

Saif slams Opposition
F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Advisor to the Chief Minister of KP on Information and Public Relations, Barrister Dr. Saif, has stated that the opposition is engaged in propaganda as if they themselves awarded party tickets to poor workers. He said that PTI has given tickets to candidates like Murad Saeed, Faisal Javed, Pir Noorul Haq Qadri, and Rubina Naz, who are not wealthy individuals.



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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif presenting first digitally issued medical licence to CEO of Kwik Test Private Ltd. at a ceremony.

PM underlines joint efforts to revolutionize healthcare system

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday stressed upon bringing about revolution in the healthcare sector with coordinated efforts and determination by all the stakeholders.

Addressing a ceremony after launching ceremony of digital system for licensing, registration of medical devices, the prime minister expressed the hope that under the new digital system, the applications for registration of medical services and equipment would be decided within 20 days in a transparent and merit-based system.

Regretting the inordinate delays in the registration process of medical services in the past, he referred to Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) as "Drag, not DRAP, as it was dragging the process not for months but for years. The reasons were known to all." The prime minister, citing issues in the health sector, recollected that during his tenure as Punjab chief minister, he had sent samples of certain cardiovascular drugs aboard for testing after reports indicated a number of deaths in the Punjab Institute of Cardiology, adding later, the reports from London; etc indicated that these drugs were meant to treat malaria and not heart patients which were not handled properly by DRAP.

The prime minister said that he had brought Major Gen. (ret'd) Azhar Mahmood Kayani to Rawalpindi Institute of Cardiology, who by virtue of his hard work and dedication, transformed the facility as remarkable. The prime minister underscored that the country needed such health facilities.

He also recollected that during his tenure as chief minister, his government allocated a huge budget for provision of free of cost medicines at the government-run hospitals during 2014-15. The 60 percent samples of those drugs proved to be below standards, he said, adding later, under his strict directive, provision of quality medicines free of cost was ensured. Besides, his provincial government also set up laboratories across the

province to facilitate the poor and deprived people.

He also appreciated the Minister for National Health Services Mustafa Kamal for his hard efforts to introduce reforms in the health sector. The minister also took notice of closure of hospitals and now they would be revived, he added. The prime minister emphasized that if they decided to bring about revolution in the health sector, it might be a difficult task but not impossible.

"There may be mountains like hurdles, but if we decide with determination to negotiate them and move ahead, then nothing can hamper the way towards progress and prosperity. The hard work does not go in vain," he further stressed. The prime minister also expressed the optimism that with joint efforts and decisions, they would change fate of Pakistan and the day was not far off when the country would achieve its mark among the comity of nations.

He also appreciated the minister, secretary, CEO DRAP and their team for the introduction of digital system. The ceremony was attended by ministers, parliamentarians, relevant authorities and experts.

Minister for National Health Services and Regulations Mustafa Kamal, in his remarks, said that contrary to earlier long periods of registration process, they had squeezed the registration time through online digitization system spanning over 20 days. He said the system would be free from any human contact as the certificates would be available online without visiting DRAP.

He said that all the efforts, made in the health sector, indicated the intent and the vision of the incumbent government under the leadership of the prime minister. Kamal further referring to major issues in health sector including population growth, waterborne diseases etc; said that they were making all out efforts with available resources to overcome them.

They were further improving the healthcare system with public-private partnership, he said, adding the primary healthcare system would be strengthened further to reduce burden

at the main healthcare centers. The registration and licensing of everything from wheelchairs to MRI machines would be done online. Citizens could submit online applications from home to obtain registration and licensing of medical devices, he added. The minister said this initiative would now shorten the process of years to just twenty days, and the public would have access to quality, safe, and effective medicines and medical devices in a timely manner.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif condemned the murder of a male and female in Balochistan province. The prime minister contacted Chief Minister Balochistan Sarfraz Bugti on telephone and directed him for a probe into the incident, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The prime minister directed that people involved in the incident should be given punishment according to law, as no one was above the law and could not be permitted to violate law of the land. He also directed for taking all legal measures to bring the accused to justice.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also expressed his deep grief over the death of Saudi Prince Al Waleed bin Khaled bin Talal, who died after spending more than two decades in a coma following a car accident.

"Deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Prince Al Waleed bin Khaled bin Talal. His long and courageous struggle drew admiration and prayers from many across the world," the prime minister wrote on his X timeline.

He extended his heartfelt condolences to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the Royal Family, and the brotherly people of Saudi Arabia. Prime Minister Shehbaz also prayed to Allah Almighty for elevation of the ranks of deceased prince in paradise. Prince Al Waleed was the eldest son of Prince Khaled bin Talal Al Saud. At the age of 15, he suffered a devastating road accident in 2005 that caused severe brain injuries and internal bleeding.

President confers Nishan-i-Pakistan on Saudi Arabia Naval Chief

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari conferred the award of Nishan-e-Pakistan (Military) upon Vice Admiral Mohammed Bin Abdulrahman Al Ghoraihi, Chief of the Royal Saudi Naval Forces, at a special investiture ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Monday.

The award was presented in recognition of Vice Admiral Al Ghoraihi's professional achievements and his role in strengthening the friendship between the Royal Saudi Naval Forces and the Pakistan Navy. The ceremony was attended by senior officers of the Pakistan Armed Forces.

Following the ceremony, the Chief of the Royal Saudi Naval Forces called on the President. The President congratulated Vice Admiral Al Ghoraihi on receiving the award and acknowledged his efforts in promoting cooperation between the navies of the two brotherly nations. The meeting was also attended by the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Nawaf Saeed Al-Malki.

The President highlighted that Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with Saudi Arabia, adding that the people and government of Pakistan deeply appreciate the Kingdom's support during challenging times.

Expressing satisfaction over the ongoing engagements between the Pakistan Navy and the Royal Saudi Naval Forces, the President called for further enhancement of navy-to-navy collaboration. He appreciated the participation of the Royal Saudi Naval Forces in Exercise AMAN-25 and AMAN Dialogue-25, held in February 2025, noting that such joint activities contribute to promoting maritime cooperation and mutual understanding.

The President also praised the vision of Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman, which he said is steering the Kingdom towards transformation, progress, and long-term prosperity. He expressed appreciation for the trust placed by the Royal Saudi Naval Forces in the Pakistan Navy's training system and emphasized the importance of expanding training cooperation between the two navies.

The President asked the Vice Admiral Mohammed Bin Abdulrahman Al Ghoraihi to convey his warm greetings and best wishes to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz, and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman, reaffirming Pakistan's strong bond with Saudi Arabia.

PHC issued notices to ECP, Federal govt Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR The Peshawar High Court has issued notices to Election Commission of Pakistan, Federal government and Attorney General against oath-taking on reserved seats in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, on Monday.

PHC divisional bench comprising of Justice Ijaz Anwar and Justice Fahim Wali issued notices in response to petitions filed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur and Speaker of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Babar Saleem Swati. The petitions challenge the oath-taking of members-elect from reserved seats in the Governor's House and the Election Commission's decision to declare PTI members as independent.

In this regard two separate petitions were filed by Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur and Speaker Babar Saleem Swati, challenging the oath-taking ceremony and the Election Commission's decision. During hearing Advocate General Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Shah Faisal Ottomankhel, Bashir Wazir Advocate and ECP lawyers appeared before court.

PTI clinches six Senate seats in KP

Opposition takes five amid consensus-based formula to avoid horse trading

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: In a tightly free and transparent Senate election held in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly on Monday, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) emerged with a narrow edge over the opposition, securing six out of eleven seats under a seat-sharing agreement brokered between the provincial government and opposition parties to avoid horse trading.

The vote, held amid intense political maneuvering and internal negotiations, saw all 145 members of the KP Assembly casting their ballots. As agreed upon, the PTI-led ruling coalition claimed six seats while the opposition alliance walked away with five, bringing the contest to a relatively peaceful conclusion despite earlier tensions.

Out of the seven general seats, PTI clinched four through its high-profile candidates. Murad Saeed led the pack with 26 votes, followed by Faisal Javed (22), Noorul Haq Qadri (21), and Mirza Afridi (21). According to ECP, the remaining three general seats went to the opposition candidates includes Niaz Amir Muqam of PML-N secured 18 votes, while JUL-F's Maulana Attaul Haq Darwaish and PPP's Talha Mehmood were also elected.

On the two reserved seats for women, Rubina Naz of PTI won comfortably with 89 votes, while PPP's Rubina Khalid followed with 52 votes, securing the opposition's share. Independent candidate Mehwish Ali and PTI's Ayesha Bano, who had earlier withdrawn remained on the ballot but did not pose a significant challenge. For technocrat seats, PTI's Azam Swati garnered the highest count with 89 votes. JUL-F's Dilawar Khan followed with 54, ensuring a 1-1 split between government and opposition on these seats as well.

The contest included additional independent and disgruntled PTI candidates, but none could make a significant impact. The outcome followed a quiet but intense

period of negotiation between KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur and various factions within the PTI, as well as with opposition parties. Despite efforts to maintain party unity, not all disgruntled PTI aspirants withdrew.

While Irfan Saleem, Waqas Orakzai, and Ayesha Bano stepped aside after talks with Gandapur, Khurram Zeeshan refused to withdraw and remained on the ballot. Additionally, several names on the ballot had been officially withdrawn but appeared with a "retired" stamp, as per the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) protocol, due to withdrawal after the deadline.

Polling began at 11:00 am and was scheduled to continue until 4:00 pm, but voting was extended until 5:30 pm to accommodate all lawmakers. The Jirga Hall of the KP Assembly served as the official polling station, equipped with two booths for voting. The process, however, was marked by tight security and restricted media access. Journalists were denied entry into the assembly premises, prompting a sit-in protest by media representatives outside the building.

The KP Assembly Secretariat confirmed the move was in line with the ECP's directive to restrict coverage inside the polling area. According to the ECP, a total of 22 candidates contested across the 11 Senate seats, including 16 on General Seats, 5 on Technocrat Seats and 4 on women's Seats.

The final results reflect a rare consensus in KP politics, with both sides honoring the 6-5 seat-sharing formula and avoiding a prolonged dispute. The newly elected senators from KP will now join the upper house of Parliament at a critical time, as the national political climate remains charged and coalition politics take center stage. The Senate results from KP may also signal a broader shift in provincial alignments ahead of future legislative battles.

KP CM directs attention toward tourist areas

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: With forecasts indicating more monsoon rains in the province, Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Khan Gandapur has directed the district administration to remain on high alert.

The Chief Minister instructed all relevant departments to take all necessary precautionary measures to deal with potential risks such as floods and landslides. He emphasized that minimizing loss of life and property must remain a top priority during this monsoon season.

He ordered the continuous presence of personnel

from police, local government, irrigation, rescue services, and district administrations in the field to respond swiftly to any emergency. Special attention was directed toward tourist areas, with instructions to provide timely weather-related risk alerts and safety guidance to tourists currently present in those regions.

The Chief Minister further directed that the availability of machinery and equipment be ensured to immediately clear roads that may be blocked due to landslides. At the district level, he stressed the need for fully functional healthcare centers with essential staff and medicine available round the clock. He

also ordered all emergency control rooms across the province to remain operational 24/7.

In case of any untoward incident, Chief Minister emphasized that district administration officials must personally supervise rescue and relief operations. He also called for the establishment of a robust coordination mechanism among all relevant departments at the district level to effectively manage any emergency situation. The Chief Minister directed that all district administrations strictly implement the precautionary measures and advisories issued by the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) in light of the monsoon forecast.

Pakistan fully committed to achieving SDGs: Dar

NEW YORK (APP): Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) and Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar Monday said, Pakistan remained fully committed to achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and had undertaken different initiatives to financially protect people and enhance educational opportunities.

In a statement at the General Debate of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) Ministerial Segment at the United Nations in New York, he said, "With just five years remaining to 2030, only 35% of the SDGs are on track. The compounding effects of the pandemic, the food, fuel, and finance crises, as well as intensifying climate impacts, have reversed the hard-won development gains and deepened inequalities."

"Despite these challenges, Pakistan remains fully committed to achieving the 2030 Agenda. Our national development strategies, such as Uraan Pakistan

(Take-Off Pakistan), are aligned with the SDGs," he noted. The Deputy Prime Minister said, "Our social protection initiatives, including the Benazir Income Support Programme and Benazir Nashonuma (Child Growth Programs), are designed to ensure no one is left behind."

"To harness the potential of our youth, we have launched the Digital Youth Hub and are expanding access to quality education through Danish Schools and new university campuses," he added.

"We are scaling up climate action, targeting 60% renewable energy by 2030, and enhancing resilience through initiatives such as Recharge Pakistan and the Living Indus. Our revised nationally determined contribution is nearing finalization," he told. Ishaq Dar said, "We have also undertaken key macroeconomic reforms to stabilize our fiscal outlook and make the investment climate even more attractive. The Special Investment Facilitation Council is channelling

direct foreign investment in priority sectors."

"While national efforts are essential, these cannot succeed in isolation," he said and called for deep reform of the international financial architecture, critical for implementing the SDGs. He urged that developing countries needed scaled up access to concessional and grant-based resources, meaningful debt relief, and scaled-up climate finance in order to bridge the SDG Financing Gap.

"The Compromiso de Seville, adopted at the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, offers a clear roadmap. Its implementation must begin without delay," he stressed. The Deputy Prime Minister said, "As we commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the United Nations, the Secretary General's UN80 initiative offers an opportunity for a critical re-think to strengthen the three pillars of the United Nations and renew our commitment towards timely achievement of the SDGs."

11 more suspects arrested in Balochistan couple's killing

F.P. Report

QUETTA: At least 11 more suspects, including a tribal leader, were arrested on Monday for their alleged involvement in the killing of a man and a woman in Balochistan after a video of the murder went viral on social media, with the case now handed over to the Serious Crimes Investigation Wing (SCIW), according to the police.

SCIW Superintendent of Police (SP) Syed Saboor Agha told media, "Eleven people have been arrested, including a tribal leader who issued directives to shoot the couple, and all of them will appear before a judicial magistrate on Monday." The viral video showed a group of men leading a couple out of vehicles and into a desert before gunning them down with pistols and shooting the bodies. Political figures and activists said it was an 'honour' killing incident. On Sunday, Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti announced on X that he had directed the Balochistan Police to take immediate action, following which one suspect was apprehended. According to a first information report (FIR), registered by Station House Officer (SHO) Naveed Akhtar at Quetta's Hanna-Urak Police Station, he lodged the complaint after receiving the video clip that had gone viral on social media, showing a man and a woman being brutally shot and killed by armed individuals.

SHO Akhtar stated that he, along with his team, reached Balochistan's

Dagari, situated on the outskirts of Quetta and, upon investigation, discovered that the incident occurred three days before Eidul Azha in the area of Sanjidi in Dagari.

"The victims seen in the viral video have been identified as Bano Bibi and Ihsanullah," the FIR said, naming eight suspects who allegedly shot the couple dead. The FIR also mentioned 15 other unknown suspects involved in the incident. Speaking to media, SHO Naveed Akhtar said, "Owing to the nature of the murder, the case has now been transferred to the Serious Crime Investigation Wing for further investigation." Prior to being killed, the victims were allegedly taken to a tribal leader, who declared them guilty of being involved in an 'immoral relationship' (locally termed 'Karo Kari') and ordered their execution, following which they were taken to the [desert] and shot dead, the FIR said.

"The murder was filmed and uploaded to social media to spread fear and panic among the public," it added. According to the FIR, a case was registered against the suspects under Sections 147 (rioting), 148 (rioting while armed with a deadly weapon), 149 (unlawful assembly) and 302 (murder) of the Pakistan Penal Code and the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997. One of the main suspects — tribal leader Sardar Sherbaz Satazkai — was presented before an anti-terrorism court today with Judge Muhammad Mubeen presiding over the case. The suspect was

handed over to SCIW on a two-day physical remand on the judge's order upon the police's request. Chief Justice Balochistan High Court Justice Rozi Khan Barrech took notice of the case and summoned the additional chief secretary and inspector general of police Balochistan to the court in the matter.

In a press release issued by BHC, it was notified that Justice Barrech "has taken notice of the news circulating on electronic, print and social media of the murder of a couple for marrying out of choice at Dagari". The statement added that, "In this matter, the chief justice has summoned the chief secretary and IG Balochistan to court on July 22, 2025".

The postmortem report on the slain couple has revealed that the woman was shot seven times and the man was shot nine times. Police surgeon Ayesha Faiz, who conducted the postmortem, told media that the graves of the man and woman were exhumed and the post-mortem was conducted. "They were killed on June 4. The woman is around 37 to 38 years old and was shot once in the head and seven times in the chest and stomach. "The woman's name was Noor Bano Bibi, written on her arm, and she belongs to the Satazkai tribe — while the man's name was Ihsanullah, and he is around 35 to 36 years old and was shot nine times in the chest and stomach," the police surgeon said. According to Fiaz, the woman's body was decomposed but recognisable, while the man's body was in a slightly better condition and also recognisable.



KARACHI: Women hanging on the gate and other passengers sitting on the rooftop of a moving bus pose serious safety risks. —APP Photo

IGP Punjab orders resolving issues of cops

LAHORE (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar on Monday met with police employees and their families and listened to their problems and issued orders for immediate relief.

According to Punjab Police spokesperson key orders issued include, DIG Welfare and Finance to extend medical financial assistance to Constable Usman Mubarak, DIG Establishment-II to facilitate the transfer request of Head Constable Mudassir Hussain, Additional IG CCD Punjab to address Constable Asim Zaki's application, DIG Establishment-II to provide support to the widow of former constable Muhammad Imran Shafiq.

In addition, the IGP issued directives regarding discipline, administration, promotion and welfare-related issues.

PHA launches 'Plant for Pakistan' campaign

LAHORE (APP): Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) Lahore has launched the Plant for Pakistan campaign, a landmark initiative aimed at promoting environmental sustainability and public engagement in plantation efforts.

For the first time in the country's history, a government-backed plantation program is offering free home delivery and planting of saplings at citizens' residences. As part of this initiative, the PHA has launched a dedicated helpline 1399, allowing citizens to simply call, provide their name and address, and receive a sapling planted at their doorstep, entirely free of cost.

PHA Director General Mansoor Ahmad termed the initiative a practical step towards achieving the vision of a Green Punjab. "Distributing and planting free saplings for every household is a major stride towards creating a greener, healthier environment," he said. "Under the dynamic leadership of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the PHA is fully committed to environmental conservation and urban beautification."

The DG added that all available resources are being utilized to enhance Lahore's green cover and improve urban ecology. He urged citizens to take full advantage of this initiative by calling 1399, sharing their details.

Amir Muqam hails KP senate elections

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Engineer Amir Muqam on Monday congratulated both KP government and opposition lawmakers for upholding democratic values during the recent Senate elections.

Speaking to a private news channel, he said that the election results were a true reflection of each party's numerical strength.

He said, "I congratulate and thank all government and opposition members

for participating responsibly. Voting along party lines reflects a positive and mature democratic tradition."

He further said that for the first time, parties received votes proportionate to their representation. The process was transparent, disciplined, and free of horse-trading, he added.

He said the consensus formula adopted in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) would help strengthen democratic institutions and could serve as a model for other

provinces.

Criticizing the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), he said the party is plagued by internal divisions and infighting. "PTI is facing serious rifts and factionalism within its ranks."

On PTI's latest protest announcement, he said that their previous protests failed, and this one will be no different.

Public support for PTI has eroded, especially in KP, where even their stronghold has turned away from them.

KMU and NUML partner to offer language training

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Medical University (KMU), Peshawar, has launched certified foreign language courses for health-care professionals, faculty, and students, aimed at enhancing their international career opportunities and employability abroad.

These courses are being offered in collaboration with the National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Peshawar, and are designed to provide both basic and professional-level language skills tailored to the needs of the health-care sector.

The languages being offered include Arabic, German, Chinese, Korean, and English. Each course will span 18 weeks and will be offered at a highly subsidized fee of PKR 20,000. Successful participants will receive a certificate from NUML, recognizing their achievement and language proficiency.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor KMU Prof. Dr. Zia ul Haq emphasized that language barriers remain a significant hurdle for health professionals seeking employment in the Gulf, East Asia, and European countries. He added that these courses are part of KMU's

commitment to equip its graduates and staff with the necessary skills to thrive in a competitive international job market.

The courses will be conducted at KMU's main campus in Phase 5, Hayatabad Peshawar. All students, faculty, and staff from KMU's constituent and affiliated colleges are eligible to enroll.

The last date for registration is 28 July 2025, and each language course will begin once a minimum of 50 participants has registered. KMU encourages all interested candidates to take advantage of this opportunity and register within the due date.

Commissioner reviews flood preparedness, monsoon strategy

LAHORE (APP): Divisional Commissioner Zaid bin Maqsood chaired a meeting to review flood situation monitoring and monsoon preparedness across the division. The meeting focused on proactive measures to tackle potential flooding scenarios in light of ongoing and upcoming weather conditions.

Addressing the senior officials, the Commissioner issued clear directives that all departments must be on high alert starting today, warning that negligence would not be tolerated under any circumstances. He emphasized the activation of early warning systems and the immediate mobilization of village-level flood committees around river belts.

The Commissioner ordered that revenue teams remain present in the field at all times and that relief

campes be made fully operational immediately. He also instructed the administrations of Lahore, Sheikhupura, and Kasur to evacuate communities residing in riverbeds and advised that mosques be used for public announcements to guide citizens.

The Commissioner Lahore also called for a list of designated supervisory irrigation officers for canal and drainage areas, directing that all irrigation officers remain stationed within their respective districts throughout the season.

He instructed that monitoring and control centers operate round-the-clock. He further directed the Irrigation Department to eliminate all obstructions beneath bridges and to inspect the entire drainage network in coordination with district administrations. Immediate joint operations were ordered to clear

all drainage systems to prevent urban flooding.

Highlighting the seriousness of the monsoon season, the Commissioner stressed that protecting human lives remains the top priority of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif. He reiterated that Section 144 must be strictly enforced across the division, warning of strict crackdowns on any violations.

Additional directives included increasing police patrolling on rivers, canals, and drains, with a firm order that no unauthorized cuts or breaches be made to government infrastructure. The Lahore Safe City Authority was instructed to focus surveillance on all major drainage points, with designated departmental focal persons to remain on 24-hour duty at Safe City offices.

CM approves Bahawalpur Children's Hospital

LAHORE (PPI): Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif today approved the construction of a children's hospital in Bahawalpur following a meeting with Deputy Speaker of the Punjab Assembly, Malik Zaheer Iqbal Channer. The discussion centered on the political landscape and developmental initiatives in South Punjab.

Channer commended the Chief Minister's commitment to infrastructure

enhancements, particularly road construction and rehabilitation throughout the province. He also expressed appreciation for the establishment of a burn center in Bahawalpur.

The Deputy Speaker praised the province-wide implementation of field hospitals, mobile clinics, and the Maryam Nawaz Health Clinic project. He described the Punjab Development Program's objective of equitable

regional progress as transformative. Channer also lauded the introduction of the air ambulance service, the establishment of field hospitals, and efforts to address encroachment issues.

During the meeting, preliminary approval was granted for the construction of a children's hospital in Bahawalpur, adjacent to the Civil Hospital, addressing a critical community need. The Chief Minister request-

ed a detailed project proposal for the Bahawalpur Children's Hospital.

Sharif emphasized the government's dedication to prioritizing development endeavors and ensuring access to essential services for the people of South Punjab. The Deputy Speaker affirmed that Sharif's administration is steering Punjab towards substantial advancements, characterized by citizen-centric policies.

PSCA eases process for e-challan corrections

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) on Monday introduced a simplified process for addressing complaints related to incorrect e-challans, allowing citizens to request corrections via email.

According to a PSCA spokesperson citizens who receive an incorrect traffic violation ticket can now file a complaint by sending an email to etclhr@pscagop.pk.

The email should include a description of the issue and photographs of the e-challan in question.

The spokesperson said that once the authority verifies the complaint, the incorrect challan will be cancelled. E-challans were issued through an advanced artificial intelligence system, which minimizes the likelihood of errors but the new procedure has been put in place to quickly resolve any that may occur.

"The correction process has been made more accessible to ensure prompt redressal of grievances," the spokesperson said.

647 arrested for electricity theft in July

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Police have intensified their ongoing crackdown on electricity theft, arresting 647 individuals and registering 1,081 cases across the provincial capital during July 2025.

A police spokesperson said on Monday that the operation is part of a broader year-long campaign against power pilferage. So far in 2025, a total of 18,510 suspects have been arrested, while 14,565 cases have been registered in connection with electricity theft.

Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Lahore, Bilal Siddique Kamayana, said the police are working in close coordination with the Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) to ensure fair, consistent and across-the-board action against those involved in stealing electricity.

"The Lahore Police are extending full support to relevant departments and will continue to pursue all individuals damaging national resources through electricity theft," Kamayana stated.

The CCPO further directed officers to expedite the arrest of proclaimed offenders in power theft cases and ensure that investigation reports are submitted to courts within the legally mandated timeframe.

