

Terrorist attack foiled
F.P. Report
BANNU: A terrorist attack bid was foiled by police in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Nurur area in Bannu district. Bannu District Police Officer Saleem Abbas Kulachi told, "A terrorist group was attempting to plant an improvised explosive device in the Nurur area." Upon receiving timely information, police and security forces took immediate action and surrounded the area, he added.

Jaffar Express derailed
F.P. Report
QUETTA: Four bogies of the Jaffar Express, heading from Quetta to Peshawar, derailed near Jacobabad on Monday; fortunately, no lives were lost in the incident. Soon after hearing about the incident, rescue teams rushed to the site. Around a month ago, Quetta-bound Jaffar Express had derailed near Margalla tunnel in Taxila, causing the suspension of railway traffic between Rawalpindi and Peshawar.

Failure of ‘Operation Sindoor’ India launches ‘Operation Mahadev’

ISLAMABAD (APP): India has launched a covert military campaign titled Operation Mahadev, aimed at masking the setbacks of its earlier offensive, Operation Sindoor, and restoring domestic political credibility.

According to security sources, the operation reportedly involves staging fake encounters using Pakistani nationals held in unlawful detention across Indian prisons. These individuals, sources warn, may be posthumously labeled as “cross-border terrorists” to fabricate a narrative of counter-terror success. The plan reportedly involves staging fake encounters using innocent Pakistani nationals held in illegal Indian detention, security sources have revealed.

The objective of Operation Mahadev is not only to crush the growing freedom movement in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) but also to restore the government’s political credibility within the country. India is framing Mahadev as a triumph to overwrite the sting of Sindoor’s failure. According to security sources, the Indian Army initiated a series of staged encounters immediately following the Pahalgam false flag operation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). Prior to these incidents, on April 24, two citizens of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, identified as Muhammad Farooq and Muhammad Din, were reportedly martyred in a cross-border encounter after mistakenly entering Indian territory. Intelligence sources suggest that individuals currently held in various prisons face the threat of extrajudicial killings, with their deaths potentially being misrepresented posthumously as acts of “cross-border terrorism” by Pakistan.

Security officials have expressed concern that the list of 723 Pakistani nationals, previously disclosed by the Director General of ISPR during press briefings on April 29 and 30—concerning illegal detentions across Indian prisons—could be exploited to fabricate cross-border narratives. Beyond recent developments, 56 Pakistani citizens remain in unlawful custody of Indian intelligence agencies, as revealed by the Director General ISPR during press briefings on April 29 and 30.

Security sources warn that, following staged encounters, Indian media may be presented with pre-recorded footage, doctored images of the deceased, and planted weapons—all aimed at bolstering a fabricated narrative of “cross-border terrorism.” Amid escalating concerns over recent incidents, security sources have flagged the illegal detention of 56 Pakistani nationals by Indian intelligence agencies. Their details were publicly disclosed by the Director General of ISPR during press briefings on April 29 and 30.

According to security sources, following alleged fake encounters, Indian media may be supplied with pre-recorded videos, staged photographs, and planted weapons to support official narratives and misrepresent the victims as “cross-border terrorists.” According to confirmed reports, Pakistani individuals held in Indian custody risk being presented to the media as “living terrorists,” coerced into issuing anti-Pakistan statements and confessions.

Security sources feared that these detainees may be used arbitrarily to promote propaganda or justify aggressive actions against Pakistan. The Indian army, long accused of orchestrating fake encounters in Occupied Kashmir, is believed to be continuing this pattern under what is reportedly dubbed “Operation Mahadev.” This follows earlier setbacks in efforts such as the alleged false flag in Pahalgam and the failed “Operation Sindoor,” which sources describe as having left Indian authorities visibly unsettled.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairing a weekly review meeting on cashless and digital economy.

Saif says KP govt actively responding to Tirah incident

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Advisor to the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Information and Public Relations, Barrister Dr. Muhammad Ali Saif, has stated that Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur is personally overseeing the situation following the Tirah incident. The Chief Minister is in constant contact with the concerned administrative authorities and has also summoned a tribal jirga to Peshawar, where tribal elders will be heard and consulted.

Dr. Saif highlighted that the provincial government had convened an All Parties Conference last week to prevent such incidents in the future. However, he regretted that opposition parties, including Faisal Karim Kundi, displayed a lack of seriousness by boycotting the conference.

He expressed deep sorrow over the incident and announced that the provincial government will provide financial assistance of Rs. 10 million for the families of those who lost their lives and Rs. 2.5 million for the injured. The Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa stands in full solidarity with the affected families during this difficult time and remains committed to supporting them in every possible way.

PTI Central Secretary Information Sheikh Waqas Akram, in a statement on Monday, extended heartfelt condolences and solidarity to the families of the victims and prayed for the swift recovery of the injured of Tirah Valley.

“The party demands an immediate and impartial inquiry into the horrifying Tirah incident and calls for those responsible to be held accountable, as only through justice, transparency and democratic engagement can Pakistan move toward peace, stability and progress,” he added. He made it clear that the use of live ammunition against unarmed civilians without any prior warning or attempt at dialogue was not only unjustifiable but a blatant violation of basic human rights and democratic principles.

Meanwhile, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) categorically rejected statement made by Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar during his recent visit to the United States, where he outrageously drew a parallel between the unlawful incarceration of PTI founder Imran Khan and the unjust detention of Dr. Aafia Siddiqui.

Digital Transformation Plan PM for effective implementation

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday directed the federal government to hold meaningful consultations with provincial governments for effective and comprehensive implementation of the Digital Transformation Plan.

Chairing a weekly review meeting on Cashless and Digital Economy here, the prime minister said digitalization of the economy will help promote transparency. The core objective of the Federal Government's Digital Transformation Plan is to provide ease and convenience to the public without any additional cost, he said adding that the government was encouraging digital payments and digital transfer of funds through policy measures.

All provincial governments, including Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir, should fully cooperate with the federal government regarding the digitalization of the economy and cashless economy, the prime minister stressed adding that with the cooperation of provincial governments and institutions, the federal government's Digital Transformation Plan should be further streamlined to ensure targets are achieved within the set timelines.

Meaningful consultation with all stakeholders should be made a permanent feature of this plan, the prime minister added. During the meeting, the prime minister was told that the National Digital Commission and the Pakistan Digital Authority had been established, and the necessary rules have been formulated.

The appointment process of the Chairperson and Members of the Pakistan Digital Authority is in its final stages. Furthermore, it was informed that the Merchant Onboarding Framework for digital services was launched on July 25, 2025. The meeting was attended by Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb, Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima, Minister of State for Finance and Railways Bilal Azhar Kayani, Chief Secretaries of all four provinces, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Chief Commissioner of Islamabad Capital Territory, and other senior government officials.

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Pakistan, US top diplomats discuss tariffs

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the United States continued talks on tariffs on Monday, as Islamabad pushes to secure a deal ahead of the August deadline.

Following up on their productive meeting last Friday in Washington DC, the FO said that they discussed key bilateral matters, including tariffs, as well as regional and global issues of mutual interest. The tariffs, initially set to take effect this month, have been temporarily deferred until August, allowing a brief window for high-stakes negotiations. The United States remains Pakistan's largest export market, accounting for around \$5 billion in trade.

Meanwhile, in a statement, the finance ministry said that Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb has departed for the United States to finalise Pakistan-US trade negotiations. During the visit, conclusive discussions will be held on the Pakistan-US Trade Dialogue, aimed at forming a trade agreement that would benefit the economies of both countries.

"Strong trade and economic ties remain a key pillar of Pakistan-US bilateral relations. The United States is Pakistan's largest trading partner, and Islamabad is keen to expand these relations into both traditional and non-traditional sectors." "There is significant potential for cooperation between the two countries in key sectors such as information technology, minerals, and agriculture," the statement mentioned.

Islamabad had initially expected to conclude the deal by early July, but the pace of talks has been slower than anticipated. Pakistan also offered to increase imports of American cotton and soybeans, while emphasising that the US remains its largest export market. Notably, Pakistan is the second-largest buyer of US cotton in South Asia after China. — Agencies

Chaos in Punjab PA as lawmakers trade blows

F.P. Report

LAHORE: The Punjab Assembly descended into chaos on Monday when a heated exchange between treasury and opposition benches turned physical, leading to lawmakers slapping each other in the middle of the session.

The scuffle broke out when government MPA Hassan Riaz interrupted a speech being delivered by a deputy opposition member. Opposition MPA Khalid Nisar Dogar lost his cool and slapped Hassan Riaz during the session, causing a sudden uproar in the House.

Things quickly got out of hand as more lawmakers jumped into the fray. Acting Speaker Malik Zaheer Iqbal Channar tried to restore order but eventually had to call off the session for five minutes due to the ongoing brawl.

Sources said the physical altercation began after some name-calling and taunting between Hassan Riaz and opposition member Khalid Zubair Nisar. Provincial Minister Zeeshan Rafiq also waded into the fight, making matters worse. Despite repeated warnings from the acting Speaker, members continued to lash out at one another. What began as a single slap soon turned into a free-for-all, with both sides exchanging a flurry of slaps.

Speaking to reporters following the fracas, Riaz called it “a dark day.” “I was addressing the speaker, but an opposition lawmaker was hurling insults at me,” he said. “When I saw him, he came and attacked me. These people have no control over themselves; they’ve been the same since May 9 [riots in 2023].” Another altercation later erupted in the assembly’s press hall, where a government MPA’s staff members reportedly hurled insults at opposition lawmakers. As a result, opposition MPAs Sardar Mohammad Ali Khan and Muhammad Ejaz Shafi also hurled abuse as both sides came face-to-face again. However, security personnel arrived at the press hall and separated both groups of lawmakers.

Video footage recorded in the press hall shows Khan and Shafi claiming that two people came and hurled abuse at their fellow lawmakers before leaving the press hall. “They insulted our MPA,” Khan emphasised. “You all witnessed that two miscreants abused an honourable member. If you do not raise your voice, this will happen to you too.” This is not the first time that unruly behaviour has been seen in the Punjab Assembly.

KP govt committed delivery of public services

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Under the leadership of Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has achieved another milestone in the realm of digital governance. In a major step towards making official processes paperless, the provincial government has transitioned to an e-summary system for summaries requiring the Chief Minister's approval.

Chief Minister Gandapur formally signed the province's first ever official e-summary, which was submitted to him through an online system. His digital signature marked the launch of this new initiative.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that the rollout of the e-summary system is a key advancement toward making office procedures and file work paperless. He announced that the next phase will include the launch of a digital note part, and the digitization of official letters, notifications, and orders is also underway.



Similarly, working papers and related documents for provincial cabinet meetings are being shifted to the e-system.

He noted that under the Digital Governance Roadmap, concrete steps are being taken to implement this vision, and several public services have already been digitized. He reaffirmed his commitment to transforming the province into a “Digital Khyber Pakhtunkhwa” in line with the vision of Imran Khan.

“This initiative will not only save time but also curb resource wastage, improve departmental efficiency, ensure transparency in official matters, and eliminate bureaucratic delays,” he said. Ali Amin Gandapur emphasized that the current provincial government is committed to digitizing not only administrative affairs but also the delivery of public services.

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Starvation in Gaza: Guterres slams hunger ‘as a weapon of war’

UNITED NATIONS (APP): As starvation worsens in war-torn Gaza, UN agencies repeated warnings on Monday that Israel’s decision to support a “one-week scale-up” of aid is far from enough to reverse deadly malnutrition rates in the enclave. The development comes as UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres cautioned that conflict-driven hunger is spreading “from Gaza to Sudan and beyond”.

“Hunger fuels instability and undermines peace. We must never accept hunger as a weapon of war,” he said in a video message to the UN Food Systems Summit Stocktake in Addis Ababa. Meanwhile, citing reports Monday that “more children

died today of hunger”, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, said that it hoped to receive permission to bring in thousands of trucks loaded with food, medicine and hygiene supplies that Israel has blocked from entering Gaza for months.

“They are currently in Jordan and Egypt waiting for the green light,” the UN agency explained, adding that “at least 500/600 trucks” are needed every day to prevent more people from starving. More than 100 people have now starved to death in Gaza, UNRWA said, while local health authority reports indicate more than 40 deaths from malnutrition this month alone. “Opening all the cross-

ings and flooding Gaza with assistance is the only way to avert further deepening of starvation among the people of Gaza,” the UN agency maintained.

Its comments follow a major policy shift over the weekend when the Israeli army announced the establishment of a daily humanitarian pause from 10am to 8pm local time, in areas where its troops are not active. Child malnutrition has been on the rise in Gaza, particularly since 2 March when Israel imposed a near-total blockade, UNWRA has said. According to a map supplied by the Israeli authorities, the humanitarian pause applies to a thin strip of Gaza encompassing Al-Mawasi in the

southwest, Deir Al-Balah in the centre and Gaza City in the north.

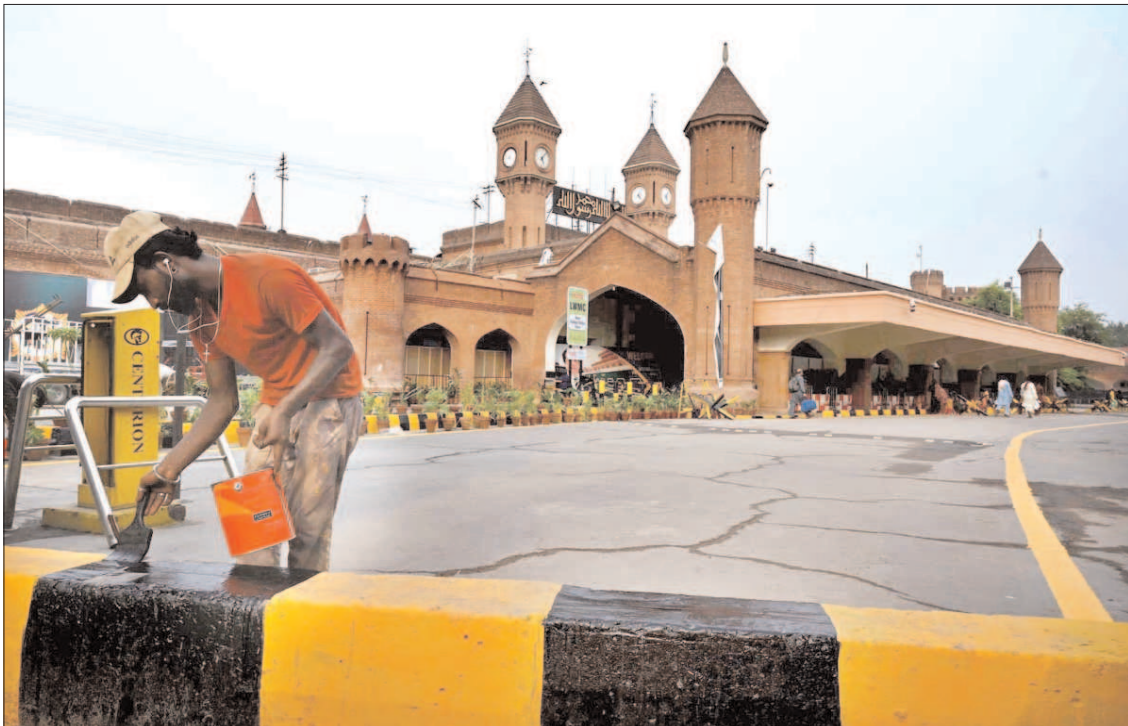
On Sunday, a convoy of more than 100 trucks carrying aid supplies reportedly entered the Strip via the Kerem Shalom border crossing in the south. While welcoming that development, the UN aid coordination office, OCHA, highlighted the staggering scale of needs on the ground in Gaza. One in three people “hasn’t eaten for days”, insisted Tom Fletcher, UN Emergency Relief Chief and head of OCHA. “People are being shot just trying to get food to feed their families. Children are wasting away. This is what we face on the ground right now.”

In his statement, Fletcher acknowledged “progress” on the aid front, but

stressed that “vast amounts of aid are needed to stave off famine and a catastrophic health crisis”. He said that UN agencies and the humanitarian community remain mobilized “to save as many lives as we can”. In addition to Israel’s temporary boost for increased aid in Gaza, customs restrictions on food, medicine and fuel from Egypt have reportedly been lifted. Secure routes for UN humanitarian convoys have also been designated.

“We need sustained action, and fast, including quicker clearances for convoys going to the crossing and dispatching into Gaza,” Mr. Fletcher said, underscoring the need for “multiple trips per day to the crossings so we and our partners can pick up the

cargo; safe routes that avoid crowded areas; and no more attacks on people gathering for food”. Meanwhile in New York, France and Saudi Arabia on Monday launched a new diplomatic initiative to push for a two-State solution between Israel and the Palestinian people. The three-day conference began as President Emmanuel Macron announced that France will formally recognize Palestine in September, the first of the G7 nations to do so. A UN General Assembly resolution from 1947 established the partition of Palestine – then under British mandate – into two independent states, one Jewish and the other Arab. The State of Israel was declared in 1948.



LAHORE: Labourers busy painting on footpath during the maintenance and upgradation work at Lahore Railway station in the Provincial Capital. —APP Photo

Girl reunited with parents

LAHORE (APP): An 11-year-old girl, abducted from Lahore's Kahna area, was successfully recovered from Karachi through the coordinated efforts of the Safe Cities Authority, Lahore Police and Sindh Police.

According to a spokesperson for the Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA), the child, identified as Aayat, went missing while playing outside her residence. Upon her disappearance, the parents immediately contacted the emergency helpline 15 to report the incident.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the suspected abductor had taken the girl on-board a train bound for Karachi. During the journey, the abductor allegedly abandoned the child, who later found herself alone when she regained full consciousness.

The girl contacted authorities using a mobile phone borrowed from a fellow passenger at Rohri Railway Station, informing them of her location. Upon receiving the alert, the Virtual Center for Child Safety at PSCA immediately coordinated with the Railway Police to ensure the child's protection.

Railway Police took custody of the girl at Rohri and later transferred her to Karachi Cantt Police Station. The child's father, accompanied by an investigation officer, travelled to Karachi to retrieve her.

The child was safely reunited with her parents following the joint efforts of the PSCA, Lahore Police, and Sindh Police, the spokesperson confirmed. Citizens are urged to report any information regarding missing or unidentified persons by calling the emergency helpline 15, the spokesperson added.

Two killed in Karachi firing

KARACHI (APP): Two persons were killed in a firing incident that occurred near Old Landi area of Karachi, tv channels quoting Rescue sources reported on Monday. According to initial reports, unknown motorcyclist opened fire and killed a man standing on a shop located at old Landi area of Karachi. Another person was also killed in the same firing incident. The Rescue team rushed to the site and shifted the bodies to hospital.

CM invites private sector to join Independence Day festivities

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presided over an important meeting regarding the Independence Day celebrations and the "Maarka Haq" (Battle for Justice) events.

The meeting, held at CM House, was attended by presidents and CEOs of different banks, leading industrialists, and representatives of the business community.

Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon, Minister for Local Government Saeed Ghani, Minister for Industries Jam Ikram Dharejo, Chief Secretary Asif Haider Shah, Secretary to the Chief Minister Rahim Sheikh, Commissioner Karachi Hasan Naqvi, and other officials also participated.

The CM stated that this year's Independence Day would be celebrated in a manner befitting the theme of "Maarka Haq." He urged all bankers and prominent industrialists across the country to play their part in the celebrations.

According to the Chief

Minister, government, semi-government, and private buildings will be illuminated with decorative lighting during the festivities. Rallies, parades, sports activities, events at educational institutions, talk shows, and programs in malls will be organised.

Some of the programs and their schedule are as follows:

- The Department of Culture will hold a public concert and fireworks show at the National Stadium on August 13. Cultural rallies will be taken out on August 13 at Sea View and Shahrah-e-Faisal. The Captain Sailor Shaheed Sports Gala will be organised by the Department of Sports at Gulistan-e-Johar on August 13.
- K a r a c h i Metropolitan Corporation will arrange a concert and fireworks display at Jahangir Kothari, for which date will be announced shortly.
- The Sports Department will hold a marathon at Nishan Pakistan and Do Darya on August 10. On the same day, the Sports Department

will organise a donkey cart race at Sea View.

- The Department of Fisheries will conduct a boat race at the port and Kemari on August 9.
- A Women's Bike Rally will be held by the Department of Culture on August 13, from the city to the Chaukhandi cemetery.
- On August 3, the Sports Department will host a cycle race from the Fairview Hall to Mazar-e-Quaid.
- The Department of Culture will organise a musical and cultural show at Hyderabad Club on August 8. A musical/cultural concert will also take place at the Sukkur Municipal Stadium on August 8.

Bankers and industrialists will hold a meeting with a committee of ministers led by Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon. During the meeting, industrialists and bankers will finalise the Independence Day programs.

All bankers and industrialists assured Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah of their full support for the Independence Day celebrations.

Peshawar Millennium School achieves academic success

F.P. Report

CHARSADDA: Peshawar Millennium School Charsadda has achieved remarkable academic success in its first Matric annual examination results, securing prominent positions both at the district and board levels. According to details, the talented student Abeer Naveed secured 1169 marks, placing her in the Top 10 of the Peshawar Board and earning her the first position in Charsadda District.

Similarly, students Anab Waheed scored 1164 marks, while Raital and Abdullah Jan both secured 1161 marks, placing them in the Top 20 of Peshawar Board.

The school's overall

performance remained commendable, with 249 out of 254 students of 10th grade obtaining A1 grades, while five students secured A grades. In 9th grade, the school also demonstrated excellent results. Student Shumaim Ali achieved 587 marks, earning a prominent position both at the board and district levels. Additionally, 252 out of 263 students in 9th grade secured A1 grades, while six students obtained A grades.

Director Khawaja Shiraz Nasir and Principal Nusrat Nazir of Peshawar Millennium School Charsadda attributed this success to the high-quality education provided by the school. They stated that students are being

educated according to the demands of modern times and that the remarkable performance is a result of the tireless efforts of the dedicated teaching staff.

They added that the school not only excels in academic education but also plays a vital role in extracurricular activities. Students from the school have secured top positions at the national level in speech competitions and have been taken on study visits to national and provincial assemblies, where they also had the opportunity to meet assembly members.

The school administration reaffirmed their commitment to continue guiding students through modern education and holistic development in the future.

KP facing security crisis: Governor

ISLAMABAD (APP): Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, on Monday expressed serious concerns over the province's worsening law and order situation. Talking to a private news channel, he said that particularly in southern districts like D.I. Khan, Bannu, and Lakki Marwat, the situation is more critical.

He blamed both federal and provincial governments for lacking coordination and urgency regarding the matter. He questioned the KP government's seriousness in equipping the police and handling militancy, citing inadequate resources despite receiving significant NFC funds.

Kundi also criticized the over-reliance on the military in civilian matters and called for better-trained, well-equipped police forces. He emphasized that without a unified policy and border control, counterterrorism efforts will remain ineffective.

Metro guard dies after being hit by bus

ISLAMABAD (APP): A young security guard and soon-to-be father, who had reportedly been working three consecutive shifts, died after being run over by a Metro Bus at Shaheed-e-Millat Station.

An official told APP on Monday that the deceased, identified as Muhammad Waseem, a resident of Abbottabad, was deployed at the station as part of routine Metro Bus security. He was fatally struck by a bus during operational hours and died on the spot. His body was shifted to PIMS Hospital for medico-legal procedures.

The official said Waseem had been working without a break for three days, intending to accumulate time off for the upcoming birth of his child. His wife was pregnant, and he had planned to take leave soon to be with her during delivery and postnatal recovery.

He said CCTV footage is being reviewed and an investigation has been initiated to determine the circumstances leading to the incident. Statements from witnesses and staff are being collected. The Metro Bus administration expressed condolences to the bereaved family and assured that operational safety protocols would be reassessed to avoid similar incidents in the future.

