, all depend on electricity." Another local resident, Mohammad, added: "If we get electricity, our area will develop and people will have a more comfortable life. The government must pay attention to this issue." Local officials say that under the orders of the Islamic Emirate's leader, the electricity transmission project to Spin Boldak has been approved and its initial implementation phase is underway. Ali Mohammad, Head of Information and Culture in Spin Boldak, stated: "A substation has been constructed. The people's key demand was electricity, which has been approved by the Islamic Emirate's leadership. Work on the initial phase of the transmission has now started." According to officials, electricity for Spin Boldak will be supplied both from the Kajaki dam in Helmand and through imported power sources.

DABS signs power deal with Sadaf Energy

KABUL (BNA): The country's state-run power company, Da Afghan Breshna Sherkat (DABS), signed an investment agreement with Sadaf Energy, a company backed by investors from Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, aimed at expanding electricity production and strengthening the capacity of Afghan energy engineers. According to a statement from DABS, the agreement was signed by Dr. Abdul Bari Omar, Chief Executive Officer of the company, and Alisher, a representative of Sadaf Energy. The partnership will focus on building new electricity generation infrastructure and offering technical training to local engineers. Dr. Omar welcomed the agreement and reassured



the investor that Afghanistan has now created a more conducive environment for energy-sector investment. "There are reliable conditions for launching power generation projects in Afghanistan. We encourage international partners to invest with confidence," he said during the signing ceremony. This latest agreement comes on the heels of several other energy-focused deals DABS has recently secured, including partner-

OCHA urges action to avert humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan

KABUL (TOLONews): The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) says that an unprecedented funding gap has led to a worsening humanitarian situation in Afghanistan. A young man named Hussain Agha says that due to lack of employment opportunities, he has been forced to shine shoes for the past four years just to feed his children and family. Hussain Agha Haidari adds that he earns no more than 150 Afghanis per day and has not received any assistance from any organization so far. He calls on officials to help him find a permanent job. Haidari, a resident of

Kabul, said: "We tried hard to find a job, we knocked on many doors. When nothing worked out, we had no choice but to become cobblers. We earn 100 to 150 Afghanis a day, just enough to bring bread home in the evening." Meanwhile, OCHA has released a new report warning that the agency is facing a severe funding shortage. It notes that for the 2024 fiscal year, only 53% of the \$3.06 billion required for the Humanitarian Response Plan has been funded, leaving a gap of approximately \$1.43 billion. In this context, the Ministry of Economy has pointed to the intensifying process of Afghan refugee

deportations from neighboring countries and called for sustained international support to Afghanistan. Abdul Latif Nazari, Deputy Minister of Economy, said: "OCHA's report is being released at a time when Afghanistan is facing a large wave of returnees. We urge international organizations to accelerate and prioritize their assistance more than ever before." On the other hand, some economic analysts believe that humanitarian aid is only effective in the short term and does not address the root causes of poverty and unemployment. Economic analyst Mohammad Asif Stanekzai stated: "These are short-

term aid efforts aimed at immediate relief. As we've mentioned before, to truly eliminate poverty in Afghanistan, this assistance must be invested strategically, in agriculture, infrastructure, and long-term development programs." According to OCHA, 67% of aid recipients in Afghanistan, about 14.9 million people, have only received food assistance, while the remaining 41% have benefited from aid in multiple sectors. OCHA has called on the international community to urgently step in to fill the funding gap, warning that without swift action, humanitarian efforts in Afghanistan face the risk of failure.

