

**Mian Azhar passes away**  
**F.P. Report**  
LAHORE: Former Punjab governor and PTI-backed MNA Mian Azhar passed away on Tuesday, his party confirmed. The PTI announced the death in a post on X and extended its condolences to his son and party leader, Hammad Azhar. He was the governor of Punjab from August 11, 1990, till April 10, 1993. He was also the founding president of the PML-Q and joined the PTI in October 2011.

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# Pakistan warns of escalating water dispute with India

## — urges UN action on peaceful conflict resolution

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan on Tuesday raised serious concerns over India's unilateral act of suspending the Indus Waters Treaty, warning that the move threatens the water security of over 240 million people in Pakistan.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar called India's actions illegal and urged the United Nations to take steps to uphold peaceful dispute resolution. Presiding over the UN Security Council Open Debate on "Promoting International Peace and Security through Multilateralism and the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes", Ishaq Dar described the Treaty signed in 1960, as a "remarkable example of diplomacy and dialogue" that has withstood decades of tension between the two neighbours.

However, he condemned India's recent move to illegally hold the treaty in abeyance, accusing it of using water as a coercive tool. "This action is not only a breach of the treaty but a direct threat to the survival of millions who depend on the Indus system," he said. The deputy PM's remarks came following the adoption of Resolution 2788 on "Strengthening Mechanisms for Peaceful Settlement of Disputes."

Pakistan welcomed the resolution and called for its swift and universal implementation. Ishaq Dar urged the international community to reaffirm its support for multilateralism and enhance the United Nations' mechanisms for peaceful dispute resolution. Speaking at the UN Security Council Ishaq Dar welcomed the adoption of the resolution on "Strengthening Mechanisms for Peaceful Settlement of Disputes," calling it a "welcome expression of our collective will" and a reaffirma-



PRESIDENT PAKISTAN

tion of the UN Charter's core principles. He emphasized that peaceful resolution was not only a legal and moral obligation but a strategic necessity for global stability. Ishaq Dar called for the universal and non-discriminatory implementation of Security Council resolutions. He criticized the selective application of international law, which he said undermines the Council's credibility and fosters prolonged conflicts.

Stressing the primacy of the UN Charter, the deputy PM urged an end to the use of force, foreign occupation, and denial of the right to self-determination. He reiterated that all disputes must be resolved based on established international legal principles. He proposed greater utilization of the Secretary-General's mediation tools, including enhanced support for the UN's Mediation Support Unit, especially in protracted and emerging conflicts.

He argued that bilateralism should not be used as a pretext for inaction when one party refuses engagement. Peaceful dispute resolution, Dar said, must become standard practice, not an exception. He encouraged collaboration under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, supporting regional efforts and context-specific solutions that

prioritize early diplomatic intervention and preventive diplomacy.

Dar cited ongoing crises in Palestine and Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir as examples of the consequences of inaction and selective justice. He reiterated Pakistan's commitment to diplomacy, dialogue, and the peaceful settlement of disputes, adding that Pakistan's foreign policy is grounded in the principles of the UN Charter, including sovereign equality and non-interference. Pakistan, he said remained steadfast in its desire for peace in its own region. "But this cannot be one-sided effort. It requires reciprocity, sincerity, and willingness to engage in meaningful dialogue, for which Pakistan stands ready," he said adding that Jammu and Kashmir remained one of the oldest disputes on the agenda of the UN Security Council.

He said it was an internationally recognized disputed territory, the final disposition of which is to be made in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people. No cosmetic measures can serve as a substitute for the fundamental and inalienable right to self-determination of the Kashmiris as guaranteed by the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, he added.

Acting US Representative, at a UN Security Council Ambassador Dorothy Shea, in her statement on the occasion said that across the globe, the US continued to work with parties to disputes to find peaceful solutions. "In the past three months alone, we have seen US leadership deliver de-escalations between Israel and Iran, between the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda, and between India and Pakistan," she remarked.

## Saif demands JC on sugar scandal

**F.P. Report**

PESHAWAR: Advisor to the Chief Minister of KP for Information and Public Relations, Barrister Dr. Saif, has demanded the formation of a judicial commission to investigate the ongoing sugar scandal. He stated that after wheat, now through the manipulation of sugar import and export, the sugar mill mafia has been granted undue benefits. Dr. Saif called for an independent and transparent investigation into the sugar scandal and strict punishment for those involved.

He emphasized that it is crystal clear that the sugar mill mafia is directly linked to the ruling elite. Several sugar mills are owned by the Sharif family, who have allegedly gained billions of rupees through this import-export manipulation. Saif claimed that Rs. 38b have been extracted from the public's pockets and funneled into the hands of the sugar mafia through this scheme, while the ruling class, in collaboration with the mafia, continues to exploit people.

Instead of providing relief to the public, the government is favoring the sugar mill mafia, he added. The Sharif family, in partnership with the sugar mafia, is allegedly looting the nation. National resources have suffered irreparable losses—first in the name of sugar export and then under the guise of sugar import. He criticized that those who previously protested sugar prices at Rs. 110 per kilogram during Imran Khan's tenure have now gone silent, as the current "fake" government has raised sugar prices to Rs. 200 per kilogram through collusion with the sugar mafia. Barrister Dr. Saif accused the current government of abandoning the public to the mercy of the sugar mafia while securing their own share of the profits.

He concluded by stating that due to the decades-long dominance of the political elite, the country has been set back economically. The poor are being forced into starvation, while the political elite remain indifferent, building palaces abroad with taxpayers' money, as the general public is crushed under the burden of inflation.

## ATC acquits Qureshi

### Court sentences Yasmin, Ejaz and others

**F.P. Report**

LAHORE: The Lahore Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) on Tuesday acquitted PTI leader Shah Mahmood Qureshi while sentencing Yasmin Rashid, Ejaz Chaudhry and others to 10 years in prison over a May 9 riots case related to violence on Sherpao Bridge, Lahore.

Following the arrest of ex-premier Imran Khan on May 9, 2023, from the Islamabad High Court's (IHC) premises, riots erupted across the country and went on for at least 24 hours. Protesters vandalised and torched government buildings and military installations, while also breaking into the residence of the Lahore corps commander. The state subsequently launched a crackdown against him and his party, filing several other cases against Imran and

party leaders since the events of May 9.

Advocate Burhan Moazzam Malik, the lead defence counsel, confirmed Tuesday's sentencing to media. He said Rashid, former provincial minister Mian Mehmoodur Rashid, Senator Chaudhry and former Punjab governor Omar Sarfraz Cheema were among those sentenced to 10 years in prison. The ATC had heard the concluding arguments of the prosecution and defence in the jail trial proceedings of the case a day ago.

Deputy Prosecutor General Abdul Jabbar Dogar had presented final arguments, saying the "May 9 conspiracy" was hatched on May 7 at Zaman Park. He said it had already been decided what actions were to be taken in case of the arrest of PTI founder Imran Khan. He alleged that on May 9, according to

the plan, party leaders incited the workers. He said the witnesses to the conspiracy had recorded their statements before the court. He said these witnesses were present during the meeting of the PTI leaders held at Zaman Park, the residence of the former prime minister.

The prosecutor stated that 61 witnesses of the attacks and vandalism incidents had testified in the trial. Therefore, he said, in the light of the documents, evidence and the witness statements, the accused persons should be convicted. The main accused in the case include PTI Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Punjab President Dr Yasmin Rashid, Senator Ejaz Chaudhry, former governor Omar Sarfraz Cheema and former provincial minister Mian Mehmoodur Rashid.

## Child student dies of teachers' torture in Swat

**Shafi Ullah**

MINGORA: A 14-year-old student named Farhan Ayaz was brutally beaten by madrasa teachers over absenteeism in the Chaliyar area of Khwaza khela tehsil in Swat district. The child died due to the severe torture inflicted by three teachers at an unregistered madrasa. He was later shifted to the Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Khwza Khela.

According to a spokesperson of Swat Police Moin Fayaz said that we registered an FIR against three individuals involved in the incident. The accused include a teacher named Muhammad Umar, his son Ihsan ullah, and another teacher, Abdullah. One of the suspects, Qari Abdullah, has been arrested, while efforts are ongoing to apprehend the father and son.

Following the incident, the victim's family and residents held a protest in Khwaza khela, blocking the main road for several hours. The protest ended after nego-

tiations with Assistant Commissioner Khwaza khela, Luqman Khan. A separate demonstration was also held in Matta tehsil, where hundreds of people demanded the immediate arrest of the accused and justice for the child, blocking the main road to traffic for two hours.

Assistant Commissioner Luqman Khan sealed the unregistered madrasa, citing its illegal status, and announced action against other unregistered seminars in the area. Luqman Khan said that the madrasa where the tragic incident took place was sealed to ensure public safety, uphold the rule of law, and provide justice to the bereaved family. He added that this action was also meant to prevent such horrifying incidents in the future. He further mentioned that coordination with other law enforcement agencies is ongoing for additional legal proceedings.

The victim's family accused the madrasa teachers of routinely harassing students. "Farhan had com-

plained several times, but we didn't take him seriously," a family member said. They also criticised the FIR for naming only three individuals, claiming that two more people were involved and should be investigated. "It's been 24 hours since the incident, and the main suspect is still at large. Police have failed to arrest him," they added.

Mulana Siddique Ahmed, former coordinator of Wafaq-ul-Madaris in the Malakand Division said that we condemn the incident, calling it deeply tragic and shameful. "Beating a student to death over absenteeism is horrifying," he said. He demanded strict action against the culprits and emphasised that Islam teaches love, compassion, and kindness-not violence. "If a child struggles to learn, he should be treated with more patience and care," he added. He also highlighted that the number of madrasas in Swat is high, but very few are registered. "This particular madrasa was also unregistered," he confirmed.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif being briefed regarding facilities at Safe City Capital Command and Control Centre.

## 4 terrorists killed in operation

**F.P. Report**

RAWALPINDI: Following the successful intelligence based operation conducted by the security forces in Kalat District of Balochistan on 19 July 2025, during which 4 x terrorists belonging to Indian proxy, Fitna al Hindustan were sent to hell; on 21 July 2025, a deliberate sanitization operation was conducted in the surrounding areas.

During the conduct of the operation, four more terrorists of Fitna al Hindustan were hunted down and successfully neutralized. Terrorist hideout was also busted and a large quantity of weapons, ammunition and explosives was recovered. Security Forces of Pakistan, in step with the nation, remain determined to thwart attempts by Indian proxies at sabotaging peace, stability and progress of Balochistan.

President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday commended the security forces for eliminating eight terrorists of Fitna al Hindustan in Kalat, Balochistan province.

The president said that the security forces took out the enemies of the country with a display of bravery and professional capacity, adding the nation was standing with its brave forces in the fight against terrorism.

"The terrorists want to sabotage the peace and stability in the country which can never be allowed as the nation is united and the scourge of terrorism will be defeated at all costs," President Secretariat Media Wing, in a press release, quoted the president as saying. The president also reiterated the resolve that the security forces would continue its operations till complete eradication of terrorism.

The prime minister appreciated the security forces for eliminating eight terrorists during two-day operation in Kalat. He reaffirmed that nefarious designs of terrorists, who were inflicting harm upon the lives and properties of the innocent civilians, would be foiled.

## UAE envoy calls on First Lady

**F.P. Report**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's First Lady, Aseefa Bhutto Zardari, met with the UAE's Ambassador to Pakistan, Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Alzaabi, at Bilawal House in Karachi today to discuss strengthening the relationship between the two nations.

The meeting included discussions on bolstering economic and cultural partnerships and exploring opportunities for social progress and public welfare programs. Provincial Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, Karachi Mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab, and UAE Consul General in Karachi, Dr. Bakheet Ateeq Al Remeithi, were also present.

## We aim to equip our officers: PM

### — vows to transform National Police Academy into premier institution

**Saqib Mushtaq**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday visited the National Police Academy (NPA) and addressed the 52nd Common Batch of Assistant Superintendents of Police (ASPs), announcing a comprehensive overhaul of the institution, aligning it with the standards of the Pakistan Military Academy.

During his visit, the Prime Minister also inaugurated the 'Raising the Standard: NPA Tactical Firing Range and Elite Police Training Facility', a state-of-the-art complex designed to provide hands-on tactical training to police officers. He also performed the groundbreaking ceremony of the new ASP Hostel, aimed at providing modern residential facilities for trainee officers.

The Prime Minister outlined a bold vision for the Academy's revival, announcing the launch of a Master's Degree Program for trainees and the establishment of a 25-acre state-of-the-art campus. A new elite training school, complete with a modern firing range, will also be built. Collaboration with international partners, including China and the United Nations, is planned to upgrade training standards. "We aim to equip our officers not only with weapons but also with modern technology and critical thinking. From hostels to classrooms, the entire structure will be refurbished," said the Prime Minister. He also announced training exchanges and pledged that foreign trainees would once again be welcomed.

Reflecting on his tenure as Chief Minister of Punjab, PM Shehbaz highlighted his contributions to national security, including the establishment of the Elite Force, the Safe City Project, Punjab Forensic Science Agency, and the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD). "Merit has always been the cornerstone of my administration. I suspended senior officers for bypassing recruitment protocols, such is

the importance of integrity," he added. He paid tribute to martyred officers, including those who lost their lives in flood relief efforts and recent incidents such as the Jhelum martyrdom, emphasizing the sacrifices made by the police for national security.

"These officers embrace martyrdom to protect millions. Their sacrifice is the highest honor," the PM said. The PM praised the leadership of police institutions, including trainers and course commanders, and encouraged enhancement of the Gilgit-Baltistan quota. He assured full federal support, directing the Interior Minister to fast-track reforms.

Concluding his address, PM Shehbaz called the young officers "the proud sons and daughters of the motherland," urging them to uphold justice and protect the lives and property of the people. "This Academy must become the cornerstone of a civilized society," he said. Earlier, welcoming the Prime Minister, Interior Minister Senator Mohsin Raza Naqvi delivered opening remarks, acknowledging the Academy's previous state of disrepair, where it functioned with no staff and a single dumping station passed off as the facility. "It was a skeleton of what it should be," said Senator Naqvi, "but under the vision of the Prime Minister, we are determined to rebuild it into a premier institution."

Interior Minister Naqvi reiterated the government's commitment to monitoring the Academy closely and ensuring that trainees receive the highest standard of instruction. "We want to make this a hub for police excellence from academics to field readiness," Ministers Talal Chaudhary and Attaullah Tarar, Commandant NPA Idress Ahmed, IG Islamabad, Commissioner Islamabad, and other senior officers were also present on the occasion.

(Continued on Back Page)

## Floods devastate GB: Five dead, several missing

**F.P. Report**

GILGIT-BALTISTAN: At least five tourists have been confirmed dead, three injured, and 15 reported missing following devastating floods triggered by heavy rainfall in the Thak Babusar region of Diamer district, Gilgit-Baltistan.

The torrential downpour caused flash floods that swept away eight tourist vehicles and paralysed the area's road network. According to Faizullah Faraq, the spokesperson for the Gilgit-Baltistan government, the worst-hit area is along the Thak-Babusar route, where floodwaters caused widespread destruction. The situation remains critical as rescue operations continue at a heightened pace, with authorities racing against time to locate the missing.

Three bodies have been recovered so far, and four injured tourists have been shifted to hospital for urgent medical care. One of the injured is reported to be in critical condition. As rescue teams navigate through debris-strewn roads and challenging terrain, hundreds of stranded tourists remain in temporary shelters.

Government sources revealed that Babusar Highway is blocked at several locations, isolating numerous villages and cut-

ting off vital access routes. Optical fiber communication lines have also been severely disrupted, hampering connectivity and coordination.

The Pakistan Army's rescue operation to evacuate stranded tourists in Deosai is successfully underway. Tourists are being airlifted to safer locations, including Babusar and nearby areas, via army helicopters. Restoration work on the Skardu Road is also in progress, supported by army pilots and engineering teams. The landslide-affected section between Skardu and the Sadpara Mountaineering School has now been cleared, and the route from Deosai to Sadpara village has been reopened. Army personnel continue efforts to remove remaining debris.

In addition to rescue operations, the Pakistan Army is providing food and essential supplies to those stranded. Around 150 ready-to-eat meal packets have been delivered to affected areas by helicopter. Hundreds of tourists are stranded in the region, with many locals stepping in to provide shelter and support. While some stranded individuals have been successfully rescued by the authorities, dozens more have been accommodated by residents of nearby villages. The Chief Minister of

Gilgit-Baltistan has instructed emergency teams to deploy all available resources for the evacuation and assistance of affected individuals. Floodwaters have destroyed roads, damaged farmlands, and severed links between multiple communities.

This disaster follows an earlier flood incident in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on 27th June, where more than 75 individuals, including women and children, were swept away in Swat River after torrential rains led to massive surges at seven different locations.

According to an NDMA advisory, several northern regions of the country are at risk of landslides, including Gilgit, Skardu, Hunza, Astore, Diamer, and Ghanche in Gilgit-Baltistan; Muzaffarabad, Neelum, Haveli, Bagh, and Poonch in Azad Jammu and Kashmir; as well as Chitral, Dir, and Kohistan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The following roads have been flagged as landslide-prone: Kohistan Road, Kolai Palas Road, Jaglot Road, Nagar Road, Hunza Road, Tatta Pani Road, and Jaglot-Skardu Road. The NDMA has urged citizens to avoid travel to mountainous areas and instructed relevant authorities to remain on high alert for any emergencies.

## Gohar, Bushra bails extended

**F.P. Report**

ISLAMABAD: The interim bails of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, Bushra Bibi and other party leaders were extended till September 8 in the November 26 protest case. According to details, Islamabad Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) Judge Tahir Abbas Siprah heard a total of 230 pre-arrest bail applications.





# CM launches new KDSP centre in Karachi, boosting therapy capacity

## F.P. Report

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah officially inaugurated the Karachi Down Syndrome Program (KDSP) Third Chapter in North Nazimabad on Tuesday, reaffirming the Sindh government's dedication to fostering inclusive development and ensuring accessible services for individuals with disabilities.

The ceremony was attended by parents, therapists, community leaders, and volunteers, all celebrating a significant step forward in inclusive service delivery in Karachi. The KDSP Third Chapter is now fully operational and ready to welcome new families, continuing its mission to empower individuals with Down syndrome and promote a more inclusive society.

In his address at the inauguration ceremony, Chief Minister Shah commended KDSP as one of the largest and most comprehensive institutions in South Asia, providing end-to-end support for individuals with Down syndrome and their families. He remarked, "Karachi is home to more than 30,000 individuals with Down syndrome. This number is not just a statistic - it reflects dreams, challenges, and talents. Institutions like KDSP are helping these individuals unlock their full potential with dignity and care."

The newly launched Third Chapter significantly enhances KDSP's capacity, increasing the number of therapy sessions provided annually from 30,000 to over 50,000. The centre offers a full range of essential services, including occupational, speech, and physical therapy, as well as specialised educational programmes for younger children and vocational training for older students in activities such as pottery and painting.

The chief minister expressed gratitude for KDSP's commitment to addressing the long-standing demand from families on the waitlist, many of whom have awaited services for years. "Today, those families are being welcomed here - not only with care but with the promise of brighter days ahead," he noted.

Murad Shah reiterated his administration's resolve to strengthen public-private partnerships for disability support services, stating, "We are committed to strengthening support systems for persons with disabilities, ensuring their rightful place in society." He emphasised that progress

should be evaluated not only through economic growth but also by the compassion demonstrated towards vulnerable populations.

"KDSP stands as a shining example of what can be achieved when a community comes together with heart, purpose, and vision," he added. The chief minister highlighted the urgent need for such centres in the Central District, noting that 80 children have already been enrolled at the KDSP Centre, which has the capacity for an additional 150 children. He expressed hope that the project will continue to operate successfully.

Emphasising the importance of expanding these

facilities, he requested the establishment of similar centres in Hyderabad and proposed a deadline for this expansion by December, assuring full government support to initiate the work immediately. "I wish for the Hyderabad centre to be inaugurated before December 31," he stated.

The Chief Minister further committed to supporting this cause regardless of his position, promising to continue working for it. He offered to provide any required space for KDSP in Inclusive City, which will offer shared facilities for all children, including those with autism, and will allow all organisations access to free resources.

Mr Shah assured that the government will assist with setting up infrastructure and urged that donors also be brought on board. Additionally, he mentioned a Down Syndrome Centre being developed in front of Aga Khan Hospital.

Acknowledging the collaborative efforts, he stated that this work cannot be accomplished solely by the public sector and that the involvement of the private sector is essential. "There is no shortage of funds; we need willing individuals," he remarked.

Chief Minister Murad Shah praised KDSP's dedication and his team's excellent work, highlighting the enormous potential of children with Down Syndrome who deserve recognition. He directed that work on the Hyderabad centres should start immediately, with support from relevant officials in finding suitable locations. He assured that all necessary resources would be provided by the Government of Sindh.

Those who spoke on the occasion include Senior Minister Sharjeel Memon, DSPD Director Ali Allahwala, CEO Tabish Shehzad and others.

## CM orders starting work on K-IV Lot-1, 2 in Sept

### F.P. Report

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, presiding over a meeting on the K-IV augmentation project, insisted that the work on all lots must be sped up with high quality, particularly on Lots 1 and 2 in September.

The meeting was attended by Minister Local Govt Saeed Ghani (on video link), Mayor Karachi Murtagh Wahab, PSCM Agha Wasif, Chairman P&D Najam Shah, Secretary Local Govt Waseem Shamsad, PD K-IV Usman Moazam and others. The K-IV project has been started with the support of the World Bank.

During the briefing, the CM was told Key highlights from the meeting include the transmission of water from Reservoir One to the Y junction as part of Lot One. Lot Two will establish a water line from Reservoir Two to Sir Syed University, while Lot Three will lay a water line from Sir Syed University to Gul Bai. Additionally, Lot Four will create a water transmission system from Reservoir Three to Banaras. The K-IV and BRT projects will share a 2.7-kilometre common corridor, featuring water pipelines that measure 96 and 72 inches in diameter. The 96-inch water line will be located near Aziz Bhatti Park and Urdu College, and the 72-inch line will also be established in the area. Notably, the work on the common corridor for K-IV and BRT has already been awarded, with plans to commence in September.

The Chief Minister instructed the acceleration of work on the K-IV Augmentation and directed the Chairman of Planning and Development to ensure progress. Furthermore, CM Murad Ali Shah emphasised the importance of the K-IV Augmentation project. He insisted that the work on all lots must be of high quality, urging Mayor Karachi to pay close attention to the project's standards.

# Province-wide WAPDA protest over recruitment delays

## F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: All Pakistan WAPDA Hydroelectric Workers Union Khyber Pakhtunkhwa leaders' call on PESCO, TESCO and HAZECO workers across the province to work 16 hours instead of 8 hours due to extraordinary delay in recruitment. Insecurity of field staff. Rallies were held across the province to protest against the marriage grant, the closure of scholarships, the non-permanent status of temporary employees, the non-increase in salaries of part-time employees, and the non-employment of children of martyrs in power accidents.

While thousands of workers staged a sit-in at WAPDA House, Shami Road, Peshawar. Later, a rally was also taken out. Provincial Chairman Haji Muhammad Iqbal, Central Chairman Gohar Taj, Provincial

Secretary Noorul Amin Haiderzai, Vice Chairman Yasir Kamran, Deputy Chairman Shafiullah, Joint Secretary Tariq Khan, Secretary Finance Nasir Khan and others addressed the rally participants and warned the government, Ministry of Energy, Power Division, PEPCO Authority, PESCO, TESCO, and HAZECO Board of Directors and the administration that due to the pressure of work in the three power distribution companies of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the deaths of line staff in power accidents are unbearable.

Also, according to the law, offices, complaint offices, grid stations and fields where there are three shifts It is not fixed. The workers will not give more duty than 8 hours. While according to the yardstick, meter readers in urban areas will take monthly readings of 1500,

1000 in rural areas, and 800 meters in mountainous areas. While in case of unavailability of drivers and fuel, the vehicles will be parked. It should be noted that the union has informed the government and the relevant officials countless times in writing. But the insensitive ruler is dreaming of a rabbit. The patience of the union has been exhausted.

The end of the war has come. In case of non-recruitment, this series will continue. Also, in case of non-recruitment, the electricity of the entire province will not be avoided. The entire responsibility for which will fall on the government and the relevant authorities. Addressing the participants of the sit-in, Member of Provincial Assembly Haji Fazal Elahi clarified that he will present a resolution regarding recruitment in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly.