Police arrest 849 suspects

KARACHI (APP): In line with the directives of Additional Inspector General of Police (IGP) Karachi Javed Alam Odho, Karachi Police conducted a series of successful operations against criminal elements across the city last week.

According to spokesperson for Karachi Police on Monday, during the operations, police engaged in 16 armed encounters with dacoits in various districts. One suspect was killed in an exchange of fire, while 16 others were injured. A total of 26 accused were arrested, and police recovered 18 illegal weapons and 11 motorcycles used in criminal activities.

Across East, West, and South Zones, police arrested more than 849 suspects during targeted operations. In an ongoing crackdown against narcotics, police seized over 64 kilograms (64,312 kg) of charas, ice/crystal meth, and heroin worth millions of rupees.

Sindh govt pledges full support for IEEE fair 2025

F.P. Report

KARACHI: The Sindh government has announced the provision of all necessary facilities for the IEEE Fair 2025.

Senior Minister of Sindh, Sharjeel Inam Memon, has stated that the Sindh government fully supports all positive initiatives aimed at strengthening the national economy. He added that the IEEE Fair 2025 will serve as an excellent plat-

form to showcase Pakistani products to international markets.

In a statement, Senior Minister of Sindh and Provincial Minister for Information, Transport, and Mass Transit, Sharjeel Inam Memon, said that the Sindh government fully supports initiatives and platforms that contribute positively to the development and stability of the national economy.

He added that revolu-

tionary steps have been taken in the energy sector within the Sindh province, country's most affordable electricity is now being produced by the Nooriabad Wind Power Project, a major milestone for the national economy. The Sindh government is committed to extending all possible support to the industrial and business community, with the aim of boosting exports and creating employment opportunities.

Governor Punjab visits flood-hit Chakwal



F.P. Report

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider visited the flood-affected areas of Chakwal today.

The DCO, DPO, and PDMA officials briefed the Governor on the situation in the affected areas.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that the PPP will not aban-

don the flood victims and will extend all possible support to help compensate for the loss of homes swept away by the floodwaters.

The Governor also met with the victims, expressing deep sorrow and regret over the loss of lives and property caused by the heavy rains. He affirmed that he would not rest until the affected areas are fully restored, noting that the

rehabilitation process is progressing rapidly.

Governor Haider further visited the Dohman area to inspect the damage. He stated that many areas across the country have been affected by the rains and flooding and emphasized that collective efforts are needed to support the government in providing relief and rehabilitation to the victims.

Elders declare unity against terrorism at Grand Jirga

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A significant Grand Peace Jirga was convened through the collabora-

tion of the District Administrations of Orakzai and Hangu along with Thall Scouts, bringing together state institutions, elected representatives, and tribal elders. The aim of the jirga was to ensure sustainable peace in the region through active public participation and full cooperation with state authorities.

The event witnessed the participation of GOC 9th Division Major General Zulfiqar Ali Bhatti, RPO Kohat, Commissioner Kohat, Commandant Thall Scouts, Member of National Assembly Yousaf Khan, Deputy

Commissioners of Hangu and Orakzai, DPO Hangu, and other senior officials from the security forces.

Tribal elders, dignitaries, and local representatives from various areas including Zargari, Naryab, Shanawari, Doaba, Tora Wari, Dalan, and both Upper and Lower Orakzai, attended in large numbers. The participants strongly condemned the recent attack by terrorists on DPO Hangu, the Colonel of Thall Scouts, and the SHO.

The elders firmly declared that any form of terrorism, unrest, or subversive activity would not be tolerated in the region. They pledged full support to the state institutions and vowed not to offer any shelter, support, or facilitation to terrorists in the area.

Speaking on the occasion, Major General Zulfiqar Ali Bhatti, GOC 9th Division, stated:

"A handful of miscreants—like salt in flour—cannot disturb the peace of this region. We will not rest until they are completely eliminated. Terrorists will not be forgiven under any circumstances."

He urged the public to rise above fear and stand shoulder to shoulder with the state in the fight against terrorism, playing an active role in maintaining peace.

This jirga is a clear testament to the unity between the public and security institutions, standing together on one page, fully determined to thwart the evil designs of anti-state elements.



DIR LOWER: Suleman Muhammad former Vice Nazim of Village Council Nagri Bala, in a group photo on the occasion of the wedding of Maqaddar Khan's son, Haris Khan.

DC reviews progress of mega projects under LDP phase-1

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Deputy Commissioner Syed Musa Raza chaired a comprehensive meeting on Monday to review progress and assess the pace and quality of ongoing development projects under the Lahore Development Programme (LDP) Phase-1, the flagship initiative of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

The meeting, attended by Assistant Commissioners and relevant field officers, focused on accelerating the completion of infrastructure works and ensuring strict adherence to timelines and quality standards.

Addressing the meeting, DC Syed Musa Raza reiterated that transparency and public benefit remain at the core of the district administration's development agenda. He emphasized that any

delay or negligence in execution will not be tolerated, and directed officials to remove bottlenecks through active field engagement and inter-departmental coordination. "All contractors have been instructed to ensure that their respective projects are completed within the given deadlines, without compromising on standards," He also issued orders for Assistant Commissioners to personally inspect development sites within their areas and report progress regularly. He added that the Lahore Development Programme Phase-1 is in its final stages, and it is crucial to maintain momentum so that citizens can begin to benefit from enhanced urban infrastructure and improved service delivery.

The deputy commissioner said that

the district administration is fully committed to transforming the Chief Minister's development vision into tangible improvements on the ground. He assured that all available resources are being mobilized to deliver modern, sustainable, and high-quality facilities to the citizens of Lahore.

Meanwhile, DC Syed Musa Raza conducted an early morning inspection of Tehsil Wahga, expressing concern over poor cleanliness in areas like Khera Pull and Nathu-ki. He directed the LWMC and WASA to improve sanitation and drainage services without delay. Orders were also issued for the removal of illegal encroachments, posters, and livestock sheds in residential areas. He warned that negligence by officials will not be tolerated.

Chief Secretary chairs meeting to review Monsoon preparedness

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A high-level meeting on governance matters was held in Peshawar with Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Shahab Ali Shah in the chair.

The meeting included a detailed briefing on the preemptive measures regarding the upcoming spell of monsoon rains. Addressing the participants, the Chief Secretary emphasized that demarcation around riverbanks is a critical phase and must be implemented strictly. He directed that all leaves of administrative and departmental officials in flood-prone areas be cancelled to ensure full preparedness.

The Chief Secretary instructed all concerned departments to maintain close coordination to

ensure timely response in case of any emergency. The office of the Additional Deputy Commissioner was directed to remain fully prepared for first response operations.

He also directed the Revenue and Irrigation Departments to continue their anti-encroachment operations based on official records, ensuring that no one's rights are violated. Additionally, the Chief Secretary stressed the importance of ensuring the cleaning of drainage systems in urban areas to prevent urban flooding.

The meeting was informed that indiscriminate operations against illegal encroachments are underway, and data on officials who issued unauthorized NOCs for construction near water chan-

nels has been collected, with action being initiated against them.

The Performance Management and Reforms Unit briefed the meeting on recent anti-encroachment operations conducted across various districts. Updates were also shared regarding the ongoing development initiatives by Peshawar Development Authority (PDA), including measures to improve traffic flow in Peshawar, the Northern Section Ring Road Missing Link project, and the beautification plan for the city, for which site surveys have been completed and a comprehensive plan is being formulated.

Furthermore, under the e-summary system, 178 summaries have been processed so far, and since July 1, no summaries are

being sent without passing through the system.

The Secretary Tourism informed the meeting that, due to the provincial government's environmental protection initiatives, 291 hotels and restaurants in tourist areas have improved their sewerage and drainage systems since May, with further compliance actions ongoing.

Participants were also briefed on progress under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) initiatives and the implementation of the provincial government's Good Governance Roadmap. A comparative analysis of essential commodity prices was presented, and the district administrations were issued instructions to maintain price stability across districts.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Secretary Shahab Ali Shah chairing a high level meeting.

Dozens of youth engagement initiatives held across KP

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: In a significant push towards youth empowerment and civic engagement, the Directorate of Youth Affairs, under Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sports and Youth Affairs Department, organized a wide array of seminars, training sessions, skill development programs, exposure visits and awareness campaigns across the province during the month of June 2025.

These initiatives aimed to foster leadership, enhance life skills, promote social responsibility and prepare youth for constructive roles in society.

A two-day capacity-building workshop under the Ehsaas Youth Scheme was held at the Business Incubation Center, University of Peshawar. Director Youth Affairs Dr. Nauman Mujahid highlighted the government's vision for youth development during the session.

In Bara Gali, Hazara, a three-day youth awareness camp was successfully conducted with the participation of various student bodies. Additionally, a

week-long "Peace and Development Tour" was arranged in Naran and Batakundi to provide leadership exposure and team-building opportunities for young participants.

At the district level, vibrant youth-focused programs were held. In Peshawar, a Financial Year Project Youth Summit was organized, while in Swabi, students visited the Rescue 1122 headquarters for emergency preparedness awareness. The district also hosted a cleanliness campaign during Eid and a World Labour Day awareness event.

Dir Upper witnessed a poetic symposium and the Youth Business Expo 2025 at Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University, Sheringal. In Bajaur, inter-school declamation contests were held in collaboration with the local administration and partner organizations.

Charsadda hosted seminars on electoral awareness and youth participation, along with an event to mark World Blood Donor Day. In Mohmand, sessions were held on mental health, drug abuse awareness through a stage play, a

book fair and competitions in Naat and Qiraat.

In Mansehra, a seminar was conducted on women's leadership, while in Karak, a series of trainings were held on social media use, firefighting, cancer awareness and mushroom farming at Khushal Khan Khattak University.

Batagram organized a seminar on plantation awareness and forest fire prevention. Malakand hosted an anti-drug campaign and a four-day digital skills camp in Thana. In Hangu, seminars were held on public health and climate change, and Lower Dir featured sessions on entrepreneurship and fiber optics training.

Haripur hosted emergency preparedness training, while Bannu arranged seminars on cyber security, drug awareness and held a book fair. In Nowshera, sessions were held on communication skills, emergency response training and climate action.

Swat featured a seminar on enhancing mathematical thinking through collective learning and another on drug prevention. In

Khyber, digital marketing training was organized for male and female youth, while South Waziristan (Lower) conducted sessions on education, vocational training and career counseling.

In Shangla, a youth seminar focused on eco-friendly tourism, while Abbottabad held events on social harmony and peace in collaboration with the district administration, youth office and other organizations. A Family Day and Rescue 1122 training session were also part of the program.

Furthermore, a climate change awareness seminar was held in Hangu and Kohat hosted sessions on first aid, safety and an open youth forum (Khuli Kacheri) to facilitate direct dialogue with local authorities.

These widespread initiatives reflect the provincial government's continued commitment to engaging and equipping youth across

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with the tools, skills and awareness needed to become active, responsible contributors to national development.

Despite decades of Indian occupation, resolve of Kashmiris stand strong

Farhan Khan

DESPITE decades of Indian occupation, the unwavering resolve of the Kashmiri people and their enduring bond with Pakistan remain a testament to their resilience and unyielding spirit. The Kashmir issue, rooted in the unfulfilled promise of self-determination made to the people of the region by the international community, continues to haunt the conscience of the world. Yet, in the face of relentless military presence, systemic oppression, and repeated violations of fundamental rights, the Kashmiris have refused to relinquish their identity, aspirations, or historical affinity with Pakistan.

Since 1947, the people of Jammu and Kashmir have endured a heavy price for their desire to determine their own future. From the mass uprisings of 1989 to the more recent clampdowns following the abrogation of Article 370

in August 2019, every attempt to silence the Kashmiri voice has only reinforced their resolve. The imposition of communication blackouts, arbitrary detentions, curfews, and demographic engineering are stark indicators of a policy aimed at breaking the will of an entire population. Yet, despite these oppressive tactics, the spirit of the Kashmiri people has not been subdued.

What remains particularly significant is the emotional, cultural, and ideological connection between the Kashmiris and Pakistan. This bond is not merely political; it is rooted in shared history, faith, language, and familial ties that have withstood the test of time. Every year, February 5th is observed as Kashmir Solidarity Day in Pakistan, reflecting not only the government's stance but also the deep empathy and commitment of the Pakistani nation towards their Kashmiri brethren. The Kashmiris, in turn, continue to raise the slogan of "Kashmir

Banega Pakistan" - a symbolic expression of their desire for alignment with Pakistan despite the threats they face for doing so.

International human rights organizations have time and again highlighted the grave violations occurring in the region. Reports of extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, and denial of basic freedoms paint a disturbing picture of a conflict that is far from being a mere bilateral dispute. It is, at its core, a matter of human dignity, justice, and the right of a people to live free from fear and repression.

India's continued refusal to engage in meaningful dialogue or allow international observers into the region only reinforces suspicions about the realities on the ground. While New Delhi projects normalcy, the barbed wires, heavy troop deployments, and silencing of dissenting voices tell a different story. The people of Kashmir, however, remain defiant - not with arms, but with an enduring spirit that refuses

to be extinguished.

The resilience of the Kashmiris and their continued affinity with Pakistan serve as a reminder that no amount of coercion can erase the aspirations of a people.

Their struggle is not driven by transient politics, but by a long-standing historical and emotional commitment to a cause they believe is just. It is a call for freedom, dignity, and justice that echoes not only in the valleys of Kashmir but in the hearts of millions across Pakistan and the wider Muslim world.

In this ongoing struggle, the responsibility of the international community cannot be ignored. Silence in the face of injustice is complicity. The world must acknowledge the suffering of the Kashmiri people and act in accordance with the principles it claims to uphold - justice, self-determination, and human rights. Until that day comes, Kashmiris will continue to resist, and their bond with Pakistan will remain unshaken.

PHC summons CCPO for today in petition against SHO Badaber

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court has directed the Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Peshawar to appear before the court in response to a petition filed by MNA Shandana Gulzar. The petition alleges that people in her constituency are going

missing, and the police are not registering FIRs.

PHC divisional bench comprising of Justice Ijaz Anwar and Fahim Wali, heard the petition. Shandana Gulzar, a leader of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, appeared in court with her lawyer, Muzzam Butt. She alleged that people in her constituency are

being abducted, and the SHO Abdul Ali of Badaber police station is claiming to implement Islamic law.

Justice Ijaz Anwar questioned Shandana Gulzar about the issues in her constituency, asking if the government had ever held a jirga to address the problems. He also asked about the development projects in

the area, including the establishment of universities and colleges. The judge observed that the court cannot take action based solely on allegations.

After hearing the arguments, the court summoned the CCPO Peshawar to appear before the court and directed that a notice be issued to him.

CBP organizes free medical camp at Jinnah Park

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Cantonment Board Peshawar (CBP) in collaboration with Cantt General Hospital, organized a free medical camp at Jinnah Park, Peshawar Cantt, on Monday. The initiative was undertaken under the special directives of the Director General Military Lands & Cantonments Department, with the aim of providing free healthcare services to Cantt residents.

The camp was jointly sponsored by Libra Pharmaceutical and R Sheen, who also acknowledged and appreciated the

transparent utilization of their sponsorship.

A total of 106 patients were examined during the day-long camp. Most patients presented with upper respiratory tract infections, urinary tract infections, generalized body aches, diabetes, hypertension, skin diseases including scabies, and nutritional deficiencies. In addition to free consultations, 40 random blood sugar (RBS) tests were performed, resulting in the diagnosis of 3 new diabetes cases. Free medicines were also distributed among the patients.

This was the fourth free medical camp organized

by CBP and Cantt General Hospital. Earlier camps were held at Khyber Super Market (two camps) and DOC Park (one camp), all of which witnessed significant public turnout.

Speaking on the occasion, representatives from Libra Pharmaceutical and R Sheen said:

"We are satisfied that our sponsorship has been effectively utilized through Cantonment Board Peshawar and Cantt General Hospital. Their commitment to public welfare and transparent management of healthcare initiatives is commendable."

Meanwhile, the

Cantonment Executive Officer CBP Ch Baber Hussain stated that the board is committed to continuing these health initiatives on a regular basis.

"On the directions of DG Military Lands & Cantonments, we aim to promote accessible and free healthcare facilities for Cantt residents. This effort will continue to ensure better healthcare access for all segments of society," the CEO said.

The general public appreciated the initiative and urged that such camps be organized regularly to address the healthcare needs of the local community.

ANP delegation meets KP Governor to discuss political, security situation

PESHAWAR (APP): A delegation of the Awami National Party (ANP) led by its provincial president Mian Iftikhar Hussain called on Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi here on Monday to discuss the prevailing political and security situation in the province. The ANP delegation included Provincial General Secretary Hussain Shah Yousafzai, Vice Presidents Shahi Khan Sherani and Salahuddin, Joint Secretary Hamid Toofan, Cultural Activities Head Akbar Hoti, Youth Secretary Sana Gulzar, and Salar Shakirullah Shinwari.

Also present during the meeting were Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) parliamentary leader in the KP Assembly Ahmad Karim Kundi, provincial president Muhammad Ali Shah Bacha, General Secretary Shuja Khan (Shazi Khan), Vice Chairman of Red Crescent Farzand Ali Wazir, Deputy General Secretary Abrar Saeed Swati, and Fazal Hussain.

The discussion focused on the deteriorating law and order situation, provincial challenges, and the need for united political action. Governor Faisal Karim Kundi criticized the provincial government's inaction, saying it had left the province at the mercy of terrorists. All participants agreed that political unity was essential to safeguarding the province. The ANP delegation praised the Governor's stance and efforts in advocating for provincial rights.

Meeting of IPR Enforcement Coordination Committee held

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Meeting of IPR Enforcement Coordination Committee, Peshawar held on at the new, upgraded IPO Regional Office, conveniently located in central Peshawar.

The Meeting was chaired by Ambassador (R) Farukh Amil, Chairperson IPO-Pakistan and attended by Mr. Fazal Moqem Khan, President Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI); Mr. Jawad Ishaq, AIG (Operations) KP Police; Mr. Shafiq Ahmed, Assistant Director, KP Food Safety and Halal Food Authority; Mr. Kamran Us Salam Qazi, Assistant Director, FIA; Mr. Philemoon Inspector, FIA; Mr. Nassar Farooq Shah, Inspector, Customs; Mr. Himayet Shah, Regional Director, KP, PEMRA; Mr. Muhammad Ismail, Director (Enforcement) IPO; Mr. Saifullah Khan, Director (Copyrights) IPO; Mr. Waqas Ayub, Assistant Director (Enforcement) IPO.

The Chair IPO welcomed the participants and stressed the necessity of coordinated efforts with collective goals by all stakeholders regarding enforcement of IP Laws.

The Chair informed the participants about the importance of IP in general and its enforcement specifically. He stated that IP is a huge and important topic; it not only affects the working of local market items such as food and medicines, but also tariffs on a large scale. Underlining the important role of IPR Enforcement coordination, the Chair-IPO elaborated that the effective IPR Enforcement was critical in determining foreign investment. Foreign investors and existing Multinationals were looking very closely at protection of their brands, having a sophisticated understanding of IP abuse. Pakistan had no

choice but to be seen as a serious investment destination with a robust culture of IP Awareness and Enforcement. Foreign Investment would avoid countries not seen as IP responsible. Few would choose a country which fell short of global standards of IPR enforcement. Equally, IP abusers damaged legitimate domestic companies and deterred MSM Entrepreneurs from pursuing innovative enterprises. The Chairperson urged effective deterrence through inter-departmental coordination and cohesion among stakeholders to effectively address piracy and counterfeiting.

Mr. Fazal Moqem Khan, SCCI, said that effective coordination and facilitation was required from the Government bodies for ease of business in the country. The KP industry has a great potential for development by wise use of IP rights. He said that Afghanistan and Central Asian States were natural, adjacent export destinations. He appreciated the Chair IPO for taking personal interest in relocating IPO Regional Office, Peshawar at the State Life building for easy public access.

Mr. Jawad Ishaq, AIG, KP Police said that KP is one of the most vulnerable areas in Pakistan for business activities as well as enforcement against piracy and counterfeiting. There is need of capacity building of the field officers and awareness in the business community about IP protection.

Mr. Muhammad Ismail (Director) Enforcement presented a detailed presentation which encompassed important topics related to Intellectual Property Management in Pakistan along with brief introduction of core functions of IPO-Pakistan. The functions and responsibilities of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) Enforcement Coordination Committees (ECCs) were also present-

ed. He said that seven Intellectual Property Tribunals are currently functional at Islamabad, Karachi, Peshawar, Rawalpindi, Multan and Quetta. He also explained that the IP Tribunals are specialized courts to hear IP infringement cases. He said that IPO is coordinating with Law Division for establishing IP Tribunals at Peshawar and other major cities as well. He further added that 12 IP Enforcement Coordination Committees are functional at Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar, Quetta, Gilgit, Multan, Faisalabad, Sialkot, Sukkur, Hyderabad and Muzaffarabad. He apprised that the Anti-piracy and Anti-Counterfeiting Cells are functional and affective at all 05 offices of IPO-Pakistan. He said that IPO-Pakistan is responsible to receive complaints from IP right holders and forward these complaints to concerned LEAs for necessary action.

Mr. Nassar Farooq Shah from Pakistan Customs stated that while enforcement of IP is an important topic, the need of the hour is awareness about IPR laws. He stated that many LEAs that deal with IPR laws have lack of education about IP and relevant laws; moreover, the same goes for business community as well. He requested the Chair to arrange awareness sessions, especially for field officers, for better and coordinated enforcement. The participants from FIA also endorsed this suggestion and requested separate session for each LEAs.

Mr. Kamran Us Salam Qazi, Assistant Director, FIA said that issue of registered and applied trademarks and copyrights is highlighted in the courts by the attorneys of IP litigators. He further said that there was the need to establish IP tribunal at Peshawar at the earliest as they have to proceed their cases in FIA courts where issue of

jurisdiction is raised by the lawyers. Chair IPO said that IPO-Pakistan will expedite the case of establishment of IP Tribunal at Peshawar.

Mr. Shafiq Ahmed, AD, KP Food Safety and Halal Food Authority said that their Authority is taking effective actions against false labeling in KP. There is need of effective coordination between IPO-Pakistan and KP Food Authority to discourage use of unethical and immoral trademarks by the food industry producers.

The text of Intellectual Property (Enforcement & Coordination) Rules, 2025 was also discussed during the meeting. The Chair advised the members of LEAs to review the draft text and forward their written input to IPO-Pakistan within two weeks' time, so that draft should be finalized and forwarded to the Federal Government for approval and notification as per procedure.

The initiative for devising online complaint system by IPO-Pakistan was appreciated by all members. It was suggested by the participants that more IP Tribunals may be established. It was also proposed that capacity building programs for LEAs and awareness/information sessions for business community may be convened on regular basis.

In the end, while welcoming the ideas and suggestions by the participants, the Chair highlighted importance of Data Sharing and feedback from LEAs about enforcement cases. He informed that this data is shared with the Parliament and relevant international forums; showing Pakistan's solid commitment towards fulfilling its obligations under international treaties. His concluding comment underlined that IP Awareness and IPR Enforcement were ultimately crucial for the National Economic Security of Pakistan.



In brief

Police arrests 22 POs Syed Waliullah Shah

NOWSHERA: Police has arrested 22 proclaimed offenders and seizing 9 pistols and 273 rounds of ammunition. The police also arrested 14 drug dealers and recovered 14 kg 689 grams of charas and 3 kg 341 grams of ice. The operations were conducted under the supervision of SDPOs and SHO of various police stations. The police recovered a significant amount of narcotics, including charas and ice, from the arrested suspects. The suspects were booked, and investigations were initiated. The police arrested several suspects, including proclaimed offenders involved in serious crimes like murder, attempted murder, and car lifting. The recoveries included 9 pistols and 273 rounds of ammunition. The police also seized a significant amount of narcotics, including charas and ice.

Three injured as roof collapses F.P. Report

MULTAN: Three people, including a child, were injured as the roof of a house collapsed on Bosan Road, near Nihalewala. According to Rescue 1122, the incident occurred during plastering work when excessive water use weakened the structure, causing the roof — made of cement slab and girders — to give way under its own weight. The victims, identified as 26-year-old Muhammad Irfan, 45-year-old Abdul Aziz, and 8-year-old Muhammad Shoaib, were trapped under the debris. Rescue teams quickly reached the site, provided the first aid, and shifted all three to Nishtar Hospital for further treatment. Rescue officials cited poor construction quality and water damage as the primary reasons for the collapse.

Sindh CM flays firing incident F.P. Report

SUKKUR: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has strongly condemned the firing incident in Khairpur, which resulted in the tragic deaths of three individuals, including a father and son. The CM expressed deep sorrow over the loss of innocent lives, describing the incident as extremely regrettable and unacceptable, said a release issued here on Monday. Syed Murad Ali Shah directed the Khairpur administration to devise an effective strategy to prevent such incidents, which are often rooted in enmity. He instructed the authorities to take concrete measures to curb such violence. The CM has sought an immediate report on the incident from the Inspector General of Police and has ordered the swift arrest of the culprits involved. He also directed that the affected families be provided with full protection and support.