Voice of revolutionary poetry goes silent: Afghanistan Mourns Turab

KHOST (TOLONews): Prominent Pashto poet Matiullah Turab passed away last night at the age of 54 in a hospital in Khost due to a heart attack. His sudden death has drawn reactions from the caretaker government, former officials, national athletes, and many citizens, who described it as a significant loss for the country. Zabihullah Mujahid, spokesperson for the Islamic Emirate, said he was deeply saddened by Turab's death and expressed condolences to his family and relatives. The Ministry of Information and Culture also expressed sorrow over Turab's passing and extended sympathy to his family. Former President Hamid Karzai wrote on X that Matiullah Turab conveyed the pain and struggles of

the country and people through heartfelt poetry and always promoted a message of unity through his verses. He extended his condolences and sympathy to Turab's family and loved ones. Karzai stated: "The late Matiullah Turab poetically expressed the problems and suffering of the nation and always delivered a message of patriotism and unity through his poetry." Turab was widely known among Afghans for his patriotic and emotionally powerful poetry. Anas Haqqani, a senior member of the Islamic Emirate, also called the passing of this eloquent Pashto poet a major loss. Writing on his X, Haqqani said: "Although death marks the beginning of a new life, the passing of some individuals creates a void in the world of the



living." In southern Pashtunkhwa, the Awami National Party stated that Turab's death is not only a loss to the world of literature and culture but a great loss for the entire Pashtun nation. The party's leader, Aimal Wali Khan, expressed his condolences to Turab's family and relatives. Matiullah Turab was originally from Khogyani district in Nangarhar province but spent most of his life in Khost. His funeral was transported from Khost to his ancestral village this morning (Tuesday), and funeral ceremonies are being held today in Jalalabad city and Khogyani district.

Acute drought hits Daikundi livestock keepers hard

NEILI (Pajhwok): In the barren plains and treeless slopes of Daikundi's mountains—where lush pastures once sustained thousands of livestock—a different picture of rural life is now painted: hungry herds and desperate herders. As drought continues and rainfall declines in Daikundi, hundreds of herding families find themselves in dire conditions. Residents of the province say that due to the severe shortage of fodder and the drying up of pastures, they've been forced to sell their livestock at low prices or abandon livestock farming altogether. In Daikundi, people primarily earn a living through livestock in addition to farming. They are urging the government and aid organizations to take urgent and effective measures to provide fodder and manage the drought crisis to prevent the collapse of this traditional livelihood. Noor Ahmad, who for years herded goats and sheep in the green valleys and meadows of Pitab in Miramor district of Daikundi, used to find joy in the grassy mountain paths and the flowing

waters of the valleys—symbols of vitality and life. Now, most of these meadows and valleys convey a different message—one of despair. The once-thriving herd of goats and sheep that kept his family's economy running has diminished, and that economic cycle is now faltering. Ahmad, who has been a farmer and primarily a herder for over ten years, used to support his seven-member family through livestock. But he says the drought and lack of rainfall have led to an unprecedented decline in animal fodder. He added: "I used to have a lot of cattle and livestock. I would sell many each year, which covered household expenses and allowed me to save money. There was abundant grass—we cut it from the valleys, and every day we took the animals to graze in the mountains. But this year, due to lack of rain, there is very little fodder, and there's nothing in the mountains or plains to fill the animals' bellies." He continued: "When it didn't rain at the start of the year, I realized it would be a tough one. I sold several of my goats and sheep so

that the remaining ones might survive. Now, there's nothing in the mountains—our children take the livestock out hungry and bring them back hungry. I've sold several more animals at half price." He explained that people are no longer interested in buying animals for raising because there's no proper feed available. For this reason, herders who can no longer afford to maintain their animals have been forced to sell them at throwaway prices. He calls on the government to support Daikundi's herders in providing animal feed and take urgent steps to prevent the collapse of this traditional profession. Ahmad's story is not unique. Quadrat Baqiri, another herder from the Sangtakht-Bandar district of Daikundi, is facing a similar situation. He says: "Drought has severely reduced livestock feed. When there's no pasture or water, we're forced to sell our animals. The price of fodder has doubled—we can't afford it." It's not just a fodder issue—providing drinking water for livestock has also become a new challenge. Baqiri says that, to avoid excessive water use, herders are now feeding their animals with leftover water from washing dishes and clothes—something once unimaginable. He adds: "We ask the government and organizations to distribute oilcake and fodder to us. A solution must be found so our animals don't die."

