Gohar thanks Army, govt F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar said Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has been severely affected by the recent floods, with many areas still facing hardships, and expressed gratitude to the Pakistan Army and the government for their assistance. Speaking to media, Barrister Gohar acknowledged the efforts of the Army, provincial and federal governments in supporting flood victims.

Frontier Post

By-polls to be held on Oct 5 F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: By-elections on two National and one provincial assembly constituencies which fell vacant following the disqualification of certain PTI backed 2025. The seats NA 143 Sahiwal, III, NA 185 DG Khan and PP 203 Sahiwal VI, have been fallen vacant due to disqualification of Rai Hassan Nawaz, Zartaj Gul, MNAs and Rai Murtaza Iqbal, MPA.

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BUNER: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif distributing relief cheques among victims of the recent torrential

Islamabad, Beijing and Kabul vow to fight terror

KABUL (APP): Pakistan, China and recent elevation of diplomatic representa-Afghanistan on Wednesday expressed tion from Chargé d'Affaires to their commitment to strengthen joint Ambassadorial level, a step that had been efforts against terrorism. The Sixth agreed upon during the Trilateral Meeting Trilateral Foreign Ministers Dialogue was in Beijing on May 21 this year. held in Kabul between Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister of Pakistan Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Foreign Minister of China Wang Yi, and Acting Foreign Minister of Afghanistan Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi, focusing on political, eco- actions have either been implemented or nomic and security cooperation, Foreign are nearing completion. Office Spokesperson said in a press state-

They also reaffirmed their commitment to deepening collaboration in trade, transit, culture, and combating drug trafficking, as Corridor (CPEC) Economic

cooperation in the field of security, partic-

Dar and Afghanistan's Acting Foreign not be used by any terrorist group against Minister Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi on Pakistan or other nations. Concluding the

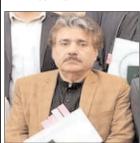
Reflecting on recent engagements, including Mr. Dar's visits to Kabul on April 19 and July 17, as well as the Beijing meeting on May 21, they acknowledged that most of the decisions from these inter-

The ministers appreciated that these measures have strengthened Pakistan-Afghanistan relations, especially in the fields of trade and transit. Mr. Dar recogregional development, health, education, nized the encouraging progress in political and commercial ties but emphasized that well as, extension of China Pakistan advancements in the security domain conto tinue to lag behind.

Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, Pakistan and Afghanistan
have expressed satisfaction over the posi
Meanwhile, Pakistan and Afghanistan
have expressed satisfaction over the posi
Minister underscored that the attacks were tive trajectory in their bilateral relations, carried out by groups operating from while underlining the need to intensify Afghan territory. He urged Kabul to take verifiable action against entities such as the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and The understanding was reached during the Balochistan Liberation Army Majeed a meeting between Deputy Prime Minister Brigade. Mr. Muttaqi reaffirmed and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Afghanistan's pledge that its soil would the sidelines of the 6th Trilateral Meeting meeting, Mr. Dar thanked the Afghan of the Foreign Ministers of Pakistan, authorities for their warm hospitality and China, and Afghanistan in Kabul on Congratulated them on successfully host-wednesday. Both leaders welcomed the ing the 6th Trilateral Dialogue.

Imran posted as DG Info and PR



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has posted Muhammad Imran of Information Department as Director General Information and Relation, Public Wednesday.

In this regard a notification has been issued stated that the order has been made in pursuance of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Services Tribunal Order dated 31st July Meanwhile, Muhammad Ansar has been posted as Press Registrar after relinfrom Director quished General Information and Public Relation

Chinese FM arrives F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi arrived here Wednesday on three-day official visit to Pakistan, aimed at strengthening bilateral ties and participating in high-level diplomatic engagements.

He was warmly received at Noor Khan Airbase by Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar. Senior officials from Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as top diplomats from the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad were also present to welcome the distinguished guest, a DPM's Office news release said.

Shehbaz assures all possible measures to accelerate recovery efforts in flood-hit areas ty with utmost devotion and to spare engaged in relief activities in KP. no effort in alleviating the hardships Additionally, the prime minister BUNER: Prime Minister Muhammad of flood-stricken families. He under- announced seven days of free elec-Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday visited scored that the safety and relief of fel-tricity for those affected and directed the flood-affected districts of Swat, low citizens remain the foremost pri- immediate repairs of damaged road Buner, Shangla, and Swabi, where he ority, commending the forces and infrastructure. emphasized that every available civil administration for their untiring Highlightin national resource will be mobilized to service.

PM, COAS gets

briefing on relief,

rescue operations

ticipants also offered Fateha for those who lost their lives in this catostrophe. Later, the prime minister disbursed relief cheques among the vic- urgent need to discourage such contims of the recent torrential rains and struction and called for the developfloods. Addressing the participants, Office said. The prime minister and the prime minister expressed deep COAS received a comprehensive sorrow over the destruction caused by briefing on the ongoing rescue and recent cloudbursts and heavy rains in relief operations in Khyber various parts of the country, and said Pakhtunkhwa. During their interaction with flood victims, the prime resulted in loss of many lives and that these natural calamities had minister assured them of the Federal properties. The prime minister mentioned that

incidents of cloudbursts occurred in Swat, Buner, Shangla, and Swabi. In hour. The prime minister, while appreciating the tireless dedication of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) alone, around 350 people were martyred and hundreds of others sustained injuries, tration, reaffirmed solidarity with the he said, adding that overall more than flood-affected population and assured 700 people lost their lives due to rains em of all possible assistance. and floods across the country. should be no politics in times of such Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Recalling the 2022 floods, he noted national crisis. He appreciated the also drew attention towards the ille- that hundreds of thousands of acres of gal encroachments, timber mafia and crops were destroyed and countless mining / crushing activities, especialhomes were washed away in Sindh. ly in waterways which contribute At that time, the federal government greatly towards loss of lives and damannounced Rs 100 billion in aid to ages. He directed that Pakistan must support the victims and rebuild the act as a hard state where no one is affected areas.

He emphasized that today, with the taken against defaulters without dissupport of all stakeholders, the government was fully committed to fac-The COAS also interacted with ing this new challenge. He said that troops, police and civil administration he had issued clear instructions that personnel involved in rescue efforts, roads and infrastructure must be ed out that deforestation also conlauding their selfless commitment in repaired regardless of whether they tributes to cloudbursts and emphaassisting victims of floods and torren- fall under provincial or federal juris- sized the importance of preserving tial rains. COAS directed ground for- diction. The prime minister said that forests to mitigate the impact of mations to approach this responsibilithe federal ministers were currently future natural disasters.

Highlighting the root causes of such destruction, the prime minister Earlier, the prime minister and parpointed out that hotels and houses were often constructed on natural waterways, which worsened the impact of floods. He stressed the ment of policies and laws to prevent building on illegal land, especially along water channels, to avoid future

disasters. He stated that while the government was already engaged in the fight against terrorists and Khawarij in KP, this natural disaster had added another layer of challenge. However, he emphasized that all stakeholders, including the government, armed forces, and civil society were working together to aid in the relief and recovery efforts.

He reiterated that Pakistan is one home with four units and there national crisis. He appreciated the efforts of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin, and the armed forces who were working diligently to assist in relief operations. He also acknowledged the support of Field Marshal Asim Munir, under whose cooperation the government was striving to stabilize the country's economy. The prime minister said that Pakistan was among the 10 worst-affected countries by the impacts of climate change. He point-

PAF launches flood relief operation in GB

Air Force has launched a coordination with National large-scale flood relief Disaster bles and life-saving medi-cines from PAF Base Nur disaster-hit areas. Khan to Gilgit.

The consignment will

be distributed in remote the nationwide emer-ISLAMABAD: Pakistan flood-affected valleys in gency relief campaign underscoring Management Armed Forces' continued operation in Gilgit- Authority, ensuring that commitment to safe-Baltistan. Demonstrating essential supplies reach guarding lives during natunwavering resolve amidst distressed families cut off ural calamities. Over the difficult weather condi- due to damaged communi- coming days, PAF aircraft tions and rugged moun- cation lines. In a simulta- and ground teams will tainous terrain, PAF C-130 neous humanitarian effort, remain engaged in sus aircraft airlifted 7 tons of 75 stranded individuals tained relief operations dry rations, daily use eata- were also evacuated by delivering food, medi cines, shelter and medical aid to vulnerable commu-

Rescuer dead while deaths reached to 291 in Buner patorak Katlang Mardan for burial demaded.

accelerate recovery efforts and restore normalcy in the affected

The prime minister was accompa-

nied by the federal ministers and

Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, a

press statement issued by the PM

Government's and Pakistan Army's

unwavering commitment to extend-

ing maximum support in this critical

the Armed Forces and civil adminis-

above law and necessary actions be

them of all possible assistance.

BUNER: One rescuer of Tehsil Municipal Administration (TMA) serving as driver dead in road mishap during relief operations in Buner, on Wednesday. The death tools rised to 291 on the 6th day, out of them 231 dually crossed verified by the concerned authorities for payment of the tehsel. announced compensation cheques.

The relief flood operations are speedily continued at the worst affected tehsel Gadezai Daggar and Chaghorzai. TMA katlang district Mardan deceased identified as Ayaz (Gadezai Buner on in tehsel Wednesday.

The dead body was shifted immediately to THQ hospital Pacha schools roads bridges alarming while Kalay,TMO Gadezai losses to standing crops and fertility of

under the supervision of TMO katlang and TMO Gadezai.

Its, pertinent, to mention here that the flood hit families have claimed their numbers of members are still missing. As per information received late evening a male dead body recovered at Gunbat area of Chaghorzai

The rescue operations are underway and large numbers of state and donors agencies are actively involved in the rescue activities. Food non food items are being supplied by state and donors besides individuals.Heavy driver on daily wager basis) S/O Sher amounts are also distributed among Bahadur embraced martyedom due to affected families daily by donors and front loader accident on Pir Baba road individuals while CM KPK and PM

Meanwhile, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Zia-ur-Rehman and District Police Officer (DPO) Muhammad Ayaz visited Shamlai to review the ongoing search and rescue operation in Mohallah Cheena, Dheri Haleem, situated on the border of Battagram and Mansehra districts.

According to officials, the operation is being carried out under the supervision of the District Administration Battagram and is led by Additional Assistant Commissioner Habibullah and Tehsildar Saeed Ahmed. Teams from the revenue department, Rescue 1122, police, forest department, TMA Battagram, and local volunteers are actively particiannounced compensation cheques are pating. Rescue teams recovered anothalso handing over them. The numbers of damaged houses markets shops bringing the death toll to 18. The officials on-site praised the tireless efforts of the district administration, police, beyond revenue staff, TMA, and other rescue teams who have been engaged in the

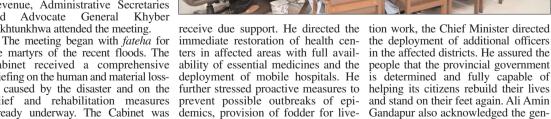
confirerned. After fulfilling the medicolegal process the dead body transported to his native village donors in the rehabilitation, public operation since Friday morning. This swift and coordinities. KP cabinet directs special cleanliness drive in flood-affected areas

PESHAWAR: The 37th meeting of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Cabinet was held here on Wednesday, with Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur in the chair. Cabinet members, Additional Chief Secretaries, Senior Member Board of Revenue, Administrative Secretaries and Advocate General Khyber Pakhtunkhwa attended the meeting.

the martyrs of the recent floods. The Cabinet received a comprehensive briefing on the human and material losses caused by the disaster and on the relief and rehabilitation measures already underway. The Cabinet was informed that first phase of the rescue operation has been successfully completed, while the search for missing persons continues.

Gandapur paid glowing tribute to the district administration, Rescue 1122, and all concerned departments and institutions for their timely, courageous, and effective response. He stated that their tireless efforts in saving precious lives during the floods were commendable and deserved the highest appreciation.

He assured the families of martyrs and the injured that compensation payments are being disbursed and reaffirmed his government's strong commitment that no victim will be left behind, and every affected person will



stock, and necessary steps to protect animals from diseases. The Chief Minister also ordered the launch of a special cleanliness cam-Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan paign in all flood-affected areas, the urgent restoration of drinking water schemes such as tube wells, and the speedy rehabilitation of road connectivity. He stated that data on property damages is being collected, and the provincial government will ensure that those whose houses have been destroyed will be provided with new homes. He further announced that compensation would

> would be supported with a comprehensive package To accelerate relief and rehabilita-

> also cover livestock losses, while busi-

ness owners who suffered damages

the deployment of additional officers in the affected districts. He assured the people that the provincial government is determined and fully capable of helping its citizens rebuild their lives and stand on their feet again. Ali Amin Gandapur also acknowledged the generosity of people who are approaching the government to support the victims. For this purpose, he announced the opening of a special account to ensure that all public donations are delivered to the rightful beneficiaries with complete transparency.

The Chief Minister said that, in addition to the already allocated Rs. 3 billion, another Rs. 2 billion has been released to strengthen ongoing relief and rehabilitation efforts in the floodaffected areas. Briefing the Cabinet Additional Chief Secretary Home and Tribal Affairs, Abid Majid, said that rescue operations in flood affected districts updated the cabinet about the death toll, which all kind of data in the affected intra-sectoral re-appropriation of funds flood-affected family

restoration of damaged infrastructure and assistance being provided to the flood affectees.

While sharing the data of each affected district Abid Majid informed data pertaining to death toll, missing persons, damaged infrastructure, shops, houses, crops and cattle is being collected adding that once the losses in Bajaur, Dir, Buner, Batagram, Mansehra, Swabi, Shangla and Abbottabad are assessed, will be tabled before the cabinet. He informed that concerned departments have been directed to expedite data collection so that affectees could be compensated swiftly.

He also apprised the cabinet that PESCO and other departments engaged in flood affected areas were also using provincial government's machinery. Urging the cellular companies to ensure maximum coverage in the flood affected areas, Abid Majid informed that 65% coverage has been restored in the area however, the dwellers need hundred percent restoration so that they can get connected with their nears and dears. Abid Majid briefed the cabinet about food and non-food supplies being distributed amongst the flood affecttees, adding that aerial survey for damages assessment was also in progress. Abid Majid on the occasion informed that plan- and near-completion projects across were in progress and senior government ning and development department has the province to ensure fast completion. officers were present on the spots. He come up with an application through

KP CM launches monsoon tree plantation campaign

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, formally launched the National Monsoon Tree Plantation Campaign 2025 in the province on Wednesday by planting a sapling at the awn of the Civil Secretariat, Peshawar. The coordinated nationwide plantaion drive will continue from August to October, with weekly themes lesigned to promote maximum participation. As part of this campaign, extensive plantation activities have also been scheduled across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during the last week of August.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister emphasized that tree planation is not only a national obligation but also the dire need of the hour. He said the provincial government is undertaking integrated measures for forest conservation and expansion in line with the vision of Imran Khan. Highlighting the remarkable success of the Billion Tree Project, he noted that the incumbent provincial government is now carrying forward this legaey through the Billion Tree Plus Project, under which large-scale plantation s being carried out across the province.

areas can be accessed by anyone any- to facilitate smooth financial manage-

Responding to the urgent needs of various departments and the pressing requirement for rehabilitation of infrastructure damaged by the recent floods, the Provincial Cabinet approved a supplementary grant of Rs. 20 billion. The funds will be utilized for fast-moving The Cabinet also granted approval for

ment and efficient utilization of

The Cabinet sanctioned financial assistance for victims of the recent floods, approving Rs. 2.00 million for each deceased and Rs. 0.50 million for each injured. Furthermore, the Cabinet approved the release of Rs. 1.00 billion (initially) to PDMA for the launch of a "Food Stamp" initiative under which Rs. 15,000 will be provided to each



Turning personal grievances into politics is Sattar's habit: Sharjeel

Senior Minister Sharjeel remained in power for a ural disaster. Inam Memon said that long time, and even Farooq Sattar's real today the people of said that Karachi is, and complaint is with the Karachi are facing the will always remain, the Prime Minister, but he is consequences of corrup- heart of Sindh, and any directing his anger tion, fake appointments, narrative of separating toward the Sindh gov- and the destruction of the city from the

He stated that turning called city government.
ersonal grievances into

He said the Sindh personal grievances into a political agenda has government his desperation.

leader Farooq Sattar's

said that the MQM continues to play poli-Sindh should not forget it tics even in times of nat-

long been a habit of achieved what the MQM Farooq Sattar. He added could not accomplish in that blaming seventeen its forty-year history. Karachi, years of corruption and After the heavy rain, People's using yesterday's rain as major areas of the city the K-4 an excuse only reflects returned to normal with- major in a few hours, which improvements Reacting to MQM left the MQM unsettled. prominent examples.

He added that rescue Transit Rain is a natural phe- baseless allegations.

Sharjeel Inam Memon institutions during its so- province will never succeed.

> has government has completed projects worth billions of rupees for with the People's Bus Service, project, and infrastructure

He added that Farooq statement, Sindh Senior and relief efforts are Sattar should account Minister and Provincial being carried out in col- for his party's perform-Minister for laboration with the ance over the last forty Information, Transport, NDMA and PDMA, years instead of making

Citizens' complaints continue at Governor House

KARACHI (PPI): On the directives of Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori, the rain emergency cell set up at Governor House today continued receiving a large number of complaints from citizens, with thousands already registered regarding problems caused by recent rains.

According to reports, residents informed the emergency cell about delays in drainage of rainwater, prolonged power outages, overflowing sewers, and blockages in stormwater drains.

Several areas reported that accumulated rainwater damaged houses and shops, while major roads remained clogged with traffic jams for hours.

Following the Governor's instructions, relevant authorities are being directed to resolve these issues immediately. Complaints received at the emergency cell are directly forwarded to deputy commissioners, the Water Board, K-Electric, and other concerned departments to ensure timely relief for the

Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori stressed that citizens are not alone in this difficult time and assured them that the doors of Governor House remain open at all times for the resolution of their problems. He urged residents to directly contact the helpline in case of any complaint or emergency so that prompt action could be

PSCA launches online e-challan review feature

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) has introduced a new online feature aimed at simplifying the process for correcting erroneous electronic traffic challans (e-challans).

The authority said in a statement issued on website echallan.psca.gop.pk,

where a dedicated e-challan review option has been made available. The new feature allows users to view their challans,

submit review requests, and upload images or evidence to support their claims. Once submitted, the PSCA team will verify the information on-site and cancel the challan if the mistake is confirmed.

"There is no longer any need for citizens to send emails for e-challan corrections," a PSCA spokesperson said. The spokesperson added that e-challans for traffic violations are now being sent via SMS and WhatsApp to the mobile numbers registered with the Excise and Department.

No. 9(25)

ISSI hosts public address on ECO, regionalism, and geopolitical shifts

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah talks to the media during his visit to the nursery.



Sohail

forward.

Public

Ambassador

development.

enduring role as a found-

ing member of ECO, trac-

ing its origins from the RCD in 1964—Asia's first

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Strategic Perspectives U.S.-mediated efforts at (CSP) at the Institute of reconciliation Strategic Studies Azerbaijan and Armenia pants including academics, Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation lined three priorities for the

the Guest Speaker. Director General ISSI connect markets and peo-Sohail ple; strengthening energy Ambassador Mahmood noted that the cooperation to balance current global environment was marked by turbulence transition; and advancing and transformation in digital connectivity to petition was accentuating innovation. In an era where and globalisation and multilateralism were under under strain, he emphasevere stress. Regionalism, however, was not as challenged, except for in regions like South Asia. If EČO could provide a successful model of regional cooperation then there could be a good demonstration effort for the South

Asian region. Sohail reflected on Pakistan's Ambassador Mahmood noted the timeliness of the ISSI event as Secretary General Asad Majeed had just returned from the 17th ECO regional Summit in Khankendi, organization—to Azerbaijan (3-4 July 2025). He highlighted the symbolism of Karabakh a region once defined by conflict - hosting a summit of transformation and

hope. At the gathering, ECO members pledged to expand trade, enhance transport and digital corridors, deepen energy cooperation, and build climate resilience. While intraregional trade rose to USD 96.5 billion in 2022 from USD 76 billion in 2021, it still accounts for only 9.1% of the region's total trade—signaling untapped

opportunities. He also noted persistent challenges, including border conflicts, terrorism, sanctions, and regional disputes. Sanctions on certain member states have further restricted economic prospects, while tensions between Pakistan and India pose a challenge to regional stability and wider regional connectivity. The Israel-Iran conflict of 2025 has also disrupted critical trade and energy routes, underscoring the fragility of regional inte-

Ambassador

Mahmood expansion in 1985 with the inclusion of Central Asian expressed cautious optistates, Azerbaijan, and Afghanistan.

between

natural basis for coopera-Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a may open new trade and tion through shared cultur-Public Address on "ECO, energy corridors in the al, religious, and economic resilience—rather than Wednesday, citizens who receive incorrect e-challans can now file complaints through the PSCA received in the received incorrect e-challans can now file complaints through the PSCA received in the received opportunity and responsi- ECO's relevance, and its high vulnerability to think-tank experts, and bility for Pakistan, given efforts are underway to climate impacts, can play a practitioners. Ambassador its role as a natural conduit address challenges related catalytic role in shaping Dr. Asad Majeed Khan, linking Central Asia with to the ECO Trade such Agreement (ECOTA) and the Arabian Sea. He under-Visa Scheme. Organization (ECO), was advancing regional inte- Disparities in infrastrucgration: investing in ture, historic trade pat-In his welcome remarks, resilient infrastructure to terns, and geopolitical ten- ly. sions exacerbated further challenges, but Organization is working security with clean energy actively address them.

He highlighted ECO's

Ambassador which major-power com- empower youth and foster climate change is an existential threat, with floods, global multilateralism is undermining developsized, ECO's regional ment across ECO states, potential offers a vital path calling for greater coop-In his wide-ranging energy, adaptation, and reflected the diversity of Address, water management. Yet, perspectives on how ECO Asad M. he acknowledged Khan shared a comprehen- progress in energy consive overview of ECO evonectivity projects and century. tourism promotion, while lution and its institutional He also underscoring the need for

> ernment-led efforts. Reflecting on the 17th Summit development Khankendi, he described it

engagement beyond gov-

renewed commitments to connectivity, trade facilitation, and sustainable development. With stronger political will, institutional reform, and regional solidarity, he expressed optimism that ECO could fulfill its founding vision and emerge as a meaningful platform for prosperity in

the region. Ambassador Inam-ul-Haq, Former Foreign Minister of Pakistan, highlighted ECO's continued potential as a vehicle for regional integration, noting that its strength lies in fostering multilateral economic and developmental cooperation among member states. He emphasized the need to move beyond national-level approaches, particularly on pressing challenges like climate change, energy insecurity, and sustainable development, by adopting coordinated regional strategies.

Developing countries, he observed, can benefit greatly from enhanced South-South cooperation—pooling resources, sharing expertise, and jointly responses, helping ECO

harness its collective

strengths to address shared

challenges more effective-

The session concluded with an interactive discussion where participants explored a wide range of Asad issues: diplomatic engage-Majeed Khan warned that ment, regional trade, energy cooperation, the role of information technology droughts, and water stress and education, youth engagement and empowerment, and emerging nontraditional security chaleration in renewable lenges. The dialogue can be revitalized to meet the demands of the 21st

Ambassador Mahmood, Chairman ISSI, deeper private sector concluded discussion with a vote of thanks, commending the valuable contributions of the speakers and participants, and presented the Institute's memento to the its as a defining moment that Guest Speaker.

Sindh launches free E-bike scheme for 10,000 women in industrial sector

By Murad Waheed

has launched a provincewide initiative to distribute 10,000 electric motorcycles—entirely many women industrial free of cost—to female workers may lack driving tive is being acknowlindustrial workers across licenses, WWBS has edged as a flagship wel-

address the ongoing Successful applicants ly ahead of other transportation difficulties will have 60 calendar provinces in terms of encountered by women in days from the date of balthe industrial sector, rep- loting to secure a valid resenting a major step motorcycle forward in social inclu- license. If licensing had sion, while also acting as been a requirement, thou-tive. It is a provincean environmentally sus- sands of otherwise eligitainable and economical- ble women could have ly strategic approach.

enabler for women's regulations. engagement in the workaccess, not just trans- at the application stage, Labour

and Access

The program targets tions. women aged 20 to 45 who are employed in registered industrial establishments and are regis- advantages, the program tered under EOBI or is also recognized for its set aside for minorities, effects and economic exemplifying commitment to inclusion promoting across gender and reli- zero-emission gious boundaries.

that women selected emissions and the daily through a digital ballot commuting costs faced will receive the motorcy- by industrial women cles in transparent phases workers—many of whom observed by the media, spend a significant part uine, sustainable impact, ensuring full accountabil- of their income on not mere symbolism. It is ity, no discretion, and unsafe or unreliable equity at the district transport. level.

