

Chinese FM's visit
F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister and member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of China, Wang Yi, will be visiting Pakistan for co-chairing the 6th Pakistan-China Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue to be held in Islamabad on Thursday. He is visiting Pakistan at the invitation of Foreign Minister, Ishaq Dar.



@thefrontierpost

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

www.thefrontierpost.com

Vol. XXXIXII

No. 199

Regd. No. 241

SAFAR 25 1447 -- WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20 2025

PESHAWAR EDITION

12 PAGES

PRICE. 30

PM directs swift, coordinated relief measures

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday presided over a high-level meeting at the Prime Minister's Office to review the impact of recent monsoon rains and floods, and to assess the progress of ongoing rescue and relief operations, particularly in the affected areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

During the meeting, the Prime Minister issued a series of directives aimed at expediting relief efforts, restoring essential services, and ensuring the well-being of flood-affected communities, a Prime Minister's Office news release said.

The prime minister instructed authorities to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply in the flood-affected regions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for the next seven days, with no load-shedding during this period. He also directed the immediate completion of administrative procedures necessary for the disbursement of financial aid to

victims in the province.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in order to accelerate the delivery of relief goods, directed that the number of trucks transporting essential supplies be doubled immediately.

The prime minister also tasked several federal ministers with visiting the affected regions to personally monitor relief efforts as Minister for Water Resources Mian

Mohiuddin Wattoo was directed to visit Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) and Minister for Public Affairs Rana Mubashir Iqbal was assigned to Swabi. The prime minister also commended the ongoing field visits and direct supervision efforts by Minister for Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan Affairs, Engineer Amir Muqam, Minister for Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan, Minister for Power, Sardar Awais Khan Leghari, Minister for Religious Affairs, Sardar Muhammad Yousaf, and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, Mubarak

Zeb.

Prime Minister Sharif expressed appreciation for the swift response of provincial governments, federal secretaries, the Pakistan Army, the National Highway Authority (NHA), Frontier Works Organization (FWO), and various rescue and relief agencies.

"It is our national duty to alleviate the suffering of our fellow citizens. In this hour of difficulty, the entire nation stands with the affected families," the prime minister said.

Earlier, Prime Minister Sharif, addressing the forum prior to the meeting, said, "Those who are serving day and night in these calamity-stricken areas will be rewarded by the Almighty. The God will bless you all."

He extended special thanks to federal ministers, federal secretaries, the Chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), chief secretaries of the provinces and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), as well as

the armed forces, who he noted are working round the clock to evacuate stranded citizens, distribute food, and operate helicopters in remote regions.

PM Shehbaz also lauded the role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), describing their humanitarian efforts as "a divine service." "This is a very difficult time. If we sacrifice our sleep and comfort for the nation, it will surely bring us a divine reward," he remarked.

"Ensuring seamless electricity for those who have lost loved ones, are injured, or whose homes are damaged is not just a duty, it's a pious act," he stated.

The prime minister concluded the meeting with a strong message of national solidarity, reaffirming the federal government's commitment to working closely with provincial administrations and all relevant agencies to ensure timely assistance and long-term rehabilitation for all affected citizens.

Continued on Back Page

Army rescues 6,903, treats 6,304 in flood-hit regions

ISLAMABAD (APP): Director General Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Tuesday said that Pakistan Army rescue teams have successfully evacuated 6,903 stranded individuals and provided medical treatment to 6,304 patients in flood-affected areas.

Briefing the media alongside Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar and National Disaster

Management Authority (NDMA) Chairman Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik, Lt Gen Sharif emphasized that relief and restoration efforts are ongoing, with additional personnel deployed to support communities in crisis.

A total of 585 tonnes of ration have been allocated for flood-hit populations, from Army reserves, as directed by the Chief of Army Staff (COAS).

Army aviation units are conducting aerial sorties to deliver supplies and

evacuate residents from remote regions. Six sorties are scheduled for Tuesday, targeting inaccessible areas. In Buner, Swat, and Shangla, two battalions each have been deployed, while Frontier Corps wings are active in Bajaur and a company in Swabi. Relief logistics are bolstered by 2,500 tonnes of ready-to-eat rations was available, he said adding that with an additional 5,000 tonnes stocked at the Nowshera base for immediate deployment.

Continued on Back Page

Sharjeel asks people to avoid leaving homes unnecessarily

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister and Provincial Minister for Information, Transport and Mass Transit Sharjeel Inam Memon has appealed to citizens to avoid leaving their homes unnecessarily in view of the heavy rains. In a statement, Sharjeel Inam Memon said that during the rains in Karachi, all government machinery is active and drainage work is ongoing. He added that rainfall is still continuing in different areas, so citizens should wait for it to stop and exercise caution.

He emphasized that the lives and safety of the people are the top priority, which is why citizens should remain at home for their own protection.

According to him, the district administration, KMC, Water Board, and rescue agencies are fully mobilized under the leadership of Provincial Minister Saeed Ghani and Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab.

He further said that steps are being taken to clean storm drains, remove blockages, drain water with machinery, and keep emergency routes open. Sharjeel Inam Memon said that the Sindh government will not leave the people alone and that all possible facilities are being provided to citizens.

Continued on Back Page

Pakistan buries Indian hegemonic narrative: Dar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Tuesday said that false narrative of the Indian media and its government about the so-called hegemony and brandishing India 'as net security provider of the region', was buried by Pakistan.

Addressing a presser in London after conclusion of his official visit to the United Kingdom and broadcast on national TV channels, he said Pakistan emerged victorious in its recent armed conflict with India sparked by uncalled Indian aggression.

"The Indian media and bureaucracy have acknowledged that their

narrative proved unsuccessful. On the other hand, Pakistan's narrative was based upon facts and truth which was acknowledged by the world," he added.

The DPM/FM said that after air superiority, Pakistan also settled scores with India on ground.

He said Pakistan always stood for the respect, dignity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries in the region and desired from others to do the same.

Terming Indian leaders' statements unfortunate, he advised them to accept the defeat and move forward, stressing that Pakistan had not

asked anyone to broker ceasefire rather it was Indian side that agreed to it and which was conveyed by US Secretary of State Marco Rubio to him in May conflict.

The DPM/FM Dar, flanked by Pakistan High Commission to UK Dr Mohammad Faisal, further said the incumbent government was committed to the economic stability and prosperity, and its policies resulted in foreign reserves growth and inflation rates on downward trend. "Pakistan will emerge stronger. Unity will take us forward if we want Pakistan to get its due place among comity of nations, and to join D-20," he observed.

Continued on Back Page

PHC extends protective bail of four PTI Leaders till 9th Sep

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court (PHC) has extended the protective bail of four Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders including Salman Akram Raja, Shandana Gulzar, Khadija Shah, and Provincial Minister Zahir Shah Toru till 9th September, on Tuesday.

PHC divisional bench comprising Justice Waqar Ahmad and Justice Kamran Hayat Miankhel heard the petition while the counsel for Salman Akram Raja informed the court that a request for exemption from appearance had been filed, and Salman Raja would not be able to appear in court today.

The Assistant Attorney

General informed the court that the federal government had not yet submitted its report. The counsel for the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) also requested time to file a report, stating that NAB's report was not yet available.

The court extended the protective bail for Salman Akram Raja until September 9 and directed the federal government and other parties to submit their reports.

Similarly, the court extended the protective bail for Shandana Gulzar, Khadija Shah, and Zahir Shah Toru until September 9 and restrained the authorities from arresting them.

PHC issues notice to FIA and Fed govt in Contempt of Court

The Peshawar High Court (PHC) has issued a notice to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and the federal government in response to a contempt of court petition filed by Senator Azam Swati, a leader of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), on Tuesday.

PHC two-member bench comprising Justice Waqar Ahmad and Justice Kamran Hayat Miankhel heard contempt of court plea. During the hearing, Senator Swati's counsel informed the court that despite the court's permission for Senator Azam Swati to travel abroad, he was stopped at the airport.

The counsel stated that on August 13, the petitioner was again stopped at Peshawar airport despite the court's orders allowing

him to travel abroad. The counsel further mentioned that in the Senate, it was stated that Senator Swati's name was not on any list.

However, the Additional Attorney General informed the court that Senator Swati's name was added to the Provincial National Identification List (PNIL) on August 12 at the request of the Islamabad police.

Justice Waqar Ahmad observed that Senator Swati's name was now included in the PNIL and directed the parties to submit their responses explaining why Senator Azam Swati was not allowed to travel abroad despite the court's orders. The court scheduled the next hearing for after the summer recess, to be listed before a two-member bench.

The Frontier Post

PM expresses satisfaction

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif expressed satisfaction over the performance of the Pakistan Stock Exchange, as the benchmark KSE-100 Index surged past the historic 150,000-point milestone. Prime Minister's Office, Shehbaz Sharif said the bullish trend in the stock market was a strong reflection of investor confidence in the government's economic policies.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairing a meeting to review the ongoing rescue and relief activities of Federal Government in KP, Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Jammu Kashmir.

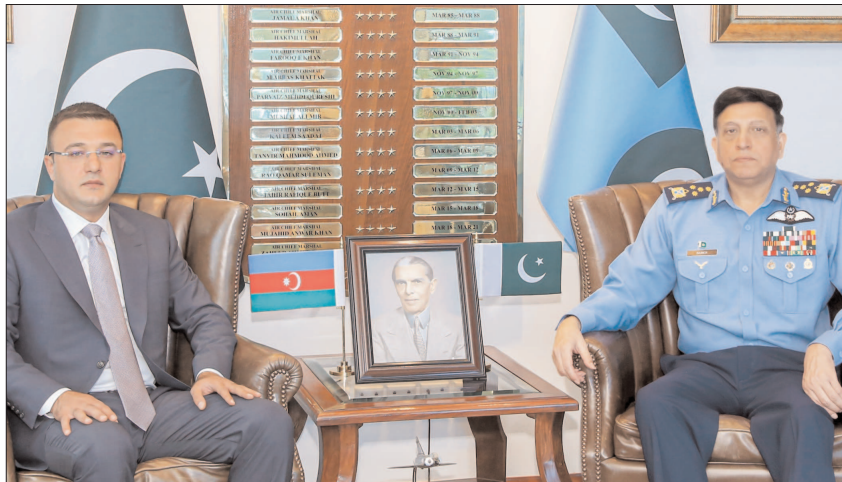
Azerbaijan Deputy Defence Minister calls on Air Chief

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: A high-level defence delegation led by Mr. Agil Gurbanov, Deputy Minister & Director General of Defence, Azerbaijan called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force at Air Headquarters, Islamabad. During the meeting both dignitaries engaged in extensive and fruitful discussions on matters of mutual interest. The talks underscored a shared commitment to fostering defence collaboration with a particular focus on training, modernization and technical expertise.

The Air Chief extended a gracious welcome to the distinguished guests, reiterating that Pakistan and Azerbaijan enjoy long standing religious, cultural and historical bonds which serve as the bedrock of enduring brotherly relations between the two countries.

During the meeting, Chief of the Air Staff shared insight into various ongoing modernization projects of Pakistan Air Force's operational construct, force goals and plans for the force structure with a keen focus on future warfare. The Air Chief also



reiterated PAF's unwavering support to provide capacity-building assistance to the Air Force of Azerbaijan in upgradation of it's human resource, maintenance parameters and operational training. Mr. Agil Gurbanov lauded the exemplary professionalism of PAF personnel and appreciated the extraordinary strides made by Pakistan Air Force through indigenization and development of advanced aerospace technologies. He expressed Azerbaijan's keen interest in expanding military-to-military collaboration, specifically in joint training programs and knowledge-sharing initiatives. Underscoring the impor-

tance of joint training initiatives through bilateral exercises between the two Air Forces, the visiting dignitary emphasized that such cooperation would enhance shared learning, interoperability and professional excellence. He also conveyed Azerbaijan's strong desire for collaboration across Multi Domain Operations, noting that Pakistan Air Force's rich operational experience provides a valuable model for Azerbaijan.

He added that his country is especially eager to learn PAF's complete methodology of Multi Domain warfare to strengthen its own capabilities. The dignitary reiterated

Azerbaijan's intent to revamp its entire training system, beginning from the academy level, and acknowledged Pakistan Air Force as a trusted partner in guiding this transformation. He expressed confidence that cooperation with PAF would significantly contribute to the modernization and professional growth of Azerbaijan Air Force.

The visit of the Azerbaijani Defence Delegation to Air Headquarters, Islamabad reflects the mutual commitment of Pakistan and Azerbaijan to further deepen their strategic partnership, while reinforcing the shared aspirations for regional peace, security and stability.

Gandapur visits flood-hit areas of Swabi

F.P. Report

SWABI: The Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, on Tuesday, paid a visit to flood-affected district Swabi and presided over a meeting at the office of the Deputy Commissioner to review the situation arising from the recent floods.

The meeting was attended by members of the provincial cabinet, elected representatives of the national and provincial assemblies from Swabi, the Chief Secretary of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Commissioner Mardan, and other senior officials. Officials briefed the Chief Minister in detail about the damages caused by the floods, as well as ongoing rescue and relief operations. According to the briefing, 28 people lost their lives in the floods in Swabi, while 26 others were injured. Seven persons remain missing, and search operations are underway for their recovery.

An initial survey revealed that crops spread over 50 kanals of land were damaged, while 14 houses were completely destroyed and 16 sustained partial damage. Similarly, eleven electricity feeders were affected, out of which eight

have already been restored. Road infrastructure in various parts of the district also suffered considerable damages.

The meeting was informed that rescue operations were carried out jointly by teams from Swabi, Mardan and Nowshera. In total, 200 Rescue 1122 personnel, 50 army personnel, 50 police officials and civil defence volunteers took part in the operation. Fifteen ambulances, 10 excavators, three bulldozers and nine tractors were deployed, while 40 women and children stranded on rooftops were successfully rescued. Relief items, including non-food items, food supplies and other essentials, have already been distributed among the flood-affected population, the authorities told.

During the meeting, prayers were also offered for the departed souls and for patience for the bereaved families. The Chief Minister lauded the timely rescue efforts and swift response of the concerned departments, officials and volunteers.

He directed the imposition of a relief emergency in Swabi to expedite relief activities and instructed the Provincial Relief Department and district administration to ensure

immediate disbursement of compensation to affected families.

The chief minister on this occasion, announced that the provincial government had doubled the financial assistance package for the families of those martyred and the injured. He also directed the concerned authorities to complete the survey of damaged public and private infrastructure at the earliest so that reconstruction work could be initiated without delay.

The Chief Minister reiterated that the provincial government would make every effort to compensate for the losses caused by the floods and assured that the victims would not be left alone in this hour of hardship.

Talking to the media during his visit, the chief minister said that seven people were still missing and search operations were underway for their recovery. He added that road links to the affected areas had been restored and relief as well as rehabilitation efforts were now in full swing.

The Chief Minister announced that instead of distributing cooked food or ready-made rations, the provincial government would provide cash assis-

tance to families so they could meet their needs according to their own priorities. Giving an overview of the scale of devastation across the province, Ali Amin Gandapur said the death toll from recent natural calamities had already surpassed 340, while 127 people were still missing. He warned that the number of casualties might rise to as many as 500. "The provincial government stands firmly with its people in this difficult hour," he stressed.

Lauding the performance of the administration and rescue agencies, the Chief Minister said their timely response was commendable.

He noted that compensation payments for the families of those martyred and the injured were already in process, while surveys of private property losses were underway to ensure complete redress. He added that the compensation package for the heirs of the deceased had been doubled, but emphasized that "no amount of money can ever compensate for a human life."

He assured that the losses of all affected families would be met in full and those whose houses had been destroyed would be provided with new homes.





Tareen announces relief plan for flood victims



F.P. Report

LODHRAIN: On the instructions of Jahangir Khan Tareen, the Lodhran Pilot Project (LPP) has dispatched a special team to Bajaur, Buner, and Swat to assess the devastation caused by the recent floods. The team, led by Chief Executive Officer Dr. Abdul Saboor and Jahangir Tareen's PSO, Syed Imran Shah, will conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the damages and prepare detailed recommendations.

Based on the team's findings, immediate relief assistance will be provided, including food rations, tents, medicines, Hygiene kits for females and other essential supplies for the affected families. In his message, Jahangir Khan Tareen said: "As always, we stand firmly with our brothers and sisters in this difficult time. All possible resources will be mobilized to support and rehabilitate the flood-affected families."

PHC orders removal of Jhagra daughter's name from stop list

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court (PHC) has ordered the removal of Hania Khan's name from the Provisional National Identification List (PNIL), on Tuesday.

PHC two-member bench comprising Justice Waqar Ahmad and Justice Kamran Hayat Miankhel heard the petition filed Hania Khan the daughter of former provincial minister Taimur Saleem Jhagra.

During the hearing, the petitioner's counsel, Ali Gohar Durani, informed the court that Hania Khan is a student at the University of California in the United States and no involvement in politics. Her name was included in the list solely due to her father's political affiliation.

Justice Waqar Ahmad observed that Hania Khan is a student and her name should not have been included in the list. He emphasized that she should be allowed to travel abroad as her semester would be jeopardized if she fails to depart on time. The judge remarked, "She is a student; why has her name been placed on the list? Allow her to go, her semester will be wasted." PHC directed the authorities to remove Hania Khan's name from the PNIL, enabling her to travel abroad without any restrictions.

Sindh govt decides to expedite clean-up operation against dacoits in kacha

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, presiding over a high-level meeting, decided to strengthen and expedite the operation to combat dacoits in the kacha areas of Larkana and Sukkur divisions and to demolish all illegal hydrants in Karachi to improve the water supply in the city.

The meeting was attended by Corps Commander Karachi Lieutenant General Owais Dastgir, Chief Secretary Asif Haider Shah, Home Minister Zia Ul Hasan Lanjhar, DG Rangers Major General Muhammad Shamreez, Secretary Home Iqbal Memon, IG Police Ghulam Nabi Memon, Principal Secretary Agha Wasif, Additional IGs of CTD, Special Branch, and representatives from other security agencies.

The Chief Minister stated that his government has adopted a clear policy of an offensive strategy in combating crime in the Kachha area. The police have been instructed to confront the dacoits, force them to surrender, and disarm them. It was noted that the operation in the Kachha areas of Larkana and Sukkur divisions began in 2024 and was intensified from October 2024 through innovative technology, with 729 targeted intelligence-based operations launched and 261 search and sweep operations conducted.

The meeting was informed that law enforcement agencies (LEAs) faced challenges due to inaccessibility, but the utilisation of innovative technology by police and rangers helped overcome the issue of inaccessibility and facilitated encounters with the dacoits.

Sindh Police, in close coordination with Sindh Rangers and supported by intelligence agencies, progressed step by step, establishing strong fortified bases, and began dismantling the dacoits' hideouts. Known criminal hideouts and facilitators' dens were destroyed, burnt, and levelled to the ground. From January 2024 to August 15, 149 dacoits were neutralised, including 10 each in Sukkur and Ghotki, 40 in Kashmore, and 89 in Shikarpur. The police arrested 582 dacoits, including 41 in Sukkur, 33 in Ghotki, 186 in Kashmore, and 322 in Shikarpur.

Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah stressed that peace and security must be maintained strictly in the Kachha area under all circumstances. He warned that kidnappings for ransom would not be tolerated and stated that the objective of the meeting was to decisively eliminate the dacoits from the area. Since 2024, joint operations have been ongoing in Kachha area by the police and Rangers, and the Chief Minister called for these

operations to be intensified and conducted with full vigour. Murad Shah assured that robbers who surrender their arms will be dealt with leniency.

A decision was made to accelerate ruthless operations in the Kachha area. For this purpose, the Chief Minister established a high-level monitoring committee headed by the Home Minister, including the Secretary Home, DG Rangers, IG Police, and other officials to oversee the operation's progress. An additional high-level committee was also formed to oversee the effective implementation of operations and to make decisions.

Briefings from various agencies on progress in the Kachha area were presented to the Chief Minister. He mentioned that the Sindh government has equipped the police with modern weapons, and through technological support, significant operational successes have been achieved, with expectations of further results.

The government decided to keep the Punjab government informed and involved regarding the operations in Kachha. The meeting also agreed that developmental work would begin in Kachha areas, including road network construction and the provision of education and health facilities to uplift

local communities.

The Chief Minister emphasised that peaceful residents of the Kachha area also deserve security and protection, and that safeguarding lives and property would remain a priority.

The operation in the Kachha regions of Larkana and Sukkur divisions is being intensified, as per the decisions made at the high-level meeting. To support the crackdown, internet services will be suspended for an extended period in the Kachha regions, and all social media accounts used by dacoits will be blocked. The locations of mobile towers to be shut down were identified and shared during the meeting. Greater coordination among all law enforcement agencies operating in Kachha was stressed, and the police, Rangers, and other agencies were commended for their excellent work in the ongoing operations.

The meeting, also joined by Mayor Karachi Muratza Wahab and senior officers from the water board, significant water challenges facing Karachi were discussed in detail. The discussion highlighted several pressing issues, primarily stemming from the city's ageing infrastructure, which has led to low water pressure, frequent bursts, and leakages, consequently

facilitating illegal tapping of water supplies. The concerns raised by the water board included the absence of real-time flow and pressure monitoring at critical junctions hinders effective management. There are considerable delays in enforcement, irregular audits, and insufficient accountability.