Traffic suspended F.P. Report

NAROWAL: Lasani Express, which was on its way to Narowal from Lahore, derailed near Kala Khatai, resulting in the suspension of railway traffic on Monday. After the incident, Lasani Express came to a halt at Kala Khatai Railway Station. Allama Iqbal Express which was approaching fast behind Lasani Express was made to stop at a railway station. The passengers of Lasani train faced difficulties due to the incident. This was the second incident at the same place and at the same track in a month. A traveller told that the railway track between Narowal and Lahore is in poor condition.



JAMRUD: Formers polio workers holding placards during a protest in favour of their demands. — F.P. photo

Swat admn meets with representative committee

Shafi Ullah

MINGORA: A crucial meeting was held between the District Administration Swat and a Representative Committee to discuss the ongoing operation to eliminate encroachments on the banks of the Swat river in Fizagat and Bypass. The meeting, chaired by Deputy Commissioner Swat Saleem Jan, aimed to address public concerns and find a solution to the issue.

The delegation, comprising of Malakand division traders federation Abdul Rahim Khan, All Hotels association president Zahid Khan, Swat bar association

president Mushtaq Ahmad and representatives from various professional organizations, expressed their concerns about the operation and requested that the Swat River and its surrounding private lands be formally demarcated based on revenue records. They argued to administration to distinguish between legal and illegal constructions.

Deputy Commissioner Saleem Jan assured the delegation that the operation is being carried out in accordance with the instructions of the Peshawar High Court and the provincial government. He clarified that the administration has no per-

sonal differences with any individual or group and that all actions are being taken based on revenue records.

Following the delegation's request, the Deputy Commissioner instructed the formation of a sub-committee to submit a detailed report on encroachments based on revenue records within two days. The next phase of the operation will be started based on the report's findings. The meeting reflects the administration's efforts to engage with stakeholders and find a solution to the complex issue of river encroachments in Swat.

AWKUM launches online verification facility Fazal Haq

MARDAN: Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan has launched an online clearance facility for its students. Through this, students can easily get clearance by visiting its portal. This facility has been introduced by the university to facilitate and support the students, so that they can complete their required documents and verification process online.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Jamil Ahmed said students will be ensured to get their transcript degrees on time so that their valuable time is not wasted. This step will help in finalizing and completing office procedures quickly, will also further More increase transparency.

This decision is in the interest of students and is an important step to improve the education system. He directed the students to collect their dues as soon as possible so that they can benefit from this online clearance facility. Which will give them the opportunity to fulfill their educational needs as soon as possible.

Adulterated food items destroyed F.P. Report

TOBA TEK SINGH: Acting on Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's "Safe Food" vision, a large quantity of substandard and unwholesome meat was seized and destroyed in Toba Tek Singh.

The operation was carried out under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naeem Sandhu in coordination with the Punjab Food Authority, district administration and the Livestock Department. Superintendent Slaughterhouse Dr. Usman Safdar examined the meat and declared it "unfit for human consumption."

The Punjab Food Authority has submitted a formal complaint against those responsible. Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that ensuring the provision of safe and hygienic food to citizens remains a top priority of the district administration. He affirmed that there would be zero tolerance for those compromising public health, and strict legal action will be taken against the culprits.

Uplift projects reviewed F.P. Report

SARGODHA: Commissioner Sargodha Division, Jahanzeb Awan on Monday chaired a meeting to discuss city development projects, focusing on cleanliness, sewerage, beautification, and tree plantation in the city.

According to the spokesperson for the Commissioner office, the meeting also reviewed the city center beautification plan for the central area. The meeting discussed developing Gol Chowk, Kutchery Bazaar, and City Road as model areas, with FESCO briefing on plans to lay underground electric lines in both markets.

Three injured in firing incident at Mayar bazaar

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: Three people, including two children and a young man, were injured in a firing incident in the jurisdiction of Police Station Mayar on Monday. According to Rescue 1122, a medical team provided first aid to the injured at the scene before shifting them to Timergara Hospital for further treatment. The injured were identified as seven-year-old Abu Zar, nine-year-old Muhammad Waleed, and 35-year-old Ishaq.

Police said that Naeemullah and Afnan, residents of Shokrata Mayar, allegedly opened fire on Ishaq over a property dispute, after verbal altercation. Although Ishaq, the brother-in-law of the accused Naeemullah, was injured while stray bullets

hit the two children who happened to be passing by.

Police claimed to have arrested two suspects involved in the firing incident in Mayar Bazaar that left three people injured, including two children. Following the incident, police arrived at the scene promptly and apprehended both suspects through an efficient and well-coordinated operation. A case has been registered against the accused, and further investigation is underway to uncover all aspects of the incident.

Meanwhile, District Police Officer (DPO) Lower Dir Abdul Salam Khalid praised the police team for their timely and effective action, reiterating that the protection of citizens' lives and property is the department's top priority.

NCHD team visits Dir

rehabilitation center for drug addicts:

On the direction of Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Arif Khan, NCHD officials, including Asif Khan (EDUP) on Monday, Ishtiaq Ahmad (AD Monitoring), Shahid Rahim (AD Literacy) and Murad Khan (DRFO) visited the Rehabilitation Center for drug addicts at Timergara. During their visit, they planted fruit trees and discussed the establishment of a literacy center and library with Nisar Ahmad, the rehabilitation officer. The NCHD's official confirmed that they will enhance coordination and utilize available resources for the betterment and rehabilitation of inmates. The Rehabilitation Officer expressed gratitude for the NCHD officials' for their cooperation and coordination.

BD Dy HC visits Larkana Art Council

F.P. Report

LARKANA: Bangladesh Deputy High Commissioner posted in Karachi, SM Mehboob Alam, along with his staff, visited the Arts Council of Pakistan Larkana, during this, an introductory meeting was also held with the officials of the Arts Council Larkana.

On this occasion, ACP Larkana President Muhammad Ismail Jatoui and Secretary Muhammad Hanif Suhag presented Mehboob Alam with a hindi ajrak & cap and gave him a set of books including Aman Adab and Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai's poetry risaalo as a gift. On this occasion, Chairman Archives Advocate Qadeer Ahmed Domki gave

detailed information about the institution of the Arts Council. Talking to the media on this occasion, Bangladesh Deputy High Commissioner posted in Karachi, SM Mehboob Alam said that he was very happy to see the institution of the Arts Council because the institution is our identity that promotes literature and culture.

He added that we will exchange delegations to enlighten each other's culture and tradition. We will present dramas from here in Bengali language and Bengali dramas in the local language. We are proud of this excellent institution that is promoting art, literature and music. He praised the Arts Council and said that the people of Larkana are lively and come to

watch the programs in large numbers with their families. On this occasion, he also visited various departments of the Arts Council, including the library, Bhitai Hall, Open Theater, Drama, Musical Department and Museum, and expressed interest.

On this occasion, he also attended a Raag festival in which Sindhi singer Ash Ali Samo and Sohni Naz sang songs and ghazals. Assistant Commissioner Larkana Raja Khan Qureshi was with him on this occasion, meanwhile, Chairman Library Nazim Hussain Chandio, Chairman Fine Arts Ayub Gad and other people from various departments and attendees participated in the program in large numbers.

JI organizes All Parties Conference

F.P. Report

BUNER: An all-party conference has been organized by Jamaat-e-Islami at Al-Markaz Islami Swari, Buner. The aim of the conference was to identify the problems and difficulties faced by the people of Buner and to prepare a joint action plan to solve these problems and reduce the difficulties.

These objectives were mentioned by the host of the conference, Jamaat-e-Islami District Ameer Engineer Nasir Ali in his opening remarks. The conference was attended by the presidents and general secretaries of all political parties, social and religious business organizations.

Those presented their opinions and suggestions were the PPP Presidents Yousaf Ali Khan, ANP Senior Vice President Haji Rauf Khan, Muslim League President Haji Salar Khan,

Awami Workers Party Divisional President and Central Secretary Youth Usman Fanoos Gujar, Jamaat-e-Islami Deputy Chief Muhammad Hanif Bakht Jahan, Ghulam Mustafa, Buner Press Club President Mukhtar Khan, Marble Association President Khurshid Khan, and others.

The problems and difficulties they shared were, tax is not acceptable in Buner and Malakand Division, obscenity and inflation in other markets including Sawari is not acceptable, drug trafficking in Buner, extortion, illegal occupation, murder and destruction, intimidation, work theft in offices, laziness and laziness, bribery, corruption and commission are not acceptable, shortage of staff in educational institutions, absenteeism, laziness and poor results are not acceptable, not inviting the general public to the open courts of

the administration and instead of inviting prominent personalities and identifying issues, worshiping pots is not acceptable, despite taking crores of load from mobile users in the name of various packages and facilities, the signal is extremely poor, not acceptable, unannounced load shedding of electricity, low voltage, frequent tripping of meters, over billing and double charges of more than two hundred units are not acceptable, delaying tactics in the completion of Katkala grade station are not acceptable, daily political transferred in government departments are not acceptable and poor law and order situation.

A committee comprising one person from each school of thought has been formed. This committee will soon hold a meeting and meet with the relevant institutions and departments and will inform the public of their concerns.

Sunflower break through promises Rs300b annual savings

Dr. Fida Hussain

EDIBLE oil is a vital part of the human diet, providing more than twice the energy per gram than carbohydrates or proteins.

Globally sourced from oilseed crops like sunflower, soybean, and rapeseed, edible oil plays a key role in addressing malnutrition particularly in developing and densely populated countries like Pakistan.

Among these, sunflower (Helianthus annuus L.) is the world's third most important oilseed crop and the second largest hybrid seed crop after corn. Once self sufficient, the country now ranks as the third largest importer of edible oil, after India and China. Pakistan remains heavily dependent on imports, with its annual edible oil bill now crossing Rs1,070 billion, while domestic production covers less than 12% of demand.

A recent breakthrough by scientists at the Oilseed Research Institute (ORI), Ayub Agricultural Research Institute (AARI), and the

University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) has the potential to reshape this landscape. Through this pioneering research work, the Scientists of Oil Seed Research Institute, Faisalabad have developed five short duration, Climate Resilient and high yielding local hybrids which are better in oil quality.

ORISUN-516, ORISUN-648, ORISUN-675, ORISUN-701, and ORISUN-741 specifically adapted to Pakistan's diverse agro-climatic zones. These hybrids mature in just 95-110 days, require less water compared to traditional crops, and contain up to 42% oil with high oleic acid content, making them both economical and heart-healthy. Their adaptability to saline, arid, and rain-fed areas makes them particularly suitable for cultivation in southern Punjab, Sindh, and Balochistan.

Economically, even a 20% shift in edible oil demand to locally produced sunflower oil could save Pakistan over Rs. 200 billion annually. This would

also reduce dependency on palm oil which makes up more than 75% of domestic consumption—lessen the burden on foreign exchange reserves, and stimulate rural employment. The entire value chain, from oil extraction to transport and retail, stands to benefit through enhanced local supply, boosting agricultural GDP via import substitution and value-added processing.

Experts stress that this potential can only be realized with strong national policy support. This includes incentives for hybrid seed production, input subsidies, minimum support prices, and robust farmer outreach programs. Public-private partnerships in seed distribution, processing, and marketing are also key to scaling up adoption. With the right measures, sunflower cultivation could transform Pakistan from a net importer to a self-reliant producer of edible oil, securing food systems, empowering farmers, and unlocking new avenues for rural and economic development.

Polio workers demand of reinstatement

F.P. Report

JAMRUD: Hundreds of polio supervisors and field workers in a protest rally held at Babe-e-Khyber, jamrud demanded of the health department to restore their previous permanent position and pay salaries monthly instead of daily wage.

It is to be stated here that the provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa eliminated permanent status of the polio workers and under the WHO directions they will make payment as daily wagers during the

polio eradication campaign. Large number of polio workers carrying placards and banners inscribed with slogans in favor of their demand, hold a protest rally on Monday.

Addressing the occasion their leaders expressed their regret and said the services of polio high officials who received huge salaries and enjoying luxury facilities in their offices are secure while the poor field workers and area in-charges who have sacrificed their lives for the cause have sacked their permanent jobs that is

unfair.

They urged the provincial government and the WHO to have mercy on them, resumé their old status and pay them their salaries monthly like other permanent government employees. They threatened that if their demand is not addressed then they would announce a boycott of the anti-polio campaign. On the other hand Assistant Commissioner, Landi Kotal Afraseyab Zaubair Hundal vaccinated a child to formally kick off the polio eradication drive in Landi Kotal.



Japan PM hangs on after ‘extremely regrettable’ election

TOKYO (AFP): Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba clung on Monday even after his coalition suffered what he called an “extremely regrettable” election result, as painful new US tariffs loom. In election Ishiba's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which has governed almost continuously since 1955, and its partner Komeito fell a projected three seats short of retaining a majority in the upper house.

Voters angry at inflation turned to other parties, notably the “Japanese first” Sanseito, which made strong gains with its “anti-globalist” drive echoing the agenda of populist parties elsewhere. “I even think (the LDP) should have lost more,” 25-year-old Kazuyo Nanasawa, who voted for a small ultra-conservative party, told AFP, adding that Ishiba should quit. The debacle comes only months after Ishiba's coalition was forced into a minority government in the more powerful lower house, in the LDP's worst result in 15 years.

But asked if he intended to remain in office, Ishiba told local media: “That's right.” “Changes in the external environment, such as the international situation, or natural disasters, cannot wait for the political situation to improve,” Ishiba told a news conference on Monday. “For this reason, although I’m acutely aware of our grave responsibility for the election results, in order to not let politics become stagnant, I believe I must fulfil my responsibility as the party with the most votes and to the people of the country, while listening carefully and sincerely to the voices of the local people,” he said. It was unclear in any case who might step up to replace Ishiba now that the government needs opposition support in both chambers to pass legislation.

LDP supporter Takeshi Nemoto, 80, told AFP that a new leadership contest “would be a losing battle” for



the party, further complicating tariff talks with US President Donald Trump's administration. “Diplomacy is under pressure at the moment,” agreed Shuhei Aono, 67. “Who is going to take care of it? I think (Ishiba) cannot easily withdraw.” The election saw 125 seats in the 248-seat upper house contested. The coalition needed 50 of those but local media reported they only won 47, with the LDP winning 39 and Komeito eight, giving them 122 deputies. Second-placed was the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan (CDP), which won 22 contested seats, followed by the Democratic Party For the People (DPP) with 17. The right-wing Sanseito party won 14 seats. Sanseito wants “stricter rules and limits” on immigration, opposes “radical” gender policies, and wants a rethink on decarbonisation and vaccines.

It was forced last week to deny any links to Moscow -- which has backed populist parties elsewhere -- after a candidate was interviewed by Russian state media. The opposition is fragmented, and chances are slim that the parties can form an alternative government. Hidehiro Yamamoto, politics and sociology

professor at the University of Tsukuba, told AFP. Expanding the coalition would be difficult, with the DPP the most likely partner “on the condition that (the government) delivers some of the positive fiscal measures, such as tax cuts,” he said. More likely is that Ishiba will continue needing opposition support on a case-by-case basis to pass legislation. After years of stagnant or falling prices, consumers in the world's fourth-largest economy have been squeezed by inflation since Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine. In particular, the price of rice has doubled, squeezing many household budgets despite government handouts. Not helping is lingering resentment about an LDP funding scandal, and US tariffs of 25 percent due to bite from August 1 if there is no trade deal. Japanese imports are already subject to a 10 percent tariff, while the auto industry, which accounts for eight percent of jobs, is reeling from a 25 percent levy. Tariffs envoy Ryosei Akazawa left on his eighth visit to Washington. “We will achieve an agreement that is beneficial to both Japan and the US, based on the concept of investment rather than tariffs,” said Ishiba.

Calm returns to south Syria after violence that killed over 1,100

DAMASCUS (AFP): Calm returned to southern Syria's Sweida province, a monitor and AFP correspondents reported, after a week of sectarian violence between Druze fighters and rival groups that killed more than 1,100 people.

A ceasefire appeared to be holding after earlier agreements failed to end fighting between long-time rivals the Druze and the Bedouin that spiralled to draw in the Islamist-led government, the Israeli military and armed tribes from other parts of Syria. AFP correspondents on the outskirts of Sweida city reported hearing no clashes, with government forces deployed in some locations in the province to enforce the truce.

The first humanitarian aid convoy entered the city, Red Crescent official Omar al-Malki said, adding that it would be followed by others. He said the convoy came “in coordination with the government bodies and the local authorities in Sweida”, which are controlled by the Druze. The Syrian government meanwhile said a Druze group blocked its own convoy

from entering the city. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said, “Sweida has been experiencing a cautious calm”, adding government security forces had blocked roads leading to the province in order to prevent tribal fighters from going there. The Britain-based Observatory gave an updated toll of 1,120 killed since the violence erupted a week ago, including 427 Druze fighters and 298 civilians from the minority group, as well as 354 government security personnel and 21 Sunni Bedouin. Witnesses, Druze factions and the Observatory have accused government forces of siding with the Bedouin and committing abuses including summary executions when they entered Sweida days ago. Hanadi Obaid, a 39-year-old doctor, told AFP that “the city hasn't seen calm like this in a week”. The interior ministry said overnight that Sweida city was “evacuated of all tribal fighters, and clashes within the city's neighbourhoods were halted”.

The Observatory had said Druze fighters retook

control of the city. Interim President Ahmed al-Sharaa had announced a ceasefire in Sweida and renewed a pledge to protect Syria's ethnic and religious minorities in the face of the latest sectarian violence since Islamists overthrew long-time ruler Bashar al-Assad in December. A spokesman for Syria's tribal and clan council told Al Jazeera that fighters had left the city “in response to the call of the presidency and the terms of the agreement”. A medic inside Sweida told AFP by telephone that “the situation is totally calm... We aren't hearing clashes.” Residents of Sweida city, who number at about 150,000, have been holed up in their homes without electricity and water, and food supplies have also been scarce. An AFP photographer said the morgue at Sweida's main hospital was full and bodies were lying on the ground outside the building. The United Nations migration agency said more than 128,000 people in Sweida province have been displaced by the violence.

US special envoy to Syria Tom Barrack said that

the country stood at a “critical juncture”, adding that “peace and dialogue must prevail -- and prevail now”. “All factions must immediately lay down their arms, cease hostilities, and abandon cycles of tribal vengeance,” he wrote on X, saying “brutal acts by warring factions on the ground undermine the government's authority and disrupt any semblance of order”. Sharaa's announcement came hours after the United States said it had negotiated a ceasefire between Syria's government and Israel, which had bombed government forces in both Sweida and Damascus earlier in the week. Israel, which has its own Druze community, has said it was acting in defence of the group, as well as to enforce its demands for the total demilitarisation of Syria's south. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio urged the Syrian government's security forces to prevent jihadists from entering and “carrying out massacres” in the south, and called on Damascus to “bring to justice anyone guilty of atrocities including those in their own ranks”.

Heatwave causes water shortages in Iran as temps top 50C

TEHRAN: Iranian authorities have urged people to limit water consumption as the country grapples with severe shortages during an ongoing heatwave. The national meteorological service said Iran is experiencing its hottest week of the year so far with temperatures exceeding 50 degrees Celsius (122 Fahrenheit) in some areas.

Government spokesperson Fatemeh Mohajerani announced in a post on X that Tehran province would observe a public holiday because of the ongoing heatwave. “In light of the continued extreme heat and the necessity of conserving water and electricity, ... has been declared a holiday in Tehran province,” she wrote. Temperatures in Tehran reached 40C (104F) with a further rise to 41C (106F) forecast for Monday, according to meteorological reports. Water scarcity is a major issue in Iran, particularly in arid provinces in the country's south, with shortages blamed on mismanagement and overexploitation of underground resources, as well as the growing impact of climate change. Tehran city council chair Mehdi Chamran urged people to “conserve water to avoid drops in supplies”, according to the ISNA news agency.

Authorities across Iran have issued similar appeals in recent days, asking residents in several provinces to limit water usage. Tehran's provincial water management company called for usage to be reduced by “at least 20 percent” to help ease the shortages. In a statement, it said “the reservoirs of the dams supplying water to Tehran are currently at their lowest level in a century”, following years of steady decline in rainfall. Javan, a conservative newspaper, reported that authorities reduced water supplies in parts of the capital in a bid to mitigate the crisis, resulting in “water outages lasting between 12 and 18 hours” in some areas. Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi apologised for reduced water supplies, saying the move comes “to better manage resources”. — Aljazeera

Arrested Kenyan activist faces terror charges

AIROBI (AFP): Renowned Kenyan rights activist Boniface Mwangi is accused of “facilitation of terrorist acts” during protests that rocked the country last month, investigators said, a day after he was arrested. At least 19 people were killed during the June 25 demonstration against President William Ruto's government, which was itself called to pay tribute to victims of police violence at another major protest on the same date last year.

Mwangi, who was arrested at his home near Nairobi, is being held at a police station in the capital and will be arraigned on Monday. Kenya's Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) said on X. The activist denies the charges, saying in a social media post shared by his supporters: “I am not a terrorist.” His detention triggered a wave of condemnation online, with the hashtag #FreeBonifaceMwangi going viral. Rights groups also condemned his arrest. The search warrant police used to raid Mwangi's home, which an ally shared with journalists, accuses the campaigner of having paid “goons” to stoke unrest at last month's protests. However, 37 rights organisations, along with dozens of activists, said that none had yet managed to prove that a judge had indeed issued that warrant. Mwangi's arrest on “unjustified terrorism allegations” represents an abuse of the justice system to crush the opposition, the organisations said in a joint statement. “What began as targeted persecution of young protesters demanding accountability has metastasized into a full-scale assault on Kenya's democracy,” the groups said.

Gaza’s children have missed two years of school

KHAN YOUNIS (AP): Two years ago, Sarah Qanan was a star high school student preparing for final exams and dreaming of becoming a doctor. Today, the 18-year-old lives in a sweltering tent in the Gaza Strip and says she is just trying to stay alive.

She's part of a generation of Palestinians from grade school through university who have had virtually no access to education in the territory since the war began in October 2023. Classes were suspended that month and schools were transformed into crowded shelters as hundreds of thousands fled their homes at the start of Israel's campaign of retaliation after Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack.

The closure of schools has removed a key social outlet for young people as they grapple with war, hunger and displacement. For younger children, it has meant missing out on basic skills like reading and simple arithmetic. For older students, advanced subjects, graduation exams and college applications have all been put on hold. Even if negotiations lead to another ceasefire, it's unclear when anything in Gaza will be rebuilt. Vast areas have been completely destroyed, and the UN children's agency estimates that nearly 90% of schools will need substantial reconstruction before they can function again.

Like many in Gaza, Qanan's family has been displaced multiple times and is now living in a tent. When an Israeli airstrike destroyed their home in early 2024, she dug through the rubble in search of her books, but “there was nothing left.” “My sole dream was to study medicine,” Qanan said. “I stopped thinking about it. All my

thoughts now are about how to survive.” More than 650,000 students have had no access to education since the start of the war, according to the UN children's agency, UNICEF. That includes nearly 40,000 students who were unable to take university entry exams that largely determine their career prospects.

It's the first time in decades that the exams were not administered in Gaza. Israel's bombardment and ground operations have killed tens of thousands of Palestinians and displaced 90% of Gaza's population. School-age children in crowded shelters and tent camps are often forced to help their families find food, water and firewood. A complete Israeli blockade imposed in early March that was only slightly eased 2 ½ months later has driven the territory to the brink of famine. Local education officials, working with UNICEF and other aid groups, set up hundreds of learning spaces to try and provide education during the war. “We're trying to salvage what we can of the educational process, so that the next generation doesn't slip through our fingers,” said Mohamed al-Asouli, head of the education department in the southern city of Khan Younis.

During a six-week ceasefire in January and February, some 600 learning spaces provided lessons for around 173,000 children, according to UNICEF. But since March, when Israel ended the truce with a surprise bombardment, nearly half have shut down. “The impact goes beyond learning losses,” said Rosalia Bollen, a UNICEF spokeswoman. “Children in Gaza have been trapped in a cycle not just of exposure to unprecedented violence, but

also a cycle of fear, of toxic stress, of anxiety.” Some have tried to continue their studies through online learning, but it's not easy in Gaza, where there has been no central electricity since the start of the war. Palestinians must use solar panels or hard-to-find generators to charge their phones, and internet is unreliable. “The mobile phone is not always charged, and we only have one at home,” said Nesma Zouaroub, a mother of four school-age children. She said her youngest son should be in second grade but does not know how to read or write.

“The children's future is ruined,” she said. Ola Shaban tried to continue her civil engineering studies online through her university after the campus was destroyed by Israeli forces in April 2024. She had to walk long distances to get a signal in her hometown near Khan Younis, and she eventually gave up. “I couldn't continue because of lack of internet, continuous displacement and the constant sense of fear,” she said. “Two years of my life are gone.” Israel's offensive has killed over 57,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. The ministry, which is part of the Hamas-run government, does not differentiate between combatants and civilians but says over half the dead are women and children. Its figures are used by the UN and other international organizations as the most reliable statistics on war casualties. Hamas-led militants killed some 1,200 people in the Oct. 7 attack and abducted 251. They are still holding 50 hostages, less than half believed to be alive, after most of the rest were released in ceasefire deals or other agreements.