But this isn't just the problem of one family or one village. Ali Janati, a tribal elder from Daikundi, speaks of the drastic decline in people's incomes and says: "Most families in this province earn their living by raising and selling livestock. But with the lack of rainfall and ongoing drought, this traditional profession is on the verge of collapse." He added that climate change has negatively impacted both farming and herding. There are no pastures left, and there isn't even enough water for people to grow animal fodder. Many have already given up on herding. Janati emphasizes that the loss of these two key income sources—farming and herding—has put Daikundi in an unprecedented economic crisis. According to him, this year the mountain pastures and plains have disappeared, and there's not even enough water to cultivate fodder crops. This tribal elder also urges the government to seek serious strategies and alternative options for Daikundi's herders, to ease the pressure of poverty on the population. Environmental experts Mohammad Hamdard, an environmental activist in Daikundi, sees the situation as far more critical than it may appear at first glance. He describes the drought not just as an environmental crisis but as a "socioeconomic disaster" that threatens the survival of livestock-dependent rural communities. Hamdard says: "Drought has reduced incomes, increased costs, destroyed assets, and triggered waves of unemployment and migration. Villages that relied on traditional livestock farming are now facing the collapse of their social and economic structures." He stressed that the reduction in rainfall and drying up of pastures

threaten the foundation of traditional livestock farming and create a chain of problems—from animal nutrition to household economy and rural social structures. He outlined the multi-layered consequences of this crisis and noted that Daikundi is largely a rural society whose economy is based on livestock. Therefore, the drought leads to income loss, higher maintenance costs for livestock, destruction of household assets, unemployment, migration, reduced local production and food security, and serious social and psychological impacts. This environmental activist believes that a long-term solution to this phenomenon requires a comprehensive and sustainable multi-dimensional approach based on education, natural resources, livestock breed improvement, water management, and community participation. He stated: "Modernizing the livestock sector, sustainable resource management, water resource storage and management, cultivation of drought-resistant crops and fodder, improving veterinary services, ac-

cess to livestock insurance, strengthening herders' knowledge and awareness, and diversifying income sources are among the appropriate strategies to counter climate impacts on livestock farming." He emphasized that the government, local institutions, and the people must work together to save the livestock sector. Meanwhile, officials from Daikundi's Agriculture Department confirm that drought has had serious effects—reducing fodder resources, increasing livestock diseases, and drastically lowering livestock prices. These issues have directly impacted the livelihoods of thousands of rural families in the province. Kazem Kazemi, Head of Livestock and Animal Health at the Daikundi Agriculture Department, stated that drought has dealt a major blow to herders—leading to shortages in fodder, reduced grazing areas, lack of sufficient water, outbreak of animal diseases, and a drop in livestock prices. Altogether, this has weakened the herders' economy. He added that the department, in coordination with

veterinary clinics, has taken necessary measures to control animal diseases and has submitted reports to partner organizations and the Ministry of Agriculture. Kazemi also noted that this year, to combat drought-related diseases, 120,000 doses of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) vaccine for small ruminants have been administered in Daikundi with the help of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). He further said: "Partner organizations in the agriculture sector have implemented small-scale projects to support poor families. However, regarding the drought, they have only conducted assessments on the livestock sector and have yet to take practical action." Daikundi is one of the provinces where the vast majority of people rely on two main pillars of livelihood—agriculture and livestock. Now, with the degradation of pastures, lack of water, and unprecedented drought, these two traditional professions are on the brink of collapse, pushing thousands of families into hardship.





**RAWALPINDI:** Lt Gen Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin (Retd), Minister of Defence of Indonesia leading a delegation comprising representatives from various services and intelligence agencies called on Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff at General Headquarters.

# Putin, unfazed by Trump, will fight on and could take more of Ukraine

MOSCOW (Reuters): President Vladimir Putin intends to keep fighting in Ukraine until the West engages on his terms for peace, unfazed by Donald Trump's threats of tougher sanctions, and his territorial demands may widen as Russian forces advance, three sources close to the Kremlin said.

