

FO confirms flood warnings
F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office on said India had shared flood warnings with Pakistan but stressed that the alerts were routed through diplomatic channels rather than IWC, as stipulated under the IWT. Confirming the development, FO Spokesperson said: "On August 24, 2025, India communicated flood warnings through diplomatic channels, rather than through the IWC as required under the IWT."

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

PHC seeks reply from govt
Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court has issued notices to the federal and provincial governments, seeking their response on petitions filed for the recovery of eight missing persons, including a woman, from various districts of KP, on Monday. PHC single-member bench comprising Justice Kamran Hayat Miankhel heard the petitions related to the recovery of missing persons.

www.thefrontierpost.com

Vol. XXXIXII

No. 205

Regd. No. 241

RABI-UL-AWWAL 01 1447 -- TUESDAY, AUGUST 26 2025

PESHAWAR EDITION

12 PAGES

PRICE. 30

PM launches 10m BISP Digital Wallets

— terms landmark step towards cashless economy

Saqib Mushtaq

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday launched 10 million digital wallets for Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) beneficiaries, calling it a historic milestone in Pakistan's journey towards transparency, financial inclusion, and a cashless economy.

With a symbolic palm touch, the Prime Minister inaugurated the system in the presence of federal ministers, BISP leadership, and international partners, including GIZ. He congratulated BISP Chairperson Senator Rubina Khalid, the BISP team, and partner institutions for the "landmark decision that will safeguard genuine recipients and protect them from undue difficulties."

"The digital wallet system is in its true sense blessed by the soul of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, as it empowers BISP beneficiaries with safe, transparent, and direct access to financial assistance," PM Shehbaz said.

He emphasized that BISP remains a "great initiative for poverty alleviation and employment generation," but stressed that continued efforts were needed to expand its impact.

The prime minister termed the launch "a great leap towards a cashless economy." He recalled that during Ramadan, 78 percent of the relief package was successfully disbursed through digital channels despite skepticism and resistance from vested interests. "Cashless transactions are the pressing requirement of our times. They save time, end corruption, and bring efficiency, helping Pakistan progress rapidly," he remarked.

The prime minister revealed that he personally chaired multiple meetings on digitization despite initial "indifferent attitudes and boredom" on the issue, underlining his resolve to transform government-to-government, business-to-business, and personal transactions into digital channels. PM Shehbaz urged BISP leadership to integrate conditionalities on education and health into the programme. "If a family is receiving

assistance, it should be linked with the condition that all children of that household attend school. Similarly, health initiatives must be tied with BISP support. Only then will this programme become a true legacy benefiting millions of children," he stated, calling for reducing the existing eight to ten-month implementation cycle to just four months.

The Prime Minister concluded by paying tribute to all stakeholders State Bank of Pakistan, IT Ministry, Pakistani banks, and development partners for their contributions. "We are not just disbursing aid, we are raising an army of architects and workers to build the nation," he said.

Earlier, BISP Federal Secretary Amir Ali Ahmed briefed that under the Prime Minister's direction, a high-level committee was formed to ensure transparency and ease of access in the digital system. "After today's launch, 10 million digital wallets will be developed using beneficiaries' CNICs, supported by a biometric verification system to prevent identity theft," he said. He added that 10 million free SIM cards would also be distributed, with the first phase already underway in Hyderabad, Sukkur, and Rahim Yar Khan in collaboration with Jazz/Mobilink.

BISP Chairperson Senator Rubina Khalid termed the launch an "important and historic milestone" in Pakistan's social protection journey. "This programme, which supports over 10 million impoverished families, is not just financial assistance, it is a pathway to social and economic empowerment," she said.

She noted that linking benefits to women's CNICs gave them recognition and inclusion in the national database. The new wallets, she added, would "open further opportunities" and be supported by digital literacy programmes for women beneficiaries unfamiliar with technology.

Senator Rubina highlighted that BISP is the continuation of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto's vision for women's empowerment, a dream carried forward by President Asif Ali Zardari and now "excelling further under Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's

leadership."

Shehbaz hosts GB citizens for saving 300 lives from glacial flood in Ghizer: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif hosted three citizens from Gilgit Baltistan for showing courage and sense of responsibility that saved three hundred human lives after an incident of Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) in Ghizer. He presented the men shields and Rs 2.5 million each as acknowledgement for their bravery.

The Prime Minister thanked the courageous shepherds of Ghizer: Wasiyat Khan, Ansar and Muhammad Khan on behalf of his government and the nation for timely informing people in their village about the tragedy that was about to struck. He said, "You are heroes of the nation as your action led to the timely evacuation that saved three hundred precious lives." "It was an act of service to the nation, he said adding, "This act of humanitarian service will always be remembered in golden words." The Prime Minister said, "The Ministry of Climate Change is working rapidly on an early warning system in Gilgit-Baltistan." "A coordinated system is being created for the future, which will help prevent any emergency or disaster through timely information," he added. Sharing details of the incident, one of the citizens told the Prime Minister that they walked long in difficult conditions to timely alert the locals about the glacial outburst that was endangering their village.

"We informed the locals who were four hours away, about the glacial outburst after getting access to a phone. We were in a precarious condition and finally were evacuated by an army helicopter to a safer place," he told. They thanked the Prime Minister for the recognition given to them. The Prime Minister said he will soon visit Gilgit Baltistan as a gesture to commend bravery of the nation's heroes. On the instructions of the Prime Minister, the three citizens were official guests for a night stay in the capital. Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tatar attended the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif launching Digital Wallet System by BISP.

Sutlej River bursts its banks

F.P. Report

LAHORE: Sutlej River broke its banks as India released water after severe monsoon spell flooded its waterways submerging many villages and leaving thousands of people stranded.

In Pakpattan, the protective embankments of the river near Basti Chakr?loka and Kund Nain Singh were swept away as a result of which floodwaters submerged nearby settlements. People have been engaged in rebuilding embankment on a self-help basis as local administration failed to send support staff. Kasur, Okara, Pakpattan, Bahawalnagar, and Vehari districts are the worst-hit by the gushing water. According to rescue teams, people and their livestock have been moved to safer locations.

Disaster Management Authority spokesperson said the Sutlej River posed a threat to areas near the border. Villages have been affected, and people are being forced to relocate to safer areas with their livestock. In Bahawalnagar district's Minchinabad tehsil, floodwaters have caused large-scale damage to standing crops in the areas of Wazira Gaduka and McLeod Ganj. Rice, sesame, and fodder have been completely destroyed.

Water levels are rising around the Baba Farid Bridge and adjacent areas. Flooding has wreaked havoc in several villages, including Mouza Azam Cheena and Mouza Bhondi. Temporary protective embankments have collapsed, cutting off affected areas from road access to Minchinabad city. In Zafarwal, a 500-foot breach occurred when the Dek Drain's embankment broke near the Lahri area. According to the irrigation department, the water submerged dozens of villages.

Rescue teams have been using boats to evacuate people stuck in their homes. So far, more than 19,000 people have been relocated to safer places. The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) has issued warnings to people living near rivers to immediately move to safer areas.

Three FC troops martyred in Hangu

F.P. Report

HANGU: Frontier Constabulary (FC)'s three personnel were martyred and 17 injured in an attack on FC fort in Doaba area of Thall Tehsil in Hangu district.

According to DPO Hangu, the FC fort located in the jurisdiction of the Doaba Police Station, near Torawari, was attacked by unknown terrorists. Resultantly, three FC personnel were martyred while 17 others were injured.

The DPO told media that after a strong retaliatory response by the police and FC personnel, the terrorists fled. The injured personnel were shifted to Doaba Hospital. According to the District Police Officer (DPO) Hangu, an accomplice of the terrorists opened fire as soon as he saw the police, but was killed in retaliatory fire. Following the attack on the FC fort, a search operation by the police is ongoing in the area.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has strongly condemned the Fitna al-Hindustan terrorists' attack on a Federal Reserve Police Fort in Hangu. The Interior Minister paid glowing trib-

Five militants killed in Dir

Haleem Asad

LOWER DIR: At least five suspected militants were killed and seven policemen injured during fierce clashes between security forces and the outlawed Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in Upper Dir and Lower Dir districts late on Sunday night, officials and local sources said.

They said the exchange of fire in the Dobando area of Upper Dir continued for several hours. Two civilians from Hatnar Dara were also killed after being caught in the crossfire. A senior official of the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) told that the bodies of the five slain militants were in police custody. He suspected the men might have links across the border in Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, in another incident in Lajbook Dara of Lower Dir, heavy firing broke out between police and militants. Local residents said the attackers torched three police vehicles — two pickup trucks and a car — which were completely destroyed. Though no casualties were reported from this clash, tension gripped the area. The outlawed TTP shared the fotages of vehicles' torching on social media, claiming they had seized the vehicles and destroyed them completely.

Police officials, however, claimed the situation was under control. "We will never bow before the mischief of the Kharrijites (militants)," a police officer said. Separately in Bajaur district, a policeman from Lower Dir was martyred in militant firing. Head Constable Shah Wazir Khan was laid to rest in his ancestral village Chansaruno Talash with official honours.

utes to the three brave policemen of the Federal Reserve Force who embraced martyrdom during the attack.

He also directed authorities to provide best medical

facilities to the injured policemen. Mohsin Naqvi said that the FRP personnel sacrificed their precious lives for defending the homeland.

Saif urges Centre to abandon its double standards

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Advisor to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Information and Public Relations, Barrister Dr. Saif, has called on the federal government to abandon its dual policy regarding Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He said granting permission to Maryam Nawaz for foreign visits while barring Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur from engaging in dialogue with Afghanistan is an open contradiction.

Barrister Dr. Saif stated that just as the Chief Minister of Punjab is allowed external visits, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa also has the full right to engage

with Afghanistan. "The people of our province want peace, and for that, dialogue with Afghanistan is inevitable. The law-and-order situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is directly linked with developments in Afghanistan," he added.

He further revealed that the provincial government had formally sent Terms of Reference (TORs) for negotiations with Afghanistan to the federal government, but so far the federation has maintained complete silence on the matter. Highlighting the steps of the KP government, Barrister Dr. Saif said that Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur has constituted tribal jirgas for the restoration of peace in

the merged districts, and following these jirgas, a grand jirga will also be convened to present comprehensive recommendations for peace.

He emphasized that under the leadership of Chief Minister Gandapur, the KP government is taking serious measures for establishing peace across the province, including the merged districts. However, he stressed that the federal government must also play its role. "Terrorism is not just a problem of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa but of the entire country," Barrister Dr. Saif said. "The federation should stand with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in this struggle instead of treating the province like a stepchild."

JEDDAH (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, on Monday, reiterated Pakistan's strong condemnation of Israel's highly escalatory and dangerous statements over Palestine land. He said the brazen audacity of the so-called Israeli cabinet, in unveiling its ominous plan to extend Israel's full military control over Gaza as well as the Israeli Prime Minister's recent allusion to the creation of a 'Greater Israel' provided an insight into Israel's annexationist and rogue mindset.

In his statement at the 21st Extraordinary Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) in Jeddah, the DPM/FM reiterated Pakistan's call for an immediate and effective ceasefire, ensuring flow of humanitarian aid, end to forced displacement, illegal settlement expansion and annexation of Palestinian land, accountability for war crimes and crimes against humanity and implementation of international and humanitarian laws.

He said the meeting was held again as Gaza bled, under systematic, premeditated and deliberate violations of international law, including international humanitarian law, the UN Security Council resolutions and judgment of the ICJ. And all of this was being committed with impunity by Israel. "Gaza has

Dar flays Israel's escalatory statements — spells out immediate measures to end Palestinians' sufferings

become a graveyard for innocent lives as well as for the international law, particularly the International Humanitarian Law (IHL). Over 60,000 Palestinians — most of them women and children — have been killed in Israel's brutal military assault, he added.

The DPM/FM said the systematic targeting of hospitals, schools, UN facilities, aid convoys and refugee camps were not incidental, these were wanton acts of collective punishment in full world view. "Gaza is enduring a full-scale humanitarian catastrophe. For nearly two years, it has suffered indiscriminate bombardment, total blockade, and deliberate deprivation and starvation while violence and dispossession escalate in the West Bank and Jerusalem," he added.

DPM/FM Dar further said the so-called humanitarian system put in place by the occupying power was a cruel illusion, adding "famine is rampant. Civilians are being shot trying to collect food. The hunger crisis in Gaza has reached unprecedented and deeply alarming levels." Against this backdrop, he said Israel exhibited its characteristic

sordid insensitivity to international norms. In recent days, a slew of highly provocative and unwarranted statements emerged from Israel which spotlighted its growing disdain and absolute contempt for the international order, he observed.

He said Pakistan strongly condemned these highly escalatory and dangerous statements, calling for actions that will further aggravate the prevailing grave humanitarian situation and suffering of the civilians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in addition to undermining international efforts aimed at achieving peace and stability in the region. He said Pakistan joined the statement issued by the Arab-Islamic Ministerial Committee, along with other countries, in expressing strong condemnation and categorical rejection of the Israeli announcement, denouncing it as an unacceptable escalation and a brazen attempt to entrench illegal occupation by coercion.

"Pakistan also fully endorsed and joined the statement issued by 31 Arab-Islamic countries along with the Secretaries General of the OIC, the

League of Arab States and the Gulf Cooperation Council condemning the Israeli PM's outrageous insinuation to the creation of a so-called 'Greater Israel', he said, adding his statement constituted a direct threat to Arab national security, to the sovereignty of states, and to regional and international peace and security. As the Prime Minister of Pakistan had unequivocally stated: "the root cause of this ongoing tragedy is Israel's prolonged, illegal occupation of Palestinian territory. As long as this occupation endures, peace will remain elusive".

DPM/FM Dar reiterated that Pakistan fully stood by their brotherly Arab states in safeguarding their sovereignty against threats to their independence and territorial integrity. Pakistan expressed its deep appreciation to all the states and stakeholders that were playing a role in advancing peace in Gaza. Their ongoing contributions and steadfast support remained essential in the pursuit of stability and justice for the Palestinian people, he opined. Dar said Pakistan also welcomed the growing international momentum in support of

the Palestinian statehood and full membership of the UN and urged those states that have yet to recognize the State of Palestine to do so as soon as they could.

"But we need to do more. It must now be followed up by coordinated international action to realize the long-overdue settlement, based on a viable, sovereign and contiguous State of Palestine, on the basis of pre-1967 borders, with Al Quds Al-Sharif as its capital," he stressed. The DPM/FM said stressed that it was a defining moment for the Muslim Ummah. History would not judge them by their words but by their actions.