UK battles anti-vax misinformation

LONDON (AFP): A child's death from measles has sparked urgent calls from British public health officials to get children vaccinated, as the UK faces an onslaught of misinformation on social media, much of it from the United States. Measles is a highly infectious disease that can cause serious complications. It is preventable through double MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) jabs in early childhood.

Health Secretary Wes Streeting on July 14 confirmed to parliament that a child had died in the UK of measles. No details have been released, but The Sunday Times and Liverpool Echo newspapers reported the child had been severely ill with measles and other serious health problems in Alder Hey hospital in the north-western city. Anti-vaxxers quickly posted unconfirmed claims about the death on social media. One British influencer, Ellie Grey, who has more than 200,000 followers on Instagram, posted a video denying the child died from measles. “Measles isn't this deadly disease... it's not

dangerous,” she said. Grey criticised Alder Hey for posting a video “really, really pushing and manipulating parents into getting the MMR vaccine”.

Her video was reposted by another British influencer, Kate Shemirani, a struck-off ex-nurse who posts health conspiracy theories. “No vaccine has ever been proven safe and no vaccine has ever been proven effective,” Shemirani claimed falsely. Liverpool's public health chief Matthew Ashton attacked those “spreading misinformation and disinformation about childhood immunisations” in the Echo newspaper, saying “they need to take a very long, hard look at themselves.” “For those of you that don't know, measles is a really nasty virus,” he said in a video, adding that the jab is a way of “protecting yourself and your loved ones”. Alder Hey said it has treated 17 children with measles since June. It posted a video in which a paediatric infectious diseases consultant, Andrew McArdle, addresses measles “myths”, including that the MMR jab causes

autism. This false claim comes from a debunked 1998 study by a British doctor, Andrew Wakefield, who was later struck off. But it sparked an international slump in vaccinations.

Benjamin Kasstan-Dabush, a medical anthropologist at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, told AFP there are still “lingering questions around the Wakefield era”. He talked to parents who had delayed vaccinating their children, finding reasons included life events and difficulty getting health appointments, but also misinformation. “We're obviously talking about a different generation of parents, who might be engaging with that Wakefield legacy through social media, through the internet, and of course through Kennedy,” he said. US President Donald Trump appointed Robert F. Kennedy Jr as health secretary despite his promotion of anti-vaccine conspiracy theories. Kennedy fired all 17 experts on a key vaccine advisory panel and appointed a scientist who warned against Covid jabs.

Congo and rebels have committed to ending war

DAKAR (AP): Congo and Rwanda-backed rebels have signed a declaration of principles for a permanent ceasefire in eastern Congo, where ethnic tensions and quest for rich minerals have resulted in one of Africa's longest conflicts with thousands killed this year. The African Union called signing, facilitated by Qatar, a “major milestone” in peace efforts. Qatari authorities said it paves the way for “a comprehensive peace that addresses the deep-rooted causes of the conflict” in the Central African nation.

The conflict can be traced to the aftermath of the Rwandan genocide of 1994, when Hutu soldiers and militias killed between 500,000 and 1 million minority Tutsis as well as moderate Hutus and the Indigenous Twa. When Tutsi-led rebels stopped the genocide and

ousted the Hutu government, nearly 2 million Hutus fled into neighboring Congo, fearing reprisals. Rwandan authorities accused the authorities in Kinshasa of sheltering those responsible for the mass killings among the civilian refugees, most of whom had returned when Rwanda first invaded Congo in 1996. But Kigali said the remaining Hutu fighters in eastern Congo are still a threat to Rwanda's Tutsi population, and wants them neutralized. At least 6 million people have been killed in the conflict since then, mostly characterized by on-and-off fighting but also famines and unchecked disease outbreaks. Analysts have said a lot of interests in the conflict in Congo are tied to the mostly untapped minerals in the east, estimated to be worth as much as \$24 trillion by the US Department of

Commerce. The Trump administration has pushed to gain access to the minerals key to much of the world's technology. It is also to counter China, a key player in the region where the US presence and influence have eroded. That is already playing out with KoBold Metals, a US mining company that announced it has signed an agreement with Congo for “large-scale minerals exploration program” in the east. Rwanda's interests are also tied to the conflict minerals, although it often says its involvement is to protect its territory and punish those connected to the 1994 genocide. A team of UN experts said in a report in December that Rwanda was benefitting from minerals “fraudulently” exported from areas under the control of the M23. Rwanda denied this.

Volunteers flock to immigration courts to support migrants

SEATTLE (AP): After a Seattle immigration judge dismissed the deportation case against a Colombian man - exposing him to expedited removal - three people sat with him in the back of the courtroom, taking his car keys for safekeeping, helping him memorize phone numbers and gathering the names of family members who needed to be notified.

When Judge Brett Parchert asked why they were doing that in court, the volunteers said Immigration and Custom Enforcement officers were outside the door, waiting to take the man into custody, so this was their only chance to help him get his things in order. “ICE is in the waiting room?” the judge asked. As the mass deportation campaign of President Donald Trump focuses on cities and states led by Democrats and unleashes fear among asylum-seekers and immigrants, their legal defenders sued this week, seeking class-action protections against the arrests outside immigration court hearings. Meanwhile, these volunteers are taking action.

A diverse group - faith leaders, college students, grandmothers, retired lawyers and professors - has been showing up at

immigration courts across the nation to escort immigrants at risk of being detained for deportation by masked ICE officials. They're giving families moral and logistical support, and bearing witness as the people are taken away. The Northwest Immigrant Rights Project was inundated by so many community members wanting to help that they made a volunteer training video, created “Know Your Rights” sheets in several languages and started a Google sheet where people sign up for shifts, said Stephanie Gai, a staff attorney with the Seattle-based legal services non-profit.

“We could not do it without them,” Gai said. “Some volunteers request time off work so they can come in and help.” Robby Rohr, a retired non-profit director said she volunteers regularly. “Being here makes people feel they are remembered and recognized,” she said “It's such a bureaucratic and confusing process. We try to help them through it.” Recording videos of detentions to post online online Volunteers and legal aid groups have long provided free legal orientation in immigration court but the arrests have posed new challenges. Since May, the government

has been asking judges to dismiss deportation cases.

Once the judge agrees, ICE officials arrest them in the hallways and put them in fast-track deportation proceedings, no matter which legal immigration pathway they may have been pursuing. Once in custody, it's often harder to find or afford a lawyer. Immigration judges are executive branch employees, and while some have resisted Homeland Security lawyers' dismissal orders in some cases, many are granted. Masked ICE agents grabbed the Colombian man and led him into the hallway. A volunteer took his backpack to give to his family as he was taken away. Other cases on the day's docket involved immigrants who didn't show up. Parchert granted “removal in absentia” orders, enabling ICE to arrest them later. When asked about these arrests and the volunteers at immigration courts, a senior spokesperson with the Department of Homeland Security said ICE is once again implementing the rule of law by reversing “Biden's catch and release policy that allowed millions of unvetted illegal aliens to be let loose on American streets.” Some volunteers have recorded arrests in

courtroom hallways, traumatic scenes that are proliferating online. How many similar scenes are happening nationwide remains unclear. The Executive Office for Immigration Review has not released numbers of cases dismissed or arrests made at or near immigration courts.

While most volunteers have done this work without incident, some have been arrested for interfering with ICE agents. New York City Comptroller and Democratic mayoral candidate Brad Lander was arrested after locking arms with a person in a failed attempt to prevent his detention. Lander's wife, attorney Meg Barnette, had just joined him in walking migrants from a courtroom to the elevator. The volunteers' act of witnessing has proven to be important as people disappear into a detention system that can seem chaotic, leaving families without any information about their whereabouts for days on end. In a waiting room serving New York City immigration courtrooms, a Spanish-speaking woman with long dark curly hair was sitting anxiously with her daughter after she and her husband had separate hearings. Now he was nowhere to be found.

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Camp Mystic girls raise thousands for Texas flood aid

COCO Grieshaber, an 8-year-old Camp Mystic alumna, threaded beads into a homemade bracelet at her dining room table, sharing memories of the Texas summer camp that she left four days before flooding devastated the area on Fourth of July weekend.

She chose pink and green beads, while her 11-year-old sister Max, another Camp Mystic alumna who attended the camp in prior years, chose various shades of purple for the bracelets they were selling to raise money for a camp staffer who was impacted by the flood, according to the Tribune News Service.

A pile of finished bracelets that read "Mystic" were scattered in between them, the word book-ended by beads with crosses or hearts. Outside their home in Fort Worth's Tanglewood neighborhood, a "Praying for Mystic" yard sign quotes a Bible verse: the book of John, chapter one, verse five.

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

Coco and Max are among several Fort Worth children with connections to Camp Mystic who are making and selling homemade jewelry to raise money for the Christian summer camp for girls in Central Texas, which is still reeling from the loss of 27 campers and counselors. Gov. Greg Abbott said this week 101 people remain missing statewide, and 131 people have been pronounced dead, mostly in the Kerr County area, where the Guadalupe River rose by more than 25 feet in the middle of the night.

Coco first sold 50 bracelets through a lemonade stand last week with her friends and fellow campers Audrey and Elizabeth Hernandez, who are 8-year-old twins, she said.

They sold more than \$3,000 worth of bracelets in one day, selling them for as much as buyers were willing to give, in addition to lemonade, cookies and painted crosses. They've continued to get requests through word of mouth, raising an additional \$1,500 in the past week.

Candace Hernandez, Audrey and Elizabeth's mother, said her twin daughters have been making bracelets this week in Maui during a family vacation, as other travelers noticed the girls making them by the pool and put orders in. There have been at least 30 bracelets sold on the second largest island in the Hawaiian archipelago.

"I'm so proud of them for doing what 8-year-olds can do, and coming up with an idea and putting it all together and putting it into motion to do something good to help," Candace Hernandez said. "Our hearts ache for those parents that didn't get to be reunited with their daughters, and our faith reassures us that they are safe in heaven with Jesus."

The funds are being donated to Cassie Wilson, a former camper turned camp employee whose home was damaged and car was lost to the flood and who is grieving the loss of loved ones, according to Coco and Max's mother, Kayt Grieshaber.

"Most of us know her as the photographer who brings us so much joy of our girls at camp," Kayt Grieshaber said. "We all looked daily for photos of our girls. Cassie was our communication line, our way of checking in on if it was a happy smile or homesick smile or living-their-best-life smile. Took this for granted but forever thankful."

Kayt Grieshaber said the flood has hit close to home, especially with picking up her youngest daughter Coco a few days before it happened. Coco was at the Cypress Lake part of the camp, which is referred to as "new camp," while the Guadalupe River part of the camp is referred to as "old camp."

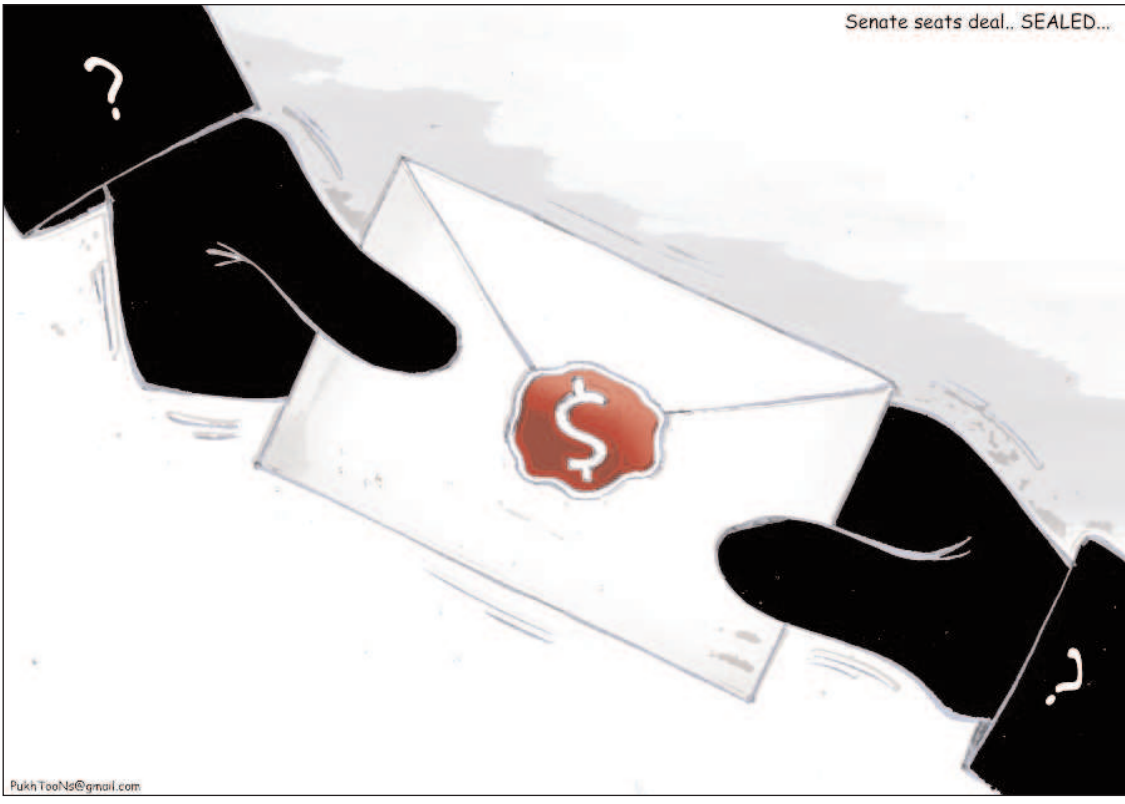
"You hate to have those things go through your head, but just what if? And you know, it could have been her. She was at Cypress Lake and wasn't at Guadalupe River, but just the magic of the camp and seeing the images of it just being destroyed, it's heartbreaking," she said. "It just makes you sick to your stomach."

Coco Grieshaber said she wants the impacted families to know that God is watching over them during this difficult time.

"God is right beside them, and people are praying," said Coco, who attended Camp Mystic for the first time this year with Audrey and Elizabeth.

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.



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Why is the UN not declaring famine in Gaza?

Moncef Khane

ON July 9, 2024, no fewer than 11 experts mandated by the United Nations Human Rights Council issued a mayday call about famine in Gaza.

"We declare that Israel's intentional and targeted starvation campaign against the Palestinian people is a form of genocidal violence and has resulted in famine across all of Gaza. We call upon the international community to prioritise the delivery of humanitarian aid by land by any means necessary, end Israel's siege, and establish a ceasefire," their statement read.

Among the experts were Michael Fakhri, special rapporteur on the right to food, Pedro Arrojo-Agudo, special rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, and Francesca Albanese, special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967. In their opinion, the death of children from starvation despite attempts to provide them with medical treatment in central Gaza left no room for equivocation.

While "famine" is generally understood as an acute lack of nutrition which would lead to starvation and death of a group of people or an entire population, there is no universally accepted definition of the concept in international law.

However, in 2004, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) developed the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), a five-stage quantitative humanitarian scale to map the food insecurity of a population.

The aim of this evaluation instrument is to spur collective action when food insecurity is identified and prevent such situations from reaching

Level 5 on the IPC scale when famine is confirmed and declared. It has been used by FAO, the World Food Programme (WFP) and their partners as a scientific, data-driven tool for the past 20 years.

The IPC quantifiable criteria for declaring famine are gruesomely straightforward: 20 percent or more of households in an area face extreme food shortages with a limited ability to cope; acute malnutrition in children exceeds 30 percent; and the death rate exceeds two people per 10,000 per day. When these three benchmarks are met, "famine" needs to be declared.

Although it does not trigger legal or treaty obligations, it is nevertheless an important political signal to compel an international humanitarian action.

If the aforementioned experts could conclude, in unison and over a year ago, that famine was present in the besieged Gaza Strip, it is hard to understand why the competent UN entities and executive heads have not yet reached the conclusion that Level 5 has been reached by July of this year, after over four months of a medieval siege.

In the era of real-time information transmitted to smartphones the world over, the reality of fatal levels of food insecurity is glaring and unconscionable.

Images of emaciated bodies reminiscent of those taken in Nazi concentration camps tell the macabre tale of the reality in Gaza, blockaded by the uncompromising Israeli occupation forces.

And yet, even against the backdrop of UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) warnings issued on July 20 that one million children

in Gaza are facing the risk of starvation, "famine" is not yet declared.

On the surface, the explanation for not declaring "famine" in Gaza is that the necessary data used under the IPC scheme is not available. This may well be the case since Israel prevents access to the Gaza Strip to journalists and some humanitarian workers.

IPC analysts, therefore, do not have primary data collection capabilities, which they have for the other 30 or so situations they monitor. But when the physical evidence is plain to see, when some reliable data is available, humanitarian considerations ought to override technical requirements.

However, in today's UN system culture trans-fixed by a US administration gone amok against it, political considerations override the sense of duty and professional imperatives. Those at the helm know what is right (or one hopes so) — and what could be fatal to their persona and careers.

The US government's ad hominem attacks against and sanctions imposed on Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) Karim Khan and UN Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese are a vivid reminder that those jobs are not without risks. In the case of Albanese, her mandate is not even a "job" as she is carrying it out pro bono, which makes her steadfastness and courage all the more exemplary.

Admittedly, UN executive heads such as Secretary-General Antonio Guterres have more complex calculations to contend with, punitive actions by some powers on the organisation they lead being the principal one. As the say-

ing goes, "money talks" and the US is the single largest contributor to the UN system.

But now that the US Congress has passed an unprecedented bill defunding the UN system, not doing what is right to shield the concerned UN organisations from Washington's retaliatory wrath is no longer an acceptable cop-out, if it ever was.

It is important here to remember that the Statute of the ICC provides that starvation of civilians constitutes a war crime when committed in international armed conflicts. The full siege of Gaza since March 2, which is resulting in the starvation of civilians, first and foremost infants and children, falls squarely within the purview of Article 8 of the Statute, all the more so as it is the result of a deliberate and declaratory policy denying humanitarian assistance for months.

In this man-made famine, Palestinians are starving to death amid the deafening silence of the world, while tonnes of food are going to waste on the Egyptian side of the border while awaiting permission to enter Gaza. Israeli troops and foreign mercenaries hired by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation have killed more than 900 Palestinians seeking aid at so-called humanitarian distribution sites. Some 90,000 children and women are in need of urgent treatment for malnutrition, according to the WFP; 19 people died of starvation in a single day on July 20, the Gaza Ministry of Health reported. And worse is yet to come.

Michael Fakhri, Pedro Arrojo-Agudo and Francesca Albanese said it a year ago — it is high time for the UN to officially declare that "famine" is in Gaza.

Yom-e-Ilhaq-e-Pakistan

A historic commitment of Kashmir to Pakistan

Muhammad Kashif

EVERY year on July 19, we commemorate Yom-e-Ilhaq-e-Pakistan - the Day of Accession to Pakistan - a deeply significant and solemn occasion in the political and historical journey of Jammu and Kashmir. On this day in 1947, the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference, representing the aspirations of the Kashmiri people, passed a landmark resolution in Srinagar, declaring the will of the people of the region to accede to the soon-to-be-formed state of Pakistan.

This resolution was not merely a political gesture, but a powerful expression of the cultural, religious, and ideological alignment between the people of Kashmir and Pakistan. The decision was rooted in the Two-Nation Theory, the foundational principle behind the creation of Pakistan, and reflected the overwhelming desire of

the Muslim majority population of Kashmir to join a state where their religious and cultural identity could thrive.

The resolution of July 19, 1947, came before the partition of British India and the formal creation of Pakistan on August 14, 1947. It was a clear and proactive declaration of intent - a democratic expression made through a representative political platform. The people of Kashmir envisioned their future in Pakistan, driven by shared values, economic and geographical connectivity, and a common struggle for self-determination.

Unfortunately, this rightful aspiration of the Kashmiri people was denied by force when the Maharaja of Kashmir, against the will of the majority, chose to accede to India under controversial circumstances, triggering a conflict that con-

tinues to this day.

Since then, the people of Indian-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir have faced decades of oppression, human rights violations, and denial of basic freedoms.

Despite this, the spirit of resistance and the dream of self-determination remain alive in the hearts of Kashmiris. Yom-e-Ilhaq-e-Pakistan serves as a reminder that their voices, though suppressed, continue to echo the desire for freedom and accession to Pakistan.

Pakistan has consistently reaffirmed its moral, diplomatic, and political support to the Kashmiri cause and advocates for the resolution of the dispute in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions, which call for a free and fair plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir.

On Yom-e-Ilhaq-e-Pakistan, Pakistanis across the country and

around the world stand in solidarity with the people of Kashmir. It is a day to remember the sacrifices made, to honor the historical decision of accession, and to renew the commitment to the just and peaceful resolution of the Kashmir issue.

The occasion also calls on the international community to recognize the legitimate aspirations of the Kashmiri people and to act against the continuing injustices, demographic changes, and curtailment of freedoms in the occupied territory.

Yom-e-Ilhaq-e-Pakistan is not just a date in history - it is a symbol of a shared destiny. It reflects the unbreakable bond between Kashmir and Pakistan and reaffirms our collective responsibility to ensure that the promise made by the people of Kashmir in 1947 is honored. Their struggle is not forgotten, and the dream of freedom lives on.

Sanctioning the truth

Michael Jansen

UN rapporteur for Palestine Francesca Albanese retorted to the US decision to sanction her by stating on X that "the powerful [are] punishing those who speak for the powerless; it is not a sign of strength, but of guilt." This amounts to the call of "kill the messenger" adopted by influential actors who refuse to intervene to prevent cruelty and injustice.

"Albanese's campaign of political and economic warfare against the United States and Israel will no longer be tolerated," US Secretary of State Marco Rubio posted on social media. "We will always stand by our partners in their right to self-defence."

Independent Italian human rights lawyer Albanese has been in the crosshairs of the US and Israel since she took up the five-year post in May 2022. This intensified this year after her mandate was renewed for another five years. She has referred to Israel's 21-month deadly and devastating military campaign on Gaza as "genocide" and accused the US of complicity by providing Israel with arms and political cover. In September 2004, she told Modern Times Review, the lack of curbs on Israel displays "the ineffectiveness of international law and of the multilateral system. It's not just that Israel is not listening to me or my reports only. Israel is not listening to the International Court of Justice, the Security Council, which ordered a ceasefire, or the Human Rights Council, which requested an arms embargo."

She warned that "Israel and the United States are bringing the clock back 100 years...with very few states doing what they can to stop it [consequently we are heading toward] a lawless world."

"The imposition of sanctions on special rapporteurs is a dangerous [and] 'is unacceptable,'" UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric declared. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has been urged to take action against US sanctions in the UN

Jurg Lauber regretted the imposition of sanctions and urged UN member states "to fully cooperate with the special rapporteurs [and] refrain from any acts of intimidation or reprisal against them."

Former European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell wrote on X that for the first time in the world organisation's history, the US has imposed sanctions on a UN mandate holder and argued that Washington's sanctions constitute a "flagrant violation of [the UN's] Charter." He said, "The EU is bound by its history and treaties to defend [International] Law and must ensure the protection of UN mandate holders."

Amnesty International's secretary general Agnes Callamard responded to US sanctions by saying, "This is a shameless and transparent attack on the fundamental principles of inter-national justice. Special Rapporteurs are not appointed to please governments or to be popular but to deliver their mandate." Callamard said, Albanese's mandate "is to advocate for human rights and international law. [This is] essential at a time when the very survival of Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip is at stake." Callamard accused the Trump administration of continuing an "assault on international law ...to protect the Israeli government from accountability at all costs."

Irish Labour Party Member of the European Parliament for Dublin Aodhan O Riordan has added his name to those nominating her for the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of her work "to highlight the destruction of Gaza by Israel." He castigated the Trump administration for sanctioning her. He was joined by Canadian legislators and more than 300,000 people who signed a petition calling for her nomination.

The first woman to be appointed to her post. Albanese, 48, is well qualified to carry out her mandate. She received a law degree from the University of Pisa in Italy and a Master of Laws from the

• The imposition of sanctions came in response to her June 30 report submitted to the Council in which she listed more than 30 companies of involvement in "the transformation of Israel's economy of occupation [into] an economy of genocide." The report divides countries complicit in the genocide into specific categories such as arms manufacturers, tech firms, construction companies, service firms, banks, pension funds, insurers, universities, and charities. These include Lockheed Martin, Microsoft, Amazon, Palantir, IBM and Danish shipping giant Maersk. Their combined involvement has enabled Israel to wage war on Gaza and repress Palestinians in the West Bank, she wrote. Her report called on national judicial systems and the International Criminal Court (ICC) to investigate and charge companies and senior executives.

General Assembly or the International Court of Justice.