World Hepatitis Day observed

LAHORE (APP): World Hepatitis Day was observed in Pakistan on Monday, alongside the global observance. The theme for this year is "Hepatitis: Let's Break It Down", focusing on addressing barriers to hepatitis elimination and liver cancer prevention. Pakistan will be actively participating in raising awareness about viral hepatitis and promoting efforts to combat the disease.

World Hepatitis Day is observed annually on July 28th to raise awareness about viral hepatitis and its impact on public health, with a focus on prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. In Pakistan, this day is particularly significant due to the high prevalence of Hepatitis C, with an estimated 11.55 percent of the adult population infected. The day serves as a call to action to address the challenges and barriers to eliminating viral hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030, as per the World Health Organization's (WHO) global hepatitis strategy.

Noted expert Dr. Usman Javed told APP that to prevent the spread of Hepatitis C, individuals should avoid behaviors that can transmit the virus, such as sharing needles or other drug equipment, and practice safe physical link. Healthcare workers should follow standard precautions when handling blood or body fluids. In addition, individuals with Hepatitis C should inform their partners and healthcare providers about their status. He advised Hepatitis C patients to inform their doctor, dentist, and other healthcare providers about their Hepatitis C status so they can take necessary precautions.

Ahsan Emphasizes the Transformative Power of Education



F.P. Report

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, paid a visit to his alma mater, FG Public School Karachi Cantt, where he addressed students and the faculty members.

Ahsan Iqbal said that his understanding of public policy and current affairs were deeply rooted in the values and education imparted by the school. "This institution laid the foundation of my public service journey. It didn't just teach me subjects, it shaped my character and worldview," he said. He also recalled the teachers who inspired and guided him, attributing much of his professional success to their mentorship.

The Federal Minister emphasized that a school was much more than a physical structure; it is a crucible where the future of a nation is shaped. "Education is not confined to books and exams. It is the sacred duty of teachers to nurture students with moral

values, confidence, creativity, and a strong sense of responsibility," he said.

Mr. Iqbal highlighted the critical role of education in nation-building, declaring it the most powerful weapon for progress and prosperity. "I come from a highly educated family. Education made me who I am today. It is the ladder through which families climb the socio-economic ladder and nations rise in stature," he added.

Referring to the plight of humanitarian crisis in Gaza, Minister Ahsan Iqbal urged students to be thankful for the peace and freedom Pakistan offers. "We must recognize the sacrifices of our forefathers. Operation Bunyan Al-Marsous has shown our enemies that Pakistan would not be subdued. "From having no capacity to produce even bicycles at the time of independence, we are now manufacturing fighter jets like the JF-17 Thunder and launching satellites," he proudly stated.

Underscoring the importance of consistency in leadership both in institu-

tions and government, Mr. Iqbal warned that frequent changes hinder progress. "A school cannot progress if its principal is frequently replaced. Similarly, nations suffer when governments lack stability," he said.

He called on educators to move beyond rote learning and promote critical thinking, innovation, collaboration, and problem-solving skills. "The future belongs to brainpower, not muscle. We must prepare our students for the challenges of the 21st century," he urged.

In conclusion, Mr. Ahsan Iqbal reaffirmed the government's commitment to putting Pakistan on the path of sustained progress. "When our beloved country celebrates its 100th year of independence, it should be among the world's leading nations not only in defense but on the economic front as well."

Following his address, the Principal of FG Public School Karachi Cantt presented a commemorative memento to the Federal Minister in appreciation of his visit and inspirational words.

Smog mitigation case: LHC seeks report on Yellow Train project

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Monday sought a detailed report from the Punjab government regarding the Yellow Train project in connection with a case on smog mitigation efforts.

The court directed the Advocate General Punjab to submit a comprehensive report on the Yellow Train project and ordered him to appear in person at the next hearing. The Director General of WASA was also summoned to personally provide updates on ongoing construction works.

Justice Shahid Karim heard multiple petitions filed by Haroon Farooq and others against ineffective measures to control smog.

During proceedings, the court ordered the restoration of service roads along Jail Road, Mall Road, and

MM Alam Road within one month. The Traffic Engineering & Planning Agency (TEPA) was instructed to complete repair work within the stipulated timeframe.

WASA's legal representative claimed that the agency's tasks had been completed and that road reconstruction now fell under the jurisdiction of TEPA and the Lahore Development Authority (LDA). However, a member of the Judicial Water and Environmental Commission contradicted the claim, stating that WASA's work remained incomplete and was still in progress.

The court also directed the Environment Department to submit a plan addressing heavy traffic and motorcycle emissions. The court questioned the effectiveness of the traf-

fic monitoring force, asking what practical measures were being implemented.

Inquiries were also made regarding the usage of e-bikes distributed under the government's initiative. The court asked whether the bikes were actually in use or simply parked at homes.

The Environment Department's counsel responded that a policy was being finalized and would soon be shared with both the Commission and the court.

Commenting on public transport projects, the court expressed hope that the government would handle the Canal Road project with greater sensitivity. The court ordered WASA to complete all ongoing construction works by Friday, warning of legal action in case of non-compliance. The hearing was adjourned until August 1.

Sector 1-10 residents continue to face water shortage

ISLAMABAD (INP): Despite the ongoing monsoon rains that have filled Islamabad's major water reservoirs including Rawal, Simly, and Khanpur dams but despite of this residents across several sectors of the Federal Capital continue to face an acute shortage of potable water. The regular water supply of many streets of 1-10/1 sector have suspended without any sold reason.

Residents of sectors 1-10/1, G-6, and G-7 have voiced frustration over the persistent water crisis, saying the authorities have failed to address their genuine concerns despite repeated complaints. The situation has left many households struggling to meet daily water needs in the midst of the sweltering summer.

During a recent survey, residents alleged that a powerful water tanker mafia is gaining ground in the capital, taking advantage of the government's failure to ensure regular supply. As a result, citizens are being forced to spend

millions daily on private tankers. According to an estimate, residents are collectively paying approximately Rs3.7 million per day to secure water from private suppliers.

S a i f - u r - R e h m a n Minhas, a resident of Sector 1-10, said, "Irregular and inadequate water supply has severely disrupted the lives of thousands of families. We pay our water bills regularly, yet no supply is ensured." Another

resident, Asif Minhas, added, "We cannot afford to purchase expensive tanker water every day, but we're left with no other choice."

Housewife Nadia from the same locality shared her ordeal: "We haven't received any water for the past three months. Despite registering several complaints, the issue remains unresolved. This crisis has made our lives miserable in this scorching heat."

PU awards 10 PhD degrees

LAHORE (APP): Punjab University (PU) has awarded PhD degrees to ten scholars in various disciplines after the successful completion of their research work and fulfillment of all academic requirements. According to the spokesperson, the students who have been awarded PhD degrees include Fahad Riaz son of Riaz Ahmed in Metallurgy & Materials Engineering, Afifa Sadaqat daughter of Sadaqat Hussain in Physics, Fareeha Fatima daughter of Tayyab Hussain in Molecular Biology, Shahzad Kamran son of Abdul Majeed in Pharmacy (Pharmacology), Muzzammal Ahmed Muzzafar son of Muzzafar Ahmed in Agricultural Sciences (Food Science & Technology), Neelam Fatima daughter of Farooq Ahmad in Molecular Biology, Nadeem Ahmad son of Nusrat Ahmad in Space Science (Remote Sensing & GIS), Farooq Bashir son of Bashir Ahmad Butt in Pharmacy, Samina Yousaf daughter of Muhammad Yousaf in Botany, and Hafiz Muhammad Awais Sarwar son of Muhammad Sarwar in Zoology.

Solution of Kashmir issue vital for peace in South Asia: Qasim

LAHORE (APP): Kashmir Committee Chairman Rana Muhammad Qasim Noon has said that Pakistan will never compromise on its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Addressing a press conference here at the Press Information Department on Monday, he said that Pakistan had always supported Kashmiri people and Kashmir cause diplomatically, politically and morally.

He said, "It has become a habit of the Modi govern-

ment to conduct false flag operations and then show aggression. Today we once again strongly condemn the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A by the Modi government on August 5, 2019."

He condemned the Pulwama incident, abrogation of Article 370 and 35A, Indian aggression and demographic changes in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K), cultural, civilizational and religious aggression, atrocities by the Indian army, human rights violation and detaining Hurriyat leadership in far-flung areas. He said, "We urge the international community that the Kashmir issue has never been a bilateral, internal or regional issue but it is an international issue as per the first resolution of United Nations Security Council and UN charter."

He said if the Kashmir conflict was not resolved,

there would be no peace and stability in South Asia. Rana Muhammad Qasim Noon said that the Indian government should set free the Illegally detained Hurriyat Conference leadership. He said that Syed Shabir Shah's life was in danger and he should be provided with basic health facilities. Similarly there are many other leaders in jail, including Yasin Malik, Musarrat Alam Bhat and Dr Qasim Fakto, he added.

He said, "After the Pahalgam false flag operation, Pakistan's Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and military leadership said it loud and clear that there should be an international investigation into the incident. Pakistan as a state condemned the incident but India carried out unprovoked strikes on Pakistan, targeting civilians in which women and children were martyred. Pakistan gave a befitting

response to the Indian aggression and the arrogance of the Modi government was deflated."

He said that ceasefire was never a permanent solution, adding that resolution of the Kashmir issue was a permanent solution for which a meaningful and comprehensive dialogue was imperative. He appealed to the international community and leadership to play their role in solving the Kashmir dispute, Indus Waters Treaty and stopping Indian sponsored terrorism.

He said that Balochistan was bleeding and Indian was involved in destroying peace there. "Pakistan has made a lot of sacrifices and faced billion of dollars loss in the war on terror. We salute Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and Pakistan armed forces for inflicting a crushing defeat on Indian," he added.

Name Correction

My name is Izza Tariq Afridi daughter of Muhammad Tariq. However, in my documents, name of my father is written as Muhammad Tariq Afridi. It is therefore, requested that my father's name shall be written as Muhammad Tariq.

BISEP announces Matric, 9th grade annual exam results 2025

PESHAWAR (APP): The Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) Peshawar has officially announced the results for the 2025 annual examinations of 9th and 10th grades.

According to official documents, a total of 91,589 students appeared in the Matric (10th grade) exams. Of these, 76,484 students passed, while 14,530 failed, resulting in an overall pass percentage of 83.5 percentage.

In the 9th grade examinations, 101,888 students participated. Among them, 61,753 passed, while 38,907 students failed in one or more subjects. Despite the failures, the overall result for 9th grade was recorded at 98.8 percentage, and according to the data also shows that 31,722 female students appeared in the Group, Fatima Jugnoo of Peshawar Model School (Girls Branch-2) secured the top position with 1180 marks.

Her schoolmate Sarah Imran clinched the second position with 1178 marks, while Shumaila earned the third position with 1176 marks. Aina Shoaib, from Peshawar Model School Girls Branch on Dalazak Road, also secured third position with 1176 marks, sharing the spot with Shumaila.

The Peshawar Board commended all students, teachers, and institutions for their efforts and announced that detailed result cards are available through official channels.

Zabihullah Khalil shines in 9th class result

F.P. Report



PESHAWAR: Zabihullah Khalil, a student of Peshawar Model School, Hayatabad Campus, has secured 543 marks in 9th Class out of 600 in the Annual Examination announced by Peshawar Board on Monday.

He attributed his success to the dedicated teachers, parents prayers and guidance and hardwork.

the board documents, 10th-grade students who failed have been promoted to the next class.

Matric exams, while 35,017 girls sat for the 9th-grade exams.

In the Matric Science



PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Science and Information Technology, Dr. Shafqat Ayaz addressing a special event at Institute of Management Sciences.

PHC suspends ECP notice to Opposition leader Umar Ayub

Seeks response from Federal govt on Shibli Faraz plea

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court (PHC) has suspended the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) notice to Opposition Leader at National Assembly Umar Ayub in response and stopped proceedings in declaration of assets. PHC two-member bench comprising Justice Ijaz Anwar and Justice Dr. Khurshid Iqbal heard the petition, on Monday.

During the hearing, the petitioner's counsel, Bashir Khan Wazir Advocate and the Additional Attorney General appeared in court.

The counsel informed the court that the ECP had issued a show-cause notice to the petitioner for not declaring assets, despite the petitioner having submitted the required details within the stipulated 120 days.

The Additional Attorney General, Sanaullah, informed the court that the case pending in Abbottabad was different from the current case.

Justice Ijaz Anwar remarked that the case could either be transferred to Abbottabad or the Abbottabad case could be brought to PHC Principal Bench at Peshawar. PHC stopped the ECP from taking actions against Umar Ayub and adjourned the hearing.

After the hearing, Umar Ayub told the media that the country was facing unprecedented inflation, sugar hoarding, and daily increases in sugar and petrol prices. He alleged that the Sharif family and the Zardari's mills were involved in these practices and that they had made billions of rupees through these scandals.

The opposition leader announced that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf would hold a protest on August 5 and that preparations for the protest were complete.

He stated that some opposition parties would also join them in the protest and that the details of the protest would be announced in a day or two.

Umar Ayub expressed concern over the treatment of the PTI founder and his spouse in jail, stating that they were being subjected to harsh treatment and were not allowed to meet anyone.

Umar Ayub condemned the incident in Khyber District's Tirah area, where firing on unarmed people had taken place, and demanded an inquiry into the incident.

He demanded that the Federal Minister for Interior, Mohsin Naqvi, account for the Rs. 450 billion spent on wheat imports during the caretaker government.

He also demanded that Rana Sanaullah apologize to the DG ANF for the case against him before making any statements.

PHC sought response from Fed govt till 31st July on Shibli Faraz plea

The Peshawar High Court (PHC) has issued a notice to the federal government and other relevant authorities in response to a petition filed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader and Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, Shibli Faraz, challenging the ban on his foreign travel.

PHC two-member bench comprising Justice Ijaz Anwar and Justice Dr. Khurshid Iqbal heard the case, on Monday.

During the hearing, the counsel, Bashir Khan Wazir, informed the court that the petitioner is suffering from a heart disease and was undergoing treatment in a hospital.

He stated that Shibli Faraz had suffered a heart attack the previous day and was unable to appear in court.

He wanted to travel abroad for medical treatment, but the government had placed his name on the Exit Control List (ECL), preventing him from doing so.

PHC had sought responses from the parties during the previous hearing, but the reports had not been submitted yet. The court has now issued a fresh notice to the parties, seeking their responses by July 31.

PDA requests secy health for revision on professional allowance

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Provincial Doctors Association (PDA) president Dr. Amir Taj Khan written an open letter to Secretary Health for Revision of Health Professional Allowance for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Doctors.

The letter stated that I would like to bring to your attention that in the 2025-26 budget, the Executive Allowance for KP bureaucracy has been revised to 120% of running basic pay, aiming to maintain parity with the federal and Punjab governments.

However, KP doctors have been deprived of Dearness Relief Allowances (DRAs) since 2019, citing the Health Professional Allowance (HPA) as the reason.

Notably, the current HPA for doctors in KP is not 100% of basic pay, except in Chitral and Waziristan. Considering the arduous nature of the health profession and associated risks, I request that a summary/Office Memorandum be moved through the Finance Department to revise doctors' HPA to 120% of running basic pay, ensuring budgetary equity and boosting the morale of health workers serving in high-risk environments.

Chaunsa mango: The king of mangoes attracts fruit lovers

PESHAWAR (APP): As the blistering summer sun scorches Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, one fruit has captured the hearts and tastebuds of residents across the province ie the luscious and golden Chaunsa mango.

Zakir Ali, 55, a fruit vendor in Pabbi Bazaar, Nowshera, can hardly hide his joy. Standing behind a makeshift fruit stall under a blue tarpaulin, he beams with satisfaction.

"I brought 50 kilograms of Chaunsa mangoes from the Chamkani fruit market and sold them all by Sunday evening," he says with a proud grin.

Known for its unparalleled sweetness and creamy, fiber-free pulp, the Chaunsa mango often called the "King of Mangoes" is experiencing a surge in demand across the region. "People specifically ask for mangoes from Rahim Yar Khan and Multan," Zakir shares. "They say the taste is unmatched."

Sajid Khan, another fruit seller in the bustling Pabbi bazaar, agrees. "The Chaunsa mango is not just fruit—it's an experience," he says. "We use it for making fresh juices, milkshakes, and even serve slices with ice to beat the heat."

The mango's rise in popularity is not without reason. Its intense aroma, juicy flesh, and melt-in-your-mouth flavor make it a favorite not just in Pakistan, but across the globe.

A single ripe Chaunsa mango can fill an entire room with its rich, tropical fragrance. Its golden-yellow hue and smooth skin only add to its visual appeal.

The story of the Chaunsa mango begins in South Punjab, particularly the fertile lands of Rahim Yar Khan and Multan. The fruit gets its name from a small town called Chaunsa, where it was first cultivated and gained popularity over generations.

Dr. Ali Syed, a senior agriculture research officer, explains that several varieties of Chaunsa arrive in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa between June and August. "Multani Chaunsa, White Chaunsa, Azeem Chaunsa, and Seasonal Chaunsa are among the most popular," he says.

Pakistan has started mango exports, targeting 125,000 tonnes this season, with projected earnings of \$100 million in foreign exchange.

He said the export target for the current season is 25,000 tonnes higher than last year's figure. However, he warned that climate challenges may impact the overall supply of mangoes this year.

He said mango production in Pakistan has been consistently declining due to climate change and water scarcity and is a risk of up to a 20 per cent reduction in total mango production this year due to flooding in Punjab.

Typically, Pakistan produces around 1.8 million tonnes of mangoes annually, with Punjab contributing 70pc, Sindh 29pc and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa around 1pc. "After the projected 20pc decline, this season's total production may drop to around 1.4m tonnes," he added.

Ali Syed highlighted that efforts are underway to boost mango exports to non-traditional markets. In addition to regular buyers, exporters are now targeting Japan, the United States, South Korea and Australia, while placing special focus on expanding exports to Türkiye and China. South Africa is also expected to open its market to Pakistani mangoes this season. "Quarantine experts from South Africa will visit Pakistan during the season, and we hope this will pave the way for mango exports to begin there," he reiterated.

He adds that the mangoes are not just local favorites—they're Pakistan's top mango export. "Chaunsa is widely exported to the UAE, Saudi Arabia, UK, Europe, and the United States," Dr. Syed notes.

Despite its growing international fame, the Chaunsa mango remains deeply embedded in Pakistani culture. It's not just about flavor—it's about shared memories of summer, family gatherings, and roadside fruit stalls brimming with golden sweetness.

For Zakir Ali and countless other small-scale fruit sellers, the rise of Chaunsa mangoes represents more than business—it's a lifeline. "When people come asking for Chaunsa, I know my day will go well," Zakir smiles, wiping sweat from his brow. "It's the king of fruits—and now, the king of my stall."

As long as the sun keeps shining and mango lovers keep lining up despite price hike, the reign of the Chaunsa mango in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and across Pakistan—shows no signs of fading and being sold like a hot cake.

Poultry, Livestock Expo will boost KP's image: Governor

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Monday said that the Poultry and Livestock Expo will play a vital role in building a positive image of the province. Appreciating the initiative, he announced his participation in the upcoming event and emphasized the importance of such exhibitions in showcasing KP's potential.

The Governor said this in a meeting with Poultry and Livestock delegation led by Haji Rajwali Mohmand, President of the Poultry Cooperative Society KP, Muhammad Asif Awan, President of the Livestock Cooperative Society KP and Khalid Waqar Chamkani to extend invitation to Governor to attend the 3rd edition of the International Livestock, Poultry, and Fisheries Expo 2025 at the Chief Guest. The event is scheduled to take place on September 18, at Gul Makai Palace, Northern Bypass, Peshawar.

The Governor said that KP has huge potential in every sector, including poultry and livestock, adding that he would raise related issues with federal and concerned officials to ensure proper support and development.

He also offered institutional support, saying, "Red Crescent and NAVTTC can play a key role in supporting your efforts."

The two-day expo aims to bring together key stakeholders from across the livestock, poultry, and fisheries sectors.

They informed the Governor that the Expo will serve as a dynamic platform for farmers, breeders, researchers, investors, and policymakers from across Pakistan and abroad to exchange ideas and showcase the latest advancements in these industries.

The event is designed to foster collaboration, facilitate trade, and promote sustainable practices that enhance food security and economic development in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and beyond. The organizers emphasized that the Governor's participation as Chief Guest would be a source of encouragement and add significant prestige to the event. His address is expected to underline the provincial government's commitment to the growth of these crucial sectors.

KP govt to empower women through digital skills: Shafqat

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Science and Information Technology, Dr. Shafqat Ayaz, has stated that empowering the women of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa through digital skills is one of the top priorities of the provincial government, in line with the vision of Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Imran Khan and Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur. Equipping women with technological, entrepreneurial, and digital capabilities is a crucial step toward building a progressive, modern, and self-reliant Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Dr. Shafqat Ayaz was addressing a special event titled "KP Upskill: Digital and Entrepreneurial Skills for Women" at the Institute of Management Sciences (IM Sciences) Peshawar. On the occasion, he highlighted that the KP Government is taking concrete steps to integrate women into the digital revolution. Through the Department of Science & Technology and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Technology Board (KPITB), the government is initiating comprehensive programs to train women, foster their entrepreneurial thinking, and connect them to the modern digital economy.

He added that exclusive training programs are being launched for women across the province to enable them to acquire skills in IT and digital business and earn respectable livelihoods. These initiatives are not only essential for individual empowerment but also vital for the collective socio-economic development of the region. By promoting digital entrepreneurship, women will be made financially self-reliant and will be empowered to launch their own businesses.

Dr. Ayaz further stated that these initiatives are laying the foundation for a forward-looking and tech-driven Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where women can thrive and excel in every domain.

He also announced that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will soon be signed between the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government and IM Sciences, under which joint efforts will be made to enhance digital skills among women and promote their independence through practical and targeted skill development.

Fazal Hakeem terms reports on missing vehicles 'misleading and baseless'

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Provincial Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives, Fazal Hakim Khan Yousafzai, has rejected media reports regarding missing vehicles in his department, calling them misleading and contrary to the facts. He stated that the claim regarding the disappearance of 80 vehicles is entirely baseless.

Provincial minister clarified that all vehicles are in official use and are accounted for with complete documentation. These vehicles are currently being used for departmental duties across various wings of the Livestock Department. he added, some vehicles have been returned to the Transport Department in accordance with official rules and procedures.

According to provincial Minister Fazal Hakim Khan, the audit team has been provided with all necessary documents and records concerning the vehicles. He emphasized that the department is fully committed to transparency, accountability, and regulatory compliance, ensuring that no vehicle is being used by any unauthorized individual.

Provincial minister further informed that an inquiry committee has been constituted to thoroughly investigate the matter from all angles.



PESHAWAR: Chairman Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Peshawar Riaz Khan Mehsud addressing the ceremony to announce Matric examination result.



In brief

City Mayor presents budget F.P. Report

MARDAN: City Mayor Mardan, Himayatullah Mayar has presented a surplus budget worth Rs. 1.83 billion for the Tehsil Municipal Administration (TMA) for the fiscal year 2025-26. The budget, which outlines key allocations for development and staff welfare, was unveiled during a city council session. According to budget documents, Rs. 501.865 million have been earmarked for development expenditures, reflecting the administration's focus on infrastructure and public service improvements. The estimated revenue from the provincial government during the fiscal year stands at Rs. 832.775 million while the council expects to generate Rs. 283.585 million from its own resources.