Putin, who ordered Russian troops into Ukraine in February 2022 after eight years of fighting in country's east between Russian-backed separatists and Ukrainian troops, believes Russia's economy and its military are strong enough to weather any additional Western measures, the sources said. Trump on Monday expressed frustration with Putin's refusal to agree a ceasefire and announced a wave of weapons supplies to Ukraine, including Patriot surface-to-air missile systems. He also threatened further sanctions on Russia unless a peace deal was reached within 50 days.

The three Russian sources, familiar with top-level Kremlin thinking, said Putin will not stop the war under pressure from the West and believes Russia — which has survived the toughest sanctions imposed by the West — can endure further economic hardship, including threatened US tariffs targeting buyers of Russian oil. "Putin thinks no one has seriously engaged with him on the details of peace in Ukraine — including the Americans — so he will continue until he gets what he wants," one of the sources told Reuters on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the situation.

Despite several telephone calls between Trump and Putin, and visits to Russia by US special envoy Steve Witkoff, the Russian leader believes there have not been detailed discussions of the basis for a peace plan, the source said. "Putin values the relationship with Trump and had good discussions with Witkoff, but the interests of Russia come above all else," the person added.

Asked for a comment on the Reuters reporting, White House spokeswoman Anna Kelly blamed former President Joe Biden for allowing the war to erupt during his administration. "Unlike Biden, President Trump is focused on stopping the killing, and Putin will be faced with biting sanctions and tariffs if he does not agree to a ceasefire," she said.

Putin's conditions for peace include a legally binding pledge that Nato will not expand eastwards, Ukrainian neutrality and limits on its armed forces,

protection for Russian speakers who live there, and acceptance of Russia's territorial gains, the sources said. He is also willing to discuss a security guarantee for Ukraine involving major powers, though it is far from clear how this would work, the sources said.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has said Ukraine will never recognise Russia's sovereignty over its conquered regions and that Kyiv retains the sovereign right to decide whether it wants to join NATO. His office did not respond to a request for comment for this story. A second source familiar with Kremlin thinking said that Putin considered Moscow's goals far more important than any potential economic losses from Western pressure, and he was not concerned by US threats to impose tariffs on China and India for buying Russian oil.

Two of the sources said that Russia has the upper hand on the battlefield and its economy, geared towards war, is exceeding the production of the US-led Nato alliance in key munitions, like artillery shells. Russia, which already controls nearly one-fifth of Ukrainian territory, has advanced some 1,415 square km (546 square miles) in the past three months, according to data from the DeepStateMap, an open-source intelligence map of the conflict.

"Appetite comes with eating", the first source said, meaning that Putin could seek more territory unless the war was stopped. The two other sources independently confirmed the same. Russia currently controls Crimea, which it annexed in 2014, plus all of the eastern region of Luhansk, more than 70% of the Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions, and fragments of Kharkiv, Sumy and Dnipropetrovsk regions. Putin's public position is that those first five regions — Crimea and the four regions of eastern Ukraine — are now part of Russia and Kyiv must withdraw before there can be peace.

Putin could fight on until Ukraine's defences collapse and widen his territorial ambitions to include more of Ukraine, the sources said. "Russia will act based on Ukraine's weakness," the third source said, adding that Moscow might halt its offensive after conquering the four eastern regions of Ukraine if it encounters stiff resistance. "But if it falls, there will be an even greater conquest of Dnipropetrovsk, Sumy and Kharkiv."

Zelenskyy has said Russia's summer offensive is not going as successfully as Moscow had hoped. His top

brass, who acknowledge that Russian forces outnumber Ukraine's, say Kyiv's troops are holding the line and forcing Russia to pay a heavy price for its gains. The United States says 1.2 million people have been injured or killed in the war, Europe's deadliest conflict since the Second World War. Neither Russia nor Ukraine give full figures for their losses, and Moscow dismisses Western estimates as propaganda.

Trump, since returning to the White House in January after promising a swift end to the war, has sought to repair ties with Russia, speaking at least six times by telephone with Putin. On Monday, he said the Russian leader was not "an assassin, but he's a tough guy." In an abrupt break from his Democratic predecessor Joe Biden, Trump's administration has cast the war as a deadly proxy conflict between Russia and the United States, withdrawn support for Ukraine joining NATO and floated the idea of recognising Russia's annexation of Crimea.