Unbilled or under-billed connections persist due to inadequate digitalisation and Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping. Additionally, certain areas lack proper documentation and metering, making them vulnerable to theft. The meeting also revealed that criminal syndicates illegally tap into main supply lines, fill tankers without authorisation, and sell unfiltered water at inflated prices. These illicit operations are supported by entire systems of pipes, valves, and pumps, maintained with impunity, resulting in significant financial losses for the Corporation.

In response to these challenges, the water board has initiated several proactive measures, including a crackdown on illegal connections, a consistent strike against illegal connections and hydrants. Disconnection of water supply to chronic defaulters and a police station dedicated to water-related issues is currently in progress at COD.



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Railways Hanif Abbasi chairs a meeting at Lahore Railway Headquarter. —INP Photo

Home Secretary chairs key meeting on 'War Book' preparation

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Home Secretary Dr. Ahmed Javed Qazi Tuesday chaired a significant meeting at the Home Department to discuss the preparation of the "Punjab War Book."

The session focused on presenting an initial framework of a comprehensive strategy to address potential enemy attacks, war and emergency situations. According to Home Department spokesperson, the defence planning wing of the Home Department provided a detailed briefing regarding the roles and responsibilities of 33 relevant federal and provincial departments in case of a hostile attack. It was noted that the original Punjab War Book, formulated in 1981, is now being updated after 45 years to align with contemporary security challenges.

The updated Punjab War Book clearly delineates the responsibilities of each department and institution to ensure timely and effective response during emergencies. The meeting also included discussions on necessary steps to protect vital installations and the public across the province.

Consultations were held in the context of the Pakistan government's

recently issued "War Book," focusing on protocols to respond to missile strikes, drone attacks and cyberattacks. The construction of secure bunkers and shelters in residential areas throughout the province was also discussed, including the potential revision of building by-laws to meet these requirements.

During the meeting, every detail related to safeguarding public life and property in Punjab was examined meticulously.

The Secretary Home Punjab emphasised that protocols are being modernised to ensure the safety of citizens and critical infrastructure in times of war. He said that Divisional and District Intelligence Committees will be empowered to manage any emergency situations effectively.

He further highlighted the importance of timely delivery of food and medicines during crises. Directions were given to complete the mapping of existing resources in all districts promptly. The secretary assured that Civil Defence is being equipped with all possible resources for urban defence.

Additionally, hospitals and communication networks will be maintained fully operational during

emergencies. The meeting also addressed the prevention of possible propaganda on social media and the timely dissemination of verified information, which will be incorporated into the War Book.

Dr Javed Qazi instructed that district administrations, PDMA, Civil Defence, Rescue 1122 and security agencies maintain full coordination. Civil Defence was tasked with identifying secure shelters province-wide. It was also decided to activate control rooms under the Home Department's central control room in all districts for efficient emergency management.

The meeting was attended by Additional IG Punjab Tariq Chauhan, Secretary Emergency Services Dr. Rizwan Naseer, Special Secretary Home Fazal-ur-Rehman, DIG Special Branch Khurram Shehzad, Additional DG PDMA Jawad Haider, Additional Secretary Defence Planning Colonel Shehzad Amir, Additional Secretary Home Asma Cheema, Additional Secretary Foreign National Security Uzma Saleem, Consultant Major (retd) Mudassar Butt and Director Civil Defence Zegham Nawaz.

90% of roads, bridges restored in flood-hit areas: CS

E.P. Report

PESHAWAR: In a video message, Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Shahab Ali Shah said that on the night of August 14 and 15, heavy rains and cloudbursts hit several districts of the province, including Bajaur, Dir, Buner, Swat, Shangla, Battagram, and Mansehra, causing massive loss of life and property. He said that immediately after the disaster, an effective rescue operation was launched in which Rescue 1122, the Relief Department, district administrations, police, and personnel of the Pakistan Army took part. More than 2,000 personnel and over 200 vehicles are currently engaged in the rescue and relief operations.

The Chief Secretary said that the floods had cut off access to many areas, destroying roads and bridges. However, thanks to the tireless efforts of rescue teams, 90 percent of roads and bridges have been restored, reconnecting most affected areas. In places where road access has not yet been restored, relief supplies are being delivered on foot or through alternative means.

He added that the PDMA, NDMA, PKHA and Pakistan Army's Engineering Corps are working jointly to rebuild damaged infrastructure. Where permanent bridges cannot be constructed immediately, temporary steel bridges are being installed.

Alongside this, work is underway at a fast pace to restore electricity supply and cellular networks. The Chief Minister has directed all public representatives to remain present in their respective constituencies and keep close contact with affected families.

According to Shahab Ali Shah, food rations and other essential supplies have been arranged and are being provided continuously. The Public Health Engineering Department and other concerned agencies are working to ensure the supply of clean drinking water in flood-affected areas. Medical camps have also been set up in different districts where doctors and staff from the Health Department and the Army Medical Corps are providing healthcare facilities.

The Chief Secretary said that Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has announced a special relief and compensation package for the victims. Funds have already been released for the families of martyrs and the injured, and distribution has begun from today. The Chief Minister also visited flood-hit areas, met public representatives and provincial officials as well as federal officials, and instructed them to remain alert and intensify their efforts. He said that the provincial government had already released Rs. 3 billion to accelerate restoration and rehabilitation works.

Highlighting the weather forecast, the Chief Secretary said that two more monsoon spells are expected by the end of August and the first week of September. In view of this, the government has activated its early warning system. District administrations have been directed to monitor the situation closely and issue timely alerts to the public. People living in high-risk areas should be temporarily shifted to safer places, he added.

Appealing to the people, the Chief Secretary urged citizens not to pay attention to rumors and strictly follow instructions issued by the

administration. He emphasized that rescue and district administration teams are present on the ground and that full cooperation is essential. "All citizens are requested to take government warnings seriously in order to protect their precious lives and properties," he said.

The Chief Secretary further stated that both national and international organizations are sending relief items to the province. Logistics hubs have been set up in every district to receive relief goods and dispatch them in an organized manner to areas in need. This, he said, would prevent duplication of efforts and ensure timely delivery of assistance.

He added that the Prime Minister has also announced a relief package, terming it a "national effort" in which federal and provincial governments, along with different units of the Pakistan Army, are working jointly to serve the people.

Humayun Khan visits Mansehra jail

E.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Advisor to the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Prisons Humayun Khan visited District Jail Mansehra. Nagina Mehsud, the first female prison superintendent in the history of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, welcomed him upon his arrival at the prison.

Advisor to the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Humayun Khan inspected various sections of the jail and carefully examined each and every thing. He saw the jail system, met the prisoners and reviewed the overall situation of the jail.

Had detailed discussions with the prisoners regarding the issues. Inspected the education system for the prisoners in the jail. Inspected the jail barracks built for the prisoners. Humayun Khan reviewed the facilities provided to the prisoners. He made a detailed visit to the anchorage and checked everything and also visited the hospital set up in the District Jail, Mansehra for prisoners.

The prison advisor also checked the facilities for women and children inside the prison. While visiting the drug rehabilitation center established inside the prison, he expressed great satisfaction. On this occasion, he expressed satisfaction with the overall condition of the jail and described District Jail Mansehra as the best jail in the province.

He praised the performance of Superintendent Jail Nagina Mehsud, saying that she is the only female prison administrator in Pakistan who is running a men's prison efficiently. He said that wherever Nagina Mehsud has been posted, the jail is considered one of the best in the province. On this occasion, he also wrote a note of appreciation for Superintendent Jail Nagina Mehsud in the visitor's book.

Four years of IE of Afghanistan: Governance, Domestic Trajectories, and International Engagement

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Afghanistan Middle East and Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a webinar, titled "Four Years of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan: Governance, Domestic Trajectories, and International Engagement".

The webinar was moderated by Ms. Amina Khan, Director CAMEA. Speakers included Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG, ISSI; Sardar Ahmad Shakeeb, Ambassador of Afghanistan to Pakistan; Ambassador Mansoor Ahmad Khan, Pakistan's Former Ambassador to Afghanistan; Adam Weinstein, Deputy Director of the Middle East Program at the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft, Washington D.C., and Flavius Caba Maria, President and Director of the Political Department, Middle East Political and Economic Institute (MEPEI), Romania.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, in his opening remarks said that four years after the Taliban's return,

Afghanistan has witnessed consolidation of rule and expanded external engagement, including symbolic recognition from Russia. He noted, however, that broader recognition remains withheld over concerns of human rights, inclusivity, and terrorism. Domestically, he observed that while the Taliban have maintained authority, the presence of groups like ISKP, Al-Qaida, and TTP remains troubling. On Pakistan-Afghanistan ties, he highlighted both challenges such as cross-border attacks and positive steps including ambassador-level appointments and revival of the Joint Coordination Committee. He concluded that despite difficulties, renewed diplomatic engagement shows a pragmatic recognition of the need for cooperation and regional connectivity.

Ms. Amina Khan, Director CAMEA at ISSI, said that August 15, 2025, marked four years since the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) assumed power as the de facto authority in Afghanistan. She noted that while the IEA has brought stability,

curbed corruption, banned poppy cultivation, and expanded diplomatic outreach, these gains have been overshadowed by its failure to honor reform pledges under the Doha Agreement, particularly on human and women's rights, inclusivity, and counter-terrorism. She concluded that the group's performance remains transitional and marked by persistent shortcomings.

Ambassador Shakeeb said that Afghanistan stands at the threshold of a new chapter under the Islamic Emirate. He noted that over the past four years, nationwide security has been ensured, narcotics cultivation eradicated, and a justice system established across all provinces. He highlighted Afghanistan's move toward economic self-reliance and major projects in agriculture, energy, and infrastructure, alongside social programs for orphans, widows, and persons with disabilities. On foreign relations, he emphasized Afghanistan's balanced diplomacy, citing engagement with over 100 countries and Russia's recognition as a milestone in its international integration.

Ambassador Mansoor

Khan said that four years on, the Taliban have brought stability and consolidated control, yet sanctions, lack of recognition, and failure to ensure women's rights, girls' education, and counter-terrorism remain major concerns. He noted divisions between hardliners and moderates, stressing that Afghanistan faces a choice between reforms leading to integration or isolation if shortcomings persist. On Pakistan-Afghanistan ties, he emphasized that terrorism remains a hurdle to economic cooperation and that constitutional reforms reflecting the aspirations of the Afghan people are essential.

Adam Weinstein said that while the U.S. remains the largest donor, providing part of nearly \$10 billion in aid since 2021, Afghanistan has become a low priority for Washington under the Trump administration. He noted that the Taliban and Afghan people have shown resilience to aid cuts, but stressed that the Taliban must meet the international community halfway by choosing reforms and regional integration over isolation. He described U.S. policy as ad hoc and impul-



sive, and added that the Doha process has become piecemeal and largely dead. Dr. Flavius Caba-Maria said that four years after the Taliban's return, Afghanistan remains largely isolated internationally despite expanded regional engagement and recognition from Russia. He noted that while security has improved and drug flows curbed, the humanitarian situation is dire and

refugees continue to be returned. On the EU's policy, he stated that although Europe remains focused on Ukraine, it continues coordination on aid and refugees without extending recognition. He added that some EU states are considering greater engagement, but the Union must adopt a more pragmatic approach aligned with realities on the ground.

In his concluding remarks, Ambassador

Khalid Mahmood said that Afghanistan stands at an important juncture. He noted that while challenges remain, the Taliban's regional and international engagement reflects recognition of the need for cooperation. He emphasized that inclusive policies and responsiveness to international concerns are essential for Afghanistan's stability, development, and integration into the global community.

CS reviews precautionary measures against GLOF threats in five districts

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A high-level meeting on precautionary measures against potential threats of Glacier Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF) in different districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was held here on Tuesday by Chief Secretary Shahab Ali Shah in the chair. Secretaries of P&D & Relief Departments, DG PDMA, Chief Economist P&D, and other officials attended the meeting, while Deputy Commissioners of Upper and Lower Chitral, Upper Dir, Swat, and Upper Kohistan joined through video link.

During the briefing, it was informed that Reshun Village in Upper Chitral has been declared a high-risk area, while in Swat, the areas of Utror, Matiltan, and Kalam; in Lower Chitral, Madaklasht and Arkari; in Upper Dir, Kumrat; and in Upper Kohistan, Kandia are among the vulnerable localities facing potential GLOF threats. Preventive safety measures have already been ensured in these areas, the meeting was told.

The Chief Secretary directed that all GLOF-prone districts must submit daily situation reports to the Chief Secretary's Office. He emphasized that district administrations should remain on high alert to timely respond in case of any emergency, keep local communities informed, and ensure special focus on strengthening the early warning system for the protection of public life and property. District administrations were also directed to ensure continuous monitoring of sensitive sites, timely warnings, and advance evacuation arrangements where necessary.

He further instructed that the departments of Planning, Forestry, Environmental Protection Agency, PDMA, On-Farm Water Management, and Soil & Water Conservation must remain in close coordination.

The briefing highlighted that protective measures have been taken along riversides in Kumrat Dir and Utror Swat, while special arrangements have been completed for the safety of communities residing in downstream high-risk zones.

According to DG PDMA, local watchers have been deployed in vulnerable areas to monitor the situation and closely remain in contact with local communities and mosques. Moreover, emergency centers have been established with the support of district administrations to respond promptly to any untoward situation.



PESHAWAR: Chief Secretary Shahab Ali Shah chairing a high-level meeting on precautionary measures against potential threats of Glacier Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF) in different districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Faisal defends PhD dissertation

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Faisal Aftab son of Aftab Hassan Qureshi, a research scholar from the Department of English at the Qurtaba University of Science and Information Technology, Peshawar, has successfully defended his PhD (English) thesis on August 15, 2025. From Qurtuba University his supervisor was Professor Dr. Abdul Hamid Khan and his examiner was Professor Dr. Mustansir Ahmed from Hazara University. Dr Faisal Aftab expressed happiness over his success and thanked Allah Almighty.

Free medical camp held for flood victims

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: When devastating floods swept through Peer Baba in Buner, they didn't just wash away homes—they drowned dreams, safety, and peace. Amid this tragedy, Afridi Medical Complex, Peshawar, rose as a beacon of hope, stepping forward not just with aid, but with compassion.

In response to the crisis, Afridi Medical Complex set up a free medical camp in the heart of the affected region, offering essential medical services, free check-ups, and life-saving medicines to hundreds of flood victims. With families left without shelter or resources, this initiative has become a lifeline.

CEO Shah Jahan Afridi shared: "In the face of such pain, silence is cruelty. It is our moral and human duty to stand with those who have lost everything. This medical camp is not just about treatment—it is about restoring dignity and hope." Director Riaz Afridi added: "We are not just giving medicine—we are giving a message: You are not alone."

Our mission is clear—no child should suffer, no mother should cry helplessly, and no patient should be left untreated."

Afridi Medical Complex continues to serve with the belief that where there is pain, we must be present.

CBP carries out operation against encroachments



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Under the instructions of the Director General Military Lands & Cantonments (DG ML&C), and the supervision of Station Commander & President Cantonment Board Brigadier Umar Saeed Afridi and Chief Executive Officer Cantonment Board Peshawar, Chaudhry Babar Hussain, a vigorous anti-encroachment operation was conducted.

The operation was led by Enforcement Officer

Raja Yasir Janjua.

During the operation, encroachments were removed from various parts of Saddar Peshawar, including Khyber Bazaar, Shuba Bazaar, Chowk Fawara, Liaquat Bazaar, Saddar Road, and other adjoining areas.

Dozens of unauthorized pushcarts and structures occupying footpaths and roads were confiscated, thereby clearing pathways for pedestrians and ensuring smoother public movement.

At the same time, strict action was also taken

against wrong parking, and several motorcycles were fined for causing obstruction to the flow of traffic.

Enforcement Officer Raja Yasir Janjua stated that, in the interest of public convenience, such anti-encroachment operations will continue on a daily basis.

He further appealed to the citizens to extend their cooperation so that the commercial and residential areas of Saddar Peshawar remain clean, orderly, and accessible for all.

Anti-Corruption Establishment arrests three ADs

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Anti-Corruption Establishment Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has registered an FIR against the Deputy Director and Assistant Directors of the Employees Social Security Institution (ESSI) for negligence in duties and large-scale financial irregularities. Three Assistant Directors have also been arrested.

According to the Anti-Corruption Establishment,

complaints were received regarding massive irregularities and negligence in the Employees Social Security Institution, a subsidiary body of the Labour Department. A detailed inquiry confirmed the allegations, and those responsible were identified.

The inquiry revealed that during the hiring of daily-wage employees for different departments, the ESSI failed to deduct the mandatory six percent contribution from the payments

made to the private service-providing companies for the welfare of workers. This negligence caused a financial loss of Rs. 92 million to the national exchequer.

As a result of professional negligence and financial misconduct, an FIR has been registered against a Deputy Director Muhammad Amir Wazir, and three Assistant Directors Mamoon Zafar, Israr Ahmad, Noor Muhammad, Muhammad

Nawaz, and Kaleem Ullah. Furthermore, an FIR has also named private sector officials including Ghulam Jelani, Director of Hello Tech; Taimur Ahmad, CEO of Ahmed Associates; and Wilayat Khan, MD of Sunrise Enterprise.

The FIR has been registered under sections 406, 409, 419, and 420 of the Pakistan Penal Code. Three Assistant Directors have been arrested while efforts are underway to arrest the remaining accused.

MPA Daud visis rain-affected areas of Kohat

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Member of the Provincial Assembly Daud Shah Afridi, upon receiving reports of heavy floodwater entering residential houses in Mominaabad, Kohat due to recent rains, immediately rushed to the affected site late at night along with the Additional Assistant Commissioner Abrar Khattak.

He conducted a detailed inspection of the streets, residential houses

and low-lying areas, met the affected residents and listening to their problems.

Even at midnight, Daud Afridi took prompt action by arranging for an excavator to ensure drainage of the accumulated water in order to prevent further damage to the houses.

Speaking on the occasion, Daud Afridi said, "The people's difficulties are my personal concerns. In times of hardship, I cannot leave my people

alone. I have directed the administration that no negligence in drainage of rainwater will be tolerated."

Afridi expressed dissatisfaction over the poor performance of the TMA Kohat and made it clear that strict action would be taken against the negligent staff.

Additional Assistant Commissioner directed the administrative staff present at the site to immediately provide maximum relief to the

residents. He stated, "The district administration is always available to address public hardships. No one will be allowed to show negligence and those responsible will be held accountable under the law."

The residents expressed their confidence in the practical role of the elected representatives and the district administration who timely intervene and provided relief to the affected citizens.

The legacy of Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas Shaheed

Izmi Herlani

ON 20 August 1971, destiny tested a young man barely twenty years old, which he answered with a sacrifice so profound that it shook the very soul of Pakistan. Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas Shaheed, NH, did not simply sacrifice his life that day; he gifted the nation an immortal lesson in Loyalty, Courage and Faith. In the cockpit of his T-33 trainer aircraft he made a choice that few in history have dared to make.

He wrestled his aircraft away from treachery, even knowing it meant certain death. His plane may have fallen to the ground but his spirit soared far above, higher than any machine could ever climb. That fiery crash did not end his story, it ignited a flame of courage that has burned brightly for Fifty-four



years, inspiring every generation of Pakistan Air Force Shaheens to guard the skies with the same devotion.

Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas's martyrdom is not remembered simply as an

act of sacrifice, it is remembered as a testament that Pakistan's honor is worth more than life itself. He became the youngest recipient of Nishan-e-Haider but the medal is only a symbol;

the true reward lies in how his courage carved a path for generations of air warriors to follow. For him the cockpit was not just a seat of power, it was a sanctuary of values. When treachery tried to hijack his mission, he did not hesitate; he did not waver. In that instant, Rashid Minhas embodied what every pilot must learn: that altitude is not measured in Feet but in Faith, and that the weight of wings is not in Metal but in Honour.

Half a century later, Minhas's spirit is not locked in the past. It pulses through the very ethos of Pakistan Air Force today. His name is still spoken with reverence in cadet classrooms, still painted on Squadron walls, still whispered in the quiet moments before a night sortie. He is not History—he is Heritage. Every young pilot at Risalpur, every Shaheen at a fighter base, every engi-

neer who turns a spanner on the tarmac knows that Rashid Minhas is watching. He reminds them that flying for Pakistan is not about speed or glamour, it is about bearing the nation's trust. He teaches that courage must always walk hand in hand with discipline and that in the loneliest second of the loneliest flight, a pilot still carries the weight of an entire nation's hopes.

This spirit was tested once more in May 2025, when the enemy attempted to impose its will on Pakistan's sovereignty. The skies grew tense, radar screens lit up and a conflict of hours felt like a battle of ages. Missiles, Drones, Electronic Warfare and Air Sorties blurred into a storm of speed and danger. And yet, through it all, Pakistan Air Force stood unshaken. Calm under fire, precise in action, measured in response—their every

Trikafta in Pakistan — Turning the tide in fight against cystic fibrosis

Dr. Muhammad Farid uddin

Readers Corner

Cystic fibrosis (CF) has long been a silent battle in Pakistan, fought in hospital wards and family homes. Every chest infection chips away at lung function, and each year without proper treatment shortens life expectancy.