Expanding the Inclusion Net

Acknowledging that

been excluded.

compliant with regula-

Environmental &

Economic Impact Beyond its social inclusive governance. low-cost, entails. transous boundaries. portation, the initiative empowering our working Officials confirmed reduces both carbon women with safety, inde-

This is a green invest- purpose.

retain the motorcycle for women. It decreases 'n what is considered at least 7 years, as trans- dependency, improves one of the most ambitious and equity-driven public sector projects is prohibited, a policy broader sustainability in Pakistan's recent histo-ry, the Workers Welfare long-term welfare goals Board Sindh (WWBS) of the scheme. Sindh Leading the Charge Within labour discus

sions, policy forums, and women's rights organizations, the WWBS initiaedged as a flagship welindh. included a grace period fare achievement—posi-This initiative seeks to in the distribution plan. tioning Sindh significanttioning Sindh significantahead of other women-focused, formance-driven deliv is not a pilot initia-

wide, scaled, and funded program with built-in safeguards and systems This is more than a This grace period from the beginning. welfare initiative—it ensures fairness while Sindh's performance in serves as a structural upholding safety and road this domain will exceed all others-and justifiengagement in the work- The driving license ably so. Taking personal force, cost efficiency, and will be necessary at the ownership of the initiadignity in mobility, it is time of final delivery, not tive, Sindh Minister for Human ortation. making the program Resources, Shahid Abdul Empowerment, Equity, inclusively phased yet Salam Thahim, credited the program to the vision Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, describ-

Under the leadership of Chairman Bilawal SESSI. A 20% quota is beneficial environmental Bhutto Zardari, Sindh is what reinforcing the Board's savings for women. By accountable leadership

ing it as a hallmark of

The program is about pendence, and opportunities-it embodies our government's commitment to delivering gena matter of pride that Sindh is leading with

Kalam Bibi International Women Institute, Bannu Bannu Township Bannu, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ph # 0928-633885, URL: www.kiwi.edu.pk

A Federal Chartered DAI

Applications are invited for the following faculty positions in Kalam Bibi International Women Institute Bannu (A Federal Chartered Public Sector Degree

Awarding Institute) on Contract/fix pay basis, as per approved PC-1.		
S. No.	Name of Post	Minimum Qualifications & Experience
1.	Assistant Professor Nursing	 a. RN, RM with Post RN OR BSN (Sixteen Years of Education from HEC Recognized University/ DAI), with No 3rd Division in academic career, having valid PNC License. b. MSN from HEC recognized University/ DAI (18 Years of Education) with four years of Experience OR PhD with No Experience Required, with No 3rd Division in academic career having valid PNC License (As per HEC Criteria)
2.	Assistant Professor Radiology Technology	BS/B.Sc(Hons) (16 years of education) in Radiology Technology with PhD in the relevant field from HEC recognized University/ Institute with No experience required <u>OR</u> BS/B.Sc(Hons) (16 years of education) in Radiology with MS/MPhil or equivalent degree awarded after 18 years of education in the relevant field from HEC recognized University/ Institute with 04-years teaching/ research experience in an HEC recognized university or post graduate institution or professional experience in the relevant field in a national or international organization.
3.	Lecturer Nursing	RN,RM with Post RN <u>OR</u> BSN (Sixteen Years of Education from HEC Recognized University/ DAI) having two years' experience, with No 3rd Division in academic career, having valid PNC License (As per HEC Criteria)
4.	Lecturer Radiology Technology	BS Radiology Technology with MS/M.Phil or equivalent degree including MHPE/MHR/MPH/MS Epidemiology and Biostatistics from an HEC recognized University/ DAI after 18 years of Education in the relevant field, with No 3 st Division in academic career OR BS Radiology with Two Years Teaching/Research experience in an HEC recognized University/ Post- Graduate Institution / Professional Experience in the relevant field in a National OR International Organization, with No 3 st Division in academic career. (As per HEC Criteria)
5.	Demonstrator Radiology Technology (Fixed pay basis)	BS/BSc (Hons) (Sixteen Years of Education) in Radiology Technology from HEC recognized University/DAI with No 3rd Division in academic career

TERMS & CONDITIONS: (1). Interested candidates may apply online through the portal at https://jobs.kiwi.edu.pk. OR they may download the job application form from www.kiwi.edu.pk, fill it neatly, attach all relevant documents, Fee deposit receipt and send it via Courier or Pakistan Post to the Registrar, Kalam Bibi International Women Institute, Main Campus, Township Bannu, no later than 05/09/2025.

(2). Submission of hard copies by hand will not be accepted. (3). Applicants working in Government, Semi-Government or Autonomous organization should apply through Proper Channel. However, the Organization may entertain advance copies but while processing the applications, provision of NOC from the concerned department would be mandatory. (4). A non-refundable application processing fee must be submitted in the amount of Rs. 3,000 for Assistant Professor, Rs. 2,500 for Lecturer, and Rs. 2,000 for Demonstrator. The fee should be paid through online transfer (including mobile banking apps, Easypaisa, JazzCash, or Upaisa) to the Bank of Khyber, IBAN: PK04KHYB5075003005706156, Account Title: Kalam International Women. Money orders will not be accepted. (5). Eligible candidates shall be gone through a screening test after scrutiny of the application forms through a testing agency where applicable. (6). All facilities will be provided in accordance with the Service Statutes of KIWI Bannu, as approved and applicable from time to time. (7). No TA/DA shall be paid for attending the test/interview. (8). Incomplete/late applications will not be entertained. (9). Only short-listed candidates will be called for interview. (10). Errors and omissions (if any) will be liable for rectification by the University authorities. (11). In case of issue please contact on 0928633885 or 03348718542 VICE CHANCELLOR

یر دشخلی کو پشاور بڑیا گھر میں مندرجہ ذیل سہولیات / کنٹریکٹس کیلیے حکومت کے متعلقہ فیکس اتھار شیز اور KPRA کے ساتھ رجٹر ڈ فرموں / افراد سے سربمبر مٹینڈ رمطلوب ہیں۔ جو کہ مورخہ 09/09/2025 کو پروزمنگل دن گیارہ ہے 11:00AM تک دفتر ہذا میں جمع کرانے ہونگا۔ ٹینڈرائس دن 11:15AM خواہشند ٹینڈر دہندگان یا اُن کےعجاز نمائندوں کی موجود گی میں

تمیٹی کےسامنے کھولے جا نمینگے ۔تفصیل درج ذیل ہے۔ نمبرشار كنثر يكش كأنفصيل رقم كال ژيپاز ٺ ٹینڈر کھو لنے کی تاریخ اور کنٹر یکٹرز کیلئے بیٹا ورچڑیا گھرے ٹینڈر فارم *ا* ستاویزات وصول کرنے کی آخری تاریخ اوروفت وقت زربيعانه كا5 فيصدرقم 09/09/2025 08/09/2025 راشن برائے جانوارن بيثاور چڙيا گھر 11:15 AM 05:00 PM ٹھیکیدار کی اپنی ملکیتی طوطے -/300,000روپے برائے ایک سال 09/09/2025 08/09/2025 برائے شائفین فوٹو گرافی 11:30 AM -/300,000روپي برائے ایک سال سفاري گاڑي اندرون 09/09/2025 08/09/2025 3 11:45 AM پثاور چڑیا گھر -/50,000روپي 09/09/2025 08/09/2025 برائے ایک سال پېلک ٹائيلٹ اندرون 12:00 PM

1۔شرائط نامہ اٹمینڈر وارمز وفتر پڑیا گھریے بلخ-/500رویے (نا قابل والیس) کی ادائیگی پر وفتر کی اوقات کار کے دوران مورنیہ 08/09/2025 تک حاصل کیے جاسکتے ہیں۔ تے۔ چڑیا گھر میں اپی بقایاجات کلیئر نہ کرنے والے اور بشاور چڑیا گھرا تنظامیہ سے خراب کار کردگی سٹیفیک لینے والے ٹھیکیدار ٹینڈ رمیں حصہ لینے کے اہل نہیں۔

تۍ خواه شند حضرات کومنیندُ رمین حصه لینځ کیلیځ کسی جمی شیرول بینک ہے جاری کرده مندرجه بالا مالیت کی Conservator Wildlife Peshawar Zoo وفتر ہذا میں مٹینڈ

کے ساتھ جمع کروانالازی ہے۔ 4 ـ نامكمل اورمشر وط يا اور رائننگ والے ٹينڈ رقابل قبول نہيں ہو نگے ۔

ع یکوتی نیکس اداروں کے ساتھ درجریشن کی فوٹو کا بیاں درخواست کے ساتھ نسلک کرنالازی ہوگا ور ندفارم جاری نہیں کیا جائےگا۔ فارم لینے کیلیے ممپنی افرم کی لیفر پیڈیر پر درخواست دینالازی ہے جس کے ساتھ کمپنی افرم کے مالک کے شاختی کارڈ کی کا بی لگانا/منسلک کرنالازمی ہوگا۔

> ے چ' یا گھرا نظامیہ اواختیار ہوگا کہ غیرتسلی بخش کارکر دگی کی بناء رپڑوا می مفادیش کسی بھی وقت ٹھیکیمنسنوٹ کرے۔اوراس پڑھیکیدار کواعتراض کاحق حاصل نہیں ہوگا۔ 7۔ کامیاب ٹینڈرد ہندگان کوزیر یختطی کے ساتھ اشامپ پیپر پرمعاہرہ کرنالاز می ہوگا جس میں ٹھیکہ کے بارے میں تفصیل وشرائط درج ہو تگے

8۔ٹینڈر کی مکمل تفصیل ٹینڈر فارم میں موجود ہے۔ كنز رويٹر وائلڈ لائف بشاور جڑیاً 9۔ مزید معلومات کیلئے دفتری اوقات کارمیں فون نمبر: 7256677-091 پر رابطہ کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ ZERO TOLERANCE TO CORRUPTION

Peshawar City



PESHAWAR: Director General Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority, Mr. Habibullah Arif, and Executive Director ETEA, Mr. Adil Saeed Safi exchanging files after signing MoU.

14 shops sealed in Small **Industrial Estate**

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: An operation Managing Director Abdul was carried out with the Hameed Khan, the SIDB Director, they have issued cooperation of the local administration to stop the local administration AC activities going on contrary Haroon Sahoo conducted to industrial activities in an operation against these Small Industries Estate shops in the Industrial

only 14 shops were sealed, sealed them. but it was also decided to factory owner for opening Incharge shops against the rules and Amjad

Estate Peshawar that were In the operation, not established illegally and

SIDB Joint Director

On the instructions of involved in this operation. According to the Joint administration, under the notices to the factory owners several times in this regard to stop opening and renting out shops against the law.

These shops consist of general stores, plastic slippers and tandoors, which are affecting industrial impose a heavy fine on the Syed Ghalib Shah, State activities, but their notices Muhammad have been continuously Officer ignored.

Malakand Division be declared as disaster-hit area: Akbar

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Akbar Khan, Malakand the Coordinator of the Businesses, homes, mar-Federation of Pakistan kets, and infrastructure Chambers of Commerce have been severely damand Industry (FPCCI) for aged, inflicting irreparable Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, has losses on the local populaurged the federal and tion both in terms of life provincial governments to and property. The business Malakand Division a disas-ter-affected area in light of hardship, struggling even to

the recent devastating meet basic needs such as floods. He further demanded that the region be designated a tax-free zone with the question of paying taxes all taxes waived for the does not arise. next five years.

Khan said the recent torren- caused financial losses development tial rains and flooding have amounting to billions of prosperity.

destruction Division. declare community and the public

Akbar Khan stated that In his statement, Akbar the floods have already embark on the path of

food and water — under

such conditions, he added,

unprecedented rupees, and it may take across years for the region to recover. He stressed that the government must take immediate steps for the rehabilitation of the affected people and to help the business sector regain its

footing.

He also made a strong appeal to the federal and provincial governments, as well as the President of Pakistan, to acknowledge the gravity of the situation and declare Malakand Division a tax-free zone for five years, enabling the region to once again

RTI empowers individuals to keep an eye on govt deptts PESHAWAR: According to Chief Executive Officer

PESHAWAR: Right to opportunities. Information (RTI) is a unican guarantee the protec- Khyber tion of other basic human Information Commission Khyber right, as it makes public (KPIC), while delivering a UNDP, common citizen. It empow- human right, and mandate ers individuals to keep eye of KPIC under the KP RTI on government institutions, which resultantly become transparent and open in managing public affairs, resultantly become transparent and open in managing public affairs, resultantly become transparent and open in managing public affairs, resultantly become to resultantly become the Kr K11 Department, Gridlam All, DG Human Rights, Rubab Mehdi, Ombudsperson, KP, Muhammad Irshad, Chief Commissioner, KPIC.

This was stated by Syed Pakhtunkhwa

specially when it comes to Effective Human Rights equal disbursement of Redressal Mechanism, here at a local hotel in Peshawar.

The workshop was colversally accepted funda- Saadat Jehan, Deputy laboratively arranged by mental human right which Director Communication, the Directorate General of Law & Human Rights Pakhtunkhwa, and European bodies answerable to a presentation on RTI as Union. Muhammad Ayaz, Additional Secretary, Law Department, Ghulam Ali,

From access to opportunity: The role of libraries in literacy

Sheikh M. Arshad

in Pakistan is discussed, the focus usually falls on schools, teachers, and curriculum. Yet one institution that rarely receives the attention it deserves is the library. In a country as diverse as ours, where students come from different social, cultural, and economic backgrounds, libraries can serve as powerful equalizers. They be done. offer spaces where learndisability, or geography, but is open to all.

gender, or background has center. the same chance to learn strengthened and used libraries materials, and assistive change. technologies. Pakistan has Tech only a few such examples, new opportunities as well. but they prove what is pos- Digital libraries and online sible. Some libraries in resources allow students in Pakistan have set up a sec- remote areas to access the tion for visually impaired same material as those in readers with digital major cities. The Higher resources and screen read- Education Commission's ers. It is a promising step, (HEC) Digital Library is a



Libraries can also help ing is not limited by class, bridge the gap between disability, or geography, urban and rural education. While many village schools An inclusive education lack proper facilities, a system ensures that every community library can child regardless of ability, become a shared resource

The Room to Read proand grow. Libraries, if gram in South Asia has shown how small rural effectively, can help realize libraries can support literathis vision. In many developed countries, public and who often lack access to are books at home. If replicated equipped with resources for on a larger scale in children with special needs, Pakistan, such models such as audiobooks, Braille could bring meaningful

Technology has created though much more needs to good example, giving uni-

versity students access to international journals and e-books. Expanding such initiatives to the school level could make learning far more inclusive.

Still, access alone is not enough. Libraries must also feel welcoming to all. A child with a disability, a girl from a conservative family, or a student from a lowincome household should each feel equally at home. This requires trained librarians who can support diverse users, inclusive design in library spaces, and policies that actively encourage participation from everyone.

If Pakistan is serious about inclusive education, libraries cannot remain on the sidelines. Every school should have a functional library, every district should invest in community libraries, and every library should adapt to the needs of its users.

Libraries are not just buildings filled with books. They are gateways to opportunity, especially for those left behind by the traditional system.

By reimagining and rengthening them, strengthening them, Pakistan can take a major step toward building an education system that leaves no child behind.

Writer is Director General, Department of Libraries, Islamabad.

Director KPRA, Tariq Roghani passes away F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Director Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Authority Revenue (KPRA) Tariq Jamal Roghani breathed his last on Wednesday. His funeral prayer was offered on Wednesday in his native town Talash, Lower Dir, followed by burial in the ancestral graveyard.

The late Tariq Jamal was the son of educationist Haji Gul Jamal Roghani and cousin of renowned Islamic scholar Dr. Muhammad Ismail. At the time of his demise, he was serving as Director Inquiry Investigation at KPRA.

Tariq Jamal was widely admired as a competent and dedicated officer, known for his gentle and compassionate nature. Colleagues recall friendly demeanor, treating junior officers and staff like his own family.

In remembrance, KPRA officers and employees organized Quran recitation and offered special prayers for the departed soul Director General KPRA Fauzia Iqbal, expressed deep sorrow over his passing and prayed for eternal peace and forgiveness for the deceased.

Semester examinations begins F.P. Report

to Chief Executive Officer Dr. Rahman Afridi, the semester examinations Pakhtunkhwa Faculty of Paramedical & Allied Health Sciences have officially begun today across various technologies. This time, all 49 examination halls have been established in government schools located in safe zones to ensure a secure environment for students.

A total of 37,626 male and female students are appearing in the exams, covering 23 different technologies from the first to the fourth semester.

Rahman further shared that the examinations will continue for nine days, followed by viva

All question papers have been printed under strict secrecy protocols and delivered to nearby branches of the Bank of Khyber for secure distribution to examination halls.

The duty staff has been fully trained, and one invigilator has assigned for every 40 students

Dr. Rahman urged relevant health staff to conduct surprise visits to examination halls and report any irregularities to the Faculty immediately.

FIR registered over fake land transfers F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Anti Corruption Establishment Khyber Pakhtunkhwa received complaint regarding the transfer of the same land in district Kohat to three different individu-

Acting on the complaint, a formal inquiry was initiated. During the course of the inquiry, the allegations were proven to be correct, leading to the registration of FIR against Computer Operator Muhammad Yasir, Computer Operator Falak Zeb. Sub-Registrar Muhammad Ashfaq, Patwari Fareed Gul, and a citizen named Wazir Khan.

Ongoing relief, rehab effots for flood victims

Qasim wants everyone to wholheartedly support govt

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Social Welfare, Syed Qasim Ali Shah, has urged officials of the Social Welfare Department, philanthropists, and civil society organizations to contribute wholeheartedly in supporting the provincial government's ongoing efforts for the assistance and rehabilitation of recent flood victims. He said this will help ensure better support for all affected families, restore their daily lives, and compensate, to some extent, for their

presiding over an emergency meeting at the Directorate of Social Welfare, Peshawar, regarding the rehabilitation of flood victims. The meeting Welfare Officer Peshawar Noor Mehsud, Director Administration Qayyum with disabilities.

civil society organizations. The sole agenda of the meeting was to take measures for the immediate relief and rehabilitation of families affected by the floods. The Minister briefed participants

about the situation in the affected areas of District Buner and urged officials and civil society representatives to develop a joint plan and immediately launch relief activities. On the occasion, NGO representatives briefed the Minister about the relief measures taken so far.

The Minister for Social Welfare He expressed these views while instructed that free medical camps be set up immediately in affected areas, food supplies and basic necessities of life be provided to victims, temporary schools be established to prevent diswas attended by District Social ruption in children's education, and wheelchairs and accessible wash-Deputy rooms be made available for persons

effective monitoring of relief activities be ensured through close coordination between the Social Welfare Department and NGOs.

The Department of Social Welfare assured that coordination of relief efforts will be ensured through district and field offices. Civil society will be provided full support in listing and surveying needy families. The specific needs of women, children, and persons with disabilities will be given top priority, while regular updates will be provided to the media and public to keep them informed.

Minister for Social Welfare, Syed Qasim Ali Shah, stated that in this difficult time, standing with the affected families is a shared responsibility of the government and social institutions.

He reaffirmed that the Department of Social Welfare will play a vital role in turning this mission into reality.

PHC grants bail to two brothers in domestic dispute case

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: Peshawar High Kuram Sada over domestic causing

According to the prose-The cution, incident Court occurred on June 25, 2025, (PHC) has granted bail to in the jurisdiction of the

two brothers, Sami Ullah Sada police station. The and Muhammad Zaman, complainant, a FC official who were accused of named Sadiq, alleged that petitioners were accused of attacking a Frontier Corps the accused brothers attacking the complainant (FC) official with an axe in attacked him with an axe, with an axe, the medical injuries.

ing women.

Khan Chamkani advocate argued that although the The report did not conclusively

motive behind the incident prove that the injuries were is reportedly a dispute caused by an axe. He between the parties involvemphasized the need for further investigation in the The counsel Daniyal case and requested the court to grant bail to the

accused brothers. PHC Justice Ijaz Sabi granted bail to the accused brothers, accepting their

One-day seminar on Human **Rights organized**

F.P. Report

Programme organized a one-day semirights in the province.

RTS, RTI, and the Child PESHAWAR: The Protection Unit participat-Directorate of Law and ed in the seminar and Human Rights, Khyber briefed the audience on Pakhtunkhwa, in collabo-ration with the United ments' efforts towards Development upholding human rights. e (UNDP), Representatives of the Representatives of the Human nar on the theme of Commission stated on the Human Rights at a local occasion that Pakistan has hotel in Peshawar. The a very strong human rights purpose of the seminar law, with offices estabwas to promote coopera- lished at the provincial and tion and coordination district levels. They fur- human rights, and district event expressed hope that among various depart- ther emphasized that in administrations are active- this seminar would prove ments working on human order to make this law ly working on related mat- to be an important step

work together.

Directorate of Law and

Human Rights highlighted that all institutions are working towards the same goal and must take integrated measures to achieve the desired objectives. Participants were also informed that in every dis-

trict, the Additional Commissioner Deputy resentatives from different prompt justice to the pubersuring women's rights

departments including lic, all institutions must and addressing issues such as harassment, with an Officials from the emphasis on the importance of inter-institutional cooperation and linkages in resolving these chal-

The aim of the seminar was not only to strengthen institutional connections but also to raise public awareness about human rights and involve them in the process of delivering serves as the in-charge of justice. Participants of the more effective and to pro- ters. Special attention was towards the protection and Senior officials and rep- vide affordable and given in the seminar to promotion of human rights

MoU signed between Tourism Authority and ETEA

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Educational Testing and ing system.

Evaluation Agency The MoU was signed Evaluation Agency The MoU was signed (ETEA) have signed a following a meeting held Evaluation

Pakhtunkhwa Tourism Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Authority will be carried Habibullah Arif, and Authority, Mr. Habibullah Tourism Authority and the out through ETEA's test- Executive Director ETEA, Arif, stated that the pur-

three-year Memorandum yesterday in the confer-of Understanding (MoU). ence room of the Tourism ments in the Tourism merit-based and standard-Under this MoU, all future Authority, attended by Authority over the next ized mechanism.

Tourism Authority, Mr. General Mr. Adil Saeed Safi.

recruitments in the Director General Khyber three years. Speaking on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and the occasion, Director the occasion, Director pose of this MoU is to According to the MoU, ensure transparency and ETEA will conduct tests fairness in the recruitment

Natural disasters: Punishment or a test?

Sajjad Mohammad Khan

7 HENEVER earthquakes, floods, or storms strike, a bitter question arises in our minds: why is it that the poor always suffer the most? Mud houses collapse, fields are washed away, villages are uprooted—while wealthier nations and bigger cities remain relatively safe.

Islamic teachings remind us that it is not always correct to declare every natural disaster as divine punishment. At times, they are trials; at times, warnings; and often, they are simply the outcomes of natural laws. When the earth's plates shift, earthquakes occur. Low-lying areas are naturally prone to flooding. Poorly built structures collapse in the face of storms or tremors. Nature's laws are universal—they do not distinguish between rich and poor.

The real difference lies in preparedness and planning. Japan is a striking example. There, an earthquake measuring 7.8 on the Richter scale causes only minimal damage, while in South Asia, the same intensity claims thousands of lives. The reason is simple: Japan enforces strict building codes, has advanced disaster management systems, and earthquake-resistant infra-



In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, more than 300 people recently lost their lives due to natural calamities—a tragedy of immense scale. While some link such events to people's sins or religious failings, the reality is that most disasters are worsened by human negligence. We relentlessly cut down trees, strip the land of greenery, set fire to graveyards, fields, and open spaces, overuse plastic and polluting materials, block natural waterways, and fail to plant new trees. These reckless practices accelerate environmental destruction and climate change, making floods and other disasters even more devastating

As someone hailing from the mountainous region of Lower Dir, I have witnessed firsthand how local communities often build barriers in streams to divert water. But when heavy rains swell these streams into floods, the water forcefully breaks through, reclaiming its original path and sweeping away everything in its way. The result: nearby homes and farmland suffer heavy losses. The lesson is clear—human settlements and agriculture should avoid natural water channels to ensure safety of lives and property.

If we fail to change our attitudes and learn to respect nature, preventing such disasters will be impossible. The solution lies in planting trees, reducing the use of plastics and water misuse, and working collectively to conserve natural resources. This is the only path that guarantees a safer environment for future generations. The true punishment is not merely the loss of lives and property, but the moral and spiritual decline of socie-

ty. When honesty, compassion, and human values vanish, societies may appear strong from the outside, but within they begin to crumble. Natural disasters are not blind punishments—they are messages. They remind us of human weakness and the need for wisdom, planning, and faith for survival. Islam teaches us to adopt practical measures while also turn-

ing to God with humility and prayer. In the end, only those nations survive that combine reason and planning with faith. "Natural calamities may pass with time, but their results leave an everlasting imprint.



In brief

No budget for medicine: DHO F.P. Report

WANA: A startling report presented at the 6th DHO Conference in Lower South Waziristan has exposed several hidden aspects of the district's health department, raising serious questions about its performance and accountability. According to the outpatient report, department (OPD) performance showed a remarkable surge reaching 80 percent compared to the previous month - the highest result recorded so far. Similarly, an 11 percent improvement in medical equipment and a 50 percent rise in docattendance were highlighted as notable a chievements. However, the most revelation shocking came when District Health Officer (DHO) Dr. Adnan disclosed to the media that no budget had been allocated for medicines in the Wazir Belt for the current year, describing the move as "an open mockery of the public." Dr. Ådnan further revealed deep flaws within the Lady Health Worker (LHŴ) program. Out of 126 registered LHWs in the district, only 26 were found to be properly trained, while the rest existed only on paper and were absent from duty. He confirmed that nearly 100 of these ghost employees would be terminated as part of corrective measures. The DHO emphasized that all government health centers across Lower Waziristan will be made fully functional and warned that there would be zero tolerance for employees neglect-

Rain spreads havoc in Karak F.P. Report

ng their duties.

KARAK: The shock of the recent rains has been felt in Kasbanda, protective embankments have been erected. The recent wreaked havoc everywhere. The people are given news of Bajaur, Swat and Buner through the media, but here in Kasbanda Tehsil Takht Nusrati, the poor people, with their own help and to protect their homes and to avoid damage from flood water, protecembankments. embankments and sloping pavements were built at various places, which the recent torrential rains did not spare them either. They were also erected along with them. Now the residents of the local population from the demanded elected representatives of the government of the day to provide emergency assistance to us to avoid this sudden disaster so that we, the poor, can remain safe because if once our homes are hit by the torrential rains, then these will be our last days because we cannot afford to resettle again. Now we inform the authorities in time so that our cry is heard.

Justice for slain JUI leader sought F.P. Report

CHAGHI: Ulema-e-Islam-Fazal (JUI-F) staged a protest rally in Chaghi on Wednesday, demanding justice for their slain disleader, Molvi Kaleemullah Nurzai. The demonstrators, starting Abu Hurera from Taftan, Madrasa in marched through the streets and converged at Taftan"s main intersection. Speakers at the protest criticized the disadministration" alleged negligence, claiming it led to the scholar"s death. They asserted that the authorcould quickly apprehend the culprits if they chose to. The JUI-F issued a one-week ultimatum to the Chagai administration to arrest responsible, threatening further action if their demands weren"t met.



HYDERABAD: A vehicle passing through rainwater accumulated at Divisional Headquarter Shahbaz Building after heavy rain.

Fed govt expedited relief operations in Malakand

LOWER DIR: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) provincial general secretary and former deputy speaker of the restoration of roads and rehabilitation of families National Assembly Murtaza Javed Abbasi visited flood-affected areas of Lower Dir to express solidarity with the victims.

federal government equally shared the grief of remarked that despite clear volunteers of the party Malakand division's people, adding that Prime and cloudbursts since 2022, relief work. She said the was personally monitoring the situation and would soon visit the affected districts of Malakand. He said Muqam had already been present in the region for several days, assessing public hardships.

Earlier the PML-N lead-Zaidullah Khan, Malik Nauman Khan, Javed Iqbal, Yusuf Khan, and others, received the former deputy speaker and apprised him of the local issues.