KARACHI: UAE Ambassador to Pakistan, Hammad Obaid Al Zaabi, calls on Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori at the Governor House. —APP Photo

## ANP leader condemns operation against encroachments

### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A central leader of the Awami National Party and senator Hidayatullah Khan has condemned the provincial government's operation against encroachments in Peshawar. He stated that the operation is tantamount to tyranny and killing traders monetarily and such actions against traders in guise of encroachments will not be tolerated anymore.

He clearly said the provincial government and district administration should certainly initiated operation against encroachments but harassing and snatching businesses from traders and shopkeepers would not be tolerated in a news statement issued to media persons on Tuesday, ANP stalwart told that the spokesman of traders association was apprehended without any reason and locked up for several hours which is an injustice with entire community. He added the government with the help of traders should take action against encroachments, widen roads and work for ensuring clean and green city.

## Khalid says his priority is progress of lawyers

### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Advocate Khalid Hameed, a candidate from Peshawar contesting in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council elections, has stated that his only priority is the dignity and progress of the lawyer community. He said that this is the reason he has stepped into a field where he believes he can fulfill this mission.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, Khalid Hameed said that his goals include not only serving lawyers but also easing the lives of their families, children, and junior lawyers. He further expressed his intention to establish schools for the children of lawyers and hostels for lawyers themselves.

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday formally launched Pakistan's first provincial Counter Narcotics Force (CNF) in Punjab, marking a historic step in the fight against drug trafficking and abuse.

The initiative positions Punjab as the first province in the country to establish a specialized anti-narcotics force under the framework of the 5th Constitutional Amendment.

In a landmark move, the Punjab government has taken the lead in institutional reforms and administrative restructuring to combat the growing menace of drugs. Under the 18th Constitutional Amendment (2010), provinces were empowered to form specialized enforcement agencies, and Punjab has now operationalized this mandate with the formation of CNF.

Talking at the launch ceremony, CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif said that the establishment of CNF

reflects the province's commitment to safeguarding its youth and future generations from the devastating effects of drugs.

She expressed pride and confidence in the CNF's preparedness, especially after witnessing the impressive march past of the women personnel and inspecting the modern, tech-enabled operational vehicles and equipment.

The launch ceremony included a passing out parade where CNF officers and sepoy took an oath of duty and discipline. The CM officially handed over the flag to the newly formed force and met with its personnel. A general salute was presented by the CNF, and she received a detailed briefing from Brigadier Mazhar Iqbal, Director General of the Counter Narcotics Force.

According to the briefing, 866 positions have been filled in the first phase, and CNF units have been made operational

across all divisions of Punjab. Dedicated CNF stations and regional directorates have been established in each division, while the second phase will see the expansion of the force to the district level.

The CNF officers and personnel have undergone 12 weeks of rigorous professional training at the Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) Academy in Rawalpindi, ensuring they are well-equipped to undertake swift, effective, and professional operations across the province.

This development adds to Punjab's growing list of specialized forces, including the Wildlife Force, Environment Force, Forest Force, and PERA, all established under the vision of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif to strengthen law enforcement and environmental governance.

The CM that the establishment of CNF symbolizes hope, resilience, and a safer future for Punjab.

# Sharjeel pledges support for special children at DSP centre inauguration

## F.P. Report

KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister and Provincial Minister for Information, Transport, and Mass Transit, Sharjeel Inam Memon, has said that he is always available to serve as a volunteer for special children and emphasized the need for taking further steps for their welfare.

He added that the credit for this project goes to Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, who has taken significant initiatives in this regard. Addressing the inauguration ceremony of the DSP Center, Sharjeel Inam Memon said that land has also been allocated along Shahrah-e-Bhutto, where the Sindh Chief Minister intends to estab-

lish state-of-the-art facilities to ensure better services for special children.

He appealed to the media to broadcast programs about these centers on TV channels, noting that negative aspects are often highlighted more frequently. Witnessing the conditions and the children at the center, he became emotional. Sharjeel Inam Memon praised the remarkable work being done at the autism centers and urged the media to highlight their positive aspects so that more parents can become aware and benefit from these services.

He said that many parents are still unaware of the existence of centers where modern treatment and facilities are available for special

children. He emphasized that behind every effort lies the wisdom of Allah, and there is a need to take further steps to support and empower special children.

Sharjeel Inam Memon said that this is the third center operating in Karachi, and there should be modern facilities available for the treatment of children.

He noted that Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah has taken several significant initiatives in the health sector, and the Sindh government is undertaking revolutionary steps in this regard. He added that approximately 300,000 children in the country are affected by Down syndrome, there is urgent need for dedicated centers for their care and support.



BANNU: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani presenting shield to Registrar of Kalam Bibi International Women Institute, Engineer Tanvir-ul-Haq.

# KP hosts sports heroes awards to honor athletic excellence

## F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: In a landmark celebration of sports players excellence, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government organized the province's first-ever Sports Heroes Awards ceremony on Tuesday at Nishtar Hall, Peshawar, to honor players who have brought pride to the province and the nation through outstanding performances in various sports.

Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, graced the occasion as the chief guest. The event was also attended by Provincial Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs, Syed Fakhar Jehan, along with other dignitaries including Provincial Ministers Major (R) Sajjad Barkwal, Pakhtunyar Khan, Parliamentary Secretary for Sports Ajmal Khan, Additional Secretary Sports Pir Abdullah Shah, Director General Sports Tashfeen Haider, senior officials of the Sports Department, athletes, their families, coaches, organizers and people from different walks of life. During the ceremony, awards were

presented to 17 fresh athletes for their remarkable achievements in national and international competitions. In addition, monthly stipend cheques of PKR 25,000 were awarded to medal-winning athletes of the Quaid-e-Azam Under-21 Games, where Khyber Pakhtunkhwa secured second position, a significant achievement for the province. Souvenirs were also presented to the athletes from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa who were part of the national team that recently won an Under-16 Volleyball International Championship.

Among the award recipients were: Aimal Khan (Volleyball), Israr ul Haq (Archery), Nasir Iqbal (Squash), Baz Muhammad (Karate), Hamza Roman (Tennis), Murad Ali (Badminton), Muhammad Hamza Khan (Squash), Sufyan Khan (Hockey), Inayatullah (Wrestling), Noor Zaman (Squash), Usman Ahmed (Kabaddi), Afraz Hakim (Hockey), Mah Noor Ali (Squash), Tamin Khan (Athletics), Azra Farooq (Volleyball), Wajahatullah Khan (Tent Pegging) and Sikandar-ul-Mulk (Freestyle Polo). These athletes have represented

Pakistan and the province with distinction in both national and international arenas. Speaking at the occasion, Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Syed Fakhar Jehan stated that the objective of this prestigious event was to honor and encourage Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's current sports legends. He announced the launch of monthly stipends for the province's medalists of the Quaid-e-Azam Games and highlighted the government's preparedness for the upcoming National Games, promising commendable performance from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's contingent.

The Minister emphasized that under the vision of Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur and PTI Chairman Imran Khan, the provincial government remains committed to nurturing local talent, ensuring that no athlete is left unsupported. He added that over PKR 120 million have been disbursed as cash prizes to talented athletes in just one year, a merit-based, transparent process unmatched by any previous government.

He also revealed that the provincial government had actively advocated for hosting the South Asian Games in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa but regretted that the federal government has not been supportive. Despite this, he reaffirmed the province's willingness to bear all expenses for events if granted hosting rights, with support from sports associations. The Minister concluded by reiterating the government's resolve to promote sports infrastructure and talent, ensuring that athletes are empowered to excel in both their sporting careers and academics.





# PHC seeks response on Mobile and Internet Signal Blockage in courts

**Humayun Khan**

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court (PHC) has sought a response from the federal government, Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), and mobile network companies regarding a petition challenging the blockage of mobile and internet signals in the high court and district courts, on Tuesday.

The petitioner argued that the lack of signals in and around the court premises has caused significant difficulties for lawyers and litigants, making it challenging for them to communicate with each other.

The petition highlighted that the signal blockage has severely affected various court proceedings, and the installation of jammers in the name of security has paralyzed court performance and the daily affairs of lawyers.

PHC divisional bench comprising of Justices Ijaz Anwar and Fahim Wali, issued notices to the federal government, PTI and mobile network companies, seeking their response to the petition.

## Muzamil orders committee formation on DRA as per CM’s directive

**F.P. Report**

PESHAWAR :Advisor to the KP Chief Minister on finance and interprovincial coordination Muzammil Aslam, on the instructions of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur, has issued directives to form a committee on the request of the All Government Employees Grand Alliance (AGEGA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, regarding the Disparity Reduction Allowance and other issues.

Advisor Muzammil Aslam, accompanied by Special Secretary Finance (Admin & Revenue), Khalid Iqbal, met with Chairman AGEGA Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Roidar Khan.

On this occasion, the Finance Advisor directed the formation of a committee comprising secretaries from various departments based on AGEGA’s request. Under this committee, a sub-committee will also be formed which will include representatives from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, so they can be part of the consultative process.

Muzammil Aslam stated that the provincial government is taking steps for the betterment of employees and the province within its available resources, so that no one is deprived of their rights.

He further said that the foremost duty of the nearly 700,000 government employees of the province is to provide relief and services to the public through their respective departments.

## Musavir congratulates newly elected PTI senators

**F.P. Report**

PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to the Chief Minister on Forests, Environment, Wildlife, and Climate Change, has extended heartfelt congratulations to the newly elected senators of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf following the party’s landmark success in the recent Senate elections.

In a statement issued here Pir Musavir Khan attributed this electoral success to the leadership of the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the unwavering commitment of PTI’s elected representatives. “This result is a powerful affirmation of the party’s strength and the confidence that PTI’s MPs continue to place in the leadership of Imran Khan and chief minister,” he said.

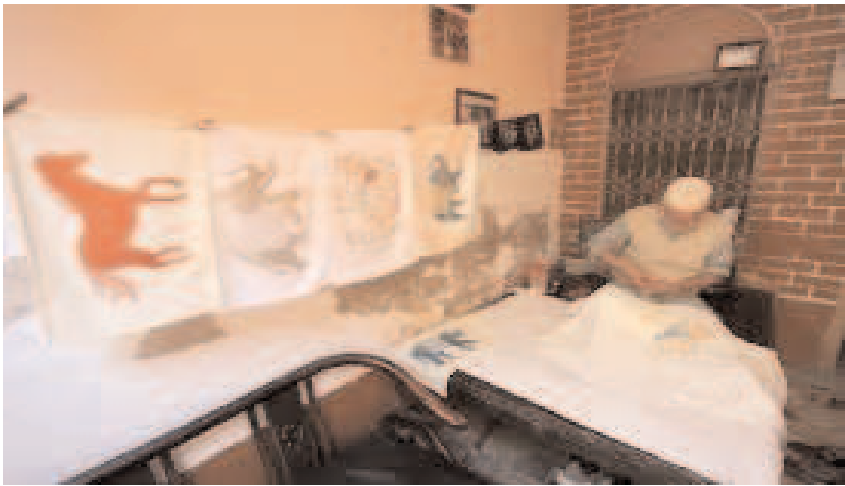
He emphasized that the newly elected senators would serve as staunch defenders of justice, the Constitution, and the rule of law in the Upper House of Parliament.

“They will stand as a fortified wall against any unconstitutional or unlawful actions taken by the Form-47 government at the federal level,” he added.

Pir Musavir Khan also commended PTI members of the Provincial Assembly for their unity and dedication, calling their role pivotal in securing this Senate victory.

Reaffirming his commitment to the party and its supporters, he assured PTI workers and the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa that the provincial government, along with its senators and lawmakers at both the national and provincial levels, will continue to work tirelessly for development, prosperity, and the supremacy of the Constitution and law.

## Peshawar’s wax art fading as patronage declines in KP



PESHAWAR (APP): In a modest home in Peshawar, nestled among dusty alleys that once echoed with the vibrance of artisans and storytellers, 74-year-old Riaz Ali sits surrounded by memories and masterpieces.

For over six decades, he has practiced the delicate art of wax painting, a craft passed down through three generations of his family.

But today, the flickering flame of this once-thriving tradition is in danger of going out due to neglect and lack of patronage in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

“I remember watching my grandfather create wax art before partition and later came to Peshawar,” Riaz recalled, his fingers gently tracing the faded edge of a 600-year-old peacock design hanging by his window.

“In those days, they used sifted mud and silver foil. Now, we use natural colours they are softer on the eyes and more elegant, attracting people.”

The tourists while staying at historic Qissa Khwani visited wax shops and took these products for loved ones as gift.

Riaz, who belongs to a family of artisans rooted in what was once known as Roghan art during the Mughal era, learned the skill from his father after the family migrated to Peshawar.

Over the decades, he painted everything from scarves and shirts to handkerchiefs and framed art. Each piece takes two days to complete and, once sundried, can last for years even surviving a wash without losing colour.

“I love wax painting due to its eye catching designs” said Ejaz Khan, a resident of Wapda Town Peshawar.

Ejaz Khan has purchased four wax paintings for its newly constructed house and two more as gift for his brother.

Riaz said that numbers of buyers of wax paintings has decreased in recent years due to lack of KP Govt patronage.

He said despite the enduring beauty and cultural legacy of the craft, wax painting has been slowly fading from public memory in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, urging Govt to provide interest free loans to its artists.

Riaz’s contributions to the preservation of wax art have not gone unnoticed. A recipient of the President’s Medal of Excellence in 2012, he was also awarded the UNESCO-CCI Seal of Excellence in 2004 for his unique work, selected from entries submitted by artisans across 11 South Asian countries.

His art has traveled to exhibitions in Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Nepal, and India, showcasing a heritage deeply tied to South Asia’s cultural fabric.

But despite international acclaim, Riaz has struggled to find local patronage. In the early 2000s, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government launched the Artisan Village project within Peshawar’s historic Gor Khatri Complex, a promising attempt to preserve the city’s endangered crafts.

Riaz served as a master trainer there, mentoring two students. One dropped out after marriage, and the other found employment elsewhere. The program’s second phase never received funding, and with that, a vital opportunity for skill transfer disappeared.

“The government started something good, but it was never finished,” he said. “We need consistent support, not abandoned projects.”

Once a fixture in Peshawar’s Saddar area, Riaz’s workshop welcomed both locals and foreign tourists.

He worked at Lok Virsa for 27 years, becoming a regular feature at the annual Lok Mela. This year, however, high stall fees prevented him from participating. “My hands tremble now. I get tired quickly. I had only a few pieces to exhibit, but could not afford the stall,” Riaz said with a sigh.

Despite health and financial challenges, he still receives orders enough to stay afloat, support his family, and even educate and marry off his children.

His son, Fayyaz Ahmad,

has taken up the family craft, now creating wax portraits that appeal to a modern audience.

Peshawar, believed by many historians to mean “City of Artisans” or “Skilled People”, was once a cultural crossroads on the ancient Silk Road.

Its bazaars were famously named after trades: coppersmiths’ Bazaar, Ironsmiths’ Bazaar, and even Storytellers’ Bazaar, Qissa Khwani. In such a city, craftsmanship was not a pastime but it was identity.

Wax painting, believed to have been brought from Kabul and refined under Mughal patronage, found a home here.

Its intricate technique uses linseed oil, powdered pigments, and limestone mixed with wax extracted from heated flax seeds a slow and meditative process that resists industrial replication.

But without government intervention and societal recognition, the craft now teeters on the brink.

For Riaz, the solution is simple ie education, exposure, and opportunity. He urges the government to reinstate the Artisan Village program and establish platforms where craftspeople can showcase, sell, and teach their work.

“This art can’t be learned in a few days,” he insists. “It needs time, love, and patience. We need training centers, exhibitions, and most of all awareness.”

Though aging, Riaz is not bitter. “People only grow old when they stop working,” he smiles. “Everyone dies eventually, but those who quit their passion — they die every day.”

In a city that once celebrated its artisans, Riaz Ahmed remains a solitary torchbearer of a dwindling heritage. Whether his flame continues to burn depends not just on him but on those willing to value, protect, and invest in the culture he represents.



PESHAWAR: Participants in a group photo after a one-day national seminar titled “Building Resilient Youth Communities for a Peaceful and Prosperous Pakistan” held at Khyber Medical University.

## Meeting discuss reforms, immunization strategies

**F.P. Report**

PESHAWAR: A high-level review meeting was convened under the chairmanship of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Advisor Ihtisham Ali to assess progress on the Health Department’s strategic roadmap and ongoing reform initiatives.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Health Shahidullah Khan, Special Secretaries Sharif Hussain and Habibullah, Director General Health Dr. Saleem Khan, Director General of Public Health Services Academy Dr. Abdul Waheed, Additional Director Generals, Program Directors, and other senior officials.

During the session, participants reviewed progress made on key targets assigned to various units within the department. A significant point of discussion was the finalization of the Medicine Coordination Committee (MCC) list. It was noted that delays in uploading the advertised documents to the EPADS system are causing implementation setbacks.

Furthermore, although the Standard Medicine List has been updated, its formal notification is still pending.

The meeting also included a briefing on the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Immunization Strategy 2025–2030. Officials informed that the strategy has received administrative approval from the Secretary Health. Under this plan, targeted implementation strategies will be developed for low-performing union councils to strengthen vaccination outreach.

It was further shared that integrated evening outreach vaccination services will soon be launched in 62 union councils of Peshawar, allowing immunization to take place during evening hours to improve access and coverage.

Simultaneously, work is underway to activate evening or 24/7 vaccination services at District Headquarters Hospitals (DHQs) and major health-care facilities. These efforts aim to enhance coverage of both birth-dose and routine immunization services across the province.

The meeting was also informed that the assessment of existing infrastructure at DHQ hospitals in 10 settled districts has been completed for the establishment of Newborn Care Units. Program Director Dr. Faisal Shehzad personally conducted on-site assessments at each DHQ hospital.

## Atta discuss KP security with Kundi

**F.P. Report**

PESHAWAR: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam’s Provincial Ameer, Senator Maulana Atta-ur-Rehman, called on Senate Chairman Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani here on Tuesday.

During the meeting, the two leaders discussed the prevailing law and order situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, with Chairman Gilani expressing serious concern over the deteriorating security conditions in the province. They also exchanged views on the recent Senate elections, terming the opposition’s performance a strategic success. Future political activities and coordination were also discussed.

Chairman Gilani congratulated Senator Maulana Atta-ur-Rehman on the successful election of five opposition-backed senators from the KP Assembly.

## DHA Peshawar hosts grand launch of Land Rover Defender 6x6



**F.P. Report**

PESHAWAR : DHA Peshawar successfully hosted the grand launch of the stunning 6x6 Land Rover Defender, expertly customized by Mr Babar Khan, President KP Motor Sports Association. The event, sponsored and meticulously managed by DHA Peshawar, was graced by the esteemed presence of Mr. Faisal Karim Kundi, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The Governor applauded DHA Peshawar’s development initiatives, highlighting its commitment to progress and community growth. This landmark event not only showcased the luxurious vehicle but also underscored DHA Peshawar’s role in fostering community support and encouraging youth.

## Three-day baking workshop kicks off in Peshawar

**F.P. Report**

PESHAWAR: A three-day baking workshop exclusively designed for beginners commenced in Peshawar. Organized by Kitcy Foods in collaboration with Pakistan Chefs Club, the workshop aims to equip aspiring bakers with professional skills and hands-on experience under the expert guidance of Chef Naureen Ashraf, a certified bakery and pâtisserie chef.

Day one of the workshop saw enthusiastic participation from young culinary enthusiasts eager to explore the world of baking. The session began with an introduction to three types of sponge cakes, laying the foundation for various dessert creations. Participants then learned the techniques for making different types of ganache, used in both fillings and toppings. A practical session on preparing purées and delicious cake fillings followed, adding flavor and creativity to their skills.

The highlight of the day was a hands-on lesson in making fondant, a key component in cake decoration. The day concluded on a high note with a surprise recipe, adding excitement and encouraging innovation among participants. Each participant will receive a certificate and a special gift hamper upon completion of the workshop.

Talking to this scribe, Founder and Managing Director of Kitcy Foods Mr Arif said that the initiative of holding first of its kind workshop in Peshawar was taken to bring best possible training for the future chefs by providing them a solid platform. He said in future more such activities will be arranged.





## In brief

### Residents hold protest F.P. Report

SHANGLA: Residents of Shangla have staged a protest against the poor mobile services provided by major telecom companies, including Telenor, Ufone, and Jazz. The protesters, comprising local traders and community members, gathered in Shahpur, Shangla, to demand better services and improvements in network quality. The protesters expressed frustration over the slow mobile services and frequent internet outages in the area. They demanded that the telecom companies improve their services and provide reliable internet connectivity. The protesters also criticized the companies for charging high prices for their services despite poor quality. The protesters argued telecom companies should improve their network quality to ensure reliable services. The companies should provide better internet services to meet the needs of the residents. The companies should be held accountable for their failure to provide quality services despite receiving payments from customers.

### DPO holds crime review meeting F.P. Report

HAFAZABAD: District Police Officer (DPO) Hafizabad presided over a high-level crime review meeting to evaluate the law and order situation across the district. The meeting was attended by SP Investigation, all Circle DSPs, SHOs, and investigation officers. During the session, the DPO conducted a detailed review of all ongoing investigations and pending cases. He stressed the importance of concluding cases on a merit basis and instructed officers to expedite the submission of challans (charge sheets) to the courts without unnecessary delay to ensure swift delivery of justice. DPO Atif Nazir issued strict directives for the immediate arrest of proclaimed offenders, fugitives, and suspects involved in serious crimes. He emphasized that no leniency would be tolerated in the pursuit of lawbreakers and warned of strict departmental action in case of negligence. He further directed police officers to adopt effective crime prevention strategies in their respective beat areas, enhance patrolling, and strengthen public liaison. "Protection of life and property is the fundamental responsibility of the police force, and every officer must fulfill this duty with sincerity and dedication," he asserted.

### Officials warn on action F.P. Report

FAISALABAD: Director General Faisalabad Development Authority (FDA) has issued strict orders to ensure 100% timely processing of all applications received at the One Window Counter. He has directed relevant officials to rigorously monitor the process to provide rapid relief to applicants. Following the FDA's directives, Additional Director General Qaiser Abbas Rind reviewed the performance of the One Window Counter. During a meeting with officials, he checked the latest status of applications under departmental action across various sections. The meeting was attended by Director Town Planning Asma Mohsin, Director Estate Management Junaid Hassan Manj, Deputy Director IT Abdullah Noor, Deputy Director Legal Mohsin Bashir, Deputy Director Katchi Abadi Afzal Ansari and other officers.

# Three killed due to flash flood in Buner

## F.P. Report

BUNER: The torrential rains that began on Monday evening in Buner district have wreaked havoc, as a result of which a mother and daughter in Daggar Gokand and a nine-year-old only son of parents in Chaghorzai Alami Banda were swept away by floodwaters and died.

The sad thing is that the mother's body was found at night, but the daughter's body was found late night and the child's body was found on Tuesday morning. In addition, there are reports of three buffaloes dying due to flood water entering Abdul Kabir's cattle shed in Daggar Gokand, while dozens of cabins

were swept away by the flood in Pir Baba Khwar and many were affected, while everyone is reporting losses of lakhs due to flood water entering shops, hotels and warehouses.

An emergency situation remained in place throughout the night due to flood water entering Buner's only 132 KV grade station, Swari, and electricity was restored on Tuesday afternoon. The walls of the grade station were broken at night to drain the water and valuable machinery was saved. A lot of damage has been caused by flood water entering the large godowns of Swari Bazaar and the warehouses on Pacha Pir Baba Malikpur Road.

According to Jamaat Youth Leader Abbas Shaheen, Deputy Commissioner Kashif Qayyum, along with the entire team, TMA Gadezai Rescue 1122 Police and volunteers, carried out a rescue operation with a heavy machinery to reduce the risks from the Pir Baba Khwar flood relay and were monitoring it themselves until midnight. Since Tuesday morning, TMA staff from across the district have been busy cleaning and the public and shopkeepers have also helped in cleaning the shops and goods affected by the flood water. Since the flood water entered Pir Baba police station till morning.

# BoG infighting adversely impact patients

## F.P. Report

MARDAN: Patients and their family members have been suffering owing to infighting and conflicts among members of Board of Governors of the teaching hospital Mardan Medical Complex (MTI), it has been learnt.

Credible sources said that the Board of Governors (BoG) of the major teaching hospital, Mardan Medical Complex (MTI), has been entangled in infighting and conflicts for a long time. The situation has escalated to the point where board members can't even tolerate each other's presence. In such a scenario, expecting them to formulate effective policies for the public's benefit is futile practice.