"The Palestinian people do not seek statements of sympathy; they need concrete measures to end their suffering and secure their liberation from Israeli occupation. The OIC must rise to this challenge with unity, resolve, and purpose. Another Nakba cannot, and must not, be allowed to happen," he further underscored. The DPM/FM said the Palestinian question was a litmus test for the credibility of the so-called "rules-based order". "Failure to uphold the rights of the Palestinian people will



embolden impunity and undermine the legitimacy of the very order we all claim to defend and uphold," he emphasised.

To safeguard the global order and to move beyond the perpetual cycle of violence and destruction in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, he said Pakistan reiterated the following seven urgent and essential steps: First, an immediate, permanent and unconditional ceasefire across Gaza and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, with full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2735; second, unfettered, sustained and secure humanitarian access to all civilians in need, and the protection of aid workers, medical teams and the UN personnel.



Naqvi, Abbasi vow joint crackdown on Railways encroachments

LAHORE (APP): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Monday visited the Pakistan Railways Headquarters and attended a high-level meeting chaired by Railways Minister Hanif Abbasi.

The meeting reviewed security arrangements for railway lines and trains across the country, with a special focus on Balochistan. The participants of the meeting were

briefed by the PR officials on the measures being taken to ensure security.

It was decided to launch a joint crackdown against encroachments on railway lands. The National Constabulary, along with the Railways Police, would participate in the anti-encroachment drive, while the Frontier Corps (FC) would also extend full cooperation to the Railways Police.

The meeting further

decided to operate a passenger train between Islamabad and Rawalpindi.

Speaking on the occasion, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that every possible step would be taken to ensure fool-proof security of railway tracks and trains, adding that Railways Police would be fully supported. "The safety of passengers is our top priority," he stressed.

The minister also praised

the measures taken under Hanif Abbasi's leadership to improve the performance of Pakistan Railways.

Railways Minister Hanif Abbasi expressed gratitude to the interior minister for extending support of the Federal Reserve Police in eliminating encroachments.

Pakistan Railways CEO Aamir Ali Baloch, IG Railways Police Rai Tahir, and other senior officials also attended the meeting.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over a meeting to finalize decisions regarding the District Annual Development Programme (ADP), held at CM House. —PPI Photo

CM reviews district ADP, approves Rs55 bn allocation

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, presiding over a meeting, reviewed the District Annual Development Programme (ADP) 2025-26, during which he took policy decisions to ensure transparent and effective implementation of development schemes across districts.

The meeting, held at CM House, was attended by Minister P&D Nasir Shah, Minister Local Government Saeed Ghani, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Chairman P&D Najam Shah, Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh, Secretary Local Govt Waseem Shamshad, Secretary Finance Fayaz Jatoti and others.

The Sindh government has allocated Rs 55 billion in the provincial budget 2025-26 for District ADP schemes.

The P&D Department, on the directives of Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah, convened two meetings in July to receive inputs from the Finance Department on guidelines, funds release strategy, and funds distribution as per the PFC Award 2007. After detailed deliberations, it was decided to continue with the existing procedure for implementing District

ADP 2025-26, while a committee would also be formed to further strengthen the process.

To rationalise allocations, the chief minister decided to earmark 80 per cent of funds for ongoing schemes and 20 per cent for new schemes. The minimum approval limit for a scheme will be Rs. 5 million. In contrast, the maximum limit will be Rs. 40 million for District Development Committees (DDCs) and Rs. 60 million for District Development Boards (DDBs).

The CM said that Deputy Commissioners will act as Project Directors of the schemes in their respective districts. The schemes will be prepared by executing agencies mandated to carry out specific works and approved by District Development Committees/District Development Boards. "To prevent duplication, agencies and local bodies must certify that proposed projects are not part of completed or ongoing schemes in the past three years," the CM instructed.

Murad Shah emphasised that sectoral ownership at the district level should be ensured and that at least 50%

of the cost of each scheme be allocated in the current fiscal year. He also directed that District ADP schemes should ideally be completed within one year, with exceptions allowed only under strong justification.

The CM further decided that funds allocation should focus on completing ongoing schemes within the financial year. No revision or re-revision of schemes will be allowed, except under exceptional circumstances such as escalated costs or missing essential components. He added that 'throw-forward' of ongoing schemes should not exceed two years.

Shah decided that no new schemes must be planned with 100 per cent allocation for one year; in special cases, up to two years. Release of funds for ongoing schemes will be made in two equal installments and for new schemes in four equal installments, subject to 60 per cent utilisation of previously released funds.

The Chief Minister stressed that District ADP funds must be utilised efficiently, with maximum focus on the completion of ongoing projects, while ensuring transparency and accountability in the process.

Challenging the status quo: A new path for safe and happy spaces

Kinza Sualiha

THE complexity of Pakistan's education system often presents a frustrating paradox: it is plagued by inherent contradictions, lacking a unified direction, and burdened by differing objectives. Adding to this challenge, the stakeholders from the institutions to the students come from wildly varying mindsets. In this environment, raising a crucial issue that many refuse to acknowledge as an issue at all is an act of immense courage.

A significant segment of thought in society is simply unwilling to accept that topics like mental awareness, emotional health, and trauma management are essential needs.

Against this backdrop, a Karachi-based non-governmental organization, Kiran Foundation, undertook a unique, brave, and unprecedented initiative. They designed a powerful series of workshops and training sessions and ensured they involved every segment of society.

This training was specifically designed to help participants understand, manage, and react positively to sensitive and important life situations. Using real-life examples, the foundation successfully imparted high-standard, sophisticated ways of handling emotional and psychological challenges.

This effort was made possible through the cooperation of several institutions. The story is a profound salute to Sabina Khatri, the founder of Kiran Foundation, who not only brought about change but also initiated a transition of



life in an area like Liyaari-a community often seen as underserved and challenging.

Following the training, a momentous and dignified event was held: the Certificate Ceremony for the program, aptly named "Building Safe and Happy Spaces."

On Saturday, August 9, 2025, Kiran Foundation hosted an inspiring Certificate Ceremony for its program at Avari Towers, attended by over 200 distinguished guests from diverse sectors. The program's goal was to equip individuals and organizations with the tools to create safe, inclusive, and compassionate environments.

The ceremony marked a significant milestone: 39 participants completed Module 1, while 57 participants successfully completed all five modules, earning their certificates and stepping forward as agents of positive change.

The event was graced by an esteemed panel of influential guests, including Admiral Asif Sandela (Founder of Moawin Foundation), Mr. Mushtaq Chapra (Founder of The Citizens Foundation - TCF), Dr. Saeed Ismail (Chairman of HANDS), Dr. Abdul Bari (Founder of Indus Hospital), Syed Hussain Haider (Senior Legal Advisor at UNODC), Ms. Uzma Siraj

(Director PVE at NACTA), Commodore Shabbir (Founder of Rashidabad), Sabina Mustafa (Founder of The Garage School), and Sir Abbas Hussain (renowned educationist and trainer), alongside other prominent leaders.

Speaking at the event, Sabina Khatri, Founder of Kiran Foundation, shared her driving motivation: "This was my dream - to take the message of Kiran to the world. Today marks a big milestone as we have completed the program. We want more safe and supportive microcosms for our kids so they can truly thrive."

This milestone reflects a growing movement to build community spaces rooted in empathy, care, and resilience. As the program's graduates return to their communities, they are expected to serve as catalysts for creating safer, happier, and more inclusive environments for children and families across Pakistan.

Kiran Foundation extended its heartfelt gratitude to Avari Towers for their generous sponsorship of the venue and food. The foundation remains steadfast in its mission to transform underserved communities through love, empathy, and education, paving the way for a more humane and hopeful future.

Journalists to protest against provincial action under PECA

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Union of Journalists has condemned the provincial government's recent decision, under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA), to initiate proceedings against senior journalist and Peshawar Press Club Vice President Irfan Khan. In protest, the Union has called for a demonstration tomorrow, Tuesday, 26 August, at 1:00 p.m., to be held in front of the Peshawar Press Club.

In a statement issued today, General Secretary Irfad Ali appealed for full and timely participation from all members of both the Khyber Union of Journalists and the Peshawar Press Club.

FIA blocks escape attempts of 98 high-profile suspects

LAHORE (APP): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has thwarted the escape attempts of 30 suspects wanted by Punjab Police and 68 suspects wanted by NAB, Anti-Corruption, and other agencies this year. The names of these individuals were included in the stop list, with serious cases registered against them.

According to FIA sources, passenger screening at airports is ongoing. Over the past eight months, FIA Immigration Lahore processed 3.1 million passengers across 15,654 flights. This year, 1.63 million passengers departed on 7,846 flights, while 1.5 million passengers arrived from abroad.

Additionally, 45 passengers were arrested at Lahore Airport for using fake documents, and 86 individuals involved in begging were also detained. The arrested suspects have been handed over to the Anti-Human Trafficking Circle Lahore for further investigation.

Two killed in Karachi firing

KARACHI (APP): Two persons were killed and two others sustained injuries in a firing incident that took place near Faqera Goth area of Karachi, tv channels quoting Rescue sources reported on Monday.

KMU mobilizes health team in Buner

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: On the directives of Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zia ul Haq, Khyber Medical University (KMU) Peshawar has deployed its Public Health Reference Laboratory (PHRL) team to District Buner following the recent floods. The team, consisting of trained medical laboratory technicians and specialists, is providing diagnostic and healthcare services in coordination with the District Health Officer (DHO).

The deployment aims to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, strengthen

flood relief activities, and ensure timely testing for quick response. A collection point has been set up in Buner with rapid testing kits, while other tests are being sent to PHRL Peshawar for immediate processing. The team has also visited various medical camps to inform people about the testing services available. In addition, KMU has established a free medical camp in Buner, treating more than 500 patients daily. This initiative is addressing urgent health needs of flood-affected communities.

KMU has also launched a donation drive to support

families in Buner, Swat, and Bajaur who have lost their homes, livelihoods, and basic necessities. Faculty, administrative staff, and students are actively participating by setting up donation camps at the main campus and collecting contributions from door to door.

Donations can also be made online through the Easypaisa: 0332-1431414, Raast ID: 0332-1431414 and IBAN: PK30 UNIL 0109 0002 2386 1893. KMU appeals to the public to contribute generously, as every donation, big or small, can bring hope and relief to those in urgent need.

LWMC intensifies post rain cleanliness operation

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Waste Management Company (LWMC) has intensified its post-rain cleanliness operations across the city to ensure the effective implementation of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's 'Suthra Punjab' vision. According to LWMC sources here on Monday, sanitation staff has been deployed at all major commercial markets, main roads, U-turns and service lanes to maintain cleanliness and ensure smooth drainage, particularly during the ongoing monsoon season.

Under the direction of LWMC CEO Babar Sahib Din, manual sweeping and waste clearance operations were carried out at key areas including Ferozepur Road, Jail Road, Shadmank Market, Lakshmi Chowk, Gulberg, Barkat Market, Beadon Road and Temple Road.

Despite the rain, LWMC teams remained active in field to prevent waterlogging and maintain a clean environment. Babar Sahib Din emphasized that a clean Lahore is the company's top priority. To achieve this goal, LWMC officers and workers are working diligently across all three shifts. Strict instructions have been issued to all town managers to ensure 100% door-to-door waste collection in their respective areas.

Ombudsman launches Awami Khidmat programme

LAHORE (APP): The provincial ombudsman inaugurated the Awami Khidmat Programme and the Media Outreach Wing for South Punjab at a ceremony held at the Ombudsman's Regional Office in Multan on Monday.

The event was attended by Additional IG South Punjab Muhammad Kamran Khan, Commissioner Amir Kareem Khan, senior advisors Nasim Nawaz, Arif Anwar Baloch, and Nasir Jamal Pasha,

Secretary Ombudsman Punjab Qaiser Saleem, Deputy Commissioner Multan, along with advisors from South Punjab and members of the outreach and media teams, said a media release issued here.

Addressing the ceremony, the Punjab ombudsman announced the launch of a Mobile Van Outreach Campaign under the Awami Khidmat Programme. The specially equipped mobile

van will provide complaint redressal services in remote areas across 13 districts of South Punjab. The existing Helpline 1050 has also been integrated into this campaign to further enhance accessibility. In response to a query by the commissioner, the Ombudsman explained that the newly established Media Outreach Wing will conduct awareness campaigns in Urdu, Saraiki, and Punjabi throughout South Punjab.

Commissioner for immediate repair of rain-damaged roads

KARACHI (APP): Commissioner Karachi, Syed Hassan Naqvi on Monday issued directives for urgent repair of roads damaged by recent rains across the city.

The Commissioner visited several areas of District South, East, and Malir along with Deputy Commissioners and senior officials of municipal and development departments to review the condition of rain-affected roads. During the visit, he instructed the Deputy Commissioners to prioritize the repair of potholes and damaged roads in coordination with relevant authorities, stressing that such damages must not cause accidents or hardships for commuters.

Taking notice of the dilapidated condition of Jahangir Road, where traffic flow and residents face serious difficulties due to large potholes, Commissioner Naqvi directed Deputy Commissioner East, Abrar

Jaffar, to ensure that repair work begins within the next 24 hours.

The Commissioner was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner South Javed Nabi Khoso, Deputy Commissioner East Abrar Jaffar, Deputy Commissioner Malir Saleemullah Odho, Municipal Commissioner KMC Afzal Zaidi, DIG Traffic, Managing Director Solid Waste Management Board Tariq Nizamani, DG Technical KMC Tariq Mughal, and Director Development Commissioner Office Naseem Bhutto.

During his inspection, Commissioner Naqvi visited Shaheen Complex, II Chundrigar Road, Burns Road, Urdu Bazaar, Ranchore Lines in District South; Airport Sub-Division, Model Colony, Quaidabad in District Malir; and Soldier Bazaar, Guru Mandir, Jahangir Road, Martin Road, Jail Chowrangi, Samama, and University Road in District East. He

reviewed problems caused by pot-holes, sewerage leakages, and ongoing development projects affecting traffic and daily life. At Model Colony, he expressed concern over difficulties caused by the installation of new sewerage lines by the Water Corporation and directed officials to expedite the work on priority basis.