Mayor Himayatullah Mayar stated that the council aims to approve significant relief measures for TMA employees. These include a 10% ad hoc relief increase, a 15% Disparity Reduction Allowance (DRA) and a 7% hike in pensions. The total expected income for the fiscal year is Rs. 1.83 billion while estimated expenditures stand at Rs. 1.828 billion, leaving a projected surplus of Rs. 4.1 million. The mayor emphasized that the Tehsil Council has consistently played a vital role in the development of Mardan and remains committed to public welfare. The council is scheduled to reconvene on July 30 to hold discussions on the proposed budget, after which it is expected to be formally approved.

Mentally unfit girl raped F.P. Report

SUJAWAL: A mentally challenged teenaged girl has reportedly been subjected to sexual assault within the premises of Sujawal Police Station. According to the mother of the victim her 14 years of age daughter Samreen went missing on Thursday afternoon outside their house. In the wake of the incident they mounted a search and came to know on Friday that their daughter had been recovered from the Saeedpur area of Sujawal in a semi unconscious state. As soon as the relatives received information about the incident they reached Saeedpur and brought the girl to the local police station and later shifted her to Civil Hospital Sujawal for treatment. The relatives claimed that suspects Babu and Muhammad Parheri had subjected the teenage girl to molestation after kidnapping her from outside their home. The preliminary medical report they said had confirmed assault on the mentally disturbed girl. A case under sections 365-B, 376 and 34 of Pakistan Penal Code was registered against Babu and Muhammad Parheri. SHO Sujawal said that the investigation into the case was underway; however, no arrest was made till the filing of this report.

5 cops booked F.P. Report

KHAIRPUR: After directives from Deputy Inspector-General of Police Sukkur, a first information report (FIR) was registered against five policemen for staging a fake police operation in which a student was badly injured, reported media on Monday. According to details, DIG Police Sukkur Faisal Abdullah Chachar has directed for investigating a police encounter in Khairpur. After the conclusion of the inquiry it was revealed that five policemen – ASI Abdul Rehman Shaikh, ASI Shehzaib Shaikh, Sepoy Javed Ali, Roshan Ali, and Driver Rajal Khan – staged a fake police encounter in which they shot an innocent student of Shah Latif University, Khairpur Nasrullah Magi.

KP budget 2025–26 draws mixed reactions at UoM seminar

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: Panelists at a seminar held at the University of Malakand on Monday critically analyzed the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government's budget for 2025–26, stating that it would significantly impact the living standards and development trajectory of the Malakand Division.

The seminar, titled "Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Budget 2025–26 and its Implications for Malakand Division," was jointly organized by the university's Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC) and the Dir Think Tank, a forum of local academics and intellectuals from Dir. It was held at the university's Convocation Hall and attended by policymakers, academics, university administrators, media professionals, and students.

Despite invitations extended to multiple elected representatives and ministers from the region, only MPA Humayun Khan, adviser to the Chief Minister on prisons, participated in the event.

A central feature of the seminar was a panel discussion that offered a detailed critique of the budget's allocations, distribution of resources,

development plans, and the status of incomplete projects in the region. Panelists included UoM Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Rasheed Ahmad, MPA Humayun Khan, Prof Dr Iftikhar Ahmad, chairman Department of Physics UoM, and Prof Dr Murad Ali chairman Department of Political Science UoM.

In his opening remarks, Vice Chancellor Dr Rasheed Ahmad emphasized the need for provincial planning to reflect ground realities. "A truly effective budget must be rooted in regional needs," he said. He welcomed the government's decision to allocate a significant sum to higher education, disclosing that the University of Malakand would receive Rs 75 million under the new budget.

Addressing the audience, MPA Humayun Khan reiterated the KP government's commitment to the uplift of Malakand Division. He highlighted key infrastructure projects, including the Dir Motorway—expected to complete the tendering process by December, and the Sanam Dam in Asbanr, Adenzai, which he said would transform the region's agriculture and tourism sectors.

He also provided updates on the establishment of the Timergara Medical College, noting

that recruitment for faculty positions had already been advertised. He added that out of 450 ongoing development schemes across the province, 250 have been completed, while the remainder are being prioritized for funding.

Prof Dr Iftikhar Ahmad called for greater financial autonomy for universities and urged the government to invest more in higher education to foster sustainable research and innovation.

Offering a historical lens, Prof Dr Murad Ali expressed concern over Pakistan's developmental decline. "In the 1950s and 60s, Pakistan outpaced China in several sectors. Policy inconsistency has since reversed that progress," he remarked. He criticized the current budget for failing to adequately promote tourism in Malakand, despite the region's natural beauty. "There is an urgent need for targeted incentives and sustainable strategies to drive regional growth—elements missing from this year's budget," he said.

The session concluded with an interactive Q&A segment, where students and media representatives posed questions and offered insights, making the event intellectually enriching and reflective of grassroots concerns.

Moving towards a digital Pakistan

Malik Rauf Awan

IN an era of rapid technological transformation, the question confronting Pakistan today is not whether we are moving toward a digital future, but whether we're bringing everyone along for the journey. At the heart of this challenge lies our greatest untapped strength: the youth. With over 64% of Pakistan's population under the age of 30, the future doesn't belong to the next generation; it belongs to this one.

And yet, many young Pakistanis wake up each day grappling with difficult questions. Is there still space in this country for my dreams? Can I build a future here, or should I move abroad? Are there any opportunities left in this country? These are not just personal doubts, they are national polarized questions.

It is in response to these voices that the Digital Youth Hub (DYH) was launched by the Government of Pakistan. A bold initiative under the umbrella of Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) and the Digital Pakistan Vision, DYH is not just a mobile app or a website, it's a shift in mindset. It's a platform that says: we see you, we hear you, and we're here

for you.

Launched in March 2025 by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, the Digital Youth Hub is a comprehensive digital space designed to bring together opportunity, learning, and hope. It offers free access to digital skills training, internships, jobs, freelance work, startup support, scholarships, and even community-driven innovation projects. Whether you're a student just starting out, a graduate unsure of your next step, or an aspiring entrepreneur with a spark of an idea, DYH meets you where you are and helps take you forward.

Since its launch, the impact has been tangible. Thousands of young people from across the country and overseas have joined the platform. Some have begun earning through online freelancing. Others have landed their first job or finally taken the leap to start a small business. Each story is a reminder that when opportunity is within the reach, our youth are ready to rise.

But DYH isn't just about the opportunity seekers, it's also for the opportunity creators. Companies, startups, NGOs, and institutions can all register to access a vast and diverse talent pool. Additionally, The Government of Pakistan has issued direc-

tives to all the governing bodies to register themselves on DYH; so the youth of country can easily access the exposure under one roof.

More than anything, the Digital Youth Hub represents a national commitment. It brings together the four pillars of the PMYP: Education, Employment, Engagement, and Empowerment, into one single framework. It's a promise that we won't leave our young people behind in the digital age.

In a country where nearly one-third of the population is aged 15-29, platforms like DYH aren't just important, they're essential. Before DYH, finding the right intern, trainee, or employee has never been easier, or more efficient. The youth are not just tomorrow's leaders; they're today's creators, builders, thinkers, and changemakers.

Now, the responsibility is shared. It lies with the government to keep building, with educators to keep guiding, with employers to keep believing; and with the youth to keep dreaming, striving, and showing the world what Pakistan is capable of. Let us rise to the moment. Let us support each other. And above all, let us do it for ourselves, for our future, and for the green flag we carry in our hearts.

Evolving role: Chief information security officers in combating cyber threats

Jawad Khalid Mirza

THE landscape of cyber threats is constantly evolving, posing significant challenges to organizations across all sectors. Within this dynamic environment, the role of the Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) has become increasingly critical, particularly in the highly regulated and interconnected financial industry. CISOs are at the forefront of defending against sophisticated cyberattacks, managing information security risks, and ensuring regulatory compliance.

Expanding scope of CISO responsibilities

The responsibilities of CISOs have expanded significantly beyond traditional cybersecurity functions. Modern CISOs are increasingly involved in broader domains such as business risk management, IT oversight, and digital transformation initiatives. This expanded scope underscores the understanding that cybersecurity is intrinsically linked to overall business strategy and success. As organizations increasingly rely on technology for growth and revenue, the CISO's role has transformed from a technical gatekeeper to a strategic leader who ensures the

business can confidently embrace new technologies without compromising security or stability. This evolution demands a blend of technical expertise, strategic planning, and strong leadership skills. CISOs are expected to proactively identify and mitigate risks, rather than merely reacting to security incidents. They must also align and integrate their security strategies with enterprise-wide risk management frameworks to make more accurate and informed decisions.

Three faces of modern CISO A report published by FORBES categorizes CISOs into three distinct segments based on their organizational influence and executive access.

Strategic CISOs: These leaders possess both C-suite access and boardroom influence, positioning them as key strategic partners. They often report higher compensation and job satisfaction.

Functional CISOs: While strong in either executive access or boardroom engagement, they may lack visibility in both areas, limiting their comprehensive influence.

Tactical CISOs: These CISOs are typically seen as technical practitioners and face significant barriers in accessing senior lead-

ership and the board, which constrains their overall impact.

Future of CISO role

The CISO role, which emerged in the mid-1990s, has undergone a significant transformation from a purely technical position to a strategic leadership role. Today, CISOs are expected to possess a blend of technical expertise, business acumen, and communication skills to effectively manage cybersecurity programs and align them with organizational objectives. Their responsibilities typically encompass developing and implementing security strategies, managing security operations, ensuring compliance with regulations, statutory requirements and international standards i.e. GDPR, PCI DSS, ISO27001, overseeing incident response, and fostering a security-aware culture.

Key trends for CISOs to watch:

Adoption of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning: AI and ML are becoming crucial for faster detection and response to cyber threats, though attackers are also leveraging these technologies.

Zero Trust Architecture: The principle of 'never trust, always verify' is gaining momentum due to the increasing number of cyberattacks.

Changes and Compliance: CISOs must stay updated on new regulations and compliance standards, such as GDPR, to ensure their organizations remain relevant and secure.

Talent Shortage and Skill Development: Addressing the cybersecurity talent gap requires CISOs to focus on continuous learning and professional skill development for their teams. Cyber Resilience and Incident Response: Building highly resilient security systems and enhancing incident response capabilities are crucial for withstanding sophisticated attacks.

Integration of Security Stacks with People-Centric Cybersecurity: Modern security solutions need to integrate technology with human factors, recognizing that humans are often the weakest link in the cybersecurity chain.

Trends are changing in reporting hierarchies for CISOs

One of the most debated aspects of the CISO role is their reporting structure. The reporting line of a CISO can significantly impact their authority, influence, and effectiveness within an organization. Traditionally, CISOs often reported to the Chief Information Officer (CIO) or Chief Technology Officer (CTO), plac-

ing them within the IT department. While this structure can facilitate technical alignment, it may also lead to conflicts of interest, as the CIO's primary focus is often on enabling business operations and innovation, which can sometimes conflict with stringent security requirements.

However, there is a growing trend, particularly in the financial sector, for CISOs to report directly to the CEO or Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or the Board of Directors. The Heidrick & Struggles 2024 Global CISO Survey indicates that 14% of CISOs now report directly to the CEO, a notable increase from 5% in 2023. This shift signifies a recognition of cybersecurity as a critical enterprise-wide risk that requires direct oversight from the highest levels of leadership. In Hong Kong and Singapore, a significant 35% of CISOs report to the CEO, while in the US, this figure is 9%. When CISOs report directly to the CEO or the Board, they gain greater independence, visibility, and the authority to integrate cybersecurity into strategic decision-making processes, ensuring that security is not an afterthought but a fundamental component of business strategy.

Other common reporting structures include reporting to the

Deputy CEO, Chief Operating Officer (COO) or Chief Risk Officer (CRO). The ideal reporting structure often depends on the organization's size, complexity, risk appetite, and regulatory environment. Regardless of the direct reporting line, it is crucial for CISOs to have direct access to and strong relationships with senior leadership and the Board to effectively communicate cyber risks and advocate for necessary resources and initiatives.

Conclusion

The Chief Information Security Officer plays an indispensable role in safeguarding any sector against an increasingly sophisticated array of cyber threats. The evolution of the CISO from a technical expert to a strategic business leader, often reporting directly to the CEO or Board, underscores the growing recognition of cybersecurity as a fundamental business risk. The future of the CISO role will continue to demand adaptability, a deep understanding of emerging technologies like AI, and a strong emphasis on collaboration and regulatory compliance. By embracing these principles, CISOs can not only protect their organizations but also contribute significantly to the stability and trustworthiness of the global financial system.



HYDERABAD: A view of the rising water level in Indus River at Kotri Barrage, caused by ongoing heavy monsoon rains across country.

Minister visits construction work of GGHSS F.P. Report

KOHAT: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Aftab Alam Advocate, has on Monday visited the new under-construction building of Government Girls Higher Secondary School in Dhoda Sharif, Kohat which is being built under the "Ongoing Journey from Promises to Completion" at a cost of Rs.45 Million.

The Law Minister Aftab Alam Advocate and MNA Shehryar Afridi have allocated funds for the said school building. The under-construction work is in its final stages, which, InshaAllah, will soon provide modern educational facilities to the girls of the area.

On this occasion, PTI Dhoda Sharif workers were also present with the Law Minister, who thanked the MNA Shehryar Afridi and Law Minister Aftab Alam for their interest and cooperation in this educational project.

The Minister on this occasion said that education, especially the education of girls, is among his priorities because no one can bring up their children better than an educated mother. He said that more than 52 % of the country's women population cannot be ignored under any circumstances. It is the need of the hour to include them in the national mainstream for the development of the country. The Law Minister directed the authorities concerned to complete the remaining work on the school building at the earliest.

Three killed F.P. Report

MANDI BAHAUDDIN: Three persons were killed in a firing incident that took place in Mandi Bahaiddin area of Punjab, tv channels quoting police sources reported on Monday.

According to initial reports, rival party opened fire and killed three persons to settle property dispute that reported in Mandi Bahaiddin area of Punjab.

Depts must ensure compliance of orders

F.P. Report

KOHAT: Commissioner Kohat Division Syed Motasim Billah Shah has strictly directed the heads of the nation building departments to ensure strict implementation of the orders issued by the elected representatives in the public interest as they are the representatives of millions of people and they are directly accountable to them.

He gave these directions while presiding over a progress review meeting held in his office on Monday. The meeting beside the MNA Shehryar Afridi, MPAs Shafi Jan and Daud Afridi, was also attended by the heads of nation building departments.

Commissioner Kohat

directed all the departments to present details of the progress on new, ongoing and proposed projects of the financial years 2024-25 and 2025-26 in the next meeting.

MNA Shehryar Afridi, in his address, expressed deep anger over the non-cooperation of some departments and said that their behavior was intolerable. He regretted that the failure of the departments has to face by them in the public. He publicly declared that his patience has run out, now whoever will not do the work should arrange a place for himself outside Kohat.

Shehryar Afridi while narrating the performance of the PTI said that his 12-year performance at the Kohat level outweighs the last 76 years. He, on this

occasion, specially mentioned projects worth billions of rupees including the Tanda Dam Uplift Project, Khattak Banda Dam, Zamir Gul Dam, North Dam, Medical and Dental Colleges, Indus River to Rehmanabad drinking water Project, Jund to Kohat CPEC Road, Expressway, KPCIP, Modern Sports Complex, New Building of Liaquat Hospital, Solarization of Basic Health Units and Grade Stations. Despite it, the opponents are trying to mislead the people through false propaganda, he added. Shahryar Afridi made it clear that the respect of the people of Kohat is dearer to him and he will not leave any officer/official in Kohat who does not take care about the respect of the people.

ZAB Junior announces to contest elections

F.P. Report

LARKANA: Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Junior reached the Lahori Mohalla of Larkana and expressed his condolences to the relatives of Ghulam Abbas Soomro, a young man who drowned while bathing in the Rice Canal, and also expressed grief over the incident.

Speaking to the media on this occasion, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Jr. said that 19-year-old Ghulam Abbas Soomro drowned in the Rice Canal of Larkana city. He is a child of Larkana and I consider him my brother. Our wish and demand that the state should provide disaster response as soon as possible. He added that I will participate in the general elections from my traditional Larkana seat, which was my father's seat.

If the party is formed in time, I will try to contest elections from every province including Karachi. He said that when a building collapsed in Lyari, it came to light that there is so much corruption and mismanagement behind Rescue 1122. There

is no doubt that the workers of Rescue 1122 are trying. We want more funding for the Health Rescue Service Building Authority so that they can do their job properly and not become targets of corruption. He added that the PPP did nothing for those who voted for it in return.

They think only for their own interests, he said that the law and order situation in Sindh is very bad, we have completely moved towards war, just like during the Zia-ul-Haq era, after the martyrdom of Shaheed Bhutto, there is a lot of violence in Moro, some people are going missing.

The political people are also going missing, the number of political prisoners is increasing in Sindh, for which we demand that these political prisoners should be given a fair and transparent trial and they should be released, those who should be given a free trial include people from Sindh, Gilgit-Baltistan, Waziristan,

KPK, Balochistan, Seraiki Wasib, even our universities and schools in the whole of

Pakistan and Punjab have become unsafe, so students should be provided with protection. Workers and officials of the PPP (Shaheed Bhutto) were also present on the occasion.

3 miners killed FP Report

SHANGLA: A tragic incident occurred in Mine No. 3 of Sarakhuna Forest Lease, Orakzai, where three coal miners from District Shangla lost their lives due to inhalation of toxic gas.

The deceased miners have been identified as Sher Zaman, son of Gul Rehman, resident of UC Pirabad, Palma Banjar, currently residing in Dheri near Tablighi Markaz, Aslam, son of Haya Gul, resident of Khumayar, UC Dheri and Rahimullah, resident of Shahpur, currently living in Malook Abad, Swat. After funeral prayers and traditional bathing rites, the bodies were transported to their respective hometowns.



Malnutrition reaching alarming levels in Gaza: WHO

GAZA (AFP): Malnutrition rates are reaching "alarming levels" in the Gaza Strip, the World Health Organization warned, saying the "deliberate blocking" of aid was entirely preventable and had cost many lives. "Malnutrition is on a dangerous trajectory in the Gaza Strip, marked by a spike in deaths in July," the WHO said in a statement. Of the 74 recorded malnutrition-related deaths in 2025, 63 had occurred in July -- including 24 children under five, one child aged over five, and 38 adults, it added. "Most of these people were declared dead on arrival at health facilities or died shortly after, their bodies showing clear signs of severe wasting," the UN health agency said. "The crisis remains entirely preventable. Deliberate blocking and delay of large-scale food, health, and humanitarian aid has cost many lives." Israel began a limited "tactical pause" in military operations to allow the UN and aid agencies to tackle a deepening hunger crisis. But the WHO called for sustained efforts to "flood" the Gaza Strip with diverse, nutritious food, and for the expedited delivery of therapeutic supplies for children

and vulnerable groups, plus essential medicines and supplies. "This flow must remain consistent and unhindered to support recovery and prevent further deterioration", the Geneva-based agency said. WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus called the situation "mass starvation -- and it's man-made". Nearly one in five children under five in Gaza City is now acutely malnourished, the WHO said, citing its Nutrition Cluster partners. It said the percentage of children aged six to 59 months suffering from acute malnutrition had tripled in the city since June, making it the worst-hit area in the Palestinian territory. "These figures are likely an underestimation due to the severe access and security constraints preventing many families from reaching health facilities," the WHO said. The WHO said that in the first two weeks of July, more than 5,000 children under five had been admitted for outpatient treatment of malnutrition -- 18 percent of them with the most life-threatening form, severe acute malnutrition (SAM). The 6,500 children admitted for malnutrition

treatment in June was the highest number since the war began in October 2023. A further 73 children with SAM and medical complications have been hospitalised in July, up from 39 in June. "This surge in cases is overwhelming the only four specialised malnutrition treatment centres," the WHO said. Furthermore, the organisation said the breakdown of water and sanitation services was "driving a dangerous cycle of illness and death". As for pregnant and breastfeeding women, Nutrition Cluster screening data showed that more than 40 percent were severely malnourished, the WHO said. "It is not only hunger that is killing people, but also the desperate search for food," the UN health agency said. "Families are being forced to risk their lives for a handful of food, often under dangerous and chaotic conditions," it added. The UN rights office says Israeli forces have killed more than 1,000 Palestinians trying to get food aid in Gaza since the Israel- and US-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation started operations in late May. Nearly three-quarters of them died near GHF sites.

Kim' sister rejects outreach by South's new president

SEOUL (AP): The influential sister of North Korea leader Kim Jong Un rebuffed overtures by South Korea's new liberal government, saying Monday that its "blind trust" in the country's alliance with the US and hostility toward North Korea make it no different from its conservative predecessor. Kim Yo Jong's comments imply that North Korea - now preoccupied with its expanding cooperation with Russia - sees no need to resume diplomacy with South Korea and the US anytime soon. Experts say she likely hopes to drive a wedge between Seoul and Washington. "We clarify once again the official stand that no matter what policy is adopted and whatever proposal is made in Seoul, we have no interest in it and there is neither a reason to meet nor an issue to be discussed," Kim Yo Jong said in a statement carried by state media. It's North Korea's first official statement on the government of South Korean President Lee Jae Myung, which took office in early June with a promise to improve badly frayed ties with North Korea. Lee's government has halted anti-Pyongyang front-line loudspeaker broadcasts, taken steps to ban activists from flying balloons with propaganda leaflets across the border

and repatriated North Koreans who were drifted south in wooden boats months earlier. North Korea complains of South Korea-US military drills North Korea has shunned talks with South Korea and the US since leader Kim Jong Un's high-stakes nuclear diplomacy with President Donald Trump fell apart in 2019 due to wrangling over international sanctions. North Korea has since focused on building more powerful nuclear weapons targeting its rivals and declared a hostile "two-state" system on the Korean Peninsula to terminate relations with South Korea. Kim Yo Jong called Lee's steps "sincere efforts" to develop ties, but said the new government still "stands in confrontation" with North Korea. She mentioned the upcoming summertime South Korea-US military drills, which North Korea views as an invasion rehearsal. South Korea's Unification Ministry responded that it will steadfastly seek reconciliation with North Korea to realize peaceful co-existence. Spokesperson Koo Byoungsam told reporters that the statement shows North Korea closely monitors the Lee government's North Korea policy despite deep mistrust. Moon Seong Mook, an analyst for the Seoul-based Korea Research Institute for

National Strategy, said Kim Yo Jong's statement shows North Korea is holding out for South Korea to abandon the US alliance. Moon said that Kim likely sees little upside in engaging with the South since it cannot restart economic projects that previously benefited the North as long as international sanctions remain in place. North Korea built cooperation with Russia, sending troops and conventional weapons to support its war in Ukraine, and likely receiving economic and technological assistance in return. Since beginning his second term in January, Trump has repeatedly boasted of his personal ties with Kim Jong Un and expressed intent to resume diplomacy with him. But North Korea hasn't publicly responded to Trump's overture. Leif-Eric Easley, professor of international studies at Ewha Womans University in Seoul, said that Kim Yo Jong's statement had a domestic audience. "Kim Yo Jong's comments are an effort to advance national pride by portraying North Korea in a superior position, despite its economic struggles and international pariah status," Easley said. "She also seeks to justify Pyongyang's weapons programs and divide Seoul and Washington by criticizing upcoming military exercises."