This is the first BoG in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province's history with nine members instead of the usual seven. Recently, two members were removed, and the provincial government appointed two new ones. However, the removed members regained their positions through the courts, sparking a tug-of-war among the BoG. The restoration of two members by court had created many problems for the BoG to

hold its routine meetings. However, after long consultations, the BoG chairman and his allies made efforts to gather all nine members, and a meeting was eventually held in early June.

However, the minutes of the June-meeting had yet to be released, and another meeting was scheduled in the current month of July. But just before it was to be held, a letter from the Advocate General of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa arrived. The letter clearly stated that the board cannot legally conduct any meetings or make decisions with nine members. Any such meetings or decisions would be considered illegal. Following this directive, the scheduled meeting was canceled.

Now the matter of the two board members is back in court, with the next hearing scheduled for late August. This means the BoG is unlikely to hold any meetings for at least the next two months, leaving the MTI effectively in suspension. As a result, many important matters of the hospital are stalled.

It is pertinent to mention here that one or two members belonged to district Mardan while the rest of BoG members were not hailing from Mardan dis-

trict. How can the residents of Mardan expect effective healthcare policies from such a board?

Currently, work has begun on the Cath Lab as well as the Benazir Bhutto Hospital project has also just started, and projects like the Dental College, Cardiac Center, and Phase III expansion of the hospital all required solid policy direction.

Similarly, the hospital is being run by an interim and acting Medical Director and Hospital Director who lack the authority and competence to make key decisions. They continued to enjoy the privileges of their positions without delivering results. Advisor to Chief Minister on health Mr. Ihtisham Khan who belonged to district Mardan should make quick intervention in the said matter so as to remove suffering and difficulties of people.

Besides, the Health Advisor could also bring several great health projects to his hometown district but their benefits would only reach people when there was a capable team to implement them. He should also focus on providing quality healthcare to the poor if he wants to win the hearts of people.

# Traders protested against anti-encroachment force

## F.P. Report

LARKANA: The electrical and electronics traders and shopkeepers of the Bandar road business area of Larkana city staged a protest demonstration at Pakistan Chowk against the district administration and the anti-encroachment force, where they also raised strong slogans against the administration and the anti-encroachment force.

On this occasion, the electronics-related traders and shopkeepers Ali Jaskani, Majeed Sheikh, Aamir bhattu, Ashok Kumar and others said that they have been doing electronics business on Bandar Road for the past many years. They alleged that the Anti-encroachment Force personnel, led by Assistant

Commissioner Larkana Raja Qureshi, along with the municipal personnel and police personnel, forcibly removed the goods lying outside the shops and arrested the brother of the shopkeeper.

The protestors clarified that we shopkeepers do business by paying the tax fixed by the municipality, but despite this, the district administration is not taking any action against us under the pretext of encroachment. They are harassing us in various ways, which has made it extremely difficult for us to do business.

Orientation session for trained students held: An orientation session program was organized for students trained by Benazir Bhutto Shaheed Human Resource Research and Development BOARD (BBHRADB) at

the Government Monotechnic Institute in Garhi Khuda Bakhsh Bhutto, Larkana.

The aim of the orientation session program was to highlight the importance of their art, skill development and career growth opportunities by guiding the trained students. Chairman District Council Larkana Ijaz Ahmed Laghari, Secretary BBHRADB Engineer Munawar Mithani, Regional Director Stevata Munawar Ali Khakhani and other officials participated in the orientation session program. Addressing the program on this occasion, they said that in this modern era, through technical education, girls along with youth will become employed and make their country and city famous.

## Admn, security forces hold tribal jirga F.P. Report

HANGU/ ORAKZAI: An important Peace Grand Jirga was held in collaboration with the District Administrations of Orakzai and Hangu and Thall Scouts in which GOC 9-Div Kohat Major General Zulfiqar Ali Bhatti, MNA Yousaf Khan, Commissioner Kohat Division Syed Motasim Billah Shah, RPO Kohat Abbas Majeed Marwat, Commandant Thall Scouts, Deputy Commissioners Hangu and Orakzai and DPOs and other senior officers of the security forces, a large number of tribal elders, dignitaries and public representatives from Zargari, Naryab, Shnawari, Doaba, Tora Wari, Dalan, Upper and Lower Orakzai participated.

The aim of the Jirga was to ensure public participation and full cooperation with state institutions for sustainable peace in the region. The participants of the Jirga strongly condemned the attack on the DPO Hangu, Colonel of Thall Scouts and SHO by the terrorists. The elders expressed their determination that no kind of terrorism, unrest or mischief will be tolerated in the area and full support will be provided to the state institutions. Terrorists will never be given shelter, support or facilities in the area.

GOC 9-Div, while addressing the Jirga, said that the handful Fitnat-ul-Khawarij cannot disturb the peace of the area. They will be completely eliminated and they will not be forgiven under any circumstances. He appealed the people to break the atmosphere of fear, stand shoulder to shoulder with the state institutions and play a full role in the war against terrorism. He added that the today Grand Jirga is a practical example of the people and the security institutions being on the same page and fully united to thwart the nefarious designs of the anti-state elements.

## DPO hails mentally disable volunteer F.P. Report

KARAK: District Police Officer (DPO) Karak took a special initiative in the spirit of social harmony and philanthropy and invited Aurangzeb, a mentally challenged youth who volunteers with traffic officials in Karak City Bazaar, to his office.

While present in Karak City Bazaar every day, this youth imitates the traffic police with great interest and seriousness, signals vehicles and rickshaws to move in an orderly manner, and tries his best to maintain the flow of traffic in the market. DPO Karak, appreciating this passion, dedication, and innocent service, awarded him a cash prize.

On this occasion, this mentally challenged youth expressed happiness, while DPO Karak said that such people are a part of our society whose happiness and encouragement are the responsibility of all of us.

# Councilors regret inaccessibility of sports fund



## F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: Chairmen of Village Councils (VCs) and Neighborhood Councils (NCs) regretted unsupplied of sports fund, allocated by the provincial government to encourage games on tehsil level.

VCs and NCs chairmen in Landi Kotal, district, Khyber Haji Khan Shinwari, Yad Wazir, Haji Sher Afridi, Naziq Shah Shinwari and others lamented that like in other development projects, Landi Kotal has been ignored in games related

scheme as the sports funds has not been provided to them to engage the youth community in extracurricular activities.

Tehsil Chairman Haji Shah Khalid said that the provincial government reserved 0.5 million rupees per VC or NC to initiate sports activities in the councils. The fund was transferred to AD, Local Government account, through Deputy Commissioner (DC), Khyber however the fund was lapsed in the month of June.

He urged the AD to forthwith transfer the fund

to the designated accounts of the VCS and NCs account so that to commence sports activities in the area. When the AD, Local Government Mamnoon Nawaz said that the fund was released to account IV though due to the close of fiscal year 2024-25, the fund was surrendered to the DC office and at the end of July, the fund was expected to be released. On the query he added that no guide lines have been received from the provincial government to transfer the fund to VCs and NCs accounts.

# Independence Day celebrations reviewed

## F.P. Report

KOHAT: In order to review the preparations for celebrating the upcoming Independence Day, which will directly be supervised by the district administration. These events will include special Independence Day programs in schools, colleges and universities, interschool speech competitions, tableau, college level speeches and sports competitions. He further said that the national flag will be hoisted on government offices, buildings and vehicles, while the sports complex, district jail, district council hall and other important government offices will be illuminated

said that various events will be organized in Kohat district from 1st August to 14th August on the eve of Independence Day, which will directly be supervised by the district administration. These events will include special Independence Day programs in schools, colleges and universities, interschool speech competitions, tableau, college level speeches and sports competitions. He further said that the national flag will be hoisted on government offices, buildings and vehicles, while the sports complex, district jail, district council hall and other important government offices will be illuminated

with electric lights. Banners will also be displayed at different places in the city. Colorful fireworks will be organized at the sports complex on the night of August 13.

On August 14, the main event will be held at the district council hall, which will include the flag hoisting, cake cutting ceremony, tree plantation campaign, independence walk and flag march.

Deputy Commissioner directed all the departments to fully cooperate to make these events a success in an effective manner and the people get the opportunity to celebrate Independence Day in a peaceful and pleasant atmosphere.

# JI demands probe into Rs1.2b alleged corruption

## F.P. Report

ATTOK: The increase in the prices of petrol, gas, electricity, and sugar is a cruel step. The poor are already facing numerous challenges—this oppression must be stopped. In his press statement, former candidate for PP-3 and Ameer (leader) of Jamaat-e-Islami, Tehsil Attock, Mian Muhammad Junaid said that business activity across the country is in a terrible state. Due to flawed government policies, foreign investment is almost non-existent.

The extravagance of the government, its reckless spending, and the trend of favoring the elite have made life miserable for the poor. The so-called unique method of running the country by imposing excessive taxes on electricity, gas, petrol, and diesel has become a torment for the people.

Despite significant decreases in petrol and diesel prices worldwide, the continued price hikes in Pakistan are shameful. Sugar was first exported and now is being imported, causing its prices to skyrocket. If there wasn't enough sugar available to meet local demand, then why was it allowed to be exported? Was this all a game to benefit the sugar mafia? Sugar mill owners are in the government and are designing policies to rob the people for their own benefit. Meanwhile, sugarcane farmers are dying of hunger, and the sugar mafia has already made billions through this cycle of export and import.

In Attock, corruption is rampant. Over 1.25 billion rupees in financial irregularities have occurred in the Agriculture University. Jamaat-e-Islami has repeatedly demanded an investigation, but the administra-

tion remains unmoved. After much delay, admission announcements have finally been made. We demand that a 50% quota be reserved for local students of Attock.

## Crackdown continue F.P. Report

TOBA TEK SINGH: Sub-Divisional Officer (SDO) WAPDA City Kamalia Zulfiqar Ali Kathia said that continuous actions are being taken against electricity thieves.

He further said that our teams are working in the field on a daily basis and actions are being taken against the electricity thieves after identifying them and along with FIRs, heavy fines are also being imposed against electricity thieves.

# Pesco workers observe complete pen-down strike in Dir

## F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: The Peshawar Electric Supply Company (Pesco) workers on the call of Wapda Hydro Electric Central Labour Union, on Tuesday observed a complete pen-down strike, bringing official work to a halt. The protestors also staged a sit-in outside the Wapda Complex in Timergara to press for their long-standing demands.

The protesting employees wearing black armbands also raised slogans against the acute shortage of field staff, compulsory overtime duties, and the increasing workload on existing staff. Addressing the protest, Divisional Chairman Fahmeed Iqbal, Zonal Secretary Fazal Kabir, Divisional General Secretary Malik Nasrullah Khan, Vice Chairman Malik Nasruddin Khan, and expressed deep concern over the current staffing crisis, stating that Pesco was operating with nearly 70% fewer staff than required. They said the shortage has resulted in excessive workload and rising incidents of workplace accidents, particularly due to the

lack of proper training for field workers.

The speakers also highlighted the longstanding issue of vacant posts of meter reader, which they said had caused delays in timely meter readings, leading to disputes between consumers and employees. During the protest, the employees passed a resolution demanding the restoration of the marriage grant scholarship, recruitment of the children of employees who died during services, immediate regularization of ad-hoc workers, and approval of a 10% ad-hoc and 30% utility allowance.

The strike caused significant inconvenience to consumers who had visited WAPDA offices for various services, many of whom returned disappointed due to the disruption. Union leaders warned that if their demands were not met promptly, a second phase of the protest movement would be launched soon.

**Road protection wall:** A retaining wall near the Darangal Bridge on Shahi Road in Samarbagh, which had collapsed a few days ago, was repaired following public com-

plaints. However, local residents on Tuesday expressed disappointment over the contractor's failure to complete the repair work properly.

According to locals, despite the partial restoration, no proper drainage system was ensured for rainwater runoff from the road. As a result, the repaired wall is once again at risk of collapsing, especially during heavy rainfall. Residents warned that if immediate measures were not taken, the road could become impassable, and nearby areas may suffer further damage.

The public has urged the government and relevant authorities to take prompt action by directing the contractor to reinforce the road with additional earth-filling and address the drainage issue permanently. Locals also stated that if urgent action was not taken, the responsibility for any major incident would rest on the shoulders of the concerned officials.

**Traders union election demanded immediately:** A joint meeting of traders and political activists was held in Timergara, calling for immediate elections of the Timergara

bazaar union. Participants declared the current cabinet of the Traders' Union as unconstitutional and illegal, pointing out that no elections have been held since 2007.

According to the union's constitution, elections are required every three years. The attendees expressed serious concerns over the prolonged delay and issued a deadline, warning that if elections were not announced by July 30, they would form a parallel traders' union. The meeting, held at the Timergara Rest House, was attended by PTI leaders Rahat Farooqi, Malik Ziaul Haq, and Bashirullah Advocate, ANP's Malik Muhammad Rasheed Khan and Ashfaq Sheikh; JUI's Shahab Utmani; trader representative Liaqat Khan of Tori; currency dealer Ejaz Ahmad; Hayatullah from China Market; former president of the Traders Union Shakirullah; general secretary Ihsanullah; and others.

Participants said the union's tenure, as per its constitution, is three years, but elections have not been conducted since 2007, making the current setup unconstitutional. They also highlight-

ed that the business community is facing serious challenges, including heavy fines, yet there is no one to raise their voice.

They demanded the immediate resignation of the current cabinet and urged the authorities to announce fresh elections without delay. They warned that if elections are not declared by July 30, like-minded traders along with PTI, ANP, JUI, and PPP supporters would announce a parallel union and cabinet.

Reacting to the development, Fahim ul Din, a trader, told local journalists that all of them are either councilors or PTI workers, none of them represent the traders. He said the decisions about the bazaar should be made by the traders themselves. Several other supporters of the current cabinet led by Haji Anwar ul Din also rejected the demand, saying that they were ready for fresh elections, but no one from the business community was ready to contest elections against Haji Anwar ul Din.

**Zakat fund to be distributed on merit:** Chairman of District Zakat Committee Lower Dir, Malik Aurangzeb Khan, has said that Zakat will be

distributed fairly and transparently among deserving people in the district.

He was talking to local journalists at his office here the other day. Malik Aurang Zeb said that local sub-committees were being formed to ensure effective distribution at the grassroots level. He said that cheques worth Rs6 million had already been given to 30 poor girls to help them with dowry expenses. The chairman added that financial assistance will also be provided to widows, orphans, and poor women through Sahara Cards, while orphaned children will receive Roshan Mustaqbil Cards. He said scholarships will be awarded to deserving students, and stipends will be given to students of religious seminaries. Medicines will be provided to poor patients under health-related support.

He informed that the process of forming 198 sub-committees is underway. "After their reconstitution and the release of funds in August, the distribution of Zakat among deserving people will begin", he said, adding that helping poor and needy people was his mission.





# Egypt legal reform raises fears over right to fair trial

CAIRO (AFP): Egypt is poised to adopt a new law aimed at overhauling the judicial process, but human rights groups warn it could entrench long-standing abuses including arbitrary detention, travel bans and expedited trials. The legislation, currently awaiting approval by President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, is being promoted by the government as a step toward streamlining legal procedures, from arrest to trial.

Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty has told the UN Human Rights Council it would bring a "legislative revolution to criminal justice" in Egypt. Ihab al-Tamawy, the head of the parliamentary subcommittee charged with drafting the new code, told AFP it "introduces a set of new guarantees" on Egypt's notorious pretrial detention system, as well as the role of the public prosecution. But critics say the bill risks codifying repressive practices that have long eroded due process in the country. According to rights defenders, the law expands the powers of police and prosecutors and limits the role of defence lawyers, undermining judicial oversight and the right to a fair trial. In one of the new provisions that have come under scrutiny, public prosecutors will be able to order travel bans without a warrant "in cases of emergency". The law will also allow police to enter homes without an arrest warrant in cases of "distress" or "danger", which are not clearly defined. In April, UN rights chief Volker Turk "raised concerns" over the law and called on Sisi to "consider carefully" before signing it

into force, "to ensure that it fully complies with Egypt's international human rights obligations". Egypt currently ranks 135th out of 142 countries on the World Justice Project's Rule of Law Index. In the latest UN review of its rights record in January, Egypt faced accusations of "systemic and widespread" rights violations, including torture, enforced disappearances and unfair trials.

In recent years, Egypt has been accused of formalising into normal law exceptional measures previously allowed in states of emergency. According to prominent human rights lawyer Khaled Ali, the law "does not truly combat corruption, expands the powers granted to the police and prosecution and undermines the role of defence lawyers," which he said is "essential to a fair trial". Along with 15 other independent lawyers, Ali submitted 176 proposed amendments to the law, none of which were adopted. Mahmoud Shalaby, Egypt researcher at Amnesty International, told AFP the bill "codifies practices that were already taking place outside the boundaries of the law, and grants them legitimacy in an attempt to improve Egypt's image". According to Karim Ennarah, research director at the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR), the new changes will come at the expense of investigations, defendants and their lawyers. Under the new law, defence lawyers can be denied access to case files and witnesses -- "practices already common, but that will now become legal,"

Ennarah said.

The law will also expand remote trials, which Ennarah describes as "rushed" virtual hearings, where dozens of jailed defendants are corralled behind a screen on a video call with a judge. Remote trials "undermine two fundamental principles of a fair trial", according to Ennarah, namely "the defendant's right to meet privately with their lawyer, and their right to appear before a judge" to assess any harm or abuse inflicted upon them. Egypt is routinely criticised for the widespread use of pretrial detention, a phenomenon that proponents say is addressed under the new law. While the maximum period for remand detention will be reduced from 24 to 18 months, Amnesty International has warned the law "provides no safeguards against abusive prolonged pretrial detention". According to Shalaby, many of Egypt's estimated tens of thousands of political prisoners are victims of a practice known as "recycling" detainees. Under the much-maligned "revolving door policy", prisoners are often handed new charges instead of being released, restarting the clock on their remand period. Another issue, he says, is that when the law goes into effect, citizens will no longer be able to sue "in case of violations during their arrest or detention". In 2024, EIPR documented 10 cases of torture-related deaths in detention facilities. Rights groups regularly report cases of medical neglect, abuse and overcrowding in Egyptian prisons.

## Australian Parliament resumes

MELBOURNE (AP): Australia's Parliament resumed Tuesday for the first time since the center-left Labor Party won one of the nation's largest-ever majorities in the May elections. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese thanked the traditional owners of the national capital Canberra at a Welcome to Country ceremony in Parliament House. He noted that such ceremonies performed by Indigenous people to welcome visitors to their traditional land at the start of a new parliament had been introduced by a Labor government in 2007.

"In the 48th Parliament, we write the next chapter. Let us do it with the same sense of grace and courage that First Nations people show us with their leadership," Albanese said. The government has said the first legislation will be a bill to reduce student loan debt by 20%. The measure to be introduced will benefit 3 million Australians with student loan debts and cost the government 16 billion Australian dollars (\$10 billion). The government also plans to introduce laws that would cut funding to child care providers who fail to meet quality standards and that would provide legal protections for some wage rates. Labor won 94 seats in the 150-seat House of Representatives where governments are formed. Labor's majority is the largest since Prime Minister John Howard's conservative coalition won 94 seats in 1996, when the lower chamber had only 148 seats.

Howard stayed in power almost 12 years, and Albanese is the first prime minister since then to lead a party to consecutive election victories, following an extraordinary era of political instability. The main opposition Liberal Party has elected its first woman leader, Sussan Ley, after one of the party's worst election results on record. Her conservative coalition holds 43 seats in the House, while independent lawmakers and minor parties that are not aligned with either the government or opposition hold 13. No party holds a majority in the 76-seat Senate. Labor holds 29 seats and the conservatives 27 seats. The Australian Greens hold 10 seats, which is the next largest bloc. The government will likely prefer to negotiate with the conservatives or Greens to get legislation through the Senate, rather than deal with multiple minor parties and independents.

## France jails three

PARIS (AFP): A French court jailed three people for human trafficking in the champagne industry, exploiting seasonal workers and housing them in appalling conditions. The Champagne region is under tough scrutiny, with another inquiry looking into the use of Ukrainians during the same 2023 harvest, which was marked by exceptional heat and the death of four grape pickers.

A lawyer for the victims -- more than 50 mostly undocumented migrant workers from Mali, Mauritania, Ivory Coast and Senegal -- said the court had made a "historic" decision. The victims, who said they had been treated "like slaves", also praised the ruling. "The people were working in really bad conditions, and this decision is fair," said Amadou Diallo, a 39-year-old from Senegal. The court sentenced the director of a servicing company called Anavim, a Kyrgyz woman in her forties, to two years behind bars, and another two years suspended. She had denied being responsible for the housing conditions, and blamed the two other defendants suspected of recruiting the harvesters. The court sentenced the two others, both men in their thirties, to one year in jail, alongside suspended terms. All three were found guilty of human trafficking -- defined under French law as "recruiting, transporting, transferring, housing or receiving a person to exploit them," by means of coerced employment, abusing a position of authority, abusing a vulnerable situation or in exchange of payment or benefits.



GAZA: Starving Palestinians seek desperately needed food aid in Nuseirat.

# MAGA-style 'anti-globalist' politics arrives in Japan

TOKYO (AFP): Populist ideals are gaining traction in Japan, spurred by right-wing politicians running rampant elsewhere railing against "elitism", "globalism" and immigration. While Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba's coalition lost its upper house majority in an election, the "Japanese first" Sanseito party, created only five years ago, increased its seats from two to 15.

Sanseito's agenda comes straight from the copybook of right-wing movements such as US President Donald Trump's "Make America Great Again", the Alternative for Germany (AfD) and Nigel Farage's Reform party in Britain. This includes "stricter rules and limits" on immigration and foreign capital, opposition to "globalism" and "radical" gender policies, and a rethink on decarbonisation, vaccines and pesticide-free agriculture. Founded on YouTube, Sanseito will "bring power back to the people", party leader Sohei Kamiya, a 47-year-old former teacher and supermarket manager, wrote in the Japan Times. Surveys have put immigration far down the list of voters' concerns, who are much more worried about inflation and the economy.

But for Sanseito, the influx of newcomers into Japan -- where the immigration its economy badly needs is far lower than in other developed countries -- is to blame for a host of ills from crime to rising property prices to dangerous driving. "It's fine

if they visit as tourists, but if you take in more and more foreigners, saying they're cheap labour, then Japanese people's wages won't rise," Kamiya said at a campaign. But he added: "We are not exclusionary. We have never called to drive out foreigners." Meanwhile online platforms have been flooded with disinformation, some of which Japanese fact-checking groups and the government have debunked.

Some posts falsely claimed that foreigners leave almost \$3 billion of medical bills unpaid a year, or that Chinese residents on welfare doubled in five years. At a Sanseito election rally in front of Tokyo's Shinagawa station, where orange T-shirted party workers handed out "Stop destroying Japan!" flyers, one voter told AFP she was finally being heard. "They put into words what I had been thinking about but couldn't put into words for many years," said the 44-year-old IT worker on a precarious short-term contract. "When foreigners go to university, the Japanese government provides subsidies to them, but when we were going to university, everyone had huge debts." Russian bot accounts have been responsible for "large-scale information manipulation", according to a much-read blog post by Ichiro Yamamoto from the Japan Institute of Law and Information Systems think-tank. This has been helped by artificial intelligence enabling better translation of

material into Japanese. More understanding towards Russia -- something which was long anathema for Japanese right-wingers -- is also a theme for Kamiya. "Russia's military invasion (of Ukraine) was of course bad, but there are forces in the United States that drove Russia into doing that," Kamiya told AFP, denying he is "pro-Russia".

He was forced during his campaign to deny receiving support from Moscow -- which has been accused of backing similar parties in other countries -- after a Sanseito candidate was interviewed by Russian state media. As in other countries, the rise of Sanseito and its success has prompted the government to announce new immigration policies, and other parties to make promises during the election campaign. Ishiba's LDP proclaimed the goal of achieving "zero illegal foreign nationals" and said the government will strengthen the management system for immigration and residency status. Eight NGOs issued a joint statement last week, since backed by over 1,000 groups, raising the alarm on "rapidly spreading xenophobia". "The argument that 'foreigners are prioritised' is totally unfounded demagoguery," the statement said. Hidehiro Yamamoto, politics and sociology professor at the University of Tsukuba, said that populism has not caught hold before because the LDP, unlike established parties elsewhere, has remained a "catch-all party".