A landmark change has now arrived. The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) has approved Trikafta (elexacaftor/tezacaftor/ivacaftor), one of the costliest medicines in the world and a groundbreaking CF gene modulator therapy.

At the Indus Hospital & Health Network, Karachi, 51 patients — children, teenagers, and young adults — have been receiving it for the past three months under my care. The results have been remarkable: improved lung function, weight gain, fewer infections, better sleep, and renewed energy.

Trikafta works by correcting and improving the function of the faulty CFTR protein caused by mutations such

as F508del, targeting the root cause of CF rather than just its symptoms. Approved in over 30 countries since 2019, it has transformed outcomes for up to 90pc of CF patients in some populations.

Until recently, such treatment was out of reach for Pakistan. Through persistent advocacy, clinical leadership, and collaboration, we have made it available here. This achievement proves that, with determination, even resource-limited countries can access cutting-edge therapies. However, it must not remain confined to one hospital. We need nationwide access, early screening, more trained specialists, affordability measures, and local data to guide expansion.

Trikafta does not just extend life; it transforms it — and in the fight against CF, that means everything.

Writer is Head of Pediatrics, The Indus Hospital & Health Network Karachi



In brief

Olive grafting project launched F.P. Report

KARAK: Agriculture Department Karak has formally launched "Olive Grafting Project" in Shamshaki village of Tehsil Karak. According to Agriculture Department, a total of 3,500 wild olive plants would be grafted by using modern scientific techniques to transform them into productive trees. Officials stated that this initiative would not only increase olive production but it would also serve as a sustainable source of income for farmers in the region. The agriculture experts highlighted that the grafting process would ensure high-yielding varieties of olives, boost local production, reduce reliance on imported olive oil and save valuable foreign exchange. The project is also expected to generate new employment opportunities strengthening agricultural economy of the province. The agriculture minister in his statement reiterated that his vision is to modernize the agriculture sector in KP. By adopting modern agricultural practices, we can not only enhance productivity but also uplift the farming community," he said. Local farmers have welcomed the government's move and termed it a historic step towards agricultural self-sufficiency. They expressed optimism that similar initiatives would continue across the province to secure long-term benefits for the farming sector.

Anti-polio drive from Sept 1 F.P. Report

HYDERABAD: A meeting of the district polio eradication committee was held on Tuesday at Darbar Hall Jamshoro under the chair of Deputy Commissioner Ghazanfar Ali Qadri, with the participation of concerned officials. It was decided that the anti-polio drive will run from September 1 to September 5, 2025, during which 245,769 children under the age of five year will be administered polio drops. Addressing the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner Ghazanfar Ali Qadri said that the eradication of polio was a national responsibility, and no negligence will be tolerated during the campaign. He further directed authorities to maintain strict vigilance on people traveling to and from other districts to prevent the transmission of the virus at all costs.

Tree plantation drive launched F.P. Report

SARGODHA: The National Tree Plantation Drive, initiated under the directives of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, has officially commenced in the Sargodha Division. According to an official spokesperson on Tuesday, Commissioner Sargodha Division Jahanzeb Awan and Deputy Commissioner Captain (R) Muhammad Wasim launched the campaign by planting saplings in the lawns of their respective offices. Speaking on the occasion, the Commissioner stated that a total of 3.8 million saplings will be planted across the four districts of Sargodha Division during the monsoon season, which will continue until September 30. He emphasized that the plantation drive aims to promote environmental protection and ensure a healthier future for coming generations. Officials stressed the importance of public participation, urging every citizen to play their part in making Sargodha greener and more sustainable.

Muqam announces relief package for flood victims

F.P. Report

KHAR: Federal Minister and President of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Khayber Pakhtunkhwa Engineer Amir Muqam, paid a one-day visit to Bajaur, where he met with flood victims and expressed solidarity with them. He offered condolences to the families of the deceased and spent time with affected families.

Federal Minister announced a financial assistance package of 20 million rupees for each family that lost a loved one in the floods. He also assured that a relief package for injured individuals and those whose homes were damaged would be announced soon.

The minister praised



the resilience and sacrifices of the people of Bajaur, stating that they are an example for the entire country. He commended the Salarzai tribe for their role in promoting peace and said that the entire nation salutes their efforts.

Amir Muqam assured that the government would not leave the affected people alone and would stand by them in their time of need. He announced the

dispatch of special vehicles for cleaning and rescue operations in flood-affected areas and the establishment of a new NADRA center to facilitate those affected by the operation.

The event was attended by Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Merged Districts, Mubarak Zeb Khan, former MNA Shahabuddin, and Salarzai tribal leaders, who welcomed the government's announcements.

ORIC meeting at KUST industry expo announced Sahibzada Afridi

KOHAT: Kohat University of Science and Technology held a meeting of the ORIC (Office of Research, Innovation & Commercialization) Steering Committee under the chairmanship of Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Syed Zafar Ilyas. The session was attended by President Kohat Chamber of Commerce Rasheed Pracha, President sarhad Chamber of Commerce Muhammad Fazal Muqeem Khan, Deans, faculty members, and ORIC staff.

During the meeting, Director ORIC Dr. Zeeshan Bangash presented the ORIC Strategic Plan 2025-2030 and briefed participants on the operational goals for 2025-2026 along with implementation strategies. Industry representatives and committee members also shared their valuable suggestions.

Addressing the meeting, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Syed Zafar Ilyas announced that KUST will soon host the KUST Industry Expo, featuring the participation of various industrial organizations and companies. The event will also provide job interview opportunities for students, and while KUST faculty and students will present their innovative research and entrepreneurial ideas.

Vice Chancellor extended his gratitude to the distinguished guests, acknowledging the efforts of ORIC in promoting research, innovation, and commercialization. He expressed confidence that these initiatives will continue to yield significant achievements in the future.

The Presidents of Kohat and sarhad Chambers of Commerce assured their full cooperation, emphasizing that university-industry linkages will pave the way for new dimensions of economic and educational development in the region.

APC forms 6-member committee F.P. Report

ATTOCK: A meeting of the Attock Press Club (Registered) was held under the chairmanship of Sheikh Faisal Javed. The key agenda of the meeting was to reclaim the Press Club building, which has been under the possession of the district administration for the past 14 years. A 6-member committee was formed to take up the matter with the authorities.

The meeting, held at a local hotel, was attended by a large number of office-bearers and members, including Sheikh Javed Iqbal, Hafiz Shehzad Akhtar, Nisar Ali Khan, Hafiz Khaleel Ahmed, Nadeem Haider, Muhammad Sabreen Khattak, Siyar Gul, Razi Khan, Khalid Waheed, Malik Asad Mahmood, Javed Akhtar Awan, Haji Mumtaz Hussain, Malik Muhammad Azam, Mumtaz Ahmed, Qamar Abbas Jafari, Sheikh Babar Qayyum, Dr. Sohail Ahmed, Kareem Khan, Malik Fahad, Ehsan Qureshi, Dr. Waheed Khattak, Sheikh Zahoor Elahi, Dr. Sheikh Asad, Rashid Awan, and Tayyab Awan.

After detailed discussions, it was decided that if no positive progress is made by the administration, the Press Club will boycott coverage of official activities. Furthermore, protest camps may be set up outside the DC Office, and legal proceedings, including filing a writ petition in the High Court, will also be pursued.

AKF dispatches relief items for flood-hit victims



Haleem Asad

LOWER DIR: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Pakistan chief Hafiz Naeemur Rehman has said that the recent floods have caused massive devastation in Malakand division and Buner, wiping out entire villages. He urged political parties, the federal government, and the provincial government to set aside their differences and focus on the rehabilitation of the affected people. Speaking to the media at the Chakdara Interchange during his visit to Buner and Bajaur here the other day, Hafiz Naeem was accompanied by Al-Khidmat Foundation Pakistan president Dr. Hafeezur Rehman, JI central Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief Abdul Wasi, Al-Khidmat Foundation North president Fazal Mehmood, Lower Dir president Hafeezullah Khaksar, and other leaders.

He said he had spoken to the Prime Minister and the KP Chief Minister regarding the rehabilitation of flood-hit families and stressed that both provincial and federal governments must work jointly for their assistance. He warned that if the government failed to honor its promises regarding the rehabilitation of flood victims and traders, JI would be compelled to launch a protest movement.

Hafiz Naeem further emphasized that relief operations must remain transparent and free of corruption. He said Al-Khidmat Foundation volunteers were actively engaged in relief efforts and had dispatched a convoy of 21 trucks carrying relief goods worth Rs100 million to the affected areas.

He called upon the federal and provincial governments, as well as the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), to play their immediate role in rehabilitation. "This is not a time for differences but for unity," he remarked.

Responding to a question, Hafiz Naeem clarified that Jamaat-e-Islami does not support terrorists, but it opposes military operations as they are not a permanent solution to the problems. He added that Pakistan must review its policies and free itself from dependence on the United States, saying: "We have lost much in America's war; now it is time to break free from this slavery."

AKF relief packages: Al-Khidmat Foundation Pakistan has dispatched a large convoy of relief goods worth Rs100 million to support families affected by recent floods in Malakand division.

Speaking to reporters at Chakdara here the other day, Al-Khidmat

Foundation president Dr. Hafeezur Rehman said that 21 trucks loaded with essential supplies had been sent to the worst-hit areas of Buner, Bajaur and Shangla. The relief consignment includes bedding, blankets, kitchen sets, coolers, jerrycans, mobile water filtration plants, food packages, and four mobile health units equipped with doctors and paramedics.

He said thousands of volunteers of Al-Khidmat Foundation and Jamaat-e-Islami are actively engaged in relief and rehabilitation activities, providing both immediate assistance and long-term support to the displaced families. Dr. Rehman emphasized that transparency, speed, and community involvement remain central to Al-Khidmat's relief operations. He assured that the foundation would continue its efforts until the victims are properly rehabilitated.

The relief packages were dispatched from Chakdara in the presence of Jamaat-e-Islami chief Hafiz Naeemur Rehman, who praised the volunteers' dedication and urged government institutions, including NDMA and PDMA, to step up their response for the flood-hit population.

Fear of floods raised after hike Indus waters

F.P. Report

LARKANA: Due to the increase in water levels in the Indus River near Larkana, after the past one week and the situation where the water from the "Mauria Loop Dam" near Larkana is being drained, the Secretary of the Provincial Irrigation Department, Zarif Kero, along with technical experts and other officials, has strengthened the Moria Loop Dam. On this occasion, the Provincial Secretary of the Irrigation Department, while talking to the media, said that small-scale to medium-scale floods have caused a flow of 4 lakh cusecs of water. After the rains in the northern areas for the past four to five days, it is likely that 6 lakh cusecs of water will flow at the Guddu Barrage, which will pass through the Moria Loop Dam. Therefore, this dam is sensitive.

Therefore, today, a technical team is also present along with the experts and officials of the Irrigation Department so that we can further strengthen the Moria Loop Dam.

SUPLA protests against new pension law: Sindh Professor Lecturers Association

Larkana held protests against the black pension reform law in different cities of the district, Ratodero, Nodero, Dokri, Bاده, Larkana, boys and girls colleges. In this regard, processions were taken out in Degree College Larkana under the leadership of Professor Nooruddin Chandio, in Girls College Larkana under the leadership of Asmina Qadri, while in Commerce College Larkana under the leadership of Professor Azad Khathian.

On the other hand, Haider Bakhsh Jatoti Degree College Dokri, Professor Sajjad Ali Channo, while in Ratodero Degree College, SUPLA Sukkur Region President Professor Malhar Sindhi led the professors to wear black armbands and protest against the black pension reform law by holding demonstrations with slogans like "Teacher Pension Reforms Disapproved", "Economic Massacre of Employees Disapproved" and "Black Law Disapproved". There were also heartbreaking slogans. In these demonstrations, professors rejected the government's cruel decision and demanded justice on the basis of humanity.

Education Department hold rally: In Larkana, the Education Department, under the leadership of DEO Primary Anees Rehman Jalbani, took out a rally titled "Sindh is growing by studying" from the city's Government PVC High School, which passed through various roads of the city and reached in front of the Press Club.

Regional Director Ombudsman Akbar Jagirani, Director Secondary Syed Safdar Hussain Shah, DAO Secondary Gulbahar Magi, along with officers and students from different talukas, participated in large numbers. Addressing to the rally, Regional Director Ombudsman Akbar Ali Jagirani said that citizens should enroll their children in government schools in Larkana as much as possible because the Sindh government has made adequate arrangements in schools for the better education of children, in which children are provided with good education and books free of cost, while with the hard work and efforts of the hardworking teachers and officers of the Education Department, the government is currently.

This land may not sustain life due to climate changes

Dr Maaz Kamal Baryalay

FOR centuries, humanity has sought to understand the forces of nature and manipulate them. One such attempt is cloud seeding process where chemicals like silver iodide or dry ice are dispersed into clouds to enhance rainfall or snowfall. Countries such as the United States, China, and the UAE have actively employed this technology, ostensibly as a scientific solution to combat drought and water scarcity.

But if this method is so scientifically sound and beneficial, why does my heart fill with doubt when I witness the recurring catastrophic disasters in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa?

Over the past few years, we have repeatedly seen scenes of sudden torrential rains and storms wiping out villages, sweeping away crops, and submerging entire regions. This compels me to wonder:

Is all of this purely natural?

Or could there be a hidden force manipulating the weather, deliberately weakening our resources?

History bears witness that powerful nations often exploit new technologies not just for progress, but to expand their influence. It's only natural to question: Could cloud seeding or other weather-modification experiments be weaponized? And if so, where are the effects most brutally felt? Is it mere coincidence that our region repeatedly bears the brunt of these calamities?

I raise these questions not out of fear, but out of love for my homeland. And with each thought, another troubling question arises:

Are our own institutions especially the military the true protectors of the people, or the real occupiers of resources?

Because when floods drown the masses, the same forces that control resources are nowhere to be found in the people's suffering. The bitter truth is this: Whether the disasters are natural or man-made, it is always the common people who endure the devastation, while the powerful institutions remain confined to hollow slogans and empty promises.

I do not claim to have definitive answers, but I leave you with this haunting question:

Is every disaster in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa truly natural?

Or is there a hidden agenda behind the clouds one that destroys the people while the powerful reap the benefits?

Buner possesses neither mighty rivers nor notable streams, yet it has been ravaged by catastrophic floods. This shatters the misconception that deluges stem solely from rivers or that building homes far from waterways guarantees safety. The floods in Buner have laid bare an unsettling truth: no one is immune. Whether your home nestles in a valley or crowns a mountain peak, the threat looms equally.

Yes, our contribution to global warming may be negligible less than a fraction of the industrialized world's recklessness. Yet we can mitigate the devas-

tation. The solution is achingly simple:

Plant trees. Every barren patch of land must be reclaimed by roots.

Recall the rains of yesteryears they fell just as fiercely, but the earth then was cloaked in dense forests. The soil drank deeply, anchored by a labyrinth of roots that prevented erosion. Water seeped into the ground, never pooling into torrents. Now, the mountains stand naked. A mere trickle cascades unchecked, carving gullies, dragging soil and stone downhill, swelling into rivers that devour villages in their path.

Imagine if these skeletal slopes were again robed in trees. Rainwater would sink into the earth rather than slash through the land. Erosion would cease; floods would starve of their fury. Some may dismiss this as idealism, but the truth is unflinching: we cannot stop floods they are as old as time but we can blunt their wrath. Reforestation is our only shield.

Enough lamenting the West's excesses. What lies beyond our control need not paralyze us. Let us act where we can: plant saplings on barren ridges, terraced slopes, and village fringes any patch of earth that will take them. It may not end the calamities, but it will temper their ruin.

Time still lingers, but it slips fast. If we rise now, we might spare future generations from an earth rendered lifeless. The current tides of destruction hint at a grim prophecy: unless we intervene, this land may not sustain life another two centuries.

Tribesmen disapprove arrest of HRs activist

F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: Residents of Sultan Khel village of Landi Kotal categorically condemned the detention of a representative of Human Right Commission and a social worker, Samiullah Afridi and demanded his early release.

In a protest rally held in Sultan Khel market, Landi Kotal on Tuesday, a number of people from different walks of life including relatives of the detainee criticized the local police for the arrest of innocent, Samiullah Afridi. They said that the police attempted to restrain the voice, which rose for the rights of the

layman but they would not succeed in their malpractices.

The detainee always advocates for civil liberties and never hesitate to echo voice for the suppressed people, they opined. They blamed that the police put behind the bar human rights activist leveling fake allegations against him that was regretful.

The relatives of the apprehended person said that the police declined the request to provide them, a copy of First Information Report (FIR) through which their relative was arrested. They demanded of the Inspector General Police (IGP) Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa and District Police Officer (DPO), Khyber to forthwith release Samiullah Afridi otherwise they would initiate protest sit-in and would move to the roads in protest.

The protestors were carrying banners inscribed with statements in favor of their demand and chanted slogans against local police. When an official of Landi Kotal police station was contacted on the matter he said that Samiullah Afridi had been captured under 3MP on the direction of the Deputy Commissioner (DC), Khyber and had been sent to Mardan jail for further investigation.

Floods: A natural calamity or a reflection of systemic failure?

Dr. Sadaf Javeria

PAKISTAN faces floods every year, yet what appears as a natural disaster is increasingly a manifestation of institutional and systemic shortcomings. During the current monsoon season, official reports indicate that over 650 lives have been lost, millions have been displaced, and thousands of acres of crops destroyed. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and northern regions alone, more than 300 fatalities occurred within three

days. These statistics are not random; they are stark evidence of recurring vulnerabilities and insufficient preparedness.

Pakistan possesses comprehensive frameworks such as the National Flood Protection Plan, Climate Change Policy, and the Disaster Management Act. Yet, these policies remain largely performative on paper and inadequately executed on the ground. River management, maintenance of flood protection infrastructure, and local capacity-building often fail to move beyond the

planning stage. Consequently, when rainfall exceeds historical norms, both urban and rural areas suffer extensive damage.

While Pakistan has access to modern technology, satellite data, mobile based alerts, and advanced meteorological predictions, these tools have not been fully harnessed to protect vulnerable populations. Neighboring countries, such as Bangladesh and India, provide instructive examples: early warning systems and community based disaster management have significantly reduced mortality rates. In con-

trast, Pakistan continues to channel resources primarily toward post disaster relief rather than long term resilience and prevention.

The underlying challenge is not solely government inaction; it is the structural weakness in policy implementation. Urban planning neglects effective drainage systems, illegal constructions persist along riverbanks, and local authorities often lack the financial and administrative autonomy necessary for proactive flood management. As a result, the devastation caused

by floods is increasingly a product of human error and institutional inefficiency, rather than the intensity of rainfall itself.

Addressing these challenges requires a strategic, evidence based approach. Early warning systems must reach the most remote communities, permanent flood protection infrastructure along rivers must be established, urban drainage plans rigorously enforced, and local governments adequately empowered. Integrating flood protection with agricultural planning, through measures such as water storage

and sustainable irrigation, will enhance resilience while simultaneously supporting energy and food security.

Floods no longer represent a purely natural hazard; they are a mirror reflecting policy gaps, systemic inefficiencies, and societal unpreparedness. Only through deliberate, sustained, and scientifically informed interventions can Pakistan reduce the human and economic costs of these recurrent disasters. Floods are not our adversary; our institutional failure is. And this failure can no longer be tolerated.



383 aid workers killed in global hotspots in 2024, nearly half in Gaza: UN

UNITED NATIONS (AP): A record 383 aid workers were killed in global hotspots in 2024, nearly half of them in Gaza during the war between Israel and Hamas, the UN humanitarian office said Tuesday on the annual day honoring the thousands of people who step into crises to help others. UN humanitarian chief Tom Fletcher said the record number of killings must be a wake-up call to protect civilians caught in conflict and all those trying to help them.

"Attacks on this scale, with zero accountability, are a shameful indictment of international inaction and apathy," Fletcher said in a statement on World Humanitarian Day. "As the humanitarian community, we demand - again - that those with power and influence act for humanity, protect civilians and aid workers and hold perpetrators to account." The Aid Worker Security Database, which has compiled reports since 1997, said the number of killings rose from 293 in 2023 to 383 in 2024, including over 180 in Gaza.

Most of the aid workers killed were national staff serving their com-

munities who were attacked while on the job or in their homes, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, known as OCHA. So far this year, the figures show no sign of a reversal of the upward trend, OCHA said. There were 599 major attacks affecting aid workers last year, a sharp increase from the 420 in 2023, the database's figures show. The attacks in 2024 also wounded 308 aid workers and saw 125 kidnapped and 45 detained. There have been 245 major attacks in the past seven plus months, and 265 aid workers have been killed, according to the database.