Sudan's paramilitaries announces a parallel govt

CAIRO (AP): A notorious paramilitary group and its allies in Sudan have formed a parallel government in areas under the group's control, which are mainly in the western region of Darfur where allegations of war crimes and crimes against humanity are being investigated. The move, which was announced, was likely to deepen the crisis in Sudan, which plunged into chaos when tensions between the country's military and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, or RSF, exploded into fighting in 2023 in the capital, Khartoum and elsewhere in the country. The RSF-led Tasis Alliance appointed Gen. Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, the commander of the paramilitary group, as head of the sovereign council in the new administration. The 15-member council serves as head of the state. The RSF grew out of the notorious Janjaweed militias, mobilized two decades ago by then-President Omar al-Bashir against populations that identify as Central or East

African in Darfur. The Janjaweed were accused of mass killings, rapes and other atrocities. In the current war, the RSF has been accused of numerous atrocities. The Biden administration slapped Dagalo with sanctions, saying the RSF and its proxies were committing genocide. The RSF has denied committing genocide. The alliance spokesman Alaa al-Din Naqad announced the new administration in a video statement from the Darfur city of Nyala, which is controlled by the RSF and its allied Janjaweed. Mohammed Hassan al-Taishi, a civilian politician who was a member of a military-civilian sovereign council that ruled Sudan following the 2019 overthrow of al-Bashir, was named as prime minister in the RSF-controlled government. Rebel leader Abdelaziz al-Hilu, who commands the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) which is active in the southern Kodrofan region, was appointed as Dagalo's deputy in the council. The SPLM-N is a breakaway

faction of the SPLM, the ruling party of neighboring South Sudan. The announcement came five months after the RSF and its allies signed a charter in February in Kenya's capital, Nairobi, with the aim of establishing a parallel government in RSF-controlled areas. At the time, many countries, including the US, rejected the RSF efforts and condemned the signing by the paramilitary group and its allies of what they called "transitional constitution" in the Kenya-hosted conference. The foreign ministry of the internationally recognized government in Khartoum condemned the announcement in a statement. It called it a "fake government" and urged the international community to not engage with the RSF-led administration. The RSF-led move was likely to deepen the division in Sudan. Yasir Arman, a rebel leader, said the move is likely to prolong the conflict and divide Sudan between two rival administrations - similar to neighboring Libya.

Romanian deputy PM resigns after bribery case resurfaces

BUCHAREST (Reuters): Romanian deputy prime minister Dragoș Anastasiu resigned after an old corruption scandal in which he was involved as a witness resurfaced at a time when the one-month-old coalition government is trying to enforce cost-cutting reforms. Anastasiu had been tasked by Prime Minister Ilie Bolojan with overseeing the reform of state-owned companies, part of broader efforts to reduce the largest budget deficit in the European Union and root out waste and inefficiency. Last week, an old corruption case revealed that one of Anastasiu's firms had been blackmailed by a tax authority inspector into paying bribes disguised as consultancy fees for eight years from 2009 or risk lengthy inspections. The company later denounced the inspector, who was convicted in 2023. Anastasiu and his business partner were never charged with a crime. Anastasiu said his company had paid all its taxes and the bribes were "for survival, not profit". "I encourage every entrepreneur to speak out and say under what conditions business has been done in Romania and no longer accept what we did while making mistakes," he told reporters. The government, which will hike several taxes from August and is laying off staff and cutting bonuses, has already faced several street protests but has narrowly avoided a ratings downgrade from the lowest rung of investment grade. The European Union and NATO state has been rocked by political instability in the wake of a presidential election, which was cancelled in December and re-run in May, with market turmoil boosting borrowing costs and crashing the leu currency.

Taiwan's garbage trucks offer classical music

TAIPEI (AFP): Taiwanese residents holding plastic bags of rubbish stand on a footpath as a yellow garbage truck playing classical music over a loud-speaker pulls up. For decades, the tinkling of Beethoven's "Für Elise" or Tekla Badarzewska-Baranowska's "Maiden's Prayer" has alerted Taiwanese households to take out their garbage. Like clockwork, residents emerge from their apartment buildings carrying bags of pre-sorted rubbish as the musical garbage trucks approach. "When we hear this music, we know it's time to take out the trash. It's very convenient," 78-year-old Lee Shu-ning told AFP as she waited outside her tower block in Taipei. Residents toss plastic bags of general refuse into the yellow compaction truck, and tip food waste and recycling into bins carried by another vehicle. For the elderly, taking out the trash has become a social event and many arrive early to sit and talk around the collection points. "I can chat with some old neighbours and friends, it's nice," Lee said, before disposing of several bottles and cans. "It's also a kind of exercise," she added. But not everyone is a fan. "I think it's quite inconvenient because it comes at a fixed time every day," said 31-year-old beautician Dai Yun-wei after dumping her rubbish in the truck. "Sometimes we're not home or we're busy, so we can't throw away the trash." Taiwan's musical garbage trucks have been an almost daily feature of life on the island since the 1960s, Shyu Shyh-shiun of Taipei's Department of Environmental Protection told AFP.

Taiwan imported German garbage trucks pre-programmed with "Für Elise". Shyu said, but added it was not clear how the "Maiden's Prayer" became part of the repertoire. The trucks operate five days a week, usually in the late afternoon and evening. Yang Xiu-ying, 76, has made a living out of helping her neighbours dispose of their garbage.

Rains intensify around Beijing, 4,400 evacuated

HONG KONG (Reuters): Heavy rain intensified around Beijing and nearby provinces in northern China on Monday, exacerbating the risks of disasters including landslides and flooding, authorities said, as they relocated more than 4,400 people. Colossal rain continued to pound the suburban area of Miyun in Beijing causing flash floods and landslides, and many villages were affected, state broadcaster CCTV reported. Images circulated on China's Wechat app showed areas of Miyun where cars and trucks were floating on a flooded road where water levels had risen so high that it had submerged part of a residential building. Electricity cuts are also affecting more than 10,000 people, in the area, CCTV said. Northern China has seen record precipitation in recent years, exposing densely populated cities, including Beijing, to flood risks. Some scientists link the increased rainfall in China's usually arid north to global warming. The storms are part of the broader pattern of extreme weather across China due to the East Asian monsoon, which has caused disruptions in the world's second-largest economy. Xiwanzi Village in Shicheng Town, near Miyun Reservoir, was severely affected, CCTV said on Monday with an additional 100 villagers transferred to a primary school for shelter. It comes after the maximum flood peak flow into the Miyun reservoir reached a record high of 6550 cubic meters per second, Beijing authorities said. In neighbouring Shanxi province, videos from state media showed roads inundated by strong gushing



currents and submerged vegetation including crops and trees. Shaanxi province, home to China's historic city of Xian, also issued flash flood disaster risk warnings on Monday. In Beijing's Pinggu District, two high-risk road sections have been sealed, authorities said. Authorities are carrying out search and rescue work across cities including Datong, where a driver in a Ford car has lost contact while driving in the floods, the People's Daily reported. China's Water Resources Ministry has issued targeted flood warnings to 11 provinces and regions, including Beijing and neighbouring Hebei, for floods from small and midsize rivers and mountain torrents. Two were dead and two missing in Hebei province, CCTV said. Overnight rain

dumped a record 145 mm (5.7 inches) per hour on Fuping in the industrial city of Baoding. China's National Development and Reform Commission said on Monday that it was urgently arranging 50 million yuan (\$6.98 million) to support Hebei. The funds would be used to repair damaged roads and bridges, water conservancy embankments, schools and hospitals in the disaster area. The NDRC said it was "promoting the restoration of normal life and production as soon as possible." Chinese authorities closely monitor extreme rainfall and severe flooding are, as they challenge the country's ageing flood defences, threaten to displace millions and wreak havoc on China's \$2.8 trillion agricultural sector.

Countries denounce Israel but keep trading with it

GAZA: As Israel's killing of Palestinians continues fast and slow, through air strikes and starvation, the foreign ministers of 28 countries have signed a statement calling for an end to Israel's war on Gaza. As these countries deploy words months after the United Nations and other groups warned of an oncoming famine, there has been little action on other fronts. Some of these countries have recognised the Palestinian state while France last week angered Israeli officials by announcing it would do the same in September. Still, many critics have pointed out that as countries make these statements, many of them continue to benefit from trade with Israel and have not imposed sanctions or taken any other action that could push Israel to end its genocidal war on Gaza. The war has killed at least 59,821 people in Gaza and wounded 144,477. Here's all you need to know about the countries profiting from Israel while con-

demning its military action: Belgium, France, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom all have more than \$1bn in imports, exports or both with Israel, according to 2023 figures from the Observatory of Economic Complexity. Among the top items being traded are cars and other motor vehicles, integrated circuits, vaccines and perfumes. About \$3.58bn in integrated circuits is the largest individual product going to Ireland, making up the overwhelming majority of Ireland's imports from Israel. Meanwhile, Italy exports to Israel more than any other country that signed the statement. Its \$3.49bn of exports included \$116m in cars in 2023. Of those countries that issued the statement, Ireland and Spain recognised Palestine in 2024 and have spoken strongly against Israel's actions in Gaza. Still, that hasn't stopped them from continuing trade with Israel. Seven other coun-

tries that signed the statement also recognise the State of Palestine, including Cyprus, Malta and Poland, all of which recognised Palestine in 1988, shortly after the Palestinian Declaration of Independence. Iceland (2011), Sweden (2014), Norway (2024) and Slovenia (2024) also recognise the State of Palestine while France said it will do so in September at the United Nations General Assembly. Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK. All of them are still trading with Israel. As expected, Oren Marmorstein, a spokesperson for the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, wrote on X that Israel rejects the statement, saying "it is disconnected from reality and sends the wrong message to Hamas."

France, Germany and the UK called for an "immediate ceasefire" in Gaza and "unconditional release of all hostages" after they held an emergency call to discuss the war and the hunger crisis created by Israel's siege and aid blockade on the enclave. Attention has turned heavily towards the starvation of Palestinians in Gaza, leading even long-time Israeli stalwart supporters like former US presidential candidate Hillary Clinton to address the issue. This pressure has led Israel to announce "tactical pauses" for "humanitarian purposes" from 10am to 8pm (07:00 to 17:00 GMT) in al-Mawasi, Deir el-Balah and Gaza City. They started. Despite the pauses, Israeli forces killed at least 43 Palestinians. The Palestinian Ministry of Health in Gaza said that it had recorded six more deaths over 24 hours due to famine and malnutrition, including two children. This brings the total number of starvation deaths to 133, including 87 children. — Aljazeera

Europe hopes for 'no surprises' as US weighs force withdrawals

BRUSSELS (AFP): After keeping Donald Trump happy with a pledge to up defence spending at NATO's summit, Europe is now bracing for a key decision from the US president on the future of American forces on the continent. Washington is currently conducting a review of its military deployments worldwide -- set to be unveiled in coming months -- and the expectation is it will lead to drawdowns in Europe. That prospect is fraying the nerves of US allies, especially as fears swirl that Russia could look to attack a NATO country within the next few years if the war in Ukraine dies down. However, the alliance is basking in Trump's newfound goodwill following its June summit in The Hague, and his officials are making encouraging noises that

Europe will not be left in the lurch. "We've agreed to no surprises and no gaps in the strategic framework of Europe," said Matthew Whitaker, US ambassador to NATO, adding he expected the review to come out in "late summer, early fall". "I have daily conversations with our allies about the process," he said. While successive US governments have mulled scaling back in Europe to focus more on China, Trump has insisted more forcefully than his predecessors that the continent should handle its own defence. "There's every reason to expect a withdrawal from Europe," said Marta Mucznik from the International Crisis Group. "The question is not whether it's going to happen, but how fast." When Trump returned to office in January many felt

he was about to blow a hole in the seven-decade-old alliance. But the vibe in NATO circles is now far more upbeat than those desperate days. "There's a sanguine mood, a lot of guesswork, but the early signals are quite positive," one senior European diplomat told AFP, talking as others on condition of anonymity. "Certainly no panic or doom and gloom." The Pentagon says there are nearly 85,000 US military personnel in Europe -- a number that has fluctuated between 75,000 and 105,000 since Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine. "I think it is inevitable that they pull out some of their forces," a second European diplomat told AFP. "But I don't expect this to be like a dramatic overhaul. I think it's going to be gradual. I think it's going to be based on consultations." Trump's first target is

likely to be the troops left over from a surge ordered by his predecessor Joe Biden after Moscow's tanks rolled into Ukraine. Officials say relocating the rump of that 20,000-strong deployment would not hurt NATO's deterrence too much -- but alarm bells would ring if Trump looked to cut too deep into personnel numbers or close key bases. The issue is not just troop numbers -- the US has capabilities such as air defences, long-range missiles and satellite surveillance that allies would struggle to replace in the short-term. "The kinds of defence investments by Europe that are being made coming out of The Hague summit may only be felt in real capability terms over many years," said Ian Lesser from the German Marshall Fund think tank. "So the question of timing really does matter."

Syria to hold first parliamentary elections in September

DAMASCUS: Syria will hold parliamentary elections in September, said the head of a body tasked with organising the election process, Mohammed Taha al-Ahmad, chairman of the Higher Committee for People's Assembly Elections, told state news agency SANA that elections will take place between September 15 and 20. They will be the first to take place under the coun-

try's new authorities after the fall of former President Bashar al-Assad in a lightning rebel offensive in December. One-third of the 210 seats will be appointed by interim President Ahmed al-Sharaa, with the rest to be elected. In a recent interview with the Erem News site, another member of the elections committee, Hassan al-Daghim, said an electoral college will be set up in each of Syria's

provinces to vote for the elected seats. A temporary constitution signed by al-Sharaa in March called for a People's Committee to be set up to serve as an interim parliament until a permanent constitution is adopted and general elections held, a process that could take years. The announcement of impending elections comes at a time when the country is increasingly divided in its views of the new authorities

in Damascus after sectarian violence broke out in the southern province of Suwayda earlier this month. The fighting killed hundreds of people and threatened to unravel Syria's fragile postwar transition. The violent clashes, which broke out two weeks ago, were sparked by tit-for-tat kidnappings between armed Bedouin clans and fighters from the Druze religious minority.

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Neighbors should cherish boon of regional peace

PROPERLY settling the border dispute between Thailand and Cambodia would serve the interests of both countries. It is imperative that the two sides engage in talks to resolve the issue through peaceful dialogue and consultation.

Encouragingly, Acting Prime Minister Phumtham Wechayachai of Thailand and Prime Minister Hun Manet of Cambodia have now agreed to an "immediate and unconditional ceasefire" following peace talks in Kuala Lumpur on Monday.

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, who serves as this year's chair of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations, emphasized that the agreement was a vital first step to de-escalation and a restoration of peace and security.

The defense and foreign ministers of Malaysia, Cambodia and Thailand have been tasked with setting up a "detailed mechanism" for the "implementation, verification and reporting of the ceasefire".

The border between Thailand and Cambodia has been disputed for decades. But in the past, confrontations have been limited and brief. It was expected that the current tensions, which broke out in May when a Cambodian soldier was killed in a border skirmish, would also be resolved quickly. But instead, they have escalated, creating a diplomatic rift between the two neighbors.

Both countries recalled their ambassadors and Thailand closed some of its border crossings with Cambodia, with an exception for migrant Cambodian workers returning home. At least 33 people have been reportedly killed and thousands have been displaced.

Southeast Asia is a region that has long valued stability and peaceful coexistence, which has contributed to its economic and social development.

The region's economic growth is one of the most vibrant in the world. Under the framework of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, ASEAN, along with China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia and New Zealand are contributing a great deal to global economic development and injecting certainty into the uncertain world economic and social landscape.

Against such a backdrop, all neighboring countries hope that the leaders of Thailand and Cambodia will look at the larger picture of regional development, exercise restraint and do their best to try and de-escalate the tensions.

Thailand and Cambodia are close neighbors with deep historical ties with China, and both enjoy longstanding friendly relations with it. Preserving a spirit of good-neighborliness, building mutual trust, and handling differences responsibly are not only in the best interests of both countries, but also essential for peace and stability in the region.

China is deeply concerned about the tensions and the tragic loss of life, and extends its heartfelt condolences to the people of both nations. At the invitation of the other parties, Chinese representatives participated in Monday's talks, underscoring China's constructive role in supporting efforts to de-escalate the conflict and promote dialogue.

As a spokesperson for the Chinese Foreign Ministry emphasized, China hopes the two sides will prioritize the well-being of their peoples, exercise calm and restraint, and work quickly to halt the hostilities. Only through peaceful dialogue and negotiation can the border issue be properly addressed and lasting stability restored.

Cambodia and Thailand are both important members of ASEAN, and China highly appreciates ASEAN's active efforts to promote a ceasefire between the two sides and welcomes all actions conducive to easing tensions.

Dialogue and consultation are the only effective way to resolve disputes. The agreement to cease hostilities should now serve as a foundation for further dialogue and mutual trust-building.

By approaching the situation with foresight and a spirit of cooperation, it is hoped that both nations can forge an agreement — one that upholds stability along their border and reinforces the broader peace that has long underpinned Southeast Asia's development and cohesion.

China will continue to uphold a fair and just position, maintain close communication with both sides, and actively play a constructive role in promoting peace talks.

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.



The need for a decision operation in Tirah Valley

Kousar Khan

TIRAH Valley, nestled in the rugged terrain of ex-FATA, is once again bleeding. The spectre of terror has returned, not in whispers, but in the unmistakable language of bullets, quadcopters, abductions, and intimidation. As militants from outlawed groups like TTP, Lashkar-e-Islam, and others, tighten their grip on the region, the people of Tirah are left wondering: how long must we suffer before decisive action is taken?

More than just another conflict zone, Tirah Valley sits at a strategic crossroads, linking Pakistan's western frontier with internal tribal routes. Leaving this terrain in the hands of non-state actors risk not just local stability, but national cohesion.

Let's unwind with the facts. In recent months, militants have intensified their reign of terror. In one chilling incident, three young men; Naveed, Ibrahim, and Samad, were abducted and ruthlessly executed in Zangi Kalli. Naveed was the only brother to several sisters, Ibrahim had just been married. Their deaths are not just numbers in a report, they are personal, devastating losses to families and community.

On another instance, a disabled father's inability to pay Ushr (a so-called tax extorted by militants) led to his two disabled sons being attacked. In yet another tragic episode, a woman was shot simply for refusing to serve food to terrorists.

These are not isolated cases; they are evidence of a coordinated campaign of

fear designed to suffocate any semblance of normal life in Tirah. Militants are not just occupying the land, they are attempting to conquer the will of its people. But here's the twist: this time, the people are not surrendering.

Tribes such as the Bar Qambarkhel have made their stance clear: they will not shelter terrorists, they will not pay Ushr, and they will not allow their land to be used for spreading bloodshed.

"We have decided in one voice, we will not host terrorists, nor will we give them a single rupee in ushr. Anyone cooperating with these enemies of peace will face social boycotts and tribal penalties,"

declared Malik Zahir Shah, a leading elder of Bar Qambarkhel, during a recent jirga in Bagh-Maidan. This is a rare and powerful moment, when the people and the state want the same thing: peace.

And yet, the operation that could secure this peace remains stuck in limbo, paralyzed not by lack of intelligence or resources, but by political indecision. The federal and provincial governments remain locked in a dance of blame and bureaucratic tug-of-war.

On one side, security officials have proposed a phased, decisive operation. Camps for displaced families are being prepared, financial compensation is being negotiated, and military readiness is apparent. According to reports by Dawn and official sources involved in Tirah Valley, over 17,000 families are at

risk of displacement in case of a full-scale operation. However, the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) has already begun preparations, with up to 5,000 tents surveyed for setup in Mastak and nearby areas.

On the other side, political leaders, absent from critical jirgas, either delay decisions or use the issue as a platform for grandstanding. Let's call it what it is: a dangerous abdication of responsibility from political front.

To be clear, the concerns of the local population regarding displacement are valid. Families who have already suffered from years of war must not be left to bear the costs alone. The demand for financial compensation for destroyed homes, and a one-time, short-term military operation followed by permanent peace, are both reasonable and achievable. But, what is unreasonable is to let militants regroup while officials argue logistics. What is unacceptable is to allow terrorists to dictate terms while politicians chase headlines. Tirah doesn't need more statements, it needs action.

And yet, even in this chaos, a flicker of hope remains. The unwavering spirit of Tirah's people, their refusal to bow to terror, is a signal to the state: We are with you, but you must act now.

This is not the time to appease opposition voices who attend press conferences, but not the funerals of the victims. This is not the time for political

tokenism, where jirgas are held without real representation and decisions are postponed until the cost is too high. This is the time for clarity, for resolve, and for results.

A military operation in Tirah is not just necessary, it is inevitable. Delaying it only emboldens the enemy and endangers the people. The longer we wait, the stronger they become. The longer we debate, the weaker our message to both militants and civilians alike.

Let us remember: the Pakistan Army has time and again proven its capability to root out terror when backed by national will. Operations like Zarb-e-Azb and Radd-ul-Fasaad have set a precedent of victory. What we need now is political coherence and public support which already exists in Tirah.

History will ask us: when Tirah Valley cried for help, who answered? Let the answer not be silence, but a resounding declaration that the state never abandon its people. Let the world see that when Khwarijs strike, the sons of the soil rise, not just in uniforms, but in tribal resolve and collective unity.

Tirah has made its decision. Now it's the time we take a unanimous action and come out in support of our brave forces, who once again will put their lives at risk for our security.

Peace is not a gift. It is a prize earned through courage, and our forces are the living example of that resolve and courage. Let's show the enemy that the nation stands firm, shoulder to shoulder with its soldiers!

Israel's policies deny Gaza's Palestinians normal lives

GAZA continues to headline regional print and broadcast news. For people following the news, it is nearly impossible to evade the catastrophe that has overtaken Gaza. The strip's 2.3 million Palestinians are starving due to Israel's blockade of food, water and fuel which began on March 2nd. Although limited aid deliveries resumed at the end of May, the majority of families continue to struggle to obtain enough food to avoid starvation.

This has increased pressure on Israel to agree to end the blockade and ceasefire in the war which it resumed on March 18th, after a three-month truce. However, Israel and the US have pulled out of indirect negotiations with Hamas brokered by Qatar, arguing that Hamas has refused to do a deal. This is not true: Hamas has simply not agreed to the deal Israel and the US have tabled at a time they appear to have believed starvation in Gaza would compel Hamas to agree to Israeli-US terms.

Hamas has accepted a 60-day ceasefire and the release of Israeli hostages in exchange for Palestinian prisoners. As it distrusts the US and Israel, Hamas is asking for more Palestinian prisoners than proposed. Hamas also demands the reopening of Gaza's Egyptian border with Israel and the redeployment of the Israeli army away from civilian centres within Gaza.

Hamas calls for the exclusion of the US-Israeli Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) since 1,000 Palestinians have been killed during distributions of aid since late May. Hamas calls for a return to previous UN aid mechanisms. At the end of the ceasefire Hamas seeks a total withdrawal from Gaza of Israeli forces,

an end to the war and reconstruction of Gaza with its population in situ.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu wants to maintain Israeli control over 40 per cent of Gaza, retain the GHF, and return to war after the ceasefire. He could, however, be ready for compromise after today (Monday) when the Israeli parliament goes into recession until October as his fragile minority government would not be threatened with a no-confidence motion. Two Ultra-Orthodox religious parties withdrew from the coalition last week over proposed legislation cancelling military draft exemptions for Ultra-Orthodox Jews, however, the Sephardi (Eastern) Ultra-Orthodox party, Shas, said it would vote with Netanyahu on other legislation, offering him a tenuous lifeline while the coalition holds only 50 seats in the Knesset.

Exemptions for the Ultra-Orthodox were granted at the time of Israel's founding 77 years ago when that community was small but have created resentment among other Israelis who have been required to serve as Ultra-Orthodox numbers have grown.

Resentment has increased since Netanyahu mounted his war on Gaza on October 7th, 2023, which he seeks to prosecute until it "eliminates" Hamas, an objective few Israelis believe he will attain.

As long as the war goes on, Netanyahu believes he will not face criticism for his handling of Hamas and the failure, under his watch, of the Israeli army to predict and pre-empt the 2023 attack on southern Israel by Hamas which killed 1,200 and abducted 250. Netanyahu did not crack down hard on Hamas once it took control in Gaza in 2007

and allowed funds to flow into its coffers for two reasons. He sought to use Hamas as a counterweight to Fatah and divide Gaza, from the West Bank, where the Fatah-led Palestinian Authority administers Palestinian enclaves.