# Anxiety and pride among Cambodia's future conscripts

BOGOTA (AFP): The generation of Cambodians who may find themselves in the firing line when the country introduces military conscription is split between quiet pangs of anxiety and proud proclamations of patriotism. "My family is poor. If I am called in for the service, I am worried that my family might face financial issues," 25-year-old tuk-tuk driver Voeun Dara told AFP in Phnom Penh. "It is worrisome for me."

Citing rising tensions with Thailand, Prime Minister Hun Manet says Cambodia will next year activate a long-dormant law requiring citizens aged 18 to 30 to enlist in the military. Hun Manet has proposed conscripts serve for two years to bolster the country's 200,000 personnel after a territorial dispute boiled over into a border clash, killing one Cambodian soldier in late May. Graphic design student Ray Kimhak's brother-in-law, a volunteer soldier, has already been deployed to the countries' 800-kilometre-long (500-mile) border. But the 21-year-old says he would gladly join him if compelled by conscription. "He said it was a bit difficult to sleep in the jungle, and it rains a lot.

But these difficulties don't discourage me at all," Ray Kimhak told AFP at his university in the capital.

"We are ready to protect our territory because when it is gone, we would never get it back." Cambodia's conscription law dates back to 2006 but has never been enforced. Hun Manet has said it will be used to replace retiring troops, though it is unclear how many citizens are set to be called up. The country of 17 million has a long and dark history of forced enlistment. Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge communist regime, which ruled from 1975 to 1979, conscripted fighting-aged men, and sometimes children, into its ranks as it perpetrated a genocide that killed two million. One 64-year-old who was conscripted by the Khmer Rouge at 17 told AFP he supported the government's decision, despite standing on a landmine during his time as a soldier. "I was forced to be a soldier by Pol Pot," he told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity from the Thai border town of Sampov Lun. "Being a soldier is not easy, but I support the government's plan of military conscription in the face of a border dispute with Thailand. We need to protect our land."

Under the newly activated conscription legislation, those who refuse to serve in wartime would face three years in prison, while peacetime refuseniks would face one year behind bars. Sipping green tea at a cafe, 18-year-old IT student Oeng Sirayuth says he fully supports Hun Manet's call to arms. "We should be ready, because tension with our neighbouring country is growing," he said. But personally he hopes for a deferral as he finishes his studies.

"I am a bit reluctant because I have never thought that I will have to join the military service," he said. "I think 60 percent of young people are ready to join the military, so these people can go first, and those who are not yet ready can enter the service later." Under the modern-day conscription legislation, women will be allowed to opt for volunteer work rather than military service. But 23-year-old internet provider saleswoman Leakhena said she stands ready to serve on the frontlines. Last month her family delivered donations to Cambodian soldiers patrolling the border, where tensions have spiked with Thailand over a disputed area known as the Emerald Triangle.

# Venezuela says migrants were tortured in Salvadoran prison

CARACAS (AFP): Venezuela announced a probe into torture claims by 252 migrants the United States had sent to a notorious Salvadoran prison where they said they were beaten, sexually abused and fed rotten food. Attorney General Tarek William Saab presented photos and testimonies at a news conference in Caracas of some of the men, who said they had feared not making it out alive.

Several had bruises on their bodies, marks of being shot with rubber bullets, and one had a split lip. Andry Hernandez Romero, a 32-year-old beautician among those sent to the notorious CECOT prison as part of US President Donald Trump's migrant crackdown, said he barely survived the ordeal. "We were going through torture, physical aggressions, psychological aggressions," he said in a video presented by Saab. "I was sexually abused." Saab said the prosecutor's office was interviewing the returned migrants.

Many spoke of being held in "inhuman cells," deprived of sunlight and ventilation, and given rotten food and unsafe drinking water. The men had no access to lawyers or their relatives, and the last time many of them were seen was when President Nayib Bukele's government issued photos of them arriving at the prison shackled and with their heads shorn. The migrants had not yet been reunited with their families. Officials said they were undergoing medical exams, being issued with new Venezuelan ID cards, and interviewed by the prosecutor's office.

Mercedes Yamarte, 46, told AFP she was preparing a welcome party for her 29-year-old son Mervin -- one of the men released from the prison Bukele built as part of his mass anti-gang crackdown. She had put up balloons, banners and prepared food at their home in a poor neighborhood of Maracaibo in northern Venezuela, but had no idea when to expect him. At lunchtime, she received a

call, and heard the words: "Mom, it's Mervin." "I hadn't heard my son's voice in four months and seven days, listening to him was a joy, a joy I cannot describe," she told AFP. The men were accused in the United States of being gang members and flown in March to El Salvador, after Trump invoked rarely used wartime laws to deport the men without court hearings. Their treatment elicited an international outcry.

Saab said the Venezuelan investigation would target Bukele and other Salvadoran officials for alleged crimes against humanity. And he urged the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the UN Human Rights Council to act. The men were freed and flown back home in what the Trump administration said was an exchange for 10 Americans or US residents and dozens of "political prisoners" held in Venezuela. President Nicolas Maduro on his TV show claimed Bukele had tried "last minute" to prevent the

migrants from leaving. "You could not stop the first plane, but for the second plane he put some car on the runway... to provoke either an accident or prevent them from leaving," he said. Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado labeled the process as an "exchange of prisoners of war" during a television interview.

Venezuela itself faces an investigation by the ICC in The Hague, with similar allegations of torturing prisoners and denying them access to legal representation. Hundreds of people are held for political reasons in Venezuela, according to rights group Foro Penal. Some 2,400 people were arrested, 28 killed and 200 injured in a crackdown on protests that broke out last July after Maduro claimed victory in elections he is widely accused of having stolen. Maduro's government insisted negotiations for the migrants' release were held "only with the United States of America" and not "the clown" Bukele.

# Bolsonaro's son blasts Brazilian court official

BASILIA: Brazilian Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes has ordered the freezing of the accounts and assets of former President Jair Bolsonaro's third son, Eduardo Bolsonaro, while the former president may now face arrest over his activities on social media. Eduardo, a Brazilian congressman who has been active in Washington, DC, drumming up support for his father's court battle, called the decision "another arbitrary and criminal decision" by Moraes.

"Moraes relies on illegal decisions to protect himself from the consequences of his crimes. Like every dictator," Eduardo Bolsonaro said in a post on X on Tuesday. "If he thinks this will make me stop, I make it clear: I will not be intimidated, and I will not be silenced. I prepared

myself for this moment," he said. "This is just another demonstration of abuse of power and confirms everything I have been denouncing in Washington and to authorities worldwide," he added. CNN Brasil first reported that the confidential court decision was issued as part of a probe into Eduardo Bolsonaro's conduct in the United States. Moraes, who oversees the criminal case in which the former president is accused of plotting a coup to overturn the 2022 election result, issued a separate ruling saying that any attempt to circumvent a court ruling in which he ordered Jair Bolsonaro to wear an ankle bracelet and banned him from using social media could result in arrest. Brazilian news outlet G1 reported that Moraes summoned Bolsonaro's lawyers to clarify their client's

alleged non-compliance with his order restricting use of social media. According to G1, Moraes gave the lawyers 24 hours to present an explanation, adding that if the defence does not adequately justify Bolsonaro's online behaviour, he may order the immediate arrest of the former president. Bolsonaro described the decision by Moraes to prohibit his social media use as "cowardice", and said he intended to continue engaging with the media to ensure his voice was heard. Vera Chemim, a Sao Paulo-based constitutional lawyer, told the Reuters news agency that she believed the country's former leader is now on shaky ground, noting that media interviews, while not explicitly mentioned in the court order, could still be used to justify Bolsonaro's arrest. —Aljazeera

# UK, France and 23 other nations demand Israel's war on Gaza 'must end now'

BRUSSELS: More than two dozen countries have called for an immediate end to the war on Gaza, saying that suffering there had "reached new depths" in the latest sign of allies' sharpening language as Israel's international isolation deepens.

The statement came after more than 21 months of fighting that have triggered catastrophic humanitarian conditions for Gaza's more than two million residents. Israeli allies the United Kingdom, France, Australia, Canada and 21 other countries, plus the European Union, said in a joint statement that the war "must end now".

"The suffering of civilians in Gaza has reached new depths," the signatories added, urging a negotiated ceasefire, the release of captives held by

Palestinian fighters and the free flow of much-needed aid. 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 UN and the Gaza Health Ministry have recorded 875 people killed in Gaza while trying to get food since late May, when Israel began easing a more than two-month total blockade. "The Israeli government's aid delivery model is dangerous, fuels instability and deprives Gazans of human dignity," the countries 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." Al Jazeera's Sonia Gallego,

reporting from London, said that the statement was a significant escalation from Israel's allies over its war on Gaza. "This also reflects a broader consensus beyond Europe," she said. "European nations have condemned the situation in Gaza, and now you have foreign ministries -- such as Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Japan -- that put their names in this statement," our correspondent said. The new joint statement called for an immediate ceasefire, saying countries are prepared to take action to support a political pathway to peace in the region. Israel and Hamas have been engaged in ceasefire talks, but there appears to be no breakthrough, and it is not clear whether any truce would bring the war to a lasting halt. Netanyahu has

repeatedly asserted that expanding Israel's military operations in Gaza will pressure Hamas in negotiations. Speaking to Parliament, British Foreign Secretary David Lammy thanked the United States, Qatar and Egypt for their diplomatic efforts to try to end the war. "There is no military solution," Lammy said. "The next ceasefire must be the last ceasefire."

Israel launched the war on Gaza after Hamas led an attack on southern Israel on October 7, 2023, killing at least 1,129 people and taking 251 others captive. Fifty captives remain in Gaza, but fewer than half are thought to be alive. Israel's military offensive has killed more than 59,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, mostly women and children. — Aljazeera



The Frontier Post

Rehmat Shah Afridi (Late)

Founder

Bilal Shah Afridi

Chief Executive

Jalil Afridi

Managing Editor

Printed and published by Mahmood Afridi at Moraka's

Printers, 27 Abdara Road, University Town, Peshawar.

Peshawar Office: 091-5700095, 0300- 9009001

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

E-mail: fppeshawar@thefrontierpost.com

Lahore Office: 0335-4026284

Email: fplahore@thefrontierpost.com

Islamabad Office: 0321-5066253

Email: mahmoodafridi@thefrontierpost.com

Karachi Office: 021-32213411, 0300-8340907

Email: fpkarachi@thefrontierpost.com

USA and Canada Toll Free Number 1-800-5905747

# It's Donald Trump vs. Rupert Murdoch

UNITED States President Donald Trump filed a \$10 billion defamation case against The Wall Street Journal, owned by media mogul Rupert Murdoch. The conservative financial paper, published from New York, carried a report saying that Trump had written a birthday greeting letter to Jack Epstein, the financier who was accused of using underage age girls for sex at his parties.

The letter carried the name of 'Donald'. Trump had vehemently denied the charge implied in the report that he was friends with Epstein and knew about his scandalous background. Trump wrote in his social media portal Truth Social, "We have just filed a POWERHOUSE Lawsuit against everyone involved in publishing the false, malicious, defamatory, FAKE NEWS 'article' in the useless 'rag' that is The Wall Street Journal."

He went on to say in the same post, "I hope Rupert and his 'friends' are looking forward to the many hours of depositions and testimonies they will have to provide in this case." A Dow Jones statement said, "We have full confidence in the rigour and accuracy of our reporting, and will vigorously defend against any lawsuit."

Trump's confrontation with Murdoch is one with serious implications for the two and more fatal than Trump's clash with Elon Musk, the tycoon who owns the electric carmaker Tesla, Space X, which operates the space shuttle, and Starlink, the low orbit communications satellite network. The clash between Trump and Musk was one of egos, and partly on differences over the tariffs issue. Musk has been a confidant of Trump for the first few months of Trump's second term as president.

Murdoch has kept himself aloof, and he has not befriended Trump the way he did Great Britain's Labour leader and prime minister, Tony Blair, in the late 1990s. Murdoch is drawn into a battle with Trump without intending to do so. Murdoch is not a liberal media tycoon. He takes sides, and when he does not want a story to be printed it will not be printed. He will replace defiant editors without compunction.

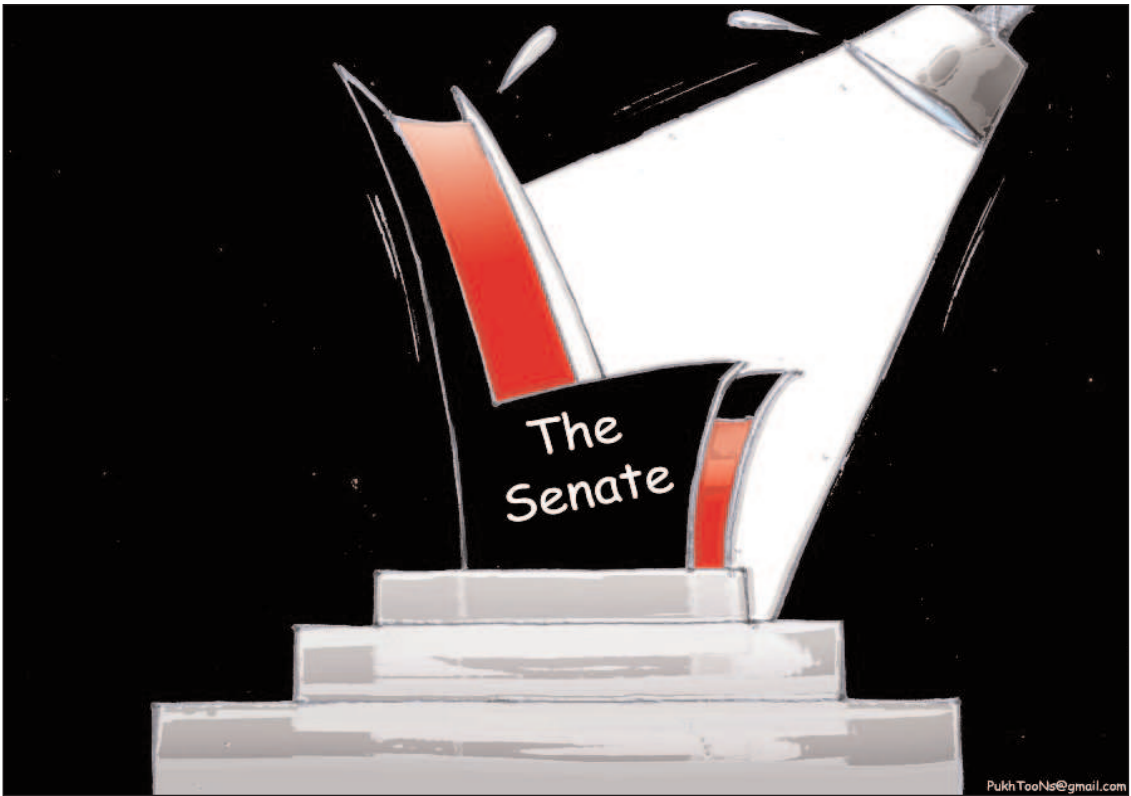
The fact that The Wall Street Journal carried this explosive report implicating Trump is evidence that Murdoch quietly gave the nod. Murdoch is a shrewd businessman, who has built his media empire from Australia through Hong Kong to Britain and India. Murdoch is not a natural opponent of Trump, standing with the liberals. It is interesting as to why Murdoch chose to throw down the gauntlet as it were.

The reason for Trump's belligerent response is understandable because the Epstein story about Trump's connection with his core support base of Make America Great Again (MAGA), who are conservative Christians, who believe in family values. The MAGA support base strongly disapproves Trump's connection with Epstein. And there is the danger that it will spiral out of control and undermine his political credentials.

It is not surprising that Trump is a worried man, and instead of his customary bluster what is on display is uncharacteristic panic in his response to the story published in The Wall Street Journal. The demand for \$10 billion is the largest ever claimed in a defamation case in the United States. But Trump's lawyers will have to prove that The Wall Street Journal has published the story about Trump with maliciousness and despite knowing that it was false. The courts will allow for a genuine mistake if the reporters and the newspaper editors did not know that it was a false story. Trump's lawyers will have to prove intentional malice of The Wall Street Journal. It is not an easy thing to do. So, it is a tough legal battle with Trump and Murdoch ranged against each other.

## 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.



# Heat waves chilling threat to children's rights

Amakobe Sande

CHINA has experienced several severe heat waves in recent weeks. Scientific evidence is unequivocal: extreme weather events — heat waves, droughts, floods and typhoons — are becoming more frequent and intense due to climate change. These events are directly impacting children's health and well-being, often even before they are born.

The 2024 report of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), "A Threat to Progress: Confronting the Effects of Climate Change on Child Health and Well-being", shows a stark reality: globally, one in every five children — 466 million — live in areas experiencing at least twice as many extremely hot days each year as their grandparents did six decades ago. By 2050, every one of the world's more than 2 billion children will face frequent heat waves.

The consequences are profound. Heat waves increase the risk of premature births, low birth weights, and stillbirths. Babies born too early face lifelong health challenges because their bodies are not yet ready for life outside the womb.

Moreover, extreme heat affects breastfeeding by reducing both the quantity and quality of breast milk, depriving newborns of vital nutrition during their critical early months.

Children are not simply small adults. Their bodies are far more vulnerable to extreme heat as they heat up faster and cool down more slowly. Infants, in

particular, are at heightened risk due to their faster heart rates and limited ability to regulate body temperature. Rising temperatures, therefore, pose an especially alarming threat to their survival and development.

Beyond immediate health impacts, heat waves, droughts and floods disrupt food systems by reducing crop yields, leading to malnutrition. Without access to a diverse and nutritious diet, young children's cognitive development can be irreversibly impaired, affecting their potential for a healthy, productive life. Heat waves also increase children's vulnerability to infectious diseases such as malaria and dengue, and interrupt their education, compounding the crisis.

This pattern is repeating worldwide. Climate change is reshaping children's environments with devastating effects on their health, education and overall well-being. That is why UNICEF calls climate change a child rights crisis. Children contribute least to the carbon emissions driving climate change, yet they bear the greatest burden of its consequences.

The good news is that we can act — and we must act now. UNICEF is leading global and local efforts to both reduce emissions and help children adapt to a changing climate.

Here in China, we collaborate closely with government partners to protect children and build

resilience. Working with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, UNICEF is helping develop climate-resilient, child-friendly sanitation systems in schools, homes and communities. Through Step Up For Climate, young people learn to calculate their own carbon footprints and identify simple yet effective ways to reduce waste and emissions — such as choosing green transport options and conserving water and energy. The campaign also helps prepare children for climate shocks by teaching them how to respond to early warnings of natural disasters.

Importantly, Step Up For Climate encourages children to become climate leaders and advocates within their communities. We want them to inspire their parents, teachers, and peers to join the fight against climate change. While individual actions may seem small, collective efforts can transform our world.

For adults, the message is clear: the world our children are inheriting is already hotter and more dangerous than the one we grew up in. It is our responsibility to act decisively — to limit further climate change, to protect children and to prepare the next generation to adapt and thrive.

By working together — with and for children — we can build a safer, healthier and more sustainable future for all. In China, as across the globe, the time to act is now!

young people to become climate champions. The campaign builds awareness, knowledge, and practical skills among young people in China so they can take meaningful action in their schools, homes and communities.

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# In Gaza, death seems easier than amputation

Eman Abu Zayed

"TEN children a day losing a limb in Gaza, warns UN-backed body", this is the latest horrific headline to come out of Gaza.

The article reports: "134,105 people including over 40,500 children have suffered new war-related injuries since the war began in October 2023."

Behind these shocking statistics are real children in real pain who have lost a part of their body, their childhood and their dreams.

My 12-year-old relative Osama is one of them. He escaped death twice, but each time he lost part of his family until only he remained.

The first time, he was at his grandparents' house, along with his mother, grandmother and sisters. An Israeli air strike hit the home, killing everyone except Osama.

The second time, he was at a school-turned-shelter when Israel bombed it. His father and seven uncles were all killed. Osama survived but lost his leg.

My father and I visited him at Al-Aqsa Hospital to check on him. At the gate of the hospital, a child greeted us; he was selling water in a plastic bag, holding it with one hand; his other hand was amputated. Inside, the scene at the ward where Osama was admitted was gut-wrenching. Dozens of amputees were lying on beds and on the floor.

We found Osama lying in his bed. He spent most

of the visit crying. Every movement was difficult for him.

The pain I saw on his face cannot be described. A child who lost his mother, father and his siblings now had to face the trauma and pain of an amputation utterly alone.

He had to rely on the charity of relatives for everything. He was cared for and supported; someone was constantly in search of a wheelchair for him.

But in times of war, taking care of a wounded child who cannot even go to the toilet by himself is an overwhelming weight even for those who love him. Not because they do not want to help, but because they themselves are barely surviving.

Osama knew that. "I want to go to mama and baba ... and play in heaven," he whispered. His words broke my heart.

To be a child without a limb means living an unfair life. It means needing help for every move, every step, every simple activity.

It means always feeling different, being looked at with pity or discomfort, watching other children run and play without being able to join. Many, like Osama, have to endure all this without the support of their mom, dad, sisters and brothers.

I cannot begin to comprehend what Osama must feel.

But I do know what I

myself felt when I nearly escaped an amputation.

In June last year, our home was attacked and my family and I were all injured. I had shrapnel lodged into various parts of my body, including my hand. I was rushed to the hospital.

My first thought when I heard I needed urgent surgery was that I could lose my hand.

It was my right hand. The hand I use to write my dreams. The one I open my notebooks and hold my books with. The one I use to help my mother, to hold my phone and write to my friends and the relatives I cannot see.

How could I live without it? How would I go on as a writer, as a translator, as a woman who still dared to dream amid all this destruction?

In that moment, I felt what Osama had felt too: Death would be easier than losing a part of my body.

I cried a lot in the hospital. Not only from pain, but from fear of a life in which I might no longer feel whole.

The surgery saved my hand from amputation, but the shrapnel remained inside. They couldn't remove it; it was too close to the nerve, and they feared damaging it. They said it would stay there ... indefinitely.

A piece of shrapnel in the body, like a fragment of painful memory in the mind. A part of the war

still living inside me. A piece of destruction, lodged in my body.

I spent two weeks in the surgery ward, the section designated for amputation and limb fracture cases. The place was saturated with pain; not a morning passed without me waking up to the scream of a child crying from the agony of amputation, or the groans of a woman writhing in pain from a wound that refused to heal.

In front of my bed, there was a woman in her 50s who had lost both her arms. She couldn't even lift a piece of bread to her mouth. Her daughter sat beside her, feeding her with a spoon as if she were a child. Her eyes were filled with tears not just from physical pain, but from that unbearable feeling of helplessness.

I watched her in silence. Her image never left me. To see a human being stripped of their most basic abilities — to eat, to wash themselves, to walk — destroys the soul.

War doesn't just kill. It steals.

It steals land, homes, loved ones, it still limbs, it steals souls.

The pain doesn't end when you survive. It begins when you are left to live with what's missing, what's broken, with a body that will never be the same.

And if death sometimes feels easier than losing a part of your body, then the life we choose to live afterwards is resistance in its purest form.

# Huckabee's criticism of Israel exposes the tip of the iceberg

Ray Hanania

EVANGELICAL Christian and US Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee last week wrote a letter that criticized the Tel Aviv government for discriminating against Christians, focused mainly on evangelical missionaries who, he said, have repeatedly been denied tourist visas.

Huckabee, who was appointed ambassador by President Donald Trump, sent the scathing letter to Interior Minister Moshe Arbel, warning that if the restrictions against evangelicals continue, the US may take reciprocal action against Israelis seeking US visas.

Instead of responding to the concern about anti-Christian policies in Israel, which go far beyond evangelical missionaries, Arbel responded that Huckabee is not a team player. Avoiding addressing the issue at hand, Arbel, using typical Israeli doublespeak, criticized Huckabee for deviating from "accepted working norms" and not acting in "mutual trust" with Israel.

What Arbel was saying is that Huckabee should stand by Israel and ignore any Israeli policy or law that exposes its fundamental discrimination against all non-Jews and denies Muslims and Christians their rights.

Days later, Huckabee expanded his concerns to speak out against the violent Jewish settler attacks that have taken place in Taybeh, one of the few remaining Palestinian Christian villages in the West Bank.