Putin portrays the war as a watershed moment in Moscow's relations with the West, which he says humiliated Russia after the 1991 fall of the Soviet Union by enlarging Nato and encroaching on what he considers Moscow's sphere of influence, including Ukraine and Georgia. Putin has yet to accept a proposal from Trump for an unconditional ceasefire, which was quickly endorsed by Kyiv. Recent days have seen Russia use hundreds of drones to attack Ukrainian cities.

However, Trump told the BBC in an interview published on Tuesday that he was not done with Putin and that a Ukraine deal remained on the cards. The first source rejected Trump's assertion last week that Putin had thrown "bullshit" around, saying there had been a failure to transform positive talks with Witkoff into a substantive discussion on the basis for peace.

A White House official said on Monday Trump was considering 100% tariffs on Russian goods as well as secondary sanctions on other countries that buy its exports as a means to drive Moscow to the negotiating table. China and India are the biggest buyers of crude. Despite existing sanctions and the cost of fighting Europe's biggest conflict since World War Two, Russia's \$2 trillion economy has performed far better than many in Russia or the West expected. The economic ministry forecasts a slowdown to 2.5% annual growth in 2025 from 4.3% last year.

## Investigation of blasphemy cases IHC orders govt to form commission

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court on Tuesday ordered the federal government to form a commission within 30 days for investigation of blasphemy cases.

Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan of the Islamabad High Court has directed the federal government to establish a commission within 30 days to investigate blasphemy cases. The court further instructed that the commission formed by the federal government must complete its proceedings within four months.

During the hearing, the additional director of the Cybercrimes Investigation Agency informed the court that Komal Ismail's identity card had been blocked. Komal's ID card had four SIM cards registered, but none of the numbers have been active since November. Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan noted that the petition was filed on September 14 and Komal went missing in November.

The additional director of NCCIA assured the court that Komal has not left the

country and remains in Pakistan. When the court inquired if Komal's name had been placed on the Exit Control List (ECL), the Additional Director confirmed that it had and search efforts are ongoing. Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan remarked that Komal's safety is a serious concern and asked what measures the agency could take to protect her life.

Advocate Hadi Ali Chatha informed the court that the court had requested WhatsApp data for three numbers from cellular network companies. However, lawyers representing the cellular companies stated that WhatsApp call detail records (CDRs) are not available, and phone number CDRs are only retained for one year.

Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan said if the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) has the authority, the commission could request the information, stressing the importance due to the lives at stake. The court also heard allegations from Nek Muhammad that Iman contacted him and trapped him. It was to be verified whether Iman had contact-

ed the accused Nek Muhammad or not. The investigator revealed that no such evidence was found, only five pictures were extracted from the accused's phone, which were used to file the case.

Advocate Hadi Ali Chatha stated that the complainant Shiraz Farooqi was in contact with Nek Muhammad just a week before the incident. Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan questioned why the complainant was in contact with the accused and asked if Shiraz Farooqi would explain this. Shiraz Farooqi appeared and denied having any contact, calling the allegations false.

After hearing the arguments, Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan said the court's role was to determine whether sufficient material exists to form the commission. The court approved the request to form the commission and ordered the federal government to establish it within 30 days. The commission must complete its work within four months but may request additional time from the court if needed.

## Court returns 30 cases to NAB F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Anti-Corruption Court Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has returned corruption cases transferred from the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) back to NAB. The court sent 30 more cases back to NAB, bringing the total number of returned cases to 57, on Tuesday.

The cases were heard in the Anti-Corruption Court by Judge Asif Rashid. During the hearing, the Anti-Corruption prosecutor informed the court that it did not have the jurisdiction to hear these cases.

The prosecutor stated that the Anti-Corruption Establishment needs to conduct investigations and inquiries in these cases and file challans according to the law. Therefore, the cases should be sent back to NAB, as the Anti-Corruption Court cannot hear them.