He also took notice of the foul smell and unhygienic conditions caused by garbage under Quaidabad Bridge and ordered the Solid Waste Management Board to immediately clear the site and ensure daily disposal of garbage. During his visit to University Road, Commissioner Naqvi reviewed the alternate routes created for the Red Line BRT project and instructed authorities to improve them. He emphasized prompt repair of potholes at Samama and directed the Water Corporation to fix sewerage lines and restore the road infrastructure.



LAHORE: Members of Water Management Employees Association Agriculture Department are holding protest demonstration for regularization of employees of National Program Phase II, at Lahore press club.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur talking to a delegation of Ulema Board on Monday.

Govt to hold Rehmat-ul-Lil-Alameen (SAW) Conference

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Aqaf and Religious Affairs, Muhammad Adnan Qadri, has announced that during the blessed month of Rabi-ul-Awwal, the province will host Rehmat-ul-Lil-Alameen Conferences across all districts to mark the completion of 1,500 years since the birth of Prophet Muhammad (SAW). Following the special directives of the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, these conferences will be held at the district level.

In a special video message from his office, the Minister said the objective of these conferences is to introduce the new generation to the Seerat-un-Nabi and to spread the universal message of mercy, tolerance, and brotherhood across society. A total of 38 district-level conferences will be organized, while Qirat and Naat competitions will also be arranged at divisional and district levels.

He further added that in flood-affected districts, the funds allocated for the conferences will be utilized for religious sector rehabilitation and related events.

Muhammad Adnan Qadri informed that the central Rehmat-ul-Lil-Alameen (SAW) Conference will be held in Peshawar on 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal, with the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as the chief guest. The event will be attended by prominent scholars, spiritual leaders, and representatives of various schools of thought from across the province.

The Minister further stated that the provincial government has directed the Minister for Elementary and Secondary Education to organize activities at schools, while the Minister for Higher Education has been instructed to arrange events at universities on the theme of Seerat-un-Nabi (SAW).

These steps aim to ensure the active participation of students in these blessed celebrations.

He said that implementing the teachings of the Holy Prophet (SAW) in all sectors of the country reflects the vision of PTT's founding chairman, Imran Khan, and the provincial government is taking all necessary steps to realize this vision. He added that special gatherings of Qirat and Naat will also be held to mark the completion of 1,500 years since the blessed birth of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW), noting that "the remembrance of the Messenger (SAW) is the Sunnah of Allah, the way of the Companions, the essence of worship, and the devotion of the angels."

KPBC observe strike against killing of lawyer in alleged encounter

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The legal fraternity observed strike across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including Peshawar and boycotted court proceedings to protest killing of Mian Asim Kaka Khel, a young lawyer and son of a senior Jamaat-e-Islami leader, in Charsadda in alleged police encounter, on Monday.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council (KPBC) following a request from Muhammad Sarir Khan and other members, called for the protest against the killing of Mian Asim Kaka Khel by police and the subsequent attempt to cover up the incident. The lawyers strongly condemned the police's actions, including detaining the victim's family for several hours and staging a fake encounter.

The lawyers demanded that the provincial government, Inspector General of Police, and District Police Officer Charsadda take immediate action against the named SHO and conduct a judicial inquiry to uncover the truth.

The lawyers warned that if action is not taken against those responsible, they will expand the scope of their protest.

The Peshawar High Court Bar Association, led by President Aminur Rehman Yousafzai and General Secretary Ashfaq Dawoodzai, along with other senior lawyers, strongly condemned the incident and demanded justice for the victim.

Water connection fee waived for domestic consumers for 3 months

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Board of Directors of Water and Sanitation Services Peshawar (WSSP) has waived the water connection fee for domestic consumers for three months in order to provide relief and to register illegal water connections.

Now, new domestic consumers will be able to obtain free water connections and existing illegal connections can be regularized between September 1 and December 1, 2025.

This decision was taken in a meeting chaired by Board Chairman Malik Shahab Hussain, which was also attended by Chief Executive Officer Yasir Ali Khan and board members. During the meeting, issues related to tube wells, illegal connections, expenditures on tube wells, and recovery from consumers were discussed.

It was decided that for three months, no fee would be charged from those registering illegal connections or obtaining new ones, so that as many illegal connections as possible could be legalized and the number of consumers could be increased by offering free connections.

After the three-month period expires, action will be taken against illegal connections. It is worth mentioning that the government has delegated the services of an Executive Magistrate to WSSP for the recovery of dues from defaulters, under whose supervision a daily recovery campaign is being carried out.



PESHAWAR: A convey of unregistered Afghan Refugees arrived at Azakhel as they are going back to Afghanistan, on Monday. — PPI photo

Qasim holds meetings with public delegations

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Social Welfare, Syed Qasim Ali Shah, held meetings with public delegations in Peshawar.

On this occasion, citizens and representative groups from various areas apprised the provincial minister of their issues, difficulties, and matters related to welfare initiatives.

The minister attentively listened to the public's concerns and issued instructions to the relevant departments for their immediate resolution. He stated that serving the people, addressing their problems, and ensuring transparent delivery of welfare projects are among the top priorities of the present government.

The Social Welfare Minister added that resolving public grievances in a timely and fair manner is the government's fundamental responsibility, and all possible resources will be utilized to ease the hardships of the people. He further emphasized that welfare programs should be designed in a way that their benefits effectively reach underprivileged segments of society, paving the way for the creation of a prosperous and developed community.

Merit ensured in Health Department: Ihtesham Ali

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Advisor Ihtesham Ali, while addressing the floor of the provincial assembly, stated that merit is being given top priority in the Health Department and all politically motivated appointments have been completely abolished. He emphasized that systemic improvement is not possible through political interference but through transparency and competence. To that end, placement committees have been formed within the department. The Health Advisor clarified that all recruitments in the Health Department are being conducted through ETEA (Educational Testing and Evaluation Agency), where candidates are selected based on a computer-based testing system followed by interviews and merit lists. He added that although he had the option to recruit hundreds of individuals of his choice through other agencies, he chose to uphold merit and ensure a transparent process. According to Ihtesham Ali, the department receives merit lists from ETEA, and successful candidates are selected under the Estacode after interviews. He further stated that while efforts are made to give preference to local candidates, such preference never compromises merit. The Health Advisor made a bold announcement that if anyone proves that bribery was involved in any recruitment, not only will they be rewarded, but the accused will be made an example of. Ihtesham Ali remarked that the era of influential individuals manipulating recruitment processes is over. For him, merit is paramount, and this directive comes directly from Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, who has instructed that merit must be ensured at all costs so that capable and qualified individuals are appointed to public institutions.

Arrival of 12th Rabiul Awal brings widespread celebrations, spiritual reflection across KP

PESHAWAR (APP): As the blessed month of Rabi-ul-Awal begins, a wave of spiritual enthusiasm and love for the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) has swept across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), where cities, towns, and villages are being adorned with green buntings, lights, and decorative displays in arrival of Eid Milad-un-Nabi fall on the 12th of this Islamic month.

In the provincial capital of Peshawar, homes, mosques, bazaars, and streets have been illuminated in celebration of the birthday anniversary of the last Prophet of Allah Almighty Muhammad (PBUH), who is revered as "Rahmatul-lil-Alameen" — a mercy for all worlds.

"With the start of Rabi-ul-Awal, we begin decorating our homes, mohallahs and local mosques with green buntings and lights as a mark of immeasurable love for the Holy Prophet (PBUH)," said Haji Shahjehan, a resident of Peshawar's Hashtnagri area.

Across KP, communities are organizing naat gatherings, Qirat competitions, and Seerat conferences to honour the life, teachings, and unmatched character of the Holy Prophet (PBUH), whose universal message of peace, justice, and compassion continues to resonate across the globe.

Nearly 1,500 years ago, the birth of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) marked the beginning of a profound positive transformation in the Arabian Peninsula, a region then gripped by tribal conflict, injustice, and moral decay, known in Islamic history as the Age of Ignorance (Jahiliyyah).

"Before Islam, there was no system of justice, governance, merit, tolerance or equality in the Arabian Peninsula. Decisions were made by tribal chiefs, and oppression of women, slaves, and the poor was rampant," said Professor Dr. Hifazat Ullah Khan, Chairman of the Islamiyat Department at Islamia College, Peshawar.

He highlighted how the Prophet's (PBUH) arrival brought a message of Tauheed (Oneness of Allah), social justice, and respect for human dignity. His mission eradicated inhumane customs like female infanticide, idol worship, and slavery, replacing them with principles of equality, compassion, and human rights.

Among the most powerful examples of the Prophet's (PBUH) mercy was His superior conduct during the Conquest of Makkah. Despite facing years of persecution, He forgave even his fiercest enemies, offering general amnesty and setting an enduring example of forgiveness.

The Farewell Sermon (Hajjat-ul-Wida), delivered during his final pilgrimage at Arafat Makkah, laid down foundational principles of human rights. He deplored racial and ethnic discrimination, upheld women's rights, and emphasized the sanctity of life, property, and honour.

"No Arab is superior to a non-Arab, nor a white to a black, except by piety and good deeds," he proclaimed — a declaration that remains timeless in its relevance and moral clarity.

To commemorate the life and sunnah of the Holy Prophet (PBUH), the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government will hold a series of Seerat Conferences across all divisional headquarters. These gatherings will feature addresses by religious scholars, participation from students, and discussions on how to practically implement the Prophet's (PBUH) teachings in our daily life.

Special events will include Naat and Qirat competitions at educational institutions and community centers, milad processions across cities and towns and public illumination drives in coordination with local administrations.

The central Milad procession in Peshawar is scheduled for 12th Rabi-ul-Awal, starting from Milad Chowk, Rampura Gate, Hashtnagri, where thousands of devotees are expected to participate, reciting Durood-o-Salam along the route.

"The best way to celebrate 12th Rabiul Awal is practicing the Prophet's teachings in our lives, spreading unity, kindness and avoiding sectarian divisions," urged Dr. Hifazat Ullah.

He also emphasized including the families of martyrs in the celebrations as a gesture of compassion and solidarity as these values deeply rooted in the propagation of holy Prophet's (PBUH).

As Muslims across Pakistan, and the world celebrate Eid Milad-un-Nabi with religious enthusiasm, they will pay glowing tributes to the last Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) for promoting peace, justice, empathy and universal brotherhood.

In a world still struggling with inequality, class division, and conflict, the timeless message of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) continues to serve as a beacon of hope, calling humanity toward better and prosperous future.

KP needs over Rs2bn for rehab of flood-hit schools

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Education Department on Monday revealed that more than Rs. 2 billion are required for the rehabilitation of schools affected by recent floods in the province.

According to official sources, a final report prepared by the department and submitted to the Chief Secretary's Office highlights the severe challenges facing the province's educational infrastructure. The report includes details of the damaged schools and estimated costs for their restoration.

As per the findings, a total of 370 schools across 14 districts have been affected by floods, including 58 schools that were completely destroyed and 312 that suffered partial damage.

As per the report primary schools rehabilitation requires Rs. 35 million each, while middle schools Rs. 26 million each, high schools, Rs. 75 million each and higher secondary schools require Rs 65 million each.

For completely destroyed schools, construction of at least six classrooms has been proposed. For partially damaged institutions, the restoration budget will be based on assessments by District Education Officers (DEOs).

The report also recommends introducing prefabricated primary schools in flood-hit areas to ensure the immediate continuation of education.

To cope with the educational crisis, the provincial government has allocated Rs. 5 billion under an Education Emergency Fund and has appealed to international organizations for support. A request has been made to UNICEF for the provision of tents to set up temporary classrooms.

The document further stresses the need for a clear rehabilitation strategy, recommending the immediate repair of partially damaged schools and prioritization of high-enrolment institutions. It also advises giving priority to primary schools in areas where no alternative schools exist within a 4 km radius.



PESHAWAR: Provincial Minister for Elementary and Secondary Education Faisal Khan Tarakai addressing the Head of Schools Conference.



In brief

3610 AAC holders residing in Landi Kotal F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: At least 3610 Afghan Citizen Card (AAC) holders and sixty two families carrying Proof of Registration (PoR) are residing in various localities of tehsil Landi Kotal, however 95 families inhabited in Landi Kotal illegally have been sent back to their home country, Afghanistan in first phase of Afghan refugee repatriation in 2024, administrative officials said. They said that 3610 ACC holders comprising approximately 1600 children and 1000 women and 1010 men are presently living in Khuga Khel, Shiekhmal Khel, Ash Khel, Mukhtar Khel etc., villages of Landi Kotal. In addition 62 families carrying PoR are also residing in various areas of the tehsil, they added. Meanwhile as per the local police information almost 1400 Afghan nationals are engaged in different trades and dealings in Landi Kotal Bazaar. The official said that roundabout 900 Afghans are doing their businesses in shops while the rest of them are earning their three times meals by selling daily usages commodities in handcarts, labore,daily wagers etc. It is to be stated here that Landi Kotal Bazaar contain 3000 shops, deal in innumerable big and small trades. On the other hand repatriation of the Afghan citizens via Torkham border is in progress and last day 1062 illegal, ACC and PoR holders returned back to their home country, Afghanistan.

Conference concluded F.P. Report

MARDAN: Group Leader of Mardan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) Zahir Shah attended the two-day "Prosper Pakistan Conference" held at Nathia Gali, which was jointly organized by the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment and Trade (KPBOIT). The special guests of the conference Advisor to the Finance Muzammil Aslam and Advisor for Information Barrister Muhammad Ali, presented a shield of honor to Zahir Shah Group Leader Mardan Chamber of Commerce, in recognition of his trade promotion, excellent performance and services. The conference was attended by prominent industrialists from across the country, ambassadors and representatives of trade organizations, government officials and experts from various fields.

Business impacted F.P. Report

MINGORA: The recent floods in Swat have caused extensive damage to around 10,000 homes and shops, resulting in losses worth billions of rupees for the people. The provincial government has assured that it will utilize all its resources to provide relief and assistance to the affected people and will stand by them until the end. According to a statement by Faraz Ahmad Mughal, spokesperson for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, the government is committed to providing all possible assistance to the affected people. He stated that the Chief Minister has directed officials to prioritize relief efforts and has been personally overseeing the situation in the affected areas, including Swat, Buner, Shangla, and Swabi.