Unpaid Albanese has been chosen along with a dozen other experts by the 47-member Human Rights Council based in Geneva to monitor and report on human rights in Afghanistan, Belarus, Burundi, Cambodia, North Korea, Eritrea, Myanmar and Russia as well as handed a mandate to investigate the occupied Palestinian territories. While special rapporteurs have no formal authority and do not represent the UN, they can inform the International Criminal Court and other institution of rights violations.

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Rights council president School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) at the University of London. She worked for a decade as an expert on rights and migration for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees. She also advised the UN, global governments, and civil society groups dealing with rights issues in the Middle East and Southeast Asia as well as EU missions in Haiti, Guinea Bissau, and Pakistan. She consulted with US non-profit Project Concern, International on protection issues during the 2014 Ebola emergency in West Africa. She is an affiliate of the Issam Fares Institute of the American University of Beirut.

To protect Israel from being held accountable, the US has sanctioned ICC prosecutor Karim Khan and four ICC judges. The sanctions ban them from entering the US, block assets they hold in the US, and prohibits and penalises anyone, including US citizens, for providing "funds, goods or services" to the sanctioned individuals. The latter measure is meant to deprive Albanese of sources in the conduct of her investigations.

Since Israel's founding in 1948, US presidents have largely ignored the warnings of predecessors. In his 1796 farewell address the first US President George Washington warned the country to avoid permanent alliances with foreign countries and rely instead on temporary alliances for emergencies. He stated, "The nation which indulges toward another habitual hatred or an habitual fondness is in some degree a slave."

Can Trump finally quell the Epstein storm — and is it hurting his presidency?

EVEN President Donald Trump doesn't seem to think his angry and chaotic efforts to end the renewed storm over convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein will work.

He warned in a week-end social media post that “nothing will be good enough” to satisfy what he claims are leftists and troublemakers fanning the uproar.

In reality, however, the controversy was heightened by Trump's defensive outbursts following his aides' clumsy efforts to quell conspiracies they fueled before the 2024 election over Epstein's death in prison and a supposed celebrity client list.

But Trump's Truth Social post raises important questions.

Will the intrigue, which differs from most of his political tangles since it set the president against his own base, be accelerated by new revelations, including curiosity over Trump's past ties to Epstein, an accused sex trafficker?

Or, after two weeks of internal recriminations, will the MAGA movement unite to protect its patron following a Wall Street Journal report Thursday on Trump and Epstein, which the president used to set up his trademark assault on “fake news”?

Trump did everything he could to ignite new political fires Sunday to distract attention from the Epstein saga. He demanded that the NFL's Washington Commanders play again as the Redskins and blasted Obama administration officials over intelligence findings that Russia meddled in the 2016 election to help him.

But the Epstein matter has so far created its own momentum and defied his efforts to quiet it. It's rather curious in this sense, since it seems less pertinent to the lives of millions of Americans than the impact of Trump's radical policy moves and power grabs, which have repeatedly tested the Constitution and risked harming the economy.

But scandals that boil away and don't fade are always a dangerous sign for White Houses, even when the president has a Teflon hide as thick as Trump's.

One reason this controversy has legs is that its foundations are part of the MAGA philosophy — the idea that hidden elites in the intelligence agencies

and government are running an American “deep state” that hides the truth about issues like child sex trafficking. Declarations by Trump officials who fomented the conspiracy that there is nothing to it seemed only to validate the concerns of committed conspiracists in the movement.

The uproar showed no sign of passing at the weekend, frustrating Trump's efforts to highlight the success of his first six months in power, which he has used to gut parts of the federal government and to send a jolt of social change through American life.

Democrats launched a new push to discomfit Trump, parroting demands by some MAGA activists for total transparency over the Epstein case as they try to finally find some traction against a president who has obliterated opposition in Washington.

“The president blaming Democrats for this disaster ... is like that CEO that got caught on camera blaming Coldplay,” Sen Amy Klobuchar, a Minnesota Democrat, told CNN's Jake Tapper on “State of the Union” on Sunday.

“This is his making: He was president when Epstein got indicted for these charges and went to prison. He was president back then. So all of us would believe they know what's in these documents. They know what's there. They have been claiming forever that they should be released.”

The administration's missteps might give Democrats an opening, especially since Trump's approval ratings are now in the low 40s and there is growing public concern over his signature headline deportation policies. A new CNN/SSRS poll Sunday showed that 55% of Americans think Trump has gone too far with his deportations.

But despite fierce internal bickering in the MAGA movement, it's doubtful Epstein is a deal-breaker for most of the president's supporters. A CBS News poll Sunday showed GOP voters evenly split over the Trump administration's handling of the matter. A majority of MAGA Republicans said they were satisfied; only 36% of all voters and 11% of Republicans said the issue matters “a lot” when evaluating Trump's presidency.

But if the public feels this way, why won't the storm abate?

Stephen Collinson

GOP officeholders are still having a tough time navigating Epstein questions, a sign perhaps that the political impact might be greater than initially expected. Closing ranks around Trump, they are now trying to create a classic GOP vs. Democrats fight that might further confuse and polarize the public.

Tennessee Republican Rep. Tim Burchett recalled that Democrats had blocked GOP attempts to release all information on the case when they held power in the Senate. “Where the heck was she the last four years?” Burchett asked, also on “State of the Union,” in a reference to Klobuchar.

Trump's hopes of dampening the furor may depend partly on matters out of his control. But if he simply stopped talking about it, it might help. His frequent outbursts and claims that nobody cares about Epstein could be just Trump being Trump. But they also offered an opening for critics to suggest he's got something to hide.

And the weekend brought several media accounts detailing the past relationship between Trump and Epstein — two tabloid fixtures in New York whose association was no secret early in the 21st century.

No law enforcement authorities have ever accused Trump of wrongdoing in relation to Epstein. But more revelations of their past contacts could enliven public interest and frustrate the president's attempts to change the subject. That does not mean that Trump necessarily did anything wrong, or that anything occurred that could hurt him politically now. It's still not clear whether this is a controversy that could impose a real cost on a presidency or something that could blow over in a couple of weeks.

Still, a Wall Street Journal report last week about a collection of letters gifted to Epstein for his 50th birthday in 2003, including a note bearing Trump's name and an outline of a naked woman, is reverberating.

CNN has not independently confirmed the report, and the president and his lawyers said the letter supposedly sent by Trump was a fake. Trump has filed a \$20 billion libel suit against the paper. But the spectacle of a court battle between the

president and The Journal's owner, Rupert Murdoch — a clash between two of the most influential and powerful titans of the conservative movement — is guaranteed to electrify public attention over the Epstein case.

But comments by MAGA influencers such as Steve Bannon suggested that a fight between Trump and a paper seen as a pillar of the old right-wing establishment could heal splits in the movement. And Trump is an expert at weaponizing attacks against him to galvanize supporters. Consider how he turned his four criminal indictments into the most famous political comeback in history.

There are other aspects of the uproar that make an accurate assessment of its long-term impact impossible.

Outsiders can't know for sure whether the Trump Justice Department and FBI leadership are being truthful about the findings of their review of the Epstein case. In a memo that dismayed much of the MAGA media machine, both agencies said there was no incriminating client list, nor evidence that the accused blackmailed prominent individuals. They stood by findings that Epstein died by suicide in jail in 2019.

Most Washington scandals explode because of a cover-up or political malpractice. There's no public evidence at this stage of the former. But there's plenty to support the idea that this is a political disaster the administration brought upon itself.

Attorney General Pam Bondi, for instance, implied earlier this year that she had details of Epstein's client list on her desk, raising expectations among activist MAGA members of bombshell disclosures.

Bondi has proved herself a valuable Trump lieutenant, notably in showing the kind of ultimate loyalty to the president and his political cause that many modern attorneys general have preferred to avoid in the interests of the fair administration of justice.

But her handling of the Epstein case has been accident-prone and exposed Trump to political risks. If he comes looking for a culprit, her political foundation could quickly erode.

As an example of her eagerness to please Trump, Bondi and her

team sprang into action quickly last week when the president demanded the release of grand jury testimony from the Epstein prosecution. But even if the judge quickly allows this — which seems unlikely — there's no guarantee it would satisfy the demands for more transparency from Trump's base, and much material would remain under seal.

The MAGA meltdown has also presented other members of the administration with tricky political considerations. Vice President JD Vance spent years calling for more transparency on the Epstein files before becoming Trump's running mate. But he was quick to blast the Wall Street Journal report with a profanity on X last week. For now, Vance's political fate rests in Trump's hands. But no Republican who wants to run for president in future can risk being seen as a member of the Beltway “deep state.”

Trump made multiple attempts to change the subject over the weekend. He repeatedly highlighted another conspiracy theory — given life by his director of national intelligence Tulsi Gabbard — that the Obama administration committed treasonous acts when the spy agencies warned of a Russian attempt to influence the 2016 election.

Later Sunday, Trump shared an apparent AI-generated video depicting former President Barack Obama being arrested by FBI agents and jailed in an orange jumpsuit, overlaid to a soundtrack of Trump's campaign anthem “Y.M.C.A.”

And the president warned that he'd thwart a plan for the Commanders to return to the District of Columbia in a new stadium unless they changed their team name. The franchise decided in 2022 after years of pressure from Native American groups to rebrand amid concerns their original name was offensive.

Trump also called for baseball's Cleveland Guardians to reclaim their identity as the “Cleveland Indians” in a characteristic attempt to stoke culture-war controversy to fire up his base and steal oxygen from other issues.

This might work for him again. But the fact he's delving into his classic tricks of political distraction is a telling sign he still doesn't know how to end the Epstein morass.

Israel's annexation playbook and the looming explosion

ISRAEL is meticulously following a textbook model of instigating unrest in the West Bank. The latest provocation consisted of stripping the Palestinian-run Hebron municipality of its administrative powers over the venerable Ibrahimi Mosque. Worse, according to Israel Hayom, it transferred these powers to the religious council of the Kiryat Arba Jewish settlement, an extremist settler body.

Though all Jewish settlers in the Occupied Territories can be qualified as extremists, the approximately 7,500 inhabitants of Kiryat Arba represent a more virulent category. This settlement, established in 1972, serves as a strategic foothold to justify subjecting Hebron to stricter military control than virtually any other part of the West Bank.

Kiryat Arba is infamously linked to Baruch Goldstein, the US-Israeli settler who, in February 1994, unleashed a horrific attack. He opened fire at Muslim worshippers as they knelt for dawn prayer at the Ibrahimi Mosque, mercilessly killing 29. This bloodbath was swiftly followed by another, with the Israeli army brutally cracking down on Palestinian protesters in Hebron and across the West Bank, murdering an additional 25 Palestinians.

In 1994, Israel decided that the Palestinian mosque, a site of profound religious significance, should be grotesquely divided: 63 percent allocated to Jewish worshippers and a mere 37 percent to Palestinian Muslims.

Since that calamitous decision, oppressive restrictions have been systematically imposed. These include pervasive surveillance and, at times, unjustifiable, extended closures of the site, leaving it solely for settler use.

The latest decision, described by Israel Hayom as “historic and unprecedented,” is profoundly dangerous. It places the fate of this historic Palestinian mosque directly in the hands of those fanatically keen on acquiring the holy site in its entirety.

But the Ibrahimi Mosque is merely a microcosm of something far more sinister that is underway across the West Bank. Israel has exploited its war in Gaza to dramatically escalate

Dr. Ramzy Baroud

its violence, carry out mass arrests, confiscate vast tracts of land, systematically destroy Palestinian farms and orchards, and aggressively expand illegal settlements.

Though the West Bank, previously largely subdued by joint Israeli military pressure and Palestinian Authority crackdowns, was not a direct party to the Oct. 7, 2023, assault or the ongoing Israeli genocide in Gaza, it has inexplicably become a major focus for Israeli military measures.

In the first year of the war, more than 10,400 Palestinians were detained in Israeli army crackdowns, with thousands held without charge. Furthermore, hundreds of Palestinians have been forcibly ethnically cleansed, largely from the northern West Bank, where entire refugee camps and towns have been systematically destroyed in protracted military campaigns.

Israel's overarching aim remains the strangulation of the West Bank. This is achieved by severing communities using ubiquitous military checkpoints, imposing total closures of vast regions and cruelly suspending work permits for Palestinian laborers, who are almost entirely dependent on the Israeli jobs market for survival.

This insidious plan also explicitly targets all Palestinian holy sites, including the revered Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in East Jerusalem and the Ibrahimi Mosque. Even when these shrines were nominally accessible, age restrictions and suffocating military checkpoints make it difficult, at times utterly impossible, for Palestinians to worship there.

In August 2024, Prime Minister Netanyahu asserted that his relentless violent campaign against the West Bank was part of Israel's confrontation of the “broader Iran terror axis.” Practically, this statement served as a green light for the Israeli army to treat the West Bank as an extension of its ongoing genocide in Gaza. By the middle of this month, more than 900 Palestinians had been killed by the Israeli army in the West Bank since Oct. 7, 2023, with at least another 15 murdered by settlers.

As Palestinians were pushed further against the wall, with no central-

ized strategy by their leadership to meaningfully resist, Israel exponentially increased its illegal settlement construction and brazen legalization of numerous outposts, many built illegally even by Israeli government standards.

Israel's actions in the West Bank are not a sudden deviation but are consistent with a long-standing, insidious scheme. This includes a plan solidified by the Knesset in 2020 that “allows” Israel to officially annex the West Bank. Israel's ultimate goal has always been to confine the majority of Palestinians to Bantustan-like enclaves, while asserting full control over the vast majority of the region.

In August 2023, extremist National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir articulated this sinister vision: “My right, the right of my wife and my children to move around Judea and Samaria (the West Bank) is more important than freedom of movement for the Arabs.”

More coercive measures swiftly followed, including Knesset laws to significantly curtail UNRWA operations and further legislation to entrench de facto annexation. In May, Smotrich audaciously announced 22 more settlements. On July 2, 14 Israeli ministers made a public call on Netanyahu to immediately annex the West Bank.

In fact, every action Israel has undertaken, especially since the commencement of its devastating genocide in Gaza, has been carefully calculated to culminate in the irreversible annexation of the West Bank — a process that would inevitably be followed by declaring native inhabitants personae non gratae in their own homeland.

This level of systemic pressure and oppression will ultimately lead to a popular explosion. Though suppressed by the brutality of the Israeli army, the terror of armed settlers and the suppressive actions of the PA, the breaking point is fast approaching.

Those in the West who preach hollow calls for calm and de-escalation must understand that the region is hurtling toward the brink. Neither diplomatic platitudes nor sterile press releases will avert the catastrophe. They are advised to act decisively against Israel's destructive policies — and they must act immediately.

France a key player in Europe's rise in global defense market

On the eve of Bastille Day, French President Emmanuel Macron called for a major strengthening of France's defense forces, stressing the need for the country to become the world's leading military power, capable of acting independently amid mounting global threats. At the core of this pivot lies a stark admission: France is falling behind.

While Russia and China are rapidly advancing in emerging technologies, ranging from artificial intelligence and drone warfare to space, cyber and quantum capabilities, France currently maintains its defense spending at about 2 percent of gross domestic product, well below NATO's new 3.5 percent benchmark. However, it remains the world's second-largest arms exporter, holding 9.6 percent of the global market share, a position largely sustained by strong demand from its NATO allies and Eastern European partners.

Now, Macron has committed to an unprecedented budgetary increase. An additional 6.5 billion (\$7.5 billion) will be injected into defense spending over the next two years, bringing the total to 64 billion in 2027, double what the military received when Macron first entered office in 2017. This surge follows a scale-up in production of radars, Mistral and Aster

missiles, Caesar howitzers and Rafale fighter jets.

For France's strategic elite, this investment is also political. Chief of Defense Staff Gen. Thierry Burkhard recently declared France to be Moscow's priority target. And Macron is betting on a renewed defense consensus to deflect criticism of Prime Minister Francois Bayrou's contentious austerity plan, which is aimed at recovering 40 billion.

The message was on full display during this year's Bastille Day military parade, which showcased France's heightened military ambitions with a broader array of weaponry and troops. The parade also underscored European solidarity, as it featured Swiss F/A-18s and Belgian F-16s flying alongside French forces. The message was clear: European airpower must be interoperable, united and ready.

France's 2025 National Strategic Review echoes this vision, calling for a “wartime economy” and greater European defense sovereignty, particularly through joint procurement and production funding within the European Defence Technology Industrial Base. As outlined in the March 2025 European Defence White Paper, France and Germany aim to lead an EU-wide rearmament push.

Shared investment in scalable capabilities is designed to optimize both cost-efficiency and industrial output. Landmark projects like the French-German Future Combat Air System fighter program and the Main Ground Combat System tank initiative have now been

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waning French influence and the rise of anti-French sentiment driven by stronger demands for national sovereignty across the continent.

In response, Paris is shifting its focus eastward.

The Middle East and North Africa region now forms the southern flank of Europe's security arc, a strategic frontier less shaped by Washington's

Zaid M. Belbagi

hand and increasingly central to European defense planning. France, like Germany and the UK, has moved to deepen ties across the Gulf and North Africa. Today, it conducts regular joint exercises and maintains close counter-

errorism cooperation with the UAE, Bahrain, Jordan, Egypt and Morocco.

Since 2009, France has maintained a robust military presence in the UAE, running air, naval and land bases. Abu Dhabi's 16 billion acquisition of 80 Rafale aircraft from Dassault Aviation in 2021 marked a significant strengthening of this partnership.

The deal elevated their industrial cooperation and expanded France's deployment in the region, with 800 troops supporting, among other things, training initiatives on Emirati soil.

Diplomatic activity has intensified during Macron's second term. In December last year, the

French president made a state visit to Riyadh, following the emir of Qatar's official visit to Paris in February 2024. Just last month, Paris hosted the third France-Qatar Strategic Dialogue, a forum that reaffirmed the two nations' mutual commitment to deeper defense and security cooperation.

France's National Strategic Review con-

firms plans to further reinforce partnerships with key MENA states, including Egypt, Jordan, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain. These countries are no longer regarded merely as clients but increasingly as co-producers of regional stability. In a notable example, Macron welcomed UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan to Paris in February for a working dinner centered on joint projects valued at approximately 50 billion.

Among these, Emirati artificial intelligence companies are set to build Europe's largest AI campus in France, anchored by a data center with a capacity of up to 1 gigawatt.

France's maritime security initiatives are also expanding. Since February 2024, Paris has led Operation Aspidès, the EU's naval mission protecting Red Sea shipping routes from Houthi attacks. France also plays a critical role in the Mediterranean, enforcing the arms embargo on Libya under the EU's Operation Irini and carrying out joint naval maneuvers with Egypt and Morocco.

While advancing its Euro-MENA posture, Paris continues to underline the importance of strategic ties with both the US and Israel, recognizing their central roles in shaping the region's

defense dynamics.

As such, these developments signal a decisive reorientation of France's security architecture toward the Mediterranean arc. As Russian aggression intensifies and tensions escalate across the Middle East, especially involving Iran, France is actively working to shape a Euro-MENA security order.

In this emerging landscape, partners like Morocco, Jordan, Egypt, the UAE and Qatar are no longer seen simply as arms buyers. They are becoming equal stakeholders in a shared pursuit of strategic autonomy, shaped by joint production, collective deterrence and a more balanced diplomatic order.

Amid Germany's rearmament and France's assertive defense agenda, Europe is stepping up as a rising force in the global defense market.

This shift not only opens new avenues for MENA countries to deepen security and defense partnerships with European powers, but also raises important questions about the future of their long-standing cooperation with global heavyweights like the US, China and Russia — countries that have long held dominant military footprints in the region. As the balance of power evolves, so too does the shape of strategic alliances across the Middle East.

Pakistan Stock Exchange sheds 379 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) benchmark KSE-100 witnessed bearish trend on Monday, shedding 379.78 points, a negative change of 0.27 percent, closing at 138,217.58 points against 138,597.36 points last trading day.

A total of 608,186,190 shares were traded during the day as compared to 609,443,979 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 23.523 billion against Rs 31.624 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 479 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 193 of them recorded gains and 245 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 41 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were Prud Mod. 1st with 58,737,418 shares at Rs 4.98 per share, E-

Electric Limited with 53,175,405 shares at Rs5.43 per share and Pak International Bulk with 51,735,265 shares at Rs 10.06 per share.

Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 988.00 per share price, closing at Rs 25,498.00, whereas the runner-up was Nestle Pakistan Limited with Rs 86.97 rise in its per share price to Rs 7,400.00.

PIA Holding Company LimitedB witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs3,446.15 per share closing at Rs 31,015.32 followed by Bata Pakistan Limited with Rs35.44 decline in its share price to close at Rs1,650.89.

Rupee sheds 09 paise against US Dollar

The Rupee on Monday depreciated by 09 paise against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and

closed at Rs 284.95 against the previous day's closing Rs 284.86.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 288.3 and Rs 288.6, respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by Rs 0.11 to close at Rs 331.65 against the last day's closing of Rs 331.54, according to the State Bank of Pakistan.

The Japanese yen gained 01 paise and closed at Rs 1.92, whereas a surge of Rs0.24 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs 383.04 compared to the previous day's closing of Rs 382.80.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal increased by 03 and 02 paise to close at Rs 77.58 and Rs 75.96,

respectively.

Gold prices increase by Rs3,600 to Rs361,200 per tola

The price of 24 karat per tola gold increased by Rs.3,600 and was traded at Rs.361,200 on Monday as compared to its sale at Rs.357,600 on the last trading day. All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewelers Association reported.

The prices of 10 grams of 24 karat also increased by Rs3,087 to Rs.309,671 from Rs. 306,584 and for 10 grams of 22 Karat went up to Rs.283,865.

The rates of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs.4,012 and Rs.3,439 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market increased by \$36 to \$3,387 from \$3,351 whereas that prices of silver rose to \$38.65, the Association reported.



PESHAWAR: Ghulam Bilal Javid presenting a bouquet to Mirza Muhammad Afridi on their elected as Senator.

Bilal Javid congratulates Mirza Afridi

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Ghulam Bilal Javid, senior leader of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), President of Peshawar Traders Chamber, and Chairman of the All Pakistan Car Dealers & Importers Association (ABDIA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, has extended his heartfelt congratulations to Mirza Muhammad Afridi, former Deputy Chairman of the Senate, on his election as a member of the Senate.

On this occasion, Ghulam Bilal Javid presented him with a beautiful bouquet of flowers and termed his success as a positive step for democracy, parliamentary stability, and the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Ghulam Bilal Javid stated that Mirza Muhammad Afridi is among the closest companions of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf and Chairman Imran Khan, who has always rendered tremendous sacrifices for the party. He stood firm during difficult times and upheld the party's flag with unwavering loyalty and dedication. His steadfastness and sacrifices are worthy of great appreciation.

He further expressed hope that Mirza Afridi's return to the Senate will prove to be a source of pride for the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the business community, and especially the workers of PTI. With his experience and vision, he is expected to continue playing an effective and positive role in the upper house of Parliament.

Cement exports increased

ISLAMABAD (APP): The exports of cement witnessed an increase of 23.74 percent during the fiscal year 2024-25, as against the exports of the last year 2023-24.

The cement exports from the country were recorded at US \$329.795 million during July-June (2024-25) against the exports of US \$266.516 million during July-June (2023-24), according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

In terms of quantity, the cement export also rose by 28.71 percent from 9,124,119 metric tons to 7,088,982 metric tons, the data revealed.

Meanwhile, year-on-year basis, the cement exports witnessed an increase of 40.81 percent during the month of June 2025 as compared to the same month of last year.

The exports of cement from the country during June 2025 were recorded at US \$41.848 million against the exports of US \$29.719 million in June 2024.

On a month-on-month basis, cement exports also surged by 22.23 percent during June 2025 when compared to the exports of US \$34.236 million in May 2025, the PBS data revealed.

It is pertinent to mention here that the overall exports from the country increased by 4.67 percent during the fiscal year 2024-25 as compared to previous year, the data revealed.

Exports during July-June (2024-25) were recorded at \$32.106 billion against \$30.675 billion during July-June (2023-24).

Pakistan, Vietnam bilateral trade soon

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Vietnam to Pakistan, Pham Anh Tuan, on Monday said the volume of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Vietnam is likely to reach \$1 billion soon, which will take bilateral economic relations to a new dimension.

The steady growth demonstrates the solid foundation upon which we can build towards our ambitious target of \$10 billion in bilateral trade in the coming years, Ambassador of Vietnam to Pakistan, Pham Anh Tuan, told APP here.

"Our long-term vision encompasses a comprehensive economic partnership that transcends traditional trade boundaries. The Prime Ministers of both countries have agreed on an ambitious target of \$10 billion in bilateral trade in the coming years, significantly higher than current levels," he said.

With a combined market of 350 million people, both countries recognize the immense potential for deeper economic integration, and the Ambassador said that Vietnam's global trade volume currently stands at \$800 billion with aspirations to reach \$1 trillion, presenting extraordinary opportunities for Pakistani exporters.

The Ambassador said that it is with great satisfaction that "I note the remarkable progress in our bilateral trade, which reached approximately \$850 million in 2024, with Pakistan's imports to Vietnam reaching \$522 million and exports at \$328 million."