Disaster Authority (NDMA) and the ter-hit people. He added that engaged in providing treat-Provincial Management Authority had (PDMA) had relief operations on the tances for the victims. directives of the federal also providing compensa- Jamaat-i-Islami

F.P. Report

SHANGLA: In the after-

math of devastating floods

in Shangla, rescue teams

are continuing their search

Affected areas are facing

severe shortages of clean

drinking water and food.

Despite ongoing relief activities, rescue opera-

tions, volunteers, welfare

organizations, and the

administration are facing

challenges due to blocked

orchards, houses, shops,

residential buildings, infra-

structure, and government property have suffered sig-

washed away by floodwa-

There have been 39

Rescue

damage. Connecting roads were houses

ters, complicating relief tially damaged, 34 girls' schools and 22 boys'

agricultural

nificant

The most affected area

7 missing persons.

funds for rehabilitation. He activities in flood-affected on recovery of bodies, women's relief centre for rehabilitation of the dis- who lost their loved ones. applications to Abbasi, Speaking to media at and preventive measures that immediately after the Chakdara, Abbasi said the against erosion caused by recent cloudburst in Buner, and preventive measures that immediately after the the River Swat. He Shangla and Swat, women

"Pakistan is among the to rescue hundreds of federal minister Amir countries most vulnerable to women from the affected climate change. We have areas even sought international assistance to deal with challenges like cloudbursts, as food, clothing and other unchecked climate change essential items among the ers, including Engineer can severely affect our affected families. A relief Faizullah Khan, Barrister tourism sector," he said. Mr Attaullah Khan, Barrister Abbasi accused the KP gov- under the supervision of ernment of adopting a hos-tile attitude towards the sional level to coordinate Centre, claiming that despite aid and provide all possible being in power for 13 years, assistance to female victhe ruling party had failed to tims, she added. provide basic medical facili-Abbasi said the National ties, such as syringes and ical teams comprising

tionary steps, resulting in

huge losses.

JΙ women government, which was launched relief activities: the flood-affected women

Admn releases report

on flood devastation

strikes, and landslides. 7

people are still missing.

damaged. 56 schools dam-

those affected.

in Shangla is Puran, where supply schemes washed Minister

schools damaged.

fatalities in Shangla district, with several people salary deductions for flood efforts are ongoing with injured. The Pakistan relief: Government support from the Pakistan

Meanwhile,

Foundation, and other wel- tions in Shangla have

fare organizations are expressed strong reserva-

attempting to provide aid to tions about the provincial

administration Shangla has relief in flood-affected dis-

released a report on the tricts like Shangla, Buner,

damage caused by floods in Bajaur, and Swabi. Instead

Shangla. According to offi- of deductions, they argue

cial statistics: 36 people that these employees need

have lost their lives due to more relief considering the

277 link roads severely ment announced deduc-

Over 100 clean water for flood relief. The Chief

Shangla district experi- cient with adequate

enced severe disruptions resources, leading to criti-

to WAPDA electricity cism from various organi-

Recent

flash floods, lightning devastating impact

lands, away.l mosque destroyed, Pakhtunkhwa stated that shops, Over 60% of areas in the province is self-suffi-

supply, 55 residential zations.

destroyed, 40 houses par- Khyber

Al-Khidmat tives of various organiza- other organizations.

completely

1122 employees and representa- Army, Rescue 1122, and

also

tion packages for the fami- women's wing in Malakand lies of victims as well as division has launched relief said focus was being laid districts, setting up a placed population. The Talking to reporters here, flood victims submitted provincial chief of JI women's wing and former seeking financial support MNA Ayesha Syed said Minister Shahbaz Sharif the provincial government volunteers arranged funeral had failed to take precau- rites for women and girls who lost their lives in the disaster, while also helping

> She said the women's wing was also distributing

Ms Syed said that med-Management cotton, in hospitals for disas- female doctors were also Disaster several foreign governments ment to women suffering contacted from various illnesses. She expedited Islamabad to provide assis- vowed that the JI women's wing would continue its wing efforts and would not leave (JI) alone in this hour of trial.

government's decision to

district deduct salaries for flood

floods in these areas.

The provincial govern-

tions from government

of

including in Shangla, have

caused significant damage

to infrastructure, houses,

floods

Pakhtunkhwa,

Two killed in Nowshera **Syed Waliullah Shah**

NOWSHERA: Almost two individuals lost their lives. and several others were injured, including a teacher and multiple students, when the roof of a girls' madrasa collapsed in Nowshera. The Rescue 1122 teams responded promptly, taking the deceased bodies for postmortem examinations and transporting the injured to hospitals for medical treat-

In the Jahangira area of Nowshera, a young man named Hayaan, took his own life by firing a shot at himself due to unknown reasons. The police have registered a case and initiated an investigation into the matter.

Pabbi area, In the individuals unknown opened fire on a citizen named Abid, causing serious injuries to him and another person named Asad. Although the police have not officially registered a case yet, the incident is reportedly linked to a property dispute. In the Ganderi area of Nowshera, the roof of a girls' madrasa collapsed due to recent rains, injuring several students and their teacher. The injured included the wife of Ishaq, the daughter of Umar Sher, and Mahak. Rescue 1122 teams worked diligently to rescue the students trapped under the debris and provided them with medical care.

JUI demands end to Bajaur operation F.P. Report

KHAR: Jamiat Ulema-e-(JUI) Bajaur Islam demanded to stop ongoing operation in the area immediately. In a press conference at the Bajaur Press Club, the party's district leader and former senator, Maulana Abdul Rashid along with other party leaders, called on the government to end the operation within three days and facilitate the safe return of displaced families to their employees' August salaries homes, on Wednesday.

The JUI leaders high lighted serious allegations of mismanagement in the provision of food and other relief supplies to the affected people. They urged the provincial government to ake immediate notice and conduct investigation, followed by action against those responsible.

Maulana Abdul Rashid pointed out that hundreds of displaced people are taking shelter not only in government schools but also in local homes and

Police deny rumors regarding explosive recovery

Fazal Haq

MARDAN: The police officials claimed en efforts against illicit trade. that a search operation was conducted in cles were checked, and several suspicious individuals were taken into custody.

However, a press release issued by the Public Relation Officer of police stated that the news circulating on social media about a suicide attack at Mardan Medical from a vehicle was completely baseless and fabricated.

The law and order situation in Mardan fully under control, and no untoward incident has occurred. The public is requested not to believe in rumors and to trust only the information released through verified sources, the police said. On the other hand, the rumors regarding a suicide attack at MMC hospital and recovery of some explosives had created fear and panic among residents of Mardan when news related to it spread like a forest-fire, on social media.

PTB requested to communicate poliey for surplus tobacco: The Pakistan Tobacco Company has demanded of the relevant high-ups of Pakistan Tobacco surplus tobacco at the earliest to provide clarity for farmers, who are growing increasingly anxious due to delays.

In this regard, a one-day workshop was organized by officials of Pakistan Tobacco Company in the Auditorium hall of Mardan Press Club here on Wednesday. A detailed discussion and question, answer session regarding the problems and hurdles being faced by tobacco growers as

Muhammad Hamza Aamir Khan, Regulatory Engagement Manager of Pakistan Tobacco Company flanked by other PTC officials, talked to media-persons in the one-day workshop. On the occasion, the officials said that the PTC emphasized its commitment to support work but also delay payments.

farmers, ensure transparency in the tobacco leaf procurement process, and strength-

The PTC representatives highlighted the Sheikh Maltoon Town area with a that the company was purchasing tobacco heavy police presence. Suspicious vehi- from farmers at the pre-agreed demand and officially notified prices, in strict compliance with the regulatory framework overseen by the Pakistan Tobacco Board (PTB). The industry operates under the PTB Ordinance of 1968. Under Martial Law Order (MLO) 487, PTB annually Complex and the recovery of explosives allocates procurement quotas to manufacturers based on their declared requirements, which are publicly notified for transparency.

This year, the collective demand of all tobacco companies stood at around 81.5 million kilograms, with PTC's share at 25 percent. However, total tobacco production is expected to exceed 100 million kilograms. In such cases of surplus, PTB ensures proportional distribution among companies to safeguard farmers' interests. Companies are bound to purchase surplus tobacco at or above the Minimum Indicative Price (MIP).

During the briefing, PTC representatives informed that the company maintains direct contracts with over 10,000 farmers and provides technical training and agri-Board to announce its policy regarding cultural support through nearly 150 experts from seed sowing to harvest. Recently, PTC extended financial support exceeding one billion rupees to tobacco growers in the region.

They also expressed concern that some companies were exploiting farmers by purchasing tobacco at significantly lower rates—up to Rs. 200 per kilogram less than the notified price?. While PTC ensures timely payments within 30 days, well as other relevant issues was held other companies delay payments by three between the PTC officials and journalists. to six months, causing severe financial distress for farmers. In many cases, small buyers even disappear, leaving farmers at a loss. PTC urged the Pakistan Tobacco Board to take notice of these exploitative practices and protect farmers from unfair buyers who not only undervalue their hard

Admn on high alert amid recent heavy rains

F.P. Report

KOHAT: In view of the recent heavy rains and the potential threat of flooding in the rivers, the District Administration Kurram has directed all concerned departments to remain on high alert and ensure immediate preventive measures.

the Javed, Ageel Additional Commissioner, Ibrahim Khan.

During the meeting, the Assistant Commissioner instructed the Village Council Chairmen to stay vigilant at the local level and to take prompt action along the banks of Kharmana and Sark rivers to minimize possible damages. He further emphasized that in case of any emergency situation or losses due to rains, the district administration must be contacted immediately so that rescue and relief activities can be initiated without delay. It was also directed that no unnecessary activi-

ry issued by the Provincial trict administration, police, Disaster Management and labour department will Authority (PDMA) must be ensured.

Subsequently, Additional this effect was held under Department and other relechairmanship of vant bodies were instructed Assistant Commissioner to remain on red alert and to Central Kurram, Sahibzada complete all precautionary and arrangements in advance to Assistant effectively deal with any possible emergency.

Vigilance District Committee meeting held: A meeting of the District Vigilance Committee was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Kohat, Rahimullah Mehsud in his beside others, was also attended by the Additional Commissioner (Relief) along with officials from the district administration, police, labour department and other concerned institutions.

The meeting reviewed in detail the measures being compliance with the adviso- mously decided that the dis- action can be taken.

conduct joint operations to identify those involved in such illegal activities and Assistant Commissioner strict legal action will be Ibrahim Khan, Tehsildar taken against them. It was Abdul Sami and Tehsildar further decided that besides Wrekhamin Badshah visit- field-level raids, a compreed the surrounding areas of hensive awareness cam-Kharmana River. On this paign will also be launched A meeting of the Tehsil occasion, the concerned to educate parents and the ouncil Central Kurram to officers of the Irrigation general public about chil-

dren's rights and the rele-

vant laws.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner said that child labour is a grave crime which requires coordinated efforts by all institutions to eradicate. He stressed that providing education and a safe environment to the children is the joint responsibility of the state and the society and depriving any child of their fundamental rights is unacoffice today. The meeting ceptable. He assured that strict action will be taken against all violators without discrimination.

The public has been requested to immediately report any information related to child labour or human trafficking to the Control Room of the Commissioner's Deputy taken to curb child labour Office on the following ties should be allowed near and human trafficking in numbers: 0922920268 and water channels and strict the district. It was unani- 0922920032, so that timely

Police & Rangers conducts joint operation against robbers

F.P. Report

LARKANA: Police and Pakistan Rangers conducted a joint targeted operation against the Nandani and Choliani gangs Kandhkot. Three robbers' houses were destroyed by

Kandhkot Muhammad Murad Ghanghro, who was supervising the operation. Meanwhile, the district

commandos of the Range of Police participated in the ferent Range bers were injured, accord- against the Korkani, operation.

ing to the SSP Kashmore at Nandwani and Choliani gangs in the area of Jamal Shah Police Station in Kandhkot yesterday by the Range Police and Pakistan Rangers. Officials from difoperation. According to Stations, commandos, and details, drones were used in APC China vehicles also drone strikes, while 4 rob- a joint targeted operation participated in this joint

Climate change placed nation at critical turning point

Rais Khan

destruction of grazing lands, only 20% to 30% of their potential biomass. Khyber affected. The devastating floods of 1992, 2010, and 2025 have proven that the destruc-slides, and droughts. tion of forests and pastures has areas into "flood factories."

environmental turning Forests absorb rainwater, prepoint. Deforestation, the vent flash floods, recharge groundwater, protect agriculturforest fires, and climate all land from erosion, and main**change-related threats are** tain the fertility of water and soil has decreased by 18%, while carbon, helping to mitigate the grazing lands are producing effects of climate change. They provide fodder, fuel, fruits, medicines, and tourism opportunities Pakhtunkhwa being the most to rural communities and protect biodiversity. Forests also shield the country from floods, land-

just trees—they are the first line economic risks. However, effec- between 1992 and 2009. Expert **HE** entire country had of defense for the environment, tive policy and implementation warn of a further 23% decline by reached a highly critical economy, and national security. can safeguard the country's 2030. In Kalam, Swat, largefuture. In Pakistan, forest area scale logging during the 1980s has decreased from 3.78 million and 1990s severely damaged the hectares in 1992 to 3.09 million Swat River catchment area, hectares in 2025—a decline of exacerbating the floods of 1992 18%. While the annual rate of and 2010. directly causing devastating essential for the economy. deforestation dropped from floods, landslides, and cloud- Forests regulate the climate, around 40,000 hectares in 1992 bursts. Since 1992, forest area reduce temperatures, and store to 11,000 hectares in 2025 due to risks of flash floods. This to forest fires and glacial lake government intervention and restrictions, situation remains alarming.

strong measures, Pakistan will ments, more than 3,700 hectares Karakoram Highway and cut off roots, soil lacks support, mak- ar at University of Peshawar.

The forests in Pakistan are not face major environmental and of forests were lost in Chitral northern Pakistan's land connec-

Deforestation continues to weaken slopes and increases the the region extremely vulnerable destruction is not limited to a few districts. In Buner, a cloudburst in August 2025 triggered a The deforestation continues at sudden flood that destroyed rate of 11,000 hectares per homes, fields, and infrastructure. year. Grazing land area has Deforested mountains were

declined from 60% to 58%, and unable to retain the rainwater. In than forested areas. This causes their biomass productivity has Battagram, fragile land struc- monsoon winds to rise rapidly, The conclusion is that without dropped from 100% of potential tures and deforestation triggered leading to sudden cloudbursts

In Bajaur, a deadly cloudburst

flood in 2025 caused both loss of life and destruction of roads and bridges. In Mansehra, repeated cloudbursts led to sudden flooding and landslides, while in Gilgit-Baltistan, forest cover has dropped to below 4%, making grazing and mismanagement, outburst floods.

The forests regulate rainfall, recharge groundwater, and stabilize slopes. When forests disappear, barren mountains become 5 to 8 degrees warmer barren mountains turned the upper watershed immediate restoration and to only 20%. The official docu- landslides that blocked the instead of steady rain. Without

ing landslides and mudslides common, while the risk of glacial lake outbursts also increas-

The environmental destruction is directly affecting people. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, nearly one-third of households depend on livestock, but due to overpasture productivity has dropped to just 20% to 30%. Families that previously relied on forests for fodder and fuel are now forced to resort to unsustainable practices. The afforestation drives alone cannot resolve this crisis unless there is strict action against the timber mafia and accountability of the officials involved.

The writer is research schol-



Thursday, August 21, 2025



YEREVAN: Armenia's Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan exchanging views with Iran's President

Kim's sister says NK will never see South as a diplomatic partner

SEOUL (AP): The powerful sister of military agreement aimed at reducing North Korean leader Kim Jong Un border tensions, while urging said her country will never see South Pyongyang to reciprocate by rebuild-Korea as a partner for diplomacy, ing trust and resuming dialogue. state media reported Wednesday in her latest taunt of Seoul's new efforts to mend ties.

denounced the ongoing South Korea-US military drills as a "reckless" Seoul's peace gestures conceal a "sinister intention" to blame Pyongyang for strained relations. Her comments diplomatic strategies, the North's official Korean Central News Agency said. She urged the Foreign Ministry to pursue "proper countermeasures" against South Korea, which she and that the wealthier South "will not labeled the "most hostile state," as well as Seoul's allies.

Kim Jong Un condemned the South Korean-US military drills and nuclear forces as he inspected his most advanced warship being fitted with nuclear-capable systems. KCNA said Kim Yo Jong condemned the South as the "top-class faithful dog" of the United States and that the reparation of inter-Korean relations

In response to Kim Yo Jong's latest comments, South Korea's Unification Ministry, which handles inter-Korean Kim Yo Jong, who is one of her affairs, said Lee's government will brother's top foreign policy officials, continue to take "proactive steps for peace" and called for mutual respect between the countries. Since taking invasion rehearsal and claimed office in June, Lee has moved to repair relations that worsened under his conservative predecessor's hardline policies, including removing came during a meeting with Foreign front-line speakers that broadcast Ministry officials about her brother's anti-North Korean propaganda and In a nationally televised speech

Friday, Lee said his government respects North Korea's current system pursue any form of unification by absorption and has no intention of engaging in hostile acts." But he also stressed that the South remains comvowed a rapid expansion of his mitted to an international push to denuclearize the North and urged Pyongyang to resume dialogue with Washington and Seoul. Angered by expanding South Korean-US military drills, Kim Jong Un last year declared that North Korea was abandoning tary nuclear program. In her meeting, long-standing goals of a peaceful unidesired by Seoul "will never" happen. fication with South Korea and The siblings' back-to-back statements rewrote the North's constitution to followed the latest outreach by South mark the South as a permanent Korean President Lee Jae Myung, who said last week that Seoul would would dismissed calls to revive negotiations arena," which she claimed will be seek to restore a 2018 inter-Korean aimed at winding down the North's centered on the North.



nuclear and missile programs, which derailed in 2019 following her brother's collapsed summit with US President Donald Trump during his first term.

Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Kim Jong Un has made Moscow the priority of his foreign policy, sending it troops and weapons while using the Russia-Ukraine war as a distraction to accelerate his mili-Kim Yo Jong suggested that Pyongyang seeks to compete with Seoul diplomatically, claiming the South "will not even have a subordi-

Trump's presidency was marked by diplomatic breakthroughs

ORMER US President Donald Trump's tenure, often defined by controversy and unconventional politics, also produced achievements that supporters and some global observer credit as significant. Trump's foreign policy record

includes the Abraham Accords, which normalized relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan. In August 2025, he hosted talks in Washington ease to Ukraine-Russia war, drawing praise from European leaders. His administration also engaged in mediation the Caucasus and Africa.

At home, Trump signed the 2017



efforts in disputes from South Asia to 19 pandemic, the US economy saw unemployment fall to its lowest in five decades while millions of jobs Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, delivering were created. He appointed three sweeping reductions for individuals Supreme Court justices and more and corporations. Before the COVID- than 200 federal judges, reshaping the policy.

Trump also signed the bipartisan

First Step Act in 2018, which reformed sentencing laws and expanded inmate rehabilitation opportunities. On energy and the environment, he pursued US energy independence while expanding pro-tections for parks and natural resources

In health care, Trump launched Operation Warp Speed, accelerating COVID-19 vaccine development and distribution in record time. His direct communication style — often through social media - redefined modern political messaging, allowing him to bypass traditional outlets and connect directly with support-

While critics argue his presidency was polarizing, backers point to these achievements as evidence of lasting impact on US domestic and global

Mexico's President denies knowledge of US drug initiative

MEXICO CITY: Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum has denied reports that her government is team-"major new initiative" to combat drug-trafficking cartels. In her news initiative, dubbed "Project Portero", which was touted in the US as an effort to "strengthen collaboration intelligence site on the southwest borbetween the United States and Mexico"

The US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) had unveiled the initiative only one day prior. "I want to clarify something. The DEA put out a statement yesterday saying that there is an agreement with the Mexican government for an operation called Portero," Sheinbaum said. step in a new era of cross-border There is no agreement with the DEA. The DEA puts out this statement, based on what we don't know. We have not reached any agreement; none of the security institutions [has] with the DEA." Sheinbaum emphasised that only her administration, not would be announcing such an agreement on behalf of Mexico. She also said that the DEA needed to follow announcements. Project Portero is President Donald Trump to stamp out cross-border drug trafficking and

In its statement, the DEA called Project Portero its "flagship operation", aimed at shutting down druging up with the United States for a smuggling corridors along the border. It described its partnership with Mexico as "a multi-week training and conference, Sheinbaum addressed the collaboration program" that would bring Mexican investigators together with US enforcement officials at an der. Part of their task, the statement said, was to "identify joint targets" for the two countries to pursue. "Project Portero and this new training program show how we will fight - by planning and operating side by side with our Mexican partners," DEA administrator Terrance Cole said in the statement. "This is a bold first enforcement." But Sheinbaum said that no such bilateral action was planned, though she speculated that the DEA might be referring to a small training exercise involving four Mexican police officers.

"The only thing we have is a group individual government agencies, of police officers from the Secretariat of Citizen Security who were conducting a workshop in Texas," she explained. She did, however, point established protocols for making joint out that her government was actively working with the Trump administrapart of an ongoing push under US tion to cement a border security agreement, based on mutual acknowledgements of sovereignty and aggressively pursue the cartels and respectful coordination. Since taking criminal networks that profit from such trade.

Office for a second term in January, Mexico's largest prisoner training the US in years. — Aljazeera

Sheinbaum government to stem the flow of immigrants and drugs across their countries' shared border. That includes through the threat of tariffs a kind of tax imposed on imports. In late July, Trump announced he would keep tariffs on Mexican products at their current rate for 90 days Previously, he had threatened to hike the tariff rate to 30 percent on the basis that the drug fentanyl was still reaching US soil. "Mexico still has not stopped the

Cartels who are trying to turn all of North America into a Narco-Trafficking Playground," Trump wrote in a letter to Sheinbaum earlier that month. Even with the 90-day pause, Mexico still faces a 25-percent tax - which Trump calls a "fentany tariff" - on all products that do not fall under the US-Mexico-Canada free trade agreement (USMCA). Still Trump has expressed warmth towards Sheinbaum, and the Mexican leader has largely avoided public confrontations with the US since taking office October 2024. Recently. Sheinbaum's government coordinated with Trump's to transfer 26 high-profile drug-trafficking suspects to the US for prosecution. In February, she made a similar deal, sending 29 alleged cartel leaders from Mexican prisons to the US, shortly before Trump threatened to impose tariffs on her country's imports. It was Mexico's largest prisoner transfer to

China to stage massive mily parade

International

BEIJING (Reuters): China will stage a massive military parade next month involving tens of thousands of people in the heart of Beijing to commemorate 80 years since the end of World War Two following the sur-render of Japan. Hundreds of aircraft including fighter jets and bombers as well as ground equipment, some of which have never been seen in public before, will be featured in the parade, military officials said at a press con-

The September 3 parade, the second such procession since 2015 to observe the surrender of Japanese forces in 1945, will be a show of China's military strength as some of its neighbours and Western nations look on with concern over the projection of power by the People's Liberation Army in recent years. From trucks fitted with devices to take out drones, new tanks and early warning aircraft to protect China's aircraft carriers, military attaches and security analysts say they are expecting China to display a host of new weapons and equipment at the parade. Additions to its expanding suite of missiles, particularly anti-ship versions and weapons with hypersonic capabilities, will be particularly closely watched as the US and its allies prepare to counter China in any future regional conflict. The 70-minute-long 'Victory Day" parade, comprising 45 contingents of troops will be surveyed by President Xi Jinping at Tiananmen Square alongside a number of foreign leaders and dignitaries including Russian President Vladimir Putin, who also attended the 2015 parade. Authorities have

stepped up security in downtown Beijing since early August when the first large-scale parade rehearsal was held, setting up checkpoints, diverting road traffic and shutting shopping malls and office buildings.

Former Mali PM charged

MALI (AFP): Mali's civilian ex-prime minister Choguel the junta, was charged with embezzlement of public funds and remanded in custody following a hearing before the country's Supreme Court. Plagued by jihadist and separatist violence, Mali has been led by the military since back-to-back coups in

2020 and 2021. Maiga is accused of "embezzlement of public funds" his lawyer Cheick Oumar Konare told AFP, adding that no date has yet been set for his trial. "We believe in justice, we are calm while awaiting the trial," Konare said, explaining that Maiga would remain in prison. Nine of his former colleagues from his time as prime minister also appeared before the court, with two being charged, some acquitted and others still awaiting their hearing, a judicial source said. A statement from the public prosecutor said the against Maiga charges involve "money laundering equal to many billions of CFA francs," or several million US dollars. Maiga was arrested one week ago, days after the junta carried out dozens of arrests to quash an alleged plot within the army's ranks to topple the govern-ment in turn. "Choguel Maiga says he is calm and believes that a politician should expect anything, including prison and death, his lawyer Konare said in a statement

His sacking in November 2024 appeared at the time to confirm that the army, which went back on a pledge to hand the reins back to civilians by the end of March 2024, had tightened its grip on power. Having been named to the post following the second coup in 2021 Maiga was fired after he publicly condemned the lack of clarity over when the military would give up power in the West African country. Mali's junta replaced the civilian prime minister with General Abdoulaye Maiga, who had previously served as government spokesman in the West African country. Impoverished Mali has been gripped by a security crisis since 2012, fuelled notably by violence from groups affiliated with Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State jihadist group, as well as local criminal gangs.

Armenia reassures Masoud it will control Azerbaijan corridor

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has told Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian that a planned corridor linking Azerbaijan with its exclave would be under Armenian control, days after Iran said it would block the project included in a United States-brokered peace accord that puts a potential Washington pres-

ence on its doorstep. "Roads passing through Armenia will be under the exclusive jurisdiction of Armenia, and security will be provided by Armenia, not by any third country,' Pashinyan said at a meeting any changes to international with Pezeshkian in the Armenian capital Yerevan. He added that the corridor would open new economic perspectives between the two countries, and could offer a rail route from Iran to the Black Sea coast through Armenia.

The land corridor, dubbed the "Trump Route for International Peace and

Armenian Prosperity" (TRIPP), is part officials have stepped up of a deal signed this month in Washington between former foes Armenia and Azerbaijan. Under the agreement, the US will hold development rights for the proposed route, which would connect Azerbaijan other countries in the to its Nakhchivan exclave bordering Iran and Turkey. "Governance in the

Caucasus region must remain Caucasian - outsourcing the resolution of Caucasus issues to extraregional forces will complicate it," Pezeshkian said during his visit. "Iran's position has always been to reject borders in the Caucasus region." Iran has long opposed the planned transit route, also known as the Zangezur corridor, fearing it would cut the country off the Caucasus while bringing agreed to return several vilpotentially hostile foreign forces close to its borders.