Journalism a pillar for democracy and politics: Saira

F.P. Report

HAFIZABAD: Adviser to the Chief Minister of Punjab and Member National Assembly Hafiza Saira Afzal Tarar has said that journalism plays a vital role in politics and democracy. She emphasized that journalists must remain impartial in their work, as they are the eyes, ears, nose, and voice of society. "Journalists highlight the issues that often go unnoticed and bring them before the public," she stated.

She expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation of the District Press Club in Rasulpur Tarar. The delegation was led by President District Press Club/Union of Journalists Ch. Javed Asad, while Senior Vice President Hafiz Abdul Qadeer Chaudhry, General Secretary Kashif Ihsan Tarar, Additional Finance Secretary Chaudhry Mazhar Warraich, and former General Secretary Mehar

Habibullah were also part of the delegation.

On the occasion, District President of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Chaudhry Muhammad Bakhsh Tarar, District Spokesperson PML-N Chaudhry Muhammad Zaman Bhoon, and District President PML-N Youth Wing Chaudhry Murad Bakhsh Tarar were also present. The delegation congratulated Hafiza Saira Afzal Tarar on being elected as MNA and presented her with a bouquet and sweets.

She further announced that very soon, electric buses will be seen operating on the roads of Hafizabad, providing affordable and eco-friendly travel facilities to the people, which she described as a revolutionary step. She added that the construction of Hafizabad University and the District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital is in the final stages, while the inauguration of an overhead bridge

at the Thatha Khokhran railway crossing will take place soon.

PFA crackdown continued: The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) Food Safety Teams conducted an extensive crackdown in Hafizabad and surrounding areas, inspecting 114 food outlets and production units. The operation led to fines totaling Rs. 213,000 imposed on 11 units for serious violations of food safety standards. Authorities also seized and destroyed a large quantity of expired food items and harmful chemicals on the spot.

A spokesperson for the PFA stated that the crackdown was launched after repeated warnings and official instructions were ignored by several businesses. During the drive, the teams also inspected more than 57,000 liters of milk from 68 vehicles and 18 shops to ensure compliance with safety regulations.

Urban planning: Smart cities and public spaces



Malaika Fatima

PUBLIC places are shared spaces accessible to everyone, regardless of age, gender, and social status. They include parks, playgrounds, streets, piazzas, and public squares. They are locations for socialization, recreation, cultural activity, and civic engagement. By offering amenities for human interaction, recreation, and relaxation, public spaces contribute to ease and quality of urban life as well as the social fabric.

Public spaces are valuable for several reasons. First, they promote social solidarity, which allows different categories of people to come together and feel they belong. Second, public spaces contribute to health and well-being through spaces for exercise, recreation, and mental rejuvenation. Third, if well-designed, public spaces can generate economic dividends, including increased tourism, businesses, and investment. Finally, public spaces contribute to environmental sustainability by mitigating urban heat, controlling pollution, and enhancing biodiversity.

Lack of or insufficient public space impacts urban life significantly. Without common spaces, social isolation increases, and community relationships dissolve. Insufficient recreation

spaces give rise to health problems, including stress, obesity, and cardiovascular diseases. Negligently managed or derelict spaces turn into crime hotspots, and insufficient green spaces further speed up environmental deterioration, increased pollution, and urban heat islands.

In urban centers in Pakistan such as Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad, public spaces are in dire straits. One of the biggest issues is encroachment, with commercial or residential buildings taking over land meant for public space. Parks and recreational parks lack proper maintenance, with poor facilities, security, and accessibility. The spaces are overcrowded; there is simply not enough public space to fit the expanding urban populations, making them less effective and popular.

Public space maintenance is largely the responsibility of the government. Urban planning and zoning must ensure sufficient land for public use and prohibit unlawful construction. Infrastructure investment in order to construct parks and recreational areas with proper facilities and security is necessary. Public space involvement ensures that the public area is suitable for citizens' needs. In addition, public education campaigns may enlighten individuals about the importance of preserving and using such areas positively.

Legal tools are necessary to protect public places. Anti-encroachment laws must be enforced strictly so that public property cannot be encroached upon illegally. Land use legislation must prioritize public spaces in urban development plans. Rights of

access to the public must also be guaranteed so that citizens can have free access to demarcated public place without any obstructions.

Various administrative problems plague the management of public space in cities like Karachi. Duplication of jurisdiction with unclear responsibilities creates inefficiency. Corruption leads to misappropriation of funds meant for developing and maintaining the public space. Inability to enforce laws preventing encroachments results in illegal constructions prospering, reducing available public space.

For these issues to be corrected, all public space within urban areas should be managed by a centralized authority to ensure accountability and coordination. Accessible processes of land development and allocation should occur to reduce the occurrences of corruption. Community participation in maintenance and planning ensures that public space is created with the needs of local people in mind. Intelligent monitoring and strict implementation of the law are able to stop encroachment and abandonment, improving the quality and availability of public spaces.

Public spaces are of socio-economic and environmental importance for the well-being of cities. They need to be made available at all times and properly maintained, and this can be done through effective urban planning, strong legal measures, open governance, and participation of citizens. Pakistani cities can make their cities habitable, healthy, and inclusive cities for all citizens by resolving these problems.



MULTAN: A view of destruction due to stagnant rainwater causing of poor sewerage system creating problems for commuters and residents, after flood flowed in area caused by heavy downpour.

Media briefed on flood operations F.P. Report

BUNER: The focal person for flood emergency has said that the number of people who died so far is 236, while the number of injured is 136. In a special session, Dr. Hira did not share the data related to those who have not been found yet and has taken the position that the rescue operation is still ongoing and relief work is also underway.

The focal person added, administration is in touch with international organizations and major domestic organizations for rehabilitation and has claimed that rescue, relief and rehabilitation activities which will continue until the victims are fully recovered. Dr. Hira Ahsan has described the response of domestic, international and regional relief organizations in the ongoing rescue and relief activities so far as encouraging and the government of Pakistan and the provincial government and the relief minister have assured of all possible cooperation good willing.

She claimed the district administration will move forward in a coordinated manner to reduce the problems of the flood victims and provide them with facilities with a better strategy, she concluded.

DPO inspects police station F.P. Report

WANA: District Police Officer (DPO) Lower South Waziristan, on Monday carried out a surprise visit to Raghza Police Station in Tehsil Birmal, reviewing security arrangements and meeting with local elders to hear their grievances.

During the visit, the DPO held 'kuli Katchen' where community elders voiced their concerns and presented suggestions. The elders praised the sacrifices of the police force, expressing full confidence in its role in restoring peace to the volatile region.

Compliance against illegal placer gold mining directed

F.P. Report

KOHAT: Commissioner Kohat Division, Syed Motasim Billah Shah, has sternly directed all the Deputy Commissioners, District Police Officers and other concerned authorities of the division to ensure strict compliance of the ban imposed under the Section 144 Cr.P.C. against the illegal placer gold mining, in line with the decision of the Provincial Cabinet. He emphasized that violators must not be spared from any stern action.

He issued these directions while chairing a high-level meeting held at his office, which was attended by all the Deputy Commissioners, DPOs and other relevant officers through video link. The

meeting agenda was included stoppage of illegal mining of placer gold, reviewing progress on dengue prevention measures, implementation of the Chief Minister's 99-point "Awami Agenda" and updates on the court cases.

Commissioner Kohat directed the Health Department to launch effective measures and awareness campaigns against the dengue at the district, tehsil and union council levels. He also appealed to the public to keep their homes, neighborhoods and surroundings clean, avoid stagnant water at any place and cooperate fully in adopting mosquito-prevention measures.

Furthermore, the Commissioner, while stressing strict compliance with

the "Awami Agenda", directed that ongoing and new public welfare projects must be completed on a priority basis. He also highlighted the importance of providing maximum relief to the citizens through open courts and the implementation of the open-door policy. He further directed the officials to expedite public interest cases in the courts and ensure their vigorous pursuit to ensure timely delivery of justice.

All the Deputy Commissioners were directed to devise comprehensive and clear strategies in their respective districts, backed by the effective monitoring and reporting systems so that no negligence occurs in the eradication of dengue, elimination of illegal mining and public welfare initiatives.

Pakistan has never suffered from a shortage of policies

Dr Sadaf Javaria

CONSIDER food security. The National Food Security Policy (2018) promised a Prime Minister led council, targeted 4% Agri-productivity growth, and assured availability, access, and resilience. Before that, the Zero Hunger Program (2013) and Pakistan Integrated Nutrition Strategy (2011) were rolled out with donor fanfare. Most recently, the 78.5 billion National Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Plan (2023-2030) was approved. On paper, these sound transformative. On the ground, 42% of Pakistanis remain food insecure and 83% cannot afford a healthy diet.

Why? Policies in Pakistan are often instruments of announcement, not reform. They serve governments as talking points and donors as benchmarks, but rarely as binding national commitments. Health and nutrition

devolved after the 18th Amendment, but provinces were left with mandates larger than their institutional capacity. The result? Good intentions trapped in bureaucratic silos.

The same malaise haunts food safety and halal regulation. The Pakistan Halal Authority Act (2016) and new institutions like NAFSA (2025) could have positioned Pakistan as a credible player in the \$2 trillion global halal economy. Instead, fragmented certification, weak enforcement, and regulatory capture leave Pakistan underperforming while competitors capture the market.

Add climate change to the mix, and the stakes become existential. Rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, and increased floods are destabilizing agriculture and food systems, threatening both nutrition security and export potential. Without integrating climate-resilient agriculture, sustainable supply chains, and food system transformation into policy execu-

tion, even the best-intended programs will collapse under environmental pressure.

So why are policies not implemented? Because they lack: Continuity each government discards the work of its predecessors. Accountability: success is measured in announcements, not outcomes. Ownership: policies are drafted for donors, not citizens.

Institutional strength: structures exist, capacity does not exist, Climate foresight: long-term environmental and food system risks are ignored. Pakistan's tragedy is not the absence of vision, but the absence of will. Until implementation, monitoring, and accountability become the true yardsticks of governance, policies will remain polished documents filed in drawers. What Pakistan needs is not more policy launches but partners in courage: a government willing to enforce, and donors willing to demand results.

A rising sun in Charsadda

Aamir Khan

IN a time when political leadership often seems disconnected from the struggles of the people and where promises of change are frequently left unfulfilled, Dr. Muhammad Shahzad from Charsadda has emerged as a beacon of hope. At just 26 years old, he is a rare blend of intellectual brilliance, compassion, and unwavering commitment to service. His leadership is not defined by slogans or media coverage, but by the silent acts of service he performs every day to better the lives of those around him.

Born into a family of educators, Dr. Shahzad was raised with the core values of knowledge, discipline, and social responsibility. His parents, both teachers, instilled in him the belief that service to the community is the true essence of leadership. This foundation has propelled him on a journey marked by academic excellence, political activism, and humanitarian service, all driven by a sense of purpose far beyond personal gain.

Dr. Shahzad's academic journey has been nothing short of remarkable. A gold medalist in every class and degree he pursued, he was driven by more than just a thirst for knowledge. His success in academia was rooted in a desire to use educa-

tion as a tool for empowerment. His intellectual curiosity soon led him to the realm of student politics, where he joined the Pakhtun Students Federation (PSF).

Dr. Shahzad's political journey has also seen him take on roles that directly impact the lives of young people. With his sharp oratory skills, organizational acumen, and deep commitment to Bacha Khan's philosophy, he quickly rose through the ranks. From the PSF president at college and university, he joined NYO. After that, he served as the Culture Secretary of the District Charsadda Cabinet, a position that allowed him to actively promote cultural activities, intellectual development, and youth engagement at the local level. As a leader in this capacity, he used his platform to inspire the youth to engage in meaningful social activities and participate actively in the democratic process. Recently, he was elected to the position of Provincial General Secretary of Malgari Doctoran, the medical wing of the Awami National Party (ANP), a rare achievement for someone so young.

However, Dr. Shahzad's leadership is not just about titles. He is known for his tireless work ethic, often sacrificing sleep and

personal time to serve others. He spends countless hours in hospitals, organizing medical camps, and traveling to flood-hit areas. His compassion is not limited to politics; it extends to every aspect of his life. Whether he is arranging transport for a patient, personally covering medical expenses for the underprivileged, or following up with people to ensure they receive the care they need, Dr. Shahzad does so without concern for political gain or media attention. His belief is simple: when someone is in need, you respond with action.

In addition to his medical work, Dr. Shahzad is an advocate for the marginalized and oppressed. Recently, he has been vocal in defending the rights of the transgender community, advocating for their dignity and protection. He has also spoken out against the rise of cultural intolerance, offering his support to musicians and artists whose freedoms are under threat. His commitment to social justice extends to the Afghan refugees, advocating for policies that grant them medical care, education, and the opportunity to live with dignity.

Dr. Shahzad's activism goes beyond politics and healthcare. He is deeply invested in

the intellectual and philosophical development of the youth. He has authored a book on philosophy, intending to empower young people with the tools of reason, critical thinking, and intellectual independence. In his view, actual change begins with a shift in mindset. As an extension of this belief, he regularly organizes study circles and intellectual gatherings, where he not only serves as a moderator but also as a speaker, guiding discussions on rationality and philosophical thought.

One of Dr. Shahzad's most remarkable qualities is his deep commitment to youth empowerment. His advocacy for the youth is unwavering, and he speaks for them at every opportunity. He has always emphasized the importance of intellectual growth, social activism, and political engagement among young people. This is evident in his advocacy for youth rights in his political roles, where he continually works to ensure that youth have a voice in shaping the future of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Despite his busy schedule, Dr. Shahzad continues to spend his own salary on various social and welfare activities. Whether it is funding medical treatments for

those in need, organizing educational programs, or supporting cultural initiatives, Dr. Shahzad uses his resources to give back to his community. He has managed to make a significant impact with minimal donations, relying on his own sacrifices and a network of like-minded individuals who share his vision of a better future for the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Dr. Shahzad's work extends beyond his local community; it has far-reaching effects. His study circles, which he has led both locally and nationally, have become spaces for young people to come together, discuss ideas, and explore topics of intellectual and social significance. By acting as a moderator and speaker, Dr. Shahzad creates opportunities for youth to learn the art of reason, the power of critical thinking, and the importance of rationality in public discourse.

In times of crisis, such as the devastating floods in Buner, Swat, and Bajaur, Dr. Shahzad was on the ground, not just organizing medical relief, but physically present to ensure that the help reached the most affected people. His quick response during these emergencies, setting up medical camps even before official directives were

issued, exemplifies his proactive leadership. Dr. Shahzad's ability to lead during times of crisis, his empathy, and his hands-on approach make him a true servant-leader who leads by example rather than by command.