This represents significant progress from previous years, with bilateral trade growing from \$750 million in 2023 to over \$850 million in 2024, he said.

The envoy said the

opportunities for enhanced bilateral trade and investment are multifaceted and substantial and according to 2024 trade data, Pakistan's key exports to Vietnam include cereals (\$117.26 million), cotton (\$65.64 million), raw hides and leather (\$26.59 million), meat products (\$14.33 million), and pharmaceutical products (\$10.67 million).

Ambassador Tuan said that Vietnam's main exports to Pakistan include electrical and electronic equipment (\$186.67 million), coffee, tea and spices (\$30.70 million), and man-made filaments (\$20.63 million).

He said that both countries have identified priority sectors for cooperation, including textiles, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, information technology, and energy.

Vietnam has expressed particular interest in increasing imports of Pakistani rice, textiles and leather products, while welcoming Pakistani investment in Vietnam's manufacturing and technology sectors, he said.

The Ambassador said the complementary nature of our economies offers immense potential - Vietnam's strength in electronics, machinery, and processing capabilities perfectly complements Pakistan's expertise in textiles, agriculture, and pharmaceuticals.

Replying to a question, he said the 5th Meeting of the Pakistan-Vietnam Joint Trade Committee held in Hanoi in the current month of July 11, 2025, marked a pivotal achievement in our bilateral relations.

The signing ceremony of the agreed minutes was witnessed by Federal Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan and Nguyen Hong Dien, Minister of

Industry and Trade of Vietnam.

Court Notice

In the Court of Shadab Civil Judge I/Ilaqa Qazi Buner at Daggar.Suit No 95/1. Institution 2025 Date of hearing. 28/7/2025.Title: Samiur Rehman VS Sheroz Khan. Notice to no 2.Chiragh Bibi d/o Shabaros Khan. 3.Kinkhaba w/o Khan Bahadur.4.Umer Bahadur s/o Khan Bahadur.5.Shahi Bahadur son. 6.Mst Jamery Begum. 7.Mst Towhed Begum daughters of Khan Bahadur.8.Mst Watan Sani. 9.Mst. Sarzala daughters of Sher Bahadur resident of Daggar Kalay tehsel Daggar district Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendants can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendants will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8.30 am dated 28/7/2025 the proceeding will be taken ex- parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

Court Notice

In the Court of Jawad Bin Dawood Civil Judge II, Alaqa Qazi Buner at Daggar.Suit No9/12(2). Institution. 2024. Date of hearing .17/9/2025 . Case Title: Ali Muhammad VS Muhammad etc.Notice to no.3/1.Jalil s/o Gul Faraz resident of Salazar Mera tehsel Gadezai/ Salazarai district Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendants can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendants will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8.30 am dated 17/9/2025 the proceeding will be taken ex- parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

Court Notice

In the Court of Arab Miammad Kashif Adj I/ Azafi Zilla Qazi Buner at Daggar. Suit No. 62/13. Institution 10/6/2024. Date of hearing. 19/8/2025. Title: Habibullah VS Mst Gul Zdagai etc. Notice to No. 7/4. Naseer. 7/5.Fazal Raziq sons of Niamatullah Khan resident of Bampokha tehsel Gadezai district Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendants can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendants will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8.30 am dated 19/8/2025 the proceeding will be taken ex- parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

Court Notice

In the Court of Arab Miammad Kashif Adj I/ Azafi Zilla Qazi Buner at Daggar.Suit No 15/14. Institution 24/4/2025. Date of hearing. 28/8/2025. Title: Muhammad Sadiq VS Ghanjur Rehman. Notice to No. 3.Abdur Rehman.4.Umer Rehman sons of Ghanir Rehman resident of Haji Abad village Elai tehsel Daggar district Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendants can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendants will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8.30 am dated 28/8/2025 the proceeding will be taken ex- parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

PC Hospitality signs agreement with Global Business Bridge

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The PC Hospitality, the hospitality division of Hashoo Group and one of Asia's leading hospitality conglomerates, has signed a Master Franchise Agreement with Global Business Bridge (Private) Limited to open and operate Bukhara and Dumpukht Restaurants in Punjab, Islamabad, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). The agreement was formalized at a signing ceremony held on July 19, 2025, at Pearl-Continental Hotel Lahore, and was attended by senior executives from Hashoo Group, PC Hospitality, and Global Business Bridge.

Bukhara; Authentic Pakistan restaurant which recreates the charm of the traditional clay oven or tandoor with its delectable menu of succulent tandoor-cooked kebabs, vegetables and breads coupled with aromatic live B-B-Q, local homemade spices reflecting rich flavours. It offers

an exquisite culinary experience by capturing the true essence of Pakistani cuisine.

Dumpukht literally means "to breathe" and "to cook". It owes its superiority to the preparation. The food is cooked in its own juices and retains its natural scent and flavor. Dumpukht cooking originated from the Nawabs of the northern provinces of India in the eighteenth century. "Dum" means to "breathe in" and "Pukht" to "cook". In old times, by order of the Royals, the "dummed" cuisine was perfected for the royal table. Exotic dishes evolved, in which flavors and fragrances intermingled with exquisite results.

As part of PC Hospitality's ongoing commitment to culinary excellence, Bukhara and Dumpukht will continue to exemplify the highest standards and premium service that define the Pearl-Continental brand. The restaurants will continue to be a preferred destination for discerning

guests seeking refined, authentic flavours in a sophisticated setting.

Shahid Riaz Gondal, Chief Executive Officer of Global Business Bridge, commented: "We are delighted to strengthen our partnership with PC Hospitality and take our collaboration to the next level with the expansion of both Bukhara and Dumpukht. Following our successful launch of Dumpukht at Defence Raya, DHA Lahore, this new agreement reflects our shared vision of delivering authentic, world-class dining experiences. Together, we aim to set new benchmarks of excellence and bring the rich culinary heritage of Pakistan to a wider audience, both locally and internationally."

Bastien Blanc, Chief Executive Officer - Hospitality Division, Hashoo Group, added: "This agreement represents a major milestone in our growth journey for the restaurant division "Connoisseur Collection".

A landmark moment for

Hashoo Group. Our partnership with Global Business Bridge will allow us to bring this iconic dining experience to new audiences across Punjab, Islamabad, and most notably, to the dynamic and rapidly growing hospitality landscape of KSA. We will continue to strive for providing the best of hospitality across the country and to ensure that we bring the most loved cuisines to the High Streets where guests can enjoy and savor the authentic flavours.

The upcoming Bukhara and Dumpukht restaurants will blend traditional recipes with modern hospitality standards, aiming to become premier destinations for both local residents and international visitors.

This strategic partnership further strengthens PC Hospitality's presence in the evolving culinary landscape, bringing the famed & celebrated Bukhara and Dumpukht experience to more communities across the country.

ICCI and ICADRP annouces strategic collaborate

— to advance ‘Alternate Dispute Resolution Mechanism’

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and the International Center for Appropriate Dispute Resolution and Prevention (ICADRP) have announced a strategic collaboration to advance Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms for the business community.

The collaboration was reached after a delegation from ICADRP, led by CEO Dr Nudrat E. Piracha, visited the ICCI and held a constructive meeting with its President Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, a news release said on Monday.

The delegation included Managing Director Barrister Farrukh Karim Qureshi and Vice President Strategic Alliances Hamid Sharif.

From ICCI, Executive

Member Shumaila Siddiqui and Advisor to the ICCI President, Naeem Siddiqui, were also present at the meeting.

Qureshi underscored ICCI's commitment to supporting alternative legal frameworks that offered fast, cost-effective, and amicable resolutions for commercial disputes.

He highlighted the increasing importance of ADR in the current economic climate and praised ICADRP's contribution in championing mediation and arbitration practices across Pakistan.

The ICCI President also briefed the delegation on the Mediation Council Office established at ICCI under the amended Rent Restrictions Act 2023.

He said the Council has significantly contributed to

resolving commercial rent issues and has successfully promoted out-of-court settlements, a welcome shift from time-consuming litigation to more business-friendly solutions.

In response, Dr Nudrat Piracha, Barrister Farrukh Qureshi, and Hamid Sharif commended ICCI for its proactive vision and shared ICADRP's ongoing efforts in institutionalizing ADR frameworks nationwide.

They emphasized that persistent delays in the conventional legal system underscored the urgent need for efficient alternatives like mediation and arbitration, especially for businesses.

Both institutions agreed to work closely to raise awareness and build capacity around ADR.

Under the partnership,

ICADRP would conduct specialized training sessions for mediators and organize an exclusive presentation at ICCI to highlight the practical benefits of ADR, particularly in terms of time efficiency, cost savings, and dispute resolution quality.

Advisor to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) President, Naeem Siddiqui, also shared his views, expressing confidence that the collaboration would lead to a more accessible, just, and commercially viable dispute resolution ecosystem.

"This partnership is a timely move to provide the business community with effective alternatives to litigation, strengthening the overall business environment in Pakistan," he noted.

Stock markets mixed, yen firms as Japan PM vows to stay

LONDON (AFP/APP): Stock markets diverged on Monday as investors eyed a busy earnings week and awaited fresh developments in US trade deals before an August 1 tariffs deadline.

The yen gained after Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba said he would stay in office despite another election defeat.

"As we start a new week, the focus is once again on tariffs and earnings reports," said Kathleen Brooks, research director at trading group XTB.

She warned that if tariff rates surged for the United States' major trading partners -- the European Union, Canada and Mexico -- then "the limited impact of tariffs on economic growth so far may not last".

London, Paris and Frankfurt stock markets

dipped in midday deals, following a largely positive session in Asia.

While only three countries have signed agreements to avoid the worst of US President Donald Trump's tariffs, there was some optimism among investors that others, including Japan and South Korea, would follow suit.

US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick told CBS News over the weekend that he was "confident" that a trade deal would be reached with the EU.

"Even if the European Union reaches an agreement with the US, it is likely that only a framework deal will be presented, requiring further negotiations on the details," said Jochen Stanzl, chief market analyst at CMC Markets.

"Realistically, there is a high probability that uncer-

tainty will persist beyond August 1," he added.

The European Central Bank this week is set to hold interest rates, for the first time in almost a year, when policymakers meet.

In Asia, most stock markets advanced, led by Hong Kong, which topped 25,000 points for the first time in three years after strong earnings from Taiwanese chip giant TSMC and news US titan Nvidia would be allowed to export key semiconductors to China.

Shanghai also gained on Monday, while Tokyo was closed for a holiday.

The yen strengthened against the dollar after Ishiba vowed to stay on even after his ruling coalition lost its overall majority in Sunday's lower house elections, months after it suffered a similar fate in an upper house vote.

Analysts said that while the result was bad for the Liberal Democratic Party and its partner Komeito, the prime minister's pledge to stay in office provided some stability for now.

The Japanese currency had been weighed in recent weeks by expectations a bad defeat would lead to more spending and tax cuts.

The political turbulence also comes as Ishiba struggles to reach a trade deal with Trump, who has threatened tariffs of 25 percent on goods from Japan.

In company news, shares in Jeep maker Stellantis fell almost two percent in Paris after it reported a massive first half loss as US tariffs hit.

Irish no-frills carrier Ryanair announced its first-quarter profit more than doubled thanks to higher fares.

نوٹس (مشتری ہوشیار باش)

بزرگ نوٹس ہذا مشتری کیا جاتا ہے کہ کالنگ نمبر GF-05 (گر اوٹاؤن) برقی تعداد 106.21 مربع فٹ، چائینا د سروے نمبر 542/45/D، داغ شیطان رود، پشاور ایجنٹ کے زیر ہولڈر ریش جو کہ کیٹوٹ بروہ کے پکارا میں کی شام عید سن آئیں کے نام پر موجود ہے۔ یہ گھر اعلیٰ شخصیت حکام صاحب نامیاب شام عید سن آئیں نے ڈکودہ والا مکان سیان عمران خان، نگار خان، عمران خان، عرفان اللہ، ان گن، منیم پر پڑا ہے۔ مزید ڈکودہ و تاج نمبر 31.1، 01-03-2022 کو زرخٹ کر دی ہے۔ اب سیان عمران، اغان و تاج نمبر 1 ڈکودہ والا مکان کو اپنے ناموں پر منتقل کرنے کے لئے ایک عدد درخواست بمبر جرنی دفتر پڑا میں گزار دی ہے۔ اگر کسی شخص، ویب کاردار کے کوڈ ڈکودہ والا مکان کی بھی کوئی اعتراض ہوڈا شہنشاہ، ہڈا کی اشاعت کے چہرہ (15) دن کے بعد راجد راجد اعتراض بمسجوت چیئر کریں۔ بعد ازاں اس منظم کی کاروائی مندرجہ بالا درخواست گزاروں کے ناموں پر عمل میں لائی جائے گی اور کوئی مدد سے عمل قبول نہ ہوگا۔

المشتر: کیٹونمنٹ ایگزیکٹو آفیسر پشاور

IN THE COURT OF SYED ZAMARRUD SHAH, JUDGE BANKING COURT-II

FEDERAL JUDICIAL COMPLEX PHASE-7 HAYATABAD PESHAWAR Case No: 311/1, Next Date: 3-9-2025, Suit for recovery of Rs. 3629317/22, HBL Faujoon Branch Mardan VS Rashid Khan

Notice Versus: Rashid Khan S/o Muhammad Iqbal R/o Maghribi Banda Dodehr, Tehsil & District Swabi.

Where is the plaintiff Bank has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs.3629317/22 against you under section 10(2) of the Financial Institiutis (Recovery of Finances) Ordinance 2001. You are hereby summoned to obtain leave of the court to appear and defend the suit within 30 days after receipt/ publication of the notice in the newspaper filling which an exparte decree shall be passed in favor of the plaintiff Bank with costs. Issue today on 4-7-2025 under my signature & seal of the court.

Judge Banking Court-II Peshawar



In brief

Abdullah qualifies for next round

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's Abdullah Nawaz earned victory in the World Junior Squash Championships match at Egypt and has qualified for the next round. According to details, the Championships saw some thrilling matches on its first day, Abdullah beat Keng In Leong (MAC) 3-0 (11-7, 11-0, 11-4); Justin Cheng (HKG) beat Anas Ali Shah 3-1 (11-6, 12-10, 8-11, 11-9); Hart Robertson (USA) beat Muhammad Umair Arif 3-0 (14-12, 11-6, 11-9); Muhammad Haq (USA) beat Yahya Khan 3-1 (11-4, 11-9, 14-16, 11-6). The Pakistan Squash Federation (PSF) has congratulated Abdullah on his victory and has wished Anas, Umair, and Yahya all the best for team championship.

Women cricketers continue practice

KARACHI (APP): The ongoing women's skills and fitness camp in Karachi, being held in preparation for Ireland tour and World Cup continued with full intensity on its 14th day at Hanif Muhammad High Performance Centre. The women cricketers remained engaged in a rigorous four-hour practice session under supervision of Head Coach Muhammad Wasim, focusing on skills development. The players participated in dedicated batting, bowling, and fielding practice sessions. Junaid Khan and Tahir Khan provided training on fast and spin bowling techniques, while Abdul Saad conducted practical fielding drills for the women athletes.

Liverpool agree £69m fee for Ekitike

LONDON (Agencies): Liverpool have agreed an initial £69m fee to sign Eintracht Frankfurt striker Hugo Ekitike. The 23-year-old Frenchman is expected to arrive in the UK on Tuesday before having a medical. Frankfurt accepted a deal worth £79m, with £69m guaranteed and £10m in add-ons. Ekitike is expected to sign a six-year contract and will fly out to join Liverpool's Asia tour later this week. Newcastle had a £70m bid for Ekitike rejected this month, while Liverpool have shown an interest in Magpies striker Alexander Isak. Ekitike scored 15 goals in 31 starts as Frankfurt finished third in the Bundesliga last season. His arrival will push Liverpool's spending past £250m this summer. They signed Florian Wirtz for a potential British record £116m, while defenders Milos Kerkez and Jeremie Frimpong have arrived for a combined £70m. Only five players bettered Ekitike's scoring record in the Bundesliga last season, and he provided eight assists. He had 117 shots on goal, more than any other player.

Siraj wants Bumrah to play fourth Test

LONDON (AFP): India's Mohammed Siraj expects fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah to feature in the vital fourth Test against England at Old Trafford this week. Bumrah, the world's top-ranked Test bowler, is only slated to play three of the five matches against England as he battles a back injury. He has already featured in India's defeats at Headingley and Lord's, leaving the tourists 2-1 down in the series. With doubts over the availability of India seam bowler Akash Deep due to a groin injury, Siraj believes Bumrah will feature in Manchester on Wednesday rather than hold him back for next week's final Test at The Oval.



MANCHESTER: Ben Stokes with Liam Dawson, who is back in the Test side after eight years.

Exiled Afghan women cricketers get more ICC backing

NEW DELHI (AFP): The International Cricket Council has pledged more support to Afghanistan's displaced women's cricketers to get back to playing. Most were forced into exile when the Taliban regained power in 2021 and then effectively outlawed women from playing sport. Many fled to Australia and held a match — without their official crest — in Melbourne earlier this year. The ICC's annual conference in Singapore at the

weekend heard that progress had been made on the governing body's Afghanistan women's cricket initiative.

"The programme aims to deliver structured support," the ICC said in a statement late Sunday.

It includes "domestic playing opportunities, and engagement at key ICC global events, including the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 in India and the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 in

England," the statement continued, without giving details.

But reports said it will enable Afghanistan players the chance to speak to fellow international cricketers and attend workshops conducted by coaches at the global showpieces.

The initiative is a collaborative effort by the cricket boards of India, England, India and Australia under the supervision of ICC deputy chair Imran Khwaja.

Pakistan football team gets new head, assistant coaches

KARACHI (Monitoring Desk): The Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) has taken a major step forward by announcing the appointment of Nolberto Solano as the new head coach and Jorge Castañeira as assistant coach for Pakistan's senior and under-23 national teams.

Under President Mohsen Gilani's leadership, PFF proudly welcomes Nolberto Solano as Head Coach of Pakistan U23 with a pathway to the senior team," said PFF in a short announcement.

The decision was finalised after a vote by the PFF Executive Committee, where seven out of 13 members approved the appointments. While the move signals a fresh direction for Pakistani football, it was not without dissent, as six committee members opposed the decision. Nolberto Solano, a 48-year-old Peruvian, brings a wealth of experience to the role, both as a former top-level player and an accomplished coach.

He holds a prestigious FIFA CONMEBOL Pro Licence and has been involved in high-profile international competitions, including serving as an assistant coach for Peru during the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia and the 2022 World Cup qualifiers. His leadership was also instrumental in Peru's impressive fourth-place finish at the 2021 Copa America.

As a player, Solano enjoyed a distinguished career, earning 95 caps for Peru and scoring 20 goals. He played for renowned clubs like Newcastle United, Aston Villa, and Boca Juniors, where he was celebrated for skills.

Joining Solano is Jorge Castañeira, an Argentine professional physical trainer with a strong background in football conditioning and tactical development. He has worked with Venezuela's national team during their 2002 World Cup qualifying campaign and has contributed to the success of clubs across South America and the Middle East.

His resume includes stints with Peru's Club Deportivo Municipal and Real Garcilaso, where he helped secure high finishes in domestic tournaments and continental competitions. Beyond his hands-on coaching, Castañeira is also an author, having written three books on soccer training methodologies, with a focus on speed, precision, and anaerobic performance.

Pak jr volleyball team set sights on World U17 C'ship

ISLAMABAD (APP): After a historic triumph in the Asian U-16 Championship, the Pakistan's junior volleyball team now has sets its sight on conquering the world stage (World U-17 Championship).

In a statement issued here, Pakistan Volleyball Federation (PVF) Chairman Chaudhry Muhammad Yaqoob, praised the Pakistan Army and government for their continued support.

He said that with increased investment in young players, Pakistan could achieve even greater success internationally. "The

PVF is providing maximum facilities to both senior and junior teams," he said.

He highlighted the significant role played by the Army Sports Directorate in organizing training camps and supporting preparations for the Asian U-16 Championship.

"Our U-16 team has made the nation proud. These young players are extremely talented. We're already planning for the World U-17 Championship," Yaqoob said.

Meanwhile, the national junior volleyball team received a grand welcome upon its return home after making history at the Asian

U-16 Championship held in Thailand.

After clinching the gold medal, the team was warmly received at the airport by Punjab Sports Board Director General Khizar Afzal Chaudhry, PVF Chairman Chaudhry Muhammad Yaqoob, PVF President Suhail Khawar Mir, and a large number of fans. The national heroes were showered with rose petals and adorned with garlands upon arrival.

Pakistan remained unbeaten throughout the championship, defeating Iran in a thrilling final to secure the title.

PSB cracks down on age fraud in junior sports

ISLAMABAD (PPI): The Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) is implementing rigorous new policies to tackle age fraud in junior sports competitions, deeming it a significant breach of its Code of Ethics and Governance in Sports.

Athletes under 21 competing in junior events must now provide either a National Identity Card (CNIC) or a B-Form,

accompanied by the names of the selection committee, dental assessments, and radiological examinations.

Verified medical evaluations, endorsed by the federation's president and secretary general, along with all supporting paperwork,

must be submitted to the PSB for authentication. The PSB has warned of serious consequences for submitting falsified or dubious documentation, including disqualification from training camps, financial aid, and cash prizes. Additional disciplinary measures may also be enforced.

The PSB emphasized global concerns about age manipulation in youth athletics, noting that it fosters unfair competition, endangers athletes' well-being, and damages the credibility of sports systems. The board highlighted instances of athletes allegedly competing in age-specific

groups with counterfeit documents, thus depriving legitimate competitors of opportunities and heightening the risk of injuries due to physical disparities.

Echoing the stance of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and other international sports organizations, the PSB reaffirmed its commitment to transparency and integrity in sports, advocating for a zero-tolerance policy towards age falsification. Eligibility for PSB training camps, financial backing, and cash awards will now be contingent upon the submission of validated and precise documentation.

Hasnain sets highest break in u21 round

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani cueist Hasnain Akhtar achieved a remarkable feat by making a 111 break, the highest break in U21 round matches of the IBSF World Masters, U17, U21, and Men 6Red Snooker Championships 2025, held in Manama, Bahrain.

In U21 Round, Ahsan Ramzan (Pak) beat Bhavya Pipaliya (India) 3-0 (98-4, 54-32, 57-46); Hasnain Akhtar (Pak) beat Khaled Gazali (Sri Lanka) 3-0 (100(53,41)-1, 111(111)-1, 67-40); Langyi Ryan Li (Hong Kong) beat Ahsan Ramzan (Pak) 3-1 (72-64, 53(33)-18, 1-74(43,31), 65(54)-36);



Hasnain Akhtar (Pak) beat David Nistor (Romania) 3-0 (48-44, 79-29, 71(40)-2). After U21 Round Matches Player Qualify for knockout last 30 Round.

In 6 Red Result,

Muhammad Asif (Pak) beat Punait Saqr (Bahrain) 4-2 (39-12, 8-43, 35-22, 45-8, 21-34, 41-16) and Chang Yu Kiu (Hong Kong) beat Shahid Aftab (Pak) 4-0 (48-0, 27-16, 33-6, 43-4).

Pak team to feature in FIVB Boys' U19 World C'ship

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan team will depart to Uzbekistan on Tuesday to feature in the FIVB Boys' U19 World Championship, scheduled to take place from July 24 to August 3 in Tashkent.

This marks a historic moment for Pakistan Volleyball as the nation competes among the top youth volleyball teams in the world, a proud representation of the country's growing strength in the sport, said a press release.

The FIVB Boys' U19 World Championship 2025 features participation from 24 of the world's strongest national teams, including Algeria, Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria,

Canada, China, Colombia, Cuba, Egypt, Finland, France, Iran, Italy, Japan, Korea, Pakistan, Poland, Puerto Rico, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey, USA, and host Uzbekistan.

Pakistan U19 Team includes Muhammad Yahya (Captain), Tayyab Khan, Jabran, Muhammad Hassan, Muhammad Saud, Muhtad Ali Shah, Ajmal Junaid, Muhammad Irfan, Javed Ahmad, Talal Ahmad, Abu Bakar Siddique, Khizar Hayat.

The team officials accompanying the team comprise Saeed Ahmed Khan Sady (Head Coach), Ehsan Iqbal (Assistant Coach), Muhammad Suleman Amin (Assistant

Coach), Muhammad Salman (Physiotherapist), Mazhar Fareed (Team Manager), Muhammad Shahbaz

(Official), Ch. Muhammad Yaqoob (Chairman, PVF/Head of Delegation), Sohail Khawar Mir (President, PVF).

Speaking on the occasion, Sohail Khawar Mir, President of Pakistan Volleyball Federation, said, "Our U19 team is a symbol of the hard work and growth Pakistan volleyball has seen in recent years. Competing in the World Championship is a dream for many, and this team will carry the flag with pride, discipline, and resilience."