Since the deal was signed on August 8, Iranian Aljazeera

warnings to Armenia, saying the project could be part of a US ploy "to pursue hegemonic goals in the Caucasus region". The proposed corridor has been hailed as beneficial by region, including Russia, with which Iran has a strategic alliance alongside Armenia. Armenia and Azerbaijan have fought a series of wars since the late 1980s when Nagorno-Karabakh, a region in Azerbaijan that had a mostly ethnic Armenian population at the time, broke away from Azerbaijan with supfrom Armenia. Azerbaijan Baku took control of the territory in a military operation in 2023, leading to an exodus of the ethnic Armenian populafrom Armenia and the rest of tion. Armenia last year lages to Azerbaijan in what Baku described as a "longawaited historic event".

Israel has killed 19,000 children in Gaza war

GAZA: At least 18,885 children are momentum over the past week. Mediators among the more than 62,000 Palestinians Qatar and Egypt have been pushing to killed by Israel since the start of its genocidal war in Gaza nearly two years ago, Gaza's Government Media Office has said. The staggering, grim toll comes as the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, said that no place is safe for children in the enclave, where Israeli-induced starvation is rife due to Israel's blockading of desperately-needed aid and medical supplies. UN-run schools have become shelters

for "hundreds of thousands of people" in Gaza amid constant Israeli bombardments that have levelled homes, UNRWA said. Palestinians have "sought protection under the UN flag", only for the shelters to be targeted, becoming a "place for death, including for too many children. No place is safe for children in Gaza. Ceasefire now", the agency said. Citing the UN Children's Fund, UNICEF, UNRWA noted that in the past five months of the war, since Israel unilaterally shattered a ceasefire deal and resumed attacks, "an average

The UN warnings come as at least 51 Palestinians were killed in Israeli attacks since dawn. Among them are at least eight aid seekers who lost their lives when Israeli forces opened fire near the United States and Israeli-backed GHF aid distribution sites, a daily deadly gauntlet Palestinians have suffered, leading to nearly 2,000 deaths since late May. Hospitals in Gaza said at least eight people were killed in attacks on tents sheltering displaced people in Khan Younis, and four more were killed in a strike on a tent in Deir el-Balah, in central Gaza. Israeli forces are also stepping up an assault on Gaza City, despite global warnings urging Israel to cease expanding operations there. An air raid in Gaza City's Zeitoun neighbourhood killed at least four people and wounded others, health officials said. In southern Gaza City, Israeli forces blew up houses, while heavy fire was reported in the Tuffah neighbourhood in eastern Gaza City. Al Jazeera's Tareq Abu Azzoum, reporting from Deir-el-Balah, said Israeli forces have been launching "a deadly barrage of air strikes on densely populated areas" in Gaza City. "In addition to destroying over 450 residential blocks in Gaza City's Zeitoun neighbourhood, Israel's operations have now expanded to the nearby Sabra area. These areas lead to the main heart of Gaza City," Abu Azzoum said. Meanwhile, key mediator Qatar has confirmed that Hamas responded positivea 60-day truce and partial captives-forprisoners exchange.

Two Israeli officials said Israel is studyng Hamas's response to the proposal, without providing more details. But Israeli media reported that the far-right Israeli

restart indirect talks between the sides on a US-backed ceasefire plan. The proposal includes the release of 200 Palestinian prisoners held in Israel and an unspecified number of imprisoned women and minors, in return for 10 living captives and the bodies of 18 dead from Gaza, according to a Hamas official. Two Egyptian security sources confirmed the details and added that Hamas has requested the release of hundreds of detainees from Gaza as well.

Israel says a total of 50 captives remain Gaza, 20 of them still alive. Qatari Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Majed al-Ansari said the 60-day truce deal would include "a pathway to a comprehensive agreement to end the war". The proposal includes a partial withdrawal of Israeli forces, which presently occupy 75 percent of Gaza, and the entry of more humanitarian aid into the enclave, where a population of 2.2 million people is increasingly facing an Israeli-induced famine. Israel's government has not offiof over 540 children have been killed cially responded, but Israeli media, citing every month, per reports". Footage obtained by Al Jazeera shows the final moments of 12-year-old Amna al-Mufti, Kokalla Maiga, dismissed in November after he criticised water for her family and her father's grief. Al Jazeera's senior political analyst, Marwan Bishara, said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has calculated that it is no longer in his "interest" to agree to a partial ceasefire. "I think for him [Netanyahu] he is winning the war; for him, Hamas is on the way to defeat; for him, there's a green light from Washington; and I just don't think, except in a very, very exceptional circumstance, that he will agree", to a deal, Bishara said. Israeli tanks completed taking control of the Zeitoun suburb in Gaza City and continued to pound the nearby area of Sabra. Local health authorities said dozens of people had been trapped in their houses because of the shelling.

Among them is Suha Maqat, a oncecelebrated para-athlete trapped in Gaza City, alone and blind in one eye. Like other Palestinians with disabilities, her situation means it is impossible to follow Israel's forced displacement orders, which have already forced thousands to flee over the past few days. The spokesperson for the Palestinian Civil Defence, Mahmoud Basal, said the situation was "very dangerous and unbearable" in the Zeitoun and Sabra neighbourhoods, where he said "artillery shelling continues intermittently". Sabra resident Hussein al-Dairi, 44, said that "tanks are firing shells and mortars, and drones, are firing bullets and missiles" in the neighbourhood. "We heard on the news that Hamas had agreed to a truce, but the ly to a Gaza ceasefire proposal, including occupation is escalating the war against us, the civilians," he added. More Palestinians have also died from malnutrition and starvation, including three reported in the past 24 hours, Gaza's Ministry of Health said. It said that 154 adults have died of malnutrition since late government wants all the captives held in June, when it began counting such deaths, Gaza, alive and dead, returned all at once. and 112 children have died of hunger Efforts to pause the fighting gained new since the war began. — Aljazeera

Venezuela says 66 children 'kidnapped' by United States

CARACAS (AFP): The Venezuelan government claimed that 66 Venezuelan children are being illegally held in the United States after being separated from their parents during deportation, as the White House cracks down on immigration. Caracas is demanding the children be handed over to Venezuelan authorities so

they can be repatriated.
"We have 66 children kidnapped in the United States. It's a number that grows each day... a cruel and inhumane policy," said Camila Fabri, president of the government's Return to the Homeland program that advocates for the voluntary return of people who left the country. She

spoke at a gathering at which and work there for a designatwomen read out letters to US First Lady Melania Trump asking her to intercede on behalf of the children, who they said had been placed in foster care. More than 7.7 million Venezuelans have left the country since 2014, the largest population exodus in Latin America's recent history, according to UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency.
It blamed "rampant vio-

lence, inflation, gang-warfare, soaring crime rates as well as shortages of food, medicine and essential servic-In recent years Venezuelans in the United States had been granted temporary protected immigration

ed time period. But President Donald Trump's administration revoked that protection as part of his aggressive campaign to deport millions of undocumented migrants from the United States. The US Department of Homeland Security did not immediately respond to AFP requests for comment on the claim by Caracas. To date, 21 stranded children have been returned to Venezuela, including a daughter of one of the 252 Venezuelans detained in Trump's immigration crackdown in March, who was accused without evidence of gang activity and deported to Salvador's notorious status, allowing them to live CECOT prison.

The Frontier Post Rehmat Shah Afridi (Late)

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The uncertain fallout of the **Putin-Trump** summit meeting

THE much-hyped summit meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and United States President **Donald Trump in Alaska on Saturday was** not exactly a damp squib it seems to be because it has not changed the ground reality of the Ukrainian war. The war contin-

Of course, there was no prospect of a ceasefire which Trump had hoped to achieve. It is, to give it a positive spin, an ice-breaker. And it was also the first time that Putin broke off his isolation from the Western world ever since he had ordered the invasion of Ukraine in February, 2022. He had visited North Korea and China.

It is now a question of debate and discussion as to what came of it. It seems that something did come out of it. Putin had indicated his terms of agreement to end the war, an unequal division of territory. Russia would yield about 600 sq.km to Ukraine in return for 6,000 sq.km. Will it be acceptable to Ukraine? On the face of it, it does not

What Putin asks is legitimization of Russian acquisition of the Crimean peninsula in 2014. Trump met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in Washington on Monday. Trump is likely to persuade Zelensky to accept the Putin proposals in their entirety, but in principle that is accepting Russian acquisition of territory - and which would put Zelensky in an unenviable tight spot.

It is an unacceptable proposition for the Ukrainians. But it is also a difficult position to maintain. Ukraine is feeling the stress and strain of war. Americans and Europeans may help it with arms, but the war has to be fought by the Ukrainians. The price is enormous despite the bravery of the Ukrainians. The lesses in men and materials are unswetcinable. losses in men and materials are unsustainable over a long period. Russia can wage a war for a long time. Ukraine cannot survive a long

Zelensky and the European leaders like French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, European Union President Ursula von der Leyen, NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte will firmly oppose the Putin plan.

So, is Trump compromising the democratic forces of Europe by talking to Putin, the uncontested ruler of Russia, who has been in power for 25 years now, second only to Joseph Stalin who was the top Russian leader for 30 years? Trump, whatever his drawbacks, and there are too many, is also a pragmatist like any businessman. He is keen to end the war and he believes that compromises are inevitable.

Ukraine and Europe are not willing to compromise. They think any compromise with Putin would mean strengthening the anti-democratic forces on the continent. There are already some countries from eastern Europe. which formed the communist bloc before 1989, who are not averse to making compromises with Russia.

It would be useful to recognize that EU and NATO are not identical. NATO sees Russia as a military threat. EU is indifferent, and its members had no hesitation in dealing with Putin's Russia in trade matters. EU is, of course, committed to the notion of liberal democracy. And it wants to defend Ukraine's right to be a democracy.

It is of course the case that there have been pro-Moscow, pro-West political factions in Ukrainian politics, and Western Europeans and Americans played their own hand in supporting the pro-West faction in Ukraine.

The last three years of war have shown that Ukrainians are with Zelensky and they believe in the idea of a sovereign Ukraine. Putin through his actions will recognize an independent Ukraine. The West will seek a guarantee from Russia that it would not make any further encroachments in Ukraine. Of course, there is always the nagging doubt whether Russia and Putin would honour such a commitment.

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Field Marshal: A beacon of hope and trust for the business community

Abdul Basit Alvi

IELD Marshal Munir's efforts have proven parfraught with significant tries have been instrutently deterred by lin- vation. gering security con-cerns, pervasive regula
By personally engaging with global business

inconsistency. protection and actively stakeholders. encouraging international lucrative avenues for both investment and

industrial expansion. perceived meticulously crafted an plex sively safeguarded.

nity has also profoundly alike. benefited from his decirampant smuggling, and inflated costs, and undermined severely legitimate enterprise. found dinated cessfully insidious demonstrably reduced inflationary pres-

These reassured legitimate busi- tion. nesses that the playing field is rapidly becoming more level and that illethe formal economy.

Furthermore, Marshal Asim Munir's strategic approach to economic diplomacy has most profound and sig-undeniably bolstered nificant aspects of Field investor trust by showcasing Pakistan as a Munir's transformative the viable, attractive, and relationship with the Additionally, the FPCCI omy genuinely promising des- business community is chief passionately called achieve sustainable and tination for investment and lucrative of hope and burgeoning judiciously reduced in for the unequivocal bene joint ventures.

On the parabolic restoration for interest faces to be included in for the unequivocal bene optimism in a context alignment with prevailing fit of all Pakistanis.

His high-profile visits where economic narraticularly impactful in to key Gulf states and tives had long been over- tion of vital amendments traditionally influential Western coun- whelmingly dominated to the Export Facilitation uncertainty, such as mental in securing multi- itating instability, and concerning the judicious complex mineral extrac- billion-dollar investment ceaseless political wran- exclusion of cotton, yarn, tion, vital energy infra-structure, foundational call partnerships specifi-agriculture, and dynamic information ing infrastructure devel-dynamic information information information in the scheme, as well as the fair imposition of an 18% sales tax on their crucial technology. In these opment, advancing vital visible, decisive actions imports. areas, investors had energy projects, and fos- against malpractices and The company of the previously been consistering technological inno- an unwavering commit- raised legitimate contory ambiguity, and leaders and dynamic entrepreneurship and continue to significantly frustrating policy diaspora entrepreneurs, investor sentiment across burden manufacturers

he has effectively rein-His decisive leadership forced a compelling nar-has directly contributed rative of Pakistan as a ing long-standing gaps acknowledged Field to securing strategic min-nation firmly on the path between military authori-Marshal Munir's commining operations est and unwavering com-through robust military mitment from crucial operations est and unwavering com-The military's proac-

partnerships with rep- tive involvement in largeutable foreign firms, scale infrastructure projthereby opening highly ects under his meticulous supervision, particularly in the critical sectors of agriculture and logistics, This clear and deliber- has further cemented the ate alignment of robust private sector's trust. security objectives with This has been achieved crucial economic goals by demonstrably showhas significantly reduced casing an unparalleled in its tireless efforts to nesses and the people of risks and ability to execute com- comprehensively revive Pakistan. projects environment where busi- remarkable efficiency strengthen nesses now feel genuine- and absolute transpareny assured that their valu- cy, effectively filling cruable assets and vital oper- cial gaps that had long ations are comprehen- frustrated both domestic international and The business commu- investors and businesses

Field Marshal Munir's sive and impactful crack- unwavering emphasis on down on illicit trade, digitization, transparency, and stringent accountwidespread power theft— ability within public secdetrimental activities that tor economic institutions have historically distort- has been enthusiastically ed markets, artificially welcomed by the discerning business community. They view these proreforms Under his direct instruc- absolutely vital to signiftion, meticulously coor- icantly reducing rampant operations corruption, expediting involving military and sluggish processes, and civil agencies have suc- cultivating a truly predismantled dictable environment for black-market enterprise. His firm insisnetworks dealing in cur- tence on merit-based rency, essential petrole- appointments, rigorous um, and other critical performance evaluations, commodities, leading to and streamlined regulatogreater ry frameworks has tangimarket stability, signifi- bly translated into discantly improved supply cernible improvements in chains, and considerably the delivery of essential services such as licensing, tax administration, concerted customs clearance, and efforts have robustly efficient dispute resolu-

transformative This shift in governance has markedly reduced uncergal actors can no longer tainty and significantly undermine fair competi- improved the ease with tion or unfairly burden which businesses can operate, invest, and Field meticulously plan for a prosperous Marshal

by relentless crisis, debilment to national econom- cerns about the persist-

the board. grounded in profound and mutual trust, shared over- APTMA, in an official arching objectives, and a statement, collective commitment to lauded national progress.In a Marshal's recent, pivotal meeting commitment to deeply with a delegation of lead- engaging with the busi General (GHQ), Field Marshal showcasing both pro ly pledged his full and uine concern for the eco unwavering support to nomic the business community squarely faced by busi with and substantially Pakistan's

economy. The distinguished deland including Atif Ikram President and Industry (FPCCI), alongside influential rep-Association (APTMA), presented a detailed and Federal Board provisions troversial under Sections 37A and 37B of the Sales Tax Act business figures.

expressed profound gratitude to the army chief for his decisive directive to these contentious provisions on hold and the unwavering confiearnestly emphasized the dence, robust capability structive and collabora- its tive dialogue between the community. FBR and the broader business community to swiftly resolve ongoing disputes.

The delegation also have extended commendation reshaped Facilitation

inflation to robustly sup port business growth and for the prompt notifica-Scheme (EFS), especially The delegation further

ic priorities, has pro- ently high electricity foundly reinvigorated prices, which regrettably be board.

By strategically bridg
By strategically bridg
By strategically bridg
By strategically bridgexport sectors exemplary ing businessmen at the ness community and Headquarters industry, demonstrably Asim Munir unequivocal- found patience and genissues

The pivotal meeting which impressively spanned almost four hours, was expertly manegation, led by Gohar Ijaz aged and facilitated by the esteemed Interior Sheikh, the esteemed Minister. The delegation the collectively expressed Federation of Pakistan unwavering confidence Chambers of Commerce that under the visionary of leadership Marshal Asim Munir, resentatives from the All Pakistan would decisive-Pakistan Textile Mills ly unlock its immense economic potential, comprehensively insightful overview of the investor confidence, and pressing challenges con- ultimately achieve susfronting the industrial tainable and inclusive sector. Their focus partice economic growth. The ularly highlighted the business community, in expanded powers of the an unprecedented show of of unity, unequivocally Revenue (FBR) and con- expressed its full and absolute confidence in Field Marshal Munir.

Ultimately, 1990, which critically Marshal Asim Munit allow for the arrest and stands not merely as a detention of prominent distinguished military leader but as an astute The FPCCI president economic statesman who possesses an intrinsic understanding that the enduring prosperity of put the enforcement of Pakistan is inextricably and profoundly linked to crucial need for a con- and inherent creativity of business vibrant

His remarkable contri butions as a luminous beacon of hope and an unwavering pillar of trust fundamentally the nation's for the government's and business landscape by future.Perhaps one of the the Special Investment meticulously creating an Council's environment where com-(SIFC) diligent efforts in merce can truly thrive Syed Asim successfully stabilizing investments can vigor economy. ously grow, and the econcan steadfastly capital the palpable restoration for interest rates to be inclusive development

Netanyahu is now the problem — for the region and the world

Osama Al-Sharif

SRAELI -Netanyahu always seen himself as a bomb. He had already man on a historic mis- managed to thwart the sion: to bury Palestinian Obama nuclear deal. Now ambitions of a state of he convinced Trump to their own and extend strike Iran's nuclear infra-Israel's boundaries structure.

activist and poet. cian, Netanyahu galvanized both ultra-nationalist and ultra-religious Israelis, who until then played a minor role in right and far right because improbable, were possi-

stream won him the unofficial title of "King of Israel," and eventually Israel"?
made him the longestBut s Oct. 7, 2023, Netanyahu rarely presented himself as a religious as well as a the notorious Hamas called, referred to the Torah several times to portray Israel's Palestinian enemies and the Hebrew state's modern wars. The purpose was always to whip up

extremists.

tion was facing nation-wide protests against his Americans from both attempt to subjugate the main political parties. judiciary and remove the corruption ment was on the verge of outcome may not appear

support among

Prime Donald Trump that Iran Minister Benjamin was only months away had from building a nuclear

beyond historical The 12-day war Palestine. His rise to the between Israel and Iran helm in the late 1990s was the culmination of a came in the wake of the series of regional blows Oslo Accords, which he that Israel was able to considered a betrayal of deal to its enemies: ultra-nationalist Hezbollah in Lebanon, Zionism as preached by the Assad regime in Ze'ev Jabotinsky, the Syria, the Houthis in Russian-born Zionist Yemen, and the nuclear ctivist and poet.

As a firebrand politi
As a firebrand politigeopolitical fallout in less than two years.

Netanyahu has become intoxicated with power. Why not: Oct. 7, 2023 has Israeli politics. But he changed everything and was able to charm the made the improbable possible. Netanyahu is now of his ability to convince the only Israeli leader all that his maximalist whose military flies, designs, seen then as uncontested, over Lebanon, most of Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and parts of His ability to paint his Iran. Why would he not radical policies as main- speak of himself as a man on a historic mission with a connection to "Greater

But such triumph did serving premier in the not come without a hefty country's history. Until price. Yes, Israel has not come without a hefty emerged as a regional behemoth, one that wants to change the map of the political leader. But since region, destabilize its neighbors, and carry out attack, Bibi, as he is often nefarious projects. But its image across the globe been beyond repair. Most of its Western allies are now denouncing its policies in Gaza and the West Bank.

Netanyahu is also breaking Israel's steadfast ties to its most important The war on Gaza came ally, the US, without as a personal relief for which his country cannot Netanyahu. Before the survive. Israel has Hamas attack, his coali- become a pariah state in The dynamics of the UScharges Israel relationship are against him. His govern- changing, and while the collapse, but then came soon, it will show at some

There is a consensus in Israel today that almost two years of war in Gaza have failed to deliver its stated objectives. Even the Israeli military is now admitting that it has run out of targets. Gaza is in ruins. Hamas' military capabilities have been destroyed. Its leadership structure was decimated. Those who fight are isolated cells that can never be completely wiped out. On the other hand, Israeli society is tired. Hostages remain in the hands of their captors. The cost of the war has been enormous even with the help of American taxpayers whose government has supplied

Israel with tens of billions in munitions. And to top it all, the entire world is now against the conflict, and against Israel and its genocidal practices in Gaza. Western governments are openly denouncing Israeli violations in Gaza – the starvation, killing of children, dehumanization of Palestinians, ethnic cleansing, and multiple war crimes.

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Only one man wants the war to go on and on: Netanyahu. His survival depends on keeping the war machine running. But there is more. He now sees himself on a spiritual ambition of a "Greater Israel." His recent statements have shocked Israel's neighbors, especially those with which Israel had signed peace What treaties. does

'Greater Israel" mean? For years, Netanyahu had warned of Iran's proxies in the region as an warned of nuclear ambitions and even more, is a criminal convinced US President who should face justice.

point.

The Israeli leader will find ways to keep the genocidal war going. He will push Trump to recognize the annexation of the West Bank. His far-right partners will force him to defund the Palestinian Authority and partition what remains of the West Bank, while planning the forced displacement of Palestinians.

Netanyahu's narcissistic view of himself as a man on a mission has already damaged Israel from within. It has discredited the message of the Abraham Accords and the prospects of peace in the region. For many Israelis, Netanyahu had failed to deliver victory in Gaza because of his selfish reasons, while sacrificing the hostages. And when many influential countries announce their recognition Palestinian state, come September, Netanyahu will retaliate and make things worse for Israel, vation, killing of chil- the Palestinians, and the

Trump is wrong to

assume that the occupation of Gaza City will destroy Hamas and end the war. On Sunday, almost a million Israelis took to the streets to express their rejection of Netanyahu's latest gambit. As one European offimission to fulfill the cial put it: "Netanyahu himself is now the problem." This is the shared sentiment of leaders across the world as well as a majority of Israelis. Netanyahu may think of himself as a man on a mission, but that is not how the world sees him. A man who sanctioned the killing of over 60,000 existential threat. He Palestinians, and threat-Tehran's ens to kill and displace

Trump, send your deportees to Europe not Africa

250 migrants under the Trump's Victorian view Trump administration's of Africa: a desolate, reach of French monetary cannot be accepted. expanding third-coun- irredeemable continent imperialism through the try deportation pro- unworthy of respect or CFA.

government spokesper- tradition, crystallised in son Yolande Makolo said Conrad's Rwanda would retain the Darkness, where Africa right to decide which is portrayed as "dark" deportees to admit for and "primeval" - a land "resettlement". accepted, she added, violent, its people cast as healthcare, and housing ing, feeling, or compas-to help them "rebuild sion. their lives"

The programme forms are. part of President Donald Trump's controversial lenges. pledge to carry out "the

deportation agreement of able its kind on the African reproach. continent.

On July 16, the US about 1.7 million incomes just a tiny fract tlement, delivering a neered: powerless people sent five convicted crim-refugees, making it tion of their former colo-fresh blow to both Africa whom the West openly inals from Vietnam, Jamaica, Laos, Cuba, and Yemen to Eswatini, forknown

Swaziland. Described as "barbaric and violent" and rejected by their countries of origin, they are confined to isolated units at the Matsapha Correctional Complex, near the capital Mbabane, pending eventual repatriation.

Eleven days earlier, on July 5, eight men convicted of murder, sexual assault, and robbery were deported to South Sudan. Reports differ on whether any deportee was South Sudanese.

The deportations have already provoked widespread outrage - from civil society groups in Eswatini, to lawyers in Sudan,

South Africa's govern- hosting country. This fig- Expecting them to carry irregular migrants in the ment has even lodged a ure exceeds the com- the burden of America's US come from

300 today. accept

ry already has "enough seekers and refugees problems" and "over 230

The US is strong-arming others at the expense reborn.

of vulnerable people. fied and alone, all in the bleeds from the wounds Europe's enrichment. name of policy.

people to Rwanda, unrest in the eastern drives global inequality. colonial Eswatini, and South Democratic Republic of

R w a n d a already struggling to care it for their own citizens.

This truth exposes **amme.** equal partnership. His Speaking from Kigali, vision echoes a Western Heart Those deemed oppressive and

That is not who we

Yes, Africa has chal-

Nonetheless, we do largest deportation oper- not turn the marginalised ation in American histo- into pawns, nor do we disguise exile as policy. It also marks the third Our humanity is unshakand beyond

Tafi Mhaka

Congo,

"Uncle Sam" now plans to send both con- in victed criminals and desperate asylum seekers to Africa is colonial Africa's shores, instead of the warships of old. for today. Both groups deserve support at home in the US, with extensive rehabilitawould receive training, incapable of understand- tion for offenders and century, many European US in targeting and safe sanctuary for the colonies were reduced to destabilising sovereign vulnerable.

If not, Europe can be tres the only alternative.

Let the architects of empire face the heat. cally obnoxious allies of and Djibouti. Spain used Washington carry the Bioko burden for once.

South Sudan are among deportees from Cuba. the poorest nations in the Today, Uganda hosts world, with per capita that same imperial enti- Western armies engi-

unleashed after the disas- Netherlands, environmental trous Berlin Conference instance, boast robust devastation in Nigeria's of 1885, when European welfare systems, public Delta, and the continuing powers carved up Africa, health networks, and

> No matter what officials in Rwanda, South public, sending tion. America's cast-offs to exploitation repackaged tions to absorb deportees.