The court ordered to send the cases back to NAB, citing that it lacked jurisdiction to hear them. It is worth noting that after amendments to the NAB ordinance, 57 cases were transferred to the Anti-Corruption Department. These cases involve various departments, including Revenue, Education, Local Government, and others.

Court rejects interim bail of accused Ayub in Kohistan Scandal: The Accountability Court Peshawar has rejected the interim bail plea of accused Ayub in the Upper Kohistan scandal case. Ayub, who is wanted by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), was taken into custody and will be presented in court today (on Wednesday) for physical remand, on Tuesday.

During the hearing, the defense counsel requested the court to grant interim bail to Ayub, stating that he wants to negotiate a plea bargain with NAB. However, the NAB prosecutor, Hazar Hayat Khan Daudzai, opposed the bail plea, alleging that Ayub embezzled Rs. 3.5 billion by withdrawing Rs. 36 billion from contractors' accounts in the Accountant General's office through fake checks.

The NAB prosecutor further stated that the bureau is investigating a massive corruption case involving over Rs. 40 billion in Upper Kohistan, where funds were siphoned off from the treasury under the guise of development schemes, but no such schemes existed on the ground. After hearing the arguments, the court rejected Ayub's interim bail plea. The accused will now face further legal proceedings in custody.

## Court extends bails of Imran, Bushra F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The court has extended the interim bails of PTI founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi. In the Islamabad District and Sessions Court, a hearing was held on six pre-arrest bail applications of PTI founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi. Additional District and Sessions Judge Afzal Majoka presided over the proceedings.

During the hearing, arguments could not be presented on Khan's bail applications today either, and the reserved verdict on Bibi's bail application was also not announced. Due to the non-availability of the PTI founder, no progress could be made on the bail applications. It is worth mentioning that the court, in the previous hearing, had ordered Khan to appear either in person or via video link.

## PTI assails govt for deciding to import sugar

ISLAMABAD (PPI): The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Tuesday strongly condemned the government's decision to import 500,000 tons of sugar, labeling it a "well-thought-out conspiracy" designed to benefit a select group of influential traders at the expense of the public.

The party alleged in a statement posted on X that the government's actions have exacerbated the ongoing sugar crisis, fueled inflation, and undermined the nation's financial stability. The PTI claims the administration initially permitted the export of 765,000 metric tons of sugar, falsely assuring the nation of sufficient domestic supply. This move, according to the PTI, artificially inflated sugar prices from 140 rupees to over 200 rupees per kilo, costing consumers an extra 60 rupees per kilo.

Following the manufactured shortage, the govern-

ment then opted to import 500,000 metric tons of sugar duty-free, a decision projected to cost the public 72 billion rupees. This comes on the heels of alleged profiteering by the "sugar mafia," who are accused of pocketing 92 billion rupees. The PTI contends these traders have collectively defrauded the public of 90 billion rupees while the administration remained passive.

The PTI questions the rationale behind importing sugar amidst reports of 2.6 million tons being hoarded, describing it as a blatant act of hostility against the public. The party warns that this decision jeopardizes Pakistan's financial standing and could hinder future access to loans, aid, and investment.

The PTI also points to internal dissent within the government, citing the Finance Ministry's objection to the import decision, which was reportedly made

without the Finance Minister's consultation. The party questions who is truly making these decisions and asserts that this is not a simple oversight but a calculated scheme to enrich the "sugar mafia."

The PTI demands a judicial investigation into the entire sugar export-import affair, including the alleged hoarding of 2.6 million tons. The party insists on making affordable sugar accessible to the common citizen and holding all those involved accountable through the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) or the Supreme Court.

The PTI vows to champion the people's concerns and fight against what it describes as corruption, incompetence, and a mafia system. The party pledges to raise its voice against this alleged manipulation of national interests and the exploitation of the poor on every available platform.

## Xi vows greater support for Russia as meets Lavrov

BEIJING (AFP): Chinese President Xi Jinping told Russia's top diplomat on Tuesday that their countries should "strengthen mutual support", state media said, as foreign ministers gathered in Beijing for Shanghai Cooperation Organisation talks.