Dr. Shahzad's leadership style is grounded in his belief that service to humanity is the highest form of leadership. Whether he is in the hospital, at a study circle, or providing aid in flood-affected areas, Dr. Shahzad leads with compassion, intellect, and a sense of deep responsibility. He has proven time and again that leadership is not about power, recognition, or personal gain; it is about making a tangible difference in the lives of those who need it most.

Dr. Muhammad Shahzad is not just a future leader; he is a leader today. His work, both in politics and in the medical field, his advocacy for marginalized communities, his commitment to intellectual development, and his tireless dedication to the welfare of the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa all make him a leader who is genuinely making a difference. His story is one of action, service, and a steadfast belief in the power of leadership to change lives. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has found not just a doctor or politician in Dr. Shahzad; it has found a faithful servant of the people, a leader with soul, and a rising sun of a new era.



US confirms travel associated human screwworm case

Buenos Aires/Chicago/WASHINGTON (Reuters): The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reported the first human case in the United States of travel-associated New World screwworm, a flesh-eating parasite, from an outbreak-affected country.

The case, investigated by the Maryland Department of Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, was confirmed by the CDC as New World screwworm on August 4, and involved a patient who returned from travel to El Salvador, HHS spokesman Andrew G. Nixon said in an email to Reuters. Earlier, Reuters reported that beef industry sources said last week that the CDC had confirmed a case of New World screwworm in a person in Maryland who had traveled to the United States from Guatemala.

Nixon did not address the discrepancy on the source of the human case. "The risk to public health in the United States from this introduction is very low," he said. The U.S. government has not confirmed any cases in animals this year. The differing accounts from the U.S. government and industry sources on the human case are likely to further rattle an industry of cattle ranchers, beef producers and livestock traders already on high alert for potential U.S. infestations as screwworm has moved northward from Central America and southern Mexico. The government's confirmation of a screwworm case comes just over a week after U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins traveled to Texas to announce plans to build a sterile fly facility there as

part of efforts to combat the pest. The USDA has estimated a screwworm outbreak could cost the economy in Texas, the biggest US cattle-producing state, about \$1.8 billion in livestock deaths, labor costs and medication expenses. An executive of the industry group Beef Alliance sent emails last week to about two dozen people in the livestock and beef sectors, informing them that the CDC had confirmed a human case of screwworm in Maryland in a person who had traveled to the U.S. from Guatemala, according to a source, who asked not to be identified, and who shared the contents of the emails with Reuters.

Beth Thompson, South Dakota's state veterinarian, told Reuters that she was notified of a human case in Maryland within the last week by a person with direct knowledge of it.CDC deferred questions to Maryland on a call with state animal health officials, Thompson said."We found out via other routes and then had to go to CDC to tell us what was going on," she said. "They weren't forthcoming at all. They turned it back over to the state to confirm anything that had happened or what had been found in this traveler." Another source said that state veterinarians had learned about a human case in Maryland during a call last week with the CDC. A Maryland state government official also confirmed a case. A spokesperson for the Maryland Department of Health did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Screwworms are parasitic flies whose females lay eggs in wounds on any warm-blooded animal. Once the eggs hatch, hundreds of screwworm larvae

use their sharp mouths to burrow through living flesh, eventually killing their host if left untreated. The maggots' feeding is similar to a screw being driven into wood, giving the pests their name. Screwworms can be devastating in cattle and wildlife, and rarely infest humans, though an infestation in either an animal or a person can be fatal. Treatment is onerous, and involves removing hundreds of larvae and thoroughly disinfecting wounds. But infestations are typically survivable if treated early enough. The emails from the Beef Alliance executive said that due to patient privacy laws, there were no other details available about the positive human case of screwworm. The person was treated and prevention measures were implemented in the state, the email said. A livestock economist at Texas A&M University was asked to prepare a report for Rollins on the impacts to industry of the border closure to Mexican cattle, according to the emails, a measure that has largely been in effect since November to prevent the arrival of screwworm to the United States.

The CDC was required to report the positive New World screwworm case to both Maryland health officials and the Maryland state veterinarian, one of the emails said, adding that the CDC also notified other agriculture stakeholders. "We remain hopeful that, since awareness is currently limited to industry representatives and state veterinarians, the likelihood of a positive case being leaked is low, minimizing market impact," the beef industry executive wrote. A representative for the Beef Alliance did not respond to requests for comment.

Palestinian girl struggles to survive

Gaza: Bones and skin are all that is left of seven-year-old Mai Abu Arar. The Palestinian girl is one of tens of thousands of children facing malnutrition in Gaza as Israel's man-made famine deepens with the Israeli military stepping up its assault on Gaza City. Mai's mother, Nadia Abu Arar, says her child was once lively and joyous, but she is now fighting for her life after drastically losing weight.

"The doctors told me that she isn't suffering from any disease or from any past condition. They're saying it's all due to malnutrition and I haven't seen any improvement in her situation at all," Nadia told Al Jazeera. Hunger has weakened Mai to the point that she can now only consume liquid food through a syringe. Hisham Abu Al Oun, paediatric director at the Palestinian's Friends Hospital in Gaza City, said Israel has been preventing the delivery of medicines to the enclave, which has made it challenging to treat

patients suffering from malnutrition. "Potassium chloride is the easiest medication that any doctor can prescribe. We don't even have that. We have babies dying because we don't have it. Sometimes supplies come in, but unfortunately, very little," he said. A United Nations-backed hunger monitor, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), confirmed for the first time that more than half a million people are experiencing famine in northern Gaza. At least 289 people, including 115 children, have died due to starvation in the enclave so far.

"It's time for the Government of Israel to stop promoting a different narrative + to let humanitarian organisations provide assistance without restrictions & allow international journalists to report independently from Gaza." In its report, the IPC said Israel's ongoing war has led to at least 1.9 million people being displaced twice as the Israeli

siege resulted in a man-made famine. Liz Allcock, a rights advocate with Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP), told Al Jazeera that hunger is affecting everyone in Gaza. "It plays out in the entirety of the [Gaza] Strip and on a daily basis. It's not only children, small children ... It is also elderly people who are unable to get access to any kind of food. It is also healthcare staff, aid workers who are fainting on the job because they don't have enough sustenance to keep them going," she said. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has repeatedly denied that people in Gaza are experiencing starvation, blaming aid agencies and Hamas for not delivering supplies to people in the territory. The UN has said that despite the growing amounts of aid ready for delivery at crossings near Gaza, Israel has not granted aid agencies the necessary authorisation to deliver and distribute the assistance. — Aljazeera

Israeli bulldozers uproot trees in West Bank village

West Bank (AFP): Israeli bulldozers uprooted hundreds of trees in the West Bank village of al-Mughayyir in the presence of the Israeli military, according to AFP journalists who witnessed the scene. Most of the felled vegetation appeared to be olive trees, essential to the economy and culture of the West Bank, while olive groves have also long been a flashpoint for violent clashes between farmers and encroaching Israeli settlers.

Abdelatif Mohammed Abu Aliya, a local farmer from the village near Ramallah, said he lost olive trees that were over 70 years old on about one hectare of land. "They completely uprooted and levelled them under false pretences," he said, explaining he and other residents had already begun replanting the pulled-up trees. AFP photographers from the ground saw overturned soil, olive trees lying on the ground, and several bulldoz-

ers operating on the hills surrounding the village. One bulldozer had an Israeli flag, and Israeli military vehicles were parked nearby. "The goal is control and forcing people to leave. This is just the beginning -- it will expand across the entire West Bank," said Ghassan Abu Aliya, who leads a local agricultural association. Residents said the bulldozing began. A Palestinian NGO reported 14 people had been arrested in the village over the past three days. When asked about the incident, the Israeli army told AFP it had "launched intensive operational activity in the area" following a "serious shooting attack near the village".

In a statement issued, the army said it had arrested a man from al-Mughayyir, accusing him of being "responsible for a terrorist attack" nearby. On August 16, the Palestinian Authority reported that an 18-year-old man had been shot and killed by the Israeli army in

the same village. The army said its forces responded to stones thrown by "terrorists" but did not directly link the incident to the young man's death. In a video widely circulated in Israeli media, a senior military commander refers to the attack in al-Mughayyir and vows to make "every village and every enemy... pay a heavy price" for attacks against Israelis. Avi Bluth, the military's top commander in the West Bank, says in the video that the villages of Palestinian attackers could face curfews, sieges and terrain "shaping actions" with the aim of deterrence.

Violence in the West Bank has escalated since the war in Gaza began following the October 7, 2023 Hamas attack on Israel. Since then, at least 971 Palestinians -- including both militants and civilians -- have been killed by Israeli soldiers or settlers in the West Bank, according to AFP figures based on Palestinian Authority data.

Sudan's paramilitary forces kill 13 people in Darfur

CAIRO (AP): Sudan's notorious paramilitary forces attacked a group of people on a road in the country's troubled Darfur region, killing at least 13, mostly women and children, a medical group said. The killings were the latest by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces and came a day after the RSF shelled a hospital in the besieged city of el-Fasher in North Darfur. The road where the attack took place links el-Fasher to the nearby town of Tweila.

The Sudan Doctors Network, a group of medical professionals tracking the Sudanese civil war, said five children, four women and four older people were killed, claiming it was an ethnically motivated attack. The killing was "another episode in the ongoing campaign of ethnic cleansing and genocide being perpetrated by the RSF against unarmed civilians in Darfur," the doctors' group said. The RSF shelled a hospital in el-Fasher, wounding a healthcare worker and six patients, the doctors' group said. Among the wounded patients were a child and a pregnant woman. The RSF didn't immediately respond to a request for comment on the killing and the hospital shelling. The attacks were part of RSF's ongoing campaign to seize control of el-Fasher, the Sudanese military's last stronghold in Darfur. The U.N. human rights office said it documented the RSF killing of at least 89 civilians, including 16 who were "summarily executed" in el-Fasher and the nearby Abu Shouk displacement camp, in a span of 10 days this month.

The paramilitaries have bombed the city for more than a year, and last month it imposed a total blockade around its hundreds of thousands of people. Sudan plunged into chaos when simmering tensions between the military and the RSF exploded into open fighting in April 2023 in Khartoum and elsewhere. The fighting has turned into a full-fledged civil war that killed tens of thousands of people, displaced over 14 people out of their homes and pushed parts of the country into famine. The devastating conflict has been marked by atrocities including mass killings and rape, which the International Criminal Court is investigating as war crimes and crimes against humanity.

SK tells China it wants to normalise ties

SEOUL (Reuters): South Korea hopes to normalise relations with China that have been strained in recent years, a special envoy from Seoul told Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, and agreed to boost economic cooperation, Seoul's foreign ministry said. South Korean President Lee Jae Myung sent a special delegation led by former parliament speaker Park Byeong-seug to his country's main trading partner as he travels to Washington to meet U.S. President Donald Trump. Lee arrived in Washington early on Monday. Park told Wang he hoped the countries would work together to "open the door to normalising South Korea-China relations, which have been strained in recent years," according to his comments relayed by South Korean TV.

Park handed Wang a letter from Lee to Chinese President Xi Jinping and invited Xi to the summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) grouping in October, South Korea's foreign ministry said in a statement on Monday. Wang welcomed the delegation's visit and appreciated the message of developing ties between the countries, the ministry said. "(South Korea's) new government will pursue a mature development of South Korea-China strategic cooperation partnership based on national interest while continuing to develop the South Korea-U.S. alliance," Park said.

The two sides agreed to work towards substantive progress on economic and supply chain cooperation, the ministry said. In a read-out from the Chinese foreign ministry, Wang said that development of both countries' ties has shown that good neighbourliness, seeking common ground while reserving differences and expanding cooperation are the "right choices".



SANAA: A photojournalist takes a picture of billowing smoke after an Israeli air strike on Yemen's capital.

Tens of thousands march across world in support of Palestinians

SYDNEY: Tens of thousands of people have marched through Australia's major cities and towns, organisers said, demanding action to save dying and starving Palestinians. More than 40 protests took place across Australia, the group Palestine Action said, including large turnouts in state capitals Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne.

"We demand from our politicians more than just talk. We are long past this," Remah Naji, one of the organisers of the protest in the eastern city of Brisbane, told Al Jazeera. "Now, we demand actions in the same way we acted in times of genocide. We are signatories to the Genocide Convention, which means that we have an obligation to prevent and punish genocide when it occurs." Protests denouncing Israel's war and starvation campaign were also held in several other countries. In Australia, where people rallied in cities of all sizes nationwide, protesters urged sanctions against Israel and an end to arms trade with the country, which has been accused of carrying out a genocide by leading rights groups.

Organisers estimate more than 300,000 people participated in the demonstrations. In Sydney, organiser Josh Lees said Australians were out in force to "demand an end to this genocide in Gaza and to demand that our government sanction Israel" as rallygoers, many with Palestinian flags, chanted "free, free Palestine". In Melbourne, protesters congregated outside the State Library Victoria,

chanting "sanction Israel now". Organiser Nour Salman said Australia's plans to recognise Palestinian statehood must be accompanied by tougher sanctions on Israel. "Enough is enough. There is no ifs, buts or maybes," Salman said. Thousands also gathered in the southwestern city of Perth. "Our government cannot claim to support human rights while continuing to arm an apartheid regime," Friends of Palestine Western Australia organiser Nick Everett was quoted as saying by WAToday newspaper. "Trade unions, civil society, and communities across the country are united in calling for action. Palestine can't wait." The protests came after the world's leading authority on food crises - the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) - declared famine in Gaza City.

The warning has come as Israeli forces have intensified attacks and bombardments across Gaza, where nearly two million people have been displaced. The IPC report said more than half a million people in Gaza - about a quarter of its population - face catastrophic levels of hunger, with many at risk of dying from malnutrition-related issues. Protests in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza were also held elsewhere around the globe, including in Malaysia, Kenya, Belgium and Senegal. Over the weekend, demonstrations took place in the United Kingdom and Sweden. A mass rally held in Malaysia's capital, Kuala Lumpur, saw thousands of people

demonstrate, answering a call by Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, who said the demonstration would act as a starting point to form a group of activists to take humanitarian aid to Gaza later this month. In Senegal's capital Dakar, demonstrators condemned Israeli attacks on Palestinians in the enclave, and called for humanitarian aid to be allowed into the famine-struck Gaza Strip.