This is not a new strat-record.

and dumping grounds. France banished exiles to territories such Let the wealthy, politi- as present-day Gabon al law. Island

The deportations have already provoked widespread outrage – from civil society groups in Eswatini, to lawyers in South Sudan, who denounce them as illegal. South Africa's government has even lodged a formal protest with Eswatini. Nigeria, meanwhile, has rebuffed US pressure to accept 300 Venezuelans, with Foreign

Minister Yusuf Tuggar saying the country already has "enough problems" and over 230 million people" to care for. The US is strong-arming others at the expense of vulnerable people. Trump's established brutality is horrifying. His family separations in 2019 left children terrified and alone, all in the name of policy. The US is now sending people to Rwanda, Eswatini, and South Sudan – countries already struggling to care for their own citizens. This truth exposes Trump's Victorian view of Africa: a desolate, irredeemable continent unworthy of respect or equal partner-ship. His vision echoes a Western tradition, crystallised in Conrad's Heart of

Darkness, where Africa is portrayed as "dark" and "primeval" – a land deemed oppressive and violent, its people cast as incapable of understanding, feeling, or compassion. That is not who we are. Yes, Africa has challenges. Nonetheless, we do not turn the marginalised into pawns, nor do we disguise exile as policy. Our humanity is unshakable and beyond reproach. Today, Uganda hosts about 1.7 mil-

lion refugees, making it Africa's largest refugee-hosting country. This figure exceeds the combined refugee populations under UNHCR's mandate in the UK, France, and Belgium today. Europe must assume a far greater share of responsibility for asylum seekers and refugees. These third-country deportation deals are not credible policy. They are colonialism reborn. No self-respecting African leader should ever agree to participate in an organised atrocity - not when Africa still bleeds from the

wounds inflicted by the West: Sudan's civil war, civic unrest in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, environmental devastation in Nigeria's Delta, and the continuing reach of French monetary imperialism through the CFA.

denounce them as illegal. Africa's largest refugee- nial rulers in Europe, and the Americas, Most formal protest with bined refugee popula- deportees is not only Venezuela, Mexico, El Eswatini.

UNHCR's unjust – it is absurd.

Salvador, Guatemala, Nigeria, meanwhile, mandate in the UK, has rebuffed US pressure France, and Belgium Unequal Exchange and and Haiti

Tuggar saying the coun- responsibility for asylum Piketty, analysed foreign ence.

million people" to care deportation deals are not turies. It shows that by impact of colonial legacredible policy.

inflicted by the West:

Venezuelans, with Europe must assume a undertaken by Gaston European colonialism the Americas. Foreign Minister Yusuf far greater share of Nievas and Thomas and US imperial interferaccumulation wealth These third-country over more than two cen- embody the ongoing 1914, European powers cies and geopolitical They are colonialism held net foreign assets meddling that propel approaching 140 percent migration. of vulnerable people. No self-respecting of GDP, underscoring Yet the West, and If the US insists on Trump's established African leader should how colonial transfers, Europe above all, denies offloading its deportees, brutality is horrifying. ever agree to participate artificially low commod- and disowns the conse- let it send them to those 2019 left children terri- not when Africa still and exploitation fuelled past and present.

From Juba to Kigali, certainly A return to the sys- The

Guatemala, A May 2025 study, Honduras, Nicaragua,

The US is now sending Sudan's civil war, civic colonial plunder still through centuries of spoils. Leave Africa out UK,

prison rehabilitation programmes - magnificent structures built on cen-Sudan, or Eswatini claim turies of colonial extrac-

> They have both the means and the institu-They also have the

Beginning in the 19th have eagerly joined the These same powers offshore extraction cen- nations across Africa, as well as Iraq, Afghanistan, and Libya - in wars convicts and political widely condemned as violations of internation-

Every intervention has in unleashed fresh waves of Equatorial Guinea as a refugees and asylum Rwanda, Eswatini, and penal settlement for seekers, hapless men, women, and children The US has revived fleeing the very chaos ignores or despises.

Africa, by contrast plays by the rules and adheres to the UN Charter. We honour sovereignty, respect international law, and strive for peace, even while shackled by colonial debt designed to keep us dependent.

Europe breaks the rules, Africa abides by - yet Africa is them asked to shoulder the burden.

The hypocrisy is stag-

gering.

We will not bankroll,

inherit the legitimise, or inherit the crimes of empire.

After all, we barely control our own destinies. The IMF and World Bank dictate our economies. The UN Security Council enforces old hierarchies. The G7 protects the West's interests over us, Africans left impoverished and starving. Structural oppression allows the West to keep nations interfering in the lives of North-South Relations, scarred by centuries of people across Africa and

> But we will not be complicit.

We will not be silent Western policies and Organization reports that equipped to interventions drive poverty, displacement, and instability in the Global South.

His family separations in in an organised atrocity – ity prices, forced labour, quences of its crimes, who built and still profit ing 24 children under five, ast and present. from this system of European nations have oppression. The West prospered must reckon with its exploitation. of it. Send Trump's France, deportees to Europe.

humanity **Binaifer Nowrojee**

Israeli government

has lost all trace of its

grew up with stories of starvation at home. **Both** my parents 5,000 children under five seeking food — 859 in the somehow survived, only were admitted for outpajust, this horrible fate tient treatment of malnutriduring the Second World tion, nearly a fifth of them War. My mother was in with severe acute malnutri-Stalingrad and my father in a concentration camp

process of wasting away.

Their stories, and those

a young age to this type

Starvation, if it doesn't

icate it.

anyone else there.

recent history and to refuse

to be complicit, in any

way, shape or form, in

causing the starvation of

a child over five, and 38

other people.

deaths in July.

According to the Integrated Food Security in Poland, suffering from that slow and agonizing Phase Classification plat- the quantities needed, and form, two out of three famine thresholds have those desperate to get of others who did not been reached in Gaza: food. survive, exposed me from plummeting food consumption and acute malnuof cruelty, which one trition. There is mounting group of human beings is evidence that "widespread capable of inflicting on starvation, malnutrition medicine, we are likely to another at times of war and disease" are driving a see an exponential rise in and conflict. Tragically rise in hunger-related for humanity, we have completely failed to eraddeaths, which is the third yet on levels where famine can be formally declared.

kill you, will induce severe long-term mental and other health vulnerabilities and adversely affect one's life expectancy. Having lived my formative years among those who had suffered that has even angered the from extreme hunger and its consequences, I feel President Donald Trump. sickened and distressed by Netanyahu does not sound convincing by first denying that there is a severe the images of starved people in Gaza. It feels personal. Some might argue it shortage of food despite evokes a secondary trauma mounting evidence to the and the inability to reconcontrary and then accusing cile with the fact that no Hamas of causing these empathy or compassion shortages that he denies are being shown by today's exist.

Israeli government, not to In reality, Israel could have prevented this acute the very young or old or shortage of food by flood-I can already hear the chorus of criticism for with food to circumvent comparing what is taking anyone who tries to control place in Gaza with the the food market, for either Holocaust. I won't do this, racketeering or political gain, and by that deprive because this is not what matters now and is not my them of having any leverintention. A starved perage over the Gazan popuson, especially when their lation. To meet the basic condition is human-made needs of the 2.1 million and avoidable, is the vicpeople who live in Gaza, tim of a brutality that has there is a need for 62,000 no place in a civilized socitonnes of food staples monthly.

In a decision that repre-And those who are in a position to stop it but do sents both extreme callousnot do so must be held accountable. For a nation of judgment, in the months that includes so many of its of March and April, Israel did not allow any food to people who suffered the fate of starvation and enter Gaza. either perished as a result Then, under internationor somehow survived, al pressure, a trickle of there must be an obligation and an expectation to be particularly sensitive to its

Moreover, the Israeli this view. decision to declare war on Alas, this is not the UNRWA and other UN Solzhenitsyn, the Soviet ase. The World Health agencies that were best and Russian author and

equipped to provide dissident who was incar-humanitarian aid to cerated in Stalin's gulag malnutrition in Gaza is on a dangerous trajectory, Palestinians in Gaza marked by a spike in and the trust they enjoy "Of 74 malnutrition- with the local population Ivan Denisovich": "That related deaths in 2025, 63 — has backfired. occurred in July — includ-

with the American-backed adults ... (and) their bodies Gaza Humanitarian Fund showing clear signs of resulted in not enough severe wasting." In the food entering Gaza. And, first two weeks of last to make things worse,

least 1,373 Palestinians have been killed while vicinity of this group's sites and 514 along the food delivery routes. Supplying humanitarian aid by airdrops was mainly to the a PR exercise and it has delivered only a fraction of at times led to the deaths of

Those are the facts and, without an urgent, immediate and substantial increase in the supply of food and the number of those dying from hunger — meanfamine indicator, but not while, there is heartless political wrangling over who is to blame. As there The Israeli government, is mounting evidence of and first and foremost many and various war Prime Minister Benjamin crimes committed in Gaza, Netanyahu, are denying mass starvation is the one the fact of starvation or that has led the internationhunger in Gaza, something al community, at last, to voice its grave concerns PM's close backer, US and apply some pressure on Israel, albeit with limited results, to end this inhumane policy and start allowing food in.

It is simply beyond comprehension how this Israeli government could have lost all trace of its humanity and morality, not to mention its basic common sense, and sunk to a new low of withdrawing the most basic needs for ing, so to speak, the place subsistence from people who have already suffered immeasurable loss and pain. Nothing has united the world in its criticism of Israel, not before the war and not during it, more than its inflicting of such degrees of hunger and distress in Gaza. If future historians

should look at one single aspect of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that gave the impetus for leading Western countries such ness and a complete lack as the UK, France and Canada, among others, to recognize the Palestinian state — or for Germany of all countries to impose a partial military embargo — it would most probably food was allowed in, but be this current Israeli govonly about a quarter of ernment's decision that what was required. This starving the people of slowed the trajectory of Gaza is permissible and Gaza's descent into starva- might serve Israeli intertion, but it did not stop it. ests. No one else shares

prison system, wrote on thanks to their experience this experience in his book "One Day in the Life of bowl of soup — it was The failed attempt to dearer than freedom, dearreplace these organizations er than life itself, past, present and future." Those who deliberately deprive people of food do so because they want their total submission, which is month alone, more than according to the UN, at Israel's intention in Gaza.

To close the climate finance gap, let vulnerable nations use carbon markets

Mohamed Nasheed

TOTHING brings mate justice. mate change more than Vulnerable 20 Finance living 1.5 metres (5ft) Ministers (CVF-V20) above the rising seas as recognise carbon markets the as one of the levers that, country, Maldives, does.

mate change, developing ly to V20 countries. This countries - like the would Maldives and others in strengthen the 74-nation Climate resilience, reduce eco-Vulnerable Forum - need nomic losses and enable

The most vulnerable sustainable development. nations need an estimated \$490bn a year by 2030 kets from major emitters plans,

against climate devasta- could mean a sevenfold tion while others pump impact for the host counout the carbon pollution try of carbon projects. driving rising tempera- Many of the V20 driving rising tempera-

narrowing the funding ing and restoring tropical carbon finance and bene-back gap and advancing cli- and temperate forests. fit from its full potential and

Climate urgency of cli- Vulnerable Forum and

by 2030, could unlock an But to cope with cli- additional \$20bn annualsignificantly climate these nations to pursue

Scaling carbon mar-

through to fund their climate integrity, standardised strategies, including mit- projects could expand igation, adaptation and nature and climate the cost of loss and dam-age. And yet, the provi-halving the cost of implesion of climate finance menting national climate known remains woefully inade- Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), It is an indictment of and supporting other an outdated global finan- development goals. It cial architecture that would provide governturns a blind eye to those ments with increased on the climate front lines. revenue, particularly for What good is a global nature-based solutions, financial system if it mitigation and resilience denies the world's most while aligning emissions vulnerable the opportuni- reductions with national ty to build resilience priorities. The result

countries possess unpar-In this context, carbon alleled capacity for emismarkets hold the poten- sions reductions and cartial to mobilise urgent bon sequestration, for from carbon markets are and regulation. climate finance crucial to example through preserv- typically unable to access

This makes them ideally placed to host impactful

national climate goals.

ects, which help achieve the least equipped with ing carbon markets to and development beneboth domestic and inter- specialised knowledge help drive decarbonisa- fits, climate-vulnerable developing along with tailored mar- tion and build climate- countries

carbon-creditable proj- because they are often economies from leverag- potential climate impact

It is an indictment of an outdated global financial architecture that turns a blind eye to those on the climate front lines. What good is a global financial system if it denies the world's most vulnerable the opportunity to build resilience against climate devastation while others pump out the carbon pollution driving rising temperatures? In this context, carbon markets hold the potential to

mobilise urgent climate finance crucial to narrowing the funding gap and advancing climate justice. The Climate Vulnerable Forum and Vulnerable 20 Finance Ministers (CVF-V20) recognise carbon markets as one of the levers that, by 2030, could unlock an additional \$20bn annually to V20 countries. This would significantly strengthen climate resilience, reduce economic losses and enable these nations to pursue sustainable development. Scaling carbon markets through high-integrity, standardised projects could expand nature and climate investment pipelines, halving the cost of implementing national climate plans, known as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and supporting other development goals. It would provide governments with increased revenue, particularly for nature-based solutions, mitigation and resilience while aligning emissions reductions with

national priorities. The result could mean a sevenfold impact for the host country of carbon proj-

ects. Many of the V20 countries possess unparalleled capacity for emissions reductions and carbon sequestration, for example through preserving and restoring tropical and temperate forests. This makes them ideally placed to host impactful carbon-creditable projects, which help achieve both domestic and international climate goals. Yet these countries with the most to gain from carbon markets are typically unable to access carbon finance and benefit from its full potential because they are often the least equipped with specialised knowledge along with tailored market infrastructure, including appropriate policies and regulation. These barriers hold back emerging markets and developing economies from leveraging carbon markets to help drive decarbonisation and build climate-resilient economies while simultaneously advancing their sustainable development priorities. To minimise the risk of carbon markets exploiting developing economies and maximise potential cli-

the CVF-V20 is partnering with the Voluntary Carbon Markets Integrity Initiative (VCMI) to help developing countries strategically integrate carbon market access into their climate prosperity plans. Climate prosperity plans are multiphase national strategies for investment and access to technology designed to support climate-vulnerable nations to transform climate risks into bankable opportunities. As part of this effort, the CVF-V20 will leverage VCMI's updated carbon markets access toolkit to help its members evaluate and navigate engagement with diverse carbon markets, from voluntary schemes to those established under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

mate impact and development benefits, climate-vulnerable countries must be empowered to make

informed and sovereign decisions about carbon market engagement and management. That's why

carbon finance and bene-fit from its full notential and developing of

These barriers hold development priorities. To minimise the risk management. carbon markets

Yet these countries ket infrastructure, includ- resilient economies while empowered to make with the most to gain ing appropriate policies simultaneously advanc- informed and sovereign ing their sustainable decisions about carbon market engagement and

strategically integrate carbon market access into their climate prosperity plans. Climate to address concerns over prosperity plans are multiphase national strategies for investment and access to technology designed to support climate-vulnerable nations mate investment gap of to transform climate risks \$11.3bn by 2030. into bankable opportuni-As part of this effort, the CVF-V20 will lever-

age VCMI's updated carmarkets access toolkit to help its members evaluate and navigate engagement with diverse carbon markets, from voluntary schemes those established under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

ing from VCMI's Access the toolkit will provide V20 nations with a stepby-step guide to key decisions, including how to address legal and instiand how to host highintegrity carbon projects that yield tangible bene-

Since 2021, VCMI's Access Programme has helped ally establish Our countries frameworks and best depends on it.

exploiting developing CVF-V20 is partnering practices for generating economies and maximise with the Voluntary and selling high-integrity Carbon Markets Integrity carbon credits that meet Initiative (VCMI) to help their needs. This has countries included developing best practice guidance for carbon markets in the Mexican state of Yucatan the unfair treatment of local communities and a decision matrix tool for the government of Benin, which identified a cli-Initiatives like this are

all the more important given that, to date, the international community has underserved climatevulnerable countries with financial support to address climate change.

While calling for reforms in the global financial architecture, these nations are simultaneously strengthening their domestic capacity Building on the learn- to unlock additional capital for investment in cli-Strategies Programme, mate, development and nature. Climate-vulnerable countries are working together with partners like VCMI to find solutions that address the tutional considerations urgency and scale of the challenges we face.

nations can access this support to make strategic use of carbon markets to build Strategies resilience - both nationand globally. very



SCCI launches fundraising campaign for flood-victims

— Moqeem assures to extend every financial support

Chamber of Commerce and Sarhadi, Industry has established a Afshfaq Ahmad, Nadeem fund for relief, rehabilita-tion and resettlement of Saddar Gul, Faiz Rasool, thousands of families, Instiaq Muhammad adversely affected by devastating flood, torrential SCCI Muqtasid Ahsan and rains and cloudbursts in others were present during Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. the meeting.

In this respect, the fund The meeting urged SCCI lies. raising campaign was for- members and philanthromally launched by the pists and donors to extend SCCI president Fazal any kind of generous sup-Moqeem Khan during a port to flood victims in special meeting of the their time testing situation chamber's executive com- and become the helping mittee on Flood Relief, hand of the chamber for held here at the chamber their relief and rehabilitation.

Shuja Muhammad, mem- destruction, especially mas-

Khan, Abbas Fuad Azeem, Shamsur Rahim, Hassan Zahideen, Ziaul Haq Adnan Nasir, Muhammad

Meeting thoroughly disvice president of the cham- cussed modalities and variber Abdul Jalil Jan, Leader ous proposals for assistance of Businessman Forum and of the flood affected people former president FPCCI and decided to initially Ghazanfar Bilour, former raise funds and distribute presidents Malik Niaz the collected donations on a Ahmad, Riaz Arshad, need and requirement basis.

bers of the SCCI's execu-tive committee Safiullah flash flood, heavy down-devastation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

pour and cloudburst in Pakhtunkhwa. Buner, Swat, Shangla, with other parts of the

tion of the ranks of the martyrs and deaths during KP flood fury and relief opera- mended the occasion,

Meeting congratulated a floods president of the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ziaul Haq Sarhad who was honoured a top

Fazal expressed profound grief Arshad, Adeel Rauf, and sorrow over martyr- Zulfiqar Ali Khan and othdoms and deaths during ers also spoke on the occa-Zahidullah Shinwari, The meeting extended flash flood and cloudbursts sion and gave number of Zufiqar Ali Khan, Faiz heartfelt condolences over and relief operation in the proposals for fund genera-Muhammad Faizi, Adeel loss of precious human province, calling it as a tion, distribution of any Rauf, former vice president lives and infrastructure great tragedy in the coun-kind of aid and rehabilitatry's history that had tion of the flood affected

the country.

Swabi and Peshawar along business community stands with difficult times with flood affected people and

Business

Business leaders on the assured to extend every occasion prayed for eleva- possible financial support Ghazanfar Bilour com-

tion and granting patient expressed deep grief over and fortitude to their famithe devastation caused by cloudbursts and flash in senior executive member Pakhtunkhwa and northern and former senior vice Pakistan and extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

The group leader said we stand in solidarity with our civil award "Sitara-i-Imtiaz brothers and sisters in this from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa hour of grief. He assured to Government of mobilize all resources for Pakistan, in recognition of relief and rehabilitation of his meritorious services for the flood victims.

Former presidents Moqeem Zahidullah Shinwari, Riaz



PESHAWAR: President Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Fazal Moqeem Khan speaking during a special meeting of Chamber's Executive Committee on Flood Relief at Chamber's House.

ICT export remittances rise 23.8%

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's Information and Communication Technology (ICT) export remittances surged by 23.8 percent to US\$354 million in July 2025 (FY2025-26), compared to US\$286 million during the same month last year. On a month-onmonth basis, exports grew by 4.4 percent.

The ICT sector also posted a trade surplus of US\$ 317 million in July, reflecting a 25.8 percent increase compared to July 2024, and maintaining the highest surplus among all services. The overall services sector recorded a trade deficit of US\$126 million during the same period.

ICT exports accounted for 47.5 percent of Pakistan's total services exports, making it the country's largest contributor. It was followed by "Other Business Services," which earned US\$151 million.

PSX stays bullish, hits all time high at 150,591 points

Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) benchmark KSE-100 Index continued with bullish trend on Wednesday, gaining 820.26 more points, a positive change of 0.55 percent, closing all time high at 150,591.00 points against 149,770.75

points last trading day.
A total of 667,817,396 shares were traded during the day as compared to 809,082,439 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 40.728 billion against Rs 48.430 billion on the last trading

in the stock market, 240 of them recorded gains and 216 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 31 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading

companies were Bank of Punjab with 52,299,000 shares at Rs 14.92 per share, WorldCall Telecom with 36,266,186 shares at Rs1.48 per share and Fauji Cement with 33,616,868 shares at Rs 16.42 per share.

Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited witnessed a maxiday. per share price, closing at companies
As many as 487 compaRs 32,394.83, whereas the unchanged.

Company LimitedB with Rs180.90 rise in its per nise in its share price to 27,878.90.

Bhanero Textile Mills Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs74.02 per share closing at Rs 946.54 followed by The Industries Corporation Limited with Rs49.83 decline in its share

price to close at Rs574.02. Meanwhile, in the future market, as many as 323 companies traded shares in the market out of which 166 witnessed gain, 154 mum increase of Rs 616.58 loss where the prices of 3

Pakistan's marble, granite in high demand in China: PASDEC official

Pakistan's granite and marble are witnessing strong even greater market share demand from China, with in China and beyond if proofficials saying the coun- cessing was localised and try's vast reserves can sup- supported with better infraport this growing market structure. Mechanised minfor over a century. Pakistan

Development (PASDEC) official told allows our products to com-Chinese buyers remain a added. key destination for With proper finishing Pakistani stone exports, and value addition,

Pakistan with a unique lars but if Pakistan process-

LAHORE: Newly appoint-

ed Deputy Head of Mission

Laurent Cousinou of the

Swiss Embassy in Isla-

mabad visited the Nestlé

Pakistan factory in Sheik-

hupura and acknowledged

the company's commitment

to Pakistan's vision for eco-

nomic growth, renewable

energy and sustainability

Talking on the occasion, Laurent Cousinou said,

"Staying true to its Swiss

heritage, its commendable

that Nestlé Pakistan has

led multiple initiatives

over the past few years, its

USD 50 million export

plan by 2030 and invest-

renewable energy and sus-

Head of Technical, Nestlé

initiatives.

growth.'

"Pakistan could capture Company tion to processing — which ready. Pakistan that pete internationally", he

even amid challenges like Pakistani stone could pene-higher shipment costs after trate premium global markets as well.

He said the demand from He said kitchen slabs providing retail for thousands of dol-

tapped in China and the had been established to

industrial clusters, such as where 80 units are operanarket structure. Mechanised min-ing has created a complete role in making Pakistani chistan, while in Loralai Stone value chain — from extrac-stone role in making Pakistani chistan, while in Loralai stone products export- nearly 40 mines were oper-Recently, the PASDEC

official briefed the Public Committee's Accounts Sub-Committee-I on ongoing modernization initiatives in the stone and marble sector.

The China continues to be sold in America's outlets 135 mechanised mining not only to reduce dependopportunity to strengthen es its granite and marble a 185-acre industrial zone the surging demand in

Swiss Dpy Head of Mission lauds

Nestlé Pakistan's Swiss heritage

support industrial-scale highlighted that processing.

The official also said Marble City in Risalpur that equipment and trained operators had been deplational, with 25 engaged in local processing.

The official emphasized that new machinery for onsite crushing, cutting, and polishing had brought production standards closer to international benchmarks. committee was He said mechanised mininformed that more than ing would allow Pakistan machines had been intro- ence on raw stone exports duced nationwide, and that but also to fully leverage its foothold in one of the with the right technology, in Risalpur equipped with a China and other global world's largest stone marthe same demand can be 22-megawatt grid station markets.

Nestlé announced its

commitment to reduce its

emissions and reach Net

Zero by 2050 in line with

wide range of foods and

UN SDGs 13 and 15.

able energy journey, operationalizing two 2.5 and 2.6 Nestlé Pakistan with its four manufacturing sites

MW solar power plants in across the country and a

and

WCCIS delegation meets FPCCI

SIALKOT (APP): The president Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (WCCIS) Dr. Mariam Sid-Lahore, for an interactive session alongside Faisalabad Women Chamber and WCCIS Khanewal.

The session, hosted by Zain Iftikhar Chaudhry, Regional Chairman/Vice President FPCCI, Qurat-ul-Ain, Vice President FPCCI, and Zaki Aijaz, Former Vice President, focused on the challenges of women chambers, proposals for growth, and new avenues of collaboration.

The FPCCI promised full support in empowering women-led businesses, strengthening partnerships, and fostering opportunities across Pakistan.