For Netanyahu and many Israelis October 7th justifies anything Israel might do to the Palestinians living under its occupation, particularly those in Gaza. However, without justifying Hamas' attack, it must be put into the context of Israel's treatment of Palestinians during the longest colonial occupation in modern history. Israel's emergence by war in 1948 was accompanied by ethnic cleansing of Palestinians living along the Mediterranean coast and in the wider Gaza governorate. They were driven into the narrow territory which became the "Gaza Strip." Refugees now are 70 per cent of the 2.3 million Palestinians living in Gaza. Some 1.37 million who live in UN refugee camps.

Israel has invaded Gaza many times. Israel briefly occupied the strip in 1956-1957 and held Gaza from 1967-2005. After it withdrew its soldiers and settlers in August 2005, Israel retained control by air, land, and sea. Since Hamas seized power in Gaza Israel has waged war on Gaza in 2008-2009, 2012, 2014, 2021, and 2023 until now. During each bout of warfare, Gazans were killed, their homes damaged and destroyed, the strip's infrastructure was bombed and efforts to rebuild were underfunded and incomplete.

Israel imposed restrictions on entry into and exit from Gaza during the early 1990s and intensified restrictions after Hamas took over. After Hamas ruled Gaza, Israel initially refused permits to work in

Israel to Gazans but after several years issued permits for 17,000, a fraction of the 120,000 employed in Israel before Hamas took over.

Israel's policies have denied Gaza's Palestinians normal lives. They have always lived under Israeli control. Gaza's economy is small, GDP low, and unemployment has long been high. It now stands at nearly 80 per cent, with more than three-quarters of youth without education, training, and employment. They have no past, present and future under Israeli rule. This is why Hamas, and other militant groups have been able to recruit from a large pool of bitter and resentful youths, mainly male, who are ready risk their lives to attack Israel and Israelis.

The only way to halt this decades long process of deprivation is to found and fund a Palestinian state in Gaza, East Jerusalem, and the West Bank, 22 per cent of the territory of Palestine. While this is rejected by Netanyahu and his right-wing allies, the two-state solution has been recognised by the international community as the means to end the conflict over possession of Palestine. However, Israeli governments and their US allies have thwarted any and all attempts to create a weak, demilitarised Palestinian rump state. Netanyahu and his political partners fully intend to drive Palestinians from Gaza and annex the West Bank as Israel has already annexed East Jerusalem and the occupied Syrian Golan Heights.

Palestinians can be expected to both stage revolts (Intifadas) and lash out in violent attacks. It took the Irish 800 years of resistance and revolt to secure an end to English colonisation and domination but the price was partition between south and north.

Beyond borders, beyond race: A life devoted to humanity

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal

IN a world increasingly divided by lines of race, religion, and nationality, there are still souls who rise above these walls and remind us that humanity is the highest calling of all. Compassion knows no passport, no border, no creed-it is the universal language of the heart. There are individuals whose lives become living testimonies to this truth. The late Abdul Sattar Edhi, a name revered across the globe, chose not only to live for others but to breathe for their sake. His legacy is not just remembered; it continues to inspire countless others who dedicate themselves to serving suffering humanity.

Among those who follow in the footsteps of Edhi-though oceans away from Pakistan-is a man whose story demands to be told. Haroon Noor Muhammad, born in 1948 in Pretoria, South Africa, is a living example of how love for humanity and one's roots can transcend time and geography. Despite being born on African soil, his heart has always beat in harmony with the people of Pakistan, a land where he spent his formative years. Forced by the cruel tides of apartheid-South Africa's legalized racial discrimination-Haroon came to Pakistan in 1963 for his education. There, not only did he acquire academic knowledge, but also developed a deep and lasting connection with the country and its people.

Two of his brothers, now deceased, studied at the famed Dow Medical College. Haroon himself enrolled at Karachi Grammar School and later at St. Patrick's College, where he pursued a Bachelor of Commerce degree. It was at St. Pat's that history was made-he became the first foreign student to be

• • • • • His efforts have not gone unnoticed. In April 2025, Haroon was invited to Pakistan and honoured with the Governor's Award in Peshawar for his lifelong commitment to humanitarian work and for being a bridge between Pakistan and South Africa. In a world hungry for such examples, his life offers a shining beacon of hope. He has hosted every Pakistani ambassador to South Africa at his residence since 1994, turning his home into a sanctuary of diplomacy, hospitality, and connection. Among his many memories is his acquaintance with Junaid Jamshed during the latter's visit to South Africa-a friendship that, like many others, lives on in his heart and stories. What makes Haroon Noor Muhammad's story even more poignant is that his affection for Pakistan is not rooted in political opportunism or identity politics. His family had migrated from India to South Africa before the Partition of 1947. Yet the land of Pakistan, its people, and the days he spent on its soil left an indelible mark on his soul. He did not just study in Pakistan; he absorbed its culture, made lifelong friendships, and internalized its values. Pakistan, to him, is not merely a country on the map-it is a part of his being. His life story is a blend of resilience, love, and unyielding faith in the goodness of people. His efforts are now being considered for recognition through the prestigious Presidential Award of Pakistan-an honour richly deserved for a man who never stopped serving, never stopped loving, and never ceased believing in the boundless power of humanity. In an age when the world feels increasingly fragmented, Haroon Noor Muhammad reminds us that the best of us are those who live not for themselves, but for others-across oceans, across barriers, and across time. • • • • •

elected President of the College Students' Union in 1971-72, a feat not just of political participation but also of inclusion and acceptance. This milestone speaks volumes of the bridge he built between cultures, races, and communities even in his youth.

From 1973 to 1976, Haroon attended the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) in Karachi, earning an honours degree in Business and an MBA. With his education complete, he returned to South Africa, only to find the doors of opportunity closed in his face-shut tight by the oppressive force of apartheid.

Despite his qualifications, the colour of his skin dictated his fate. He was not permitted to work in the professional spaces his education had earned him access to. Yet this disappointment did not wither his spirit. Rather, it

planted within him a greater resolve to serve.

Haroon restarted his connection with Pakistan in numerous ways. In 2001, during her exile, Benazir Bhutto was received at his residence in Pretoria. That day, spent in the warmth of family and friendship, remains etched in his memory-a memory he holds close to his heart. In 2005 and again in 2010, when Pakistan was struck by devastating earthquakes and floods, Haroon did not merely offer words of sympathy; he mobilized resources from South Africa and conducted relief work in collaboration with none other than Abdul Sattar Edhi. He considers Edhi a divine gift to mankind and is honoured to have worked beside him.

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Trump lands another big win with EU trade deal, but he can’t dodge the Epstein saga

PRESIDENT Donald Trump claimed another win for his campaign to transform the global economy and American life, but he still can't escape intensifying questions over his handling of the Jeffrey Epstein controversy.

The United States clinched a framework deal with the European Union on Sunday that averted a damaging trade war. Trump believes such moves will revive US manufacturing. But the resulting 15% tariff on EU goods entering the US likely means American consumers will face higher prices in the long term.

This is a significant step. So Trump's insistence that it was not simply a bid to distract from the Epstein saga is reasonable.

"Oh, you have got to be kidding with that," the angry president told a reporter. But his irritation underscored his failure to shrug off weeks of revelations about the case and his own past friendship with the accused sex trafficker, who died in prison in 2019 while awaiting trial.

Mystery surrounds the administration's motives after Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche, Trump's former personal lawyer, met last week with Epstein's imprisoned accomplice, Ghislaine Maxwell. Her lawyer implied that Maxwell was open to a presidential pardon. Trump's record of using such power for political purposes has critics warning he may be seeking a deal that would politicize justice.

The storm back home isn't abating. Two lawmakers, one Democrat and the other Republican, vowed Sunday to force a vote on the House floor on the release of Epstein case files. Such a vote could embarrass the administration and create a major political showdown.

This came on a typically frenetic weekend that Trump spent in Scotland and that served as a metaphor for his turbulent influence on America and the globe.

He juggled the highest-level diplomacy — talks with the EU's top official, Ursula von der Leyen — with a trip promoting his business empire, in this case his portfolio of exclusive Scottish golf clubs. His visit was greeted with street protests by caustic

Scots and featured outbursts of extreme rhetoric — including his social media call for the prosecution of former Vice President Kamala Harris.

Trump will come face-to-face Monday with pressure to force Israel to do more to mitigate a growing famine in Gaza. He'll see British Prime Minister Keir Starmer at his Turnberry resort in southwest Scotland before traveling with Starmer to Aberdeenshire, where Trump will inaugurate a new course at another club. Starmer last week said of the crisis in Gaza that "we are witnessing a humanitarian catastrophe."

Much is unknown about the scope of the trade deal with the EU, which will see a 15% tariff imposed on most of the bloc's exports and billions of dollars in purchases of US energy.

But it extends a winning streak and a record of implementing campaign promises for a president who is imposing personal power and often idiosyncratic beliefs — for instance in the effectiveness of trade tariffs — on the US and the world.

"This was the big one. This is the biggest of them all," Trump said Sunday after meeting von der Leyen, the president of the European Commission.

Von der Leyen followed the accepted wisdom that praising Trump personally can provide political payoffs. "He is a tough negotiator, but he is also a dealmaker," she said.

Trump has recently announced framework deals on trade with Japan and the Philippines — which both include higher tariffs that represent a fracturing of the 21st-century global free-trade arrangements.

Trump believes that this system, which helped make the US a dominant global power, is nevertheless unfair on American workers and industries. And he rejects economists' arguments that raising tariffs increases prices for already-stretched US consumers.

Trump is flexing power everywhere.

He is gutting the federal government, dominating Congress, and exerting unprecedented pressure on law firms and universities to impose his right-wing ideology, all while seeking to intimidate media

Stephen Collinson

outlets. These are wins for his populist "Make America Great Again" movement and its program to buckle what supporters see as liberal power.

But as with Trump's outlier belief in tariffs, the long-term impacts that his actions could have on American society, the economy and democracy are alarming critics. Trump has politicized the legal system; his government funding cuts have hampered vital scientific research on critical subjects such as cancer; and his expanding of presidential power often tests the Constitution.

Still, markets may welcome the EU trade deal framework, assuming it is fully implemented — hardly a given considering Trump's volatile history of threats and reversals. An EU-US trade war would have been a far worse outcome.

But the agreement confirms suspicions that Trump's goal is not fairer trade but higher tariffs.

Although existing tariffs have so far not harmed the economy as much as some experts feared, Americans will pay more for cars, food, luxuries and consumer goods.

The inflationary impact on the economy, and Trump's likely appointment next year of a new Federal Reserve chair who will lower interest rates, could mean greater economic threats to come.

There's also an important geopolitical aspect to the EU trade deal. The Europeans committed to buying \$880 billion of energy from the US. This could make America's NATO allies less vulnerable to pressure from Russia at a time when the Western alliance is opposing Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

"We still have too much Russian LNG (liquid natural gas) that is coming through the back door again to our European Union, and some Russian gas and oil still in the European Union, which we do not want anymore," von der Leyen said.

Trump's frustration that a key political achievement has been overshadowed by the Epstein saga is unlikely to dissipate in the coming days.

The controversy started because of conspiracy

theories among Trump's base that claimed the disgraced financier did not take his own life in prison but was murdered, and that he left behind a client list of rich and powerful Americans who'd taken advantage of his alleged sex trafficking.

These claims were promoted by Trump and allies including Pam Bondi and Kash Patel. When all three assumed positions of great power (Bondi is attorney general, and Patel is FBI director), their failure to release the files as promised caused a rupture in Trump's MAGA base, which the administration has failed thus far to repair.

The political uproar explains why Blanche's meeting with Maxwell last week caused such consternation.

Maxwell's lawyer told reporters after her second day of meetings with Blanche in Tallahassee, Florida, that she had answered every question truthfully and honestly.

He also noted that the president has the power to pardon those convicted of crimes. "We hope he exercises that power in a right and just way," the attorney, David Oscar Markus, said Friday.

Blanche has so far not offered a detailed public account of the meetings.

There is no evidence of wrongdoing by Trump in his relationship with Epstein, and the president appears to have severed the friendship long before the accused sex trafficker was charged with federal crimes.

But the Justice Department's unorthodox approach is raising concerns that it goes beyond a public relations effort to convince MAGA voters the administration is doing something. Maxwell, who is serving a 20-year prison term, has an incentive for providing information that could ease her situation — and Trump has the power to do so.

Questions over the president's motives became even more important when CNN and other outlets reported last week that Trump's name was mentioned in the Epstein files, along with those of some other prominent Americans.

This does not mean that he or anyone else is guilty of wrongdoing. In fact, Bondi might have made the correct decision legally in refusing

to release information that could harm the reputation of people not accused of crimes. But beyond a joint Justice Department and FBI statement on the rationale for not releasing the files, the administration has rarely attempted to justify a policy that has put it at odds with its own supporters in the MAGA movement.

"I'm concerned that the deputy attorney general, Todd Blanche, is meeting with (Maxwell) supposedly one-on-one," Democratic Rep. Ro Khanna of California said on NBC's "Meet the Press" on Sunday. "Look, I agree ... that she should testify. But she's been indicted twice on perjury. This is why we need the files."

Republican leaders hoped the case might simply disappear over the summer recess. But Kentucky GOP Rep. Thomas Massie, a co-sponsor with Khanna of a House bill demanding the release of the files, isn't giving up.

"This is going to hurt Republicans in the midterms."

The voters will be apathetic if we don't hold the rich and powerful accountable," Massie said on NBC. "I think when we get back, we can get the signatures required to force this to the floor."

The Trump administration has asked the courts to release grand jury testimony pertinent to the Epstein case. But one federal judge refused last week, in a ruling that may have given the DOJ political cover.

"We want them to release the files. However, we can't make them release it because of separation of power," Oklahoma GOP Sen. Markwayne Mullin told Jake Tapper on CNN's "State of the Union."

That may be the case. But grand jury testimony is believed to be only a fraction of the evidence against Epstein that the government holds — and hasn't made public.

And the entire controversy has been worsened by the administration's clumsy approach and unwillingness to confront the anger of the MAGA base.

"I think that part of this problem is that there were some false expectations that are created, and that's a political mistake," Missouri Republican Rep. Eric Burlison told CNN's Manu Raju.

— CNN

The Nile cannot be governed by colonial-era treaties

Jafar Bedru Geletu

IN a couple of weeks, the Grand Renaissance Dam (GERD), the biggest hydroelectric dam on the African continent, will be inaugurated. The construction of this dam has taken more than a decade and has cost nearly \$5bn. The government and people of Ethiopia mobilised the funds for this national project from their meagre internal resources. No international financing was made available for this project.

While the construction of the dam has received some international media attention, the media coverage has not made clear the Ethiopian perspective. This is a modest attempt to rectify that problem.

The GERD is constructed on the Blue Nile, which Ethiopians call Abay. Abay means "big" or "major" in several Ethiopian languages. Abay is one of the main tributaries of the Nile River. Although many associate the Nile almost exclusively with Egypt, the river traverses 10 other African countries. Among these countries, Ethiopia holds a unique position because 86 percent of the Nile water that reaches Egypt originates from the Ethiopian highlands.

Abay is the biggest river in Ethiopia with a huge potential to boost overall socioeconomic transformation and development. It has been a long-held aspiration of Ethiopians to utilise this resource. The GERD is a national development project that fulfils this dream.

Despite its huge labour force and economic potential, Ethiopia has yet to make headway in its endeavour to industrialise. One critical factor that has held back this effort has been Ethiopia's lack of energy. According to the latest figures, barely 55 percent of Ethiopians have access to electricity.

There is a huge demand and need for electricity in Ethiopia. Hence, the GERD is seen as our national ticket out of darkness and poverty. Necessity dictates that Ethiopia use this major resource as an instrument to spur growth and prosperity for the benefit of its 130-million-strong population, which is expected to reach 200 million by 2050.

The GERD is expected to generate about 5,150 megawatts of electricity and produce an annual energy output of 15,760 gigawatt hours. This will double Ethiopia's energy output, which will not only light our homes but also power industries and cities and transform our economy. The GERD would also make it possible to increase our energy exports to neighbouring countries, thereby strengthening regional integration and interconnectedness.

While the Nile is still valid and should be adhered to by all Nile riparian countries. From an Ethiopian point of view, this anachronistic argument, often presented as "historic rights over the Nile" is unacceptable. While Britain is entitled to enter into any agreements regarding the River Thames, it does not have the right to dispose of the waters of the Nile or the Abay River. As we all recall, the late Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser rejected Britain's claims over the Suez Canal. For much stronger reasons, Ethiopian leaders have consistently rejected arguments based on colonial arrangements in which Ethiopia did not have a say.

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Gaza famine a death sentence delivered by global inaction

Hani Hazaimah

FAMINE in Gaza is no longer a speculative threat, nor is it merely a rhetorical tool to shame the international community into action. It is now a brutal, undeniable fact. The situation has evolved from a humanitarian crisis into a full-blown catastrophe and the numbers speak for themselves. According to the UN, 96 percent of Gaza's population faces acute food insecurity. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification warns that at least 500,000 people are living under "catastrophic" conditions — one step before mass starvation.

These are not projections. They are the present realities. Gaza, already strangled by an 18-year blockade, is now walking barefoot into famine under the shadow of total siege and relentless bombardment. The current Israeli assault, which began in October 2023, has not only flattened entire neighborhoods and displaced more than 1.7 million people, it has also systematically targeted the infrastructure that makes survival possible: bakeries, food distribution centers, water facilities and even the UNRWA aid warehouses that once formed the backbone of humanitarian relief.

Hospitals are collapsing. Children are dying — not only from bombs, but from hunger. Videos and photographs released by health workers in Khan Younis and northern Gaza show toddlers with protruding ribs, skeletal arms and lifeless eyes. Mothers have been filmed weeping as they try to feed their children with boiled grass and stale bread mixed with animal feed. These are not isolated cases — they are the norm in a place where malnutrition is spreading faster than any ceasefire can catch up.

In previous conflicts, Gaza's suffering was often buried under the weight of geopolitical calculations and narratives of moral equivalence. This time, the truth has become too grotesque to ignore. The UN has repeatedly stated that Gaza is on the brink of famine. In June, the World Food Programme declared that 100 percent of Gaza's population is "food insecure" — a statistic unprecedented in modern times. In March, famine was declared in northern Gaza by multiple humanitarian agencies, citing more than 30 children dying of starvation in just two hospitals. The rest of the deaths go undocumented, with bodies buried under rubble or in makeshift graves.

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as a weapon of war — the 1980s, Sudan's Darfur and the besieged cities of Syria. But there is one

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The flood has reached its limit. The time for cautious statements and deferred action is over. The international system, including the UN Security Council and major humanitarian agencies, is facing a crisis of legitimacy. If these bodies cannot prevent the slow death of an entire population by hunger, what are they for?

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What is the value of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights if it cannot be applied to Gaza? What purpose does international law serve if starvation tactics are used with impunity?

There must be steps taken — now. First, an immediate and unconditional ceasefire is the only way to begin halting the famine. Second, the complete and unrestricted entry of humanitarian aid must be guaranteed by a binding international resolution, not vague promises. Third, accountability must follow. War crimes, including the deliberate starvation of civilians, must be investigated and prosecuted, no matter the perpetrator.

Finally, there is a role for all of us as individuals. Speak up. Do not allow this atrocity to continue in your name. History will remember what we did — or did not do — when Gaza cried out not for help but for bread.

In 2025, the world is being tested not just by war but by its own conscience. Will we choose humanity or will we rationalize genocide with politics and diplomatic fatigue? Gaza is dying, not in silence but in full view of the world.

Let history record that we saw — and that some of us refused to look away.

**Document lost**

My vehicle documents had been lost in the premises of East Cant police station bearing Registration No: VA430, Chesiss No: NAZE141-9009386 and Engine No: NZC 439696

COURT NOTICE

In the Court of Arbab Muhammad Kashif AdJ I/ Azafi Zilla Qazi Buner at Daggar.Suit No. 89/13. Institution 7/9/2024. Date of hearing. 16/8/2025. Title: Ismail Khan VS Sher Akbar Khan etc. Notice to No. 20.Nasar Alam.21.Said Alam.22.Zahor Alam sons of Jabeen Khan resident of Daggar Klay tehseil Daggar district Buner.Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendants can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendants will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8.30 am dated 16/8/2025 the proceeding will be taken ex- parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

COURT NOTICE

In the Court of Arbab Muhammad Kashif AdJ I/ Azafi Zilla Qazi Buner at Daggar. Suit No. 33/13. Institution 26/3/2024. Date of hearing. 26/8/2025. Title: Sherjan s/o Khazhar VS Sher Bakhtiyar etc. Notice to No.15. Parvez Khan.17.Naz Ali Khan.18. Shahnaras Khan .19.Sherwali Khan sons. 21.Lal Zamena d/o Bujihan (late)resident of Agarai tehseil Mandran district Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendants can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendants will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8.30 am dated 26/8/2025 the proceeding will be taken ex-parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

COURT NOTICE

In the Court of Shadab Civil Judge I/Ilaqa Qazi Buner at Daggar.Suit No 32/1. Institution 6/2/2024.Date of hearing. 25/9/2025.Title: Muhammad Ayaz etc VS Abdul Ghani etc. Notice to no 3.Hazrat Hassan 5.Mst Miraj Bibi. 7.Ajmal Khan.9.Umara Khan resident of Torwarsak tehseil Daggar district Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendants can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendants will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8.30 am dated 25/9/2025 the proceeding will be taken ex-parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

COURT NOTICE

The applicant, Masal Khan son of Yousaf Dar Khan resident of Surakh Dhery located in Tehsil Rustam, district Mardan, filed an application to the Urban Area Development Authority Mardan that he had lost original documents of his 10-marla plot No.197 located in sector-I Sheikh Multoon Town Mardan. So, those who have any objection over the issuance of a duplicate copy for the above mentioned 10-marla plot come to the office of Urban Area Development Authority Mardan within fifteen days, otherwise, the relevant officials of Urban Area Development Authority will issue a duplicate copy of the 10-marla plot No.197 in Sheikh Multoon Town Mardan. It is issued by the housing officer Arban Area Development Authority Mardan. 0937-9230434

PSX witnesses bullish trend, gains 172.77 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) benchmark KSE-100 Index witnessed bullish trend on Monday, gaining 172.77 points, a positive change of 0.12 percent, closing at 139,380.06 points against 139,207.29 points last trading day.

A total of 589,306,106 shares were traded during the day as compared to 634,810,939 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 34.562 billion against Rs 24.611 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 483 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 251 of them recorded gains and 205 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 27 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were Aisha Steel Mill with 51,818,828 shares

at Rs 12.76 per share, Agha Steel Ind. with 46,621,631 shares at Rs9.92 per share and B.O. Punjab with 23,774,754 shares at Rs 13.49 per share.

Atlas Honda Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 77.29 per share price, closing at Rs 1,237.54, whereas the runner-up was Sazgar Engineering Works Limited with Rs 62.91 rise in its per share price to Rs 31,548.00.

Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs627.42 per share closing at Rs 33,512.13 followed by PIA Holding Company Limited with Rs386.62 decline in its share price to close at Rs31,548.00.

Rupee gains 24 paisa against US Dollar

The Rupee on Monday appreciated by 24 paisa against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and

closed at Rs 283.21 against the previous day's closing Rs 283.45.

However, according to the FAP, the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 285.3 and Rs 286.3, respectively.

The price of the Euro decreased by Rs 2.15 to close at Rs 330.73 against the last day's closing of Rs 332.88, according to the State Bank of Pakistan.