One of the deadliest and most horrifying attacks this year took place in the southern Gaza city of Rafah when Israeli troops opened fire before dawn on March 23, killing 15 medics and emergency responders in clearly marked vehicles. Troops bulldozed over the bodies along with their mangled vehicles, burying them in a mass grave. UN and rescue workers were only able to reach the site a week later. "Even one attack against a humanitarian colleague is

an attack on all of us and on the people we serve," the UN's Fletcher said. "Violence against aid workers is not inevitable. It must end." According to the database, violence against aid workers increased in 21 countries in 2024 compared with the previous year, with government forces and affiliates the most common perpetrators. The highest number of major attacks last year were in the Palestinian territories with 194, followed by Sudan with 64, South Sudan with 47, Nigeria with 31 and Congo with 27, the database reported.

As for killings, Sudan, where civil war is still raging, was second to Gaza and the West Bank with 60 aid workers losing their lives in 2024. That was more than double the 25 aid worker deaths in 2023. Lebanon, where Israel and Hezbollah militants fought a war last year, saw 20 aid workers killed compared with none in 2023. Ethiopia and Syria each had 14 killings, about double the number in 2023, and Ukraine had 13 aid workers killed in 2024, up from 6 in 2023, according to the database.



KYIV: An entire family, including a toddler and a 16-year-old, are among seven people killed in an overnight drone strike on a residential neighbourhood in the northeastern Ukrainian city of Kharkiv.

Brazil's court rules US laws do not apply to its territory

BRASILIA (AFP): Brazil's Supreme Court ruled that foreign legislation did not have jurisdiction in its country, after the United States used a law to sanction a judge on the court. Washington used the Magnitsky Act, a US law which provides for sanctions against individuals accused of human rights violations around the globe, to impose restrictions on Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes, who is presiding over the trial of former president Jair Bolsonaro's alleged coup plot.

Moraes is also the judge which banned the social network X, formerly Twitter, in Brazil last year. "Judge Flavio Dino, of the Federal Supreme Court, suspended the effectiveness of judicial decisions, laws, decrees, and executive orders of foreign nations in our country," Brazil's high court said in a statement. According to the Constitution of Brazil, foreign court decisions "can only be enforced in Brazil upon approval or in compliance with international judicial cooperation mechanisms," the court said. Dino said this same principle applied to recent decisions from UK court rulings made against the Brazilian Mining Association (Ibram) for the Mariana and Brumadinho dam disasters. Although the ruling did not explicitly mention the Magnitsky Act, a Brazilian court source told AFP that the ruling "in theory" invalidates the law in Brazil -- though Washington has already contested this interpretation. "No foreign court can invalidate United States sanctions -- or spare anyone from the steep consequences of violating them," the US government's Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs said in a statement on X after the ruling.

Russian general seriously hurt MOSCOW (Reuters): General Esedulla Abachev, deputy commander of Russia's Northern group of forces, has been seriously wounded on the front line of the war with Ukraine, a senior official said. Abachev comes from Russia's Dagestan region, whose leader Sergei Melikov said on Telegram that he was in a serious but stable condition in "one of the best military medical centres in the country". Ukrainian military intelligence said that Abachev had an arm and a leg amputated after being wounded in a Ukrainian strike on a Russian military column on a highway in the Kursk region of western Russia, and that he was being treated in Moscow. Reuters could not confirm those details. At least a dozen Russian generals have been killed in the war that started with Moscow's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Abachev graduated from the Higher Tank Command School in the Ukrainian city of Kharkiv when Ukraine was still part of the Soviet Union, which collapsed in 1991. He received the Gold Star of the Hero of Russia for his role in combat missions during the current war.

NK leader slams South Korea-US military drills

SEOUL (AP): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un condemned South Korean-US military drills and vowed a rapid expansion of his nuclear forces to counter rivals, state media said Tuesday, as he inspected his most advanced warship being fitted with nuclear-capable systems.

Kim's visit to the western port of Nampo came as the South Korean and US militaries kicked off their annual large-scale summertime exercise to bolster readiness against growing North Korean threats. The 11-day Ulchi Freedom Shield, which the allies describe as defensive, will mobilize 21,000 troops, including 18,000 South Koreans, for computer-simulated command post operations and field training. North Korea has long denounced the allies' joint drills as invasion rehearsals and Kim has often used them to justify his own military displays and testing activities aimed at expanding his nuclear weapons program.

The Korean Peninsula remains in a technical state of war, divided by the Demilitarized Zone into North Korea and South Korea. While inspecting the warship Choe Hyon, a 5,000-ton-class destroyer first unveiled in April, Kim said the allies' joint military drills show hostility and their supposed "will to ignite a war," the North's Korean Central News Agency said. He claimed that the exercises have grown more provocative than before by incorporating a "nuclear element," requiring the North to respond with "proactive and overwhelming" countermeasures. "The security environment around the DPRK is getting more serious day by day and the prevailing situation requires us to make a radical and swift change in the existing military theory and practice and rapid expansion of nuclearization," KCNA paraphrased Kim as saying, using the initials of North Korea's formal name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The government of South Korea's new liberal President Lee Jae Myung, who has expressed a willingness to repair ties and resume dialogue with the North, did not immediately respond to Kim's comments. South Korea's Defense Ministry said it had no immediate new assessments to share regarding the North Korean warship's capabilities. South Korean and US military officials say Ulchi Freedom Shield will focus on countering North Korea's advancing nuclear and missile threat and will include training to deter North Korean nuclear use and respond to its missile attacks. The exercise will also incorporate lessons from recent conflicts, including Russia's war in Ukraine and the clash between Israel and Iran, and address

threats from drones, GPS jamming and cyberattacks. Kim has hailed the development of his naval destroyer, Choe Hyon, as a significant advancement toward his goal of expanding the operational range and preemptive strike capabilities of his nuclear-armed military. State media said the destroyer, which is being prepared to enter active duty next year, is designed to handle various weapons systems, including anti-air and anti-naval weapons, as well as nuclear-capable ballistic and cruise missiles.

The North unveiled a second destroyer of the same class in May, but the vessel was damaged during a botched launching ceremony at the northeastern port of Chongjin, prompting an angry reaction from Kim, who called the failure "criminal." The North has said the new destroyer, named Kang Kon, was relaunched in June after repair, but some outside experts have questioned whether the ship is fully operational. During visit to Nampo, Kim also reviewed North Korean efforts to complete a third destroyer by October, KCNA said. While inspecting Choe Hyon, Kim expressed satisfaction with the progress of the warship's weapons tests and its integrated operations system, saying the navy's modernization and move toward nuclear-capable capabilities are proceeding as planned. He instructed officials to carry out performance tests in October, KCNA said. Tensions on the Korean Peninsula have worsened in recent years as Kim accelerated his military nuclear program and deepened alignment with Moscow following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. His government has repeatedly dismissed calls by Washington and Seoul to revive negotiations aimed at winding down his nuclear and missile programs, which derailed in 2019 following a collapsed summit with US President Donald Trump during his first term.

In his latest message to Pyongyang, Lee, who took office in June, said he would seek to restore a 2018-inter-Korean military agreement designed to reduce border tensions and called for North Korea to respond to the South's efforts to rebuild trust and revive talks. The 2018 military agreement, reached during a brief period of diplomacy between the Koreas, created buffer zones on land and sea and no-fly zones above the border to prevent clashes. But South Korea suspended the deal in 2024, citing tensions over North Korea's launches of trash-laden balloons toward the South, and moved to resume front line military activities and propaganda campaigns. The step came after North Korea had already declared it would no longer abide by the agreement.

US deploys warships near Venezuela

Maduro says mobilizing millions of militia

WASHINGTON (Reuters): Three US Aegis guided-missile destroyers will arrive off the coast of Venezuela in the next 36 hours as part of an effort to address threats from Latin American drug cartels, two sources briefed on the matter said. President Donald Trump has wanted to use the military to go after Latin American drug gangs that have been designated as global terrorist organizations.

The sources said the ships are the USS Gravely, USS Jason Dunham and the USS Sampson. A separate US official told Reuters that in total, about 4,000 sailors and Marines are expected to be committed to the Trump administration's efforts in the southern Caribbean region.

That US official, who was speaking on the condition of anonymity, said the additional commitment of military assets in the broader region would include several P-8 spy planes, warships and at least one attack submarine. The official said the process would be ongoing for several months and the plan was for them to operate in international airspace and international waters. The naval assets can be used to not just

CARACAS (AFP): Venezuela's Nicolas Maduro said he would deploy 4.5 million militia members in response to US "threats," after Washington raised the bounty for his arrest and launched anti-drug operations in the Caribbean. "This week, I will activate a special plan with more than 4.5 million militiamen to ensure coverage of the entire national territory -- militias that are prepared, activated and armed," Maduro announced on state television. Official figures say the Venezuelan militia, founded by Maduro's predecessor Hugo Chavez, contains about 5 million people -- though the actual number is believed to be smaller. Venezuela's total population is around 30 million. Maduro lambasted "the renewal of extravagant, bizarre, and outlandish threats" from the United States.

carry out intelligence and surveillance operations, but also as a launching pad for targeted strikes if a decision is made, the official added.

Venezuela's communications ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Without referring to the warships, Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro said in an address that Venezuela will "defend our seas, our skies and our lands." He alluded to what he called "the outlandish, bizarre threat of a declining empire." Trump has made cracking down on drug cartels a central goal of his administration as part of a wider effort to limit migration and secure

the US southern border. The Trump administration in recent months has already deployed at least two warships to help in border security efforts and drug trafficking. The Trump administration designated Mexico's Sinaloa Cartel and other drug gangs, as well as Venezuelan criminal group Tren de Aragua, as global terrorist organizations in February, as it stepped up immigration enforcement against alleged gang members. The US military has already been increasing its airborne surveillance of Mexican drug cartels to collect intelligence to determine how to best counter their activities.

Will Iraq integrate Popular Mobilization Forces into the state?

BAGHDAD: On July 27, two brigades from the mostly Shia Popular Mobilisation Forces (PMF) stormed the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture, clashing with police. While the incident could be seen as a power struggle for position, it also indicates a certain degree of daring on the part of the brigades, which ended up killing a police officer.

The brigades were called in by Ayad Kadhimi Ali after he was dismissed as the head of the ministry's office in Baghdad's Karkh district, according to Mehmet Alaca, an expert on Iraq's Shia militias. Ali is affiliated with Kataib Hezbollah, as are the brigades that attacked the ministry, analysts told Al Jazeera. The incident is seen as a litmus test of whether the Iraqi state can hold PMF factions accountable for breaking the law. Iraq's government argues that passing a new legislation - which would fully integrate the PMF into the state - would help them do so. Proponents of the bill argue it would incentivise the PMF to act within the confines of the law, but detractors fear it would give legal cover to militias, which are already too strong. The PMF, also known as al-Hashd al-Shaabi, is an umbrella organisation of mostly Shia armed groups, some of whom have close ties to neighbouring Iran. A few of these groups first emerged during the Iraqi resistance to US occupation.

Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq, for instance, split from Jaish al-Mahdi, formerly the dominant arm of the Shia rebellion, in 2007. The group received Iranian support to become a major powerbroker in Iraq and later intervened in Syria's civil war to support then-President Bashar al-Assad as he tried to crush a popular rebellion. Kataib Imam Ali is another, albeit smaller, group in the PMF that reportedly received training from the Lebanese group Hezbollah in Iran and also dispatched fighters to Syria during the height of its war.

Like Kataib Imam Ali, most PMF factions were formed after Iraqi Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani issued a fatwa in 2014, urging all able-bodied men to join the state to defend Iraq from ISIL (ISIS). At the time, ISIL controlled large swaths of territory across Syria and Iraq, equivalent to the size of England. ISIL even captured the Iraqi city of Mosul and declared a "caliphate" from there. By 2016, Iraq's parliament had passed a law that recognised the PMF as a component of the state's national security. But the law lacks clarity around command and control and budgetary oversight, and it has failed to prevent some groups from taking unilateral action to attack United States assets and soldiers stationed in the country. In 2024, for instance, the PMF was awarded a budget of

\$3.4bn, which exceeded the total budget of Lebanon. While the figure is small relative to the \$21.1bn allocated to Iraq's Ministry of Defence that same year, it is a sizeable amount that the state allocated to a body that it did not even have an accurate membership list for.

Each registered PMF faction submits a list of names to be paid, and these lists are then reviewed by the Ministry of Finance. However, PMF leaders often intervene to push payments through unchallenged, according to a 2021 report by the Chatham House think tank. Estimates suggested there are 238,000 PMF fighters. Receiving a share of the state budget has helped the PMF in its quest to brand itself as a legitimate entity in Iraq. "From the beginning, the PMF was adamant that it was part of the state and not a militia," said Renad Mansour, an expert on Iraq with Chatham House. Over the past 10 years, PMF factions have created political wings, run in parliamentary elections and gained access to lucrative state money after securing important administrative positions in key ministries.

Yet as they accrued power, some used their arms against the state to safeguard their patronage networks and influence over key ministries. In 2021, PMF groups linked to Iran launched a drone at the home of then-Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi, reportedly an attempt to upend the government after losing many parliamentary seats and thus access to state money in the recent elections, said Alaca, the expert on Iraqi Shia militias. The Iraqi government drafted the new law in March. It would give all PMF factions official, stable employment and bring them under the control of Prime Minister Mohamed Shia al-Sudani as commander-in-chief. Proponents of the draft law mainly include a bloc of five Shia parties known as the Coordination Framework. "The argument pushed by those advocating for the law is that by offering an institutional safe haven for armed factions under a reformed PMF, it would incentivise those to comply with the national chain of command - thereby diminishing their appetite to take action outside the state," explained Inna Rudolf, an expert on the PMF and a senior research fellow at the Centre for Statecraft & National Security at King's College London.

Most importantly to the PMF, the law offers it much-needed legal cover at a time when the US and Israel are threatening to target groups they consider Iranian proxies. It would grant PMF members full access to intelligence, which some argue is a risky proposition because the intelligence could be passed to Iran. Analysts have said, however, that many PMF

factions would be more concerned about their power base and assets than about following Iranian interests. During the 12-day Israel-Iran war in June, PMF groups did not attack US assets or personnel, likely out of fear of giving Israel a pretext to attack their command structure and resources as Israel did against Hezbollah, according to a report by the Royal United Services Institute.

"I would say that the stronger and more embedded PMF groups are the ones who have been practising restraint and telling the smaller [pro-Iran] factions not to get involved in the regional conflict [between Iran and Israel]," Mansour said. The follow-up on the Ministry of Agriculture incident will test the willingness of PMF commanders to cooperate with the state to hold their own members accountable, as well as the state's seriousness in holding PMF members accountable, according to Rudolf. She said al-Sudani has shown "strong will" by referring all those involved in the raid to the judiciary and calling for the formation of a review committee to investigate "negligence in leadership and control duties" within the PMF.

"Sudani's administration wants to demonstrate power over the PMF and [to prove] that everyone affiliated with it not only has the same privileges as members of the security forces but has to abide by the same code of conduct," Rudolf told Al Jazeera. Not everybody in Iraq supports the PMF's integration, said Zeidon al-Kinani, an expert on Iraq and adjunct instructor at Georgetown University in Qatar. He said many PMF factions harmed and even killed hundreds of young protesters who were demonstrating against what they considered a corrupt political elite in 2019. As a result, civil society is wary of seeing all PMF factions given the same privileges as Iraq's army and police and would prefer the government absorb only those that do not have close ties with Iran, al-Kinani said. US officials are also pressuring Iraq not to pass the law with Secretary of State Marco Rubio reportedly telling al-Sudani the law would "institutionalise Iranian influence and armed terrorist groups undermining Iraq's sovereignty".

Former and current Iraqi officials argued that the state cannot disband the PMF and any attempt to do so could trigger sectarian violence. Al-Kinani warned that the US could trigger a conflict by making unreasonable demands without supporting Iraq to carry them out. "When it comes to Iraq, the US makes drastic demands [without] supporting the Iraqi government or civil society to ensure their protection from any repercussions," he told Al Jazeera. — Aljazeera

UN debates future withdrawal of Lebanon peacekeeping force

NEW YORK (AFP): The United Nations Security Council began to debate a resolution drafted by France to extend the UN peacekeeping force in south Lebanon for a year with the ultimate aim to withdraw it. Israel and the United States have reportedly opposed the renewal of the force's mandate, and it was unclear if the draft text has backing from Washington, which wields a veto on the Council.

A US State Department spokesman said "we don't comment on ongoing UN Security Council negotiations," as talks continued on the fate of the UN Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL), deployed since 1978 to separate Lebanon and Israel. The text, first reported by Reuters, would

"extend the mandate of UNIFIL until August 31, 2026" but "indicates its intention to work on a withdrawal of UNIFIL." That would be on the condition that Lebanon's government was the "sole provider of security in southern Lebanon... and that the parties agree on a comprehensive political arrangement." Under a truce that ended a recent war between Israel and Iran-backed Hezbollah, Beirut's army has been deploying in south Lebanon and dismantling the militant group's infrastructure there.

Lebanon has been grappling with the thorny issue of disarming Hezbollah, with the cabinet this month tasking the army with developing a plan to do so by the end of the year. The Iran-backed group has

pushed back. Under the truce, Israel was meant to completely withdraw from Lebanon, though it has kept forces in several areas it deems strategic and continues to administer strikes across Lebanon. Israel's forces have also had tense encounters with the UN blue helmets. The draft resolution under discussion also "calls for enhanced diplomatic efforts to resolve any dispute or reservation pertaining to the international border between Lebanon and Israel."

Council members were debating the draft resolution seen by AFP ahead of a vote of the 15-member council on August 25 before the expiration of the force's mandate at the end of the month.

Conservative leader faces key test in comeback bid

OTTAWA (AFP): Canada's Conservative Party leader Pierre Poilievre is looking to clinch his return to parliament in a by-election, with voting underway in one of the country's most right-wing districts. Poilievre had been on track to be his country's next prime minister until US President Donald Trump's return to power upended Canadian politics.

Poilievre's Conservatives blew a massive polling lead in the run-up to Canada's April general election, as voters backed the new Liberal leader, Prime Minister Mark Carney, to confront Trump. In a stinging humiliation, Poilievre lost to a Liberal in his own constituency, an Ottawa-area district he had represented for two decades.

The Frontier Post

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Pope Leo is becoming the climate champion

WHILE the leader of 340 million Americans furiously works to derail climate action, the leader of 1.4 billion Catholics is embracing it. In May, when Pope Leo XIV succeeded the late Pope Francis, I suggested he could be the kind of climate champion the world needs when President Donald Trump seems determined to turn the US from one of the world's leading protectors of the environment to one of its worst vandals.

So far, Leo has given no reason to doubt he'll be at least as green as Francis, who was arguably the greenest pope in modern history, according to the Tribune News Service.

Italy's government recently approved a 2024 proposal by Francis to build a solar array in a field north of Rome that will generate enough power to provide "the complete energy sustenance of Vatican City State," as Francis put it. Leo championed the plan just weeks after succeeding Francis, calling it an example for the world. "We all know the effects of climate change, and it is necessary to truly care for the whole world, for all of creation," Leo told Italian state TV at the site in June.

The solar array, which still needs Italian parliamentary approval, will put the Vatican among the handful of countries generating all their power from renewable energy. Of course, at 0.17 square miles, the Vatican will be the tiniest of that tiny group.

But a little symbolism in this case could go a long way. Trappings like solar panels on the Vatican roof and an all-electric Popemobile aren't just green window dressing. They manifest a worldview expounded by Francis in his 2015 encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, which condemned humanity's degradation of the environment for short-term financial gain.

The 184-page letter to Catholic bishops tied the climate issue to the church's social-justice mission, warning — correctly — that an increasingly chaotic environment would worsen already steep global inequalities and inflict death and suffering on untold billions of current and future humans, particularly the most vulnerable. The moral case Francis built was strong enough to help convince many world leaders to join the landmark climate accord in Paris that year.

In the decade since, the world seems to have lost much of its appetite for climate action, stung by the kind of fossil-fuel-stoked political backlash embodied by Trump. That makes Leo's ascension well timed to offer a corrective. He seems to be embracing the opportunity. Along with pushing the solar project, Leo has overseen the addition of a "green" Mass to the church's list of 49 approved services for various occasions, called the Mass for the Care of Creation. He delivered it for the first time last month at the *Laudato Si'* Center in Castel Gandolfo, the papal summer digs.

"We must pray for the conversion of so many people, inside and out of the church, who still don't recognize the urgency of caring for our common home," he said, wearing an emerald robe for the occasion. "We see so many natural disasters in the world, nearly every day and in so many countries, that are in part caused by the excesses of being human, with our lifestyle."

Some Catholic critics said the new Mass didn't go far enough. And Leo's embrace of Francis' progressive views, including his embrace of immigrants, will surely agitate the conservative American Catholics who rebelled against Francis. Some ended up in Trump's reactionary government.

But the new pope's views align with those of most Americans — and most American Catholics, 72% of whom in a 2023 poll by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University agreed that "environmental justice is a legitimate issue that needs urgent attention."

In that same poll, "care for the environment" was ranked the second most important issue for the church after "marriage." A 2022 Pew poll found 57% of U.S. Catholics considered climate change a serious problem, compared with 46% of Protestants. Francis' *Laudato Si'* inspired a movement of Catholic climate action around the world.