RDA inflows rise to \$10.748b

ISLAMABAD (APP): The inflow of remittances under RDA has risen to US \$10.748 billion by the end of July 2025 as compared to US \$10.563 billion by June end. The data showed that the inflows of remittances during July were recorded at US\$ 185 million as compared to US\$ 182 million in June and US\$ 201 million

SLIC deploying Free Medical Relief Camps

Boner Das Village,

F.P. Report

KARACHI: The State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan (SLIC) is deploying Free Medical Relief diga led a delegation from Camps in District Buner WCCIS to Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), Gangshal Village, Tehsil Chagarzai; Battai and Qadar Village, Nagar Gadazai (Pirbaba); and Kot Village, Tehsil Daggar in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as well as in District Ghizer, including Daain Village, Tehsil Ishkomen, and

District Diame, Boner Das Village, Tehsil Chilas, in Gilgit Baltistan. These camps will be staffed by SLIC medical officers supported by paramedics from SLIC empanelled hospitals, along with a pediatric specialist to address the needs of children. Free oral medicines and IV injections will be provided on-site, alongside essential healthcare services such as medical check-ups and preventive

Camp Schedule Locations in District Buner, KP: 22 August - 23 August 2025

care for communities affect-

ed by the devastating floods

Bishonai Village, Tehsil Gadazai (Pirbaba) Gangshal Tehsil Chagarzai • Battai and Qadar Nagar

Village, Tehsil Gadazai (Pirbaba) • Kot Village, Tehsi

Daggar

بيان حلفي

سنکه مسمی محد شهر یار ولد محد افتخار (مرحوم) برحلف بیانی ہوں ۔ که مرحوم والدأم محمد افتخار ولدمحمود خان كيشرى وقانوني وارثان ذیل ہیں۔ ۱) شمشادہ بی بی (بیوہ)-۲) محمد شہریار (پسر*ا* حالف) ٣٠) سلمي بي بي (دختر) ٢٠٠) طاهره بي بي (دختر) ٥٠) روشنا نی نی (دختر)۔ ۲) محمد وقار (پسر)۔ ۷) اسفندیار (پسر)۔ مٰدکورہ بالا افراد کے علاوہ مرحوم والداُ محمد افتخار کا اور کوئی دیگر وارث نہ ہے۔اگر کسی کواس بیان حلفی پر کوئی عذر اعتراض ہوتواندر میعادسات یوم متعلقہ تحصیلدار / پٹواری حلقہ سے رجوع کریں ۔المرقوم 2025-08-15-

عالف محد شهريار 5-6470820 -17301

اطسلاع عسام

عوام الناس کومطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ بلاٹ نمبر03 ہیکٹر نمبر3- c ، رقبد10مرلہ واقع نیز2-40 ملاکم بلٹ کے مالک ٹھرانور عمال ولد عباس خان سکنہ حیار باغ جنگل خیل کو ہائے کی وفات کے بعد بیننر سول زیج میں حاص مند چاہدی ہے۔ 1 گارڈین نج کو بات کی عدالت سے جاری شدہ ایک بلتہ اس ایڈ شریش کی وقتر این اور اصرافتہ میں اور ہوجو کہ جیسے سے طاہر دو بھی بین نے قبولہ اس کی انجاز سرما جیسے اور چیووں کہ جیسے سے طاہر دو بھی ہیں نے قبولہ میں اندہ کی دور اس کیا کا علم میں ما بندہ کی بین سے سے سے طاہر دو کھی ہیں نے قبولہ میں اندہ کی دور وسُنَكُ آفيسر ÜADA كوہاك سے تحرُيرى طور پر بمعه ثبوت رابط ریں۔ بصورت دیگر ند کورہ پلاٹ مذکورہ وارثان نے نامز د کردہ بند

ك نام را أسفر كرديا جائے كا۔ اور بعد ميں كوئى عذر قابل قبول نييں ہوگا۔ منجانب باؤسنك تفيسرار بن الرياد لويليمنث اتفارثي كوبك

Locations in Areas of Locations in Areas of District Diamer, Gilgit District Ghizer, Gilgit Baltistan: 26 August - 27 Baltistan: 29 August - 30 August 2025

• Daain Village, Tehsil Ishkomen

SUIT ADVERTISEMENT IN THE COURT OF MR. LIAQAT ALI JUDGE BANKING COURT-1 PESHAWAR Federal Judicial Complex, Phase-7 Hayatabad Peshawar

Case No: 90/01 of 2025, Date of hearing 15-09-2025, Suit for the Recovery of Rs.188566/19 Askari Bank Chowk Yadgar Branch Khyber Bazar Pesh. VS Imran Khan Notice Versus: Imran Khan Hakeemullah R/o H#2893, P.O Karim Pura Mohalla Mahtasiban Peshawar, Where as the plaintiff bank has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs. 188566/19 Against you under section 10(2) of the Financial Institution (Recovery of Finance) Ordinance 2001, you are hereby summoned to obtain leave of the court to appear and defend the suit within 30 days after receipt/ publication of the notice in the newspaper. Failing which an exparty decree shall be passed in favour of the plaintiff Bank with costs. Issued today on 11-08-2025 under my signature and seal of Registrar, Banking Court, 1 Peshawar

SUIT ADVERTISEMENT
IN THE COURT OF MR. LIAQAT ALI
JUDGE BANKING COURT-1 PESHAWAR

Federal Judicial Complex, Phase-7 Hayatabad Peshawar Case No: <u>87/01</u> of 2025, Date of hearing <u>15-09-2025</u>, Suit for the Recovery of <u>Rs.122898/12</u> Askari Bank Chowk Yadgar Branch Khyber Bazar Pesh. VS Syed Shabar Ali Shah **Notice Versus:** Syed Shaber Áli Shah S/o Syed Sadaqat Hussain Naqri H#02 Faisal Colony near Danish Abad Dalazak Road Peshawar. Where as the plaintiff bank has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs. 122898/12 Against you under section 10(2) of the Financial Institution (Recovery of Finance) Ordinance 2001, you are hereby summoned to obtain leave of the court to appear and defend the suit within 30 days after receipt/ publication of the notice in the newspaper. Failing which an exparty decree shall be passed in favour of the plaintiff Bank with costs. Issued today on 11-08-2025 under my signature and seal of the Registrar, Banking Court, 1 Peshawar

SUIT ADVERTISEMENT IN THE COURT OF MR. LIAQAT ALI JUDGE BANKING COURT-1 PESHAWAR

Federal Judicial Complex, Phase-7 Hayatabad Peshawar Case No: 92/01 of 2025, Date of hearing 15-09-2025, Suit for the Recovery of Rs.212202/76 Askari Bank Chowk Yadgar Branch Peshawar City. VS Mr. Abid Notice Versus: Mr. Abid S/o Mohammad Rafique R/o ASC Centre Nowshera HQ Coy ADM Wing ASC Centre Nowshera Cantt. Where as the plaintiff bank has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs. 212202/76 Against you under section 10(2) of the Financial Institution (Recovery of Finance) Ordinance 2001, you are hereby summoned to obtain leave of the court to appear and defend the suit within 30 days after receipt/ publication of the notice in the newspaper. Failing which an exparty decree shall be passed in favour of the plaintiff Bank with costs. Issued today on 11-08-2025 under my signature and seal of the Court. Registrar, Banking Court, 1 Peshawar

SUIT ADVERTISEMENT IN THE COURT OF MR. LIAQAT ALI **JUDGE BANKING COURT-1 PESHAWAR**

Federal Judicial Complex, Phase-7 Hayatabad Peshawar Case No: 97/01 of 2025, Date of hearing 24-09-2025, Suit for the Recovery of Rs.3697401/05 HBL Shewa Adda Branch Mardan VS Hamid Ali Notice Versus: Hamid Ali S/o Hazrat Umar R/o Mohalla Bro Khel Maneri Bala P.O Swabi Tehsil & Distt. Swabi. Where as the plaintiff bank has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs. 3697401/05 Against you under

section 10(2) of the Financial Institution (Recovery of Finance) Ordinance 2001, you are hereby summoned to obtain leave of the court to appear and defend the suit within 30 days after receipt/ publication of the notice in the newspaper. Failing which an exparty decree shall be passed in favour of the plaintiff Bank with costs. Issued today on 12-08-2025 under my signature Registrar, Banking Court, 1 Peshawar

SUIT ADVERTISEMENT IN THE COURT OF MR. LIAQAT ALI JUDGE BANKING COURT-1 PESHAWAR

Federal Judicial Complex, Phase-7 Hayatabad Peshawar Case No: 104/01 of 2025, Date of hearing 22-09-2025, Suit for the Recovery of <u>Rs.3254727/34</u> HBL Tordher Branch Mardan VS Bilal Saleem Notice Versus: Bilal Saleem S/o Mohammad Saleem R/o Mohalla Gula

Khel P.O Khas Kala Butt Tehsil Topi District Swabi. Where as the plaintiff bank has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs. 3254727/34 Against you under section 10(2) of the Financial Institution (Recovery of Finance) Ordinance 2001, you are hereby summoned to obtain leave of the court to appear and defend the suit within 30 days after receipt/ publication of the notice in the newspaper. Failing which an exparty decree shall be passed in favour of the plaintiff Bank with costs. Issued today on 12-08-2025 under my signature and seal of the Court. Registrar, Banking Court, 1 Peshawar

delighted at Mr. Laurent's localization journey, mov- biomass boilers and bring tasty and balanced visit and his keen interest ing to over 90 per cent of numerous other solar diets for millions packaging power plants in different Pakistanis. in our operations. For over raw and Markets waver as Japan exports show tariff strain

KONG (AFP/ such a meeting. Markets were investors await signals also finished down. from US policymakers of an interest rate cut in the from a morning dip to

watching a recent diplo- up 0.2 percent. whirlwind to resolve the protracted war Jakarta and Bangkok also in Ukraine, after President rose. Manila was flat. Donald Trump's high-

between Putin President hub.

Tokyo dropped sharply mixed Wednesday in the face of worrying signs for Japanese exports, as South Korea and Taipei

ment of PKR 2 billion in 35 years, Nestlé Pakistan requirements locally, in sites.

tainability initiatives in the country reflect its commitiative in the country reflect its committed in the country reflect its contract reflect reflect in the contract reflect refle

investing in renewable

ment to the country's eco-future of the country by

nomic prosperity and boosting exports and

envoy, Faisal Nadeem, initiatives.'

Welcoming the new energy and sustainability

has been committed to be a turn strengthening the

Pakistan said, "We are further strengthened its Kabirwala, along with two beverages, are helping

The company has also Sheikhupura

Hong Kong recovered world's largest economy. advance slightly during Traders have also been afternoon trading, closing

> Shanghai, Sydney,

Hong Kong's stock stakes meeting with exchange operator posted counterpart record half-year revenue Vladimir Putin in Alaska. on Wednesday, riding a Eyes are now on poten- renewed surge in public tial face-to-face talks listings and trading activi-between Putin and ty at the Chinese finance

cant market share, includ- of further pressure on the ing Nvidia, Palantir and UK economy. Oracle.

initiated an investment of

PKR 2 billion in its renew-

increasing unease over a largely as a result of yet sustained rally in tech another chunky rise in stocks this year despite a food prices, but also by range of uncertainties fac- virtue of an upward ing the global economy.

by Trump on major US research strategist at trading partners this year. Official data showed

steepest drop in more than modest gain. four years last month.

Hours later, statistics awaiting a speech on inflation fears; too stern, authorities in Britain Friday by US Federal and he risks yanking the revealed that inflation in Reserve Chair Jerome oxygen mask off equities Volodymyr Zelensky, who Tuesday on Wall Street the country reached its Powell at the annual already trading in rarified has said he is ready for saw several major tech- highest level in July since retreat of global central air.

nology firms lose signifi- the start of last year, a sign bankers in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

higher-than- will provide more clues The The selloffs came amid expected reading "came about a widely expected impulse from consumer mixed picture about infla-Among the challenges energy costs", wrote tion in the United States. are biting tariffs unleashed Michael Brown, senior "Powell's Wyomin

epperstone. a high-wire act," wrote London and Paris were Stephen Innes of SPI Pepperstone. Wednesday that Japanese down in morning trade, Asset Management in a exports suffered their while Frankfurt saw a note.

Investors are eagerly risks stoking long-end

Traders hope Powell

interest rate cut at the Fed's next policy meeting in September, after data last week provided a Wyoming speech is being framed as

"Too dovish, and he





In brief

PCB delays Women's talent

hunt trials KARACHI (Monitoring Desk): The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) delayed the Women's talent hunt trials on Wednesday intense rains in Karachi. PCB announced conducting trials for U19 and Emerging women's cricketers from August 21 to September 3. The trials, part of the board's talent hunt programme, will be held across eight cities, including Karachi and Lahore. However, intense Karachi rains have resulted in the rescheduling of the trials, scheduled in the city on August 21. "The PCB Talent Hunt trials for Women's U19 and Emerging Cricketers in Karachi have been rescheduled to take place on Tuesday, 2 September 2025 at the Mohammad High-Performance Centre," the PCB said in a statement. While the August 21 trials have been rescheduled, the remaining trials across the country will be held without any change to the date and venues. The PCB announcement came amid intense Karachi rains, which have triggered urban flooding across the city. As many as 15 have lost lives as heavy rainfall continue to devastate the metropolitan for the second day. While the monsoon rains continued to lash parts of Karachi on Wednesday, the weather is likely to improve by Thursday, August 21, 2025. As per BBC Weather, the city is expected to have a light cloud cover and a gentle breeze. While westerly winds are likely to blow at 15 to 25 mph, no sig-

Zampa reprimanded for

nificant rainfall is

expected, offering a

reprieve to the citizens.

breaching CoC ISLAMABAD (APP): Australia player Adam Zampa has been reprimanded for breaching Level 1 of the ICC Code of Conduct during the first ODI against South Africa in Cairns on Tuesday. Zampa was found to have breached Article 2.3 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to 'use of an audible obscenity during an International Match'. In addition to this, one demerit point has been added to Zampa's disciplinary record, for whom it was the first offence in a 24month period, said a press release. The incident occurred in the 37th over of South Africa's innings, when Zampa used inappropriate language after a misfield and overthrow off his bowling, which was picked up on the stump microphone and broadcast. Zampa admitted the offence and accepted the sanction proposed by Andy Pycroft of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees, so there was no need for a formal hearing. On-field umpires Chris Gaffaney On-field and Sam Nogajski, third umpire Richard Illingworth and fourth umpire Donovan Koch levelled the charge. Level 1 breaches carry a minimum penalty of an official reprimand, a maximum penalty of 50 per cent of a player's match fee, and one or

England unchanged for Women's

two demerit points.

Rugby WC opener LONDON (AFP): England coach John Mitchell has named an unchanged team from their final warm-up game for the Women's Rugby World Cup against the opener States United Sunderland on Friday. The starting 15 over-whelmed France 40-6 in the second of England's two warmup fixtures earlier this month. Zoe Aldcroft continues to captain the team from blindside flanker, with No 8

Alex Matthews.

Shaheens secure 3rd win in Top **End T20 Series**

Maaz Sadaqat's century powered Pakistan Shaheens Arena in Darwin on

Wednesday evening.
According to details, this was Shaheens' third victory in the event, taking their tally to six points from five matches.

After electing to bat first, the opening pair of Maaz Sadaqat and Yasir Khan provided a solid foundation with a 149-run partnership for the first wicket. Yasir was the first to return back to the pavilion after scoring five in the eighth over. Harry Manenti 3-31). 51 off 35 balls, hitting five fours and a six. This was his second half-century of the

Left-handed batter Maaz

nament, striking 11 fours taking three wickets for 19 and two sixes in his 59-ball runs in three overs. knock of 104.

25 off 18 balls from Abdul same venue. The first Samad, which included a ball of the match will be four and a six as they scored bowled at 7pm. 202 for six in 20 overs. For Scores in brief: Strikers, Harry Manenti Pakistan Shaheens beat claimed three wickets for Adelaide Strikers by 107 31 runs in three overs.

In reply, Strikers lost wickets at regular intervals Sadaqat 104, Yasir Khan and were reduced to 49 for 51, Abdul Samad 25; Opening batter Mackenzie boundaries.

(APP): was then joined by Abdul spinners Faisal Akram and Samad and the pair added Mehran Mumtaz bagged 32 runs for the second two wickets apiece, while to an emphatic 107-run win wicket. 20-year-old Maaz right-arm off-spinner over Adelaide Strikers in went on to register his Mubasir Khan was the the 23rd fixture of the Top maiden century of the tourmost successful bowler, End T20 Series at the DXC nament, striking 11 fours taking three wickets for 19

Pakistan Shaheens' total was fur- will face Nepal on ther boosted by a quick-fire Friday, August 22, at the

> runs. Pakistan Shaheens 202-6, 20 overs (Maaz

Adelaide Strikers 95 all Harvey top-scored with a out, 16.1 overs (Mackenzie 17-ball 27, laced with five Harvey 27; Mubasir Khan 3-19, Faisal Akram 2-19, For Shaheens, left-arm Mehran Mumtaz 2-20).

Salah wins record third PFA Player of the Year award



(Agencies): Mohamed Salah has become the first three-time winner of the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) Player of the Year award with the ning campaign last season. not easy at all, with all the Liverpool forward eclipsing two-time winners guy coming from Egypt club. It's a huge pressure Henry and Gareth Bale by level, making history today, claiming the 2025 award.

emerged as the winner from a Manchester. six-player shortlist including Liverpool teammate Alexis Mac Allister, Chelsea's Cole Palmer, Manchester United captain Bruno Fernandes, Arsenal midfielder Declan Rice and Newcastle striker Alexander Isak.

Aston Villa forward Morgan Rogers was voted as the PFA Young Player of the Year -- Villa's first winner since James Milner in 2010 ahead of fellow nominees Liam Delap (Ipswich / Chelsea), Myles Lewis-Skelly and Ethan Nwaneri (both Arsenal), Milos Kerkez (Bournemouth / Liverpool) and Dean Huijsen (Bournemouth /

Real Madrid). trophy at a gala presenta-Tuesday, with the Egypt one our teammates.

Cristiano Ronaldo, Thierry and making it to the top for the young players.

The 33-year-old's goal in Liverpool's 4-2 win against award on two occasions. Bournemouth in the opening game of the 2025-26 league season last Friday took him to 187 Premier League goals, moving him into joint fourth position in Henry the all-time standings alongside Newcastle and Manchester

United forward Andy Cole. After a busy summer of transfers at Anfield but also the tragic death of Diogo Mark Hughes (1989 & 1991) Jota, Salah was asked if this on the list of double winners. season's team is even stronger than last year's.

"No," Salah said with a smile. "You can't say yes or players no, it's tricky. You're sign-Salah received the PFA also we let some great play- selection. For the first time ers leave and you also since 2017, no Manchester tion in Manchester on know what happened with City player was selected for

international winning the award, as voted by his fel-your experience to the new "So you need to give low players, after scoring players because they've 29 goals in Liverpool's never played for Liverpool Premier League title win- and playing for Liverpool is "I look at myself now, a media and everything at the

"Virgil [van Dijk], me aiming the 2025 award. it's something that makes and all the guys in the team solutions, who was previous-me so proud," Salah said as try to give them the experily voted the Player of the he was presented with the ence to help them." Salah ear in 2018 and 2022, award at a ceremony in had previously been one of seven players to have won the PFA Player of the Year

Salah had previously been one of seven players to have won the PFA Player of the Year award on two occasions. Alongside Salah, (2003 & 2004), Ronaldo (2007 & 2008) and former Bale (2011 & 2013) were joined by Kevin De Bruyne (2020 & 2021), Alan Shearer (1995 & 1997) and former Manchester United striker

Liverpool also dominated the PFA Premier League Team of the Year with four players -- Salah, Mac Allister, Virgil van Dijk and ing very good talent and Ryan Gravenberch earning the team of the year.

Woods to head **PGA** Tour committee to overhaul golf

Sports

MIAMI (AFP): Tiger Woods will head a new player-led committee aimed at overseeing a radical shake-up of professional golf in North America, PGA Tour chief executive Brian Rolapp announced on Wednesday. Speaking on the eve of

the season-ending Tour Championship, Rolapp said Woods would act as chairman for a nine-Future member Competition Committee aimed at designing the "optimal competitive model" for golf.

Rolapp, who only recently took up his post with the PGA Tour after two decades with the National Football League, said the committee had been charged with leading "significant change" to the sport's existing model.

"The purpose of this committee is pretty simple," Rolapp told a press conference. "We're going to design the best professional golf competitive model in the world for the benefit of PGA Tour fans, players and their partners," he added.

"The goal is not incremental change. The goal is significant change.

Woods will be one of six players serving on the committee alongside committee Patrick Cantlay, Adam Scott, Camilo Villegas, Maverick McNealy and Keith Mitchell. Three business advisors on the panel include John Henry, the billionaire owner of Fenway Sports Group which owns the Boston Red Sox and English Premier League champions Liverpool.

Rolapp said the committee would be driven by guiding principles that promoted competitive parity, creating more tournaments where the top players face off against each other and designing a season that was simple to follow. "I think the focus will be to create events that really matter, and how we do that, what that number is, we'll determine," Rolapp said. "But that's certainly the goal.

"How do you actually drive a competition schedule where every event matters, that is connected to a postseason, but do it in a way where the best golfers can get together and actually perform well?" Rolapp said. "I think that's all an open question -- and those are the things we're going to look at with an open mind.' 'Nothing off table'

In an interview with the Wall Street Journal published on Wednesday, Woods said the committee would examine all options. Possible changes could include fewer events, smaller fields and higher stakes. the Journal reported.

"Nothing's off the table," Woods told the newspaper. 'We're going to run through a lot of different scenarios and a lot of different things that could happen." Woods. 49, who has not competed this year, as he recovers from a torn Achilles, hinted that the PGA Tour was poised for momentous changes to its format.

T20 squad arrives in Dubai ahead of Asia Cup, tri-series



DUBAI (Monitoring Desk): The national T20 the upcoming Asia Cup and Tri-Nation series, the Pakistan Cricket Board

The tri-series against Afghanistan and the United Arab Emirates, which starts on August 29, and the Asia Cup from September 9 will both take place in the UAE.

In a post on X, the PCB said the team arrived in Dubai in four groups, adding that it would participate in a pre-series training camp from August 21-27 and take part in a training session at the ICC Cricket Academy tomorrow.

The squad departed ments." from Pakistan in four different groups "to ensure a Pakistan have left out Mohammad Wasim.

and organised smooth arrival of players and supsquad arrived in Dubai for port staff in Dubai", state media PTV reported. While the ICC Cricket Academy Pakistan Cricket Board will serve as the "primary (PCB) said on Wednesday. training facility" for players, the team was scheduled to play a T20 practice match at the Dubai

International

Cricket

Stadium, the report said. All training sessions and practice matches will take place in Dubai according to the official schedule, PTV stated, adding, "This setup is designed to provide players with the ideal environment and facilities to prepare thoroughly ahead of the two major tourna-The

Mohammad Rizwan from the T20 squad.

Azam and Rizwan have been star performers in the shortest format in the past, but have not played since December, which head coach Mike Hesson put down to other players performing well while addressing a press conference.

Since Hesson took over as head coach in May, Pakistan have played three T20 series — winning 3-0 at home but losing 2-1 away to Bangladesh. They then beat the West Indies 2-1 in the United States.

Agha will lead the side,

Salman

All-rounder

which also sees the return of fast bowlers Mohammad Wasim and Salman Mirza. Pakistan squad: Salman Agha (captain), Saim Ayub, Fakhar Zaman, Sahibzada Farhan, Hasan Nawaz, Salman Mirza, Mohammad Haris, Mohammad Nawaz, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Haris Rauf, Hasan Ali, Hussain Talat, Sufiyan Mugeem, PCB Abrar Ahmed, Khushdil announced on Sunday that Shah, Faheem Ashraf,

Haroon General selected for UCI race in Europe

ISLAMABAD (APP): The international cycling gover- Islamic Bank laid the foun-Pakistan Cycling Federation nance, said a press release. dation for this milestone,' (PCF) has announced that Muhammad Haroon General, a UCI-certified Elite Road National Commissaire, has been officially selected by the Union Cycliste Internationale (ÚCI) to serve as a Commissaire at the Tour de l'Avenir, one of Europe's most prestigious internation- erous support in making his al cycling races, to be held in

This landmark selection makes General the firstever Pakistani commissaire Federation for their trust to officiate at a UCI-sanc- and consistent encouragetioned race in Europe, a ment. "The unwavering Pakistan's growing pressignificant step forward in support from PCF and the ence in global cycling Pakistan's participation in sponsorship from Dubai administration.

His selection follows a saires, three male and as many female, were chosen from across Asia, Africa,

South, and Central America.

General expressed heartfelt gratitude to Dubai Islamic Bank for their genparticipation possible, and acknowledged the Syed France from August 23 to 29.

Pakistan

he said. Muhammad highly competitive process Haroon General, while in which only six commis-serving as a cycling commissaire since 2010, has presided over all major Road and Track National Championships in Pakistan.

He has been officiated at events in Uzbekistan and the Tour of Iran-Azerbaijan 2025—both marking the first-ever international assignments for a Pakistani Azhar Ali Shah President commissaire. His selection Cycling for the Tour de l'Avenir represents a historic breakthrough,

Keshav Maharaj rises to No. 1 ODI bowling rankings

ner Keshav Maharaj has displaced Sri Lanka's Maheesh Theekshana as the No. 1 men's ODI respective half-centuries bowler, following his five-for in the first ODI against Australia in Cairns.

Maharaj, who last held the spot in November 2023, returned to the top jumped two spots to No. 9 after gaining two places to ahead move Theekshana (second) and India spinner Kuldeep Yadav (third). The 35year-old picked up careerbest ODI figures of 5 for Seales moved 15 places up 33 which gave South to 18th in the bowling Africa a 98-run win and a

1-0 series lead. Among the South

spots up to No. 21 and Temba Bayuma five spots

on the batters' list. Hope finished as the top runscorer in the series with 207 runs, helping West Indies win the series 2-1. His team-mate Jayden rankings following his ten wickets in the series.

Following the T20Is 26 in the second.

CAIRNS (Agencies): African batters, Aiden between Australia and South Africa left-arm spin- Markram moved four South Africa preceding the ODIs, fast bowler Nathan Ellis entered the top ten among bowlers, moving three places up to No. 9. Ellis picked up 3 for 31 in the third T20I to help concluded ODI series against Pakistan, West Indies captain Shai Hope

for Australia in the series, rose two spots to 18th. South Africa's hard-hitting batter Dewald Brevis jumped nine spots to equal 12th on the list for T20I batters following his superb efforts in the series. Brevis scored 125 not out off 56 in the first T20I and followed it up with 53 off

Adeel Afzal carries hockey dreams to Germany

ISLAMABAD (APP): From the narers, deprived of global exposure for row lanes of Bhagiyana Kallan near Kasur to the grand arenas of Germany, 17-year-old Adeel Afzal

has scripted a story of grit and glory. Once a boy battling daily hardships, he now stands as Pakistan's youngest player in the Bundesliga Hockey League in Germany.

Adeel's journey is not just about hockey; it is a story of resilience, dedication and faith in opportunities that once seemed impossible. When the Prime Minister's Youth Program (PMYP)announced a national hockey talent hunt in 2023, few in Bhagiyana Kallan realized it would alter a young boy's destiny. Encouraged by his coach Shafqat, a retired army man, Adeel traveled 60 kilometers to Lahore with nothing more than determination in his heart. His raw pace and natural flair stunned selectors Khawaja Junaid and Ajmal Khan Lodhi, who saw in him not just another player but a rare talent hidden in the dust. That moment marked the beginning of a journey that would

soon carry him across borders. Behind this breakthrough stood visionaries like Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan, Chairman PMYP, and Chaudhry Pervaiz Sandhella, a Netherlands-based Pakistani, whose performance caught the eye of tireless efforts helped revive inter- coaches from the Wiesbadener national hockey in Pakistan after a Tennis- und Hockey Club (WTHC), is more than a personal triumph; it is

decades, a chance to showcase their talent. Adeel emerged as one of the brightest stars of this revival.

His rise also reflects the vision of Prime Minister Mian Shahbaz Sharif to promote talented youth and empower underprivileged families. Adeel's path was never easy.

Selected for the PMYP Hockey League, he shone brightly and helped his team lift the title. This victory earned him a place at the Khawaja Junaid Hockey Academy in Lahore, supported by the Akhuwat Foundation. Yet the struggle continued. Each day he traveled from Kasur to Lahore for training, often returning home to an empty kitchen. On nights when hunger weighed heavier than exhaustion, he would sleep at the Data Darbar shrine, saving travel money just to afford food. His coach only discovered this secret when he spotted him at the shrine during morning prayers. These quiet sacrifices, hidden even from his family, became the fuel for his

relentless pursuit of success. Adeel's turning point came when the Pakistan Hockey Federation Development Squad played against visiting German clubs. His dazzling gap of 21 years. Their work brought who offered him a place in their a reminder that Pakistan's youth foreign teams back to the country, league team. For Adeel, the opportu- hold extraordinary potential, waitgiving an entire generation of play- nity was beyond imagination. ing only to be discovered.