The Japanese yen came down by 01 paisa and closed at Rs 1.90, whereas a decline of Rs 1.74 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs 379.85 compared to the previous day's closing of Rs 381.59.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal came down by 07 and 06 paisa to close at Rs 77.10 and Rs 75.49,

respectively.

Gold prices decrease by Rs100 at Rs356,300

The price of 24 karat per tola gold decreased by Rs.100 and was traded at Rs.356,300 on Monday as against its sale at Rs. 356,400 the previous day, All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewelers Association reported.

The prices of 10 grams of 24 karat also decreased by Rs.85 to Rs.305,470 from Rs. 305,555 whereas that of 10 grams of 22 karat gold went down to Rs.280,014. The rates of per tola and ten gram silver remained unchanged and closed at Rs. 3,963 and Rs.3,397 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$1 to \$3,336 from \$3,337, whereas that of silver remained stagnant and closed at \$38.14, the Association reported.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain chairing a high level meeting with Pakistan Sugar Mills Association and stakeholders to review sugar supply and stock monitoring.

Tanveer orders strict monitoring of sugar mill stocks

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain on Monday said that the government will exercise strict oversight of sugar mill stocks and officials will be deputed to each sugar mill to monitor stock levels and ensure uninterrupted supply in accordance with agreed terms.

The minister chaired an important meeting with representatives of the Pakistan Sugar Mills Association (PSMA) and other key stakeholders from across the provinces to review the ongoing sugar supply situation in the country, said a press release.

Rana Tanveer said that the government was com-

mitted to maintaining price stability and ensuring adequate sugar supply in the market, adding that any negligence or violation of agreements will not be tolerated.

At the same time, we will work closely with the industry to resolve their legitimate concerns in a timely manner," the minister added.

During the meeting, it was observed that several sugar mills are not adhering to the mutually agreed framework regarding the supply and release of sugar stocks. Despite repeated assurances, issues persist in the timely dispatch and availability of sugar in the market.

The Chairman of PSMA also raised the concerns and

challenges faced by mill owners. In response, the Federal Minister assured the industry that their genuine issues would be addressed. To facilitate effective communication and resolution of grievances, the Minister directed the formation of a Grievance Redressal Committee.

Additionally, a dedicated WhatsApp group will be established to ensure real-time coordination between government officials and sugar mill representatives.

The Ministry reiterated its commitment to transparent stock management, price stabilization, and coordination with all stakeholders to protect both consumer and producer interests.

Ziewnic Solar Energy: Powering a greener Pakistan

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Ziewnic Solar Energy is Pakistan's number one leading solar brand, committed to revolutionizing the renewable energy sector with advanced and sustainable solutions. From Solar Inverter and state-of-the-art lithium batteries to a wide range of high-performance inverters, Ziewnic has become a trusted name across homes, businesses, and industries.

With an aim to make Pakistan energy-independent, Ziewnic offers unmatched quality, after-sales service, and innovative solar products built for Pakistani conditions.



Ziewnic solar inverter lineup: Ziewnic offers a powerful range of inverters to cater to different energy needs - from small homes to large industries.

Pak economy shows signs of recovery, growing resilience

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Minister of Finance and Revenue informed on Monday that Pakistan's economy has demonstrated clear signs of recovery and growing resilience in the Previous Fiscal Year, 2025.

Pakistan's economy sustained growth momentum at 2.68%, while inflation fell sharply to 4.5%, supported by a lower policy rate, exchange rate stability, and prudent macroeconomic management, according to "Monthly Economic Update and Outlook, July 2025," issued by the Ministry of Finance and Revenue here.

According to the report, social protection and climate resilience will also remain integral to aligning near-term economic actions with Pakistan's long-term development goals.

Accordingly, real GDP is expected to grow by 4.2% in FY2026, alongside continued price stabilization.

The current account recorded a surplus of \$2.1 billion, marking the first annual surplus in 14 years and the largest in 22 years, reflecting improved external balances, stronger exports and remittances, and rising foreign exchange

reserves.

The fiscal deficit has been contained at 3.1% of GDP for July-May FY2025, showing improved fiscal discipline and resource management, the report said.

These improvements have strengthened market confidence, eased currency pressures, and created space for monetary easing to support growth. Building on this momentum, FY2026 begins with a renewed focus on sustainable and inclusive growth and Policy priorities include continued fiscal consolidation, enhanced revenue mobilization, modernization of the agriculture and industrial sectors, and improvements in the business climate and human capital development, the report said.

According to the data, the LSM sector registered a 7.9 percent month-on-month growth while a 2.3 percent year-on-year (YoY) increase in May 2025.

The report revealed that the decline in Perishable food prices is moderating Inflation and CPI averages 4.5% for FY2025, a substantial drop from 23.4% during the same period last

year.

The CPI inflation recorded at 3.2 percent YoY in June 2025, compared to 12.6 percent in June 2024. MoM, it increases by 0.2 percent, following a 0.2 percent decrease in May 2025.

A key factor behind this moderation is the significant decline in perishable food prices, which fell by 10.6 percent YoY, easing pressure on the overall food basket.

During Jul-May FY2025, the fiscal deficit reduced significantly to 3.7 percent of GDP from 5.0 percent recorded last year.

Similarly, primary surplus increased to 3.1 percent of GDP (Rs.3,594.6 billion) during Jul-May FY2025 from 1.5 percent (Rs.1,620.5 billion) last year due to contained growth in non-markup spending.

On stability in monetary indicators and Capital market optimism, the report said that during July 1 - June 27, FY2025, Pakistan's broad money supply (M2) grew by 13.7 percent compared to 15.0 percent growth observed last year.

In which, the Net

Foreign Assets (NFA) increased sharply by Rs.1,757 billion, compared to Rs.675.2 billion increase recorded in the corresponding period.

Net Domestic Assets (NDA) rose by Rs.3,164.9 billion, compared to Rs.3,976.8 billion last year.

According to the agriculture sector during July-May FY2025, agricultural credit disbursement rose to Rs 2,300.4 billion, marking a 16.6 percent increase from Rs 1,972.8 billion in the same period last year.

The data report also shown optimism for current FY 2025-26 and said that Pakistan's economy is expected to sustain its recovery in early FY2026, supported by improved macroeconomic fundamentals and rising investor confidence.

LSM is likely to maintain momentum in June 2025, driven by increased private sector credit off take and expanding production activity.

The rebound is expected to boost imports of raw materials and intermediate goods while supporting exports of value-added products.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Two ships, Dalma and Al-Jassasiya carrying Palm oil and LNG, berthed at Liquid Cargo Terminal and Port Gas Power Terminal respectively on Sunday.

Meanwhile two more ships, Evridiki and Marlin Le Havre scheduled to load/offload Furnace oil and Gas oil also arrive at outer anchorage on same day.

Ten ships were engaged at PQA berths during the

last 24 hours, out of them four ships, MSC Justice-III, Nave Anderomeda, Maya Gas-1 and Fuwairit left the port on Monday.

Cargo volume of 213,880 tonnes, comprising 205,619 tonnes imports cargo and 8,261 export cargo carried in 1,642 Containers (1,642 TEUs Imports & 0 TEUs Export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

Ten ships at Outer

Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them two ships, Torm Malaysia and Desert Dignity & four more ships, Xin Lian Chang, Eleni-T, MSC Mediterranean and MSC Rochelle carrying Mogas, Coal and Container are expected to take berths at FOTCO, PIBT and QICF respectively on Monday, while another containers ship 'GFS Prime' due to arrive at outer anchorage on Tuesday.

ICCI business mission heads to Bangladesh

ISLAMABAD (APP): A business delegation of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), led by its President Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, has departed for Bangladesh to promote bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

The delegation includes ICCI Vice President Nasir Mehmood Chaudhry and prominent business leaders and representatives from various sectors of Pakistan's economy, said a press release. The primary objective of the visit is to enhance economic ties, explore emerging business opportunities, and foster mutually beneficial collabo-

ration with key stakeholders in Bangladesh.

As part of the official itinerary, the delegation will visit the Pakistan High Commission in Dhaka on Tuesday, where the High Commissioner will provide an in-depth briefing on Bangladesh's current business environment, trade potential, and avenues for collaboration between the two nations.

The ICCI delegation is also scheduled to hold Business-to-Business (B2B) meetings with the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry. These meetings are

expected to explore prospects for joint ventures and partnerships across diverse sectors, facilitating mutual growth and long-term cooperation.

Speaking ahead of the visit, ICCI President Nasir Mansoor Qureshi termed the initiative a "significant milestone" in building stronger trade and economic linkages between Pakistan and Bangladesh.

"We are confident that this engagement will offer valuable insights into the Bangladeshi market and serve as an excellent platform for networking, knowledge sharing, and forming strategic partnerships," he said.

World Mangrove Day:

Coastal conservation week held at Mangrove Biodiversity Park

F.P. Report

KARACHI: On the occasion of World Mangrove Day, the Mangrove Biodiversity Park hosted a week of action driven community events to spotlight the critical role mangroves play in climate resilience and biodiversity conservation.

Mangrove forests not only store 2-4 times as much carbon as rainforests, but act as nurseries for fisheries. Shrimp, fish and crabs hide in the nooks created by the tangled roots of the mangroves and are the backbone for fishing communities. Thus as part of this week of activities, we went back to our roots to learn from the local community, took lectures on sustainability and spread awareness to our youth. The fight against climate change is most effective when it is local, inclusive and rooted in traditional knowledge.

TPL Insurance Sponsors a



Plantation Drive
MBP brought together students from C.A.S. School and youth members of the Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum (PFF) as part of a mangrove plantation drive. The entire event was sponsored by TPL Insurance, where participants planted saplings arranged by the Sindh Forest Department (SFD), learnt about mangrove ecosystems, the impact of climate change, communed with nature and were served refreshments. The aim of the event was to bring



different communities together to share stories and indigenous learnings about the mangroves. Since youth play a vital role in spreading awareness, promoting sustainability, and advocating for the environment, it was important to involve students and teach them about the importance of our mangrove ecosystems.

A session led by Ms. Almas Kasmani, Chairperson, PFF Youth, delivered an engaging awareness presentation to the students of CAS and employ-



ees across TPL's board that contributed their time, energy and passion; demonstrating the company's long-term commitment to environmental action.

After the session, participants joined the rest of the PFF youth for a plantation drive spearheaded by SFD, who provided a mix of Avicennia Marina and Rhizophora saplings that were planted to enhance the mangrove canopy cover around the park. Youth from both PFF and CAS received digital certificates to

commemorate their efforts and reinforce the value of individual action in collective collaboration. The youth including Manal Fahim and Bareerah called the park 'very informative and very relaxing'.

While Rukhsar Batool from PFF, although has been through the mangroves before, felt that it was 'an unforgettable journey'. Pakistan Women's Foundation for Peace

The Women's foundation for Peace addresses issues that lead to conflict, socio economic stagnation, violence & regression, by mobilizing public opinion through various programmes. For this programme, a group of inspirational women visited the park as part of an awareness session with Mr Shah Murad Aliani, Chairperson of the board for the Mangrove Biodiversity Park, and former CR for IUCN. The women were incredibly impressed

with the initiative, calling the park, 'a remarkable site!', and pledged to contribute to the development of the park for research purposes.

Sustainability Series
The Mangrove Biodiversity Park's curator, Zahra Hirji, MLA, Landscape Architect, attended multiple talks throughout the week held by AKDN at the Global Encounters Festival in Dubai. The talks, based on architecture and sustainability, highlighted the urgency in our actions to address global warming.

From "Response to Climate Change in Complex Crises" by Dr. Zulfikar Bhutta, to "Sustainability Architecture" with Hanif Kara, and the Aga Khan Trust for Culture's work in Afghanistan, each lecture highlighted how innovative solutions, community empowerment, and the preservation of cultural heritage can foster sustainable

development and improve residents' quality of life.

Smaller Groups visits to the Park Smaller groups visited the park to learn more about its biodiversity, including wildlife photographer Asad Ali Shah. The group had lots of questions regarding the number of bird species present on site, mudskippers, fish and camels on site. Aliya Habib from the visitor's group, commented:

'just blown away by the experience. So fortunate that we have this gem in the city. I really appreciate all the efforts that go into maintaining this work that has been done to have this beautiful accessible to the public.' Meanwhile some of the younger members of the group mentioned that it felt like a 'gorgeous, calming area with a ton to learn and the experience is a ten on ten.'

SUIT ADVERTISEMENT

IN THE COURT OF MR. LIAQAT ALI

JUDGE BANKING COURT-1 PESHAWAR

Federal Judicial Complex, Phase-7 Hayatabad Peshawar

Case No: 80/01 of 2025, Date of hearing 09-09-2025, Suit for the Recovery of Rs.2470636/- ZTBL through Manager Mandran Branch VS Saudagar **Notice Versus:** Saudagar S/o Haji Gul Said R/o Kodai Moza Khan Tehsil Tangi District Charsadda. Where as the plaintiff bank has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs. 2470636/- Against you under section 10(2) of the Financial Institution (Recovery of Finance) Ordinance 2001, you are hereby summoned to obtain leave of the court to appear and defend the suit within 30 days after receipt/ publication of the notice in the newspaper. Failing which an expiry decree shall be passed in favour of the plaintiff Bank with costs. Issued today on 17-07-2025 under my signature and seal of the Court.

Registrar, Banking Court, 1 Peshawar



In brief

Usama signs three-year with Worcestershire

LONDON (Agencies): Pakistan leg-spinner Usama Mir is set to return to English county side Worcestershire on a three-year T20 contract, the club announced on Monday. The 29-year-old will join Worcestershire as an overseas player for the 2026 season and will be eligible to play as a homegrown player from 2027, an arrangement hailed by the club as a strategic long-term move. Mir had previously played for Worcestershire in 2023, impressing with his all-round performance by topping both the T20 batting and bowling averages for the club. However, a planned return in 2024 was scuttled due to visa complications. "He's a high-calibre cricketer with the skills and temperament to make a real impact at this level," said Worcestershire's chief executive, Ashley Giles, in a statement. "His ability to transition into a homegrown player gives us great flexibility in squad planning." Worcestershire head coach Alan Richardson also welcomed the signing, calling it "huge for Worcestershire" and in line with the club's history of securing top overseas talent. Mir has represented Pakistan in all formats of the game, including five T20 internationals, and has featured in several franchise leagues around the world. He also played in the Big Bash League for Melbourne Stars and in The Hundred for Manchester Originals over the past two seasons.

Mehwish banned for showing 'middle finger'

KARACHI (Web Desk): Asian Squash Federation has slapped a six-month ban on Pakistan player Mehwish Ali for engaging in unsportsman-like conduct following her defeat to Hong Kong's Chung YL during a match of 32nd Asian Junior Individual Championships earlier this month. The Federal invoked the ban due to Mehwish Ali's unethical behavior during the match, for which she was also came under loads of criticism. The move came after Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) failed to take any action against Mehwish Ali. Mehwish Ali was seen engaging in unsportsman-like conduct following her defeat to Hong Kong's Chung YL in the Round of 16 match at the 32nd Asian Junior Individual Championships, held at the Gimcheon Sports Complex in South Korea on 3 July. Mehwish Ali, who lost with the scoreline reading 11-13, 5-11, 11-13, 4-11, was seen showing the middle finger as she walked off the court after the match, drawing criticism for her behaviour.

Tinubu receives Nigerian team

ABUJA (AFP): The Nigerian women's national football team touched down in the capital Monday for an audience with the president, fresh off their weekend Africa Cup championship victory over Morocco. The Super Falcons, winners of Saturday's Women's Africa Cup of Nations final, were greeted on the tarmac at Abuja's international airport by traditional dancers, drummers and a swarm of journalists and government officials. They then departed in a convoy escorted by security to meet with President Bola Tinubu. The women brought with them their 10th WAFCON trophy, the culmination of years of dominance at the continent level despite struggles at home over late payments and pay disparities with the men's team.

Sport must go on, says Ganguly on Pakistan-India Asia Cup clash

NEW DELHI (Web Desk): Former Indian cricket captain Sourav Ganguly has said he has no objection to India being grouped with Pakistan in the upcoming Asia Cup, adding that while terrorism must be condemned, sport must continue.

The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) recently unveiled the highly anticipated schedule for the Men's Asia Cup 2025, confirming that arch-rivals Pakistan and India will lock horns on September 14 in the UAE.

Speaking to Indian news outlet ANI, Ganguly said: "I'm okay with the schedule. Sport must continue. What happened in Pahalgam should never happen, but we can't let that stop the game. Terrorism must end. It's in the past now. Sport must go on."

According to reports, India, as the official host of the tournament, cannot



withdraw from the Asia Cup or refuse to play against Pakistan.

During a recent ACC meeting held in Dhaka, BCCI reportedly gave a nod to proceed as planned, effectively ruling out the possibility of a boycott.

Citing sources, reports suggest that following the BCCI's formal approval, withdrawing from either the tournament or the high-profile fixture against Pakistan is no longer a viable option.

"The BCCI cannot withdraw from the tournament or the match now. The decision was agreed upon after the ACC meeting. Since India is the host nation, nothing can be changed at this stage. An official-level discussion took place, and the outcome was decided accordingly. The match will go ahead as scheduled," BCCI sources were quoted as saying on Sunday.

Notably, the BCCI has not issued any statements

suggesting a boycott — either during or after the meeting, or since the release of the official schedule.

Indian media outlets criticised their own cricket board and government, with renewed calls to boycott the Pakistan match — drawing parallels with similar sentiments expressed during the World Champions League. The eight-team tournament will start on September 9 with a curtain-raiser between Afghanistan and Hong Kong.

This edition of the continental event will follow the T20 format, serving as a crucial warm-up ahead of the ICC T20 World Cup 2026, co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka.

Pakistan, on the other hand, will begin their campaign against Oman on September 12, whereas its final group-stage match is scheduled for September 17 against the UAE.

Pakistan qualifies for knockout stage

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan has qualified for the knockout stage of the World Junior Squash Team Championships 2025 in Egypt.

Meanwhile Pakistan lost to France (1-2) in the group stage match of the championship, said a press release.

Abdullah Nawaz (PAK) lost to Amir Khaled-Jousselin (FRA) 6-11, 8-11, 10-12 (0-3); Muhammad Umair Arif (PAK) beat Axel Dajoun (FRA) – 11-6, 11-7, 11-6 (3-0); Anas Ali Shah (PAK) lost to Thomas Garcia (FRA) – 11-4, 6-11, 11-13, 4-11 (1-3). Pakistan has qualified for the knockout stage as TOP of Group F on points.

Pakistan will play their next knockout match on Tuesday.

Overton added to England squad

LONDON (AFP): England have added fast-bowling all-rounder Jamie Overton to their squad for this week's decisive fifth Test against India at the Oval.

The return of the Surrey paceman is the only change to the group from Old Trafford, where India on Sunday escaped with a draw after batting for five sessions and 143 overs.

Ben Stokes' men had been in pole position to move into an unassailable 3-1 lead in the five-match series after taking a first-innings lead of 311. But they were only able to take four wickets in India's second innings, even though Chris Woakes struck twice in the first over.

Stokes hinted "fresh legs" might be needed among the bowlers for the fifth Test, which starts on Thursday.

Woakes and Brydon Carse have both played all four matches so far while Jofra Archer has featured in back-to-back Tests following a four-year absence.

Stokes considers himself "very unlikely" to miss out despite struggling with various injuries at Old Trafford but the tight turnaround means changes seem likely.

Overton, who won his only Test cap in 2022, joins fellow seamers Gus Atkinson and Josh Tongue in a 15-man squad pushing for a spot in the starting eleven.

Tongue featured in the first two Tests of the series and took 11 wickets but was expensive, while Atkinson has not played a first-class match since England's win against Zimbabwe in May.

Liam Dawson looks set to be retained as England's frontline spinner despite taking just one wicket in Manchester across two innings.

Pakistan remains unbeaten in FIVB World C'ship



ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan volleyball team continued their historic winning streak at the FIVB Boys' U19 World Championship 2025 with a commanding 3-0 victory over Puerto Rico in their fourth group-stage match, at Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

With set scores of 25-20, 25-20, and 25-15, Pakistan demonstrated excellent tactical discipline, teamwork, and energy throughout the game, securing their fourth consecutive victory and climbing to the top of Pool A, said a press release.

Top Scorers included Muhammad Yahya (16 Points) and Muhammad

Irfan (14 Points). Both players delivered clutch performances and led the team with their aggressive plays at the net and consistent defense. Yahya's attacking strength and Irfan's quick middle transitions were critical in dismantling Puerto Rico's rhythm.

In a statement Sohail Khawar Mir, President, Pakistan Volleyball Federation (PVF) said, "Our U19 team has made the nation proud once again. Winning four matches in a row on the world stage is a testament to their dedication, talent, and the continuous support of the federation.

Topping Pool A among global volleyball giants shows that Pakistan's volleyball is reaching new heights. We are committed to providing the resources, training, and international exposure these young athletes need to become world-class players.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the players, coaching staff, and the entire nation. Pakistan will face Argentina on Tuesday.

This final preliminary round match will further determine Pakistan's position heading into the Round of 16, the knockout phase of the championship.

President declared top office position: PSB

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) has officially enforced the new 'Term Rules 2025' for national sports federations, in continuation of the National Sports Policy 2005, providing detailed policy clarifications.

According to the newly notified rules, the position of President shall be considered the highest office within any federation, while alternative titles such as Chairman, CEO, or equivalent designations will not be acceptable, said a press release.

The maximum age limit for any office bearer has been fixed at 70 years, after which the position will be considered vacated automatically. Additionally, no individual may hold office in more than one federation simultaneously.

Federations have been granted 90 days to align

their constitutions with the new rules.

As per the notification, the "Term Rules 2025" consist of six main clauses and twenty-four sub-clauses, and are effective immediately. Under the new rules, an official may serve a maximum of two terms (each of four years) in any given office, thereby limiting tenure to a total of eight years. Furthermore, no individual who has held a senior office may contest for a lower-level post thereafter. In the event that a position becomes vacant during a term, it shall be filled through election, and the new tenure shall be counted as part of the overall eight-year limit.

In case of any violation, the Director General of PSB is authorized to initiate an inquiry, and if misconduct is proven, a ban of four to six years may be

imposed on the individual. During the ban period, the person will be ineligible for financial support, grants, facilities, consultative roles, or any form of membership or benefits.

If violations are overlooked, the Director General may recommend legal or administrative action to the government. Repeated violations could result in lifetime disqualification. As per the rules, PSB will establish a central database and will publish a list of disqualified individuals on its official website.

Affected individuals may submit a written appeal to the Panel of Adjudicators, which will be dealt with under the relevant clauses of the "Code of Ethics and Governance in Sports". Non-compliance may lead to cancellation of federation registration and suspension of government funding.

Wiebes wins chaotic stage of Tour de France Femmes



ANGERS (Agencies): Dutch rider Lorena Wiebes out-sprinted Marianne Vos to win a chaotic stage three of the Tour de France Femmes, although Vos' second place saw her regain the yellow jersey.

A much-reduced group charged for the line in Angers after a crash in the final three kilometres split the race. Wiebes held off the challenge of compatriot Vos to win her fourth Tour de France Femmes stage, having claimed two victories in 2022 and one in 2023.

Vos, who won the opening stage on Saturday, retook the yellow jersey from Mauritian Kim le Court.

Demi Vollerling, champion in 2023, went down in the crash but managed to finish and was given the same time as the leading group as the incident occurred in the final five kilometres, when riders do not lose time if they are involved in an accident. Vollerling is sixth in the

general classification, 19 seconds behind Vos, with Dutch riders filling six of the top 10 after three stages.

Defending champion Katarzyna Niewiadoma is in fourth and French hope Pauline Ferrand-Prevot lies third overall.

Tuesday's stage four is a 130.7km ride between Saumur and Poitiers.