England won't play 'nice' against India warns Brook

LONDON (AFP): England batsman Harry Brook has warned India that his team "don't always have to be nice" as they prepare to resume hostilities at Old Trafford on Wednesday.

After England battled to a fiery 22-run victory in the third Test at Lord's, the teams will lock horns again with the series on the line in Manchester.

England on Monday named just one change to that side with Hampshire's left-arm spinner Liam Dawson making his first Test appearance in eight years at the expense of the injured Shoaib Bashir, while Jofra Archer

remains in an unchanged pace attack.

An England win would put them 3-1 up with one game to play, while India must take the last two matches to secure their first Test series triumph on English soil since 2007.

It promises to be another fiercely-fought encounter after India's fielders clashed with England batsmen Zak Crawley and Ben Duckett in a time-wasting row at Lord's.

That lit a fire under England when it was their turn to field, with Archer giving a pumped-up send-off to India's Rishabh Pant.

As the tension mounted

in England's 22-run win, Brydon Carse and India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja were involved in a mid-pitch collision.

But Brook is adamant Ben Stokes' side did not go to far with their spikey approach in pursuit of victory.

"I've had a lot of compliments. Everybody said it was awesome to watch. It was good fun, I have to admit. It was tiring but it made fielding a lot more enjoyable," he said on Monday.

"I think it put them under a little bit more pressure. The opportunity that arose for us to not be the nice guys was because

of what they did. We just thought 'we're not standing for that'.

"We had a conversation and said 'it's time to not be those nice guys that we have been before'. You don't always have to be nice. Who knows, that might have played into our favour. It was good fun.

"We were doing it with in the spirit of the game. We weren't going out there effing and jeffing at them and being nasty people. We were just going about it in the right manner."

'Wily old fox' India pace bowler Mohammed Siraj was fined 15 per cent of his

match fee and given one demerit point for his angry send-off of Duckett during England's second innings, which ended with the pair brushing shoulders.

Brook revealed it was at his urging after some choice words from head coach Brendon McCullum that they decided to fight back.

Asked whether that aggressive approach will continue as England look to win the series, Brook said: "God knows. We'll see whether it happens again and whether it works."

"I brought it up the night before the last day: 'Baz said the other day

we're too nice, I think tomorrow is a perfect opportunity to really get stuck into them."

Bashir took the final wicket at Lord's but the Somerset spinner's broken finger has opened the way for Dawson's Test recall.

The 35-year-old, who has starred in county action for Hampshire leapfrogging the centrally-contracted Jack Leach as the replacement for Bashir, played the last of his three Tests in 2017.

He was a member of England's ODI World Cup winning squad in 2019 and was recalled to the T20 side against the West Indies in June.

Apart from his bowling Dawson is a more than handy lower order batter with 18 first-class hundreds and an average of just over 35.

"He is a wily, old fox, very experienced and a very skilful cricketer," Brook said.

"He's willing to always fight for the team, he's very competitive and it's good to have him here."

Archer, who took five wickets in his comeback Test at Lord's while bowling at high pace, retains his place in the bowling attack alongside Brydon Carse and Chris Woakes who were preferred to the fit-again Gus Atkinson.



In brief

IRSA releases 395,800 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 395,800 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 421,600 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1530.00 feet which was 128.00 feet higher than the dead level of 1402.00 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 294,000 cusecs and 294,000 cusecs, respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1190.70 feet, which was 140.70 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 33,400 cusecs and 8,000 cusecs, respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 233,300, 423,200, 206,900 and 124,300 cusecs, respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 29,600 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 41,100 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

RDA removes illegal structure

RAWALPINDI (APP): As a part of grand operation against illegal constructions, the Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) cleared the service road of University Town, removed unauthorized structures, and sealed an illegal market, including a marketing office. According to the RDA spokesperson, the action was taken due to serious violations of land use and construction bylaws. The enforcement action was part of RDA's ongoing campaign to ensure strict compliance with zoning and regulatory frameworks across the city. He said the market was functioning without proper approvals and was in clear violation of existing zoning regulations. The RDA also calls on the general public to cooperate in preserving encroachment-free areas and contribute to making Rawalpindi streets safer, more accessible, and free of unnecessary congestion, she added. The operation was conducted by the Director Land Ghazanfer Ali Awan, Assistant Director Land Dilshad Ali, Building Surveyor Aamir Mahmood Malik, Asim Khokhar, and other RDA staff members with the support of personnel from the concerned Police Station.

DC chairs review meeting

RAWALPINDI (APP): An important meeting regarding dengue prevention was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Dr. Hassan Waqar Cheema here on Monday. During the briefing, CEO Health Dr. Ehsan Ghani informed the meeting that 13 dengue cases have been reported this season, with only one patient currently admitted to DHQ Hospital, while the others have recovered and returned home. The Deputy Commissioner Dr. Cheema directed the Dengue team in-charges to complete cleaning in their respective areas. He instructed that if larvae are found in any house, the surrounding one-kilometer area should be monitored. If larvae are found multiple times in a house, the imam of the local mosque should be asked to announce the homeowner's name. He issued strict instructions to all relevant departments, stating that any negligence in dengue prevention efforts will not be tolerated. Additionally, he ordered focal persons of the departments to report to his office daily at 9:00 AM. The meeting was also attended by ADC Headquarters Abdullah Khan, AC Saddar Hakim Khan, AC Cantt Saad Rahman and officials from all relevant departments.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi chairing a meeting at FIA Headquarters. —APP Photo

No tradition can justify murder, says Saba Sadiq

ISLAMABAD (APP): Parliamentary Secretary for Ministry of Human Rights, Saba Sadiq, has strongly condemned the brutal killing of a young couple in Balochistan.

Calling the incident "inhuman and unacceptable," she said such barbaric acts under the guise of customs and traditions will not be tolerated under any circumstances. She vowed that justice will be ensured for the victims and their families.

The victims—24-year-old Sheetal and 32-year-old Zarq—were reportedly lured by members of their own tribe before being publicly executed in a remote area of Balochistan.

Saba Sadiq took immediate notice of the tragic case and telephoned the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Balochistan, seeking a detailed report.

"This is a matter of grave concern. We will not let this pass without consequences," she said. "The state is responsible for the safety and dignity of its citizens, especially women, and we are committed to fulfilling that duty."

She emphasized that the government of Pakistan and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has a zero-tolerance policy for gender-based violence and crimes committed in the name of culture or tradition.

"No tradition, custom, or excuse can justify the cold-blooded murder of a woman and her husband simply because they chose to live their lives with dignity and free will," she stated.

Expressing sorrow and anger, Saba Sadiq called the murders "a stain on our society's conscience" and said the authorities must move quickly to arrest those responsible. "We are heartbroken over the brutal killing of Sheetal and Zarq in Balochistan. Their blood cries out for justice, and the government will make sure their voices are not silenced forever," she said.

She further added that the government is determined to eliminate such inhumane practices and harmful traditions that continue to threaten the lives and freedoms of women.

"This is not just about one incident — it's about

changing a mindset that sees women as property. This mindset must end."

Reiterating her firm stance, the Parliamentary Secretary said, "We will strengthen the prosecution to ensure that no criminal escapes justice. It's time to send a clear message that the law stands with the victims — not with the perpetrators hiding behind tribal customs."

In her conversation with the Balochistan police chief, Saba Sadiq stressed the importance of a transparent investigation, swift arrests, and immediate legal action. She also said the Ministry of Human Rights is monitoring the case closely and will ensure that the affected families are supported throughout the legal process. "We are working to make sure that not only are the culprits punished, but also that this case becomes a turning point in the fight against 'honour' crimes," she said.

"Every woman has the right to live without fear. Every citizen has the right to choose their partner. That is what our Constitution

guarantees, and that is what the state must protect."

Civil society leaders and human rights organizations have welcomed Saba Sadiq's swift response and call for justice. Many have urged the government to take concrete steps to prevent future honour killings by strengthening laws, protecting witnesses, and launching public awareness campaigns. Saba Sadiq also highlighted the importance of public education and community engagement in breaking harmful cycles of violence.

"We cannot end honour killings by law enforcement alone. We need to change hearts and minds, and that starts with schools, mosques, media, and families. Honour lies in protecting life, not destroying it."

She concluded her statement with a solemn vow: "Justice will be ensured to the affected families at all costs. The government will stand by them until the last culprit is brought to justice. Our commitment to human rights, to women's safety, and to the rule of law is unwavering."

Mohsin Naqvi orders major reforms in FIA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi Monday visited FIA headquarters in Islamabad, where he paid tribute to the martyrs of the agency by laying a floral wreath and offering prayers at the 'Martyrs' Monument'.

During his visit, the minister chaired a high-level meeting and issued a series of directives aimed at overhauling the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA). He announced plans for a complete reorganization of the agency on modern lines and called for a comprehensive reform plan.

Naqvi approved the immediate provision of

modern technology and essential weaponry to the FIA, emphasizing that the agency must meet public expectations and deliver results. He said future incentives for the FIA would be based on performance.

Calling for a zero-tolerance policy, the minister directed a ruthless crackdown on mafias involved in illegal immigration and stressed the agency's responsibility to protect the country's reputation.

He also ordered the simplification of immigration procedures at airports and the establishment of fast-track counters for the convenience of citizens.

To address staff shortages, Naqvi directed immediate hiring against all approved vacant posts. He also demanded a master plan for the renovation of the FIA Headquarters and ordered the relocation of the FIA Academy to newly allocated land. The minister further instructed early restoration of the Karachi Zonal Office.

DG FIA Raja Riffat Mukhtar briefed the minister on the agency's ongoing reforms. Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry, the Interior Secretary, CDA Chairman, and senior FIA officials were also present.

NADRA revamps child registration to protect citizen identities

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) spokesperson and Director of Public Engagement Syed Shabhat Ali on Monday said that NADRA has implemented major changes to its Child Registration Certificate (CRC), also known as Form-B.

Talking to a private news channel, he said the revised structure aims to strengthen child identity verification and block loopholes previously exploited in human smuggling. He said the previous system lacked biometric or photographic identification for individuals under the age of 18.

This absence of post-birth identification created vulnerabilities in the registration system and made it susceptible to misuse by organized networks involved in illegal migration and trafficking, he added. He said for children under the age of three,

NADRA will issue a CRC without a photograph or biometric data, and this certificate will automatically expire when the child turns three.

From the age of three to ten years, a photograph is mandatory, and in NADRA centers with advanced facilities, an iris scan may also be recorded. He said once the child reaches ten years of age, a full biometric profile, including fingerprints, photograph, and iris scan (where available), is compulsory. The certificate issued at this stage remains valid until the child turns 18.

Shabhat said these changes were made to preserve the integrity of family structures in the national database. He said the new system will ensure that only genuine family links are reflected in official records and protect citizen identities from manipulation.

ANF seizes over 88 kg drugs in six operations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting six operations across the country managed to recover over 88 kg drugs worth more than Rs 12.9 million and arrested 10 accused.

According to an ANF Headquarters spokesperson, ANF in a crackdown against drug traffickers near a school on Adiala Road, Rawalpindi, recovered 1.2 kg hashish from two motorcyclists.

The arrested suspects confessed selling drugs to

the students of educational institutions.

In another operation near Mandi Mor, Islamabad, 14.4 kgs hashish was confiscated from a vehicle and motorcyclists while four accused were rounded up.

In third operation near Sabzi Mandi, Islamabad, 22.8 kgs hashish was recovered from a vehicle and two individuals were apprehended.

Near the Kech area of Mand, three kgs heroin, six kgs ice, & nine kgs hashish hidden for smuggling were

recovered. In 5th operation near Sheikhupura Toll Plaza, 22.8 kg hashish & 7.2 kg opium were recovered from secret cavities of a vehicle and a drug trafficker was apprehended.

In 6th operation near Islamabad Motorway Toll Plaza, 2 kgs ice was recovered from secret cavities of a vehicle and a drug smuggler was rounded up during the raid. Separate cases have been registered against the accused under the CNS Act, the spokesperson informed.

Aleem orders timely completion of projects with 30-year vision

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan has directed senior officials of the National Highway Authority (NHA) to ensure timely completion and long-term sustainability of infrastructure projects, stressing the need for high construction standards and a forward-looking approach spanning the next three decades.

Chairing a high-level meeting at the NHA Punjab Region Office, the minister emphasized the urgent completion of pending development work from Multan Road to Ring Road, cautioning that no compromise would be tolerated on quality or timelines, said a press release on Monday.

Aleem Khan told that Lahore-Sialkot Motorway be extended from 4 to 6 lanes and connected from Kharian to

Islamabad. This new linkage is expected to ease traffic congestion on the existing Lahore-Islamabad Motorway M-2, reduce travel distance by 100 kilometers and shorten journey time by approximately one hour, he added.

Highlighting the regional impact, Abdul Aleem Khan said that this Motorway will also connect Gujranwala, Gujrat, Kharian, Jhelum and Gujrat Khan Districts, offering significant travel convenience for residents commuting between Lahore and Islamabad.

During the high-level meeting, the Federal Minister sought progress reports on ongoing NHA projects and issued key directives regarding new interchanges and infrastructure initiatives in the Punjab Region.

The meeting was attended by the Federal Secretary for Communications,

Chairman of National Highway Authority and the CEO of RUDA who briefed the Federal Minister on their departmental matters.

Following the meeting, Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan accompanied by senior officers inspected the ongoing expansion work on Multan Road, issuing on-site directives at various locations, as well.

He also instructed officers to enhance development efforts and tasked them to beautify the stretch of Multan Road till Hadyara Drain and Ring Road.

On this occasion, citizens warmly welcomed the Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan at various points along his visit and appreciated the developmental work being carried out on Multan Road for the convenience of traveler.

Rawal Dam spillways closed after water level drops to 1747 feet

ISLAMABAD (APP): Rawal Dam's spillways, which were opened early morning to release excess water following heavy rains, have been closed after a five-hour discharge.

The water level, which had prompted authorities to open the gates, has now returned to a safer mark.

The district administration closed the spillways of Rawal Dam on Monday after the water level dropped to 1747 feet. Earlier in the day, the gates were opened at 6 AM when the reservoir touched 1748 feet, nearing its maximum storage capacity.

The spokesman of ICT administration said the release of water continued for five hours to manage the rising levels caused by rainfall in Murree and adjoining areas. After the discharge, the water level in the dam decreased by one foot, reaching 1747 feet.



ISLAMABAD: Vehicles move along expressway during rainfall experienced in the Federal Capital. —APP Photo

Senate body expresses concern over railway accidents, corruption

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate Standing Committee on Railways on Monday expressed concern over financial losses, corruption, and railway accidents over the past five years and also examined the progress of railway infrastructure projects, particularly under the CPEC framework.

The meeting was chaired by Senator Jam Saifullah Khan to review questions moved by Senator Shahadat Awan concerning financial losses, corruption, accountability, and railway accidents, said a press release.

Senator Shahadat Awan expressed serious concerns over the Ministry of Railways for repeatedly providing inaccurate and delayed information to the committee, terming it a breach of privilege and a failure to comply with parliamentary directives. He noted that despite three reminders and a referral to

the Privileges Committee, the Ministry had yet to submit correct and complete data. Senator Awan emphasized that the Ministry must fix responsibility on officials who misled the committee and failed to deliver the promised information within the agreed timelines.

He underscored that over 3,200 FIRs had been registered, and despite promises made during previous meetings, including assurances of revised records within fifteen days, accurate figures were still pending.

Jam Saifullah Khan, expressed deep concern over the lack of seriousness shown by the ministry in responding to the committee's directives. He said the provision of incorrect or incomplete data not only hinders the committee's oversight role but also raises serious questions about internal accountability mechanisms.

He urged the ministry to take the matter seriously and ensure that officials responsible for misinformation are identified and action is taken against them.

The chairman emphasized that the committee expects due diligence and transparency, especially in cases where millions in public funds are at stake. He directed that complete details of all FIRs, pending investigations, conviction statuses, and recovery efforts must be submitted ahead of the next meeting. He further stressed that implementation of court decisions and audit findings must be tracked and shared with the committee.

The ministry informed the committee that a total of 3,230 FIRs had been filed during the last five years, citing theft, embezzlement, and misuse of authority. Of the Rs 212,883 million in reported property losses, Rs 109,487 million had

been recovered. The Secretary, Ministry of Railways, admitted that earlier reports were inconsistent due to confusion between calendar and fiscal years but stated that the data has since been reconciled. He added that 1,555 accused have been convicted, while 309 have been acquitted and 1080 cases remain under trial.

However, Senator Awan questioned the ministry's failure to disclose progress on several long-pending FIRs and called for disclosure of reopened and unresolved cases, along with full police cooperation.

The committee also reviewed the Karachi-Rohri railway line under the ML-1 project, which the ministry identified as a strategic bottleneck in the national rail network.

Secretary Railways apprised the committee that ministry is exploring alternate financing

options with development partners. The Chairman Committee emphasized the need to assess the feasibility of public-private partnerships. The Ministry assured the committee that financing routes beyond CPEC are being actively pursued and acknowledged the need for urgent investment to sustain railway operations.

Jam Saifullah Khan, further raised the issue of railway land encroachment, particularly in Karachi, where the value of occupied land runs into billions. He called for a transparent mechanism to recover and monetize underutilized high-value land assets, adding that the revenue could potentially fund critical infrastructure. He pointed out that corruption complaints continue to surface, particularly related to commercial land holdings, and directed the ministry to submit a clear policy for land

management and recovery.

The committee also took stock of outdated infrastructure and the unavailability of train services in underserved areas such as Balochistan. Senator Saifullah urged the ministry to prioritize operational efficiency and ensure equitable service provision across all provinces. He concluded the meeting by stating that the committee will reconvene before the end of next month and expects full compliance with its directives, including the submission of all pending records, the status of disciplinary actions, and updates on strategic projects.

Among those present were Senators Asad Qasim, Dost Ali Jeasar, Saifullah Sarwar Khan Nyazee, and Shahadat Awan, along with the Secretary of the Ministry of Railways and senior officials from the concerned departments.

Shopkeeper shot dead

KANDAHAR CITY (Pajhwok): Unidentified gunmen have shot dead a young man in Kandahar province, an official said on Monday. Police spokesman Mullah Asadullah Jamshed told Pajhwok Afghan News that the victim owned a shop on Rangrizan Street in the 1st municipality district. He was gunned down near his home on Sunday night. Security forces have launched an investigation and launched a manhunt to arrest the perpetrators and bring them to justice.

The Frontier Post

AFGHANISTAN

Muharram 26, 1447 — Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Shaheen meets businessmen

KABUL (BNA): Mohammad Suhail Shaheen, Ambassador of IEA, recently met with Afghan businessmen residing in Qatar to discuss enhancing trade ties between the two countries. The meeting emphasized the importance of marketing Afghan agricultural products, particularly dried and fresh fruits. Participants engaged in fruitful discussions about joint investment opportunities, aiming to foster collaboration between Afghan and Qatari entrepreneurs.

Ministry focuses on reconstruction

KABUL (TOLONews): In its annual reporting meeting, the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing criticized the lack of attention to urban standards during the past and announced that plans are underway to standardize cities across the country.

According to officials, the first phase of the Qatar project in Kabul has been completed, the Nila Bagh project has progressed by 35%, the second block of housing provision is 80% complete, and work on the New Kabul project is ongoing.

Madar Ali Karimi Bamiani, Deputy Minister of Urban Affairs at the Ministry, said: "God willing, we are practically and technically overcoming many urban challenges."

Mohammad Kamal Afghan, spokesperson for the ministry, added: "We have started work on a

township for 400 needy families in Helmand. Additionally, 108 homes called 'shelters' are being built in Fariah, and 100 houses in Paktia are being constructed with the help of a charity. In the Khushhal Khan area, as part of the Qatar project, homes for 800 families are being built. We are also allocating plots of land for returnees."

The acting minister of urban development also criticized the indiscriminate expulsion of Afghan migrants by neighboring countries and said the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has managed to prevent a major humanitarian crisis to a large extent.

Najibullah Haqqani emphasized that to address the problems of returning migrants, construction of 35 townships in 25 provinces has begun, and land is being distributed to

over 87,000 families.

Najibullah Haqqani, the acting minister, also said: "As soon as we began making some progress, they used it as a tool of pressure and increased the expulsion of migrants, that too in an inhumane way. We wish they would deport migrants humanely. Our request is for humanitarian and Islamic principles to be respected."

Mohammad Arsalan Khartoti, Deputy Minister of Finance and Administration at the ministry, said: "In the past year, 35 new townships have been constructed in 25 provinces for migrants to provide permanent housing, some of which are already operational."

Additionally, the ministry reported it has halted 3,800 unauthorized constructions in the city and has designed plans for 300 buildings.

700 workers to be sent Qatar

KABUL (Pajhwok): Afghanistan's private employment agencies and a mixed public company in Qatar have signed an agreement on deploying Afghan workers to the gulf country, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) announced on Monday.

Under the agreement, 700 job opportunities have initially been allocated for Afghan workers.

In a statement, MoLSA said the agreement was signed between a Qatari mixed public enterprise and Afghanistan's private employment agencies, with 700 job positions initially designated for Afghan nationals.

The agreement aims to ensure that Afghan workers are sent abroad in a legal, safe and dignified manner, while also guaranteeing appropriate protection of their rights in the future.

The ministry added the registration process for eligible applicants would be carried out in a legal and reliable way by the relevant department of Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) responsible for foreign workers' deployment in coordination with approved private employment agencies.

Further details regarding registration requirements, procedures and designated centres will be announced in due course.

MoLSA urged citizens to register only through official, authorised and approved centres once the process begins and to avoid engaging with unauthorised individuals, fraudulent companies, or unknown parties, in order to prevent any form of exploitation.

In 2022, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) stated that around 65,000 Afghans would be sent to foreign countries for employment under separate agreements.

The ministry noted that contracts for sending Afghan workers abroad had been signed under the previous government, but their implementation had been delayed due to various challenges.

Last year, Labour Minister Abdul Manan Omari led a delegation to Doha at the official invitation of Qatar to hold talks with Qatari authorities on the deployment of skilled and semi-skilled Afghan workers.

Sale of children's toys banned

KANDAHAR (Amu TV): Taliban have imposed a ban on the sale and use of certain children's toys, including dolls and miniature figurines, in the southern province of Kandahar, local sources and shopkeepers said.

Vendors in the Sadozo Dany area and other parts of Kandahar told Amu TV that Taliban morality enforcers have repeatedly visited their shops to enforce the ban. They say Taliban are preventing the sale of what they describe as "un-Islamic" toys.

"The vice and virtue enforcers have told us these toys are 'haram' and we are not allowed to sell them," one toy shop owner said, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisal.

The reported ban includes dolls and other children's play items featuring human or animal representations, which Taliban officials have long criticized as inappropriate under their interpretation of Islamic law.

Shopkeepers say the restrictions are compounding already dire economic conditions in the city. "Business was already slow," said another vendor. "Now this decision has made it even worse. We are barely surviving."

Taliban have not commented on the reported ban.

Since returning to power in 2021, Taliban have imposed a growing number of social restrictions across Afghanistan, often through the Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice. The rules have included dress codes, bans on music, and strict limitations on women's rights and public life.

SG MWL visits Kabul, meets IEA officials

KABUL (Ariana News): Mohammad bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa, Secretary General of the Muslim World League, arrived in Kabul and met with Abdul Salam Hanafi, Administrative Deputy Prime Minister of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA).

During the meeting, Hanafi highlighted the achievements of the Islamic Emirate in a range of areas, including nationwide security, anti-corruption efforts, the declaration of a general amnesty, the prohibition of poppy cultivation and drug trafficking, support for orphans, the rehabilitation of drug addicts, and the implementation of major infrastructure and development projects.

He reaffirmed the Islamic Emirate's commitment to ensuring that Afghan territory is not used to threaten the security of other nations and emphasized its adherence to the principles of mutual respect and non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

Hanafi also addressed the ongoing return of Afghan migrants from neighboring countries, stressing the importance of



increased cooperation from both domestic and international humanitarian organizations to support their reintegration.

In addition, he discussed the Islamic Emirate's counterterrorism efforts, particularly against Daesh, noting that the group has been suppressed and its safe havens dismantled.

Hanafi called on the Muslim World League to stand firmly with the people of Afghanistan during this critical period and to strengthen its cooperation

with the Islamic Emirate.

In response, Secretary General Al-Issa expressed his satisfaction with his visit to Afghanistan and his meetings with officials of the Islamic Emirate. He emphasized that the Muslim World League serves as a voice for the hopes and concerns of the Muslim Ummah and brings together scholars from across the Islamic world under one platform.

He also highlighted the participation of Islamic Emirate representatives in last year's Ramadan conference

titled "Building Bridges Between Islamic Schools of Thought."

Al-Issa further noted that the Muslim World League, which includes a Supreme Council and a Global Islamic Fiqh Academy—one of the oldest and most respected institutions of its kind—will continue to strengthen its relationship with the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. He concluded by praying for continued success and blessings for the leadership of the Islamic Emirate.