In Nairobi, hundreds of bikers rallied, chanting: "Free Palestine". Many decried the international community for its inability to stop Israel's deadly assault. Al Jazeera's Catherine Soi, reporting from Nairobi, said protesters are standing in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza. "They have watched horrific images of children who are starving; they have seen parents being killed as they go to get food for their families," Soi said. "Here, they are saying: 'Enough is enough.'" At least 62,263 Palestinians have been killed in the Israel-Palestine war since it started on October 7, 2023, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. The victims include at least 2,000 Palestinians who were attempting to secure meagre food parcels at the Israeli and US-backed GHF aid distribution sites, dubbed by Palestinian officials as "death traps". Last November, the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former Defence Minister Yoav Gallant for war crimes in Gaza, including using starvation as a weapon of war. — Aljazeera

Egyptian farmers behind world's perfumes face climate fight alone

CAIRO (AFP): For years, Egyptian jasmine picker Wael al-Sayed has collected blossoms by night in the Nile Delta, supplying top global perfume houses. But in recent summers, his basket has felt lighter and the once-rich fragrance is fading.

"It's the heat," said Sayed, 45, who has spent nearly a decade working the fields in Shubra Balula, a quiet village about 100 kilometres (60 miles) north of Cairo and a key hub for Egypt's jasmine industry. As temperatures rise, he said, the flowers bloom less and his daily harvest has dropped from six kilograms to just two or three in the past two years.

In this fertile pocket of the delta, jasmine has sustained thousands of families like Sayed's for generations, but rising temperatures, prolonged dry spells and climate-driven pests are putting that legacy at risk. From June to October, families, including children, traditionally head into the fields between midnight and dawn to hand-pick jasmine at peak fragrance.

With yields shrinking, some are leaving the trade entirely and those that have stayed now work longer hours. More children are also being pulled in to help and often stay up all night to pick before going to school. Child labour remains widespread in Egypt with 4.2 million children working in agriculture, industry and services, often in unsafe or exploitative conditions, according to a 2023 state study.

This year, Sayed has brought two of his children -- just nine and 10 years old -- to join him and his wife on their 350-square-metre (3,800-square-foot) plot. "We have no other choice," Sayed said. According to the country's largest processor, A Fakhry & Co, Egypt produces nearly half the world's jasmine concrete, a waxy extract from the plant that provides a vital base for designer fragrances and is a multi-million dollar export. In the 1970s, Egypt produced 11 tonnes of jasmine concrete annually, according to the International Federation of Essential Oils and Aroma

Trades. Now, A Fakhry & Co says that's down to 6.5 tonnes. Ali Emara, 78, who has picked jasmine since the age of 12, said summers used to be hot, "but not like now".

Mohamed Bassiouny, 56, and his four sons have seen their harvest halve from 15 to seven kilograms with pickers now taking over eight hours to fill a basket. The region's jasmine is highly sensitive to heat and humidity, said Karim Elgendy from Carbout Institute, a Dutch climate and energy think tank. "Higher temperatures can disrupt flowering, weaken oil concentration and introduce stress that reduces yield," Elgendy told AFP.

A 2023 report by the International Energy Agency found Egypt's temperature rose 0.38C per decade (2000-2020), outpacing the global average. The heat is affecting the strength of the jasmine's scent, and with it the value of the oil extracted, said Badr Atef, manager of A Fakhry & Co. Meanwhile, pests such as spider mites and leaf worms are thriving

in the hotter, drier conditions and compounding the strain. Alexandre Levet, CEO of the French Fragrance House in Grasse, France's perfume capital, explained that the industry is facing the effects of climate change globally. "We have dozens of natural ingredients that are already suffering from climate change," he said, explaining that new origins for products have emerged as local climates shift.

With the Nile Delta also vulnerable to the rising Mediterranean water levels, which affect soil salinity, jasmine farmers are on the front line of a heating planet. The labourers are left "at the mercy of this huge system entirely on their own," said rural sociologist Saker El Nour, with "no stake" in the industry that depends on their labour. Global brands charge up to \$6,000 per kilogram of jasmine absolute, the pure aromatic oil derived from the concrete and used by perfumeries, but Egyptian pickers earn just 105 Egyptian pounds (\$2) per kilogram.

Australia's mushroom murderer faces victims family in court

SYDNEY (AFP): Australian toxic mushroom killer Erin Patterson faces her victims' relatives in court Monday before a judge sentences her for a triple murder that made headlines worldwide. It will be the 50-year-old's first appearance in court since July when a jury found Patterson guilty of murder by cooking up a beef Wellington meal laced with death cap mushrooms.

She was convicted of deliberately serving the poisonous fare to her husband's parents, aunt and uncle at a sumptuous lunch in her rural home in the state of Victoria in 2023. Within days, the parents and aunt were dead. The

uncle -- a local pastor and the only guest to survive -- spent weeks in hospital but lived to give testimony in court against his host. Patterson now faces a two-day pre-sentencing hearing at the Supreme Court of Victoria in Melbourne as the judge ponders her punishment. Friends and family of the victims will give statements about how the crime impacted them. They may decide to read the words themselves, ask the prosecutor to do so on their behalf, or simply tender their statements to the court without making them public. It is not yet known who will testify. Patterson's lawyers and the prosecution will also present arguments

about the mitigating or aggravating factors that may influence the length of her sentence.

The judge is to deliver Patterson's sentence at a date yet to be decided. The maximum sentence for murder in Victoria is life imprisonment without parole. After sentencing, the murderer's legal team has 28 days to appeal both her convictions and her sentence. At the trial in July, a 12-person jury found Patterson guilty of murdering her husband Simon's parents, Don and Gail Patterson, as well as his aunt Heather Wilkinson, at her home in Leongatha, Victoria. She was also found guilty of

attempting to murder Heather's husband Ian. Simon had been invited to that lunch as well, but pulled out on the eve of the meal, texting his estranged wife that he felt "uncomfortable" attending.

At the time, Patterson's relationship with Simon had turned sour. The pair -- long estranged but still legally married -- were fighting over Simon's child support contributions. The motive of the murders, however, remains a mystery. Patterson's trial drew pod-casters, film crews and true crime fans to a courthouse in the rural town of Morwell, a sedate hamlet in Victoria better known for its prize-winning roses.

The Frontier Post

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Printed and published by Mahmood Afridi at Moraka's Printers, 27 Abdara Road, University Town, Peshawar.

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China got to move faster to achieve carbon neutrality

CHINA'S carbon emissions have started to fall and according to Finnish think-tank Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air it has to fall 3 per cent every year for the next 35 years for China to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060.

Fortunately, China is producing more electricity from solar, wind and nuclear than its consumption of electricity. Lauri Myllyvirta of the Finnish think-tank says, "China has to get to that 3 % territory as soon as possible."

China's use of coal remains a matter of concern still. Looking at the recent data published by United Kingdom's Carbon Brief website, Myllyvirta says, "We're talking really for the first time about a structural declining trend in China's emissions." Li Shuo, director of China Climate Hub at Asia Society Policy Institute in Washington DC, said, "This is a moment of global significance, offering a rare glimmer of hope in an otherwise bleak climate landscape."

The speed at which the solar farms are being created, especially in the sparsely populated Tibetan plateau, is impressive. Soon China will have the biggest solar farm spread over 610 square kilometres (235 square miles) in the Tibetan plateau.

China as a whole has generated 212 gigawatts of solar power in the first six months of the year, which is more than the 178 gigawatts of total solar power generated in the United States by the end of 2024. The speed at which China is increasing its power generation from renewable sources is more than impressive. This will be helped greatly if there is a simultaneous decline in the carbon emissions.

China is the largest carbon emitter. But it seems to be reaching a state where it can generate all the power it needs for its economic development from the renewable sources. This is no more an idle dream. And this will prove the point that there is no need to sacrifice development for the sake of achieving green goals and to curb greenhouse gas emissions. It is possible to win the battle against climate change as well as maintain the economic growth momentum.

There remains the logistic problem of transmitting the energy generated through the large solar farms to the crowded industrial centres in the south and the east of the country. The transmission lines have to be set up across China, from the far west to the far east of the country. And transmitting solar and wind power has its own problems because of the intermittent nature of the transmission of solar and wind power.

Managing the grid system is a big challenge for China, says the experts.

When completed, the biggest solar farm in the Tibetan plateau will have seven million solar panels, and it will supply power to five million households.

The solar panels of the large solar farms serve as windbreakers, reducing sand and dust, protecting water from evaporating from the soil, and allowing shrubs to grow in the desert area.

This enables sheep to graze as they go in the midst of the thousands of solar panels, earning the label of "photovoltaic sheep".

Wang Anwei, energy administrative chief of Hainan prefecture, says of the large solar farms spread out in the Tibetan plateau, "In terms of production, enterprises generate electricity at the top level, and in terms of ecology, grass grows at the bottom under the solar panels, and villagers can herd sheep in between."

China will now have to make the power grid in the country capable of transmitting power where it is generated but where it is not needed to a place where there is need for power but which does not generate power.

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Pakistan under water: Climate crises, Army's response and way forward

Abdul Basit Alvi

PAKISTAN is confronting an escalating climate crisis that poses a severe threat to its environment, its economy, and the very livelihoods of millions of its citizens. Climate change has become an undeniable and inescapable reality within the country, manifesting through consistently rising temperatures, increasingly irregular monsoon patterns, accelerating glacial melt, a rising incidence of cloudbursts, and catastrophic floods that destroy entire communities in a matter of hours. Pakistan, despite being one of the smallest contributors to global greenhouse gas emissions, is consistently ranked among the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world. Its geographic location, diverse topography, and heavy economic dependency on climate-sensitive agriculture further exacerbate its susceptibility to climate-related hazards. In recent years, the heightened intensity and frequency of floods, particularly those triggered by cloudbursts and glacial melt, have caused immense destruction in both rural and urban settings. If Pakistan is to not only survive but thrive in the face of these mounting threats, it must adopt an urgent, comprehensive, and multi-pronged approach to tackle climate change, mitigate the risk of cloudbursts, and manage floods in a more sustainable and effective manner.

The first and most immediate step Pakistan must take is to systematically integrate climate resilience into its national planning and governance framework. Climate change can no longer be treated as an issue confined to the Ministry of Climate Change; it must become a central, cross-cutting pillar of policy in every sector, including agriculture, urban development, water management, energy, and national security. Policymaking must undergo a fundamental shift from a reactive stance to a proactive and preventive one. This entails fully integrating climate adaptation measures into national development strategies, urban master plans, and rural development programs. It also means investing heavily in disaster risk reduction initiatives rather than merely responding to disasters after they have occurred. A well-coordinated, cohesive strategy that effectively links federal, provincial, and local governments, and is backed by data-driven decision-making and robust scientific research, is absolutely crucial for a coherent and effective national response.

One of the key elements in combating the effects of climate change and floods

in Pakistan is the improved management of its water resources. Pakistan is inherently a river-dependent country, with the Indus River and its tributaries forming the indispensable backbone of the nation's agriculture and overall economy. However, this vital lifeline has also become a recurring source of destruction when heavy rains and glacial melt combine to overwhelm riverbanks and storage reservoirs. Strengthening Pakistan's water infrastructure is therefore essential. This includes the strategic construction and diligent maintenance of new dams, reservoirs, and flood diversion channels that can effectively store and control excess water. Existing major dams such as Tarbela and Mangla require significant upgrades to increase their storage capacity and improve their safety mechanisms. Concurrently, a network of small and medium-sized dams should be constructed in mountainous regions to better regulate water flow and prevent sudden, destructive flooding downstream. The Kala Bagh Dam project was a very promising initiative, but unfortunately, it did not proceed due to political disagreements. Effective and regular desilting operations, ongoing maintenance, and the implementation of real-time monitoring of water levels can significantly enhance the country's overall capacity to manage floods. There is a critical need for large reservoirs and dams that can store excessive water during monsoon periods, which can then be utilized during times of water shortage. Furthermore, a prompt and efficient system for the regular cleaning of rivers, canals, and all water passages is urgently required. Unfortunately, in many areas, a great deal of garbage is indiscriminately thrown into rivers and canals, and there is a notable absence of enforcement to stop this practice. This accumulating garbage reduces the cross-sectional area, depth, and width of rivers and canals, which directly contributes to rising water levels during periods of heavy rain and glacial melt.

Reforestation and strategic watershed management also play a critical role in mitigating the impacts of climate change. Trees naturally help to absorb rainfall, stabilize soil, and prevent erosion, all of which are essential functions for reducing the risk of floods and landslides caused by cloudbursts. Pakistan's ambitious tree plantation initiatives, such as the Billion Tree Tsunami, are steps in the right direction, but they must be followed up with committed long-term maintenance, genuine community engagement,

and strong protections for newly planted forests against illegal logging and urban encroachment. Natural barriers such as wetlands, mangroves, and riverine forests should be preserved and actively restored, as they act as effective buffers against floodwaters and rising sea levels. In the mountainous northern regions, afforestation efforts combined with sustainable land management practices can greatly reduce the damage caused by flash floods and glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs).

Urban planning in Pakistan must undergo a radical transformation to account for the new realities of a changing climate. Rapid, unregulated, and often chaotic urbanization has led to cities expanding into natural floodplains and riverbanks, thereby turning episodes of heavy rainfall into urban flooding disasters. Major cities like Karachi, Lahore, Rawalpindi, and Islamabad frequently suffer from chronically blocked drainage systems, poor waste management, and widespread encroachments on natural water channels. To tackle this, city administrations must invest heavily in modern, high-capacity drainage and sewage systems that can handle intense downpours. Urban flooding can be minimized through the construction of rainwater harvesting systems, the use of permeable pavements, the installation of green rooftops, and the digging of artificial recharge wells. Zoning laws must be strictly enforced to prevent construction in topographically vulnerable areas, and illegal encroachments on stormwater drains and riverbeds must be removed without delay. Public awareness campaigns should accompany these infrastructural and regulatory reforms to promote responsible urban living and encourage active community participation in flood prevention efforts.

Pakistan should also play a more active and assertive role in international climate diplomacy. Given its extreme vulnerability, it must consistently advocate for climate justice on global platforms and forcefully demand financial and technical support from wealthier nations that are historically responsible for the vast majority of the climate crisis. International climate finance, particularly funds earmarked for adaptation projects, should be secured through mechanisms like the Green Climate Fund and the Loss and Damage Fund established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). These financial resources can be strategically used to build resilient infrastructure, support communities displaced by climate impacts, and create new job opportuni-

ties in green and climate-friendly sectors.