Most evangelical Christians in the US long ago abandoned the Christians of historic Palestine as part of their blind support for Israel, ignoring all the Tel Aviv government's abuses,

..... Palestinian Christians have long been the target of attacks by Israelis. But two weeks ago, the attacks reached a new level of violence when Jewish settlers targeted a church, businesses, homes, farms and vehicles in Taybeh. It took a few days and the interior minister's failure to acknowledge

Huckabee's concerns, but the US ambassador expanded those concerns on Friday to address the growing violence against Christians by Jewish settlers. In his original letter, Huckabee explained that he was angry because Israel's government had stopped giving automatic visa approvals to certain evangelical groups and had instead begun investigating their activities. Why is Israel denying visas to evangelicals? It is only speculation, but it could be because the Israeli government's genocide in the Gaza Strip, which has seen it murder more than 60,000 people, mostly civilians and including many women and children, has stirred the conscience of the world. This includes evangelicals, who up until recently have been distant from the suffering of Christian Palestinians.

..... injustices and violence. Now, Huckabee has taken the first steps to restoring these important ties.

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..... Possibly, evangelicals, Christians are now returning to the true foundation of their faith, which is to support those who are suffering, not to defend the oppressors.

Huckabee's expansion of concern from evangelicals being denied tourist visas to Palestinian Christians being targeted

in the West Bank, including recently in Taybeh, could represent a pang of consciousness on his part. It could also reflect a change in policy from the White House and President Trump, who in the past has said much about the Israeli hostages in Gaza and their suffering but has been very cautious about empathizing with Palestinian suffering.

The assaults against Christians go beyond the actions of Jewish settlers and reflect fundamental policies in Israel, which treats all non-Jews, especially Palestinian Muslims and Christians, as second-class citizens inside Israel and as unimportant in the Occupied Territories.

Over the years, land confiscations have been a major problem that have forced many Palestinians to flee Israel's harsh environment of oppression and civil rights violations. Among the victims are Christians, who until now have gone unnoticed. Israel's confiscation of lands to build settlements exclusive to Jews is rarely reported on and generally goes under the radar.

For example, my family, hardcore Christians from Bethlehem, have been constantly battling Israel's anti-Christian bureaucracy in an attempt to regain control of their land. My family's land in the West Bank, near East Jerusalem, which is today surrounded by Jewish-only homes in the illegal settlement of Gilo, was placed under severe restriction shortly after Israel's government annexed the area after the 1967 war.

Despite dozens of trips to the "Tabu," the Israeli land registry office, my family was constantly pushed aside. After waiting hours, they were always told no one could see them. My mother's

..... great-grandfather and his sister purchased the land in the 1890s and I covet the original Ottoman land purchase document.

In 1970, despite our protests, Israel took unilateral action and demolished the house on the 33 dunums (8.5 acres) of land, sealed the water well and destroyed a small road. The land, which is adjacent to a small village called Sharafat, had more than 160 olive trees that my family allowed the village's Muslim residents to harvest free of charge every autumn.

It has been clear since 1968 that the more that Israel's government discriminates against Christians — a topic that is rarely reported on in the media — the more American Christians have become silent and separate from Palestinian Christians.

So, Huckabee's surprise expressions of concern are welcome. Many mainstream Christian organizations that have in the past ignored Palestinian Christian suffering may now end their public silence.

If the evangelical movement were to speak up for these Christians, it could result in a seismic shift that undermines the growing extremism among many Israeli Jews.

Unfortunately, until now, when concerns were expressed for Christians, especially in a political context by pro-Israel activists or leaders, it was usually a narrow concern. Huckabee's interventions raise awareness of the challenges Palestinian Christians face, as well as broader issues, including discrimination against Muslims.



# Gabbard’s Russian interference claims directly contradict what other Trump officials have said

WHEN President Donald Trump sided with Vladimir Putin over his own intelligence community on the topic of Russia’s interference in the 2016 US election, then-Sen. Marco Rubio sharply rebuked Trump.

Florida Republican said in 2018 that the intelligence community’s “assessment of 2016 is accurate. It’s 100% accurate. The Russians interfered in our elections.”

He added: “I think it was not a good move for the administration, obviously. Hopefully, something like that never happens again.”

But seven years later, it just keeps happening — over and over again — as Trump and his most loyal allies seek to sow doubts about that 2016 episode and punish their political enemies. That’s now taken the form of Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard threatening criminal referrals and even floating allegations of treason for key officials in the Obama administration.

Her argument is full of holes, as even critics of the Russia investigation such as the National Review’s Andrew McCarthy have noted. (Basically, the whole thing conflates Russia’s attempts to influence the 2016 election with non-existent attacks on election infrastructure that changed votes.)

But just as notable is that Gabbard’s move to cast doubt on Russia’s 2016 interference is wholly at odds with several top Trump administration officials, most especially Rubio, along with a pair of congressional investigations spearheaded by Republicans.

To be clear, Gabbard is basically suggesting there was no Russian interference.

Her memo last week cited what it cast as false reporting “that the CIA ‘concluded in a secret assessment that Russia intervened’ in the election to help President Trump.”

The memo said the assessment “falsely alleges ... that Putin directed an effort to help President Trump defeat Hillary Clinton.”

Gabbard in Fox News interviews accused the Obama team of ordering a “a manufactured piece of intelligence that

detailed not if, but how Russia tried to influence the outcome of the United States election.” She cited an intelligence document that purportedly said Russia “did not attempt to affect the outcome of the election.”

In fact, that document — a President’s Daily Brief, or his daily intelligence report — merely said Russia hadn’t impacted the election results “by conducting

Stephen Collinson

report in 2020.

The report concluded that Russia had “engaged in an aggressive, multifaceted effort to influence, or attempt to influence, the outcome of the 2016 presidential election.”

It not only said Russia had interfered, but also that it had done so to benefit Trump.

“The Committee found

“In 2015, Russia

began engaging in a covert influence campaign aimed at the U.S. presidential election,” the Republican-led House report said. “The Russia government, at the direction of President Vladimir Putin, sought to sow discord in American society and undermine our faith in the democratic process.”

Gabbard, who was a Democratic member of

cord.”

Even just days before Gabbard launched her effort last week, Ratcliffe issued a report that not only didn’t dispute that Russia interfered, but actually praised the initial intelligence assessment’s “analytical rigor.”

Mike Waltz, Trump’s nominee for United Nations ambassador and his former national security adviser, has also issued strong statements

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Congress until 2021, now suggestively casts all three of these pillars as false: that Russia interfered, that Putin ordered it, and that it was meant to help Trump.

And her conclusions also run afoul of other Trump administration members’ statements.

During his 2020 confirmation hearing to become Trump’s director of national intelligence, now-CIA Director John Ratcliffe — who then served on the House Intelligence Committee — made clear Russia interfered.

“Chairman, my views are that Russia meddled in or interfered with active measures in 2016,” Ratcliffe said. “They interfered in 2018. They will attempt to do so in 2020. They have a goal of sowing discord, and they have been successful in sowing dis-

on the topic.

He at one point even warned that people were conflating Trump’s claims of “no collusion” with the idea that Russia didn’t interfere at all.

“We do have to draw a bright line between ‘no collusion’ ... versus the Russians attacking our constitutional system and attacking our electoral system, which they absolutely are doing,” Waltz, then a Florida congressman, told CNN’s Jake Tapper in 2019.

He added: “We have to stay focused on that, because that is our democracy under attack.”

Today, Trump’s administration is yet again seeking to blur those lines. The conflation is continuing. And these officials will apparently just keep doing it — no matter what they said before.

# Smart competition can shape shared progress

Fred S. Teng

industries through legislation such as the CHIPS and Science Act during the previous term of the Joe Biden administration. While it is natural for a country to secure critical capabilities, it is equally important to acknowledge that no country alone can shape the future of manufacturing.

Since supply chains are no longer national but global, digital and deeply collaborative, China and the US should identify sectors of shared interests, instead of disengaging. Green manufacturing is one such sector. Both sides have committed to reducing carbon emissions and building sustainable industries. Cooperation in electric vehicles (EVs), renewable energy components and smart grid infrastructure can help expedite innovation and improve global

The international environment has become more uncertain. Rising geopolitical tensions, protectionist policies, and growing anti-globalization sentiments have tested the resilience of global supply chains. As the world grapples with climate change, inflation and high-tech disruption, the world is desperately in need of stability and cooperation. And yet calls for “decoupling” and strategic containment threaten to derail decades of interconnected development.

China and the US are still interdependent. In manufacturing alone, their collaboration fuels innovation, scale and efficiency across electronics, clean energy, aerospace, smart devices, automotive and other sectors. While both sides understandably seek to enhance domestic resilience and sharpen their competitive edge, it would be a mistake to turn healthy competition into zero-sum confrontation. Managed correctly, competition can coexist with cooperation; and in manufacturing, it must. To help achieve China’s manufacturing goals, the 15th Five-Year Plan will likely focus on advancing “new quality productive forces”, which include artificial intelligence, advanced robotics, green energy systems, and industrial internet platforms. The goal is to move beyond low-cost mass production and build a more agile, intelligent and globally integrated industrial base. This is not a departure from globalization, but an upgrade, one that is already attracting investments, talents and collaboration from across the world. The US is also pursuing a manufacturing renaissance, investing in domestic semiconductor and battery production sectors, and taking measures for “reshoring” high-tech industries through legislation such as the CHIPS and Science Act during the previous term of the Joe Biden administration. While it is natural for a country to secure critical capabilities, it is equally important to acknowledge that no country alone can shape the future of manufacturing. Since supply chains are no longer national but global, digital and deeply collaborative, China and the US should identify sectors of shared interests, instead of disengaging.

standards to the benefit of all. Likewise, digital transformation in manufacturing — where China’s edge in industrial scale meets the US’ strength in software — offers natural synergy. Collaboration is not about dependency. It is about interdependence with mutual respect. Chinese and US enterprises are already working together across complex supply chains, from design and prototyping to logistics and assembly. Rather than dismantling these ecosystems, the need is to make them more resilient, transparent and sustainable. Joint research centers, cross-border industrial parks, and open innovation platforms are all ways to deepen trust while maintaining competitiveness. However, it is crucial to resist seeing every aspect of US-China economic rela-

tions through the lens of national security. While safeguarding core technologies is legitimate, the unfettered use of sanctions, tariffs and export controls risks dividing the global economy into rigid blocs. Such a division would slow innovation, raise costs, and hurt consumers and businesses on both sides.

Beyond economics, cooperation in manufacturing can have a stabilizing geopolitical effect — and shared industrial goals create opportunities for dialogue, talent exchange and mutual understanding. These create a practical, apolitical bridge — one that connects workers, engineers and entrepreneurs in pursuit of shared prosperity. Manufacturing is not only the backbone of national economies; it is also a foundation of international trust.

There is also a moral

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case for cooperation. With the world facing economic uncertainty and widening inequality, China and the US have a responsibility to promote inclusive growth, especially because developing countries depend on affordable, reliable manufacturing to build infrastructure, create employment, and alleviate poverty. If the world’s two largest economies choose cooperation over confrontation, they can offer not just technologies, but hope as well.

It’s time to reframe the US-China manufacturing narrative — not as a battle for supremacy, but as a race to create value, resilience and sustainability. Each country brings unique strength, but only together can they lead a new era of industrial progress — one defined not by who wins, but by what the world gains.

# Sweida ceasefire is welcome but shouldn’t be mistaken for a return to normality

Dr Haid Haid

AUS-brokered ceasefire last Thursday was thought to have brought an end to the most intense violence the southern Syrian province of Sweida has experienced in decades.

What began on July 13 as a localised dispute between Druze and Bedouin groups quickly escalated into a full-scale military confrontation between Druze fighters and transitional government-aligned forces. In just four days, the clashes claimed at least 516 lives and displaced many more, shaking the foundations of Syria’s already fragile transition.

With the fighting having subsided briefly, only for it to resume over the weekend before ending on Sunday, the cessation of hostilities is, at best, tenuous. It should certainly not be mistaken for a return to normality. Early signs indicate that the ceasefire largely restores the pre-conflict status quo, with local Druze factions resuming de facto control over Sweida.

Halting the violence is a welcome step, but it does not amount to a resolution. Unless the deeper drivers of the conflict — including political exclusion and contested authority — are meaningfully addressed, the truce

risks becoming little more than a brief pause before the next eruption.

Sweida’s violence began with the abduction of a Druze trader by individuals reportedly linked to Bedouin tribes in the region. In retaliation, a wave of reciprocal abductions broke out, eventually devolving into broader intercommunal violence. Such incidents are not unprecedented in southern Syria, where mistrust and unresolved grievances run deep. What set this episode apart was the decision of the country’s transitional authorities to intervene militarily.

Damascus presented the deployment of security forces as a step to restore order. But people in Sweida, at least those who actively resisted, viewed it as a power grab. This reaction stems from long-standing disputes between local leaders and the transitional government — particularly over governance, security arrangements and the identity of the future Syrian state.

Sweida’s notables have consistently advocated for decentralised governance and locally managed security structures tailored to the community’s needs. In contrast, Damascus remains committed to a rigid, top-down model. On

broader questions of identity and political inclusion, Sweida’s calls for a secular and pluralistic system have largely been ignored.

These unresolved differences, compounded

Sweida’s notables have consistently advocated for decentralised governance and locally managed security structures tailored to the community’s needs. In contrast, Damascus remains committed to a rigid, top-down model. On broader questions of identity and political inclusion, Sweida’s calls for a secular and pluralistic system have largely been ignored. These unresolved differences, compounded by repeated failures in negotiation, help explain why Damascus’s intervention was viewed not as a stabilising measure, but as an attempt to reassert central authority by force. In the wake of this intervention, hostilities broke out between government forces and fighters loyal to Sheikh Hikmat Al Hijri, the most prominent Druze religious authority. Both sides traded blame: Damascus accused Mr Al Hijri’s men of attacking its personnel, while Mr Al Hijri accused the state of breaching prior commitments and committing serious abuses. Reports soon surfaced about widespread abuses by government-aligned forces, including degrading treatment of detainees and extrajudicial killings. These images triggered widespread public outrage and galvanised local resistance. Mediation attempts broke down, largely due to Mr Al Hijri’s refusal to concede or compromise. The situation took a sharp turn when Israel launched air strikes on government forces and key facilities, including the Ministry of Defence, in response to the clashes in Sweida. Fearing broader regional escalation, the US stepped in to contain the crisis. A ceasefire was eventually announced by interim President Ahmad Al Shara, who described it as a necessary measure to prevent a deeper catastrophe. While the details of the agreement remain sparse, early indications suggest it largely reinstates the pre-conflict arrangement: local forces retain de facto control over key areas of Sweida, and Damascus withdraws its military units from the city. Though the ceasefire is a welcome step towards halting the violence, the fact that it was violated almost immediately means it merely freezes a crisis that continues to smoulder beneath the surface. There is no sign that the agreement addresses the structural causes of the conflict, nor the far-reaching ripple effects it has triggered. A return to the previous status quo is not just insufficient — it is dangerous. The events of the past week have profoundly altered Syria’s political and social landscape, leaving deep wounds and a toxic environment. Anti-Druze inflammatory rhetoric seized on Israel’s strikes to depict the Druze community as collaborators or separatists, reinforcing sectarian narratives and fuelling calls for collective punishment.

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ing surge in incitement against the Druze minority, including calls to boycott Druze-owned businesses and expel Druze students from university dormitories. Meanwhile, many Druze — particularly those aligned with Mr Al Hijri — have grown increasingly distrustful of the state and its institutions, further eroding the transitional government’s legitimacy.

What was once latent sectarian tension has now become overt and volatile, fuelled by a surge in hate speech from all sides. This is precisely what makes the current ceasefire so fragile. A return to the previous arrangement is not a return to calm — it is a reversion to a simmering crisis that could explode at any moment.

The ceasefire may have paused the shooting, but only a genuinely inclusive and pluralistic political transition can stop the bleeding and set Syria on a path towards national healing. Unless the country’s leadership moves quickly to address the root causes of the violence in Sweida, the current silence will be short-lived.

Preventing a return to widespread conflict remains possible, but the window for doing so in a sustainable and inclusive manner is closing fast.





## PSX turns bullish, gains 1,202 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) benchmark KSE-100 turned around to bullish trend, gaining 1,202.03 points, a positive change of 0.87 percent, closing at 139,419.62 points against 138,217.58 points last trading day.

A total of 629,032,405 shares were traded during the day as compared to 608,186,190 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 34.675 billion against Rs 23.523 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 478 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 268 of them recorded gains and 178 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 32 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were First Dawood Prop with

44,059,524 shares at Rs 7.64 per share, WorldCall Telecom with 26,417,762 shares at Rs1.46 per share and PTCL with 24,901,859 shares at Rs 23.96 per share.

Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 2,279.22 per share price, closing at Rs 27,777.22, whereas the runner-up was Nestle Pakistan Limited with Rs 45.45 rise in its per share price to Rs 7,445.45.

PIA Holding Company Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs3,101.53 per share closing at Rs 27,913.79 followed by Pakistan Services Limited with Rs117.42 decline in its share price to close at Rs1,097.22.

**Rupee sheds 02 paisa against US Dollar**

The Rupee on Tuesday depreciated by 02 paisa

against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 284.97 against the previous day's closing Rs 284.95.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 287.20 and Rs 288.70, respectively.

The price of the Euro decreased by Rs 0.47 to close at Rs 331.18 against the last day's closing of Rs 331.65, according to the State Bank of Pakistan.

The Japanese yen gained 01 paisa and closed at Rs 1.93, whereas a surge of Rs0.91 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs 383.95 compared to the previous day's closing of Rs 383.04.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and

the Saudi Riyal remained stagnant to close at Rs 77.58 and Rs 75.96, respectively.

**Gold prices remain constant at Rs361,200**

The price of 24 karat per tola gold remained constant at Rs.361,200 on Tuesday, All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewelers Association reported.

The prices of 10 grams of 24 karat and 10 grams of 22 karat gold also remained unchanged at Rs.309,671 and Rs.283,865.

However, the rates of per tola and ten gram silver increased by Rs23 and Rs.20 to Rs.4,035 and Rs.3,459 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market remained stagnant at \$3,387, however prices of silver increased by \$0.23 to \$38.88, the Association reported.



KARACHI: A labourer carries heavy rice sacks on his shoulder while unloading supplies at Jodia Bazaar.

## RDA inflows rise to \$10.563b in June 2025

ISLAMABAD (APP): The inflow of remittances under Roshan Digital Account (RDA) has risen to US \$10.563 billion by the end of June 2025 as compared to US \$10.381 billion by May (2025) end.

The data showed that the inflows of remittances during May were recorded at US\$ 182 million as compared to US\$ 201 million in May and US\$ 177 million in April 2025, according to the latest data released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

These accounts provide innovative banking solutions to millions of Non-Resident Pakistanis (NRPs), including Non-Resident Pakistan Origin Card (POC) holders, seeking to undertake banking, payment, and investment activities in Pakistan.

The number of accounts registered under the programme also rose by 8,739 to 831,963 in June 2025 from 823,224 accounts in May 2025.

By the end of June, overseas Pakistanis have invested US \$466 million in Naya Pakistan Certificates, US \$926 million in Naya Pakistan Islamic Certificates, and US \$70 million in Roshan Equity Investment.

## FPCCI lauds Munir's help for economic stability

ISLAMABAD (PPI): President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Atif Ikram Sheikh today expressed gratitude to Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir for meeting with a trade and industry delegation, praising his commitment to addressing economic concerns.

Sheikh acknowledged the government and Special Investment Facilitation Council's (SIFC) endeavors to stabilize the economy. The delegation discussed challenges faced by the industrial sector, focusing on recent expansions of the Federal Board of Revenue's (FBR) powers.

Sheikh appreciated Munir's directive to suspend new provisions in the Sales Tax Act 1990 related to arrest and detention. The FBR has been instructed to engage in dialogue with stakeholders.

The General Headquarters (GHQ) will support economic activities through the SIFC. The delegation also urged lowering interest rates to align with inflation, aiming to boost businesses.

Concerns were raised about delays in notifying Export Facilitation Scheme (EFS) amendments concerning cotton products and the imposition of an 18% sales tax on their imports. Munir assured the delegation of his support for economic expansion.

The FPCCI welcomed Munir's focus on high electricity costs impacting businesses, acknowledging his efforts to secure competitive electricity rates. Sheikh affirmed the business community's dedication to driving economic growth under Munir's guidance. He expressed confidence in Pakistan's potential for achieving prosperity.

## SCCI opposes demolition of legal shops and markets

### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Senior office bearers of the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry strongly opposed the demolition of legal shops and markets during the ongoing anti-encroachment campaign in the city.

In a joint statement, SCCI president Fazal Moqem Khan, senior vice president Abdul Jalil Jan, vice president Shehryar Khan along with members of the chamber's executive committee here on Tuesday said the anti-encroachment drive is a welcome step, stated that traders always support the removal of illegal structures.

They, however, said the demolishing of legal shops and markets during the operation is tantamount to 'economic murder' of the traders, which is unbearable and unacceptable.

SCCI senior office bearers said the business com-

munity already extended full cooperation to district administration in removal of illegal structures and never created any kind of hurdle.

They made it clear that SCCI will allow snatching morsel from the mouths of those traders, which were legitimately doing business in the city.

Traders are already in great trouble in current circumstances, whereas business and industry growth is highly stagnant that has sharply triggered unemployment, SCCI president said.

He criticized the govt's anti-business policies, which were further pushing the trade and economic activities into a complete standstill situation and calling them a major obstacle in economic and business growth. Moqem maintained these policies were forcing businessmen to shift from city and province.

He urged the govern-

ment and administration to implement pro-business policies and to keep flourishing the running business and industries.

SCCI chief said traders stand shoulder to shoulder with local administration during the anti-encroachment campaign but demolition of legal shops and markets during the drive was negation of the government's tall claims and business-friendly initiatives.

Fazal Moqem Khan urged Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur, Chief Secretary Shahab Ali Shah, Commissioner Peshawar Riaz Mehsud and Deputy Commissioner Capt (Rtd) Sarmad Saleem Akram and other high officials to issue instructions to not disturb the traders, doing legal business and demolition of legal shops during ongoing anti-encroachment and ensure implement of pro-business policies at every level.

## SB announces publication of bi-annual MPR

### F.P. Report

KARACHI: In line with State Bank of Pakistan (SBP)'s Strategic Plan - Vision 2028 - and to enhance transparency in the monetary policy formulation process, the SBP will be publishing a Monetary Policy Report (MPR) on biannual basis.

The MPRs are timed to be released within two weeks of the July and January MPC meetings, where SBP will update its projections for key macro-economic indicators.

The reports will supplement SBP's other monetary policy-related communica-

tions with key stakeholders. These efforts are all geared towards enhancing the effectiveness of monetary policy transmission by anchoring inflation expectations, and are part of SBP's roadmap towards adopting an inflation targeting regime.

Furthermore, in line with its efforts to increase institutional transparency and instill greater stakeholder confidence in financial planning over a longer period, the SBP has decided to increase the horizon of the advance calendar of MPC meetings. In this regard, the schedule of MPC meetings for full-year FY26 is below:

Wednesday, 30th July 2025  
Monday, 15th September 2025  
Monday, 27th October 2025  
Monday, 15th December 2025  
Monday, 26th January 2026  
Monday, 9th March 2026

Monday, 27th April 2026  
Monday, 15th June 2026  
The next advance calendar for MPC meetings will be issued in July 2026. In case of any unforeseen events on any of the announced dates, a new date will be communicated in due course.

## CCP approves global logistics merger

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved the acquisition of Borusan Tedarik Zinciri Cozumleri ve Teknoloji Anonim Sirketi (Borusan) by CMA CGM S.A., a global player in shipping and logistics.

The proposed merger was filed and reviewed under Section 11 of the Competition Act, 2010 read with Competition (Merger Control) Regulations, 2016. The subject transaction involves the acquisi-

tion of Borusan from Borusan Holding AS and Borusan Yatirim ve Pazarlama AS, both incorporated in Türkiye, said a release issued here on Tuesday.

The CMA CGM, headquartered in France, operates worldwide in container shipping and port terminal services. In Pakistan, it is present through its logistics arm, CEVA Logistics Pakistan Pvt. Ltd and CEVA Air and Ocean Pakistan Pvt. Ltd. On the other hand, Borusan provides third-party logistics services, pri-

marily in Türkiye, with negligible presence in Pakistan through a local agent.

The Commission, in its assessment, examined the potential anti-competitive effects of the transaction and concluded that the relevant market, freight forwarding services (air and sea), remains unaffected given the company's limited presence in Pakistan. The transaction neither creates nor strengthens a dominant position, and it does not pose any significant entry barriers.