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.



A flight into immortality Pakistan remembers Rashid Minhas

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal

EVERY young heart is filled with radiant dreams of the future, and often these dreams are painted with the colors of courage, determination, and the desire to serve one's people. Rashid Minhas, born on 17 February 1951 in Karachi, was one such youth whose dreams transcended the ordinary. From childhood, he displayed a natural curiosity and brilliance that set him apart. He received his early education in Karachi, later moving with his family to Rawalpindi, where he attended St. Mary's Cambridge School. Even at this young age, he nurtured a passion for aviation and an unshakable resolve to do something exceptional for Pakistan. He completed his F.Sc. from the Karachi Cadet College and, driven by his devotion, joined the Pakistan Air Force in 1969. His ambition was clear: to rise into the skies not only as a pilot



With only minutes to act, Rashid radioed the control tower, uttering the unforgettable words: "I am being hijacked." He then fought valiantly for control of the aircraft. Though overpowered physically, his spirit was unbreakable. In a final act of defiance, Rashid deliberately crashed the aircraft 32 miles from the Indian border, near Thatta, sacrificing his own life but saving Pakistan from the shame and danger of losing a military jet to the enemy. He was just 20 years old. This supreme sacrifice elevated Rashid Minhas to the loftiest rank that any soldier can achieve — that of a martyr. He became the youngest recipient of Pakistan's highest military award, the Nishan-e-Haider, the only Pakistan Air Force officer to be so honored. His act of valor not only safeguarded the honor of his uniform but also embodied the very spirit of selflessness that the Qur'an and Hadith extol. Allah says in the Holy Qur'an: "And do not say of those who are killed in the path of Allah, 'They are dead.' Rather, they are alive, but you perceive it not." (Surah Al-Baqarah 2:154). Rashid's sacrifice is a living testament to this divine truth, for though his earthly life ended on that August day, his name and legacy breathe eternally in the soul of Pakistan. Today we are celebrating the 54th martyrdom anniversary of Rashid Minhas, and more than half a century has passed since this great event took place. Yet even today his passion and sacrifice remain as fresh as ever. His story continues to inspire countless hearts, reminding us that the price of freedom and honor is paid with the highest currency — the blood of the brave. We should make these events and sacrifices an integral part of our children's educational curriculum so that our future generations can not only be proud of sons like Rashid Minhas but also make achieving this destination and position a dream and mission for every youth. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: "The most beloved of people to Allah are those who are most beneficial to people." Rashid's act was the ultimate benefit to his people, for he preserved the honor of his nation at the cost of his own life. Another Hadith states: "Standing guard for one day in the cause of Allah is better than the world and whatever is in it." Rashid, by standing guard in the skies of his country, earned this divine honor in its truest sense. Rashid Minhas's short life is a lesson in devotion, courage, and the eternal value of sacrifice. While many young men dream of glory, his dream was not of personal achievement but of service and honor.

but as a guardian of his nation.

It was in the Pakistan Air Force Academy at Risalpur that Rashid's talent, discipline, and unwavering spirit came to full light. He worked diligently, excelling in his studies, flight training, and character development. His instructors recognized his abilities, and his peers admired his humility and resolve. Every step he took seemed destined towards a remarkable purpose, as though he was being prepared for a role that would enshrine his name forever in Pakistan's history.

His instructors recognized his abilities, and his peers admired his humility and resolve. Every step he took seemed destined towards a remarkable purpose, as though he was being prepared for a role that would enshrine his name forever in Pakistan's history.

On 20 August 1971, only months after joining active service as a pilot officer, Rashid Minhas embarked on what would be his final and most glorious flight. That morn-

ing, he was preparing for a solo training sortie on a T-33 jet trainer at Masroor Air Base near Karachi. Unknown to him, lurking within the base was an act of treachery.

A Bengali instructor pilot, Flight Lieutenant Matiur Rahman, who had secretly aligned himself with hostile forces in the context of the 1971 crisis, sought to defect to India with the aircraft. As Rashid taxied towards the runway, Rahman forcefully entered the

cockpit and attempted to hijack the plane towards Indian territory. It was at that defining moment that Rashid Minhas's courage shone. Realizing the betrayal and understanding the gravity of what was at stake, he made the swift and resolute choice to prevent the plane from being taken across the border.

With only minutes to act, Rashid radioed the control tower, uttering the unforgettable words: "I am being hijacked." He then fought valiantly for control of the aircraft. Though overpowered physically, his spirit was unbreakable.

In a final act of defiance, Rashid deliberately crashed the aircraft 32 miles from the Indian border, near Thatta, sacrificing his own life but saving Pakistan from the

shame and danger of losing a military jet to the enemy. He was just 20 years old. This supreme sacrifice elevated Rashid Minhas to the loftiest rank that any soldier can achieve — that of a martyr. He became the youngest recipient of Pakistan's highest military award, the Nishan-e-Haider, the only Pakistan Air Force officer to be so honored. His act of valor not only safeguarded the honor of his uniform but also embodied the very spirit of selflessness that the Qur'an and Hadith extol. Allah says in the Holy Qur'an: "And do not say of those who are killed in the path of Allah, 'They are dead.' Rather, they are alive, but you perceive it not." (Surah Al-Baqarah 2:154). Rashid's sacrifice is a living testament to this divine truth, for though his earthly life ended on that August day, his name and legacy breathe eternally in the soul of Pakistan.

Today we are celebrating the 54th martyrdom anniversary of Rashid Minhas, and more than half a century has passed since this great event took place. Yet even today his passion and sacrifice remain as fresh as ever.

His story continues to inspire countless hearts, reminding us that the

price of freedom and honor is paid with the highest currency — the blood of the brave. We should make these events and sacrifices an integral part of our children's educational curriculum so that our future generations can not only be proud of sons like Rashid Minhas but also make achieving this destination and position a dream and mission for every youth.

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: "The most beloved of people to Allah are those who are most beneficial to people." Rashid's act was the ultimate benefit to his people, for he preserved the honor of his nation at the cost of his own life. Another Hadith states: "Standing guard for one day in the cause of Allah is better than the world and whatever is in it." Rashid, by standing guard in the skies of his country, earned this divine honor in its truest sense.

Rashid Minhas's short life is a lesson in devotion, courage, and the eternal value of sacrifice. While many young men dream of glory, his dream was not of personal achievement but of service and honor. In just twenty years, he achieved what many cannot accomplish in a lifetime; he became an immortal symbol of Pakistan's resilience and pride. His martyrdom reminds us that true greatness is not measured in years lived but in principles upheld and sacrifices made.

Today, as Pakistan continues to face challenges, Rashid Minhas's example stands as a beacon. He reminds us that betrayal and adversity can be met not with despair but with faith and courage. His life invites the youth of Pakistan to aspire not merely for worldly success but for noble service to their faith and nation. The Qur'an says: "Indeed, Allah has purchased from the believers their lives and their properties [in exchange] for that they will have Paradise. They fight in the cause of Allah, so they kill and are killed." (Surah At-Tawbah 9:111).

Rashid Minhas's bargain was sealed in this spirit, and his reward, by the promise of Allah, is eternal.

In remembering Rashid Minhas, Pakistan remembers not just a pilot, but a son whose sacrifice epitomized loyalty, faith, and valor. His martyrdom remains a reminder that freedom and dignity are preserved not by words alone but by the blood of those who give their all. He lived briefly but left behind a lesson that will outlive generations; that to guard the skies and soil of Pakistan is a sacred trust, and to lay down one's life for it is the noblest of destinies.

In Gaza, death does not come all at once. It comes in instalments

Eman Abu Zayed

WHEN I heard about the killing of Mohammed Noufal and his colleagues from Al Jazeera, my first thoughts were with his sister, Janat. I knew her vaguely in university; she is a polite girl with a beautiful smile, who was studying digital media at the Islamic University of Gaza and ran an online shop where she sold girls' accessories.

She had already lost several members of her family when she received the news of her brother's martyrdom. I thought of her and the devastating pain she must be in. I thought of how her story reflects the fate of so many Palestinian families who, over the past almost two years, have faced slow death, member by member.

On October 30, 2023, just three weeks after the start of the war, a missile struck Janat's family house in Jabalia. She and her sisters and brothers survived, although Mohammed had serious injuries. Their aunt and uncle were killed.

A year later, on October 7, 2024, Omar, Janat's eldest brother, was martyred while he was trying to rescue the injured from a bombed house; the Israeli army hit the same spot again, killing him.

Then, on June 22 of this year, her mother, Muneera, passed away. She was visiting relatives when the Israeli army bombed the area. Muneera was hit by shrapnel; she arrived at the hospital still alive but passed away 39 hours later.

On August 10, Israel bombed a media tent near al-Shifa Hospital, killing Janat's brother Mohammed and six other journalists.

Now, Janat has only her father Riyad, her brother Ibrahim and her

as a journalist, because she was afraid for him. He was the last one left to support her, their father, and her sisters. But he refused, saying that nothing would befall them except what God had written for them. He told her that he wanted to follow the legacy of their martyred brother and his colleagues.

For Janat, the pain of losing her loved ones has become unbearable. "Whenever we thought we could breathe a little, the next loss would bring us back to the same darkness. Fear is no longer a passing feeling, but a constant companion, watching us from every corner of our lives. Loss has become part of our existence, and grief has settled into the details of daily life, in every paused smile and every prolonged silence," she told me.

Her words echo the suffering of so many families here in Gaza.

According to the Government Media Office, as of March this year, 2,200 Palestinian families were completely wiped out from the civil registry, all of their members killed. More than 5,120 families had only one member left.

Palestinian families are constantly under the threat of extinction with each wave of bombing.

My own relatives have also been erased from the civil registry. My father, Ghassan, had eight cousins — Mohammed, Omar, Ismail, Firas, Khaled, Abdullah, Ali, and Marah — who formed a large branch of our extended family. After the outbreak of war, we began losing them one after another. Each loss left a new void, as if we were being pulled into a spiral of recurring grief.

Only the wives of Omar and Ismail and their two children remain now. My father carries this

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immense pain quietly, holding his sorrow deep inside.

Today, we face another Israeli offensive on northern Gaza. Last year, the Israeli onslaught killed tens of thousands. Those who defied forced displacement to the south paid a heavy price.

Many of us who have lost loved ones do not want to live through the horror again.

Last year, my family stayed in the north, but we are now exhausted. We are worn out from the bombing, death, and terror we experienced. We will leave this time. Janat's family, who proudly held on to their half-destroyed home in Jabalia, will also leave.

We have experienced atrocities that no human being can endure. We cannot take any more death.

Why Trump deserves credit for his Ukraine push — and why it may all fall apart

IT was the best day Ukraine has had in a very long time. But it's still hard to see how the war unleashed by Russia's brutal invasion ends any time soon.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky visited the White House on Monday and, unlike last time, there wasn't a blow-up in the Oval Office.

President Donald Trump offered tantalizing glimpses of how he could approach presidential greatness by saving Ukraine, securing Europe and genuinely deserving the Nobel Peace Prize.

A phalanx of European leaders who came to support Zelensky were impressive and unusually unified despite their wide ideological divergences. They took turns in on-camera remarks to try to invest Trump with a political and emotional rationale for standing with Ukraine.

A historic day echoed great political gatherings that ended World War II and built the modern world. This is how the West is supposed to work, with an American president leading powerful Europeans who share common goals.

But is it too good to last?

It is a measure of the fracture in the transatlantic alliance and Trump's brittle temperament that avoiding disasters is seen as serious progress, especially after the president's concessions to Russian President Vladimir Putin at their unctuous summit in Alaska last week.

Everyone at the remarkable meetings in the White House, Trump included, was ostentatiously doing everything to stress possibilities and to avoid specific discussions of issues that could blow the day apart.

By evening, Trump was posting on social media about a potential three-way summit he'd host soon that would also include Zelensky and Putin that could be preceded by a one-on-one between the Russian and Ukrainian leaders. German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said such a meeting could happen within two weeks, suggesting accelerating diplomatic momentum.

Finnish President Alexander Stubb told Trump that "in the past two weeks, we've probably had more progress in ending this war than we have in the past three and a half years." For once, this wasn't a foreign leader indulging in self-abase-

ment to ingratiate themselves with a US president who craves adulation.

It was the truth. Monday's meetings were the most compelling sign yet that the president really means it when he says he wants to stop the killing in Ukraine. He may deserve more credit than he gets for his energy and commitment so far.

But the day also served to expose the questions that will become increasingly evident in the coming weeks that could scupper Trump's push for peace and shatter Western unity — in a way that would delight Putin.

There was a lot of happy talk over the need to give Ukraine security guarantees after any peace deal. Trump even signaled he'd send support from the US military. But no one has yet explained how this would work — and, more importantly, what Russia would stomach as part of a deal.

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni raised one

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proposal for a set of guarantees by Western nations modeled on NATO's Article 5 mutual defense pledge. This would be outside formal alliance structures but might work the same way. But, despite Trump's assurance after Alaska that Putin is open to security guarantees for Ukraine, this is a long shot. The Russian leader is fighting a war to crush his neighbor's NATO aspirations. Why would he accept an arrangement that would offer pseudo-alliance status to Ukraine?

And how strong would such guarantees be anyway? Would European nations who put troops into a Ukraine "reassurance force" really fight a war against Russia, to save Ukraine from a new Russian invasion? The subtext of the current war has been the anxiety of both the Biden and Trump administrations over potentially being dragged into a war with nuclear-armed Russia.

And how would Trump's MAGA base view such a new foreign

Stephen Collinson

commitment? Then there's the issue of territory.

The buzzword in the president's nascent peace process is "land swaps" — to create a new demarcation between an expanded Russia and a newly diminished Ukraine. Trump even gave Zelensky a map, for which he was suitably grateful, as if he doesn't already realize the tough choices ahead over land soaked in Ukrainian blood.

According to officials briefed on Trump's summit with Putin, the Russian leader seeks to capture land through negotiations that his troops have failed to seize, including in the economic and industrial powerhouse region of Donbas in eastern Ukraine. This area is also the line of steel, concrete and heavily defended cities that Ukraine has built to hold Russia at bay and that it would need to deter future attacks.

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The term "land swap" is the kind of phrase that conceals its true meaning. Ukraine would, under the Russian plan, essentially be engaging in bargaining for different parts of its own territory. Putin would get valuable strategic areas and offer, other less critical districts he's already seized elsewhere inside Ukraine. It doesn't seem much of a deal.

Land swaps create epochal upheaval and seed future feuds — as the Middle East shows. In this case, they would mean telling thousands of Ukrainians they have must leave home or become Russians. And Zelensky would have to explain to parents of fallen young Ukrainians why they died for territory to be given to Putin.

There are some formulations that could withhold official recognition over disputed areas to postpone the critical decisions on sovereignty and freeze the war in place. This would create a situation like the one between North and South Korea or in the

divided Germany during the Cold War. But these are still choices that may be impossible for Zelensky to sell to his people.

This explains why Monday's discussions were surreal.

"I think everybody is in a happy mood, and I think that is better than not being in a happy mood, I suppose," former Trump first-term national security adviser John Bolton told CNN's Anderson Cooper. "I think the focus on meetings underscores the lack of substance on all this."

Every major peace effort looks hopeless at the start. Sometimes the only way to push past intractable issues is to create an inner impetus. So Trump's rush to hold summits may make sense. Perhaps he can quickly drive everyone so far along the road to peace, it will be impossible to go back.

But, at some point, impossible gaps must be bridged.

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Several jarring moments, however, fueled concerns about Trump's true loyalties in the peace process. He was caught on a hot mic telling French President Emmanuel Macron that Putin "wants to make a deal for me."

This shows a dangerous naivete about a Russian leader who launched a murderous unprovoked war and is bent on reviving a myth of Russian greatness.

Trump then suspended talks with European leaders to go off to speak to Putin on the phone.

This kind of behavior was exactly why Trump's European counterparts rushed across the Atlantic at a weekend's notice. Suspicion lingers about his capabilities and his commitment to Western security.

Still, no one else can position himself between Zelensky and the leaders of Europe and Putin. If there's ever a peace deal, it will probably be because Trump wielded his charisma and America's power.

It's a highly unorthodox approach that may not work. Kimmage, for example, warned that Trump's strategy could shatter over its inner contradictions. Trump is "trying to be all things to all people, he is meeting with Putin and welcoming him with open arms and seeming to come to some agreement. He is speaking about security commitments to Ukraine; he is praising European leaders for supporting Ukraine."

"There are no details to what is happening. It's all promises, and the promises on the surface contradict each other."

"You just wonder how long President Trump can juggle all these balls." Thousands of lives depend on the answer.

On Monday, Trump mostly restrained his temper in an Oval Office press event with Zelensky when reporters from conservative networks seemed to be goading him into an outburst. Then, he played the traditional convening role of a US president surrounded by transatlantic allies. He often treats friends like foes, but seems to have genuine respect for allied leaders. For once, he was squarely in the internationalist tradition of presidents like Dwight Eisenhower, Ronald Reagan or George H.W. Bush.

"We're all working for the same goal, very simple goal — we want to stop the killing, get this settled," Trump said.

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This highlights the depth and adaptability of China's economic framework. Despite facing headwinds such as regulatory tightening, geopolitical tensions and a slowing property sector, China's economic fundamentals remain robust and dynamic.

A particularly vivid sign of China's economic dynamism can be seen in the scale of its capital markets. As someone who has followed emerging markets for years, I find it remarkable that China's stock exchanges are now the second largest globally, hosting more than 6,000 listed companies, with nearly 3,000 new listings on the A-share indexes in just the past decade. While stock market performance does not fully reflect underlying economic fundamentals, this surge in entrepreneurship nevertheless indicates China's capacity for adaptation and innovation at scale.

In 2024, China was the best-performing major stock market globally, with the Baillie Gifford China Growth Trust reporting a net asset value increase of 38.1 percent and a share price rise of 39.7 percent in the 12 months to March 2025. These figures are not just impressive; they signal a broader recovery in investor sentiment and renewed confidence in China's domestic growth drivers, even if they should be interpreted alongside broader economic indicators.

China's industrial boom is particularly evident in its global leadership in electric vehicles (EVs), solar power technology and automation. The country now accounts for nearly one-third of global manufacturing output, leading in sectors such as green technology and artificial

Exemplary vision drives development

Francisco Leandro

intelligence.

Companies like BYD, China's leading EV manufacturer, have overtaken Tesla in new EV sales in Europe and are expanding aggressively into Southeast Asia, Latin America — particularly Brazil — and Australia. Chinese enterprises' global growth signals its transition from "Made in China" to "Invented in China", a transformation that is reshaping global supply chains and consumer markets.

Arguably, the most telling aspect of China's current development stage is not the inflow of talent, but the fact that talent is here to stay, and the retention of talent marks a significant shift in global innovation dynamics. The country's innovation ecosystem is further strengthened by its vast and growing talent pool — universities are working in tandem

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with industries to become "talent nurseries" where aptitude is well rewarded. China produces about 40 percent of the world's STEM(science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) graduates each year, laying a formidable foundation for sustained technological leadership.

In this regard, Apple CEO Tim Cook's observation is particularly illuminating: "In the U.S., you could have a meeting of tooling engineers, and I'm not sure we could fill the room. In China, you could fill multiple football fields."

China's digital economy, too, is flourishing, driven by tech giants such as Tencent, Alibaba, PDD and Meituan. These firms have doubled their aggregate profits since 2021, despite a significant drop in market capitalization, thus creating opportunities for long-term investors. On the consumer front, brands such as Pop Mart are making waves internationally. Known for its collectible toys and youth-focused appeal, Pop Mart has received enthusiastic reception in Western markets, with long queues forming out-

side its London store — a testament to China's expanding cultural and commercial footprint.

Besides, despite macroeconomic challenges, including a declining labor force and shifting global trade dynamics, China's domestic consumption is showing signs of recovery.

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President Xi has also emphasized the importance of self-reliance in strategic sectors — a response to external pressures such as the United States' restrictions on exports of various products and technologies to China. As expected, Chinese enterprises like AMEC and Naura are stepping up to fill the gaps in semiconductor manufacturing, while Horizon Robotics is emerging as a domestic alternative to global AI chip leaders. These shifts point to a wider movement toward domestic innovation and technological independence.

China's economic path has been marked by both change and durability. While short-term volatility and geopolitical risks persist, the long-term outlook is shaped by innovation, strategic policymaking and a vast domestic market. For global investors and observers alike, understanding the nuances of this evolution is essential to not only grasp China's role in the world economy, but also appreciate the opportunities it continues to offer.

China's economic journey under the leadership of President Xi illustrates a strategic blend of innovation, industrial capacity and global integration.

The country's ability to retain talent, lead in emerging technologies, and expand its cultural and commercial influence underscores its growing role in shaping the global economy.

As China continues to navigate complex macroeconomic and geopolitical challenges, its commitment to high-quality development and self-reliance positions it as a resilient and transformative force in the international landscape.