Four-day polio vaccination campaign begins in 19 provinces

KABUL (Amu TV): A four-day polio vaccination campaign was launched on Monday, aiming to reach more than 7.3 million children under the age of five across 187 districts in 19 provinces of the country.

The campaign marks the third round of polio immunizations conducted this year and is part of a broader effort to curb the spread of the disease in one of the last countries where it remains endemic.

The Afghanistan Polio

Free Initiative, which is overseeing the effort, urged families to ensure their children are vaccinated, calling for public cooperation to help build what it described as "a safer and brighter Afghanistan."

The campaign follows a sharp rise in confirmed polio cases. While just three cases were recorded during the previous three years, 25 new cases were confirmed in 2024, according to official data. Among them, 14 occurred in Kandahar,

seven in Helmand, two in Uruzgan, and one each in Kunar and Nuristan. In 2025, one case has so far been identified in the western province of Badghis.

Despite the renewed push, Taliban authorities continue to ban door-to-door vaccination, a long-standing method used to reach children in rural and high-risk areas. Health experts warn that the restriction is hampering efforts to eliminate the virus.

Medical professionals

and vaccination teams say many children are being left unvaccinated due to limited access, heightening the risk of further transmission.

Afghanistan and neighboring Pakistan remain the only two countries in the world where wild poliovirus is still endemic. Global health experts continue to emphasize that widespread immunization and unrestricted access for vaccination workers are essential to achieving eradication.

Afghanistan, Iran advance ties with new economic, trade accords

KABUL (Ariana News): In a key move to bolster regional cooperation, senior officials from Iran's Khorasan Razavi Province and Afghanistan's Herat Province convened for an economic and trade summit, resulting in preliminary agreements across a broad range of sectors.

The discussions focused on strengthening collaboration in industry and mining, customs and trade, transit and transportation, agriculture, education, engineering services, and medical tourism. Both delegations underscored the importance of expanding bilateral economic ties as a path toward regional prosperity.

Gholam Hossein Mozaffari, Governor of Khorasan Razavi, highlighted the significance of the summit, noting that the joint economic working group and the sixth session of the Joint Economic Committee yielded constructive outcomes.

He praised the active involvement of private sector representatives from both provinces, adding that



their engagement enriched the dialogue and paved the way for a forthcoming memorandum of understanding to formalize the cooperation.

Noor Ahmad Islamjar, Governor of Herat, expressed optimism about the future of bilateral relations. "This visit has great potential to bring prosperity to both our peoples," he said, acknowledging Mozaffari's leadership in advancing economic collaboration.

The meeting concluded with a symbolic exchange of gifts, reinforcing the goodwill and mutual respect between the two provinces and signaling a shared commitment to sustained cross-border engagement.

Cross-border trade between Iran and Afghanistan remains critical, particularly through border provinces like Herat and Khorasan Razavi.

Iran is one of Afghanistan's largest trading part-

ners, supplying energy, construction materials, food, and pharmaceuticals.

Afghanistan exports agricultural products, precious stones, and handicrafts to Iran.

This summit marks a meaningful step forward in Iran-Afghanistan relations, reflecting a joint vision for regional economic development, diplomatic engagement, and deeper ties between neighboring communities.

IE stresses industry growth, support for local production

KABUL (TOLONews): The Acting Minister of Industry and Commerce, during the inauguration ceremony of a revenue collection center for the issuance of certificates of origin and invoice registration, emphasized the importance of industrial development in Afghanistan and stated that the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan supports industrialists.

Nooruddin Azizi added that Afghanistan was previously known primarily as a consumer country, meeting its needs mostly through imports. However, now the focus on domestic production has increased, and Afghanistan has achieved

self-sufficiency in more than 130 industrial sectors.

Nooruddin Azizi, Acting Minister of Industry and Commerce, said: "The Emirate supports industry. It's not that we attack trade with stones or wood, it is part of our being. A trader must become an industrialist, we, together, must revive industry in Afghanistan. Why? Because of the needs and necessities we face."

Shireen Agha Sakhi, head of the Chamber of Craftsmen and Shopkeepers, also said: "This private sector, we are all one, we are a family. There is no difference between us. If we are craftsmen, we are also

traders; if we are craftsmen, we are also industrialists."

Meanwhile, officials from the Chamber of Commerce and Investment and the Chamber of Industries and Mines have expressed their support for the establishment of this center.

Khairuddin Mayel, Deputy of the Chamber of Commerce and Investment, said: "The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has made a decision, and we have no opposition to it. Industry, commerce, and craftsmen are all part of the same economic body of the country. In any way we can help them grow, we are there with them."

Shirbaz Kaminzada,

Head of the Chamber of Industries and Mines, said: "A very good step has been taken. Now, thank God, all our traders are turning toward industrial production. When we have production, there will be no need for imports."

This comes as yesterday, during its annual reporting meeting, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce stated that returning industrialists have been given incentives such as tax exemptions. Over the past year, \$400 million in investment has been attracted, and more than 1,100 Afghan investors have returned to the country.

ASA: 18 scholarly works translated last year



KABUL (Pajhwok): The Academy of Sciences of Afghanistan (ASA) says 18 significant scholarly works were translated from foreign languages into national languages last year.

In addition, the first volume of the Dari Literary Encyclopaedia has been completed, featuring research on 600 encyclopaedic terms.

As part of a government-wide programme highlighting the annual achievements of public institutions, ASA officials presented the academy's accomplishments for the previous solar year.

Speaking at the event, Deputy for Natural and Technical Sciences at the Academy Sheikh Amir Jan Saqib said that 18 major scientific works had been translated from foreign languages into national languages over the past

year.

He added that the first volume of the Dari Literary Encyclopaedia had been finalised, including the analysis of 600 encyclopaedic terms.

He further noted that the fourth volume of the Encyclopaedia for Children and Adolescents in the Dari language had been completed, while the translation of its third volume into Pashto had also been finalised.

According to Saqib, work was currently underway on 183 scholarly and research projects across the fields of Islamic, human, and natural-technical sciences.

Also speaking at the gathering, Dr. Syed Nazim Syedi, Head of the Centre for Languages and Literature at the Academy, said that 36 scientific and research projects were

approved by the Scientific Council last year.

He noted that standardised writing systems and alphabets had been developed for three of the country's minority languages — Sawi, Ashkashmi, and Nuristani. Speakers of several other languages have also submitted requests, and work is ongoing in those areas.

Syedi added that in the Islamic sciences field, 13 specialised encyclopaedic topics had been identified and confirmed; 14 topics in the field of human sciences, and six in the field of natural sciences.

The ASA, he said, donated a total of 2,174 books to various government bodies, major academic institutions, scholars, and cultural figures.

In addition, 20 scientific research books were sent to Tatarstan in Russia.

Carpet weaving training center launched in Kabul



KABUL (Ariana News): A new carpet weaving technical and vocational training centre was officially inaugurated in Alaudin, Kabul, as part of a collaborative project aimed at empowering Afghan women and preserving the country's rich artisanal heritage.

The centre is a key component of the "Enhancement of Traditional Afghan Handicrafts" initiative, which is funded by the Azerbaijan International Development Agency (AIDA) and implemented by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Mission in Kabul, in cooperation with Afghanistan's Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MoLSA).

The inauguration ceremony was attended by senior officials, including Dr. Mohammad Saeed Al Ayyash, Director General of the OIC Kabul Mission; Mr. Ilham Mammadov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Afghanistan; and Alhaj Mawlawi Ubaidullah Amin Zadah, Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Affairs.

The project is designed to provide vocational training in carpet weaving to Afghan women, with the goal of both expanding economic opportunities and safeguarding traditional Afghan handicrafts. The newly inaugurated centre is equipped with 20 modern weaving machines, allowing trainees to learn techniques

rooted in centuries-old Afghan craft.

"This initiative reflects a shared commitment to women's economic empowerment and the preservation of Afghanistan's cultural legacy," said Al Ayyash during the ceremony.

Carpet weaving remains one of Afghanistan's most vital industries, sustaining more than one million livelihoods nationwide, particularly in rural communities.

The launch of the training centre marks an important step in revitalizing the sector and supporting a new generation of skilled artisans, particularly women and youth.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari conferring award of Nishan-e-Imtiaz (Military) on Vice Admiral, Mohammad Bin Abdulrahman Al Ghoraihi, Chief of Royal Saudi Naval Forces during a ceremony.

3 tourists killed as floods inundate Babusar, Naran

F.P. Report

NARAN: At least three tourists were killed, four others were injured and 15 went missing after floods triggered by heavy rain swept through Gilgit-Baltistan's (GB) Babusar area in Diamer district on Monday.

Monsoon rains, which fall across the region from June to September every year, continue to lash many parts of the country, prompting authorities to release an urban flooding warning for several cities. According to Faizullah Firaq, spokesperson for the GB government, three bodies were recovered from flood debris today, while four injured people were transported to a hospital in Chilas.

"Fifteen other tourists have gone missing, as eight tourist vehicles were washed away in the raging flood," Firaq said in a statement. "Medical assistance for the injured is ongoing, with one individual in critical condition." The spokesperson added that communication systems were disrupted due to a fibre optic break, while thousands of tourists were stranded and communication with their homes had been cut off. "The government has successfully rescued hundreds of stranded tourists on Babusar Highway, and many have sought shelter with local residents," Firaq said. "The GB chief minister has ordered that all available resources be used to rescue those stranded. The Babusar Highway is closed at multiple points, with roads and farmland severely damaged."

Meanwhile, Amir Khadam Khan, spokesperson for Rescue 1122 Mansehra, told media that Jalkhad road in Naran was blocked by large stones and debris due to heavy rain in the area. "According to initial reports, a car is stuck in the debris," Khan said. "Fortunately, no loss of life or property has been reported so far."

The National Highways Authority (NHA) deployed heavy machinery from nearby places to start the process of clearing the road and restoring traffic. A Rescue 1122 ambulance also reached the scene to provide assistance in case of any possible

emergency.

On June 29, the GB Disaster Management Authority issued a warning of increased risk of glacial lake outburst floods (Glof) and flash floods. The public and tourists were advised to avoid going near rivers, streams and other waterways, and avoid bathing or washing clothes in streams since the water flow can reach dangerous levels.

Meanwhile, after a brief hiatus, the fourth spell of monsoon rains is about to begin in Punjab, with rainfall expected in various districts of the province starting today, including Lahore. According to a spokesperson for the Punjab Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), this spell of monsoon rains is expected to continue until July 25 and will be more intense compared to previous rains.

The PDMA has forecast heavy rainfall in Rawalpindi, Murree, Galiyat, Attock, Chakwal, Mandi Bahauddin, Hafizabad, Gujrat, Jhelum, and Gujranwala. Rain is also expected in Lahore, Faisalabad, Sialkot, Narowal, Toba Tek Singh, Jhang, Sargodha, and Mianwali. Rainfall is also likely in southern Punjab, including Dera Ghazi Khan, Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar, and Multan.

The PDMA has warned that the monsoon rains could cause a significant rise in water flow in the upper regions of Punjab's rivers, increasing the risk of flooding. DG PDMA Irfan Ali Kathia has issued a flood alert for Punjab's rivers and streams. He stated that there is concern about increased water flow in the Ravi, Jhelum, Sutlej, and Chenab rivers. Furthermore, the Indus River at Taunsa is already experiencing moderate flooding, with the water flow reaching 420,000 cusecs, while low-level flooding continues at Tarbela, Kalabagh, and Chashma. Following the instructions of the Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, the DG PDMA has placed the entire provincial administration on alert. He instructed all deputy commissioners to remain in the field and enforce Section 144 strictly around rivers and streams.

IHC directs federal govt for submitting report in Aafia case

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday issued a contempt of court show-cause notice to federal cabinet over non-submission of report in Dr. Aafia Siddiqui case.

Justice Sardar Ijaz Ishaq Khan heard the case related to release and repatriation of Dr. Aafia from a US jail. During the hearing on the petition filed by Dr. Fauzia Siddiqui, petitioner lawyer Imran Shafiq, Additional Attorney General and others appeared in the court.

Justice Sardar Ijaz Ishaq Khan said that I am issuing a contempt of court notice to every member of the federal cabinet. The case should be scheduled for hearing on the first working day after the holidays. Later, in a three-page order issued by the Justice Sardar Ijaz Ishaq Khan, the court issued a contempt of court notice to the cabinet members and ordered them to submit a reply within 2 weeks. It was said that the federal government did not submit the reasons to the court despite the court order. The court was left with no option but to issue a contempt of court notice to the federal government, it said.

It said that the delivery of justice by a High Court judge was controlled by a weekly roster maintained by the Chief Justice's office. This situation is both heartbreaking and humorous at the same time. A contradiction that has now become the hallmark of this High Court. The court also said that it had given the government an opportunity to present its decision. It had warned the Additional Attorney General that if the report was not submitted, contempt of court proceedings would have to be initiated. The government filed an appeal in the Supreme Court against the order for permitting an amendment in petition of Dr. Fauzia. Justice Ishaq wrote that if a judge wants to set up a court to deliver justice, the High Court administration will not allow him during the vacation.

19 killed as BD air force plane crashes

DHAKA (Reuters): At least 19 people were killed as a Bangladesh air force training aircraft crashed into a college and school campus in the capital city of Dhaka on Monday, a fire services official said.

More than 50 people, including children and adults, were hospitalised with burns, a doctor at the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery told reporters. The incident occurred at the Milestone School and College in Dhaka's northern area of Uttara, officials said.

"Bangladesh Air Force's F-7 BGI training aircraft crashed in Uttara. The aircraft took off at 13:06 (0706 GMT)," the military's public relations department said in a statement. Videos of the aftermath of the crash showed a big fire near a lawn emitting a thick plume of smoke into the sky, as crowds watched from a distance.

Firefighters sprayed water on the mangled remains of the plane, which appeared to have rammed into the side of a building, damaging iron grills and creating a gaping hole in the structure, Reuters TV visuals showed. "A third-grade student was brought in dead, and three others, aged 12, 14 and 40, were admitted to the hospital," said Bidhan Sarker, head of the burn unit at the Dhaka Medical College and Hospital, where some victims were taken.

Visuals also showed people screaming and crying as others tried to comfort them. "When I was picking (up) my kids and went to the gate, I realised something came from behind...I heard an explosion. When I looked back, I only saw fire and smoke," said Masud Tarik, a teacher at the school. Muhammad Yunus, head of Bangladesh's interim government, said "necessary measures" would be taken to investigate the cause of the accident and "ensure all kinds of assistance".

"The loss suffered by the Air Force...students, parents, teachers and staff, and others in this accident is irreparable," he said.

Tarar terms officers of Info Ministry as first defenders of ideological frontiers

Saqib Mushtaq

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar said on Monday that it was the job of the Information Ministry to promote and project a positive perception of the country.

Speaking as the chief guest at the passing out ceremony of the 41st Specialized Training Programme (STP) of the Information Group, he congratulated all the officers who have successfully completed this rigorous and highly important training. He said he was not only delighted but highly encouraged, and he has a great sense of hope after meeting the young probationers here today. The minister said that the future of this country and the Information Service was very bright. He said the Information group played a vital role not only in the functioning of the government but also in highlighting its policies and projecting its narrative, improving the country's image abroad, and building a narrative in regard to the country's progress, prosperity, development, and who we are as people.

The job of the officers of the Information Service was not only to defend the ideology of the country but the basis of the creation of Pakistan, but also to promote a soft image of the country. More often than not, this is a very thankless job as in this service you require utmost dedication and hard work, he said, adding that the contribution made by this group to the progress of the country had been immense.

The minister said more recently, it gives me immense pride to acknowledge that in recent Indo-Pak standoff was a testimony to the overall success of Pakistan, but the contribution that the Information Ministry had made in Pakistan's success was immense, as the first war was the information war. "The first was the challenge of narrative, and I am very proud to say that we passed in flying colours. Our services, our contribution to that war, were acknowledged at the highest

level. Despite certain limitations, we made innovations, because if you don't change with time, time will change you."

The transformation of Digital Media Wing into the Digital Communication Department has enabled the ministry to perform its duties more effectively. He said that the officers of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting have to perform in different ministries and departments, at the provincial level, and even outside Pakistan.

"You have reached here after a great struggle, and you carry great aspirations, and you have become part of this after passing a competitive examination and passing courses in the service as well." After completion of training, the probationers of this group will start practical life. This service demands its officers to perform in all spheres and all sectors. The officers of Information Service are posted in various ministries, departments provincial governments, and all over the world.

"We must acknowledge that no work can be accomplished without collective efforts and teamwork. Good work done by the officers creates a good name for themselves, their families, but also for the Information Group", he added. He said in recent times, there has been a great shift from mainstream media to digital media. This is a transformation that the senior officers of the Ministry had learnt with time, but you have grown up in the age of digital media." Senior officers of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting are digital migrants and you are digital natives", he added.

The minister said there must be a great connection between the newcomers and the seniors, as there will be great learning that they will attain in the job after going through this rigorous training process. The minister opined that the digital wave carries with it new challenges because the mainstream media evolved from print to electronic media through the

process of organized evolution. When electronic news channels were launched in Pakistan, and they were seen as a means of news communication and mass communication, it was an evolution which carried with it whole processes like content control, editorial boards, editorial policy and certain codes of conduct.

But the new media, which is digital media, has not evolved from any old institution of any old institution or any old method, so the new media has its own peculiarities as it was developed on its own, so was carrying great challenges with it. He said there will be great expectations from the new officers to tackle these challenges as the greatest challenge of present times was fake news, propaganda and disinformation.

The burden that the officers of the Information Ministry carried on their shoulders was much heavier than it was perceived. Information Service group had a long list of unsung heroes who had done wonders for the country. "Recently we have started a series in which we are going to acknowledge those unsung heroes who dedicated their lives to service of Pakistan", he announced.

He assured the information officers that as long as he was the minister the services of the group will be acknowledged in Pakistan and abroad. He wished all the best the probationers for future career who had been assigned ministries and departments. He said that the reputation that they will earn in start of service will carry throughout their career.

He expressed the hope that the new officers will earn laurels for not only information group but the country as well. The role of Information Ministry in projection of the image of the country and the performance of the government had grown in due course of time and it will continue to grow. In the he expressed the hope that new officers of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting will carry the mantle that was passed on by their seniors to them.

49 killed in Gaza attacks as Israel sends tanks into Deir el-Balah

GAZA: At least 49 Palestinians have been killed in Israeli attacks across Gaza, medical sources say, as the Israeli military has sent tanks into areas of Deir el-Balah in central Gaza for the first time since Israel began its assault on the besieged territory in October 2023.

Israel on Monday launched the ground offensive on southern and eastern areas of the city that is packed with displaced Palestinians, a day after its military issued a forced displacement order for residents in the areas, forcing thousands of people to flee west towards the Mediterranean coast and south to Khan Younis.

Tank shelling in the area hit houses and mosques, killing at least three Palestinians and wounding several, the Reuters news agency reported, quoting local medics. Reporting from Deir el-Balah, Al Jazeera's Tareq Abu Azzoam said gunfire was audible as Israeli tanks rolled into the area on Monday morning.

"We can see that the entire city is under Israeli attack," he said. "We did not manage to sleep last night." "There has been an ongoing Israeli bombardment. Israeli jets, tanks and naval gunboats continue to strike multiple residential areas. Three more squares were destroyed in the city, and then residential houses were flattened." He said many Deir el-Balah residents fled using donkey carts and other modes of transport.

In Khan Younis in southern Gaza, an Israeli air strike killed at least five people, including a husband and wife and their two children, in a tent,

medics said. Among those reported killed since dawn on Monday were four aid seekers waiting for food near a distribution centre operated by the United States- and Israeli-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF). Five other Palestinians were killed in a separate Israeli bombardment in Jabalia al-Balad in the north.

Earlier, the Palestine Red Crescent Society reported that its teams had recovered the body of one person and evacuated three wounded after an Israeli artillery strike on the nearby Jabalia al-Nazla area. Drone strikes were reported in Gaza City, resulting in casualties, a source at al-Shifa Hospital told Al Jazeera Arabic.

The previous day, at least 134 people were killed and 1,155 injured by Israeli forces, according to the Gaza Ministry of Health. At least 59,029 people in Gaza have been killed since the war began. Gaza health authorities reported at least 19 people had starved to death in one day, highlighting the desperate situation under the Israeli aid blockade.

In an interview with Al Jazeera, the World Food Programme's Palestine representative, Antoine Renard, said the United Nations agency has warned for "weeks" that Palestinians in Gaza are facing starvation. "You have a level of despair that people are ready to risk their lives just to reach any of the assistance actually coming into Gaza," Renard said during extended East Jerusalem. "[There's a] soaring number of people facing malnutrition, and we can really see that the situation is

really getting to levels that we've never seen ever before." UNRWA, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, said it is receiving "desperate messages of starvation" from inside Gaza, including from its staff, as humanitarian conditions continue to deteriorate.

"The suffering in Gaza is man-made and must be stopped. Lift the siege and let aid in safely and at scale," UNRWA said in a statement posted on X. Amjad Shawa, head of the Palestinian NGO Network, told Al Jazeera on Monday that 900,000 children are experiencing varying degrees of malnutrition in Gaza.

Twenty-five countries, including the United Kingdom, France and other European nations, issued a joint statement saying the war in Gaza "must end now" and Israel must comply with international law. The foreign ministers of the 25 countries, including Australia, Canada and Japan, said "the suffering of civilians in Gaza has reached new depths", and they condemned "the drip feeding of aid and the inhumane killing of civilians, including children, seeking to meet their most basic needs of water and food".

"The Israeli government's aid delivery model is dangerous, fuels instability and deprives Gazans of human dignity," the statement said. "The Israeli government's denial of essential humanitarian assistance to the civilian population is unacceptable. Israel must comply with its obligations under international humanitarian law," it said. — Al Jazeera

UN chief flays killings in Gaza

NEW YORK: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday condemned Israel's killing of civilians seeking humanitarian aid in Gaza over the weekend, calling it "an atrocious and inhumane act," and demanded an immediate ceasefire along with the release of the Israeli hostages held by Hamas and unimpeded aid access to the starving enclave.

"These were people seeking UN assistance for their families," Guterres said in remarks opening the High-Level Political Forum in New York. "We need an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, the immediate release of all hostages, and full humanitarian access as a first step toward achieving a two-state solution," he added.

Guterres also called for the fragile ceasefire between Iran and Israel to hold and reiterated his call for a just and lasting peace in Ukraine, rooted in the UN Charter, international law, and UN resolutions. He urged an end to the conflict in Sudan and pointed to continued violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, the Sahel and Myanmar, warning that war and instability are "pushing the Sustainable Development Goals further out of reach." The secretary-general linked these conflicts directly to the core development agenda, stressing that "sustainable peace requires sustainable development." He warned that the world is far off track to meet the SDGs by 2030 and said the erosion of peace and rising geopolitical tensions are among the biggest threats to that progress.

The UN chief's address came at a

time of growing frustration among developing nations and civil society groups over the lack of progress toward the SDGs, a set of 17 global targets adopted in 2015 to end poverty, protect the planet, and promote peace and prosperity by 2030. While the world has seen gains, such as increased access to electricity, internet, and education, only 35 percent of SDG targets are on track or making moderate progress, according to UN data. Nearly half are moving too slowly, and 18 percent are regressing.

"We cannot sugarcoat these facts," Guterres said. "But we must not surrender to them either." He linked peace and development, arguing that sustainable peace is impossible without sustainable development. Despite multiple setbacks, Guterres pointed to recent multilateral breakthroughs as evidence that international cooperation can still deliver results.

He cited three key achievements: the adoption of a Pandemic Agreement in Geneva aimed at building a fairer global health system; new ocean protection commitments made in Nice to fight pollution and illegal fishing; and the so-called Seville Commitment, a financial pact aimed at expanding fiscal space for developing countries, improving access to capital, and reforming the global financial architecture.

"This shows that transformation is not only necessary — it is possible," he said. The HLPF, held annually at UN headquarters, is the central platform for reviewing progress toward the SDGs. This year's forum spotlights five interconnected goals:

health, gender equality, decent work, marine ecosystems, and global partnerships.

On health, Guterres urged governments to invest in universal care and prevention, particularly for the most vulnerable. On gender equality, he acknowledged persistent barriers but noted growing grassroots momentum, and called for real financing, accountability, and rights-based policies to drive systemic change. On decent work, he warned that over 2 billion people remain in informal employment and youth joblessness is high. But he cited the UN's Global Accelerator initiative as helping countries create jobs and expand social protections, especially in green industries.

Guterres also emphasized the need to reform the global financial system, which he said no longer reflects current geopolitical or economic realities. The Seville Commitment, he said, sets out concrete steps: strengthening domestic resource mobilization through tax reform, improving debt relief frameworks, and tripling the lending capacity of multilateral development banks. Guterres urged greater investment in science, data, and digital tools, including artificial intelligence, as well as deeper partnerships with civil society, the private sector, and local governments. With five years remaining to meet the 2030 deadline, he called on nations to transform "sparks of progress into a blaze of transformation," saying: "Let's deliver on development — for people and for the planet." — Arab News