## PFC delegation departs for United Kingdom

LAHORE (APP): A delegation of the Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC), led by Chief Executive Officer Mian Kashif Ashfaq, departed for the United Kingdom on Tuesday for a week-long visit aimed at exploring export opportunities and fostering international collaboration in the furniture sector.

The delegation compris-

es leading furniture manufacturers and exporters from Pakistan, seeking to expand the country's footprint in global markets by showcasing Pakistani craftsmanship and design excellence.

During the visit, the PFC team was scheduled to meet with furniture importers, retailers and prominent industry stakeholders in the UK.

These engagements were intended to promote business partnerships and highlight the quality and diversity of Pakistani furniture.

Speaking ahead of the departure, Mian Kashif Ashfaq underscored the significance of enhancing bilateral trade and capitalizing on the UK's growing demand for premium furniture products.

## GD110S and GS150 with new graphics: Suzuki Motorcycles announces 0% markup and easy installment plans



### F.P. Report

KARACHI: Suzuki Motorcycles, a prominent name in the global motorcycle industry, has announced the launch of its updated GD110S and GS150 motorcycles, which now feature new and eye-catching graphics that are a perfect blend of style, performance

and modern aesthetics. This new development is part of Suzuki's commitment to providing modern and attractive options to Pakistani motorcyclists.

New graphic designs have been developed to make these models modern and attractive, making these motorcycles stand out in the market. Along with

these beautiful visuals, Suzuki is also continuously focusing on quality, reliability, and performance, which makes them a favorite among motorcyclists.

The Suzuki GD110S offers the best combination of fuel efficiency, comfort and performance. For daily commutes and long distances, it comes with a

110cc engine that ensures a comfortable ride and excellent fuel economy. The newly introduced graphics further enhance the bike's visual appeal, while maintaining its performance.

The Suzuki GS150 is a 150cc motorcycle that offers the perfect blend of power, style and performance. It is suitable for both urban and highway riding, and handles all types of terrain with ease. Its updated graphics give it a new look, and it is the perfect choice for those who want both power and style.

Suzuki has introduced a great financing option to make its models more accessible, available at the company's showrooms across all major cities in Pakistan. Customers can now purchase the Suzuki GD110S and GS150 in easy installments of 24 months with 0% markup. This offer is available at all Suzuki showrooms so that all customers can take advantage of this opportunity, regardless of their location.

## Stocks mixed with trade and earnings in focus

HONG KONG (AFP/APP): Equity markets were mixed Tuesday as traders kept an eye on earnings from Wall Street titans this week while tracking US trade talks just over a week before the deadline for a deal. Investors took a more cautious path after a largely positive day on Wall Street, where the S&P ended above 6,300 points for the first time and Nasdaq chalked up yet another record.

Equities continue to rally on expectations key trading partners will strike agreements with Washington before August 1 to avoid Donald Trump's sky-high tariffs, with the US president saying several deals were close. Just three have been struck so far. His press secretary Karoline Leavitt said more could be reached before next Friday but also warned the president could unveil fresh unilateral tolls in that time.

While Trump's initial tariff bombshell on April 2

rattled global markets before he delayed introducing the measures twice, they have seen more muted reactions to successive threats as traders expect him to eventually row back again.

That optimism has been helped by data indicating the US economy remained healthy despite the imposition of other levies that are beginning to be felt on Main Street. And SPI Asset Management's Stephen Innes warned traders could be in for a shock next week.

"The new tariff regime isn't being priced -- full stop," he wrote.

Markets have seen this movie before: tough talk, last-minute extensions, and deal-making in overtime. But this time, Trump isn't bluffing. He's already posted 'No extensions will be granted'.

"The new rates -- 30 percent on the EU, 35 percent on Canada, 50 percent on Brazil -- are politically

loaded and economically radioactive. If they go live, there's no soft landing."

Hong Kong has been the standout in Asia this year, piling on around a quarter thanks to a rally in Chinese tech firms and a fresh flow of cash from mainland investors. The Hang Seng Index continued its advance Tuesday, pushing to its highest close since late 2021, while Shanghai, Sydney, Manila and Mumbai also gained.

There were losses in Singapore, Seoul, Wellington, Taipei, Jakarta and Bangkok, while London, Paris and Frankfurt struggled in the morning.

Tokyo dropped after an early rally fizzled out as investors returned from a long weekend to news that Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba's ruling coalition lost its majority in Japan's upper house elections Sunday, months after it suffered a similar fate in the

lower house. His refusal to leave helped stocks and the yen in opening exchanges but observers warned the government's tenure remained fragile and investors remained nervous. The yen sat around 147.70 per dollar in the afternoon, having struck 147.08 earlier, though it is still stronger than Friday's 148.80.

But Franklin Templeton Institute's Christy Tan said that "Ishiba now faces heightened political headwinds, including pressure over inflation, taxes, and US trade talks". Focus also turns this week to earnings from some of the world's biggest names, including Tesla, Google-parent Alphabet, General Motors, Intel and Coca-Cola.

While there will be plenty of attention given to the results, the firms' guidance will be key as investors try to gauge companies' pulses in light of Trump's trade war.

## General Motors profits fall on tariff but confirms 2025 forecast

NEW YORK (AFP/APP): Auto giant General Motors reported lower second-quarter profits Tuesday following a \$1.1 billion hit from US tariffs but confirmed its full-year forecast.

The results topped analyst estimates, but GM cautioned that profits in the second half of 2025 would be lower than in the first.

The US automaker pointed to sales growth in North America where new and revamped trucks and sport utility vehicles sold briskly with solid pricing. GM was among the carmakers that benefited from a surge in demand this spring from consumers who wanted to beat US tariffs.

Profits overall fell 35.4 percent to \$1.9 billion year-on-year, while revenues

dipped 1.8 percent to \$47.1 billion.

The United States imposed 25 percent tariffs on imported finished cars in early April, a move that affected major GM manufacturing operations in Mexico, Canada and South Korea.

Auto companies have also been buffeted by tariffs on imported steel and aluminum and auto parts.

The tariff hit in the second quarter reflected that there were "minimal mitigation offsets," GM said in a slide presentation.

The Detroit-based company's outlook for a weaker second half of 2025 reflects "seasonally lower" volumes, increased spending on vehicle launches and the presence of two quarters

with a tariff hit, compared to just one.

GM expects annual operating income of between \$10 billion and \$12.5 billion after notching \$6.5 billion in the first half of the year.

Chief Financial Officer Paul Jacobson described the hit to profitability in the first quarter as "the peak of the tariff impact for us," telling CNBC in an interview that mitigation efforts should enable a partial recovery in profit margins later in the year. GM expects to mitigate "at least" 30 percent of the tariff hit through "manufacturing adjustments, targeted cost initiatives and consistent pricing," according to a slide.

Jacobson said it would take 18 to 24 months to

implement capital projects to adjust GM's manufacturing foot print.

In June, GM announced \$4 billion over two years to expand production of plants in Michigan, Kansas and Tennessee, making use of unused capacity in its home market as President Donald Trump's tariffs penalize imports of finished vehicles.

The June announcement included steps to produce in the United States Chevrolet Equinox and Chevrolet Blazer, two vehicles which are currently assembled in Mexico.

GM has so far not shifted production from South Korea, home to production for the Chevrolet Trax, a popular compact SUV that is priced affordably.





In brief

Association wants entry of violent elements banned

KHANEWAL (APP): President of the District Table Tennis Association, Amber Bashir Ahmad, has complained of violent elements harassing and intimidating sports officials and players and urged the administration to ban their entry to the sports stadium. In a statement on Tuesday, he demanded immediate action from district authorities to prevent such unwanted acts before these could escalate into a bigger trouble. Detailing a previous episode, sources said, a fourth-grade government employee was beaten up within the stadium premises, prompting the registration of an FIR. The President DTTA Khanewal said, students and athletes must feel secure at the stadium. "These anti-social elements, emboldened by their unchecked access, have now started targeting players." In the latest incident, a table tennis player was beaten up and an FIR was lodged at City police station. Amber Bashir urged the administration to initiate a thorough inquiry into the incidents to be followed by stricter action. He said the issue he had been raising for the last six months needed immediate attention of the administration.

Hasnain qualifies for quarterfinals

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani cueist Hसनन Akhtar has qualified for the pre quarterfinals of the IBSF World Masters, U17 & Men 6Red Snooker Championships 2025 at Manama, Bahrain. According to details, after U21 Round matches, Hasnain makes it to pre quarterfinals while Ahsan Ramzan has qualified for last 30 Round. In U21 last 30 Round Result, Ahsan Ramzan (Pak) beat Shahyan Razmi (India) 3-2 (44-88, 68(59)-26, 36-66(33), 91(36)-37, 61-19). In 6 Red Result, Paras Gupta (India) beat Ahsan Ramzan (Pak) 4-2 (0-43, 33-31, 34-6, 40-26, 0-58, 35-21); Ahmed Aseeri (KSA) beat Hasnain Akhtar (Pak) 4-2 (33-32, 47-30, 30-55, 37(33)-0, 18-44, 34-15); Aditya Mehta (India) beat Muhammad Asif (Pak) 4-0 (39-28, 43-0, 50-5, 70(70)-0); Shahid Aftab (Pak) beat Ayaan Iqbal (Scotland) 4-1 (43-42, 52-0, 5-38, 44-25, 43(35)-0). After Round Robin of 6 Red Championship Muhammad Asif, Shahid Aftab & Ahsan Ramzan Qualify for knockout Last 30 Round of 6 Red championship .

National Padel Championship from July 31

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Padel Federation on Tuesday announced to hold Naveena Steel Junior National Padel Championship 2025 from July 31 to August 3 at Maidan KMC, Karachi. The championship will be held under the patronage of International Padel Federation (FIP) and Padel Asia, said a press release. Organized in collaboration with Maidan, Play Pro and the Sindh Padel Association, the championship will feature competitions in three categories — Boys and Girls U-14, U-16, and U-18, making it one of the most significant national-level junior events on the country's event calendar. The tournament aims to provide aspiring young athletes a unique opportunity to showcase their skills on a professionally managed platform with international recognition. According to the federation, the championship will be played on professional-standard courts with qualified officiating and it will serve as an IPF-recognized event, a key milestone for those seeking to make a mark at the international level.

# Bangladesh seal first ever T20I series win against Pakistan

DHAKA (AFP): Bangladesh survived a late onslaught by Faheem Ashraf and Ahmed Daniyal to pull off a narrow eight-run victory in the second T20I match on Tuesday, winning a first-ever series in the format against Pakistan. Ashraf hit an aggressive 32-ball 51 while debutant Daniyal smashed an 11-ball 17 but holed out off the second ball of the final over as Pakistan were all out for 125 in their chase of 134 to win in Dhaka. Earlier, Jaker Ali struck a 48-ball 55 as Bangladesh -- sent in to bat -- were bowled out for 133 in 20 overs, with Salman Mirza taking 2-17 and Daniyal close behind on 2-23. Left-arm Bangladesh pacer Shoriful Islam picked up his best T20I figures of 3-17 on a slow-paced Mirpur pitch as Pakistan lost their first five

wickets for just 15 runs by the fifth over. Ashraf cracked four sixes and as many boundaries to raise hopes of a comeback win, but spinner Rishad Hossain bowled him in the penultimate over. Ashraf and Abbas Afridi, who scored a 13-ball 19, had revived the innings from 47-7 with a 41-run stand, but Bangladesh had the last laugh. Bangladesh won the first match at the same venue by seven wickets and took an unassailable 2-0 lead with the final match on Thursday, also in Dhaka. This was Bangladesh's first T20I series win over Pakistan in four tries. Pakistan lost opener Saim Ayub to a run out for one in the first over before Islam dismissed Fakhar Zaman (8) and Mohammad Harris (0) to hit Pakistan hard at the top.

Bangladesh skipper Litton Das praised a team effort. "It's wonderful to win back-to-back series," said Litton, who also led the team to a 2-1 T20I series in Sri Lanka last week. "This shows good improvement in our standards." Pakistan captain Salman Agha rued his side's batting lapses. "We thought 134 would be gettable but we lost too many wickets early on and that's something we must address quickly," said Agha. Earlier, Jaker smashed five sixes and a boundary for his third T20I half-century. Bangladesh had lost four wickets for 28 by the sixth over before Jaker and Mahedi Hasan revived the innings with a 53-run stand for the fifth wicket. Mahedi scored a 25-ball 33 with two sixes and as many boundaries.

## Qatar confirms talks over hosting 2036 Games

DOHA (AFP): The Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC) said on Tuesday it was taking part in discussions with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) over the election process for the host city of the 2036 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The country, which hosted the FIFA World Cup in 2022 and the Asian Cup in 2024, is the latest to join the race to stage the 2036 Games after confirmed bids from Indonesia, Turkey, India and Chile. Other Asian countries considering a bid include Saudi Arabia and South Korea. Egypt, Hungary, Italy, Germany, Denmark and Canada have also shown interest. "We currently have 95% of the required sports infrastructure in place to host the Games, and we have a comprehensive national plan to ensure 100% readiness of all facilities," Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al-Thani, the president of QOC, told the

Qatar News Agency. "This plan is rooted in a long-term vision aimed at building a socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable legacy." Qatar's capital Doha is set to host the Asian Games in 2030, having staged the event in 2006. A successful bid would make Qatar the first country in the Middle East to host the Olympics amid the region's growing influence over major sporting events. Saudi Arabia is set to hold the football World Cup in 2034. "The official bid submitted by the Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC) to host the 2036 Olympic and Paralympic Games represents a new milestone in Qatar's journey," said Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, in a statement shared on the official Qatar News Agency. "The bid builds on Qatar's proven track

record of successfully hosting major international sporting events, most notably the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022," Sheikh Mohammed added. Amnesty International and other rights groups claimed thousands of migrant workers died in the lead-up to the 2022 tournament. However, Doha has said only 37 workers on World Cup projects perished, and only three in work-related accidents. Countries are no longer required to make their Olympic bids public. The Games are meant to rotate continents every season. With the 2024, 2028, and 2032 editions set for Europe, North America, and Oceania, there are high chances the 2036 Olympic Games will be held in Asia — or in Africa, which would be a first. Choosing the next host of the games will be the first major project for the IOC's new president Kirsty Coventry, who last month became the first woman to lead the body.

## Paret-Peintre denies Healy in thrilling stage 16 win



MONT VENTOUX (Agencies): Valentin Paret-Peintre produced a late sprint to get past Ben Healy and claim a stunning win on stage 16 of the Tour de France. After a thrilling battle up the Mont Ventoux, Healy looked set to claim his second win of this year's Tour as he led going round the final bend. But Paret-Peintre, 24, fought back on the summit finish to deny the Irishman a famous victory on what is one of the Tour's most iconic climbs. Jonas Vingegaard repeatedly attacked Tadej Pogacar on the climb but finished sixth fractionally after the Slovenian, meaning the reigning champion increased his overall lead — which is more than four minutes — by two seconds. Healy's late effort was enough for the 24-year-old EF Education-EasyPost rider, who claimed his first Tour win on stage six and spent two days in the yellow jersey, to leapfrog Carlos Rodriguez to ninth overall. British rider Oscar Onley, 22, fell away from the yellow jersey group on the climb and lost some time to Florian Lipowitz and Primož Roglic, who are now either side of the fourth-placed

Scot in the general classification standings. It was a first Tour win for Paret-Peintre, who is the first Frenchman to claim a stage on this year's Tour and the third Soudal Quick-Step rider to win, after Tim Merlier (two) and Remco Evenepoel. He said: "How I won that stage is hard to say. I was thinking 'maybe I can win today, maybe I'm the best climber in this breakaway'. "I asked my teammates to make a good pace at the bottom and I tried so many times to drop Healy but he was very strong and at the end, I was just waiting for the sprint." Evenepoel was forced to abandon the race during stage 14 and there was another high-profile withdrawal before Tuesday's stage, with former yellow jersey holder Mathieu van der Poel unable to start after being diagnosed with pneumonia. After Monday's rest day, the race resumed with a 171.5km stage from Montpellier that was flat until reaching the foot of Mont Ventoux. There was a six-man breakaway as the riders began climbing, with the peloton more than six minutes adrift, and Enric Mas went clear of Julian

Alaphilippe and Thymen Arensman. Vingegaard's Visma-Lease a Bike teammates took turns to push the pace in the peloton and, with Pogacar getting isolated from his team-mates early in the climb, Vingegaard launched three attacks, but each time the three-time Tour winner stayed on the Dane's wheel. Up the road, Healy and Paret-Peintre managed to catch Mas about 3.5km from the line and the trio got engaged in a tactical stalemate, allowing Santiago Buitrago to join them and set up a gripping final 2km. After Mas faded, Ilan van Wilder suddenly charged into the lead inside the final kilometre and signalled for team-mate Paret-Peintre to follow. And although Healy kicked first in the final 250m, Paret-Peintre had enough left in the tank to snatch victory. Pogacar mounted one late attack and, although Vingegaard stuck to his wheel, the Slovenian then managed to sprint to the line to gain two seconds on the two-time Tour winner. Merlier could go for a third stage win on Wednesday, as the race continues with a 160.4km flat stage from Bollene to Valence.



DHAKA: Faheem Ashraf's 32-ball 51 rescued Pakistan from 30 for 6.

## Pakistani team to compete in World Taekwondo Championship

PESHAWAR (APP): The Pakistan Global Taekwondo Team departed for Dubai to participate in World Global Taekwondo Championship scheduled to begin today (Tuesday), said a press release issued here. This prestigious international event is being hosted by the International Global Taekwondo Federation, drawing participation from male and female athletes across the globe. The national squad is composed of talented, energetic, and dedicated young athletes who have undergone rigorous training under the supervision of professional coaches and the team management. The players are reportedly in excellent form and brimming with confidence. Leading the team is Masood Afridi, Secretary General of the Pakistan Global Taekwondo Federation and a renowned athlete himself. Afridi has not only focused on refining the technical skills of the players but has also instilled in them the fighting spirit and determination required to compete at the international level. Before departure, the athletes expressed their firm resolve to return home with medals, driven by the nation's prayers and their own hard work. "We are fully prepared and committed to Pakistan proud on the global stage," said one of the team members. Team officials also expressed optimism about the team's chances, noting the continuous progress Pakistan has made in taekwondo in recent years. "We believe this team has what it takes to prove Pakistan's strength and potential in international martial arts," said a member of the management. Pakistan's growing presence in the global taekwondo arena is a testament to the sport's rising standards in the country. With the nation's hopes resting on their shoulders, the team embarks on this journey determined to deliver a memorable performance and elevate Pakistan's name on the world stage.

## England time-wasting not spirit of cricket - Gill

M A N C H E S T E R (Agencies): India captain Shubman Gill accused England of acting contrary to the "spirit of cricket" with time-wasting tactics that sparked a number of confrontations in the dramatic third Test at Lord's. England openers Zak Crawley and Ben Duckett ensured they faced only one over at the end of the third day and were surrounded by the tourists, including captain Gill. The players frequently clashed over the remaining two days of England's 22-run win. India pace bowler Mohammed Siraj was punished for his celebration of Duckett's wicket on the fourth morning, while England seamer Brydon Carse and visiting all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja had to be separated on the final day. Speaking before Wednesday's fourth Test at Old Trafford, where England can seal a series win, home captain Ben Stokes said events on the third evening at Lord's "sparked everyone off a little bit" in relation to the way his side were inspired over the rest of the Test. But Gill claimed Crawley and Duckett were 90 seconds late in arriving to the crease for the start of England's second innings at Lord's, causing Indian emotions to "come out of nowhere." "A lot of people have been talking about it, so let me clear the air once and for all," said Gill. "If we were in that position, we would also like to play less overs, but there's a manner to do it. "To be able to come 90 seconds late to the crease is not something that I would think comes in the spirit of the game." England dismissed India late on Saturday of the Lord's Test, leaving the scores level on 387 after the first innings. With the close drawing near, the home side looked to limit the amount of overs they faced

that evening. Crawley, facing Jasprit Bumrah, pulled out of his stance on a number of occasions, then also called for the physio after he was struck on the hand. England's players were confronted by the visitors, while Sky Sports had to apologise for Gill swearing. The words between the two teams continued as they left the field at the end of play. Speaking after the close that day, England bowling coach Tim Southee said India had no right to complain about time-wasting, pointing out a lengthy delay on day two when Gill received treatment on his back while fielding. "The English batsmen on that day, they had seven minutes of play left," said Gill. "They were 90 seconds late to come to the crease. Not 10, not 20, they were 90 seconds late. "Leading up to that event, a lot of things we thought should not have happened, happened. I wouldn't say it's something I'm very proud of, but there was a lead-up and build-up to that event. It didn't just come out of nowhere. "We had no intention of doing that whatsoever. You're playing a game, playing to win and there are a lot of emotions involved. When you see things happening that should not happen, sometimes the emotions come out of nowhere." Stokes spoke before Gill, so did not have the opportunity to respond directly to the allegation his team acted against the spirit of the game. On Monday, batter Harry Brook revealed coach Brendon McCullum told England they were "too nice" before the Lord's Test, an assessment Stokes agreed with. "Maybe too nice is a good way to put it, so it's great when we can go out and do what we did there, and we were able to back it up with our actions," Stokes told BBC Sport.

Despite the regular flashpoints over the final two days of the Lord's Test, Stokes was adamant neither team engaged in any behaviour that was unacceptable. "Conversations and back-and-forth you see out in the middle sometimes get massively over-analysed and criticised," said Stokes. "No-one would have gone crying themselves to sleep over what we said to each other. We're very quick these days to stamp down on that kind of stuff. It just shows passion, desire. Both teams are out there wanting to win. "It's never going to go over the line and if it does go over the line, then it's the responsibility of the captain out there to pull it back. At not one stage did we go over the line and at not one stage did India go over the line." England will win the series with a game to spare if they win the fourth Test in Manchester. India have not won on any of their nine visits to this ground, while England have lost only twice here this century. Although the aggression served England well at Lord's, Stokes said his team will not go seeking confrontation at Old Trafford. "We are certainly not going to go off there and just start it off for nothing, because I don't want it to take our attention away from what the goal of this week is," said Stokes. "It was nice we've said we're not going to let any team feel like they can intimidate us in any way. "It's not about shying away from confrontation, it's just making sure that is not the main goal. It's doing it in the right way, keeping your emotions in check with it all. "Every team in the world, if there's a little bit of niggles, I'm sure all their team-mates will jump in and help them out. That's what we did last week."

## Pakistan's golfers shine at ISF World School Golf C'ship

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's Ace Junior Golf League (AJGL) concluded its historic debut at the inaugural ISF World School Golf Championship 2025, held at the Royal Golf Dar Es Salam in Rabat, Morocco, with a commendable performance by nine young ambassadors who showcased resilience, skill and sportsmanship on the international stage. The championship, held from July 16 to 20, brought together over 200 junior golfers from 17 nations. Pakistan's team faced stiff competition, challenging course conditions, and an elite field of players, yet emerged as a symbol of promise and growth in junior golf. The championship course tested every aspect of the game with green speed 11, thick roughs and a professional tournament yardage stretching over 6,454 yards. Despite the demanding layout, Pakistani golfers demonstrated poise and perseverance. In the Girls Under 18 division, Shazmina Fatima

Khan (Islamabad, RGC, 17) secured 8th position with scores of 95-98-88-98, finishing at 379 strokes. Zarnima Mariam Khan (Islamabad, RGC, 17) scored 95-96-90-86, ending 10th with 377 strokes, while Khaeeshah Nafees (Lahore, LGGC, 17) tallied 90-104-105-113, placing 13th with 421 strokes. In the Boys Under 18 division, Zoay Qureshi-Ur-Rehman (RBCC, 13) stood out with scores of 96-91-88-96 to finish 8th at 371 strokes. Mohsin Mohoy Ud Din (Lahore, LGGC, 13) scored 95-105-103-112 to place 12th with 415 strokes. Muhammad Wajahat Anwer (Lahore, RGCC, 16) posted consistent rounds of 91-94-92-94, also finishing 12th with 371 strokes. In the Boys Under 15 division, Muhammad Musa Khan (Islamabad, RGC, 13) played impressively with rounds of 89-90-87-91, placing 11th with 357 strokes. Hamza Moeed Yousuf (Lahore, LGGC, 13) scored 89-96-93-91, ending 14th with 369 strokes, while

Fazeel Ahmad (Lahore, LGGC, 13) posted 97-94-91-103 to finish 18th with 385 strokes. As a team, Pakistan placed 6th with a total of 1,098 strokes. Morocco claimed the top spot with 854 strokes, followed by Thailand (868), and Chinese Taipei (874). The championship wasn't just a sporting event but also a cultural experience featuring Nations' Night, heritage exhibitions, and ISF Academy workshops focused on anti-doping and injury prevention, creating a holistic environment for young athletes. AJGL's international debut is credited to the tireless efforts of Dr. Asma Shami, Chairperson, and Munazza Shaheen, Head of Delegation, whose commitment and leadership played a pivotal role in preparing the young team through a structured development framework. Tournament Director Mounya Amalou, a former LET Tour player, praised the Pakistani contingent for

their discipline, etiquette, and inspiring attitude on and off the course. Gen. Hilal, Patron-in-Chief of AJGL, appreciated Dr. Shami and Shaheen's leadership, acknowledging their role in enabling junior golfers to represent Pakistan with pride at a global platform. Bangladesh's delegate, Mr. Farid, lauded the camaraderie between Pakistani and Bangladeshi golfers, expressing hope for future joint regional tournaments. In her remarks, Dr. Asma Shami said, "I am overwhelmed by the success and the large participation of junior golfers. It's a humble effort contributing towards Pakistan's golf development. I am grateful to all who supported our dream." Ahsan Umar, Executive Director, PSF/ISF Championship, added, "We aim to hold more international events with AJGL in future. I appreciate Dr. Shami and Munazza Shaheen for making our first ISF World School Golf Championship a success."