Recognition of Palestinian state will ultimately mean 'Lesser Israel'

IN a television interview broadcast last week, Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu admitted he "feels a connection" to a "vision" of "Greater Israel," an aspiration long cherished by the Zionist movement. Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia rightly protested as this could mean Israel's conquest of their territory and expulsion of their citizens.

Zionist ideologues compared Israel's borders to the skin of a deer which expanded when grazing was plentiful and shrank in times of scarcity. This means "Greater Israel" can be shrunk to "lesser Israel."

Indeed, this has been the experience of Israel and the Zionist movement which created the Jewish state. The 1947 UN resolution for the partition of Palestine awarded the Jewish state 56 per cent of the country where only 55 per cent was Jewish and the Arab state 42 per cent and 1 per cent Jewish while Jerusalem was to be a separate area administered by an international body. Israel transformed the allocation of territory from an unequal split into the first of "Greater Israel" by con-

quering 78 per cent of Palestine and expelling half its 1.3 million Palestinians.

In 1956, Israel joined Britain and France in waging war on Egypt after President Gamal Abdel Nasser nationalised the Suez Canal. Israel seized Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, prompting then Prime Minister David Ben Gurion to proclaim the "Third Kingdom of Israel." This was short-lived as US President Dwight Eisenhower compelled Israel to withdraw from Sinai in early 1957.

After seizing East Jerusalem, the West Bank, Gaza and Egypt's Sinai in 1967, messianic Israelis claimed this was a God-given conquest, turning it into a religious blessing.

Israel was ordered to withdraw by the UN Security Council but ignored the demand until 1982 when it evacuated Sinai as the price of peace with Egypt. Although it pulled out of Gaza 20 years ago, Israel has stepped up illegal colonisation of East Jerusalem and the West Bank. Since 2023, Israel has reoccupied most of Gaza and intends to complete the job before October.

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increasing pressure to withdraw from these territories which along with Gaza would become a Palestinian minstate. "Lesser Israel" instead of

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Michael Jansen

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means that it can proceed and develop only under the protection of a power that is independent of the native population — behind an iron wall, which the native population cannot breach." Britain protected the colonisation project from 1917 until 1948 when the United States assumed responsibility and helped build the "iron wall." Years ago, when I was gathering material for my book on the Israeli peace movement which was given short-term impetus by Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, I travelled to Tel Aviv university to interview ex-General turned peacenik Matti Peled. As I arrived early, as is my wont, I spent some time at a museum near his office. There I found a map showing a maximalist Israel stretching from the Nile in Egypt to the Euphrates in Iraq. This map was derived from the Biblical Old Testament Book of Genesis which defined the territory claimed by Israel as extending "from the brook of Egypt to the Euphrates." Elsewhere the land of Israel is defined as "from Dan [in the north] to Beersheba [in the south]." Israel lays claim to West Bank lands it calls "Judea" and "Samaria" which were held by separate, sometimes squabbling Jewish kingdoms. They ended in 70 AD with the destruction by Rome of the Second Jewish Temple and the dispersion of the Jews who had staged a failed revolt against their overlords. The connection of Jews to Palestine was maintained by their faith, the 19th century revival of the Hebrew language and the emergence of Zionism which was encouraged by Britain which wanted support for a post World War I mandate to rule Palestine. Ultra-Zionists like Netanyahu conveniently forget that there were other peoples, other communities in Palestine during the period of the three Jewish kingdoms on which Israel is trying to model itself.

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Ultra-Zionists like Netanyahu conveniently forget that there were other peoples, other communities in Palestine

during the period of the three Jewish kingdoms on which Israel is trying to model itself. Among them were the Canaanites, the original inhabitants of the land, Philistines who lived along the southern coast and spoke their own language, Phoenicians along the western coast, Arabs, and others.

Until 1948, there was no Jewish government in Palestine until Israel emerged by war and expelled half the 1.3 million Palestinians from their homes and lands. Today in the territory between the Mediterranean and the Jordan River, there are 7.1 million Israeli Jews and 7.1 million Palestinians who are occupied, ruled, and subjected to apartheid, banned by the UN.

This state of affairs does not affect Netanyahu's longing for an impossible "Greater Israel" even though Israel's Western friends — Britain, France, Australia — are planning to recognise a Palestinian state next month during the opening of the United Nations General Assembly. If recognition leads to action, the result would be "Lesser Israel" as it would shrink once again to the territories it conquered in 1948.



SBP launches PRISM+ to modernize & strengthen payment infrastructure

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Jameel Ahmad, has formally launched Pakistan's new Real-Time Interbank Settlement Mechanism Plus (PRISM+) System, marking a significant milestone in the modernization of country's financial market infrastructure. The launch ceremony, held at the National Institute of Banking and Finance (NIBAF Pakistan), in Karachi, was attended by CEO's of banks, Microfinance Institutions, Payment System Operators (PSOs), Payment Service Providers (PSPs), senior SBP officials and other stakeholders.

In his keynote address, Governor SBP, Jameel Ahmad, stated that PRISM+ reflects SBP's commitment to strengthening digital financial infrastructure in line with its Vision 2028. With PRISM+, Pakistan has become one of the few

countries to adopt the ISO 20022 global messaging standard for both retail and large-value payment systems.

Built on the state-of-the-art standard, PRISM+ offers enhanced functionality, including structured financial messaging, improved interoperability, and greater transparency. It also introduces advanced features such as real-time liquidity management tools, transaction queuing and prioritization, future-dated payments, and seamless integration with the Central Securities Depository (CSD) for auctions, repos, and monetary operations.

The Governor emphasized the strategic importance of large-value payment systems in financial markets. He added that PRISM processed transactions worth over PKR 1,043 trillion in FY24 - equivalent to ten times Pakistan's GDP. With PRISM+, we are enhancing the system's capacity and

efficiency to support growing financial market needs, he noted.

Ahmad highlighted Pakistan's broader digital transformation, pointing to the rising use of digital channels. He shared that Pakistan now has over 225 million bank and digital wallet accounts, with 96 million unique users. There are 28 million registered users of banking apps, 71 million branchless banking users, and 17 million internet banking users, reflecting a strong shift in consumer preferences toward digital financial services.

The Governor reaffirmed SBP's strong focus on the security and resilience of payment systems. As we expand Pakistan's digital infrastructure, SBP has mandated strict cybersecurity, anti-money laundering (AML) and fraud management & controls frameworks to ensure trust and transparency in the financial system, he emphasized.

Governor Ahmad acknowledged the World Bank Group's technical and financial support under the Financial Inclusion and Infrastructure Project and appreciated the efforts of key experts and SBP teams who led the project to completion. He noted that the achievement would have not been possible without the close coordination & collaboration between SBP and stakeholders including commercial banks, consultants, and technology partners etc.

In his concluding remarks, the Governor described PRISM+ as a strategic asset that will enable Pakistan's payment systems to meet future demands, support innovation, and enhance financial stability.

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) remains committed to strengthening the financial infrastructure and building a digitally empowered and inclusive economy.



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to PM on Commerce delivering his remarks at launch of book 'Economy; Backbone of National Security' attended by senior policy-maker, economists and business leaders.

Rupee gains 05 paise against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Rupee on Tuesday appreciated by 05 paise against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 281.96 against the previous day's closing of Rs 282.01.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 283.90 and Rs 284.4, respectively.

The price of the Euro decreased by 04 paise to close at Rs 329.24 against the last day's closing of Rs 329.28, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese yen came down by 01 paise and closed at Rs190, while the exchange rate of the British Pound witnessed a decrease of 82 paise to close at Rs381.01 against the last day's closing of Rs381.83.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal decreased by 02 and 03 paise and closed at Rs 76.76 and Rs 75.13, respectively.

Gold prices decrease by Rs1,100 to Rs356,600

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of 24 karat per tola gold witnessed a decrease of Rs1,100 on Tuesday and was sold at Rs356,600 against its sale at Rs357,700 on the previous trading day. All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewelers Association reported.

The prices of 10 grams of 24 karat also decreased by Rs 943 to Rs.305,727 from Rs 306,670 whereas the price of 10 grams of 22 Karat went down by Rs 865 to Rs 280,259 from Rs 281,124.

The rates of per tola and ten gram silver remained stagnant at Rs.4,031 and Rs 3,455 respectively. The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$11 to \$3,339 from \$3,350 whereas silver remained constant at \$37.98, the Association reported.

SAPM highlights auto manufacturing's role

ISLAMABAD (APP): The SAPM said under the leadership of the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Industries and Production Haroon Akhtar Khan on Tuesday stressed that the auto manufacturing and parts sector was the driving force behind Pakistan's industrial revival and future economic growth.

Speaking at the Auto Parts Manufacturers Summit 2025, organized by the Pakistan Association of Automotive Parts and Accessories Manufacturers (PAAPAM), he highlighted that industrialization consistently delivered higher average incomes and improved living standards for the entire population, citing China's rise as the most dramatic recent example.

SAPM Haroon noted that government policy shifts in the late 20th century transformed China from a primarily agricultural economy into the world's largest manufacturing economy, lifting hundreds of millions of people out of poverty along the way.

"Pakistan today stands at a similar crossroads. The country has the human capital, strategic location, and natural resources that these successful nations leveraged during their industrial transformations," he said.

The SAPM said under the leadership of the Prime Minister, the government was committed to implementing industrial policies that emphasized manufacturing growth, attracting foreign investment, and helping Pakistani products compete in global markets. "The blueprint exists. We simply need to execute it," he added.

The auto sector, he said, contributes approximately 3% to GDP and provides direct and indirect employment to around 2.5 million people.

The SAPM said the successes of local assembly and manufacturing by global brands such as Toyota, Honda, Suzuki, Hyundai, Kia, Haval, MG, BYD and Chang'an showcase the sector's capabilities and resilience.

However, he said, challenges remained, including high energy costs, technological and infrastructure gaps, access to finance issues, and a regulatory framework that hinders our progress towards global competitiveness.

Haroon acknowledged these hurdles but emphasized that addressing them strategically would unlock enormous potential. "We have to move in the

right direction," he said, referencing ongoing tariff policy reforms and an upcoming industrial policy designed to complement these changes.

He said regulatory streamlining, declining interest rates and reduced energy tariffs were expected to create an enabling environment for the industry to not only serve domestic demand but also expand exports. "We want you to be competitive, not just for Pakistan's market, but to generate volume through exports," he added.

The SAPM called on industry leaders to embrace innovation, technology adoption, and research and development, which are central to upcoming energy vehicle policies and automobile sector reforms. These initiatives aim to foster localization, global competitiveness, and export-led growth.

"I have come to revive Pakistan's industrialization and economic prosperity. When the country prospers, its people prosper. Together, with the government's full support, we will seize this moment to build a competitive and sustainable future for the automotive industry—and for Pakistan as a whole," he vowed.

PSX stays bullish, gains 1,574 more points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) benchmark KSE-100 Index continued with bullish trend on Tuesday, gaining 1,574.32 points, a positive change of 1.06 per cent, closing at 149,770.75 points against 148,196.42 points last trading day.

A total of 809,082,439 shares were traded during the day as compared to 610,314,508 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 48.430 billion against Rs 39.173 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 483 companies transacted their shares

in the stock market, 265 of them recorded gains and 194 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 24 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 52,322,337 shares at Rs 1.45 per share, Bank of Punjab with 46,060,189 shares at Rs14.76 per share and Fauji Cement with 43,732,087 shares at Rs 53.48 per share.

Bhanero Textile Mills Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 92.78 per share price, closing at Rs 1,020.56, whereas the runner-up was The Thal

Industries Corporation Limited with Rs53.85 rise in its per share price to Rs 623.85.

PIA Holding Company LimitedB witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs303.10 per share closing at Rs 27,698.00 followed by Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited with Rs121.75 decline in its share price to close at Rs31,778.25.

Meanwhile, in the future market, as many as 323 companies traded shares in the market out of which 194 witnessed gain, 126 loss where the prices of 3 companies remained unchanged.

Askari Bank partners with Fauji Fertilizer Company



F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Askari Bank Limited and Fauji Fertilizer Company Limited (FFC) have entered into a strategic partnership to offer a Dealer Finance Facility for FFC's dealer network. The facility aims to improve access to working capital while supporting financial inclusion within the SME sector. Under this arrangement, Askari Bank

will provide supply chain financing at a discounted mark-up to dealers recommended by FFC, based on their historical business volumes and financial performance. The agreement was signed by Mr. Hussain Ali Haider, Country Head - SME, Askari Bank, and Mr. Mohammad Ali Janjua, Chief Commercial Officer, FFC, in the presence of senior officials from both organisations.

Speaking on the occasion, representatives from both institutions emphasised the significance of this initiative in strengthening the SME Sector.

Hussain Ali Haider, Country Head - SME, Askari Bank, said, "By addressing the working capital needs of FFC dealers, the collaboration will help increase business volumes, ensure timely availability of fertilizers, and

subsequently contributing towards improving agricultural productivity. Through its Supply Chain Financing product, Askari Bank continues to expand its footprint and reinforcing its commitment to empowering SMEs across diverse sectors."

Mohammad Ali Janjua, Chief Commercial Officer, FFC, said, "This partnership reflects FFC's commitment to strengthening its dealer network through accessible and cost-effective financing solutions. By enabling our dealers to maintain adequate fertilizer stocks, we are directly supporting farmers in meeting their crop requirements on time. Such collaborations are key to sustaining agricultural productivity, improving supply chain efficiency, and contributing towards Pakistan's food security."

The facility will enable dealers in SME sector to procure fertilizer stocks in a timely manner, thereby supporting farmers in meeting their requirements.

HSHM, BZU Multan sign MoU to advance hospitality education

F.P. Report

MULTAN: Hashoo School of Hospitality Management (HSHM), a premier hospitality education institute, has signed an MOU with Bahauddin Zakariya University (BZU) Multan to formalize their collaboration for hospitality education in Southern Punjab in near future. The MOU signing ceremony was held at Rumanza by Pearl-Continental, attended by senior management from both organizations including Brig Ahmad Rizwan Ghumman, Administrator DHA, Multan.

Through this partnership, students in Multan and across Southern Punjab will have access to a 4-year Degree program in Hospitality and Tourism Management. The program shall include hands-on training and internships and

aligns with global hospitality education standards to prepare graduates for rewarding careers in the rapidly growing tourism and hospitality sector.

As the largest public sector university in Southern Punjab, Bahauddin Zakariya University (BZU) serves over 40,000 students across diverse disciplines. Established in 1975 and spread over 960 acres, BZU is recognized nationally by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan and internationally by QS and Times Higher Education rankings. Equipped with state-of-the-art laboratories, digital libraries, and a strong focus on research and regional development, the university plays a pivotal role in advancing education and socio-economic progress.

Haseeb A. Gardezi, Executive Director of

Pearl-Continental Hotel, Lahore & Education Division, Hashoo Group, said: "We are delighted to bring premium hospitality education to Southern Punjab in partnership with BZU. This initiative aligns with our vision of equipping Pakistan's youth with world-class skills, practical learning experiences, and offer career opportunities in the hospitality sector. Our successful campuses in other cities have demonstrated the transformative impact of such programs, and we are confident this collaboration will open new horizons for the region's talent."

Dr. Zubair Iqbal, Vice Chancellor, Bahauddin Zakariya University, added: "The hospitality and tourism industry is booming in Pakistan, and there is a growing need for skilled professionals to meet this

demand. This envisioned partnership with HSHM enables us to offer top-tier, internationally recognized hospitality education right here in Multan. It will not only enhance career prospects for our students but also contribute to the socio-economic development of Southern Punjab."

Pakistan is emerging as one of the fastest-growing tourist destinations, attracting both domestic and international travelers with its natural beauty, cultural heritage, and warm hospitality. HSHM is committed to producing future industry leaders. Affiliated with the Confederation of Hospitality (CTH) in the UK, HSHM ensures alignment with international education standards being offered at its four campuses in all major cities of Pakistan.

RCCI to establish Economic Zones

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has announced plans to establish Economic Zones along the Rawalpindi Ring Road.

بیان حلفی
مکتبہ محمدیہ راولپنڈی (مجموعہ) راولپنڈی کے سربراہان
مردم و اہل خانہ محمدیہ راولپنڈی کے سربراہان
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In brief

India name Women's WC squad

MUMBAI (AFP): Opener Shafali Verma was left out of India's squad on Tuesday for the upcoming 50-over Women's World Cup tournament after recent patchy form. Verma, an explosive batter who last played a one-day international for India in October 2024, has scored just one half-century in six innings for India. A. Harmanpreet Kaur will lead the 15-member squad for the 13th edition of the women's showpiece tournament, which begins on September 30. Co-hosts India are set to face Sri Lanka in the opener in Bengaluru. The Indian women are looking to claim their first World Cup title after making it to two previous finals. They were beaten by England by nine runs in a thrilling finale at Lord's in 2017. Women's team chief selector Neetu David said the door had not been shut completely on 21-year-old Verma, who has played 29 ODIs since her debut in 2019. "She's in the system, (it's) not like she's not," David said. "We've got our eyes on her. Hope she plays a lot more and garners experience, it'll help serve India in the 50-overs format." The selectors also announced the return of medium-pace bowler Renuka Thakur after a long injury lay-off. "We didn't want to make a lot of changes, we wanted continuity," said Harmanpreet, who will be leading India in the World Cup for the first time. India are set to host Australia in three ODI matches before heading into the World Cup. India's World Cup squad: Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana, Pratika Rawal, Harleen Deol, Deepti Sharma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Renuka Singh Thakur, Arundhati Reddy, Richa Ghosh (wk), Kranti Goud, Amanjot Kaur, Radha Yadav, Shree Chaurani, Yastika Bhatia, Sneha Rana.

Trump course back on PGA schedule

LOS ANGELES (AFP): Donald Trump's famed Trump National Doral course will host a PGA Tour event next season, returning to the circuit after a 10-year absence, the tour confirmed on Tuesday. Doral's "Blue Monster" was a regular stop on the PGA circuit for more than half a century, hosting a tournament annually from 1962 to 2016, when it staged the WGC-Championship. However the tournament was moved from Doral after sponsor Cadillac decided not to renew its sponsorship and a replacement sponsor could not be found. The PGA Tour, which had been sharply critical of Trump's 2016 presidential campaign rhetoric concerning immigrants, subsequently moved the event to Mexico -- prompting a furious reaction from Trump at the time. Doral has since hosted a stop on the Saudi Arabia-financed LIV Golf circuit. As of next season, however, the course will stage The Miami Championship, which will become one of the PGA Tour's nine signature events -- the elite tournaments that feature the world's best players and offer purses of \$20 million. "We're excited to showcase the game's greatest players competing at golf's most iconic venues," PGA Tour chief executive Brian Rolapp said in a statement to announce the 2026 schedule. "Inspired by our players and fans, we're accelerating the Tour's evolution and ushering in a new era of innovation on and off the course."



CAIRNS: Ben Dwarshuis ended Temba Bavuma's half-century.

Azam, Rizwan demoted in contracts as Pakistan scrap A category

KARACHI (AFP): Pakistan demoted former captains Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan on Tuesday in a contract review that scrapped the top category after a string of poor recent results. There are now no players in the top category A for the first time since the system of central contracts was introduced 21 years ago. Azam and Rizwan have both been demoted to category B contracts, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said.

"We have awarded central contracts to 30 players

with 10 each placed in B, C and D. Notably, no player has been selected in category A in this cycle," the PCB said in a media release, without giving any reason.

Azam and Rizwan are the biggest names in Pakistan cricket but poor performances in the past 12 months saw them lose their places in the Twenty20 international squads announced for a tri-series and the Asia Cup.

Joining Rizwan and Azam in category B are T20I captain Salman Agha, Fakhar Zaman, Abrar Ahmed, Haris Rauf, Hasan

Ali, Saim Ayub, Shadab Khan and Shaheen Shah Afridi. The national team's recent performances in all three formats of the game have fallen badly.

Pakistan beat England in a home Test series 2-1 last year but then lost 2-0 in South Africa and drew 1-1 at home against a lowly West Indies, finishing 10th and last in the World Test Championship.

The slump has also resulted in Pakistan Test captain Shan Masood being demoted from category B to D. Pakistan won their first one-day

international series in Australia for 22 years in November and routed South Africa 3-0 but then crashed out in the first round of the Champions trophy, an event they co-hosted with Dubai.

They also crashed out of last year's Twenty20 World Cup in the first round and lost a recent Twenty20 international series in Bangladesh 2-1.

The tri-series, also involving Afghanistan and the United Arab Emirates, starts from August 29 in Sharjah, followed by the Asia Cup in Dubai.

Pakistan likely not to take part in Asia Cup Hockey Tournament 2025

NEW DELHI: (Agencies): India on Tuesday invited Bangladesh to participate as a reserve team in the upcoming Asia Cup hockey tournament, amid concerns that Pakistan may not be able to take part in the event.

The Bangladesh officials said that the preparations for the tournament have already begun following India's invitation to include Bangladesh as a standby team. Uncertainty looms over Pakistan's participation due to strained relations between the two neighboring countries and threats issued by Indian extremists to Pakistani players.

The Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) is expected to announce its final decision within the next one to two days.

The Asia Cup is scheduled to commence on August 29 in Rajgir, India.