Stage three results

1. Lorena Wiebes (Ned/SD Worx-Protime) 3hr 41mins 47secs

2. Marianne Vos (Ned/Visma-Lease a Bike) Same time

3. Ally Wollaston (NZ/FDJ-Suez)

4. Megan Jastrab (USA/Picnic-PostNL)

5. Liane Lipper (Ger/Movistar)

6. Shari Bossuyt (Bel/AG Insurance-Soudal)

7. Eline Jansen (Ned/VolkerWessels)

8. Kasia Niewiadoma-Phinney (Pol/Canyon-SRAM-ZondaCrypto)

9. Noemi Ruegg (Sui/EF

Education-EasyPost)

10. Lucinda Brand (Ned/Lidl-Trek)

General classification after stage three

1. Marianne Vos (Ned/Visma-Lease a Bike) 8hrs 19mins 6secs

2. Kim le Court (Mau/AG Insurance-Soudal) +6secs

3. Pauline Ferrand-Prevot (Fra/Visma-Lease a Bike) +12secs

4. Kasia Niewiadoma-Phinney (Pol/Canyon-SRAM-ZondaCrypto) +16secs

5. Lorena Wiebes (Ned/SD Worx-Protime) Same time

6. Demi Vollerling (Ned/FDJ-Suez) +19secs

7. Anna van der Breggen (Ned/SD Worx-Protime) +21secs

8. Puck Pieterse (Ned/Fenix-Deceuninck) Same time

9. Pauliena Rooijackers (Ned/Fenix-Deceuninck) +25secs

10. Niamh Fisher-Black (NZ/Lidl-Trek) Same time.



In brief

Advisory issued for new monsoon spell in Murree

RAWALPINDI (APP): In view of potential risks during the current monsoon spell, an advisory has been issued for the citizens to adopt precautionary measures while traveling to Murree. The advisory, issued by the DC Murree, Zaher Abbass Shirazi urges the public to avoid unnecessary travel, particularly to hilly areas risked to landslides. "Residents are advised to keep drainage systems around their homes clear to prevent water accumulation and to cooperate fully with the district administration to ensure their safety and that of others", reads the advisory. Citizens are also advised to immediately contact the district control room or local authorities in case of any emergency. Safety instructions are also being disseminated through announcements in local mosques, and the public is urged to comply with them. Citizens have also been urged to stay updated with guidelines and alerts issued by the Meteorological Department and district administration. "The Murree district administration is utilizing all available resources to ensure the safety of lives and property", said the deputy commissioner asking public to take precautionary measures and report any emergency promptly.

Two members gang arrested

RAWALPINDI (APP): Dharmyal police have arrested two members of a gang involved in a house robbery that occurred three days ago while the house owners were away. According to a police spokesperson, police also recovered stolen gold jewelry, Rs 40,000 in cash, two women's purses, and important documents from the suspects. The arrests were made using a human intelligence and advanced technology. SP Saddar Muhammad Nabil Khokhar praised the police team's performance, stating, "We have strong evidence against those apprehended, and they will be presented in court soon. Justice will be served." He added that protecting citizens' lives and property were always remained the police's prime responsibility.

ITP penalizes 2,349 drivers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) penalized 2,349 vehicles and motorcycles during the past week over various traffic violations, including lane violations, fancy number plates, and driving without helmets. Of these, 1,655 motorcycles and 694 vehicles were impounded and shifted to police stations. A police spokesperson told APP that 805 drivers were fined for lane violations, 114 for driving without a license, and 872 for illegal parking. Additionally, 872 motorists were penalized for driving in the wrong direction. He said enforcement also included 1,325 violations related to fancy number plates, 1,077 signal violations, and 1,522 cases of riding without helmets. Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Captain (Retd) Syed Zeeshan Haider directed traffic officials to continue indiscriminate operations under the ongoing campaign, enforcing a strict zero-tolerance policy for traffic violations. "No one should be allowed to drive without a valid license," the CTO stated, urging the public to cooperate with traffic personnel to ensure road safety.

Farewell held to honor Austrian Ambassador Andrea Wicke

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: A farewell lunch held in honor of Ambassador of Austria to Pakistan, Andrea Wicke as she concludes her tenure in the country.

The event was hosted by Sardar Waqar Shahzad Advocate and attended by distinguished guests, including Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi, H.E. Akamatsu Shuichi, the Philippines, Emmanuel, and Vietnam, as well as the Defence and Political Attaches of the United States.

In his speech, Sardar Waqar Shahzad Advocate praised Ambassador Wicke's dedication to strengthening ties between Austria and Pakistan. He highlighted her efforts in

promoting cultural exchange, education, and people-to-people connections, which have left a lasting impact on the bilateral relationship.

Sardar Waqar Shahzad also expressed gratitude for Austria's cooperation in areas such as clean energy and technical education, as well as its generous support during times of need. He wished Ambassador Wicke good health, happiness, and continued success in her future endeavors.

In a gesture of appreciation and friendship, Ambassador Wicke gifted Sardar Waqar Shahzad's family with thoughtful presents, including a beautiful purse for his wife, Dr. Salma Ahmad, and delightful chocolates for their daughters, Eshaal Waqar, Elham Waqar, and Merha Waqar.

In return, Sardar Waqar Shahzad presented Ambassador Wicke with a traditional woolen Shaal of Swat Valley, symbolizing the rich cultural heritage of Pakistan. Additionally, he gifted peaches from Swat Valley to every participant at the lunch, showcasing the region's famous produce.

Ambassador Wicke's tenure has been marked by significant achievements, including enhanced cooperation between Austria and Pakistan in various fields. Her legacy is expected to endure, and her presence will be missed in Pakistan.

The farewell lunch was a testament to the strong bonds of friendship between Austria and Pakistan, and the hope was expressed that the relationship will continue to grow stronger in the years to come.



AIOU awards scholarships to 478 high-achieving students

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) awarded merit scholarships and research grants to 478 outstanding students during a special ceremony held on campus, reaffirming its commitment to inclusive and high-quality education.

Speaking at the event, Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood praised the academic performance of the recipients and highlighted AIOU's achievement in securing the second position among over 2,000 Pakistani universities in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2025 under Sustainable Development Goal 4: Quality Education.

"This global recognition reflects the university's dedication to academic excellence," Dr. Mahmood said, emphasizing the importance of improving educational standards across the country.

A total of 439 students received Merit Scholarships, while 39 were awarded Research Grants during the ceremony organized by the university's Directorate of Student Advisory and Counseling Services.

The Vice Chancellor noted that the scholarship recipients had all secured over 80% marks and were selected purely on a merit basis.

AIOU currently offers scholarships under nine different categories, including for children of martyrs, transgender individuals, prisoners, persons with disabilities, and students from low-income backgrounds.

Dr. Mahmood shared that the university has allocated Rs. 140 million for scholarships this year to expand educational access and support students in financial need.

"These scholarships are not just a reward for talent—they are a lifeline

for many students who might otherwise not be able to continue their education," he said, congratulating the recipients and acknowledging the efforts of faculty and parents.

Also addressing the ceremony, Professor Dr. Irshad Ahmad Arshad called the scholarship recipients a "national asset" and highlighted AIOU's efforts to promote inclusive education.

"To ensure that no student is deprived of education due to financial constraints, AIOU has launched a Student Support Fund," he said. "We are currently offering free matric education in Balochistan, Gilgit-Baltistan, and the merged tribal districts."

The event was attended by university faculty, principal officers, and students, who welcomed the university's continued efforts to provide equitable educational opportunities across Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar and Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye, H.E. İrfan Naziroğlu attend the official launching ceremony of Dr. Furqan Hameed's book 'Recep Tayyip Erdoğan: The Tiger of the Islamic World – A Leader of Vision, Resolve & Reform'.

ANF recovers over 245 kg drugs; arrests 12 drug traffickers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while carrying out nine operations across the country managed to recover over 245 kg drugs worth over Rs 25 million and arrested 12 accused.

According to ANF Headquarters spokesperson, in an operation near a college on Mansehra, Karakoram Highway Road, 700 grams hashish was recovered and an accused was arrested. In another operation near a university in Jamshoro, Sindh, two kgs ice was recovered from a passenger traveling in a public transport.

The arrested suspects confessed selling drugs to the students of educational institutions. In the third operation near Ring Road, Peshawar, 12 kgs hashish was seized from the possession of two women.

At Jamshoro bus stop, three kgs ice was recovered from the possession of a woman traveling in a public transport. In an operation on RCD Road, Hub, 21.6 kgs hashish was confiscated from a trailer and two suspects were arrested during the operation.

Near Othian in Sialkot, 5 kgs ice, 3.6 kgs opium, & 3.6 kgs hashish were recovered from a vehicle and two drug traffickers were arrested during the operation. In an operation near pholon wala Chowk, Sheikhupura, 1000 grams hashish & 500 grams opium were recovered from the possession of a motorcyclist. Near M-2 Motorway near Chakri Interchange, 142.740 kgs hashish & 37.820 kgs opium were seized from a vehicle and an accused was apprehended during the operation.

In another operation on Karakoram Highway Road, 12 kgs hashish was recovered from a vehicle and a drug trafficker was netted. The spokesperson informed that cases have been registered against the arrested accused under the CNS Act.

NA Speaker calls for unified action against Hepatitis spread

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly (NA) Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Monday urged the implementation of coordinated strategies and unified public health initiatives to address the growing spread in Hepatitis B and C cases across Pakistan.

In his message on World Hepatitis Day, Sadiq emphasized that fragmented efforts must give way to cohesive national plans to effectively stem the spread of the viral infections impacting millions across the country.

Speaker said that hepatitis is a deadly but treatable disease, stressing that timely diagnosis, effective preventive measures and raising public awareness are essential to combat the disease and protect people from this potentially fatal illness.

Speaker pointed out that the primary causes behind

the spread of hepatitis include lack of public awareness, unsafe medical practices and the use of unsterilized syringes.

Speaker stated that the National Assembly is advancing legislation to protect public health, enforce strict actions against quacks and approve substantial funding for medical facilities.

These measures reflect a firm institutional resolve to uphold citizens' health and improve access to quality care across Pakistan.

Sadiq urged parliamentarians to proactively promote awareness campaigns within their constituencies, emphasizing the need to convey the importance of preventive measures and timely screening to the public. He stressed that grassroots engagement by elected representatives is crucial to enhancing public understanding and curb-

ing the spread of hepatitis across Pakistan.

Speaker stated that the Government is taking tangible steps to eliminate hepatitis across Pakistan through nationwide screening, vaccination drives and provision of free treatment.

He paid tribute to the institutions, doctors, nurses and medical staff associated with the health sector, acknowledging their tireless efforts around the clock to eradicate the disease and safeguard public health.

He urged citizens to undergo timely screening, adopt preventive measures and actively support government initiatives aimed at promoting public health.

He emphasized that the vision of a hepatitis-free Pakistan depends on collective awareness, public engagement and the implementation of effective, nationwide strategies.

GB delegation calls on BISP Chairperson Rubina Khalid

ISLAMABAD (APP): A multi-party delegation from the Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly met Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid, at the BISP headquarters on Monday to discuss key issues affecting underprivileged women in the region.

The high-level delegation was led by Speaker of the GB Assembly, Nazir Ahmed Advocate, and Deputy Speaker Ms. Sadia Danish. Prominent women members of the Assembly also joined the meeting, including Minister for Social Welfare Ms. Dilshad Bano, Advisor on IT Ms. Suraya Zaman, President of the Women's Caucus Ms. Kulsom Farman, Chairperson of

the Standing Committee Ms. Sanam Bibi, and Mrs. Kaneez Fatima.

The delegation felicitated Senator Rubina Khalid on her recent election to the Senate for a third term, acknowledging her longstanding contributions to social welfare and women's empowerment.

In a detailed discussion, the visiting lawmakers highlighted the difficulties faced by women in Gilgit-Baltistan regarding BISP registration, disbursement of stipends, and various administrative challenges.

They emphasized the need for streamlining procedures to ensure equitable access to financial assistance for deserving women across the mountainous region.

Senator Rubina Khalid assured the delegation of her full support and directed the Director General BISP Cash Transfers to immediately meet with the delegation and address the concerns raised. She reaffirmed her commitment to inclusive development and women's empowerment, especially in underserved areas like Gilgit-Baltistan.

The delegation expressed appreciation for the Chairperson's swift response and her personal engagement with the issues.

They also reiterated their resolve to work in close coordination with BISP to further strengthen social protection initiatives and uplift vulnerable women in the region.

Pak-Kyrgyz agrees to enhance trade volume upto US\$100mln

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Power Division and Energy Sardar Awaiz Ahmed Khan Leghari said that Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan trade and economic relations will continue to serve as a foundation of our bilateral partnership.

However, it is a matter of concern that the bilateral trade volume has declined significantly, from USD 11.2 million in 2022-23 to USD 5.18 million in 2024-25. The minister said, "We acknowledge the pressing need to revitalize our trade engagement and reaffirm our shared aspiration to elevate bilateral trade upto USD 100 million".

He was addressing at 5th Session of the Pakistan-Kyrgyzstan Inter-Governmental Commission and welcomed to the Baisalov Edil Zholdybaevich, the Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers, honourable delegates from the Kyrgyz Republic and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

He said that Baisalov Edil Zholdybaevich and esteemed delegates to Islamabad for the 5th Session of the Pakistan-Kyrgyzstan Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade-Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to our Kyrgyz counterparts for their continued engagement and shared commitment to a prosperous and interconnected future for our two nations.

Pakistan and the Kyrgyz Republic share longstanding relations, founded on deep-rooted cultural, historical, and spiritual affinities. Since the formalization of our economic relationship in 1994, we have made notable progress across various sectors. This session marks yet another important milestone in our collective journey of strengthening and institutionalizing our bilateral

partnership. Under the framework of this Commission, our cooperation has steadily expanded across a broad spectrum—ranging from trade and investment to tourism, agriculture, energy, science and technology and education. It is heartening to witness the growing momentum, despite the challenges that continue to affect global and regional economic landscapes. Achieving this goal will require consistent and collaborative efforts across multiple sectors.

The revival of the Pakistan-Kyrgyz Joint Business Council (JBC), sustained B2B interactions, and the early finalization of key Memorandum of Understanding on Electronic Data Interchange between customs authorities, are essential steps forward.

The minister said that "We also take positive note of the inaugural meeting of the Joint Working Group on Trade and Investment, and now look ahead to expediting progress on the Pakistan-Kyrgyz Transit Trade Agreement, a key initiative aimed at enhancing regional connectivity and facilitating seamless cross-border trade. Signing of another Memorandum of Understanding and cooperation in Halal Trade is a step towards achieving our shared goals".

Investment remains a key area of priority and potential for both our countries. Positive steps have already been taken, including the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the National Investments Agency of Kyrgyzstan and the Board of Investment of Pakistan.

This agreement provides a solid foundation for targeted engagement in high-potential sectors such as textiles, pharmaceuticals, minerals, tourism, and information technology. Pakistan also

appreciate Kyrgyzstan's offer of access to the At-Bashi Logistics Center for Pakistan's National Logistics Corporation (NLC), which stands as a commendable example of enterprise-level cooperation, and one that we also hope to replicate across other domains. To foster broader private sector participation, we encourage both sides to enhance the online visibility of investment opportunities by providing comprehensive and up-to-date information on Special Economic Zones (SEZs), tax incentives, and priority sectors.

Tourism and cultural exchange serve as powerful conduits for deepening people-to-people connectivity. Both Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan, endowed with stunning natural landscapes and rich cultural heritage, stand to gain significantly from closer collaboration in this domain. We look forward to finalizing the MoU on Tourism, Hospitality, and Investment, and to expanding the exchange of tour operators and tourism-related information, including active participation in international exhibitions.

Likewise, the signing of Memorandum of understanding on cooperation in the field of Agriculture is a pivotal step towards promoting trade in Kyrgyz legumes and the export of Pakistan's Basmati rice, among other value-added food products. Enhanced collaboration on veterinary and phytosanitary controls will further facilitate safe and efficient food trade.

Both Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan share a vision of green and sustainable development. We are aligned on exploring Pakistan's participation in the proposed 500 kV Torugart-XUAR-Gilgit Baltistan transmission line, which would establish a strategic Kyrgyzstan-China-Pakistan

electricity grid. We also welcome Kyrgyz interest in investing in Pakistan's mining sector, particularly in copper and gold exploration.

Moreover, strengthening transport and communication infrastructure remains critical for the realization of our economic potential. We anticipate progress on the postal cooperation agreement, operationalization of cargo under the 1995 International Motor Transportation Agreement, and improvements in e-commerce connectivity. We are also encouraged by discussions on expanding air and rail links, including flight frequency increases.

The financial sector serves as a vital engine for economic growth. We appreciate the mutual interest in enhancing interbank and financial cooperation, particularly in Islamic banking and financial innovation. The recent agreement between the State Bank of Pakistan and the National Bank of the Kyrgyz Republic for joint training programs is a constructive step toward deepening institutional collaboration.

The health sector also offers significant and strategic opportunities for advancing our bilateral cooperation. We remain optimistic about the early finalization of the MoU on Higher Medical Education, and commend Kyrgyzpharmacia for its engagement with Pakistani pharmaceutical firms, particularly in exploring the supply of Pakistani pharmaceutical products to the Kyrgyz Republic and potential joint ventures in vaccine production in collaboration with the National Institute of Health.

We further underscore the importance of regulatory alignment and the need to streamline the registration process for Pakistani medicines in Kyrgyzstan,

which will help ensure timely access and promote greater commercial collaboration in the health sector.

The cultural sector serves as a vital bridge, fostering mutual understanding and enriching the shared heritage between our nations. It is essential that we translate these affinities into formal institutional mechanisms. The finalization of the Agreement on Culture, alongside the organization of joint cultural events, will significantly deepen people-to-people connections. Youth engagement also presents a dynamic platform for cultivating future leaders and strengthening the bonds of friendship between our peoples. Through conferences, seminars on youth policy issues, and the exchange of experiences, we can empower our younger generations to carry forward this partnership.

Education forms the cornerstone of our partnership, serving as a catalyst for knowledge exchange and capacity building to advance sustainable development. Our efforts remain focused on collaboration in STEAM training, academic exchanges, and joint research initiatives. We reaffirm our commitment to supporting Kyrgyz students through the Pakistan Technical Assistance Programme (PTAP) and encourage the strengthening of institutional partnerships between our universities. The minister said in his concluding remarks that the 5th Session of the Pakistan-Kyrgyzstan Inter-Governmental Commission offers us a renewed opportunity to transform our shared vision into enduring outcomes.

Let us reaffirm our commitment to fostering a stronger, integrated, and resilient partnership, anchored in mutual respect, cooperation, and regional peace.

Polish tourist injured

KANDAHAR CITY (Pajhwok): A Polish tourist was injured in a traffic accident in Kandahar, an official said on Monday. Police spokesman Mullah Asadullah Jamshed told Pajhwok Afghan News that the incident occurred at the Arghistan bridge area while the tourist was traveling from Kandahar City to Spin Boldak district on Monday morning. He said the tourist, a Polish national, was riding a motorcycle when he collided with a truck and sustained minor injuries.

Nabi donates 1m afs

KABUL (Pajhwok): Afghan national cricket team all-rounder Mohammad Nabi has donated one million afghanis in cash to Afghan returnees from Iran through his charitable organization, the Nabi Charity Foundation. “Today, through my charitable foundation — the Nabi Charity Foundation — I distributed one million afghanis in assistance to Afghan returnees from Iran. This marks the beginning of our aid efforts, and God willing, this support will continue,” Nabi said.

NEPA highlights progress, challenges

KABUL (TOLONews): The National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA), in its annual report, has acknowledged the efforts of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in expanding the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan’s relations with various countries.

The Deputy for Policy and Technical Affairs also emphasized that the lack of engagement by Western countries with the Islamic Emirate has prevented the agency from accessing key environmental projects.

Zainul Abideen Abed, Deputy for Policy and Technical Affairs at the National Environmental Protection Agency, said: “They have not shown engagement yet, but still, out of 32 projects coordinated with them, 5 to 6 have been completed while the rest are suspended.”

Abed also reported that the agency generated an income of 13.681 million Afghanis from the issuance of 1,650 environmental study licenses.

He added that significant attention has been given to forest protection, with 17.7 million saplings planted across various provinces over the past

year, and two nurseries established in Balkh and Ghazni provinces.

He noted: “Last year, in coordination with national and international institutions, 17.7 million saplings were planted across Afghanistan. This number is in addition to those planted by the Ministry of Agriculture or municipalities, particularly for forest restoration.”

Meanwhile, the Head of Climate Change at the National Environmental Protection Agency said that several projects have been secured in coordination with the UNDP and that new initiatives are being developed.

Ruhullah Amin, Head of Climate Change, said: “Projects that are scheduled to be reviewed by the GEF Council in December this year, fortunately, include a \$20 million project developed in coordination with the Ministry of Energy and Water and UNDP, focusing on climate-resilient water and irrigation systems.”

Officials at the National Environmental Protection Agency also confirmed efforts to develop a roadmap for participation in the UN’s annual climate conference (COP30).

Afghan, British officials discuss returnees’ issues

KABUL (Pajhwok): Afghan and British officials have discussed challenges being faced by Afghan refugees returning from Pakistan and Iran.

The Ministry of Refugee and Repatriation (MoRR) said Director of Planning and Policy at MoRR Maulvi Mahmood-ul-Haq Ahadi met with Chief of British Humanitarian Assistance Alastair James Burnett.

A statement from the ministry said the discussion focused on the reintegration of forcibly returned individuals and resolving the challenges they face. During the meeting, Maulvi Ahadi noted after security ensured across the country, international organisations were now able to travel to all regions of Afghanistan and support the Afghan people.

He also pointed out transparency and balance had not been maintained in the aid provided by international institutions. According to the statement, both sides discussed various ways to resolve the problems of forcibly returned refugees and emphasised continued cooperation. The meeting also covered topics such as the resettlement of returnees, employment opportunities, shelter, and emergency assistance, the statement concluded.

Traders invest 1.4b afs in agri sector last year

KABUL (Pajhwok): The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock says \$192 million was invested in the agricultural sector by national and international institutions, and 235 investors were provided with investment opportunities worth over 1.4 billion afghanis last year.

As part of the annual program to explain the achievements of government agencies, the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock today presented its achievements for the past 1446 Hijri.

In a meeting held in this regard, Mullah Aghajan Akhund, Deputy Minister of Finance and Administrative Affairs for the Ministry, said that last year, over 1.4 billion afghanis were provided to 235 investors to attract investment in the agricultural sector, and about 192 million US dollars were invested in agriculture, irrigation, and



livestock projects by 118 national and international institutions.

According to him, in 1403, 86 contracts worth over 340 million afghanis were awarded to 64 companies through open bidding.

At the meeting, Maulvi Baz Mohammad Faizan, Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Natural Resources, explained the ministry built 138 check dams in 10 provinces to recharge groundwater.

Natural resources and forests are considered national assets of the country, and their protection and restoration are being seriously pursued by the Ministry, which is striving

to expand the country’s forests, he added.

He claimed the ministry identified factors of drought and shared them with other agencies to take necessary measures to reduce and prevent its negative impacts.

Deputy Minister of Agriculture Maulvi Sadr Azam Usmani added last year, hundreds of greenhouses and orchards were built in the country in coordination with partner institutions and the private sector.

Osmani added in order to further boost agricultural activities, over 43,000 metric tons of wheat seeds, chemical fertilizers,

and hundreds of tons of improved quality seeds of vegetables, saffron, cotton, ginger, and other medicinal plants were distributed to farmers in 34 provinces.

Last year, the Ministry of Agriculture provided 1.4 billion afghanis from the Agricultural Development Fund to farmers, livestock farmers, and the private sector through Murabaha and Mudarabat services.