## In brief

### IRSA releases 488,000 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 488,000 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 511,100 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 333,000 cusecs and 332,600 cusecs, respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1191.45 feet, which was 141.45 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 30,700 cusecs and 8,000 cusecs, respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 303,700, 357,500, 275,400 and 138,000 cusecs, respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 30,900 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 93,100 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

### Punjab govt fix lab tests fees

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Punjab government has fixed the tests fees for blood and dengue tests in the hospitals and labs. The Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Department has issued a notification mentioning the rates as CBC tests at Rs. 90.0 per prescription by a qualified doctor, and ELISA NS-1, IgG, IgM tests at Rs.1500.0 maximum. According to the notification, the labs must submit reports within 24 hours, detailing the machine used, certified reagents, and batch numbers to ensure transparency. The new rates will remain applicable for one year.

### 81 beggars arrested

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Rawalpindi Police on Tuesday have intensified their crackdown and detained 81 professional beggars during the last nine days. According to police, special squads have been deployed to arrest professional beggars operating in markets, intersections, and along major roads and highways. Police said that many of professional beggars are linked to criminal activities, including theft and drug trafficking. City Police Officer (CPO) Syed Khalid Mehmood Hamdani stated that strict surveillance is being maintained, particularly in high-traffic areas, to discourage begging and ensure public safety. He added that the campaign is in line with the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, and operations against professional beggars will continue throughout the city. Police have urged the public to cooperate and avoid giving money to street beggars, encouraging citizens to support legitimate welfare initiatives instead.

### 7 liquor suppliers arrested

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi Police have intensified operations against criminal elements and detained seven liquor suppliers and illegal arm holders during crackdown here on Tuesday. Police have also recovered 33 liter of liquor, arms, and bullets from their possession. According to police spokesman, the operations were carried out in the jurisdictions of Gujjar Khan, Naseerabad, Jatli, and Taxila police stations. The arrested individuals have been shifted to respective police stations, where separate cases have been registered against them under relevant sections related to the possession of liquor and unlicensed weapons.



**RAWALPINDI:** Rescue workers along with rescue goods and boats standing on Gowalmandi Bridge for any flood situation during heavy monsoon rain in city.

## Climate crisis no longer hypothesis but ‘terrifying reality’: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday said the climate change was no longer a looming threat but a “terrifying reality” that had already begun to severely impact vulnerable nations like Pakistan. Speaking at an event titled “From Planning to PRACTICE: Advancing Climate Resilience in Pakistan,” he highlighted the profound impact global warming was already having on the country’s environment, economy and future.

“Climate change has become a serious threat to the future of humanity,” he said, adding, “It is no longer a distant hypothesis. We are living in its consequences.” Ahsan Iqbal underscored the disproportionate burden shouldered by developing nations in the

Global South, urging developed countries to urgently deliver on their climate finance commitments.

“The world has always demanded ‘Do More’ from the Global South. Today, we demand: ‘Do More’ from the global powers for environmental justice,” he added. Citing the 2022 floods that submerged a third of Pakistan, displaced millions and caused billions in damages, he described them as a harrowing testament to the dangers of unchecked climate change.

“These floods were not a fluke. They were a symptom of a planet in crisis,” he said, adding that climate change was fueling erratic weather patterns, widespread flooding and escalating food insecurity across the region.

Pakistan, home to more than 7,000 glaciers, he said,

was witnessing the fastest rate of glacier melt in over 60 years. This rapid melting, he warned, was a direct threat to the Indus River system, which supported 90 percent of Pakistan’s agricultural output, noting that the very foundation of its food security was under threat.

The minister reiterated Pakistan’s support for the principle of climate justice, emphasizing that the \$100 billion annual climate finance pledge made by developed nations for the affected countries was not charity, but a necessary step toward global equity. “This is not a favor. It is a requirement of environmental justice,” he asserted. Ahsan Iqbal said the government has placed climate action at the core of its long-term strategy, incorporating it into the national 5Es policy.

## Rawalpindi police on high alert amid rain emergency

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi Police on Tuesday was put on high alert across the city amid rain emergency. All officers and cops have been mobilized to ensure public safety and quick emergency response during possible flood.

City Police Officer (CPO) Syed Khalid Mehmood Hamdani directed all Station House Officers (SHOs) to remain vigilant in their respective areas and to take immediate action in any emergency situation. He also stated that special police teams are patrolling vulnerable areas to provide timely assistance where needed.

The CPO emphasized that citizens must stay away from nullahs, ponds during flood situation. In view of the situation, Section 144 has been imposed in Rawalpindi, prohibiting gatherings near water canals, nullahs and other risky locations. The CPO instructed that immediate legal action be taken against any violations of this order.

Citizens have been advised to avoid unnecessary travel and to stay indoors unless absolutely necessary. In case of emergencies, they are urged to call the police helpline 15 for assistance. Rawalpindi Police, is fully alert and high alert in coordination with the district administration and rescue services. He urged the people to follow official advisories and cooperate with police keeping in view the safety measures.

## ICC launches plantation campaign to keep the city clean

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Citizens Committee (ICC) has launched a plantation campaign to facilitate providing good living conditions to the citizens of Islamabad, including clean, neat and pollution free environment for their healthy growth.

The campaign will continue till this week. “Our first plantation project was undertaken at Sukh Chain Park in G10/2, Islamabad, said Syed M Siddiq Hasan, President ICC in a statement issued here on Tuesday. As per the statement, the plants were contributed by Col (R) Syed Zafar Uddin Ahmad, Chairman & CEO of Sigma Motors Ltd, Islamabad. The startup campaign was attended by the Chairman & CEO of Sigma Motors Ltd, President, Vice President, Gen Secretary and members of Executive Committee of ICC.

## Poverty, unemployment root causes of terrorism: Gilani

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senate Chairman Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Tuesday said that poverty, unemployment, and illiteracy are the root causes of terrorism and extremism, calling for a broad strategy to tackle these core issues and empower the youth for national progress.

He was addressing the inaugural session of the Senate of the Kalam Bibi International Women Institute, Bannu, held at the Parliament House. Gilani chaired the session on behalf of the President of Pakistan.

The session was attended by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, Chairman of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Vice Chancellor Dr. Aurangzeb Khan, MNA Shahida Akhtar Ali, MPA Engineer Ahmad

Khan Kundi, and other senior officials. Welcoming the establishment of the Kalam Bibi International Women's Institute, Gilani said the institute would open doors to higher and professional education for women in the southern districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He appreciated the efforts behind the project and urged for maximum facilities to be provided to ensure the institute’s success. Gilani said education and health have always been close to his heart, noting that both are closely linked. He stressed that women’s welfare and the inclusion of minorities in the national mainstream remain among his top priorities.

He directed the HEC to urgently equip the institute with modern technology, internet access, and other essential resources,

enabling it to operate efficiently.

Highlighting the challenges faced by backwards areas in southern KP and Punjab, Gilani proposed establishing support centres under the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) to help overcome regional issues. He also mentioned that his daughter has served as a goodwill ambassador for women’s empowerment.

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi also addressed the session, expressing his pleasure in attending and reaffirming his party’s commitment to women’s education. He said the new institute would help integrate the underdeveloped southern districts into the national development framework.

Kundi praised the HEC’s support and called for continued investment in institutions that address social inequality. He also proposed upgrading campus facilities, expanding the use of technology, and offering scholarships to deserving female students.

Vice Chancellor Dr. Aurangzeb Khan briefed participants on the institute’s goals, challenges, and academic offerings. He noted that women in the southern districts face major barriers to education, but this institute will create new opportunities. He also discussed the introduction of new courses and provided updates on legal matters related to the institution.



**ISLAMABAD:** Chief Information Commissioner, Shoaib Ahmed Siddiqui, presenting the bi-annual report to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan at the Supreme Court of Pakistan. —APP Photo

## Health authority urge for collective efforts against dengue threat

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi’s health authorities reported 3,555 suspected dengue cases for 2025 of which 17 have been laboratory-confirmed.

According to the update released by the District Health Authority (DHA), the vector surveillance efforts continue across the district during which indoor inspections conducted in 24,707 houses identified 1,068 as positive for dengue larvae, with 1,172 positive containers.

Potohar Town (Peri-Urban) recorded the highest concentration of indoor breeding sites, with 336 positive houses and 384 positive containers. Rawalpindi Cantonment also showed significant indoor positivity with 244 houses and 257 containers.

Outdoor surveillance checked 7,354 spots, finding 152 positive with 167 positive containers. Municipal Corporation Rawalpindi reported the highest numbers in this category, with 49 positive spots

and 60 positive containers.

Responding to detected breeding sites, a total of 12,356 larva cases have been recorded during the last 24 hours. The overall Case Response (CR) percentage stands at 97%, with only 367 cases still pending.

The Potohar Rural has the lowest CR at 93%, with six pending cases, while Kahuta, Kallar Syeddan, Taxilla, and Taxilla Cantonment have all achieved a 100% CR, indicating no pending larva cases.

The Breteau Index (BI) which shows active larvae/eggs per 100 houses/containers per square meter, a measure of mosquito density, remains a key indicator for targeted interventions. According to the report currently, 38 Union Councils (UCs) have a BI above 7, with Chaklala Cantonment (CTC-5) reporting the highest. Report further unveils that 68 UCs fall within the 3-7 BI range, including Rawalpindi Cantonment (CTR-14). Overall town performance

in indoor vector surveillance shows 25,045 houses checked, with 1,075 found positive. Cantonment areas have achieved 90.88% of their target, inspecting 4,740 houses with 319 positive. Outdoor surveillance has covered 7,462 spots, with 154 found positive.

“The fight against dengue requires a collective effort, and the latest figures underscore the importance of our ongoing vigilance,” said Dr. Ehsan Ghanni, CEO Rawalpindi. He acknowledged that despite the robust response system is in place, the presence of breeding sites in our communities means the threat remains.

“I urge every citizen to actively participate by inspecting their homes and surroundings, eliminating standing water, and supporting the efforts of our health teams”, he said adding that mutual cooperation is not just helpful; it is absolutely vital in protecting our families and ensuring a healthier Rawalpindi.

## Social media age bill aims to protect children online: Nighat

ISLAMABAD (APP): Social rights expert Nighat Dad on Tuesday welcomed the ongoing discussion around the Senate’s proposed bill to restrict social media use for children under 16, calling it an important step toward creating safer digital spaces for young users.

Talking to a private news channel, she said the bill reflects global efforts such as those seen in Australia to protect minors from online risks.

She noted that one of the proposed methods for age

verification is the submission of government-issued identification, such as a CNIC or passport, to ensure that only users above 16 can create accounts.

However, she also raised concerns about the enforcement of such restrictions, warning that it could lead to mass surveillance and data privacy issues.

She emphasized that while tools like biometric checks and facial recognition might be considered, strong safeguards must be in place to protect users’

data. She highlighted the urgent need for a comprehensive data protection law to support such initiatives, ensuring both safety and privacy for citizens.

She appreciated that the bill puts child safety at the center of public discourse and encourages dialogue on digital rights and responsibilities. She also acknowledged that many children use social media productively and, with proper checks and parental guidance, a balanced approach is possible.

## Rawal Dam spillways opened as water level rises

ISLAMABAD (APP): Continuous rainfall has pushed water levels at Rawal Dam to a critical point, prompting the district administration to open the spillways to prevent overflow. According to the spokesman of ICT administration, the controlled release of water is being closely monitored to ensure public safety.

He said that the water level in Rawal Dam reached 1,750 feet on Tuesday following hours of persistent rain in the federal capital and adjoining areas.

In response, the district administration ordered the immediate opening of the dam’s spillways to manage the rising water, he added. According to the district

administration, the discharge of water from the dam is expected to continue for five hours. The process is being supervised by the Assistant Commissioner of Nilore, who was present on-site to monitor operations.

Officials confirmed that all safety protocols were strictly followed before opening the spillways to ensure the controlled release of water does not pose risks to nearby areas.

The administration also deployed rescue teams, ambulance services, and police personnel at various bridges and critical points downstream of the dam to handle any emergency.

A spokesman stated that the water release will continue until the dam’s level

drops to 1,746 feet, which is considered a safer threshold. The decision to open the spillways was made to avoid any potential damage to the dam’s structure and prevent flooding in the surrounding localities.

The district administration has urged residents living in the vicinity of streams and low-lying areas to stay alert and follow safety instructions. Continuous monitoring of water levels and weather patterns is underway to determine any further measures.

This controlled water discharge is part of standard procedures adopted by the authorities during the monsoon season when the dam reaches near-full capacity due to heavy rains.

## Excise dept launches action against fancy, non-standard number plates

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad’s Excise Department has intensified its campaign against vehicles carrying unauthorised number plates and a large-scale operation has been ordered across the federal capital to curb the use of non-standard and fancy number plates on vehicles.

In this regard, Director General Excise Islamabad, Irfan Memon, issued strict instructions to the department’s field teams to take immediate action against violators. He made it clear that only number plates issued by the Excise Department are permitted for use, and any other plates are unacceptable under the law. During a review meeting, the DG Excise directed officials to increase their operations citywide.

He ordered that any vehicle found using non-standard or fancy number plates should not only be fined heavily but also taken off the road immediately. The crackdown will target vehicles using plates with unique designs, modified formats, or personalized inscriptions that differ from the standard format approved by the Excise Department.

“The Excise Department’s authorized number plate is the only valid plate allowed on vehicles in Islamabad,” stated DG Irfan Memon. “Any vehicle found violating this rule will face strict penalties, including on-the-spot impoundment.”

He further emphasised that the objective of this campaign is to enforce the law uniformly and ensure that all vehicles display

plates that conform to the prescribed format. “Citizens are urged to remove any fancy or unauthorised number plates immediately to avoid penalties and vehicle impoundment,” Irfan Memon appealed.

Officials believe that the use of non-standard number plates complicates identification of vehicles, especially during traffic checks, surveillance, and investigation processes. This, in turn, poses a security risk in the capital, where vehicle verification is crucial for law enforcement agencies.

The department has observed that some vehicle owners opt for decorative plates featuring stylised fonts, logos, or personal names, which deviate from the official design. According to the

Excise Department, such plates are illegal and will not be tolerated on the roads.

To implement this directive effectively, inspection teams have been deployed in various parts of the city. These teams will inspect vehicles on the spot and impose fines on those found in violation. Persistent offenders may face further legal action, including the confiscation of vehicles until compliant plates are installed.

DG Irfan Memon made it clear that there will be no exceptions in this operation. “Fancy number plates are not allowed on roads under any circumstances,” he said. “We will ensure strict compliance with this policy to maintain discipline and standardisation in vehicle registration displays.”

The Excise Department has also launched a public awareness campaign urging residents to adhere to the official regulations. Citizens are being reminded through media and public messages that using non-standard number plates is not only a violation of traffic laws but also contributes to potential legal complications.

Vehicle owners have been advised to obtain official number plates from the Excise Department to avoid any inconvenience during traffic inspections or routine checks by law enforcement agencies. The department reiterated that all vehicles must have standard plates displaying the registration number in the approved font, size, and design.

The crackdown is expected to continue in the coming days, with field teams patrolling key areas of Islamabad, including major roads, markets, and residential sectors. Special checkpoints will also be established where vehicle number plates will be thoroughly inspected.

Officials warn that anyone found using or attempting to use decorative, fancy, or personalised number plates will face immediate action. The public is encouraged to cooperate with inspection teams and ensure their vehicles meet all registration and display requirements as per the law. With this latest initiative, Islamabad authorities aim to reinforce regulatory compliance and enhance security oversight across the city.



**5,000 returnees registered**  
HERAT CITY (Pajhwok): More than 5,000 returnees from Iran have been registered to be introduced to employment agencies for job opportunities in western Herat province, officials said on Tuesday. Abdul Qayoum Wasiq, Head of Employment Committee in Islam Qala port, said since the committee began its activities, above 5,000 returnees from Iran had been registered at the center to be introduced to employment agencies for jobs.

**Six projects approved**  
KABUL (Ariana News): The National Procurement Commission, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund, has approved six projects with a total value of 828 million AFN. 28 projects were presented for approval in accordance with the agenda. Following discussions, 19 projects were amended, six projects worth 828 million AFN were approved, and the contract for one project was canceled.

Asia is comparable to a living body composed of soil and water. The heart that beats inside the body is Afghanistan. The destruction of Afghanistan would be the destruction of Asia. And in its progress and prosperity lies the well-being of Asia. - Allama Iqbal

## 16 development projects launched

KANDAHAR/HELMAND (TOLONews): Construction work has begun on 16 infrastructure projects in Kandahar and Helmand provinces, with a total budget of 44 million Afghani. The first phase of these projects includes road construction and repair. Officials say the funding is provided by the municipalities and the projects are expected to take five months to complete. Mohammad Taher Abshar, spokesperson for Helmand Municipality, said: "For the fiscal year 1404, we had planned 15 projects. This is the first

one being inaugurated. The road under construction is approximately 3,300 meters long and 10 meters wide, and will cost over 40 million AFN." Saifullah Asim, spokesperson for Kandahar Municipality, added: "We've started road resurfacing projects in various parts of the city. Around 5,000 square meters of damaged roads in different districts will be repaired under this project." Local residents welcomed the initiative but called for more development efforts. Mukhtar Ahmad, a

Kandahar resident, said: "The road was unpaved and in poor condition. There were frequent accidents. Shopkeepers also suffered. Large vehicles couldn't pass each other easily, which caused more collisions." Another resident, Nooruddin, noted: "People were struggling. The road was full of dirt and garbage. Now it looks much better." According to officials, the implementation of these projects will expand Lashkargah city and improve traffic flow for residents.

## 7,000 new fish farms to be set up nationwide



KABUL (Pajhwok): The Economic Commission has given the go-ahead to a plan for the development of the country's fish farming sector. According to the plan, 7,000 new fish farms will be established across the country. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs wrote on its X handle that the regular meeting of the Technical Committee of the Economic Commission was held on Monday at the Marmarin Palace. During the meeting, the Fish Farming Sector Development Plan and the Agriculture and Livestock Sector Development Policy were presented for discussion. Following comprehensive discussions and consideration of the Ministry of Water and Energy's views, the fish farming development plan was endorsed. As per the plan, 7,000 fish farms will be set up nationwide. This initiative is expected to meet up to 90 percent of the country's demand for fish meat and create direct and indirect employment opportunities for 300,000 people. The plan has been referred to the Economic Commission for a final decision. The meeting also featured a discussion on the Agriculture and Livestock Sector Development Policy. After thorough deliberation, officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock were instructed to incorporate the feedback of the Ministry of Water and Energy into the policy and present the final version at the next session of the Technical Committee.

## Female employees in Kandahar: Taliban impose 'mahram card' requirement

KABUL (Amu TV): Taliban have introduced a new mandate requiring female employees in the southern province of Kandahar to obtain official documentation identifying a male guardian, or mahram, who must accompany them to their workplace, according to local sources. The policy, implemented in Kandahar by the Taliban's Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, stipulates that women working in both public and private sectors must carry a "mahram card." The card certifies the presence and identity of an approved male escort — typically a husband, father, brother or son — during working hours. Female employees who spoke with Amu TV said they had been warned that failure to comply would result in their being denied entry to the workplace. In many cases, the male guardian is expected to remain at the office or work site for the duration of the day. "This order has created enormous challenges," said one woman, who requested anonymity out of fear of retaliation. "Most families cannot afford to have a man stay with a woman at work all day." Obtaining a mahram card is a multi-step process that can take up to three days and requires sign-off from several authorities, including the provincial director of the virtue ministry, a local council representative, a security official and the woman's employer, according to individuals familiar with the procedure. The cards are reported to include detailed personal information about both the employee and her designated guardian. Since returning to power in 2021, the Taliban have enacted a broad array of restrictions on Afghan women and girls — barring them from secondary and higher education, prohibiting their employment in most sectors, and severely limiting their freedom of movement. The United Nations and international rights groups have described the Taliban's policies as systematic gender persecution.

## Taliban shut down four departments

KANDAHAR (Amu TV): Taliban have shuttered four key departments at Mirwais Regional Hospital in Kandahar, significantly reducing access to public health services for thousands of patients across southern Afghanistan, according to medical staff and officials familiar with the matter. The closed units include ophthalmology, pediatric surgery, orthopedics and dermatology, sources told Amu. The hospital has long served as a critical referral center for low-income patients across at least 11 provinces, particularly in the country's south. The closures come just days after Taliban leader Hibatullah Akhundzada reportedly visited the facility on July 13. While the reasons behind the decision remain unclear, health workers said the move has severely hampered the hospital's ability to function. Staff at Mirwais Hospital confirmed that the affected departments have been shut down and that plans are underway to relocate some services to the Aino Mina Hospital, located several kilometers outside Kandahar city — far from easy reach for many patients. "This decision has pushed the hospital's operations to near-collapse," said one staff member, who asked not to be named because they were not authorized to speak to the media. Several patients said medical services had become virtually inaccessible in recent weeks. Examinations are no longer conducted, medications must now be purchased out of pocket, and many specialists have left their posts, leading to unprofessional conduct by newly hired, inexperienced personnel. Neither the hospital's administration nor local Taliban officials have issued a public statement on the matter.

ing Daesh or foreign terrorists allegedly present in Afghanistan is nothing more than a propaganda campaign against the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA), intended to distort the reality on the ground." Qari Fasihuddin emphasised that Daesh has no operational bases in Afghanistan and lacks the capacity to conduct operations. He also noted that the IEA has made every effort to repatriate Afghan aircraft taken abroad, stressing that the aircraft rightfully belong to Afghanistan and that the caretaker government would not forgo its claim to them.

## 'Afghanistan secure, IS presence claims baseless'

KABUL (Pajhwok): The Chief of Army Staff at the Ministry of Defence said Islamic State (IS), also known as Daesh, holds no territory or bases in Afghanistan and that most discussions around the group amount to psychological and propaganda warfare. At a press conference outlining the annual achievements of government entities, officials from Ministry of Defence (MoD) presented the ministry's accomplishments at the Government Media and Information Centre on Tuesday. Chief of Army Staff Qari Fasihuddin Fitrat said the ministry has consistently taken serious, firm and proportionate action in response to both current and potential threats to Afghanistan's territorial integrity. He reaffirmed the ministry's commitment to the principles of non-interference, good neighbourliness, and mutual respect with neighbouring countries. Speaking about Daesh, he remarked: "This so-called Daesh project, allegedly originating from beyond our borders, is nothing but a tool of psychological and propaganda warfare." He added: "Security across Afghanistan is fully ensured. The noise regard-



"Efforts have been ongoing for the past four years, and we continue to work towards bringing those aircraft back and putting them into use," he explained. "While we have yet to succeed, our efforts to persuade other parties to return them are ongoing and we remain optimistic." Highlighting security developments over the past year, the Chief of Army Staff said 15 border brigades, 93 battalions, and 765 outposts have been stationed along the Durand Line and other borders with neighbouring countries to defend Afghanistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity. He also reported the establishment of 13 coordination centres with Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and China, of which seven are currently operational. Work continues to activate the remaining centres. Meanwhile, MoD spokesman Enayatullah Khwarazmi stated that the number of troops in Afghanistan's National Army currently stands between 150,000 and 200,000. He added that with this number of Islamic National Army personnel, the security of the country's borders, highways, and urban centres can be effectively maintained.