Earlier, PHF sources had hinted that Pakistan's participation in the event was unlikely and that players had not yet been informed about any arrangements for the tournament. An official announcement in this regard is anticipated in the coming days.

Markram, Maharaj lead South Africa to crushing win in ODI series-opener

CAIRNS (AFP): Aiden Markram hit 82 before left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj tore through Australia's new-look batting order as South Africa claimed the One-Day International series opener by 98 runs in Cairns on Tuesday. Sent in to bat, Markram - opening for the first time in ODIs since 2021 -- crunched nine boundaries in his 81-ball knock to power South Africa to a formidable 296-8. Skipper Temba Bavuma (65) and Matthew Breetzke (57) also helped set the tone for the three-match ODI series.

In reply, openers Mitchell Marsh and Travis Head flattened South Africa's pacemen as Australia raced to 60-0 after seven overs. But the match flipped after the introduction of spin, with Maharaj conjuring rampant turn and he picked up four wickets in his first 15 balls.

He finished with career-best figures of 5-33 from 10 overs as Australia were dismissed for 198 in the 41st over. It was a strong bounce back from South Africa after their 2-1 defeat in the

Twenty20 series between the teams. "I just tried to utilise the conditions and was fortunate to get the rewards," Maharaj said.

Marsh played a lone hand with 88 off 96 balls in a disappointing batting effort from Australia, transitioning after the recent retirements of veterans Steve Smith and Glenn Maxwell from ODI cricket.

"He's (Maharaj) an outstanding bowler and there was certainly a little bit more spin than we expected," said Marsh, who is captaining Australia in this series in place of Pat Cummins. South Africa had been rocked by the news that quick Kagiso Rabada would miss the series with an ankle injury.

An unruffled Markram appeared to be cruising to his fourth ODI century before he was caught behind off left-arm quick Ben Dwarshuis in the 24th over. A sluggish Bavuma was overtaken by Breetzke, playing his third ODI.

But South Africa lost three wickets for just seven runs with the fall of

Breetzke, Tristan Stubbs (duck) and Dewald Brevis (six), before Bavuma kicked on.

After a breakout T20 series, ODI debutant Brevis hit a first-ball six -- but then holed out to Head, who finished with 4-57.

Head's excellent match continued with the bat until he was stumped for 27, providing debutant offspinner Prenelan Subrayen with his first ODI wicket.

Making his return since being axed from Australia's Test team, Marnus Labuschagne (one) fell on his sixth delivery after unsuccessfully reviewing an lbw decision off Maharaj.

Cameron Green (three) and Josh Inglis (five) were clean bowled by a pumped-up Maharaj, who also had Alex Carey lbw for a golden duck. Maharaj was unable to complete the hat-trick, but claimed his maiden five-wicket haul in ODI cricket when he knocked over Aaron Hardie (four).

The second game will be played in the northern Queensland city of Mackay on Friday.

Chicago Kingsmen outplay Pakistan Shaheens by 69 runs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chicago Kingsmen defeated Pakistan Shaheens by 69 runs in the 17th fixture of the Top End T20 Series at the DXC Arena, Darwin, on Tuesday afternoon. This was Shaheens' second loss in the 11-team tournament.

Chasing 207 to win, Shaheens were never in the hunt as they lost four wickets inside the batting powerplay. At 28 for four, opening batter Yasir Khan was joined by captain Muhammad Irfan Khan and the pair added 43 runs for the fifth wicket.

Following the dismissal of Irfan (24, 18b, 2x4s, 1x6) in the 10th over,

Shaheens suffered regular setbacks and managed to score 137 for eight in 20 overs. Yasir top-scored with a 32-ball 38, smashing five fours. Kingsmen, Scott Kugeleijn was the most successful bowler with three for 19 from four overs, while Ehsan Adil picked up two for 20 in three overs.

Earlier, after being put into bat, Kingsmen posted 206 for five in their allotted 20 overs. Milind Kumar, later named player of the match, struck a 37-ball 74, hitting eight fours and three sixes. Tajinder Dhillion contributed a 37-ball 58, which included four fours and two

sixes. For Shaheens, Mohammad Wasim Jnr claimed two wickets, while Saad Masood and Shahid Aziz took one wicket apiece.

Pakistan Shaheens will now take on Adelaide Strikers at the same venue on Wednesday, August 20. The match will start at 7pm local time. Scores in brief: Chicago Kingsmen 206-5, 20 overs (Milind Kumar 74, Tajinder Dhillion 58, Shayan Jahangir 30; Mohammad Waseem Jnr 2-57).

Pakistan Shaheens 137-8, 20 overs (Yasir Khan 38, Muhammad Irfan Khan 24, Shahid Aziz 24; Scott Kugeleign 3-19, Ehsan Adil 2-20).

Gill returns to India's T20 squad for Asia Cup

MUMBAI (AFP/APP): Test skipper Shubman Gill was on Tuesday named in India's T20 squad for next month's Asia Cup cricket tournament after being left out of three previous series in the shortest format.

Gill, 25, returned to the 15-man squad as deputy to skipper Suryakumar Yadav, thanks to the stellar role he played with the bat in the recent Test series against England. The top-order batsman scored 754 runs as India's relatively young squad fought from behind to square the five-match series 2-2.

The Asia Cup will begin on September 9 with defending champions India set to face hosts United

Arab Emirates a day later in Dubai in the eight-nation tournament. India and arch-rivals Pakistan have been clubbed in Group A and clash on September 14.

Gill, who was named Test skipper after the retirement of veterans Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli earlier this year, last played a T20 international in July 2024. Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah also made a comeback to the T20 ranks after opting out of two matches in England to manage his workload.

Bumrah's last T20 outing was India's World Cup title win over South Africa at Barbados in June 2024. Kohli and Rohit quit T20

internationals after the triumph. Bumrah will be part of the pace attack alongside left-arm quick Arshdeep Singh and Harshit Rana, the national selectors announced after a meeting in Mumbai.

Axar Patel, Varun Chakravarthi and Kuldeep Yadav lead the spin charge.

Squad: Suryakumar Yadav (capt), Shubman Gill (vice-capt), Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, Varun Chakravarthi, Kuldeep Yadav, Sanju Samson (wk), Harshit Rana, Rinku Singh.

Swiatek beats Paolini to clinch WTA Cincinnati Open title



CINCINNATI (Agencies): Iga Swiatek filled in a piece of her career tennis puzzle on Monday as she won the ATP-WTA Cincinnati Open for the first time with a 7-5, 6-4 defeat of Jasmine Paolini.

The final lasting for just under two hours featured 16 break-point chances, with the Polish winner converting on six of 10 while Paolini struggled to make the most of her break opportunities.

The six-time Grand

Slam singles champion's 11th career win at the WTA 1000 level has left her within striking distance of the all-time record of 13 titles held by Serena Williams. Swiatek won the Cincinnati without dropping a set.

The 24-year-old backed up her breakthrough Wimbledon trophy with the Midwest honors and now heads to the last Grand Slam of the season at the US Open with a major confidence boost after the 24th

title of her career. Swiatek also climbed to within 500 points of current WTA number one Aryna Sabalenka, with the lead at the top of the table likely to be in play at the Open when it begins on Sunday.

Swiatek had stalled twice at the last two editions at the semifinal stage and now has only the Canadian tournament where she has not reached the final at a 1000 event.

Swiatek began on the wrong foot as she lost serve to trail 0-3. But the situation was only temporary as the former number one immediately began her turnaround. The Pole answered immediately with two breaks of serve and moved to a 5-3 lead.

But Paolini earned another break in the 10th game, saving a Swiatek set point to square the final at five-all. Paolini dropped serve for 5-6, giving her opponent the chance to produce a love game and claim the opener 7-5 after just under an hour on court.

The second set was a roller coaster, with the pair twice

swapping breaks of serve before Swiatek salvaged a pair of break points to lead 5-3 and then serving out the winner two games later.

Alcaraz wins the Cincinnati Open after Sinner retires in the first set because of illness: Carlos Alcaraz won the Cincinnati Open title in a little more than 20 minutes on Monday after top-ranked Jannik Sinner was forced to retire because of illness during the first set.

Meeting in the final for the fourth time this year and first since Wimbledon, Sinner fell behind 5-0 in the first set with nine unforced errors. He was seen with an icepack on his head during a break and retired after playing just 22 minutes.

"Didn't feel great from yesterday," Sinner said. "Also during the night, I thought I would recover a bit better, but it was not the case. I just tried to go out for the fans, trying to give a match. But it was not meant to be for me today."

It was only the third time the Cincinnati Open men's final ended in a retirement,

and the first since 2011 when Novak Djokovic stopped playing in the second set because of a shoulder injury.

"Wanted to wish Jannik a speedy recovery and in a few days, hopefully he's going to be OK," Alcaraz said. "For myself, I am really, really happy to lift the trophy. I lost the final here in 2023. I wanted really badly this trophy."

Sinner, who turned 24 on Saturday, was on 12-match winning streak and had won 26 straight matches on hard courts. He was bidding to become the first player to win back-to-back men's Cincinnati Open titles since Roger Federer in 2014 and '15.

Alcaraz, who is ranked No. 2, now holds a 9-5 advantage in his matchups with the Italian. Sinner won in four sets at Wimbledon while the Spaniard won a five-set thriller at the French Open and in straight sets in the Rome Masters in May.

Another classic matchup wasn't to be on Monday. Sinner received medical attention after having his



serve broken for the third time and retired moments later. "After the third game, I just noticed that he wasn't feeling good," Alcaraz said. "I know him. I've been battling against him, having great matches, great battles. I noticed he was missing more often. It's pretty weird from him."

It was only the third time the top two men's players have met in the Cincinnati Open final, the last being No. 2 Djokovic and No. 1

Alcaraz in 2022 and No. 1 Roger Federer and No. 2 Djokovic in 2012.

No. 3 Iga Swiatek faced No. 7 Jasmine Paolini in the women's final later Monday. The Cincinnati Open is considered a tune-up for the US Open, which begins Sunday in New York. The last two years, both the men's and women's Cincinnati Open champions went on to win the final Grand Slam tournament of the year.



In brief

2-members gang involved in street crimes arrested

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have arrested a two-member gang allegedly involved in street crimes during crackdown here on Tuesday. Police have also recovered 03 mobile phone worth more than Rs 1,00,000 and cash Rs 27,000 from their possession. According to police, the suspects were taken into custody during an operation. Chontra Police have registered separate cases against both of them and further investigation was in progress. SP Saddar Nabeel Khokhar, while confirming the arrests, said that strong evidence has been collected against the accused, who will be challaned and presented before the court. He stressed that strict legal action would be taken to ensure exemplary punishment. "Those who attack the lives and property of citizens cannot escape the clutches of the law. Protecting the people from such criminal elements is our top priority," SP Saddar added.

ANF recover big drug haul

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in a major operation recovered a big haul of drugs worth millions of rupees from a burnt car near the Bahtar Interchange, Attock on the Islamabad-Peshawar Motorway. More than 166 kilograms of charas and 21 kg of opium were recovered from the car, an ANF spokesman said on Tuesday. He said the ANF had received a tip-off about the said vehicle laden with drugs and set up a tight blockade on the motorway to foil the smuggling attempt. As the vehicle did not reach the toll plaza concerned, the ANF personnel conducted surveillance of the vehicle on the motorway and found it burnt near the Bahtar Interchange. The accused fled the scene leaving the vehicle and the drugs behind. The vehicle caught fire possibly due to a short circuit, the spokesman said.

IRSA releases 458,200 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 458,200 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 585,300 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1548.00 feet which was 146.00 feet higher than the dead level of 1402.00 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 341,400 cusecs and 300,400 cusecs, respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1215.45 feet, which was 165.45 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 94,100 cusecs and 8,000 cusecs, respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 341,400, 488,900, 338,600 and 234,900 cusecs, respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 60,300 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 71,400 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

6 stolen motorcycles recovered

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have arrested motorcycle lifter and recovered 6 stolen motorcycles from his possession during crackdown here on Tuesday. According to police spokesman, Saddar Wah held thief involved in motorcycle theft and seized 06 stolen motorcycles. Police have registered case and further investigation was in progress. SP Potohar Talha Wali commended police team for their swift action and stated that the detained person will be challaned in court with solid evidence.

Pakistan, Nepal discuss parliamentary ties, economic cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah on Tuesday welcomed a parliamentary delegation from the Federal Republic of Nepal at Parliament House with discussions focused on strengthening bilateral parliamentary ties, economic cooperation and matters of mutual interest.

Deputy Speaker highlighted that Pakistan greatly values its longstanding relations with Nepal. He emphasized the importance of enhancing parliamentary linkages between the two countries, noting that such exchanges play a pivotal role in strengthening bilateral ties and bringing both nations closer. He apprised

the delegation that a Pakistan-Nepal Friendship Group has been established in the National Assembly of Pakistan, which is actively contributing to fostering contacts and cooperation between the two countries.

Syed Ghulam Mustafa underlined the vast potential for collaboration in tourism and other economic sectors. He also briefed the delegation on the formation of the Women Parliamentary Caucus in the National Assembly of Pakistan, comprising women parliamentarians, which is playing an active role in empowering women, safeguarding their rights, and promoting their welfare.

Discussing regional

challenges, Deputy Speaker NA stated that climate change poses a major threat to Pakistan as well as other countries of the region. He pointed out that the recent monsoon season caused large-scale human and financial losses in Pakistan, adding that since 2022 the country has been consistently bearing the brunt of climate-induced disasters.

Members of the Nepalese delegation expressed heartfelt condolences over loss of precious lives and infrastructure caused by the recent cloud-bursts & floods in Pakistan. They also extended felicitations to Deputy Speaker on 78th Independence Day of Pakistan. The delegation reiterated that Nepal values

its friendly relations with Pakistan and underscored that people-to-people contacts are of vital importance in bringing the two nations closer. The members of the Nepalese parliamentary delegation thanked Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah for the warm welcome & hospitality extended to them. The Parliamentary delegation of Nepal comprised Members Ms. Nagina Yadav, Ms. Bhagabati Neupane, Ms. Pujja Chaudhary and Ms. Gaura Nepali. On this occasion, Country Director, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Pakistan Office, Felix Kolbitz, was present along with other FES officials, Natalia Figge and Pabitra Raut.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, Dr. Jamal Beker Abdulla, Ambassador of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia planting a sapling in lawn of the Parliament House.

NA Speaker, Deputy donate salaries to support flood victims

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah have announced the donation of their one-month salary to support victims of the recent flash floods in Gilgit-Baltistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

In a joint condolence message, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker expressed profound grief over the tragic loss of lives and widespread devastation caused by the floods. They extended heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved families and assured full solidarity with the affected communities.

Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq emphasized that aid-

ing and rehabilitating flood victims is a national duty, urging citizens across the country to actively participate in relief efforts.

"Every Pakistani has a responsibility to actively participate in the relief and rehabilitation efforts for the flood victims," he stated.

Expressing deep sympathy for those affected, the Speaker noted that countless families are enduring immense hardship and grief. "For those who have lost loved ones and whose bodies have not been recovered, their pain is especially difficult to alleviate," he added.

Reiterating his condolences, Speaker Sadiq stressed that the nation stands united in times of crisis and that it is a collec-

tive responsibility to support those affected. "We cannot abandon the flood victims in their time of need," he said, calling on the entire nation to come forward in support of relief and rehabilitation efforts.

He noted that the people of Pakistan have consistently set an example of brotherhood and selflessness during difficult times.

The Speaker also prayed for the elevation of the ranks of those who lost their lives in the floods and extended heartfelt sympathies to the families mourning their loved ones. He particularly mentioned the devastation in Buner, where entire families were affected, and expressed solidarity with the victims.

85pc accused arrested in rape cases

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry on Tuesday informed the Senate that over 85 percent of nominated accused in rape cases registered in the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) since 2021, had been arrested.

During Question Hour, he said that ICT Police had ensured arrests in the majority of nominated cases. "Convictions are determined by courts, not the executive.

Police and prosecution fulfill their role up to trial stage, but sentencing is for the judiciary," he explained, adding that a dedicated helpline and joint investigation committees were in place to respond swiftly to sexual violence cases. Senator Dinesh Kumar pointed out that low conviction rates raised questions about the quality of police investigation.

"If investigations are weak, how can courts deliver justice? Accountability must begin with investigators," he said. Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar also intervened, acknowledging the concerns and noting that comprehensive legal reforms were already under discussion.

"The issue of low conviction rates was debated yesterday as well during Senator Sherry Rehman's motion. I have already referred this matter to the Senate

Standing Committee on Law and Justice, which includes some of the most experienced legal minds in Parliament. The committee will examine the flaws and propose systemic improvements. This matter will be resolved," he assured the House.

In addressing intertwined environmental and health emergencies.

The engagement concluded on a hopeful note, with both sides committing to deepen collaboration in research, policy development, and capacity-building. Alam conveyed her best wishes to the interns, expressing confidence that their experiences in Pakistan will inspire them as advocates for global climate action and sustainable development.

Rapid medical response to be ensured in flood-hit areas: Mustafa Kamal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Health Mustafa Kamal has said that the Ministry of National Health Services is working in close coordination with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the provincial governments to ensure uninterrupted medical assistance to flood-affected regions across the country.

Addressing a press conference, the minister said that the health ministry had initiated relief operations without waiting for formal requests, and all medical requirements communicated by provincial governments were promptly met.

"We provided 100 percent of the required medicines to the affected areas and ensured timely dispatch of medical supplies," he stressed.

Mustafa Kamal highlighted that on receiving a request from Shangla district, an 18-member medical team — comprising 12 doctors from Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) and eight

from Federal Government Polyclinic Hospital (FGPC) — were immediately dispatched to provide on-ground healthcare services to displaced communities.

He added that alongside medicines, large quantities of mosquito nets were also sent to prevent the spread of vector-borne diseases in flood-hit areas. "Preventive measures are as crucial as curative ones, and we are ensuring both," he remarked.

Sharing details of the relief supplies, Mustafa Kamal said that 16,000 antibiotics, 14,000 antipyretics, and 10,000 painkillers had been dispatched to the affected districts. The minister added that more than 250,000 pentavalent vaccines and 150,000 rubella and measles vaccines were provided, along with over 6,000 ORS and rehydration salts for patients in flood-hit areas.

For Gilgit-Baltistan, he said, an additional 1,400 antibiotics, 40,000 analgesics, and 1,000 anti-allergy medicines were sent to meet urgent medical needs.

He said that the federal health ministry had already delivered 3,410 kilograms of medicines to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 350 kilograms to Gilgit-Baltistan. Vaccines to counter water-borne diseases caused by stagnant floodwaters have also been provided.

Mustafa Kamal underlined that all federal health institutions were on high alert and operating under strict monitoring mechanisms. "Our teams are working round-the-clock, and the entire system is under constant surveillance to respond to any emerging medical need. The affected citizens are our brothers, and we stand with them at every step," he said.

He informed that a Command and Control Room had been established at the National Institute of Health (NIH) to monitor the evolving situation 24/7. "These measures are being undertaken under the leadership and directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif," he added.

Pakistan, Turkey strengthen cultural ties through historic meeting

ISLAMABAD (APP): A significant meeting was held at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) between the Prime Minister's Youth Programme and a visiting Turkish Student Delegation representing the Turkish Maarif Foundation (TMF) on Tuesday.

The meeting marked a major milestone in strengthening the cultural and educational ties between Pakistan and Turkey. Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme, Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, warmly welcomed the delegation, emphasizing the deep-rooted, brotherly relationship between the two nations.

He highlighted Turkey's unwavering support for Pakistan during times of need and the strong cultural ties shared between the two countries. The meeting focused on the Youth Cultural Exchange Program, a new initiative designed to promote mutu-

al understanding and collaboration in fields such as education, entertainment, and language. The program aims to provide a platform for students from both countries to engage in shared learning and explore each other's cultures in more depth.

The Turkish delegation shared details of a new initiative by the Turkish government, offering fully funded scholarships for 250 Pakistani students. This initiative aims to facilitate academic exchanges and provide Pakistani students with the opportunity to study in Turkey, allowing them to experience its rich educational and cultural environment.

The meeting concluded with plans to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Prime Minister's Youth Programme and the Turkish Maarif Foundation, aimed at fostering cultural

exchanges and educational collaborations.

The MoU is expected to further strengthen the bond between the two nations and provide new opportunities for students and youth. The Turkish Maarif Foundation, established by the Turkish Parliament, is committed to providing educational services abroad and fostering global cultural and educational exchanges.

Operating in 67 countries with a network of 332 institutions, TMF serves over 40,000 students and offers programs ranging from pre-school to higher education. The meeting was attended by a high-level delegation from Turkey, including representatives from the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Türkiye Republic, and the Turkish Maarif Foundation. The Pakistani side was represented by officials from the Prime Minister's Youth Programme and the International Maarif School, Islamabad.

Rawalpindi initiates proactive approach to reduce dengue threat

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi administration has initiated a proactive approach to reduce dengue threats in the district through directly involving public representatives.

It has been decided to hold a daily meeting for reviewing updated disease spread on UC wise clustered-population basis.