Education and public awareness are absolutely vital to fostering long-term climate resilience. Climate literacy should be integrated into the national curriculum at all levels, from primary through to higher education. Citizens need to understand the causes and consequences of climate change, recognize how their everyday actions contribute to the problem, and learn what they can do to be part of the solution. The media, religious leaders, non-governmental organizations, and community-based organizations must all play their part in fostering a widespread culture of environmental responsibility and stewardship. Youth, in particular, must be empowered and given the platform to lead the charge for sustainability, innovation, and climate activism.

While the Pakistan Army has performed an excellent job during such disasters, it is equally imperative that civilian departments are also well-equipped, well-trained, and well-organized to tackle disasters effectively. The civilian administration, like in many other countries around the world, should be capable of serving as the first responders, utilizing the specialized services of the Army only in cases of extreme urgency and when civilian capacity is overwhelmed. The Pakistan Army is already tasked with addressing other critical national issues, including defense and counterterrorism, which themselves represent significant commitments. Civilian departments must be strengthened and professionalized to deal with disasters competently, thereby keeping vital military resources available for other external and internal security challenges.

Pakistan's battle against climate change, cloudbursts, and floods is not a conflict that can be won with temporary fixes or reactive measures. It requires a holistic, multi-sectoral strategy that thoughtfully integrates environmental protection with economic development, disaster management with forward-looking urban planning, and scientific insight with active community engagement. The time for action is not at some point in the future; it is now. Every day of delay comes with a higher cost-measured in lives lost, homes destroyed, and futures irrevocably jeopardized. Only through a united national effort, guided by visionary leadership and robustly supported by the international community, can Pakistan hope to weather the coming storms of climate change and emerge as a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable nation for generations to come.

Trilateral diplomacy reshaping South Asia's strategic chessboard

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal

FOR a long time, Afghanistan has knowingly or unknowingly entangled Pakistan in a web woven largely at the behest of India. Since the inception of Pakistan in 1947, Afghanistan has rarely missed an opportunity to exploit vulnerabilities, often aligning itself with New Delhi in order to exert pressure on Islamabad. Though both nations are equal neighbors bound by Islamic identity and cultural affinities, their bilateral relations have been marked by discord more than harmony.

History testifies that Afghanistan was the only country to oppose Pakistan's admission into the United Nations in 1947. This opposition stemmed from Kabul's refusal to accept the Durand Line of 1893 as the legitimate international boundary. The line, drawn by the British between the Emir of Afghanistan and British India, divided tribes and territories, yet it was accepted as binding under international law. Pakistan inherited this boundary at independence, but successive Afghan governments contested it, leading to an undercurrent of hostility. Tensions deepened in 1949 when Afghanistan unilaterally declared that it would no longer recognize the Durand Line agreements, and in 1950 Kabul extended open support to the idea of "Pashtunistan," fueling secessionist sentiment within Pakistan.

In 1961, relations reached a nadir when Pakistan closed its borders after repeated Afghan-backed incursions. Trade and transit were halted, and diplomatic ties were suspended, resuming only in 1963 after mediation by Iran. Yet the shadow of mistrust never lifted. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in December 1979 altered the dynamics altogether. Pakistan became the frontline state in supporting the Afghan resistance, hosting nearly

three million Afghan refugees and providing logistic support to the Mujahideen. While Pakistan bore the social, economic, and security burdens of this prolonged conflict, gratitude from Kabul was sparse. Instead, Afghan soil became a theatre for external powers to play out their rivalries, often at the cost of Pakistan's internal stability. After the withdrawal of Soviet forces in 1989, the ensuing civil war in Afghanistan once again spilled into Pakistan's territory. Later, with the emergence of the Taliban in the mid-1990s, Pakistan sought to cultivate ties for the sake of regional stability, yet the post-9/11 U.S. invasion of Afghanistan turned the country into a sanctuary for anti-Pakistan elements. Groups operating across the border conducted guerrilla-style attacks on Pakistani security forces, a bitter reminder that mistrust and conflict continued to dominate relations. Against this turbulent history, the present regional alignment offers a new dimension. China, through its Belt and Road Initiative and particularly the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), has invested heavily in this region. Beijing, with its pragmatic outlook, cannot afford to see its vast capital sink amidst instability. It has therefore encouraged dialogue under a single table and a single agenda, bringing together Pakistan, Afghanistan, and China with the twin goals of peace and economic coop-

eration. In this context, the recent meetings between the foreign ministers of the three countries deserve particular mention. Pakistan's Foreign Minister has persistently emphasized that durable peace in Afghanistan is indispensable for regional stability and for the security of CPEC projects. His Afghan counterpart, while representing a nation long fractured by internal strife, has expressed willingness to rebuild trust and work towards a future that avoids perpetual hostility with its eastern neighbor. Meanwhile, China's Foreign Minister has acted as a bridge, urging both sides to focus on connectivity, trade, and counter-terrorism as common grounds. These trilateral ministerial dialogues have signaled not only Beijing's commitment to safeguard its investments but also the possibility of transforming years of mistrust into constructive engagement.

At present, Pakistan finds itself in a rare position of diplomatic advantage. For perhaps the first time in decades, the United States appears to have momentarily stepped out of India's spell, reassessing the balance of power in South Asia. Afghanistan too, weary of endless internal strife and isolation, has tilted towards China and shown readiness to sit with Pakistan for constructive dialogue. For New Delhi, this signals a gradual erosion of influence in a region it has long sought to dominate by using Kabul as a counterweight to Islamabad. In this grand game of chess, India is facing a losing battle as the board rearranges itself in favor of Pakistan's regional diplomacy.

The course of history suggests, however, that optimism must be tempered with caution. Pakistan's relations with Afghanistan have often oscillated between fleeting cooperation and recurring confrontation. While the present moment carries the fragrance of success, it

also demands vigilant handling. For Islamabad, this is a test of how adroitly it can translate diplomatic openings into long-term gains. The lessons of history remain clear: goodwill cannot be sustained on rhetoric alone; it requires mechanisms that address core disputes, ensure equitable distribution of economic dividends, and secure borders against infiltration. Yet the signs are encouraging. The willingness of Afghanistan to engage with Pakistan under China's facilitation, reinforced through the direct involvement of the three foreign ministers, signals an acknowledgment that old hostilities have led neither to prosperity nor peace. If this trilateral framework succeeds, it will not only stabilize the frontier regions but also unlock the potential of trade routes connecting South Asia, Central Asia, and beyond. For Pakistan, this would mean not just security on its western border but also the prospect of becoming the economic crossroads of the region.

Time will ultimately determine how much Pakistan can benefit from this situation. The challenge is to convert tactical successes into strategic permanence, ensuring that the sacrifices of the past yield dividends for future generations. For now, however, Pakistan stands on firm ground, its flag raised high in regional diplomacy, and the door to a new chapter in its fraught relationship with Afghanistan appears, at long last, to be opening.

Trump’s ambition to take crime crackdown national will stoke tensions and legal showdowns

AMERICA’S next big showdown is brewing over Donald Trump’s zeal to impose unusual presidential power as he eyes big, Democratic-run cities to expand a crime crackdown that sent troops flocking onto the streets of Washington, DC.

Trump’s torrid rhetoric claiming that crime is out of control, which is often misleading, is a classic page from the playbook of strongman leaders. It could precipitate high tensions between the federal government and states over the limits of his constitutional and legal authority.

The president’s threats prompted alarmed Democrats on Sunday to warn that there would be no justification for him to dispatch troops to a city such as Chicago over local opposition.

“We should continue to support local law enforcement and not simply allow Donald Trump to play games with the lives of the American people as part of his effort to manufacture a crisis and create a distraction because he’s deeply unpopular,” House Democratic Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries told CNN’s Dana Bash on “State of the Union.”

On Friday, Trump told reporters that “Chicago will be our next” target while he would “help” New York after that. Trump last week also name-checked Baltimore and Oakland, California, where he argued crime is “very bad.”

CNN reported Saturday that the Trump administration has been planning for weeks to send the National Guard to Chicago, according to two officials. It is not yet clear how many troops would be sent to Chicago, or when those deployments would start.

Trump on Sunday lashed out at Maryland Gov. Wes Moore, a potential Democratic presidential hopeful in 2028, who had suggested the president walk with him through Baltimore to view local attempts to stem violent crime. The president slammed the city as “out of control (and) crime ridden” and said he wouldn’t go there until the “Crime Disaster” was cleaned up.

Trump’s critics argue his deployment of National Guard forces in the US capital and in Los Angeles in response to demonstrations earlier this year against his immigration policies are

prototype operations for wider national crackdowns.

But the president has smaller legal leeway to surge federal troops into cities and to dictate law enforcement policies in the states than in Washington, a federal district.

Sending troops or dedicating federal agents to police work into a major city such as Chicago or Baltimore against the will of Democratic state and city officials would create a new test of the presidential powers Trump incessantly seeks to expand and would threaten state sovereignty — which Republicans have historically sought to preserve.

Declaring yet another national emergency to federalize National Guard reserve troops normally commanded by a state governor would

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Stephen Collinson

performative presidency built on televised spectacles from summits to bill signings and dealmaking. The substance often lags the political symbolism.

The risk would be that such moves could disrupt chains of command between local elected officials and police chiefs and upset community policing initiatives designed to stem violent crime. And it would reinforce a growing impression that Trump is seeking to normalize the anomalous use of soldiers in domestic settings to pursue his political priorities.

As was the case in Washington, a Chicago crackdown would give Trump another opening to impose his conservative power and autocratic tendencies on a population that voted over-

about supposedly lawless inner cities do not necessarily reflect the true picture of public order. For example, crime in Washington fell in 2024, and again so far this year. In Chicago, the police said Friday that homicides were down 31% this year, and shootings fell 36%. Still, that doesn’t mean people who live in big cities feel safe. Many would welcome seeing more police on the streets, and cities and states have been calling on the federal government for more partnerships and resources — but balk at Trump’s imposed solutions.

The president’s dystopian descriptions increasingly resemble an attempt to create a rhetorical crime emergency that he could then use to justify draconian methods that satisfy his desire to look strong and

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his attempts to push up deportations. Former Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel told Bash on “State of the Union” on Sunday, “I think everybody should take a step back and realize that, as a commander in chief over his two terms, he’s only deployed and put boots on the ground in American cities, never overseas. And just think about what that means as a country.” Emanuel, a CNN senior political and global affairs commentator, suggested that Trump’s true purpose was to redouble immigration enforcement in cities — like Chicago — that do not cooperate with federal authorities in crackdowns against undocumented migrants. “This will not be about fighting crime,” he said. And Emanuel, a former senior member of Democratic House leadership, White House chief of staff and ambassador to Japan, offered some advice for his party, which has sometimes

whelmingly for his opponent, former Vice President Kamala Harris, in 2024.

And it would enable him to put Democrats in a political vise, forcing them to walk a tightrope between rejecting federal takeovers and his hard-line tactics while risking alienating voters who are concerned about violent crime and the impact of past lax border policies.

Then there is the question of paying for all this.

Trump’s growing zeal for using federal troops and agents will sooner or later raise the question of resources. Prolonged National Guard deployments are expensive. Redeploying federal agents from other duties could affect the FBI’s ability to target transnational crime or anti-terrorism investigations. The resource issue raises questions about the administration’s capacity to enact long-term reductions in crime since open-ended deployments are unsustainable.

Trump’s warnings

struggled to connect with voters on crime. “We have a strategy for fighting crime: more police on the beat and getting kids, gangs and guns off the street.”

Jeffries, from New York, said on “State of the Union” that Democrats, like all Americans, want safer communities, but opposed Trump’s power grabs. “We should make sure that the flood of guns into these communities is cut off. We should make sure that we’re dealing with the mental health crisis that exists all across the United States of America, and, by the way, which Donald Trump is exacerbating by cutting funds to actually help people who are dealing with emotional distress.”

Democratic local leaders are trying to discredit the president’s claim that crime is so out of control in cities as to merit such a crackdown.

On Saturday, JB Pritzker, the Democratic governor of Illinois, issued a statement pointing out that his state had received no requests or outreach from the federal government asking whether it needs help, after Trump named Chicago as a future venue for his surge of military and federal personnel. “There is no emergency that warrants the President of the United States federalizing the Illinois National Guard, deploying the National Guard from other states, or sending active-duty military within our own borders,” he said.

And Pritzker signaled that he’d do everything he could to push back against outside, federal power. “We will continue to follow the law, stand up for the sovereignty of our state, and protect the people of Illinois,” he said.

On Sunday, Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul told CNN’s Isabel Rosales that his office sought to work with federal entities including the FBI, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and the Secret Service. He said those agencies were trained to combat crime, while the National Guard is not.

Trump is “operating as a dictator,” Raoul said. “Turning the military against these American citizens in cities on American land is unprecedented.”

— CNN

US lifeline masks Israel’s economic freefall

Dr. Ramzy Baroud

IN an important step toward the economic isolation of Israel due to its genocide in Gaza, Norway’s Government Pension Fund Global last week announced it would divest from yet more Israeli companies.

Norway’s sovereign wealth fund is the world’s largest, with total investments in Israel once estimated at \$1.9 billion. The decision to divest was taken gradually but is consistent with the Norwegian government’s growing solidarity with Palestine and criticism of Israel.

Taking a leading role along with Spain, Ireland and Slovenia, Norway has been a vocal European critic of the Israeli genocide and human-made famine in Gaza, actively contributing to the International Court of Justice’s investigation into the genocide and formally recognizing the state of Palestine in May 2024. This diplomatic and legal stance, coupled with its financial divestment, represents a coherent and escalating effort to hold Israel accountable for its ongoing extermination of Palestinians.

The Israeli economy was already in a state of freefall even before the genocide. The initial collapse was related to the deep political instability in the country, a result of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his extremist government’s attempt to co-opt the judicial system, thus compromising any semblance of democracy that remained in the country. This resulted in a significant lowering of investor confidence.

The war and genocide, beginning on Oct. 7, 2023, only accelerated the crisis, pushing an already fragile economy to the brink. According to reports from the Israeli Ministry of Finance, foreign direct investments fell by an estimated 28 percent in the first half of 2024 compared to the same period in 2023.