"Playing for a German hockey club is a dream come true. I feel immense pride representing Pakistan on this global stage, and I'm honoured to showcase our talent abroad," he told APP on phone, reflecting on his new chapter in Europe.

From there, his rise became unstoppable. He represented Pakistan's U21 side against Germany and in July 2025, captained the U18 team at the Asia Cup in China. Pakistan won silver, and Adeel was declared the tournament's emerging olayer.

Speaking about his future, his voice carries the same mix of humility and determination that has brought him this far. "The opportunity to play in Germany fills me with gratitude. It's an honour to represent my country and inspire the next generation of Pakistani hockey players," he added, highlighting his excitement about joining WTHC, a renowned club known for its competitive teams and youth development programme.

Adeel stands as the youngest-ever Pakistani to play in Germany's Bundesliga Hockey League. For a boy who once slept hungry on the cold floor of a shrine, wearing a German club's jersey is nothing short of extraordinary. His journey

Brentford reject new £40m Newcastle bid for Wissa



LONDON (Agencies): on Tuesday, a develop-Brentford down Newcastle's improved bid of £40m for striker Yoane Wissa. The Magpies were pro-

posing a £35m initial fee plus a further £5m in addons. Newcastle reopened talks with Brentford on Wednesday but sources external as h told BBC Sport that the a fresh twist. latest bid fell below the Bees' valuation of Wissa.

have turned ment that prompted the discussions. The Magpies' previous bid for the 28year-old was worth up to £30m.

Wissa removed all association with Brentford from his Instagram account, external as his future took

The DR Congo forward wants to join Newcastle It is understood Wissa but so far Brentford have owner Matthew Benham exit. He scored 19 goals in Manchester United.

the Premier League last BBC Sport were first to

reveal that Wissa had flown home early from their pre-season camp in Portugal in July after which he threatened not to play or train for the club again if they did not sanction his protracted move to St James' Park.

Since then there had been a slight thawing of relations resulting in Wissa returning to firstteam training while continuing to make absolutely clear he wanted to join Newcastle.

Wissa believed that Brentford would sanction his transfer north once they signed his replacement.

Indeed, Wissa has been Earlier this week, expecting Brentford to fissa removed all associagree his move to Tyneside this week after the west London side completed the signing of Dango Ouattara from

Bournemouth. Brentford have already lost fellow forward Bryan held talks with Brentford's refused to sanction his Mbeumo this summer to



In brief

Students join 'Friends of Police' program

RAWALPINDI (APP) As part of the Punjab Police's community policing drive, students from various universities and colleges visited the City Traffic Police Headquarters

Rawalpindi under the "Friends of Police" initiative. Chief Traffic Officer Rawalpindi Farhan Aslam, addressing the students, said they were now ambassadors of the City Traffic Police. He urged them not only to follow traffic laws themselves but also to encourage their families and peers to act as responsible citizens. During the visit, the City Traffic Police Education Wing briefed participants on the modern licensing system, online learner's platform, and other digital facilities introduced under the directives of the Inspector General of Punjab Police and the DIG Traffic. The students also attended a presentation on road safety programs and key initiatives of the City Traffic Police. The delegation toured different branches the Traffic Headquarters to observe

their day-to-day operations. They also participated in live transmissions of FM 88.6, where they shared their views on traffic safety and the program. Students praised the monitoring systems, licensing services, and office procedures, while also suggesting areas for improvement. In their concluding remarks, they lauded the efforts of Punjab Police leadership, terming the "Friends of Police" program a constructive initiative to enhance public-police engagement and bridge communication According spokesperson, the City Traffic Police Rawalpindi will continue such activities to strengthen community participation in promoting road safety and discipline.

SSP security reviews arrangements

SLAMABAD (APP): Police (SSP) Security Captain (R) Syed Zeeshan Haider on Wednesday chaired a meeting to review security measures being made for the foreign guest. The meeting was attended by heads of various law enforcement agencies. An official told APP that matters related to the overall security plan, including arrangements for the accommodation and transportation of the foreign guest, were discussed during the meeting. On the occasion, SSP Security said the designated route would be monitored through security cameras, while quick response teams would remain on high alert to ensure complete coordination among all law enforcement agencies. He added that alternate routes would be provided to maintain smooth traffic flow and travel convenience for citizens. He further said Safe City smart cars would be deployed in the convoy for real-time monitoring, while a team of police commandos equipped with modern gear would perform squad duty. The SSP informed that Islamabad Police, along with officials from other law enforcement agencies, would be deployed on route duty, supported by aerial surveillance with advanced Islamabad cameras. Police is utilizing all available resources to ensure the security of both foreign and local guests, while the protection of citizens' lives and property remains among its top priorities.

PFA discards 2,000 liters

RAWALPINDI (APP) Punjab Authority (PFA) in Rawalpindi discarded 2,000 liters of watermixed milk early on Wednesday morning According to the PFA spokesman, the teams checked 20 vehicles carrying milk at Thallian, Fateh Jang Road, and the Islamabad Motorway Toll Plaza.



ISLAMABAD: Danyal Chaudhry, Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting presenting a souvenir to Ms. Jane Marriott. -- APP Photo

Naqvi orders major operation against NHA will stay active until illegal constructions in Saidpur

constructions and encroachments in nation," he said. Saidpur Model Village, Islamabad.

So far, authorities have demolished more than 200 illegal structures and reclaimed 191 kanals of land belonging to the National Park hub, offering modern facilities to from land grabbers. Several buildings, occupied for years without rent payment, were also vacated. The in and around the village. During the operation is being carried out indiscriminately against all unauthorized constructions raised on 360 kanals of land after 2005.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi himself visited Saidpur Model Village to review the anti-encroachment drive, as well as the ongoing upgradation and beautification works in the area. He directed the Capital Development Authority (CDA) and District Municipal Administration (DMA) officials to ensure strict action against all illegal structures without discrimination and emphasized that the vacated properties must be auctioned in a transparent manner.

Naqvi praised CDA's performance in the operation and highlighted that eliminating illegal constructions rants from Karachi and Lahore of bravery, fearlessness, and love for lamp" and a "beacon o would soon be introduced in Saidpur Pakistan. By rendering an unforget- for generations to come.

Syed Mustafa

Kamal for completing all

ongoing health projects on

a priority basis and within

He was chairing a high-level meeting at the Ministry

of Health on Wednesday,

which was attended by the

Federal Secretary Health,

Additional Secretary Health,

Director General Health,

projects and discussed the

challenges being faced in

that Pakistan, being the fifth

Speaking on the occa-

their implementation.

The meeting reviewed the progress of ongoing Health Ministry was now

and other senior officials.

the stipulated timelines.

ISLAMABAD (APP): On the directives of Federal Interior Minister revival of Saidpur will add to the nefarious designs of the enemy," Mohsin Naqvi, a large-scale opera- beauty of Islamabad and provide cittion has been launched against illegal izens with a new recreational desti-

> The minister stressed that all resources would be utilized to develop Saidpur into an internationalstandard tourist and commercial visitors. He also instructed CDA and DMA officials to ensure cleanliness CDAbriefing, Chairman Muhammad Ali Randhawa informed the minister that satellite imagery was being used to identify constructions built illegally after 2005. He added that the green core area of Saidpur Village is also being restored. Senior CDA members, the Additional Deputy Commissioner General (ADCG), SSP Operations, and other relevant officials were

present during the visit.

Mohsin Naqvi pays tribute to
PAF hero Rashid Minhas: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on and Nishan-e-Haider recipient Pilot an eternal symbol of courage, patriaround Saidpur is a top priority. He otism, and sacrifice. "Pilot Officer

Kamal for completing

health projects timely

government's foremost

people from falling ill rather

around 68 percent of dis-

become ill. He stressed the

sion, the minister stressed importance of routine take effective steps for

most populous country in children against 12 prevent- healthcare system and hos-

the world, must adopt effec- able diseases. "Polio has pital performance. "It is our

tive strategies to bring down been eradicated from the duty to provide maximum

its population growth rate. entire world except Pakistan medical facilities within the "We need to formulate and Afghanistan. We must available resources," he

policies that can help con-strengthen our vaccination concluded.

than just treating them. tive referral system. He pointed out that vide timely care.

are protected before they their grievances.

eases in Pakistan are caused the telemedicine project,

by contaminated water, doctors and medicines were

underlining that prevention being brought to people's

is more effective than cure. doorsteps, while the Health

focusing on preventive implemented to allow citi-

measures to ensure citizens zens to directly register

immunization to protect improving the current

Mustafa Kamal said the Complaint Management

tive referral system to pro-

System was also being

He instructed officials to

He added that through

tem," he remarked.

Naqvi said in his message.

Capital

He recalled how Minhas foiled a hijacking attempt by a traitor without caring for his own life, proving to the world that Pakistan's skies would never fall prey to hostile plots. "The light of his patriotism continues to illuminate our hearts even today," the minister remarked. Naqvi added that Rashid Minhas's sacrifice proved that true heroism lies in putting one's life at risk to safeguard the honor of the motherland. "He is a living example of that spirit," he said.

The minister also praised the Pakistan Air Force for its continued professionalism and valor, noting that in the recent conflict, PAF falcons inflicted a humiliating defeat on the enemy by shooting down six of their fighter jets. "Through brilliant strategy and unmatched skill, the Air Force maintained its aerial supremacy — something the world has also recognized," he observed. Naqvi stressed that every PAF offi-Wednesday paid rich tribute to cer is inspired by the extraordinary Pakistan Air Force's national hero courage of Shaheed Rashid Minhas. "We are proud of our fearless fal-Officer Rashid Minhas, calling him cons who, like Rashid Minhas, remain ever ready to defend Pakistan," he said, adding that announced that well-known restau- Rashid Minhas is a timeless example Minhas's sacrifice was a "shining lamp" and a "beacon of inspiration

Aurangzeb vows full support to NA Committee

BAD (APP): trol the rising population, system to safeguard our Minister for which is putting immense children from this crippling Syed Mustafa pressure on the health sysdisease," he emphasized. ISLAMABAD Minister for Federal The minister said that the Heritage National and The minister said the government was working to Culture, Aurangzeb Khan strengthen the Basic Health Khichi, reaffirmed the govobjective was to prevent Units (BHUs) across the ernment's commitment to safeguarding Pakistan's cencountry and ensure an effecturies-old cultural legacy.

He was speaking during meeting with the Chairperson of the National Assembly Standing Committee on National Heritage and Culture, Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar, held in Islamabad on Wednesday.

Welcoming Ms. Iftikhar to her new role, the Minister praised her dedication and assured that the Ministry would extend complete cooperation to the Committee. "Our culture and heritage span centuries, and their preservation and promotion remain my fore-

most priority," he said.

During the meeting, both sides discussed strategies for strengthening cultural institutions, many of which were devolved to provinces after the 18th

Constitutional Amendment. Mr. Khichi underlined that the Ministry's attached departments were not profitoriented but existed to promote heritage, preserve historical legacy, and create awareness. He stressed that institutions associated with Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Allama Iqbal are vital to the country's national identity and will never be abolished.

Chairperson Nosheen Iftikhar highlighted the importance of further improving institutional performance and expressed her resolve to work in close collaboration with the Ministry. 'It is an honor to work alongside you and to learn in a positive environment. I have assumed this responsibility on the Prime Minister's wish, as he attaches special importance to this sector," she remarked.

The meeting concluded with an agreement that all subsidiary organizations of the Ministry would provide detailed briefings to the Chairperson. Secretary National Heritage and Culture Asad Rehman Gillani also attended the meeting.

Access to clean water every citizen's right: Ğilani

ISLAMABAD Chairman Senate Syed the project, calling it a the dignity of citizens. Yousuf Raza Gilani on milestone in providing safe Later, Gilani visite Wednesday said access to drinking water and protectclean drinking water is a ing people from waterborne citizen and essential for underprivileged and remote public health, education, communities deserve speand economic growth.

chief guest at the inaugura- essential facilities. tion of Murree Sparkletts
RO Plant and Water Line fully supports all initiatives of Sparkletts, and a large number of dignitaries.

imber of dignitaries.

He termed projects like industry and promote sustiliarion congratulated the He RO Plant an investment tainable development.

He was speaking as the can benefit from such

Unit-2 in Hattar. The ceremony was attended by fare," he said, adding that Senators, MNA Isphanyar the private sector plays a M. Bhindara, the manage-vital role in national devel-Murree opment by creating jobs and driving growth.

(APP): management on completing in health, education, and

Later, Gilani visited the ACM Group of Industries, where he was briefed on the fundamental right of every diseases. He stressed that company's operations and planted a sapling in the factory lawn. He lauded the cial attention so they too use of modern, eco-friendly technology and praised ACM for leading in exports "The Senate of Pakistan and delivering quality products globally.

Calling the industrial sector the backbone of the national economy, the Chairman Senate assured his full support for measures that further strengthen

complete road restoration in GB: Aleem

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Khan Aleem Governor Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Syed Mehdi Shah on Wednesday and discussed the post-flood situation, road rehabilitation and relief efforts in the region. Governor Mehdi Shah

praised the swift response and relief operations carried out by the National Highway Authority and (NHA) Communications Ministry, noting that timely deployment of heavy machinery in such difficult circumstances was commendable and had played a vital role in the opening of the road network in GB, said a

press release. Both leaders expressed

grief over the loss of precious lives and public property in various districts due to rains but noted that joint Naltar efforts of the federal and provincial governments Expressway and other key have accelerated the routes and noted that process of reopening trans-

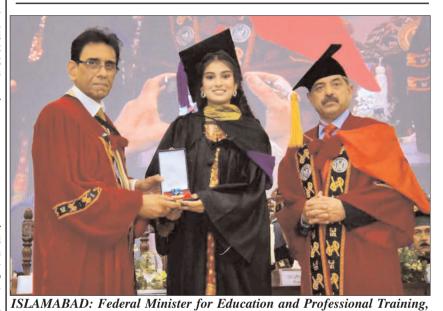
port routes. Governor GB thanked Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan for personally visiting Gilgit-Baltistan. Abdul Aleem Khan said that this natural calamity was indeed a major challenge; however, NHA,

FWO and other institutions immediately responded and began emergency work from day one with additional machinery and workforce added that he was personal-

oversee the restoration of the affected highways.

They also talked about Expressway, Babusar Road, Ghizer progress is being reviewed on a daily basis. Abdul Aleem Khan told that heavy machinery and the dedicated workforce of the National Authority working diligently at the affected sites and that NHA will remain fully engaged until complete

restoration of the roads. Abdul Aleem Khan further stated that the restoration process has accelerated due to strong deployed from coordination between the Punjab and Sindh. He concerned agencies and opening of highways is ly in Gilgit-Baltistan to being materialized.



Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, awards a medal to a position holder student at 25th Convocation of NUML. —APP Photo

Health authority confirms 46 dengue cases

RAWALPINDI (APP): Dr. said to rebut a news item. Ghani, Chief Ehsan Executive Officer of the District Health Authority Rawalpindi, (DHA), announced that 46 dengue cases have been reported in the city during the current year. He said that no clustering of cases has been observed, with a decline in reported

cases Pothohar's union councils. During a press conference on Wednesday, the health

chief said that the DHA has taken strict actions by registering 2762 FIRs, sealing 1361 premises, issuing 3798 challans and imposing fines totaling Rs.62,71,500 in the first eight months of 2025 for violations of dengue prevention protocols. Dr. Ehsan Ghani informed the media that 20 union councils remain highly sensitive due to water storage practices contributing

to the spread of dengue. Responding to media queries he highlighted ongoing collaboration with local and parliamentary leaders serving as focal points. He stressed that public awareness campaigns are underway, urging households to cover water containers to curb mosquito breeding. Dr. Ghani also confirmed that institutions managing graveyards and drains are ensuring timely cleanliness to control the vector.

Dr Ghani rejected any report of presenting wrong data which could mislead the authority. "We are very diligently rendering our responsibilities with transparent data presentation and in right direction", he

He further said that mon- combat supervision of the district administration and the local leadership. He added that Tahira Aurangzeb, a senior parliamentarian along with other public reps are onboard to conduct well targeted campaign including the door-to-door activities.

To miscellaneous media questions, Dr. Ehsan Ghani assured that dengue counters are fully operational in major hospitals, with 50 staff members at Holy Family Hospital (HFH) receiving specialized training. "Unlike last year, when some fatalities occurred, the authority is fully prepared this year, with rapid responses to larvae detection sites to prevent further spread", he said.

Earlier, Dr. Waqar Ahmad, DHA spokesperson, briefed the press that 27 Maryam Nawaz Health Clinics have been established, serving 19,000 patients between August 1 and 19, and recording 242 deliveries. These clinics provide facilities such as ultrasound and ECG. The DHA conducts around 350 inspections daily, resulting in 61 FIRs in a single day, supported by 3,717 mobile teams and over 900 dailywage workers. Control rooms at Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Murree and Basic Health Units are operational to manage patient care in

high-risk areas. Dr. Hafiz Jawad Zahid DHO, emphasized the coorefforts among dinated

Rawalpindi institutions to dengue. itoring is done on daily informed that the DHA basis, data is collected and holds two daily meetings to pursued timely under the ensure swift responses to potential breeding sites, maintaining strict vigilance to prevent the virus from spreading further. Dr. Jawad urged the media to come ahead in support of the anti dengue campaign and creatinine massive awareness.

IRSA releases 397,500 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD Indus River Authority (IRSA) on Wednesday released 397,500 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 465,500 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus Tarbela Dam was 1549.00 feet which was 147.00 feet higher than the dead level of 1402.00 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 284,000 cusecs and 254,600 cusecs, respectively.

The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1216.55 feet, which was 166.55 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 46,000 cusecs and 7,400 cusecs, respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded 400,000, 488,300, 375,500 and 278,800 cusecs, respectively.

Iraqi's Charge de Affairs calls on Raza Harraj



RAWALPINDI (APP): Charge de Affairs, Embassy of Iraq Abdul Qadir Sulyman Alhimeri called on Federal Minister for Defence Production, Muhammad Raza Hayat Harraj here on Wednesday at Ministry of

Defence Production. Minister Defence Production warm-

press release.

Pakistan strongly supports the sovereignty, political unity and territorial regard for Pakistan and its integrity of Iraq. The Minister highlighted that ly welcomed the dignitary Pakistan Defence Industry all fields including defence and explained that Pakistan has huge potentials and production.

highly values its relations capacity. Both countries with Iraq and wishes to may share mutually beneenhance cooperation in the fitting areas of defence field of defence, said a related cooperation.

Charge de Affairs Abdul The Minister said that Qadir Sulyman Alhimeri

19 detained in Ghor

FEROZKOH (Pajhwok): Nineteen individuals have been arrested over collecting and selling yama grass in Ghor province, an official said on Wednesday. Police spokesman Abdul Rahman Badri told Pajhwok Afghan News: "Security forces of Noorak area of Pasaband district arrested 19 people in connection with collecting and selling yama plant". During the operation, more than 1,000 kilograms of yama was seized and burnt, the spokesman added.

The Frontier Post Safar 25, 1447 — Thursday, August 21, 2025

IEA extends condolences

KABUL (BNA): The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan expressed deep sorrow over the devastating road accident in Herat province that left dozens of citizens dead and injured. "In the name of Allah, the Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate," the statement read. "It is with great sadness that we learned of the bus collision and fire in Herat last night, in which many Afghans were martyred or wounded. Inna lillahi wa inna

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

EU condoles victims after deadly bus crash in Heart

returning from Iran, including 19 children, were killed to their home provinces. when a bus collided with a truck in Herat. The EU mission in Kabul expressed con- late Tuesday night when a dolences, calling the tragedy a reminder of Afghanistan's lided with a cargo truck on the tragedy a reminder of Afghanistan's lided with a cargo truck on the tragedy a reminder of Afghanistan's lided with a cargo truck on the tragedy are reflects the interpoor road safety.

delegation in Kabul has caught fire after the impact, offered condolences fol-lowing a devastating road and causing most deaths at accident in Herat province the scene. that killed dozens of returnty with the victims' fami-

Taliban authorities confirmed that 79 people, overcrowded vehicles, lack including 19 children, died of traffic enforcement, and in the crash. The victims hazardous conditions on economic hardship and diswere Afghan migrants who highways have made road

HERAT (Khaama Press): At had recently crossed back travel one of the most danleast 79 Afghan migrants from Iran, many of them families attempting to return

Local sources reported that the accident occurred the ring road in Guzara dis-The European Union trict of Herat. The bus

This disaster marks the ing migrants from Iran. In a second major traffic tragstatement issued on edy in less than a year. In Wednesday, August 20, the December 2024, over 60 mission expressed solidari- people were killed in two neighboring countries. separate crashes on the lies, calling the tragedy a Kandahar highway, highstark reminder of lighting Afghanistan's Afghanistan's urgent road growing record of deadly safety challenges.

Poor infrastructure,

400-bed hospital to be

constructed in Kandahar

province over the next two we are witnessing the needs.

Mawlawi Noor Jalal

The minister highlight-

including Kandahar, many

southern

other

vears with funding from a signing of the agreement

Qatari charity foundation. for a 400-bed specialized

understanding (MoU) for built with financial sup-

the hospital's construction port from the Qatari chari-

was signed on Wednesday ty within the next two and

Minister of Policy and Jalali, Minister of Public

Health Development at Health added that the hos-

Afghanistan's Ministry of pital will significantly

Public Health, and Momin meet the health needs of

Shah, representative of mothers and children not

the Qatari charity organi- only in Kandahar but also

Sharafat Zaman Amar, provinces of Afghanistan.

Ministry of Public Health, ed that over the past two

told reporters that the hos- decades, health centers in

pital will include depart- Afghanistan were estab-

ments for internal medi- lished unevenly, leaving

cine, surgery, gynecology many areas underserved. and obstetrics, a laborato- In southern provinces,

10,000-square-meter plot out health facilities) in Kandahar province. The forced people to travel

construction cost will be long distances for medical

It will be built on a "white areas" (zones with-

between Dr. Mohammad a half years.

Hassan Ghiyasi, Deputy

spokesperson for the

determined once the care.

ry, and pharmacy.

design is finalized.

A memorandum of hospital, which will be

عديد و وردره المسعة في إماره احقاستان الإسلامية

و د افغانستان اسلامي امایت د عامې روغتیا وزارت ترمنځ د ښځو، ماشومانو او د داخله

مشروع بناء وتأثيث وتجهيز

ستشفى قطر التخصصي للنساء والأطفال والأمراض الباطنية

gerous aspects of daily life in Afghanistan. Aid agencies and civil groups have repeatedly called for safety measures to prevent such

large-scale tragedies.

The EU's condolence national community's concern over Afghanistan's fragile infrastructure and the disproportionate impact of road disasters on vulnerable groups such as returning migrants. With limited emergency response systems, accidents often claim higher casualties than in

Unless immediate steps are taken to improve roads, regulate transportation, and enforce safety standards, experts warn that such incidents will continue to dev-

d'affaires, said the hospi

southern provinces of Afghanistan.
"It is a pleasure to see

another project from the

State of Qatar presented to Afghanistan," Murdif Al-Qashouti added.

Momin Shah, represent-

ing the Oatari charity in

Afghanistan, said: "We are

delighted to witness the

signing ceremony of the

MoU for this hospital,

for Development. We have

"awaited

He noted that the hospi-

tal will provide services in

ing the quality of transport

He added that the toll

During the meeting, the Governor of Ghor raised telecommunications challenges and needs of the people and requested the Director General of ATRA to prioritize providing services to residents of remote and underserved areas of the province.

The Director General of ATRA also emphasized that the establishment of 36 sites in Ghor will be implemented soon and efforts will be made to resolve telecommunications issues in the remote areas of the province.

3,000 job *opportunities* provided

the second time, Qatar has announced 3,000 job opportunities for Afghan

(Pajhwok): A ceremony, Mawlawi Noor tizes the health sector, and 400-bed specialized moth- Jalal Jalali, Minister of under a new policy, servicer-child hospital will be Public Health, said: "It is a es will be expanded constructed in Kandahar matter of happiness that according to people's Qashouti, Qatar's Chargé tal's construction will

reduce maternal and child mortality and meet the healthcare needs of Kandahar as well as other work in Qatar.

> dent of Parwan, said: "Fortunately, we have reached the first stage. God willing, we will find work there. We are going for labor and livelihood. I rely on God. I have been to Iran and Turkey as well, but they sent me back. I hope this will be a good opportu-

funded by the Qatar Fund Another Parwan resident, Mohibullah, said: "I came here to register. If a chance for work abroad is given to us, it will be very surgery, gynecology and obstetrics, internal medigood. I am pleased with the Islamic Emirate, as the Jalali emphasized that cine, emergency care, and process here is going smoothly.'

36 new sites to be build in Ghor: ATRA

GHOR (BNA): Mawlavi Sayeed Barat Shah Agha Nadim, the Director General of the Afghan Telecommunications Authority (ATRA) of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology has announced the establishment of 36 telecommunications

sites in Ghor province.

According to Bakhtar
News Agency, Mawlavi Mohammad Sadiq Rassas, spokesperson for the Governor of Ghor, stated that Mawlavi Syed Barat Agha Shah Nadim, Director General of ATRA, during a meeting with Mawlavi Hayatullah Mubarak, Governor of Ghor, presented information about these centers, which are planned to be established soon.

He said that 14 sites will be established by ATRA, and 22 other sites will be built by telecom networks to provide the people of Ghor with access to telecommunications services.

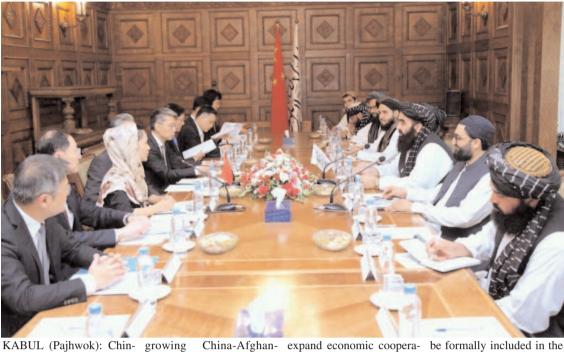
KABUL (TOLOnews): For vorkers.

These workers will be registered in 23 different professions across the country's 34 provinces, and after completing the official procedures through the Social Áffairs, they will be deployed.

In Charikar, the provincial center of Parwan, dozens of young people stood in line to register in hopes of being selected to

Shafiur Rahman, a resinity for me.