Beijing has long sought to present the SCO as a counterweight to Western-led power blocs such as NATO and has pushed for greater collaboration between its 10 members. Top diplomats from the grouping have arrived in Beijing for a meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers, including Russia's Sergei Lavrov, India's Subrahmanyam Jaishankar and Iran's Abbas Araghchi.

Meeting Lavrov in the Chinese capital, Xi said the two countries should "strengthen mutual support on multilateral forums", according to state news agency Xinhua. Beijing and Moscow should work to "unite countries of the global South and promote the development of the international order in a more just and reasonable direction". Xi said, according to Xinhua.

Russia's foreign ministry said in an earlier statement that "a number of issues of bilateral political contacts at the highest and high levels were discussed". They included preparations for President Vladimir Putin's visit to China to join a SCO summit and World War II anniversary celebrations. Russia's TASS news agency reported that Xi met Lavrov after the Chinese president held a "general meeting" with SCO foreign ministers.

The meeting and pledges of support came just hours after US President Donald Trump warned Russia that he will impose "very severe" tariffs against Moscow's remaining trade partners if it doesn't resolve its war in Ukraine within 50 days. China, a diplomatic and economic ally of Moscow, in response said "coercion" by the United States would not resolve the conflict.

"China firmly opposes all illegal unilateral sanctions and long-arm jurisdiction. There are no winners in a tariff war, and coercion and pressure will not solve problems,"

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lin Jian said. Lavrov met Sunday with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi to discuss Ukraine and relations with the United States. The Russian foreign minister arrived in China following a visit to North Korea, where he received assurances of support in its conflict with Ukraine.

Beijing claims to be neutral in the war but it has never denounced Russia's more than three-year military campaign, nor called for it to withdraw its troops. Many of Ukraine's allies believe that Beijing has provided support to Moscow. China regularly calls for an end to the fighting, while also accusing Western countries of prolonging the conflict by arming Ukraine.

Xi noted Tuesday that "political mutual trust among member states has deepened", according to state broadcaster CCTV. The SCO "has successfully explored a path of regional cooperation that aligns with the trends of the times and meets the needs of all parties, setting a model for a new type of international relations," Xi said.

## West Bank seeing largest displacement since 1967: UN

GENEVA (Reuters): The UN warned Tuesday that mass displacement in the West Bank had hit levels not seen since the start of Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territory nearly 60 years ago.

The United Nations said an Israeli military operation launched in the north of the occupied territory in January had displaced tens of thousands of people, raising concerns about possible "ethnic cleansing." The military operation "has been the longest since ... the second Intifada," in the early 2000s, said Juliette Touma, spokeswoman for the UN agency for Palestinian refugees.

"It is impacting several refugee camps in the area, and it is causing the largest population displacement of the Palestinians in the West Bank since 1967," she told reporters in Geneva via video from Jordan, referring to the six-day Arab-Israeli war that led to Israel's occupation of the West Bank. The UN rights office meanwhile warned that mass forced

displacement by an occupation force could amount to "ethnic cleansing."

Since Israel's military launched its operation "Iron Wall" in the north of the West Bank in January, rights office spokesman Thameen Al-Kheetan said that "about 30,000 Palestinians remain forcibly displaced." Israeli security forces had during the same period issued demolition orders for about 1,400 homes in the northern West Bank, he said, describing the figures as "alarming."

He pointed out that Israeli demolitions had displaced 2,907 Palestinians across the West Bank since October 2023. Another 2,400 Palestinians — nearly half of them children — had been displaced as a result of Israeli settler actions, he added, lamenting that the combined result was the "emptying large parts of the West Bank of Palestinians." "Permanently displacing the civilian population within occupied territory amounts to unlawful transfer," Kheetan said, stressing that depending on the cir-

cumstances this could be "tantamount to ethnic cleansing" and could "amount to a crime against humanity."

Kheetan said 757 attacks by Israeli settlers had been recorded in the West Bank during the first half of the year, a 13 percent increase on the same period in 2024. The attacks injured 96 Palestinians in the occupied territory in June alone, he told reporters, stressing that this was the highest monthly injury toll of Palestinians from settler attacks, "in over two decades."