An important meeting in this regard was held here on Tuesday, co-chaired by Deputy Commissioner Dr. Hassan Waqar Cheema and Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb, MNA. Former Mayor Sardar Naseem Ahmed, Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Culture Punjab Shazia Rizwan, senior political

leader Haji Pervaiz Khan, along with other political representatives attended the meeting. CEOs from health and education departments, officers and reps from all relevant departments, and area in-charges also participated in the meeting.

Expressing dissatisfaction over performance, the Deputy Commissioner instructed for holding a daily meeting where union council-wise reports will be presented and effective actions will be He also directed the CEO Health for immediate action against officers showing poor performance. District Coordinator Dr. Sajjad Ahmed briefed the

meeting on the current dengue situation.

Tahira Aurangzeb emphasized that all public representatives should monitor dengue teams in their respective areas and extend full cooperation to make the anti-dengue campaign a success.

The meeting also advised the public to avoid stagnant water inside homes and workplaces, keep spare pots, tires, and flowerpots dry, use mosquito nets and repellents, and install protective screens on doors and windows. Citizens were urged to fully cooperate with the anti-dengue teams to eliminate the threat of dengue completely.

Mega drinking water project to be launched in Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI (APP): Commissioner Rawalpindi Engineer Amir Khattak on Tuesday said a mega project would be launched on a priority basis in Rawalpindi to ensure the immediate and effective supply of clean drinking water to the citizens.

The project would be part of large-scale schemes being launched by Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz to ensure the provision of clean and safe drinking water across the province, he added.

Some 1,151 water filtration plants had been proposed for the Rawalpindi Division under the mega project, which would directly benefit the public, the commissioner said while chairing a meeting here at

his office regarding the provision of clean drinking water.

Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi Hassan Waqar Cheema, Director Development Zenia Khan, SE Public Health and other officers concerned attended the meeting. The deputy commissioners of Attock, Jhelum, Chakwal and Murree participated through video link.

The commissioner appointed the Additional Deputy Commissioner (Headquarters) as the focal person for the "Clean Water" project. He directed all the deputy commissioners of five districts to identify suitable land for filtration plants within a week. "In this regard, the government land

should be selected on priority basis, such as schools, government offices, police stations or mosques, and if the government land is not available in any area, then such private land should be identified which can be donated for this noble cause" he advised.

The commissioner observed that the provision of clean water was a fundamental right of the people and that was why the completion of the project was among the top priorities of the Punjab Government.

He instructed the officers concerned to ensure speedy implementation of the project so that the people could benefit from it as soon as possible.

Romina Alam calls for global solidarity on climate challenges

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Romina Khurshid Alam on Tuesday emphasized the urgent, interconnected challenges posed by climate change, public health and sustainable development, calling for enhanced global cooperation to address these pressing issues.

Speaking to Global Health interns from the University of Milan who called on her and participating in the Islamabad Residency Program 2025, Romina Alam praised their curiosity and dedication. She described their commitment as essential for fostering international collaboration in the fight against climate and health crises.

"The passion and commitment I witnessed today from these young researchers embody the spirit of global solidarity we urgently require in the face of climate and development challenges," Alam said, highlighting the sig-



nificance of cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural cooperation.

The Islamabad Residency Program 2025 offers a critical platform for knowledge exchange, allowing international students to engage directly with Pakistan's policymakers, researchers, and civil society actors. Through this interaction, young professionals gain insight into unique climate vulnerabilities while identifying lessons applicable worldwide.

Alam underlined Pakistan's acute exposure to climate-induced disasters—including catastrophic floods, extreme heatwaves, and prolonged droughts—that intensify public health risks and

strain development efforts.

She outlined the government's proactive response under Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's leadership, focusing on nature-based solutions, renewable energy promotion, and adaptive resilience measures.

She expressed Pakistan's openness to international research partnerships that strengthen resilience-building initiatives and support evidence-based policymaking, reinforcing the country's commitment to global climate frameworks such as the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals.

Romina Alam stressed that adaptation and resilience strategies must prioritize local communities, ensuring that climate action delivers tangible benefits on the ground.

The visiting interns also conducted an in-depth interview with Alam for the University of Milan's official academic journal, highlighting Pakistan's climate priorities and the pivotal role of global partnerships

KABUL (Pajhwok): Kabul will host trilateral talks with Pakistan and Afghanistan and China tomorrow to discuss counterterrorism cooperation, connectivity, peace, development and trade. Afghanistan is hosting the trilateral meeting in Kabul and has invited Chinese and Pakistani Foreign Ministers for talks on the economic and security future of Afghanistan. All issues and subjects related to Afghanistan's peace, security, and development would come under discussion.

KABUL (Pajhwok): Afghanistan and Uzbekistan have signed agreements worth \$243 million for four electricity projects. Once completed, these schemes will enable Afghanistan to receive between 800 and 1,000 megawatts of power from Uzbekistan. The agreements include the construction of a 500-kilovolt transmission line stretching 210 kilometres, the expansion of the Dasht-i-Khawaja Alwan and Arghandi substations and the extension of a 220-kilovolt transmission line.

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

of Afghanistan, and the defense forces with complete respect and not as an opponent, but as a friend and a good neighbor."

He said that the Islamic Emirate's policy was that it would not join hands with any alliance to undermine another.

Mullah Yaquub said: "We send this message to the countries of the region, neighboring countries, and all the great powers of the world and we say it loudly that whoever has bad intentions towards Afghanistan, they should shun their intentions. Afghanistan has no bad intentions towards you. We want good relations with everyone within the framework of Islamic Sharia. We want good relations with everyone... we want good trade, diplomatic and political relations."

He said that Afghanistan

According to him: "The Russians and Chinese do not think that Afghanistan will do something against us at the behest of the United States or use this land against us and to our detriment, and neither do the Russians and Chinese think that the Americans will use this land here. Come and do business and compete with each other in building dams, roads, and we welcome you in this regard."

He also urged the countrymen to do their best to preserve their independence.

Foreign Minister Maulvi Amir Khan Muttaqi also said in his speech at the meeting that Afghanistan had many achievements and was progressing well.

He said no neighboring or

He added: "We invite you to learn from the history of Afghanistan, this nation cannot be taken captive by anyone; instead of interference and confrontation, pave the way for comprehensive political and economic interaction with us within the framework of principles; this is considered the basis for the security and economic interaction of the countries of the region and the world."

This decree specifies responsibilities of the General Directorate of Emirati Companies, the procedure of establishing Emirati companies, the organization of budget and financial affairs, supervision, and other issues related to these companies.

A group of men, including religious leaders and a soldier, walking in front of a large industrial building. The men are dressed in traditional Islamic attire, with some wearing turbans and long robes. One man in the center is wearing a white thobe and a white turban. They are walking on a dirt path. In the background, there is a large, multi-story industrial building with a blue and white facade. A soldier in camouflage gear is walking on the left side of the group. The sky is overcast.

Figures compiled by Hengaw's Statistics and Documentation Center show that among those executed were at least 30 political and ideological prisoners, as well as 22 women and one child offender — a person sentenced for a crime committed as a

Independence Day has long been considered one of Afghanistan's most symbolic national holidays, honoring the country's identity as a sovereign state

Religious scholars in Afghanistan and abroad have called the Taliban ban inconsistent with Islamic teachings, but they have not changed its stance.

authority of our country's foreign policy, which was taken away by the British at that time, to the Afghans." The statement said this victory was achieved as a result of the sacrifices and struggles of the Afghan Mujahideen, something the Afghan people were still proud of. After this victory, the statement said, the Afghans achieved successive victories on two other major fronts (against the Soviet Union and then the American occupation), which, thank God, became a great chapter of courage

The Islamic Emirate said now was the time for the Afghan youth and future generations to follow in the footsteps of their ancestors and always stand with the strongest will and determi-

gratitude and obedience to Allah Almighty from us, and we must strictly adhere to the holy Sharia and regard every victory as the favor and help of Allah Almighty.”

Gulbadin Nabi also congratulated all countrymen on the 106th anniversary of regaining the country's independence.

The ministry's spokesperson, Mohammad Kamal Afghan, said: "We are only waiting for assurance from the governors that the cases of returnees have been cleared and the first-level forms that were distributed have been completed. Once this is confirmed, we will immediately issue the second forms and complete the

Qiyamuddin added: "We have no place to stay. Right now, some of my family members are out looking for a place. If we had found a house, we would have gone directly there. We spent several days near the border, then went to the Ansar camp, but they told us it was only for Herat residents."

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show that among those executed were at least 30 political and ideological prisoners, as well as 22 women and one child offender — a person sentenced for a crime committed as a

Hengaw described the scale of executions as “alarming,” calling on democratic governments, international organizations, and human rights defenders to take stronger action

Founded in 2016, Hengaw has developed a reputation as one of the most reliable sources for tracking executions, arbitrary arrests, and crackdowns on ethnic minorities inside Iran.

Well-coordinated rescue, relief operation in flood-hit areas carried out: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar said on Tuesday that rescue and relief operation in areas affected by urban flooding was being carried out in a well coordinated manner by the federal and provincial governments, National Disaster Management Authority, Armed Forces and other concerned departments.

This he said while addressing a press conference along with Director General Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry and Director General National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Lt Gen Inam Haider.

He said the PM had categorically stated that it was a national catastrophe and all governments and departments will work collectively to overcome this tragedy.

He said that NDMA

was providing all necessary information to provincial governments and concerned institutions in real time in a well coordinated manner.

He said that in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, districts of Buner, Shangla, Bajaur and Swat power distribution system was disrupted.

He said on the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Federal Minister for Power Sardar Awais Leghari was present in flood affected area to personally supervise the entire restoration process.

Similarly, he said Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Engineer Amir Muqam was in Bajaur whereas Minister for Communications Aleem Khan was supervising the restoration of the communication system in Gilgit.

Giving details of power system disruption, he 35 feeders were affected in

Swat, out of which 25 have been restored, in Buner, nine feeders were affected out of which three have been restored and work was underway on remaining six feeders. Tarar said till now about 70 per cent of electricity has been restored in the affected calamity-hit areas.

He said it was ensured that major hospitals in affected areas should get uninterrupted power supply.

About road infrastructure, he said Malakand-Besham Road has been restored and Khazakhaila-Besham Highway (N-90) has been opened in Malakand Division.

He said that Armed Forces and the federal government were making all out efforts to restore Astore bridge to reopen Jaglot-Skardu Road.

Regarding relief goods, he said that about 1200 tents have been sent to calamity-hit areas.

He said a special team of doctors has been sent from Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences for treatment of injured.

He besides generators, dewatering pumps more medicines and tents have been sent.

Moreover, over five hundred medical camps have been established and 40 tons of ration packs have been sent to urban floods victims.

In the coming few days, early warning system has predicted more rains in the Azad Jammu and Kashmir and its government has also been informed about the situation.

The Prime Minister has given special instructions that all federal institutions should play proactive role in the restoration of provincial roads.

The minister said that in difficult times, the nation should unite and play its role in reducing difficulties of the affected families.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari presented a souvenir to the outgoing Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Pakistan, Mr. Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Alzaabi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

ATC rejects Aliya Hamza's bail plea

Grants relief to Salman Akram Raja, Swati

E.P. Report

RAWALPINDI : The Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) in Rawalpindi has rejected the interim bail of PTI Punjab's Chief Organizer, Aliya Hamza, while it extended the bail for Salman Akram Raja and Azam Swati. ATC Judge Amjad Ali Shah presided over the hearing, which focused on cases related to the protests held in October and on November 26.

The court cancelled Aliya Hamza's interim bail

due to her repeated absenteeism and failure to comply with court procedures.

The prosecutor, Syed Zaheer Shah, argued that the accused were deliberately attempting to influence the investigative process; noting that Hamza had previously had her bail cancelled and then successfully obtained it again. Agreeing with the prosecutor's assessment, the court revoked Hamza's bail.

On the other hand, Azam Swati's lawyer petitioned for exemption from

appearing in court, citing Swati's presence at the Peshawar High Court. The court accepted this request and extended his interim bail until August 27. Meanwhile, PTI Secretary General Salman Akram Raja appeared before the court as required, and as a result, his interim bail was extended until September 3.

Earlier, An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Tuesday sentenced four Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers to imprison-

ment in connection with the November 26 protest case.

ATC Judge Amjad Ali Shah announced the verdict after hearing arguments from prosecutor Zaheer Shah and the defence lawyers.

The court handed down four-month jail terms each to PTI workers Amir Khan, Sardar Khan, Khan Muhammad, and Javed Iqbal under charges of arson and vandalism registered at Attock's Hanjra police station.

Pakistan buries Indian narrative

Continued from Front Page

The DPM/FM, to a query, said that no one should tell Pakistan to hold talks on terrorism, as they were 'the biggest victim of terrorism, Pakistan had fought the global war of terrorism, on the front foot and sacrificed 90,000 lives besides suffering colossal losses to the tune of \$192 billion in that war, he said, stressing that the world had to recognize these sacrifices, Pakistan had rendered huge sacrifices.

He said during the year 2014, terrorism had been completely eliminated from the country during former premier Nawaz Sharif's tenure.

About their official visits to various countries, he said their efforts were aimed at projecting Pakistan's candid stance on various issues including scourge of terrorism.

He opined that due to these efforts, the US had proscribed BLA and Majeed Brigade as international terrorist outfits who had been involved in different terrorism incidents including train hijacking in Balochistan. Dar also advised the Pakistani diaspora not to indulge in petty politics on different national issues.

"After Indian aggression, we adopted unanimous resolution in the parliament condemning it strongly which also gave a message to the world about unity of the nation," he added.

The DPM/FM further underlined the need that nation should move in unison to take the country on track of progress.

To a question, he said it was unfortunate, PIA had been earning billions of rupees revenue when it was grounded, and it took years to revive the national flag carrier.

He welcomed the EU's decision to lift ban on PIA in November 2024 and said the UK also followed the suit. PIA authorities were in negotiation with the UK authorities to resume flights to Manchester in September under a tentative programme which could be later expanded to London.

Dar also termed his bilateral and trilateral meetings with the UK counterparts and authorities very productive in which all spectrum of the bilateral ties were discussed including the Kashmir dispute and climate change etc.

PM reiterates commitment for polio-free Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday reaffirmed that the government's health sector team, polio workers, and all relevant institutions were determined to completely eradicate polio from the country.

The prime minister, in a meeting with a delegation of Rotary International Foundation, led by President Francesco Arezzo here, thanked the organisation for its full cooperation, like other international organizations, in eliminating this deadly disease from Pakistan.

He said that despite challenges, the government was resolved to secure the

future of Pakistan's children through its unwavering commitment and hard work.

There are difficulties in eradicating polio, but it is not impossible. The key role of polio workers in polio campaigns is commendable, he remarked.

The members of the delegation praised the government's polio eradication efforts and expressed hope that, with Prime Minister Shehbaz's special focus and leadership, Pakistan would soon be able to eliminate this deadly disease.

Reaffirming Rotary International's commitment to continue supporting the government in its polio

eradication efforts, they said that the organisation spent \$500 million on polio eradication in Pakistan last year and intended to allocate a substantial amount for this purpose this year as well.

The delegation also appreciated the selection of the polio eradication team by the prime minister and the measures taken by that team.

The meeting was attended by Federal Health Minister Syed Mustafa Kamal, the Prime Minister's Special Representative for Polio Eradication Ayesha Raza Farooq, and relevant senior officials.

Trump says Putin may not want to make a deal on Ukraine

WASHINGTON/LONDON/KYIV (Reuters): U.S. President Donald Trump said on Tuesday he hoped Russia's Vladimir Putin would move forward on ending the war in Ukraine but conceded that the Kremlin leader may not want to make a deal at all, adding this would create a "rough situation" for Putin.

In an interview with the Fox News "Fox & Friends" programme, Trump said he believed Putin's course of action would become clear in the next couple of weeks. Trump again ruled out American troops on the ground in Ukraine and

gave no specifics about the security guarantees he has previously said Washington could offer Kyiv under any post-war settlement.

"I don't think it's going to be a problem (reaching a peace deal), to be honest with you, I think Putin is tired of it. I think they're all tired of it, but you never know," Trump said.

"We're going to find out about President Putin in the next couple of weeks ... It's possible that he doesn't want to make a deal," said Trump, who has previously threatened more sanctions on Russia and nations that

buy its oil if Putin does not make peace.

Ukraine and its European allies have been buoyed by Trump's promise of security guarantees to help end the war during an extraordinary summit on Monday but face many unanswered questions, including how willing Russia will be to play ball.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy hailed the talks at the White House as a "major step forward" towards ending Europe's deadliest conflict in 80 years and setting up a trilateral meeting with Putin and Trump in the

coming weeks.

Zelenskyy was flanked by the leaders of allies including Germany, France and Britain at the summit. His warm rapport with Trump contrasted sharply with their disastrous Oval Office meeting in February.

But the path to peace remains deeply uncertain and Zelenskyy may be forced to make painful compromises to end the war, which began with Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022. Analysts say more than 1 million people have been killed or wounded in the conflict.

PHC approached for installation of early warning system

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: A writ petition has been filed in the Peshawar High Court (PHC) seeking the installation of an early warning system to mitigate the impact of floods in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The petition names the federal and provincial governments, the meteorological department, and other relevant authorities as respondents.

The petition, filed by Ahmad Mujtaba through his counsel, Muhammad

Hamdan Advocate, highlights the recent cloud bursts, landslides, and floods that have caused significant loss of life and property across the province.

It argues that the lack of an early warning system contributed to the extensive damage and loss of life in districts such as Buner, Swat, Shangla, Bajaur, and Battagram.

The petition emphasizes that under Article 9 of the Constitution, it is the state's responsibility to

protect the life and property of its citizens.

Therefore, the government is urged to take immediate measures to rehabilitate the affected communities and prevent future disasters. The recent floods have resulted in 358 deaths and approximately 200 injuries in various districts of

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. According to government reports, 780 houses have been damaged, and billions of rupees worth of property has been lost.

These incidents have occurred in districts including Swat, Buner, Bajaur, Mansehra, Shangla, Lower Dir, Battagram, and Swabi.

The petition underscores the importance of an early warning system in mitigating the impact of natural disasters. It argues that the lack of coordination between relevant departments and the absence of such a system have exacerbated the suffering of the affected communities.

Heavy rain lashes Karachi, triggers widespread power outages

E.P. Report

KARACHI: Various parts of Karachi experienced heavy rainfall on Tuesday as a weather system bringing rain remains active over different regions of Sindh.

Areas such as Tariq Road, Azizabad, Shahrah-e-Quadeen, Boat Basin, Liaquatabad, Hassan Square, North Nazimabad, SITE Area, Clifton, Defence, Qayyumabad, Shahrah-e-Faisal, Airport, Quidabad, Malir, Landhi, and Korangi witnessed significant downpours.

Rain also fell over

other localities, including Gulistan-e-Jauhar, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Federal B Area, Scheme 33, Safora Chowrangi, Malir Cantt, and surrounding areas, as well as North Karachi, Manghopir, Surjani Town, and Taiser Town. In North Nazimabad and nearby areas, the showers were particularly heavy, accompanied by loud thunder. The heavy rain caused multiple power outages across the city, with several electricity feeders tripping and disrupting supply in affected areas.

The traffic police urged

citizens to exercise caution by avoiding sudden braking, driving at a slow speed, and keeping a safe distance from other vehicles on the road.

According to the Pakistan Meteorological Department, the current weather pattern is expected to bring further rain across the country, particularly in upper regions. Heavy rainfall is forecast in Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, Murree, and Galiyat over the next 24 hours.

Additionally, cities such as Quetta, Zhob, Kalat, Lahore, Attock, Rawalpindi, Islamabad,

Peshawar, Nowshera, Tharparkar, Umerkot, Mithi, and Thatta are also likely to experience intense rain.

Authorities have warned that low-lying areas in these regions may face water accumulation due to the downpours.

Sindh Chief Secretary Asif Haider Shah has instructed the district administration, PDMA, health department, and Rescue 1122 to stay on high alert. He also ordered the prompt drainage of rainwater and directed authorities to stay in close coordination with the PMD and PDMA.

Army rescues 6,903, treats 6,304 in flood-hit regions

Continued from Front Page

Infrastructure restoration is also underway. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 90 roads were damaged, with 110 critical repair points identified. Nine roads have been fully restored, and partial repairs completed at 86 locations. Jaw Bridge repair is 40 percent complete and expected to reopen within days. The Karakoram Highway, previously blocked at eight points, has been fully cleared. Restoration work

continues at Astore bridges and along the Jaglot-Skardu Road.

In Gilgit-Baltistan, the Engineering Brigade has repaired multiple bridges and is working to reopen roads in Shangla and Buner. The Signal Unit, in coordination with P a k i s t a n Telecommunication Corporation Limited (PTCL), has restored 16 BTS towers to support emergency communications.

Three Army medical units are operating nine medical camps in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan, having treated over 6,300 patients. Urban search and rescue teams are active in Buner, supported by two medical battalions.

Medical teams from Combined Military Hospital and Military Hospital have also been deployed to provide continuous care in Buner, Shangla, and Swat.