China eager to include Afghanistan in 'Belt and Road' project



to officially include Afghanistan, noting that the Afghanistan in the "Belt annual trade volume betand Road" project.

with Foreign Minister of Afghanistan Maulvi Amir ume between the two Muttaqi Wednesday, deputy spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) wrote on his Facebook

between Kabul and Beijing. ment of intergovernmental He added that Beijing Muttaqi highlighted the commissions to further was keen for Afghanistan to

ese Foreign Minister Wang istan ties, calling China a Yi says his country is eager valuable trade partner for that ween the two countries rea-He said this at a meeting ches one billion US dollars.

He added the trade volon nations would increase significantly in the near future. As part of strengthening as growing and highlighted

Afghanistan-China eco-Hafiz Zia Ahmad Takal nomic cooperation, Muttaqi presented practical proposals in the areas of transport He said the two sides cooperation, banking reladiscussed expanding coop- tions and balancing trade eration in various sectors and called for the establish-

tion and conduct technical discussions. He once again reiterated

Afghanistan's soil

would never be used against neighbouring coun-For his part, Wang Yi also described relations between the two countries

the significant expansion of cooperation in many areas. He said that relevant institutions of both countries were working to further increase Afghanistan's exports to China.

be formally included in the major Belt and Road project. He further said that cooperation with Afghan institutions in the field of mining exploration and extraction would also be

enhanced. The Chinese Foreign Minister added that his country plans to begin practical mining operations this

He pledged continued political and economic support for Afghanistan and vowed efforts to remove existing obstacles in the import of Afghan agricul-He added that Beijing tural products and other

King Amanullah Khan: From birth, reign to abdication

(TOLOnews): uld be on par with others. and King Amanullah Khan was That was his approach." born in 1270 of the solar calendar in Paghman, Kabul.

untry and on Asad 28, 1298 political from British colonial rule.

garhar, said: "The constituthe country toward educa- and actions." tion, economy, and prog-ress so that our country wo-ress so that our country wo-line the solar year 1307, to Afghanistan today, agendas Amir Shahee that incite division. It is this Jalalabad city.

the death of his father Amir Loya Jirga in Nangarhar with Shah Mahmood Shinwari Ministry of Labor and Habibullah Khan, he ass- the participation of 872 repumed leadership of the co- resentatives of the people. Mast Ali Khan Niazi, a

(solar calendar), gained historian in Nangarhar, we look at history, unfortuindependence said: "After returning from his trip, he formed a Jirga, Mohammad Waez Zahi- but problems arose. These rzai, an ethnologist in Nan- problems led to the failure mies, did not want an indeof his reforms, and later, tion was established during Amir Habibullah Kalakani his time. He aimed to lead nullified his laws, reforms,

Between the solar years of power and introduced his serve our freedom." adar in Paghman, Kabul. 1300 and 1301, King brother Inayatullah as his At the age of 27, after Amanullah Khan convened a successor.

bloodshed,

a writer in Nangarhar, said: They gave the entire nation the idea of independence. If nately, political motives began at that time, and the British, Afghanistan's enependent

Afghanistan. Unfortunately, they worked on certain agendas, examples of which we still see in

King divisiveness that draws criti-Amanullah Khan abdicated cism for our failure to pre-

Although King Amanullah Khan defeated the mighty British Empire on a global level, internal conflicts and rebellions forced him to leave the throne and his homeland.

He passed away in 1338 in Switzerland.

In accordance with his will, his body was transferred from Italy to Afghanistan and buried beside his father, Amir Habibullah Khan, in the Amir Shaheed Garden in

Speaking at the signing the Islamic Emirate priori- other departments. 166 million afs e-toll gate being built east of Kabul



(Pajhwok): Construction work has been initiated on an electronic toll gate on the eastern ing more than 166 million highway in Sarkhi Pul area afghanis, would be comof Kabul at a cost of 166 pleted within 12 months. million afghanis.

Transport had launched the project as improving travel facilities marked a positive step repair facility.

part of its infrastructure for the public and enhancdevelopment programme.

He said the project, cost-

Mansour reaffirmed the Aviation, Maulvi Fathullah commitment to initiating efficiency. Mansour, told the inaugural new projects for the countransport system, enabling transparent revenue collection and better manage-Speaking at the event Mohammad Rustam

towards modernising and standardising Afghanistan's

Rustam Hafizyar, Director of Infrastructure Planning and Development at MoTCA, said the toll gate was being built on 7.5 acres of land. He noted that the facility

would be equipped with internet services and surveillance cameras, ensuring that even minor details would be monitored. Hafizyar further said that

50 different projects were currently under construction across the country. while 48 others were in the design and procurement

Similarly, representagates were being construct- tives of the contracting ed to ensure transparency, company said the project provide standardised serv- would include a five-Deputy Minister of Ministry of Transport and ices to the public and driv-storey administrative ransport and Civil Civil Aviation's (MoTCA) ers and improve operational building, a hotel for passengers, mosques for men Mansour stressed that and women, a vehicle ceremony that the ministry try's economic growth, the launch of the project parking area, and a car

ANDMA official meets Turkish **Red Crescent Representative** KABUL (BNA): Mullah

Nooruddin Turabi, the General Director of the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), recently met with Naeemullah Karimi, the Turkish Red Crescent Representative.

During their discussion, Mullah Nooruddin Turabi emphasized the need for ANDMA to operate as a strong, impartial, and humanitarian institution, ensuring that its services reach all citizens. He announced the initiation of a recruitment and training process for volunteers in Kabul, which is expected to expand to other provinces soon. as a positive development. Embassy and the Japan

recent reforms within consultations would take Agency (JICA) to enhance Emergency Management ANDMA, describing them place with the Turkish cooperation and strengthen Authority (AFAD).



Karimi commended the He indicated that further International Cooperation Turkey's Disaster and

ties between ANDMA and

Volleyball tournament begins in Khost KHOST CITY (Pajhwok): months and the champions Pakhtunkhwa,

featuring 10 teams including two teams from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, has commenced in southeastern Khost province, an official

said on Wednesday. The volleyball competitiowards sports so that they tions were launched at the could avoid suicide tenden-Sheikh Zayed Volleyball cy because suicide is for-Stadium in Azadi Mena area of Khost city with that the leaders will financial support of an encourage the youth to investor to encourage play sports" youths to indulge in healthy

health. Salar, said the games would last for about two ball player from Khyber

improve

A volleyball tournament, would be awarded a Mark Pajhwok that if such joint X car and the runners an Alto car. "Recently, there has

been an increase in suicide cases. We want to turn people's thoughts and minds bidden in Islam. We hope

On the other hand, volactivities and leyball players said such sports programs were added. effective in entertaining Mea their mental

The investor, Ismail and uniting young people. alar, said the games Adnan Khan, a volley-

games were organized in other sports as well, it would increase the atmosphere of trust between the youth on both sides of the Durand Line.

there is nothing wrong with that. Mashallah, you have very good players. So if the government provides them with facilities, whether it is cricket or volleyball, then God willing, Afghanistan would gain more fame": he

Meanwhile, Ehsanullah Ehsan, a player from Khost, said such games are very important for the

told unity of youth and prevention of drug abuse. He asked other investors

to arrange similar events of other sports to provide mental peace to the youths. "Such competitions have not been held at the

"We are Pashtuns and national level; this is a matter of pride for Khost and the people of Khost, with from teams provinces of Pakhtunkhwa Afghanistan participating"

Officials of the Physical Education Department assured that the foundation stone of an Asian-level sports gym would be laid in the province as soon as



KARACHI: Locals facing problems while passing through flooded street in Port City as monsoon rains

Solangi appointed spokesperson for President F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: journalist and former caretaker information minister Murtaza Solangi has been appointed as the spokesperson for the President of Pakistan.

The appointment, confirmed via official notification, is on an honorary and pro bono basis with immediate effect. Solangi, who served as caretaker minister for information and broadcasting from August 2023 to March 2024, announced the news on X, stating: "A little personal news. I have been appointed Spokesperson of President of Pakistan. I will assume my new responsibilities starting tomorrow. Thank you.'

A veteran of the media industry, Solangi previous-ly served at Radio Pakistan (2008–2013), managing over 3,000 staff across 64 broadcasting units. He played a key role in building ties with international broadcasters such as Voice of America, China Radio International, and Deutsche

Solangi also made histoand later acting president of ens the viability of a future mines the chances of impleafirmed his country's asting Union, In 2011, he was awarded the Sitara-e-Imtiaz by the President of Pakistan for his contributions to media and public

ATC issues warrants for PTI leaders F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) has issued non-bailable arrest warrants for 14 convicted Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders, including Omar Ayub, Shibli Faraz, Sheikh Rashid Shafiq, Zartai Gul, Kanwal Shauzab, and Sahibzada Hamid Raza, in connection with the May 9 riots and GHO attack cases. The court ordered their arrest and production at the next hearing on September

Judge Amjad Ali Shah heard 12 cases related to the May 9 incidents registered in Rawalpindi division, including the GHQ attack, Army Museum assault, arson at sensitive buildings in Saddar, and torching of Metro stations on Murree Road. The jail trial of the GHQ attack case was postponed once again, with the next session fixed for September 3.

The court rejected exemption pleas filed by lawyers of the 14 convicted leaders, ruling that since they had already been sentenced in the Faisalabad court, they must surrender before seeking relief.

Warrants were also issued for 31 other accused who failed to appear without justification. Out of 119 witnesses in the GHQ attack case, 27 have recorded their statements, while three more have been summoned for the next hearing. Copies of challans were distributed among the present accused in other cases, with charges set to be framed against founder and co-accused on the next date of hearing. Former Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, former MNA Sadaqat Abbasi, and others appeared before the court. Strict security arrangements were made at the district courts during the proceedings.

Traffic accident in Herat; death toll reaches 79

At least 79 people-most of them recently returned refugees from Iran-have corps' died, and three others were injured in a traffic accident in western Herat province, province. officials

Mufti Mohammad Yusuf Saeedi, spokesman for the Herat governor, said a 580model passenger bus travel-ling from Islam Qala towards Kabul collided with a motorcycle and a Mazda lorry on the ring road, before catching fire.

He said the victims included elderly people, women, children, the bus driver, the motorcyclist and the Mazda driver. Three were seriously injured. Saeedi added that, with the cooperation of the Ministry of Defence and More than 1.5 million Salang Pass, igniting a fire that killed 31.

HERAT CITY (Pajhwok): the 207 Al-Farooq Army Afghans have returned At least 79 people-most of Corps, all the bodies had from Iran and Pakistan this been transferred to the burial and transfer to Kabul

> victims, confirmed that res- unemployment. cue teams and medical staff had reached the site imme- News Agency described diately and the injured were the incident as one of swiftly taken to local hospi- Afghanistan's deadliest tals. He added that among accidents in recent years. the casualties of this acci- In December 2023, two dent, 76 were migrants who separate bus crashes had recently returned from involving tankers killed 52 Iran to the country. The people, while in March provincial administration 2024, another 20 died in a urged all drivers to exercise collision in Helmand utmost caution and strictly province. In late 2022, a observe traffic regulations tanker overturned in the

> year alone, according to the corps' mortuary, with United Nations migration preparations made for their agency, as both countries United Nations migration step up deportations after decades of hosting Afghan He said the Herat admin-refugees. Many arrive with istration, while expressing little means and face dire deep sympathy and condo- conditions in a country batlences to the families of the tling poverty and mass

The state-run Bakhtar

Israel okays major West Bank settlement project

long had ambitions to build on the roughly 12-square-(five-squarekilometer mile) parcel known as E1 just east of Jerusalem, but the plan had been stalled for years amid international opposition.

Critics say the settlement would effectively cut the West Bank in two, undermining hopes for a contiguous Palestinian state with east Jerusalem as its capital. Last week, Israel's farright Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich backed plans to build around 3,400 homes on the ultra-sensitive tract of land, which lies between Jerusalem and the Israeli settlement of Maale Adumim.

pleased to "I am ning for the construction of West Bank Palestinians, Palestinian conflict.

(AFP): the E1 neighborhood," the who must obtain permits Israel approved a major set- mayor of Maale Adumim, from authorities to travel tlement project on Guy Yifrach, said in a state-through checkpoints to Wednesday in an area of ment Wednesday. The cross into east Jerusalem or the occupied West Bank Ramallah-based Palestinian Israel. ry as the first Pakistani to that the international com- Authority swiftly slammed be elected vice president munity has warned threat- the move. "This under- Jordan on Wednesday also

tion. eign ministry said in a statement.

that are disconnected from one another, turning them into something akin to real prisons, where movement is only possible through Israeli checkpoints and under the terror of armed settler militias." All of or during Israeli military West Bank, occupied since 1967, are considered illegal under international law, regardless of whether they Israeli homes in the E1 area announce that just a short have Israeli planning perwhile ago, the civil admin- mission. Israel heavily hopes for a two-state solu-

King Abdullah II of

the Asia-Pacific Broadc- Palestinian state. Israel has menting the two-state solu- rejection of the E1 project, establishing a saying "the two-state solu-Palestinian state on the tion is the only way to ground, and fragments its achieve a just and compregeographic and demo-graphic unity," the PA's for-the West Bank has soared since the October 7, 2023 Hamas attack on Israel that It added the move would triggered the Gaza war. entrench "division of the Since then, Israeli troops occupied West Bank into and settlers have killed at isolated areas and cantons least 971 Palestinians in the West Bank, including many militants, according

health ministry figures. Over the same period, at least 36 Israelis, including security forces, have been killed in Palestinian attacks Israel's settlements in the operations, according to official figures. UN chief Antonio Guterres warned last week that constructing would "put an end to' istration approved the plan- restricts the movement of tion to the Israeli-

UK set for more legal challenges over migrant hotels

seekers across Britain.

"We'll look closely at what

we're able to do." Several

including in Staffordshire

England, announced on

Protests, some of them

Kebatu, 41, was charged.

He denies the allegation

and is due to stand trial

part in demonstrations and

lowing the court ruling.

Midlands area of

Reform-led

Hadush

government was consider- assaulting a 14-year-old ing Wednesday whether to girl. "We're looking very appeal a court ruling blocking the housing of asylum seekers in a flashpoint Starmer's Labour administration braced itself for further legal challenges from local authorities following judge-issued junction that has dealt it a major political and logistical headache.

Anti-immigrant firebrand Nigel Farage indicated that councils run by his hard-right Reform UK party, leading in national polls, would pursue similar claims as he called for protests outside migrant hotels. Security minister Dan Jarvis said the government was weighing challenging high court judge Stephen Eyre's granting of a temporary injunction to stop migrants from staying at the Bell Hotel in Epping,

northeast of London. authority The local several weeks of protests outside the hotel, some of

LONDON (AFP): Britain's charged with sexually to London and around England. closely at it," Jarvis told

Several men appeared in court on Monday Sky News of a possible charged with violent disorappeal. The interior min- der over the Bell Hotel hotel, as it scrambled to istry had tried to have the protests. Epping Forest come up with contingency case dismissed, warning it District Council argued plans for the migrants. would "substantially the hotel had become a Prime Minister Keir impact" its ability to pro- risk to public safety and vide accommodation for that it had breached plantens of thousands of asylum ning laws as it was no "We're looking at a in the traditional sense range of different contin- The judge gave authorities gency options," Jarvis told until September 12 to

Writing in the rightwing Daily Telegraph councils, newspaper, Farage said the and Northamptonshire in must inspire protests around Britain.' He said peaceful demon-Wednesday that they were strations can "put pressure exploring their options fol- on local councils to go to court to try and get the illegal immigrants out." In violent, broke out in Epping, an attractive mar-Epping in mid-July after ket town connected to Gerberslasie London by the underground, residents appeared to broadly welcome the imminent removal of the

longer operating as a hotel Radio, adding: remove the migrants.

"good people of Epping later this year. Hundreds of asylum seekers. "It has sought the ruling following people have since taken made people feel unsettled. especially with schools counter-demonstrations being down there," 52which have turned violent. outside the Bell Hotel. year-old Mark Humphries, The demonstrations erupt- Further anti-immigration who works in retail, told ed after a resident was demonstrations also spread AFP on the high street.

Achakzai named as Opposition leader in NA F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Former minister and . Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan has nominated opposition alliance chief Mahmood Khan Achakzai as the Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly.

According to reports Imran Khan informed visitors at Adiala Jail about the nomination. He also directed further consultations on the Senate opposition leader slot, where PTI's Azam Swati remains the strongest contender so far. Earlier, PTI's Omar Ayub lost his position as opposition leader in the National Assembly following his conviction in the May 9 cases by an Anti-Terrorism Court. He was also removed from the Public Accounts Committee and all standing committees.

Subsequently, Commission issued disqualification noti-fications for Omar Ayub and Shibli Faraz, a decision both leaders have challenged in the Peshawar High Court. The disqualification was executed under Article 63(1)(h) of the Constitution, which bars individuals from Parliament if convicted of an offence involving moral

turpitude. The ECP cited the ATC Faisalabad's verdict in its notification, noting that the concerned members had been convicted in connection with the May 9 violence cases. The court had sentenced each of them to prison terms of up to 10 years. The ruling came just days after the ATC announced its decision in three separate cases related to the May 9 incidents, which involved protests and violence following the arrest of former Prime Minister Imran

SC adjourns Imran's bail petitions

F.P. Report

Supreme Court of Pakistan on Wednesday adjourned hearing till tomorrow on bail petitions of PTI founder. A three-member bench

of the Supreme Court headed by the Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Yahya Afridi and comprising Justice Muhammad Shafi Siddiqui and Justice Mian Gul Hassan Aurangzeb heard the case.

During the hearing, the Chief Justice said that the court will not grant a long adjournment, but first the arguments of the prosecution will be heard. He said that the prosecution will have to explain how the Lahore High Court's decision to deny bail can be upheld. They will have to cross this threshold.

Lawyer Salman Safdar requested the court to allow the family of the PTI founder to speak, who are present in the courtroom, but the Chief Justice rejected this request, saying that the court will only hear the lawyer, family members cannot be allowed to

The assistant lawyer on the occasion informed the court that the special prosecutor of the case, Zulfiqar Naqvi, has suffered from food poisoning, due to which he is undergoing treatment in the hospital and could not appear in court on Wednesday. The assistant lawyer requested that the hearing of the case be postponed until next week, however, the Chief Justice remarked that the hearing is being held tomorrow and the situation will be viewed.

King of UK sends condolence message F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: In a heartfelt message, The King of the United Kingdom expressed his deepest condolences to the people of Pakistan following the monsoon devastating flooding and a tragic heli-copter crash during rescue operations.

The King stated, "My wife and I have been desperately saddened to learn of the tragic loss of life and widespread devastation... Our thoughts and deepest sympathy are with all those who have lost loved ones, homes, and livelihoods.'

Heavy rains batter Karachi, leaving 17 dead

F.P. Report

KARACHI: The death toll from rain-related incidents in Karachi rose to 17 on Wednesday after intermittent downpours battered the city since the day before, with the port city receiving more monsoon showers at

flooding remains visible across the city, with stranded vehicles and potholes scattered along major thoroughfares. The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) reported 178 millimetres of rainfall in Gulshan-e-Hadeed and 145 millimetres on University Road during the past 24 hours. Drainage operations continued through the day to clear key roads, including Karsaz and Malir Halt, where several vehicles remained stuck. Rainwater also inundated parts of the Old City Area, Aram Bagh, High Sindh Liaquatabad, University Road.

Police confirmed that children and a woman were among the deceased. In one incident, a 70-year-old disabled man was found dead inside his PECHS residence after reportedly falling from his bed into accumulated rainwater. The power situation also worsened, with 2,000 feeders

Town, Liaquatabad, Gadap, Bin Qasim, PECHS, G u l s h a n - e - I q b a l, Sultanabad, Moinabad, and DHA. Many areas have drainage across the city. He been without electricity for acknowledged shortcomover 24 hours.

Flight operations

remain heavily affected, The aftermath of urban and PIA staff were unable to reach duty stations due to flooding. International flight schedules also suffered delays. In view of the Sindh High Court ordered the closure of all courts in Karachi, including the principal seat and subordinate courts. According to the PMD, strong monsoon currents from the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal are impacting southern Pakistan. More showers, southern with isolated heavy falls, are expected in Karachi today and tomorrow, raising concerns of fresh urban

flooding. Speaking to media, Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab said that while main roads had largely been cleared after the rains, drainage work was still underway in several waterefforts are continuing where rainwater has accurestored but 240 still down, suspending electricity in mulated," he said, noting suspending electricity in multiple neighbourhoods, including Gulistan-e- exceeding its drainage ing citizens distressed and Jauhar, North Nazimabad, capacity of just 40mm.

lion cubic feet of debris had so far been removed from storm drains, improving water flow and easing ings in the drainage system at but stressed the need for Jinnah International Airport long-term solutions. "Basic steps are needed to expand with several domestic drainage capacity, but this flights cancelled as airline requires land and faces drainage capacity, but this resistance from residents, making the task difficult,' the mayor said.

"Traffic is moving, but slows down where water deteriorating conditions, remains on the sides of the Chief Justice of the roads. Overall, the situation roads. Overall, the situation has improved compared to earlier in the day," he added. The mayor also confirmed receiving complaints about power outages in multiple neighbourhoods. Electricity supply has been disrupted to more than 550 feeders across the city, with some areas experiencing blackouts for up to 16 hours. A K-Electric spokesperson said that power is currently being supplied through more than 1,550 of the city's 2,100feeders. The spokesperson explained that heavy rain had left many roads submerged, disrupting fuel deliveries and hampering access for repair teams. logged areas. "Drainage However, residents told media that several hours had passed since the rain

PHC extends status quo in Umar, Shibli case

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court (PHC) has issued a notice to the to petitions filed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders Umar Ayub and Shibli Faraz and extended status quo in this regard. The petitions challenge their disqualification and subsequent removal as Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly and

PHC two-member bench comprising Justice Waqar Ahmad and Justice Kamran Hayat Miankhel heard the petitions. The petitioners' lawyer, Barrister Gohar Khan, Special Secretary Law Election Commission, Additional Attorney General Sana Ullah, and lawyers for the ECP appeared before the court.

Barrister Gohar Khan informed the court that Umar Ayub and Shibli Faraz were disqualified by the ECP, leading to their removal as Leader of the Opposition. He argued that the ECP exceeded its authority by taking this action without a reference from the Speaker. He emphasized that the Leader of the Opposition is a constitutional position determined under Assembly Rule 39 and that the ECP's decision was unconstitutional and illegal.

The Additional Attorney General informed the court that there is currently no Leader of the Opposition in the Senate and National Assembly and requested that the cases not be consol-

Meanwhile, Kamran Hayat Miankhel noted that the case against the Speaker is separate and Election Commission of would be affected by any Pakistan (ECP) in response order on the ECP's decision. The Additional Attorney General argued that the House cannot function without a Leader of the Opposition and that the Leader of the Opposition is elected by the members of PTI members as independ-

> the ECP and Attorney The General. court adjourned the hearing and directed the ECP to submit its reply on the next hearing

Attorney General to submit replies in MPAs oath-The Peshawar High Court (PHC) has directed the Election Commission of Attorney General to submit replies in response to peti-tions filed by Khyber Ćhief Pakhtunkhwa Minister Ali Amin Gandapur and Speaker of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Babar Saleem Swati. The petitions challenge the decision of the Chief Justice of the PHC regarding the oath-taking of

elected

seats at

Governor's House,

Wednesday. PHC divisional bench comprising Justice Waqar Ahmad and Justice Kamran Hayat Miankhel heard the

members

reserved

General Special Secretary Law Election Commission, and lawyers for the Awami National Party (ANP) and ECP appeared before the

The Advocate General informed the court that the Chief Minister had filed a petition challenging the ECP's decision to declare the assembly, not the ECP. ents, while another petition PHC extended the stay challenged the oath-taking order on further proceed- of members elected to Senate, respectively, on igs against the petitioners reserved seats at the Wednesday.

Senate, respectively, on and sought responses from Governor's House. The court directed the Speaker to submit a schedule for oath-taking by the mem-

> The Special Secretary Law Election Commission Court directs ECP, informed the court that the Chief Justice had nominated the Governor to admintaking by Governor case: ister the oath to the members under Article 255(2) of the Constitution. The ECP's lawyer argued that if fresh Pakistan (ECP) and the oaths are taken, it could raise questions about the Senate elections and create further complications.

The lawyers for the new members, Babar Khan Yousafzai and Amir Javed, argued that private members would be affected if the oaths are taken again. They claimed that the Speaker did not want to administer the oath, which is why the Chief Justice to nominated the Governor.

PHC directed all parties to submit their replies and also sought responses from the ECP and the Attorney General, stating that it would determine the mainpetitions. During the hear-ing, Advocate General after hearing all parties on Shah Faisal Uthmankhel, next hearing.

US targets more ICC judges including over Israel WASHINGTON (AFP): The Prime Minister Benjamin

United States on Wednesday imposed sanctions on four more International Criminal Court judges or prosecutors, including from allies France and Canada, in a new effort to hobble the tribunal particularly over actions against Israel. "The Court is a national security threat that has been an instrument for lawfare against the United States and our close ally Israel," Secretary of State Marco Rubio said in a statement, using a term popular with President Donald

Trump's supporters. Rubio said that the four people targeted from the tribunal based in The Hague had sought to investigate or prosecute nationals from the United States or Israel "without the consent of either nation." The four include Judge Nicolas Guillou of France, who is presiding over a case in which an arrest warrant was issued for Israeli

Netanyahu. The case was brought forward by the State of Palestine, which is not recognized by Washington but, unlike Israel or the United States, has acceded to the statute that set up the tribunal in The Hague. Guillou, a veteran jurist, had worked for several years in the United States assisting the Justice Department with judicial cooperation during Barack Obama's presidency. Also targeted in the latest sanctions was

Canadian judge, Kimberly Prost, who was involved in a case that authorized an investigation into alleged crimes committed during the war in Afghanistan, including by US forces. Under the sanctions, the United States will bar entry of the ICC judges to the United States and block any property they have in the world's largest

adversaries than individuals from close allies.

Rubio also slapped sanctions on two deputy prosecutors — Nazhat Shameem Khan of Fiji and Mame Mandiaye Niang of Senegal. The State Department said the two were punished by the United States for supporting "illegitimate ICC actions against Israel," including by supporting the arrest warrants against Netanyahu and former defense minister Yoav Gallant.

The Trump administration has roundly rejected the authority of the court, which is backed by almost all European democracies and was set up as a court of last resort when national systems do not allow for justice. Trump on Friday welcomed Russian President Vladimir Putin to Alaska even though Putin faces an ICC arrest warrant, a factor that has economy — measures more stopped him from traveling often taken against US more widely.