Violence in the West Bank has surged since the October 2023 attack on Israel by Palestinian militant group Hamas triggered war in the Gaza Strip. Since then, at least 964 Palestinians have been killed in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, according to the UN. During that same period, 53 Israelis have been killed in reported attacks by Palestinians or in armed clashes — 35 of them in the West Bank and 18 in Israel.

## Israeli strikes on Lebanon kill 12

BEIRUT (AFP): Israeli strikes on the Bekaa Valley in eastern Lebanon killed 12 people on Tuesday, Lebanese state media reported, as the Israeli army said it hit Hezbollah targets in the area.

Israel's military said it was striking targets belonging to Hezbollah's elite Radwan force, in its latest attack on Lebanon despite a ceasefire between Israel and the Iran-backed militant group. A military statement said Israeli fighter jets launched "numerous strikes" on "Hezbollah terror targets in the area of Bekaa."

The targets included training facilities used to "plan and carry out terrorist attacks against (Israeli) troops and the State of Israel," it added. Lebanon's state-run National News Agency said that "enemy warplanes launched raids on the Wadi Fara area in the northern Bekaa Valley, one of which targeted a camp for displaced Syrians, resulting in the deaths of 12 martyrs, including seven Syrians, and eight wounded." Israel has repeatedly bombed Lebanon despite a November ceasefire that sought to end over a year of hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah, including two months of all-out war that left the group severely weakened.

Defense Minister Israel Katz said the latest strikes were "a clear message" to Hezbollah and the Lebanese government "which is responsible for upholding the agreement." "We will strike every terrorist and thwart any threat to the residents of the north and to the State of Israel," he said in a statement of the area bordering Lebanon.

Katz also vowed to "respond with

## Israel strikes Syrian city, vows to protect Druze from govt forces

SWEIDA, Syria (Reuters): Israel carried out strikes against Syrian Arab Republic government forces in southwestern Syria for a second day on Tuesday, vowing to keep the area demilitarized and to protect the Druze minority as deadly clashes continued in the region at the Israeli frontier. A Reuters reporter heard at least four strikes as drones could be heard over the predominantly Druze city of Sweida and saw a damaged tank being towed away. Bursts of gunfire were heard and three bodies were seen on the ground. Dozens of people have been killed in fighting in the region since Sunday.

The upsurge in violence underlines the challenges facing interim President Ahmed Al-Sharaa who has struggled to assert control over the area near the Israeli border since toppling Bashar Assad in December. While Sharaa has been buoyed by rapidly improving ties with US President Donald Trump's administration, the violence has highlighted lingering sectarian tensions and distrust among minority groups toward his Islamist-led government — distrust that was deepened by mass killings of Alawites in March. Israel, which has struck Syria several times in the name of protecting the Druze, carried out its latest attacks after influential Druze Sheikh Hikmat Al-Hajjiri issued a statement accusing government troops of breaching a ceasefire and urging fighters to confront what he described as a barbaric attack. After Al-Hajjiri appeared in a recorded statement, Syrian Defense Minister Murhaf Abu Qasra issued a statement declaring that a complete ceasefire was in place, and saying government forces would only open fire if fired upon. Abu Qasra also said that military police had been ordered to deploy in Sweida to "control military behavior and hold violators accountable," the state news agency SANA reported.

maximum force against any attempt at rebuilding" Hezbollah's capabilities. The military statement said that since Israel had "eliminated" Radwan force commanders in September, "the unit has been operating to reestablish its capabilities."

Storing weapons and other "activities" at the sites targeted on Tuesday were "a blatant violation of the understandings between Israel and Lebanon and constitute a future threat

to the State of Israel," it added.

Under the November ceasefire deal, Hezbollah was to pull its fighters back north of the Litani river, about 30 kilometers (20 miles) from the Israeli border, leaving the Lebanese army and United Nations peacekeepers as the only armed parties in the region. Israel was required to fully withdraw its troops from the country but has kept them in five places it deems strategic.