## Former Afghan president congratulates Kankor top scorers

KABUL (Ariana News): Afghanistan's former president Hamid Karzai has congratulated the top performers of this year's national university entrance exam while renewing calls for the restoration of education rights for Afghan girls. In a statement issued following the announcement of the 1404 (2025) Kankor exam results, Karzai praised the achievements of the top five scorers, calling their success a source of national pride and a testament to the potential of Afghan youth. "The outstanding performance of these young students is a remarkable milestone for our country," Karzai said. "Their dedication and achievement reflect the strength and promise of Afghanistan's new generation." The Kankor exam is a critical gateway to higher education in Afghanistan, and this year saw increased participation despite ongoing challenges. According to Abdul Baqi Haqqani, acting head of the National Examination Authority, 100,548 students sat for the exam, with 51,181 gaining admission to universities and other higher education institutions. This marks a 20,000-student increase from the previous year, indicating what Haqqani described as "growing enthusiasm for education among Afghan youth." Kabul students dominated the top rankings, with Sayed Musa and Mohammad Nazir in first and second place respectively. Another Kabul student, Hamza, secured third place.

## Afghan Academy develops alphabets for 3 local languages

KABUL (TOLONews): Despite longstanding criticism over the performance and scientific achievements of the Academy of Sciences of Afghanistan, the institution has recently announced that over the past year, it translated 18 scholarly works from foreign languages into national languages. In its annual report presentation, the Academy stated that it had organized dozens of scientific and research programs across the country during the past year. The Academy also revealed that it has developed writing systems (alphabets) for three local languages, Sawi, Ishkashimi, and Nuristani, and that efforts are ongoing to develop alphabets for several other languages. Seyyed Nazim Sayedi, head of the Academy's Center for Languages and Literature, said: "We have created alphabets for the Sawi, Ishkashimi, and Nuristani languages, and many speakers of other languages have also reached out to us. We're working on alphabets for them too. This is a complex and sensitive task that requires the involvement of linguists, local residents, as well as both literate and illiterate community members. We plan to interview and consult them all." Amir Jan Saqeb, Deputy for Natural and Technical Sciences at the Academy, added: "In the past year, we organized seven major scientific and research seminars across various scientific fields. Additionally, 67



academic and research conferences were held in the areas of Islamic and human sciences, as well as natural and technical sciences." According to the Academy's data, more than 200 academic articles were authored in the past year, and over 1,000 foreign terms were submitted for review and standardization. Officials stated they aim to reduce the use of foreign terminology in government institutions. Meanwhile, the Academy's Ethnographic Museum received visits from 400 Afghans and 75 foreign nationals over the past year—most of the foreign visitors came from the United States, Germany, France, Turkey, and Russia. The Academy of Sciences emphasized that in the current year, it plans to implement new initiatives aimed at advancing scientific research, raising academic standards, and strengthening national languages.

## Jawzjan families reconcile, end 21-year feud



SHIBERGHAN (Pajhwok): A bitter 21-year feud between two rival families in Khanqah district

Samim, Director of Borders and Tribal Affairs, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the conflict between the families of Rais Faqir and Abdul Kalantar originated from domestic disputes within Arab tribes. It was ultimately resolved through a tribal jirga and mediation led by community elders and religious scholars. "This dispute claimed 20 lives from both families," Samim said. "But after extensive efforts, the families embraced one another in a spirit of unity and reconciliation." He emphasized that it is never too late to resolve disputes, adding: "Nothing is as sweet as peace and reconciliation." Reconciliation brings relief, hope. Abdul Kalantar, a mem-

ber of one of the reconciled families, reflected on the toll the long-standing feud had taken on both sides. "For 21 years, enmity dominated our lives. During that time, we lost 20 loved ones," he said. "Out of fear of continued violence, we even had to send our youth abroad. We sacrificed not only lives but also our peace, comfort, and life opportunities." Kalantar expressed gratitude to the mediators who helped end the conflict. "Thanks to the sincere efforts of the Department of Borders and Tribal Affairs and our community elders, we've finally ended this enmity. There is no longer hostility between us—we now live in peace and mutual understanding. Peace is truly the essence of

life." Religious scholars: Unity is strength. Maulvi Ataullah, a religious scholar from Jawzjan and one of the key mediators, stressed the destructive nature of feuds. "This conflict caused much bloodshed. But through the combined efforts of religious scholars and tribal elders, the 21-year feud has ended," he said. "Both sides have reconciled, and we pray no further disputes arise between them." Sheikh Khairullah Haqqani, head of the Jawzjan Ulama Council and another mediator, noted that such resolutions are part of a wider ongoing effort. "Over the past 20 years, we have helped peacefully

resolve many similar disputes in cooperation with the Department of Borders and Tribal Affairs. There is strength in unity—when people stand together, they can overcome any challenge." Tribal elders advocate for forgiveness, unity. Sardar Mohammad, a tribal elder from Khanqah district, underscored the power of forgiveness. "Forgiveness is not weakness—it is a sign of greatness," he said. "As elders, it is our responsibility to extinguish the flames of hatred with wisdom and patience. Enmity and revenge destroy homes; forgiveness and compassion heal hearts." He described the resolution as a powerful example of Islamic brotherhood and

the successful management of ethnic disputes based on Sharia principles and respected tribal traditions. Dozens of feuds resolved in Jawzjan this year. Maulvi Ghulam Nabi Samim also reported that 110 disputes and feuds were resolved in Jawzjan during the previous solar year through traditional jirgas and mediation. So far this year, 20 additional conflicts have been successfully addressed, with ongoing efforts to resolve more. Referring specifically to the Khanqah case, Samim reiterated that the issue had stemmed from domestic tensions and was resolved peacefully through collaborative tribal and religious mediation.



# KP govt wants to promote sports in province: CM

E.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, has reiterated his government's commitment to promoting sports and nurturing the province's talented youth, saying that investment in athletics is already yielding promising results at both national and international levels.

Addressing the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sports Heroes Awards ceremony held at Nishtar Hall, Peshawar, on Tuesday, the Chief Minister said the province's young athletes are brimming with potential and it is the government's duty to provide them with the opportunities they deserve. The event was organised by the provincial Sports Department and attended by cabinet members Syed Fakhar Jehan, Pakhtoon Yar Khan, and Major (ret'd) Muhammad Sajjad, along with members of the provincial assembly, sports officials, athletes, and their families.

The Chief Minister noted that his administration had begun investing in sports infrastructure and talent development soon after assuming office. "The victories achieved by KP athletes in various competitions at home and abroad reflect the positive outcome of our efforts," he remarked.

He announced that athletes achieving excellence at the national level are being awarded monthly stipends of Rs25,000, while gold medalists at international events will now receive Rs50,000 per month. During the ceremony, the Chief Minister distributed awards among athletes who secured top positions in national and international competitions, and also handed out stipend cheques to winners of the 2024 Quaid-e-Azam Interprovincial Games.

Terming the event a gesture of encouragement and recognition, Ali Amin Gandapur said the awardees are a source of pride for the province. "These athletes have elevated the name of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on both national and international stages," he said.

The Chief Minister also highlighted the province's historic contributions to various sports disciplines and said the government is upgrading existing infrastructure to meet inter-

national standards. He added that work is under way to establish sports grounds at the tehsil level to ensure wider access to training and competitive facilities.

In an inspirational message to the athletes, Ali Amin said that sports foster resilience and a competitive spirit. "Winning and losing are both part of the game. An athlete either wins or learns," he said, emphasizing the importance of not just technique and fitness, but mental strength as well. Quoting former Prime Minister Imran Khan, he added: "The one who accepts defeat is the one who loses. The one who refuses to give up always wins."

**Ehsas flagships projects meeting:** A high-level meeting regarding Ehsas flagships projects in the province was held here at Chief Minister's Secretariat with Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Khan Gandapur in the chair. The meeting reviewed the progress on four major programmes being implemented under Ehsas initiative in the province. These programmes include Ehsaas Nojawan, Ehsaas Hunar, Ehsaas Rozgar, and Ehsaas Apna Ghar (Low cost housing project).

The meeting was attended by provincial cabinet members Syed Qasim Ali Shah, Syed Fakhar Jehan, Muzammil Aslam, and Dr. Amjad Ali, along with administrative secretaries of relevant departments and representatives of partner institutions.

Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, in the meeting, announced the release of Rs. 8 billion for the Ehsaas initiatives in the current fiscal year, with Rs. 2 billion earmarked for interest-free loans under each of the four flagship programs. Similarly, in a significant move to uplift the merged districts, the Chief Minister directed that dedicated and separate funds be allocated for beneficiaries from the merged areas under all four initiatives.

He further instructed that the loan disbursement procedures and requirements be simplified specifically for applicants from these districts to ensure maximum participation and benefit. He emphasized that the peo-

ple of the merged districts deserve special attention and efforts must be made to enable as many residents as possible to benefit from these schemes within the current year. The Chief Minister also directed the concerned departments to also accelerate the loan disbursement process and to further simplify the eligibility criteria for applicants across the province.

During the meeting, a detailed briefing was given on the progress, so far made of the programs. It was informed that under Component-I of the Ehsaas Nojawan Program, being implemented through the Bank of Khyber, Rs. 408 million in interest-free loans have been distributed among 139 beneficiaries, utilizing 100% of the allocated funds. An additional Rs. 116 million is required for 52 more approved cases under the same component. Meanwhile, Component-II of the Ehsaas Nojawan Program, implemented through Akhuwat Microfinance, has also achieved 100% disbursement of its allocated funds. So far, Rs. 602 million in interest-free loans have been disbursed among 3585 beneficiaries, with another 1,745 applications currently under process. It was also highlighted that Akhuwat has achieved a 100% loan recovery rate under this program, with Rs. 42.88 million recovered to date.

Under the Ehsaas Hunar Program, Rs. 307 million have been distributed among 647 beneficiaries, while an additional 592 cases are currently being processed. In the Ehsaas Apna Ghar scheme, Rs. 200 million have been disbursed among 76 successful applicants through a balloting process. For the current fiscal year, the eligibility criteria for this scheme have been further relaxed. The monthly income threshold for eligibility has been increased from Rs. 100,000 to Rs. 150,000. Similarly, maximum limit of covered area has also been extended from five marla to ten marla as eligibility criteria under this scheme. These reforms reflect the provincial government's commitment to expanding access to welfare and livelihood opportunities, particularly for youth and underserved communities, including those in the merged districts.



PESHAWAR: Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur inquiring after the health of injured DPO Hangu, Khalid Khan at CMH.

## Saudi Naval Forces Chief visits Naval HQs

E.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff, Royal Saudi Naval Forces, Vice Admiral Mohammed Bin Abdulrahman Al Ghuraybi called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf at Naval Headquarters, Islamabad.

Upon arrival at Naval Headquarters, Chief of the Naval Staff, Royal Saudi Naval Forces was received by Admiral Naveed Ashraf and was presented Guard of Honour by a smartly turned out naval contingent. The dignitary was also introduced to the Principal Staff Officers of Naval Headquarters.

During the meeting, both leaders discussed matters of mutual interest, regional maritime security situation, and avenues for enhanced cooperation in defence, training, and security. Both dignitaries appreciated the successful conduct of PN-RSNF Exercise Naseem Al Bahr- XV that was held at North Arabian Sea this year.

Admiral Naveed Ashraf highlighted Pakistan Navy's initiatives for ensuring maritime security and regional stability through Maritime Security Patrols. Vice Admiral Mohammed Bin Abdulrahman Al Ghuraybi appreciated and acknowledged Pakistan Navy's contributions and unwavering commitment to collaborative maritime security efforts in the region. He commended PN for the quality training being imparted to RSNF cadets at Pakistan Naval Academy and onboard PN Ships, acknowledging its profound impact on their professional development. Both leaders pledged to further strengthen and diversify the scope of existing bilateral defence relationship. Pakistan Navy and Royal Saudi Naval Forces enjoy a long-standing and brotherly relationship. The visit of Chief of the Naval Staff of the Royal Saudi Naval Forces will further enhance bilateral defence collaboration between the two countries.

## Ban on travel from Punjab to Balochistan

E.P. Report

DERA GHAZI KHAN: In light of recent terrorist incidents targeting passengers in Balochistan, the government has imposed a ban on travel from Punjab to Balochistan after sunset.

Deputy Commissioner of Dera Ghazi Khan, Usman Khalid, stated that public transport heading from Punjab to Balochistan will be stopped at the Bawata Check Post after 5:00 PM. This measure has been taken to ensure the safety of passengers. He appealed to transport operators and citizens to avoid traveling in the evening to prevent any untoward incidents. According to the official notification, all types of transport services both public and private operating in Sakhi Sarwar and Bawata must cease their operations by 5:00 PM daily.

Travel is now restricted to daylight hours only; night-time travel is strictly prohibited under all circumstances. All public transport vehicles departing from DG Khan bus stands must conduct video recording of all passengers before departure.

## Gazans must not die for hunk of bread: Erdogan

ISTANBUL (AFP): Türkiye's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Tuesday warned that it would be unacceptable for Palestinians to die from the want of a "hunk of bread or a mouthful of water."

Erdogan's warning, made during a speech in Istanbul, came amid a mounting chorus of international criticism of Israel's campaign in Gaza, which has triggered a humanitarian crisis. "No one endowed with a minimum of human dignity can accept this cruelty, in which dozens of innocent people die every day because they cannot find a hunk of bread or a mouthful of water," he said.

Erdogan is a frequent critic of Israel but his declaration came as Israel faced several demands from United Nations agencies and international capitals to protect civilian lives and to allow aid into Gaza. EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said Israeli forces "must stop killing people" at food distribution points, and UN rights chief Volker Turk warned Israel that it was possibly violating international law.

Gaza's civil defense agency said that Israeli strikes had killed 15 people in the Palestinian territory on Tuesday, after the World Health Organization said that troops had invaded its staff residence.

**Gaza hospital: 21 children dead from starvation, malnutrition in 72 hours:** Twenty-one children have died from starvation across the Gaza Strip over a 72-hour period, the head of Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City said Tuesday. "These deaths were recorded at hospitals in Gaza, including Al-Shifa in Gaza City, Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir el-Balah, and Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis," Dr. Mohammed Abu Salmiya told reporters. He attributed the deaths to severe malnutrition and hunger-related complications amid ongoing shortages of food and medical supplies.

The figures add to growing concerns over the humanitarian situation in Gaza, where aid access remains severely limited. According to the United Nations, more than 1,000 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces while attempting to access food since the start of operations by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, which is backed by the United States and Israel. Of those, 766 were killed near GHF distribution sites, and 288 were killed near UN and other aid convoys, UN human rights office spokesman Thameen Al-Kheetan said Tuesday. He stated that the deaths were caused by Israeli military fire.

In a separate statement Tuesday, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk warned that Israeli evacuation orders and subsequent military operations in Deir al-Balah could result in further civilian deaths. "It seemed the nightmare couldn't possibly get worse. And yet it does... Given the concentration of civilians in the area, and the means and methods of warfare employed by Israel until now, the risks of unlawful killings and other serious violations of international humanitarian law are extremely high," he said.

Also on Tuesday, at least 20 people were killed by Israeli airstrikes, according to Palestinian health officials. The strikes occurred in areas that had previously seen relatively little direct fighting during the 21-month conflict. The European Union's top diplomat, Kaja Kallas, issued a statement on social media condemning the killing of civilians at aid distribution points. "The killing of civilians seeking aid in Gaza is indefensible," she said. Kallas added that she had spoken with Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar to reinforce expectations regarding humanitarian access and warned that "all options are on the table" should current pledges not be met.

## WFP warns Gaza is on brink of full scale famine

LONDON: The UN World Food Programme warned on Monday that Gaza is teetering on the brink of full-scale famine, with nearly 100,000 women and children suffering from severe acute malnutrition amid rapidly deteriorating humanitarian conditions.

Speaking to reporters at a UN briefing, senior WFP official Ross Smith said that hunger is worsening, and humanitarian access has been severely restricted. "A quarter of the population are facing famine-like conditions," he said. "People are dying from lack of assistance every day." Smith stressed that food and humanitarian aid are the only viable solutions at present, but movement inside Gaza remains perilous and limited. "The markets are non-functional. Nothing is really moving

inside Gaza for us," he said, outlining the "minimum operating conditions" required to respond effectively. These include functioning border crossings, reduced wait times and security approvals, and the ability to transport goods freely and safely.

He said the WFP requires a minimum of 100 aid trucks to enter Gaza daily to meet urgent needs. "Until we have that scale of assistance, it's going to be really, really difficult to control the situation on the ground," Smith called for all armed actors to stay away from aid convoys and distribution points.

Over the weekend scores of people were killed when a crowd surged around a WFP food convoy near a Gaza checkpoint. "We cannot independently verify the death toll," Smith said,

noting WFP staff on the ground reported at least 40 fatalities, though other reports suggest as many as 80. "One death is too many. This is far, far too many."

He denied any indication the incident was organized by militant groups, instead pointing to growing desperation among civilians. "These were people putting their lives on the line, trying to get something off a truck," he said. Fuel shortages and logistical hurdles continue to hamper aid distribution. Since mid-May, the WFP has managed to deliver less than 10 percent of the required food assistance. Smith said the agency has enough supplies pre-positioned outside Gaza to support the entire population for two months — provided a ceasefire is in place and aid routes are secured. — Arab News

## 1,400 killed in sectarian violence in coastal Syria

DAMASCUS: More than 1,400 people, mostly civilians, were killed in several days of sectarian violence in Syria's coastal regions earlier this year, a government committee tasked with investigating the attacks has found.

The committee said it had identified 298 suspects implicated in serious violations during the violence in the country's Alawite heartland that left at least 1,426 members of the minority community dead in March. Tuesday's findings come after a new wave of violence involving the country's Druze community, raising further questions over the new government's ability to manage sectarian tensions and maintain security after the December overthrow of longtime ruler Bashar al-Assad — himself an Alawite.

The March violence took place in a predominantly Alawite region of Syria's coast, where government forces and allied groups were accused of carrying out summary executions, mostly targeting Alawite civilians, with the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights saying more than 1,700 people were killed. The committee's report said there was no evidence that Syria's military leadership ordered attacks on the Alawite community.

The committee's investigation documented "serious violations against civilians on March 7, 8 and 9, including murder, premeditated murder, looting, destruction and burning of homes, torture and sectarian insults", spokesman Yasser al-Farhan told a news conference in Damascus. The committee confirmed "the names of 1,426 dead, including 90 women, with most of the rest

being civilians" from the Alawite community, he said, adding that an unspecified number of further dead had not been verified.

The investigation also "identified 298 individuals by name" who were suspected of involvement in the violations, al-Farhan continued, describing the figure as provisional. These have been referred for prosecution, and 37 people have been arrested, officials told journalists. They didn't say how many suspects were members of security forces.

Authorities have accused gunmen loyal to al-Assad of instigating the violence, launching deadly attacks that killed dozens of security personnel. The committee said 238 members of the army and security forces were killed in the attacks in the provinces of Tartous, Latakia and Hama. — Aljazeera

## Russia downplays Ukraine talks

MOSCOW: Russia has played down expectations of any breakthrough in upcoming talks with Ukraine in Türkiye, as Ukrainian officials said one child was killed and more than 20 people were wounded in overnight Russian attacks.

"We don't have any reason to hope for some miraculous breakthroughs," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Tuesday, saying this was "hardly possible in the current situation". "We intend to pursue our interests, we intend to ensure our interests and fulfil the tasks that we set for ourselves from the very beginning," Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's announcement late on Monday that talks would take place generated some hope that negotiators would deliver progress on ending the war that began with Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. United States President Donald Trump has been putting more pressure on Russia to hold talks, which have stalled as Russian President Vladimir Putin stood his ground on his demands.

The third round of talks in recent months is expected to be held in Istanbul on Wednesday. Previous negotiations led to a series of exchanges of prisoners of war and the bodies of fallen soldiers, but produced no breakthrough on a ceasefire. On Tuesday, Zelenskyy announced on social media that Rustem Umerov, the former defence minister and current secretary of the security council, will head Ukraine's delegation. He also said Ukraine was ready to "secure the release of our people from captivity and return of abducted children, to stop the killings, and to prepare a leaders' meeting", outlining potential topics for discussion.

Russia has not yet announced the composition of its team for the talks. Its delegation at the previous round was led by a hawkish historian and the current head of the Russian Union of Writers, Vladimir Medinsky, whom Ukraine described as not a real decision-maker. Asked on Tuesday if he could give a sense of how the Kremlin saw the potential timeframe of a possible peace agreement, Peskov said he could give no guidance on timing. "There is a lot of work to be done before we can talk about the possibility of some top-level meetings," Zelenskyy added, a day after Peskov renewed a call for a meeting with Putin. — Aljazeera

## PHC grants protective bail to two PTI leaders

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court (PHC) has granted protective bail to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders including Provincial Minister Meena Khan and former Member Provincial Assembly Arbab Jahan Dad. The court directed the authorities not to arrest them in any unknown cases, on Tuesday.

PHC two-member bench comprising of Justices Ijaz Anwar and Fahim Wali heard the case. The petitioners' lawyer, Alam Khan Adinazi, informed the court that Meena Khan and Arbab Jahan Dad are facing cases registered against them in connection with the November 24 protests. He requested the court to direct the authorities to provide details of the cases registered against the petitioners.

PHC granted protective

bail to the petitioners until August 13 and directed the authorities not to arrest them. The court also issued notices to the federal government and other relevant authorities, seeking details of the cases registered against the petitioners.

**Court remands two accused in Kohistan scandal to NAB:** The Accountability Court Peshawar has remanded two accused named Fazal Rahim and Duraj, to the custody of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) for eight and five days respectively. The accused were produced before the court in connection with the Kohistan scandal, on Tuesday.

The NAB had requested a 14-day physical remand of the accused, but the court granted an eight-day remand for Fazal Rahim and a five-day remand for Duraj. The NAB prosecutor

informed the court that the accused were arrested in connection with the Kohistan scandal and that further investigation was required.

According to NAB sources, the Kohistan scandal involves a massive amount of Rs. 40 billion, and eight accused have been arrested so far. The NAB has recovered Rs. 25 billion worth of assets, including houses, cars, and other properties. The agency has also frozen Rs. 5 billion in bank accounts and recovered one billion rupees in cash.

The NAB has indicated that further arrests may be made in connection with the scandal. However, PTI leader, Azam Swati and Jibrani, have obtained relief from the Peshawar High Court, which has directed them to join the NAB investigation and restrained the agency from arresting them.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff, Royal Saudi Naval Forces, Vice Admiral Mohammed Bin Abdulrahman Al Ghuraybi called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf at Naval Headquarters.

## We aim to equip

(Continued from Page 1)

**Shehbaz visits Safe City Command, Control Center; gets briefing:** Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif visited Islamabad Safe City Capital Command and Control Center, where he was briefed by Inspector General Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi about the functioning of various sections.

The IG Police said that under the launch of 'Police Station on Wheels', they were providing various online facilities, including issuance of driving licenses, to the dwellers of the Capital city. He said the Command and Control Center was serving as nerve center with the assistance of security cameras and AI enabled software to control crimes and ensure security.

The prime minister, accompanied by ministers

and relevant authorities, visited various sections and inquired about certain facilities like taxi verification, women's help counter, registration of FIR, vehicles licenses and others. On the occasion, he also appreciated the personnel deputed on specific tasks.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also condoling the loss of lives and property in rain and flood-related incidents in different areas, directed the authorities concerned to accelerate the rescue operation in the affected areas.

He also expressed grief over an incident of a car being swept away carrying a man and his daughter in floodwater in a housing society in Islamabad, and directed that all possible measures should be taken for their rescue. The prime minister, in a statement, instructed the provision of

urgent medical aid to those injured in such incidents.

He ordered the National Disaster Management Authority to ensure constant coordination with the provincial governments and relevant departments for their facilitation. He stated that immediate relief should be provided to the affected people and that all necessary preparations should be made in advance to deal with any untoward situation in the coming days.

Prime Minister Shehbaz also instructed the National Highway Authority and Frontier Works Organisation to expedite the restoration work of highways and link roads affected by floods. He prayed to Allah Almighty for peace for those who lost their lives in floods and other related incidents and expressed sympathies for the bereaved families.