According to the Ministry, over 250,000 seedlings were produced last year, and over 100 million seedlings and plant cuttings were planted through planting campaigns across the country.

Water supply project launched to address growing water crisis



KABUL (TOLONews): As part of efforts to improve access to drinking water in Kabul, the Afghanistan Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Company has inaugurated a project to produce and transfer water from Qargha Dam to the 10,000-cubic-meter reservoir at Kabul Polytechnic University.

This project, implemented in cooperation with UNICEF, spans 11 kilometers and is expected to provide drinking water for 60,000 to 70,000 families in Kabul.

Hamidullah Hemat, the project manager, said: “It is 11 kilometers long, using 450-millimeter panels. Two wells have been dug, with a pressure of

about 25 to 30 liters per second. This facility will provide water for 60 to 70 thousand families.”

Ghulam Rahman Kazem, CEO of the Emirati Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Company, also said: “What we don’t have now, we hope to acquire and use for our fellow citizens, and needs will be met more easily.”

Meanwhile, Islamic Emirate officials emphasized at the project’s inauguration that the water shortage problem in Kabul is serious, but they have plans to manage it.

Aminullah Obaid, Governor of Kabul, said at the ceremony: “We assure you that the existing prob-

lems will be resolved shortly, and the Islamic Emirate intends to supply clean drinking water to the people from the Shatoot Dam and Panjshir River.”

Ahmad Jan Bilal, head of governmental companies, added: “Before this problem worsens or becomes a serious issue, we estimated that within our capacity and resources, a solution must be found.”

Meanwhile, the acting Minister of Economy described the water crisis as one of the consequences of war and climate change and called for targeted planning to manage internal water resources.

The Ministry of

Agriculture, emphasizing the need for public awareness, added that it is working on building canals and check dams to combat water shortage challenges.

Din Mohammad Hanif, Acting Minister of Economy, said: “Billions of cubic meters of water that flow out should be managed and used so that the country can be saved from this crisis. The Islamic Emirate is determined to maximize water usage through proper management to avoid famine.”

Sadr Azam Osmani, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock, also added: “To our fellow citizens, I say: manage water, avoid waste and unnecessary usage, because this is a matter of our livelihood.”

This project has been launched while previously, United Nations (UN) Humanitarian Resettlement Program described Kabul’s water shortage crisis as “unprecedented” and emphasized that to combat it, extensive investment, inter-agency cooperation, and increased public awareness on optimal water usage are necessary.

Sadr stresses closer ties between people, govt

KABUL (Pajhwok): Deputy Minister of Interior has emphasised the need for stronger connections between the people and the government during his visit to central Bamyan province of Afghanistan.

Mufti Abdul Matin Qani, spokesperson for the Ministry of Interior, in a statement said on Monday that Deputy Interior Minister Mullah Mohammad Ibrahim Sadr travelled to Bamyan.

According to the statement, Mullah Sadr met with civil and military officials as well as various segments of the local population during his visit.

He stated: “Officials at all levels are obliged to act within their legal and religious responsibilities, and serve the people with sincere intentions and honest performance.”

Mullah Sadr provided guidance to officials of various departments, highlighting the importance of purifying intentions, fostering effective coordination, strengthening the sense of responsibility, precisely implementing directives, and enhancing engagement between the people and the government.

Meanwhile, Abdullah Sarhadi, the governor of Bamyan, said that full security has been ensured throughout the province and that there was no ethnic, sectarian, or linguistic discrimination.

He added: “The people of this province live together in peace and harmony and in a spirit of brotherhood and solidarity.”

\$22m afs girls’ school building inaugurated

MAIMANA (Pajhwok): A new building for a girls’ school has been constructed and put into service in northern Faryab province of Afghanistan at a cost of 22 million afghanis.

The facility for Iti Arooq Primary Girls’ School was officially opened on Sunday afternoon in the Almar district.

The project, funded by Norway, was implemented by the Danish Assistance to Afghan Rehabilitation and Technical Training (DAARTT).

Maulvi Hamidullah Arshad, director of the provincial education department, said the new building includes 13 classrooms and essential amenities, providing a safe and conducive learning environment for 450 students in a single shift.

He highlighted the importance of education, noting that schools play a crucial role in shaping future generations and producing professionals such as doctors, engineers, and scholars.

Eng. Saifuddin Muradi, head of DAARTT in Faryab, said the building was constructed to international standards. It features classrooms, an administrative office, a laboratory, a guard room, a water well, a boundary wall, a children’s playground, desks and chairs, furnishings, and a solar-powered electricity system.

Residents welcomed the development. Maulvi Nooruddin, a resident, expressed his happiness, recalling that children previously studied in tents under the scorching sun, facing numerous challenges.

Homemade metal coolers gain popularity in handahar

HERAT (TOLONews): The use of homemade iron coolers to keep passenger vehicles cool has increased recently in Kandahar.

Along with the production of home coolers, making small coolers for older model cars has also become common, and craftsmen say these handmade coolers have proven effective in cooling vehicles.

Jawid Ahmad, one of the craftsmen in Kandahar, said: “Coolers for vehicles come at different prices, starting from 1,000 and going up to 1,200 or 1,500 Afghanis. Similar coolers are also made for homes.”

Nematullah, another craftsman, said: “These coolers are installed in both cars and rickshaws, and compared to before, they are now much better.”

Drivers, especially taxi owners, install metal coolers in their vehicles instead of ACs to save on fuel consumption.



They say this helps provide comfort during hot weather and attracts more passengers.

Ahmad Zia, a taxi driver in Kandahar, said: “It works very well, and it’s

good for passengers too.”

Mohammad Gul, a resident of Kandahar, also added: “If there is no AC in vehicles, it becomes a problem. These coolers are very good and comfortable for passengers.”

In the southern province of Kandahar, where summer temperatures reach up to 45°C, most vehicles lack cooling systems, but the installation of metal coolers in vehicles has somewhat solved this issue.

Israeli strikes kill 34 people in Gaza

GAZA STRIP (AP): Israeli strikes killed at least 34 Palestinians in multiple locations across Gaza on Monday, local health officials said, a day after Israel eased aid restrictions in the face of a worsening humanitarian crisis in the territory.

Israel announced Sunday that the military would pause operations in Gaza City, Deir Al-Balah and Muwasi for 10 hours a day until further notice to allow for the improved flow of aid to Palestinians in Gaza, where concern over hunger has grown, and designate secure routes for aid delivery.

Israel said it would continue military operations alongside the new humanitarian measures. The Israeli military had no immediate comment about the latest strikes, which occurred outside the time frame for the pause Israel declared would be held between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. Aid agencies have welcomed the new aid measures, which also included allowing airdrops into Gaza, but said they were not enough to counter the rising hunger in the Palestinian territory.

Images of emaciated children have sparked outrage around the world, including from Israel's close allies. US President Donald Trump on Sunday called the images of emaciated and malnourished children in Gaza "terrible." Israel has restricted aid to varying degrees throughout the war. In March, it cut off the entry of all goods, including fuel, food and medicine to pressure Hamas to free hostages.

Israel partially lifted those restrictions in May but also pushed ahead on a new US-backed aid delivery system that has been wracked by chaos and violence. Traditional aid providers also have encountered a similar breakdown in law and order surrounding their aid deliveries. Most of Gaza's population now relies on aid. Accessing food has become a challenge that some Palestinians have risked their lives for.

The Awda hospital in central Gaza said it received the bodies of seven

Israeli human rights group: Israel committing genocide in Gaza

TEL AVIV: Israeli-Palestinian human rights group B'Tselem has declared Israel's actions in Gaza as genocide in its latest report, titled Our Genocide. The report, released on Monday, carries strong condemnation of Israel's war on Gaza, which has killed at least 59,733 people and wounded 144,477. "An examination of Israel's policy in the Gaza Strip and its horrific outcomes, together with statements by senior Israeli politicians and military commanders about the goals of the attack, leads to the unequivocal conclusion that Israel is taking coordinated action to intentionally destroy Palestinian society in the Gaza Strip," the report reads.

"In other words: Israel is committing genocide against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip." An estimated 1,139 people died during the Hamas-led October 7, 2023, attacks on Israel, and some 200 were taken captive. The report delves into Israeli violations against Palestinians, going back to the 1948 foundation of the Israeli state, which "had a clear objective from the outset: to cement the supremacy of the Jewish group across the entire territory under Israeli control". As such, the state of Israel exhibits "settler-colonial patterns, including widespread settlement involving displacement and dispossession, demographic engineering, ethnic cleansing and the imposition of military rule on Palestinians", the report continues. And while it looks back at Israel's efforts to "uphold Jewish supremacy, relying on a false pretense of the rule of law while, in reality, the rights of the Palestinian subjects are left unprotected", the report notes that this was accelerated after October 7. The "broad, coordinated onslaught against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip" that the report points to has "enjoyed support, legitimization, and normalization from the majority of Jewish-Israelis, as well as from the Israeli legal system". The report also speaks about the intensified efforts since October 2024 to displace Palestinians in Gaza. "Israel's actions in northern Gaza were described by many experts ... as an attempt to carry out ethnic cleansing. In practice, by November 2024, some 100,000 people who had lived in northern Gaza had been displaced from their homes," the document reads. —Aljazeera

Palestinians who it said were killed Monday by Israeli fire close to an aid distribution site run by the US- and Israeli-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation. The hospital said 20 others were wounded close to the site. Elsewhere, a woman who was seven months pregnant was killed along with 11 others after their house was struck in the Muwasi area, west of the southern city of Khan Younis. The woman's fetus survived after a complex surgery, according to the Palestinian Red Crescent.

One strike hit a two-story house in the western Japanese neighborhood of Khan Younis, killing at least 11 people, more than half of them women and children, said the Nasser

Hospital, which received the casualties. The Israeli military and GHF did not immediately respond to a request for comment on those strikes. In its Oct. 7, 2023, attack, Hamas killed 1,200 people and took 251 hostages. It still holds 50, more than half Israel believes to be dead.

Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed more than 59,800 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. Its count doesn't distinguish between militants and civilians, but the ministry says over half of the dead are women and children. The ministry operates under the Hamas government. The UN and other international organizations see it as the most reliable source of data on casualties.

UAE introduces visa-free entry on Pakistan's passport

F.P. Report

ABU DHABI: United Arab Emirates (UAE) has officially implemented visa-free entry for holders of diplomatic and official Pakistani passports. This development is reflection of the deepening ties and mutual trust between the two brotherly nations.

The agreement was formalized in June 2025, when Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar met with UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Abu Dhabi. Both leaders signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to grant mutual visa waivers for diplomatic and official passport holders.

This step marks a significant diplomatic achievement and also serves as a ray of hope that, God willing, visa-free access may eventually extend to ordinary Pakistani passport holders in the future.

The efforts of Pakistan's Ambassador to the UAE, Mr. Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, must be acknowledged. His consistent dedication to strengthening bilateral relations and serving the Pakistani community in the UAE has played a valuable role in moving this initiative forward.

This visa waiver marks the beginning of a promising new chapter. We hope that similar agreements will follow with other countries, enhancing the global respect and value of the Pakistani passport.

Notice to Centre and provinces issued

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court (PHC) has issued a notice to the federal government and provincial authorities, including the Ministry of Interior, seeking their response to nine petitions filed by relatives of missing persons. PHC single-member bench comprising of Justice Muhammad Naeem Anwar heard the cases, on Monday.

During the hearing, the Deputy Attorney General, Additional Advocate General, and the police's focal person appeared in court. The police's focal person informed the court that two petitions had been filed freshly and this was the first hearing. Justice Naeem Anwar directed that notices be issued to the parties in both petitions and that they should submit their responses.

The focal person informed the court that reports had not been received in six petitions, while one petition contained allegations against SHO Inqilab. Justice Naeem Anwar directed that SHO Inqilab appear in person in court the tomorrow (on Wednesday). After the initial hearing, the court adjourned the case and sought reports from the Ministry of Interior, provincial government, and other relevant parties.

Contractor sent to jail on remand

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Accountability Court Peshawar has sent contractor Ayub Khan, the main accused in the Kohistan financial scandal on judicial remand to jail and issued a written order, on Monday.

The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) was represented by Deputy Prosecutor General Muhammad Ali, and the investigation officer was also present in court. According to the written order, the accused Ayub Khan was presented in court after his 14-day physical remand had expired.

The NAB prosecutor requested that the accused be sent to judicial remand. The court accepted the request and sent Ayub Khan to judicial remand for 14 days, directing him to be presented in court again on August 11.

The NAB investigation revealed that Ayub Khan was involved in suspicious bank transactions and had acquired illegal assets. The accused has also submitted a plea bargain application to the NAB, which will be considered later.



NEW YORK: Deputy Prime Minister, Senator Ishaq Dar, met with Foreign Minister of Egypt, Dr. Badr Abdelatyf, on the sidelines of International Conference on two-state solution.

ECP disqualifies three PTI lawmakers

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Monday disqualified three Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawmakers after their conviction in the May 9 cases by the court.

According to the official notification, those disqualified include Punjab Assembly Opposition Leader Malik Ahmed Khan Bachar, Member of National Assembly Mohammad Ahmed Chhattha, and Senator Ejaz Chaudhry. All three lawmakers were found guilty and subsequently convicted in connection with the May 9 incidents.

"As a result, Mohammad Ahmed Chhattha, Member of National Assembly from NA-66 (Wazirabad), and Malik Ahmed Khan Bachar, Member of Provincial Assembly from

Apex court to hear Imran's post-arrest bail appeals today

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan has fixed for hearing eight appeals filed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan, seeking post-arrest bail in multiple May 9-related cases. A two-member bench headed by Chief Justice Yahya Afridi and comprising Justice Muhammad Shafi Siddiqui will take up the matter tomorrow at 9:30am. The former prime minister has knocked on the doors of the Supreme Court after the Lahore High Court turned down his bail pleas. The appeals have been filed through his counsel, Advocate Salman Safdar. The PTI leader has been behind bars in connection with the violent protests that broke out across the country on May 9, following his arrest. He is now trying to secure his release through legal means, hoping for relief from the top court. The top court's decision is eagerly awaited and could be a game-changer in the ongoing legal battles faced by the PTI founder.

PP-87 (Mianwali-III), stand disqualified under Article 63(1)(h) of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, in their respective capacities," the notification stated. It added that the notification declaring Chhattha and Bachar as returned candidates has been recalled with immediate effect.

Trump again threatens Iran over N-enrichment

SCOTLAND: United States President Donald Trump has re-upped threats against Iran, just weeks after launching military strikes on three of the country's nuclear facilities. The statement on Monday was in response to Tehran's position that it will continue to pursue nuclear enrichment for civilian purposes, a red line for the Trump administration in earlier talks this year that fell apart when Israel launched a military offensive against Tehran in June.

Speaking during a news conference in Scotland beside the United Kingdom's Prime Minister Keir Starmer, Trump said that Iran was "sending very bad signals, very nasty signals". "And they shouldn't be doing that," he said. "We wiped out their nuclear possibilities. They can start again. If they do, we'll wipe it out faster than you can wave your finger at it." "We will do that gladly, openly and gladly," he said.

The statement comes after Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi most recently asserted Iran's right to enrich uranium ahead of talks with the UK, France and Germany last week. Iranian officials described the talks, the first serious flurry of diplomacy since the US attacks and subsequent end to the escalation with Israel, as "serious, frank and detailed", but no breakthroughs were announced.

Following Trump's

statement on Monday, Araghchi said Iran will "never respond to the language of threat and intimidation", while again reiterating that Iran needs uranium enrichment for medical and civilian purposes. He added that Iran "will not hesitate to react in a more decisive manner" if it is again attacked.

During his first term, Trump unilaterally withdrew from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), a deal reached between Iran, the US and several European powers that saw Tehran curtail its nuclear programme in exchange for sanctions relief. In turn, Iran began enriching uranium beyond the limits set out in the agreement, but has repeatedly denied seeking a nuclear weapon. Upon taking office in January, Trump initially sought a new nuclear deal with Iran, but soon adopted a zero enrichment policy long dismissed by Iranian negotiators as a non-starter.

Speaking on Friday, Trump also accused Iran of intervening in the latest round of talks aimed at ending Israel's war in Gaza, which fell apart last week with both the Israeli and US delegations leaving negotiations in Qatar. "I think they got involved in this negotiation, telling Hamas and giving Hamas signals and orders," Trump said, without providing further details on the claim. Iran did not immediately

respond to Trump's most recent comments.

Speaking to Al Jazeera last week, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian also said that Iran would not abandon its nuclear programme, but remained open to negotiations. He added he was "not very optimistic" about the ceasefire that ended the 12-day war with Iran holding. Israeli officials have signalled a willingness to restart attacks on Iran, including strikes aimed at toppling the country's leadership.

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said he wanted to send a message to Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei. "If you continue to threaten Israel, our long arm will reach Tehran again with even greater power – and this time personally to you, too," he said, according to the Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper. Analysts have said US approval would be all but required for any Israeli resumption of attacks on Iran.

Trump had initially hailed the June 22 US attacks on Iran's Fordow, Natanz and Isfahan as having "obliterated" Iran's nuclear programme. However, more recent intelligence reports have indicated the damage may have been less severe, setting the programme back by a shorter timeline. Over the weekend, Trump called Iran's persistence in pursuing its nuclear programme "stupid". — Aljazeera

Two-state solution 'key to regional stability,' Saudi FM

NEW YORK: Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan said on Monday the implementation of a two-state solution in the Israel-Palestine crisis was "the key to regional stability." He was speaking at the opening of a high-level international conference on the peaceful settlement of the Palestinian issue and the implementation of the two-state solution, which opened at the UN on Monday.

"The Kingdom believes that the two-state solution is the key to regional stability," he said. "The New York conference is a pivotal milestone toward implementing the two-state solution," he added. Prince Faisal reiterated that peace in the region must begin with securing

the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, welcoming French President Emmanuel Macron's intention to formally recognize a state of Palestine in September.

"Achieving security, stability, and prosperity for all the peoples of the region begins with justice for the Palestinian people and enabling them to obtain their legitimate rights, foremost among them the establishment of their independent state along the June 4, 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital," he said. He described the Arab Peace Initiative as the framework for any just and comprehensive solution.

He also called for an immediate end to the

humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza and confirmed that Saudi Arabia and France had facilitated the transfer of \$300 million from the World Bank to Palestine. Prince Faisal said the Kingdom was engaging with several countries to secure recognition of a Palestinian state. He further rejected the idea of linking such recognition to an Israeli veto and affirmed that no relations would be established with Israel before a Palestinian state was created. The minister voiced support for the Palestinian Authority's reform efforts and noted that US President Donald Trump could play a key role in regional conflict resolution. —Arab News

Thailand, Cambodia agree to truce

BANGKOK: The leaders of Cambodia and Thailand have agreed to an "unconditional" ceasefire, effective on Monday at midnight, in a bid to bring an end to their deadliest border conflict in more than a decade. Thailand's acting Prime Minister Phumtham Wechayachai and Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Manet agreed to put down their arms after five days of fierce fighting that killed at least 36 people. Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, who hosted the talks in Malaysia's administrative capital, Putrajaya, said that Thailand and Cambodia had agreed to an "immediate and unconditional" ceasefire.

"This is a vital first step towards de-escalation and the restoration of peace and security," Anwar declared. A meeting between the military commanders of both nations will follow on Tuesday, he added. The ceasefire will come into force at midnight (17:00 GMT) as Monday becomes Tuesday. Thailand and Cambodia have blamed each other for the border conflict that erupted on Thursday, July 24. The latest conflict, which dates back to disagreements over colonial-era maps, has displaced more than 270,000 from both sides of the Thailand-Cambodia 817-km (508-mile) land border. Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Manet said: "Today we have a very good meeting and very good results ... that hope to stop immediately the fighting that has caused many lives lost, injuries and also caused displacement of people." "We hope that the solutions that Prime Minister Anwar just announced will set a condition for moving forward for our bilateral discussion to return to normalcy of the relationship, and as a foundation for future de-escalation of forces," he added.

Meanwhile, Thailand's acting Prime Minister Phumtham Wechayachai, who had expressed doubts about Cambodia's sincerity ahead of negotiations in Malaysia, said Thailand had agreed to a ceasefire that would "be carried out successfully in good faith by both sides". In a joint statement issued after the talks had finished, Malaysia, Thailand and Cambodia said their respective defence ministers "have been instructed to develop a detailed mechanism for the implementation, verification, and reporting of the ceasefire".

The sides also agreed to move ahead with a meeting of their so-called "General Border Committee" on August 4, in Cambodia. The Southeast Asian neighbours have accused each other of starting hostilities last week, before escalating the conflict with heavy artillery bombardments. — Aljazeera

Two suspects of madrasa student murder case held

Shafi Ullah

MINGORA: Two main suspects involved in the brutal torture and murder of a student at a religious seminary in Khwazakhela in Swat were arrested. District Police Officer (DPO) Muhammad Omar Khan claimed on Monday that key suspect, identified as Qari Omar and his son Ehsan, had reportedly fled following the incident but were apprehended after "tireless efforts".

The DPO said in a statement that tragic incident occurred on July 21, when a

young student at the madrasa was allegedly tortured to death. The case sparked outrage across the region and prompted swift action from local law enforcement. "Ten individuals involved in the incident were arrested on the spot," DPO stated. However, the prime accused initially managed to escape.

After nearly a week-long manhunt, the police succeeded in tracing and arresting Qari Omar and his son, bringing the total number of arrests in the case to 12. A tragic incident shook the Chaliyar area of Khwazakhela tehsil in Swat,

where a 12-year-old madrasa student, identified as Farhan, reportedly died due to severe torture allegedly inflicted by his teachers.

According to police officials, Farhan was brutally beaten by the teachers of a religious seminary for being absent from classes. The child was shifted to a hospital in critical condition but was declared dead upon arrival. Following the incident, a FIR was registered against Muhammad Omar, the head teacher of the madrasa, and his sons Ehsanullah and Abdullah.



ISLAMABAD: Justice Yahya Afridi, Chief Justice of Pakistan, presenting bouquet to Justice Mazhar Alam Khan Miankhel.

CJP bids farewell to Justice Tariq, Justice Miankhel

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: In an impressive ceremony, the Supreme Court of Pakistan Monday bid farewell to Justice Tariq Masood and Justice Mazhar Alam Khan Miankhel, who laid down the robes of office as Additional Judges of the Supreme Court. The farewell luncheon was hosted by Justice Yahya Afridi, Chief Justice of Pakistan, and was attended by all Judges of the Supreme Court.

While speaking on the occasion, the Chief Justice paid glowing tribute to the judicial legacy and professional integrity of both outgoing judges. He commended their exceptional service, unwavering commitment to justice, and substantial contribution to

improving the Court's performance, especially in the criminal docket. He further added that during the past year alone, the Supreme Court decided a total of 7,196 criminal cases. Of these, 2,220 cases were decided by the bench comprising Justice Tariq Masood and Justice Mazhar Alam Khan Miankhel, accounting for more than 30% of the total disposals in this category. This singular achievement underscores their tireless efforts and extraordinary work ethic, which have directly contributed to reducing the pendency of criminal cases and enhancing access to speedy justice.

The Chief Justice highlighted that both judges brought to the Bench a rare combination of legal acumen,

principled judgment, and deep understanding of criminal jurisprudence. Their verdicts will continue to guide future interpretations of law and serve as valuable precedents for the legal fraternity.

He further remarked that their dignified conduct, courteous demeanor, and commitment to constitutional values have earned them the utmost respect of their peers, the Bar, and the litigants.

Their departure marks the end of an era of remarkable judicial service, but their contributions will continue to inspire the institution. Concluding his remarks, the Chief Justice extended his sincerest prayers and best wishes for their health, happiness, and continued success in the next phase of life.