Any supposed subsequent recovery in foreign investments was deceptive. It was not the outcome of the world rallying to save Israel, but rather a consequence of a torrent of US funding pouring in to help Israel sustain both its economy and the genocide in Gaza, along with its other war fronts.

Israel’s gross domestic product was estimated by the World Bank to be about \$540 billion in 2024. But the war on Gaza has taken a considerable bite out of Israel’s economy. Estimates from

ties and companies.

Now that Israel has become a bad brand, affiliated with unethical investments due to the genocide in Gaza and growing illegal settlement expansion in the West Bank, the US, as Israel’s main benefactor, has stepped in to fill the gaps.

The emergency supplemental appropriations act of April 2024 allocated a total of \$26.4 billion for Israel. While much of the money was earmarked for defense expenditures, most of it will percolate into the Israeli economy. This amount, in addition to the annual military aid, allows the Israeli government to minimize spending on defense and keep the economy from shrinking at an even faster rate.

Additionally, it frees up the Israeli defense industry to continue producing sophisticated new military technology that will ensure Israel’s continued competitiveness in

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jected to continue, even with the unprecedented US financial backing of Tel Aviv. Indeed, without American help, the precarious Israeli economy would be in a much worse state. Though the US has always propped up Israel, its help in the last two years has been the most generous and critical yet.

Israel receives \$3.8 billion of US taxpayer money per year, as a result of the most recent 10-year memorandum of understanding, which was signed in 2016. But what is equally valuable, if not more so, are the loan guarantees, which allow Israel to borrow money at a much lower interest rate on the global market.

The backing of the US, therefore, has enabled investors to view the Israeli market as a safe haven for their funds, often guaranteeing high returns.

This applied to the Norwegian sovereign wealth fund just as it did to numerous other enti-

the arms market.

The military-industrial complex, a significant part of the Israeli economy, is thus not only sustained but given fresh impetus by American aid, ensuring the war machine continues to function with minimal financial disruption.

All this should not diminish the importance of divesting from the Israeli financial system. On the contrary, it means that divestment efforts must increase significantly to balance out the US push to keep the Israeli economy from imploding.

Moreover, this should also make US citizens who object to their government’s role in the genocide in Gaza more aware of the extent of Washington’s determination to save Israel, even at the price of exterminating the Palestinians. Indeed, the flow of funds from the US is not a passive action; it is an active collaboration that directly enables the Israeli genocide in Gaza.

DRC peace initiatives need sustained international pressure to succeed

THE conflict in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has historically been influenced by a variety of factors, including ethnic tensions, regional rivalries, and weak political institutions. Against this backdrop, the Washington Agreement signed between the DRC and Rwanda in June and the Doha Declaration of Principles signed by the DRC government and March 23 Movement (M23) in July represent a significant diplomatic achievement.

Facilitated respectively by the United States and Qatar, these agreements mark an unusual moment of alignment between the regional and local tracks to support a durable peace in the region. Their ultimate success depends on two critical factors: Credible implementation and the management of political narratives. Without sustained international oversight to ensure implementation and efforts to reframe adversarial discourses among elites and communities, the progress embodied in these agreements risks stagnation or reversal.

The Washington Agreement represents a political understanding between two states – Rwanda and the DRC – who stand at the heart of the eastern Congo crisis. The accord acknowledges the destabilising role of mutual accusations and commits both parties to de-escalation and the cessation of support for armed groups. Crucially, it outlines a framework for future security cooperation, a mutual recognition of sovereignty, and an agreement to use third-party mediation as a guarantor of commitments.

On the other hand, the Doha Declaration of Principles is a detailed roadmap towards a comprehensive peace agreement between the DRC government and M23 rebels.

Structured around seven pillars – general principles, a permanent ceasefire, confidence-building measures, restoration of government authority, return of displaced people, regional mechanisms, and a commitment to reaching a final peace agreement, the document offers a holistic approach to ending the armed conflict. It clearly prohibits acts of

sabotage, propaganda, and territorial gains by force, and lays out sequenced actions such as detainee release, oversight mechanisms, and post-conflict reintegration.

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the discursive environment surrounding the agreements. In the DRC, public opinion remains deeply suspicious of Rwanda’s role and sceptical of M23’s intentions. Conversely, Kigali perceives Kinshasa’s alliances with elements linked to the rebel Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) as a persistent threat. Managing these narratives, particularly in national media and on social platforms, is essential.

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because parties may use them to gain time or boost international legitimacy, rather than pursue peace.

Both the Doha and Washington frameworks remain vulnerable to delays and political grandstanding by the conflict parties – patterns that have repeatedly undermined past peace efforts.

Therefore, sustained and credible international political will, alongside committed mediation, is essential to maintain pressure on the parties and ensure progress towards a durable settlement.

Equally important is the discursive environment surrounding the agreements. In the DRC, public opinion remains deeply suspicious of Rwanda’s role and sceptical of M23’s intentions. Conversely, Kigali perceives Kinshasa’s alliances with elements linked to the rebel Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) as a persistent threat. Managing these narratives, particularly in national media and on social platforms, is essential.

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ness, they risk collapse. International partners should invest in a public outreach campaign to counter anti-peace narratives. This includes countering disinformation and amplifying peace dividends.

Furthermore, implementation requires stable funding for disarmament, demobilisation, and reintegration of fighters (DDR) programmes, refugee return, and border-security coordination. Finally, a regional peacebuilding compact must secure buy-in from neighbouring states and curb the emergence of new spoilers.

The Washington and Doha agreements are an important step forward in resolving one of Africa’s most violent conflicts. They reflect a rare moment of multilateral coordination, smart sequencing, and political will.

To secure their success, international oversight must be sustained and credible, and the discursive space must be managed with care. Without such measures, these commendable achievements risk becoming yet another unfulfilled promise in Congo’s long search for peace.



PSX witnesses bearish trend, loses 677 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) benchmark KSE-100 Index witnessed bearish trend on Monday, losing 677.75 points, a negative change of 0.45 percent, closing at 148,815.31 points against 149,493.06 points last trading day.

A total of 693,301,556 shares were traded during the day as compared to 802,006,843 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 26.343 billion against Rs 40,450 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 479 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 204 of them recorded gains and 246 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 29 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were Kohinoor Spinning with 113,886,282 shares at Rs 7.07 per share, Secure Logistics Gro with

32,587,401 shares at Rs18.42 per share and Sui South Gas with 27,053,428 shares at Rs 42.27 per share.

Dawood Lawrencepur Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 32.08 per share price, closing at Rs 352.92, whereas the runner-up was Indus Gadoon Textile Mills Limited with Rs31.95 rise in its per share price to Rs449.26.

Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs944.36 per share closing at Rs 30,336.89 followed by PIA Holding Company Limited with Rs653.30 decline in its share price to close at Rs27,112.10.

Meanwhile, in the future market, as many as 324 companies traded shares in the market out of which 93 witnessed gain, 224 loss where the prices of 7 companies remained unchanged.

Rupee gains 03 paise against US Dollar

The Rupee on Monday appreciated by 03 paise against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 281.87 against the previous day's closing of Rs 281.90.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 283.2 and Rs 284, respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by Rs 2.97 to close at Rs 329.81 against the last day's closing of Rs 326.84, according to the State Bank of Pakistan.

The Japanese yen went up by 02 paise and closed at Rs1.91, while the exchange rate of the British Pound witnessed an increase of Rs2.75 to close at Rs380.68 against the last day's closing of Rs377.93.

The exchange rate of the

Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal decreased by 01 paise each to close at Rs 76.74 and Rs 75.12, respectively.

Gold prices remain unchanged at Rs359,800 per tola

The price of 24 karat per tola gold remained unchanged at Rs359,800 on Monday, All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewelers Association reported.

The prices of 10 grams of 24 karat and 10 grams of 22 karat gold also remained constant at Rs.308,470 and Rs 282,774 respectively.

The rates of per tola and ten gram silver also remained stagnant at Rs.4,121 and Rs 3,533 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market was traded at existing rates of \$3,371 and same was the case with silver which was exchanged at \$38.88, the Association reported.

Full-Scale Airport Emergency Exercise 2025 conducted at BKIAP



F.P. Report

KARACHI: The Pakistan Airports Authority (PAA) successfully conducted the

Full-Scale Airport Emergency Exercise 2025 at Bacha Khan International Airport (BKIAP) Peshawar on Monday.

The exercise simulated real-life emergency scenarios to assess the preparedness, coordination, and response capabilities of all

stakeholders.

It was carried out in multiple phases, including fire-fighting operations, rescue, evacuation, medical response, and passenger facilitation.

Agencies that participated included PAA, Pakistan Air Force (PAF), airlines, Ground Handling Agents (GHAs), Rescue 1122, Edhi, Customs, FIA, health authorities, and medical teams from various hospitals. Firefighting vehicles, ambulances, doctors, and paramedics actively took part in the drill.

The exercise demonstrated effective inter-agency collaboration and strengthened overall emergency readiness at BKIAP.

The event concluded with closing remarks and a vote of thanks to all participants and observers.

Uzbekistan eyes \$2 billion trade with Pakistan: Envoy

MULTAN (APP): Secretary of the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Pakistan, Oybek Kambarov, expressed keen interest in expanding bilateral trade during a visit to the Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI).

Welcomed by MCCI President Mian Bakhtawar Tanveer Sheikh and other office bearers, Kambarov highlighted the significant growth in trade between Pakistan and Uzbekistan — from \$122 million in 2021 to \$404 million last year,

with \$320 million already recorded this year. He noted that both governments aim to boost bilateral trade to \$2 billion in the coming years.

He also shared that Uzbekistan is developing a Special Economic Zone with tax exemptions for foreign investors, particularly Pakistani businesses. Currently, 18 industrial zones are operational across key sectors including textiles, food processing, agro-based industries, and leather.

Discussing connectivity,

Kambarov noted that three direct flights now link Pakistan to Uzbekistan — one from Islamabad and two from Lahore — and added that visa issuance for Pakistani businessmen is being streamlined to a three-day process.

He emphasized expanding cooperation in business, tourism, technology transfer, and value-added products to increase Pakistani exports globally.

MCCI Senior Vice President Khawaja Mohsin highlighted the Chamber's

role in South Punjab and proposed establishing warehousing facilities for Pakistani exporters in Uzbekistan. Both sides agreed to organize B2B meetings, trade fairs, and single-country exhibitions to further trade ties.

At the end of the event, souvenirs were exchanged. Later, the Uzbek diplomat toured the textile, poultry, mango processing, and leather industries, where he appreciated the quality and innovation shown by Pakistani entrepreneurs.

POL import bill increases by 6.42% to \$1.34 billion in July

ISLAMABAD (APP): The imports of the overall petroleum group increased by 6.42 percent during the first month of the current fiscal year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

The total imports of the petroleum group during July 2025 were recorded at stood at \$ 1,345.797 million against the imports of \$ 1,264.574 million during the same month of last year.

Among petroleum commodities, the import of petroleum products increased by 27.38 percent,

from \$ 498.342 million last July to \$ 634.771 in July 2025 whereas the import of petroleum crude surged by 10.44 percent from \$ 360.667 million to \$ 398.318 million.

Similarly, the imports of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) decreased by 30.39 percent from \$ 264.288 million last year to \$ 230.805 million while the import of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) went up by 10.74 per cent in the first month and stood at \$ 81.897 million as compared

to \$ 73.952 in the corresponding month of last year.

Meanwhile, on a month-on-month basis, the petroleum group imports witnessed an increase of 2.68 percent during the month as compared to the imports of \$ 1,310.654 million in June 2025.

It is pertinent to mention here that the overall exports from the country witnessed an increase of 16.91 percent during the first month of the current fiscal year (July) as compared to the corresponding month of

last year. The exports in July (FY2025-26) were recorded at \$2.697 as compared to the exports of \$2.307 billion in July (FY2024-25).

The imports during July 2025 also increased by 29.25 percent and were recorded at \$5.449 billion against the imports of \$4.216 billion in last July.

Based on the figures, the trade deficit increased by 44.16 percent by increasing from \$1.909 billion last July to \$2.752 billion, this year.

European stocks fall back after rallying on US rate hopes

PARIS (AFP/APP): Stocks slipped in European trading Monday as investors locked in gains fuelled by the clear shift toward lower rates by the US Federal Reserve, which helped Asian markets kick off the week with a rally.

Fed chief Jerome Powell told central bankers at their annual conference in Wyoming last Friday that "the balance of risks appears to be shifting" toward signs of weakness in the world's largest economy.

Investors interpreted that as a sure signal of a rate cut at the Fed's meeting next

month, as inflation has not shown signs of soaring in the wake of President Donald Trump's tariff blitz.

"Powell basically delivered the 25 basis points before the September meeting," said Ipek Ozkardeskaya, an analyst at Swissquote Bank.

Wall Street soared on the news ahead of the week-end, while the dollar fell since lower interest rates make the greenback less appealing to foreign investors.

All eyes now turn toward a US GDP report on Thursday and a key infla-

tion gauge coming on Friday for clues on how far rates might fall -- or not -- in the coming months.

"The data -- especially the inflation data -- will tell if there could be further rate relief into the year-end," Ozkardeskaya said.

Asian markets benefited from the rally, with Tokyo rising almost half a percent while Hong Kong finished up 1.9 percent, boosted by a surge in Chinese tech giant Alibaba.

European indices were broadly lower though London was closed for a public holiday, with many

investors happy to take profits while awaiting Wednesday's earnings report from AI-chip heavyweight Nvidia.

The stock fell sharply last week as investors worried that the enthusiasm for artificial intelligence may be overdone, which cast a pall over the wider tech sector after months of strong gains.

In corporate news, shares in Danish wind group Orsted plunged 17 percent after the US government halted construction at an offshore site that is 80 percent complete.



SIALKOT: Senior Vice President Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry Waseem Shahbaz Lodhi presenting a shield to Imtiaz Ahmed Khan of Public System Technology during FBR Digital Invoice Awareness Seminar at SCCI.

Economic partnership with Malaysia priority: ICCI

ISLAMABAD (APP): A high-profile delegation of more than eighty prominent businessmen and investors representing diverse economic sectors has arrived in Kuala Lumpur.

The delegation will take part in the Business Opportunity Conference (BOC) and ICCI Global Gateway Awards 2025.

The prestigious event, organized by the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), is aimed at boosting trade, investment, collaboration, cultural exchange, and tourism promotion between Pakistan and Malaysia, said a press release issued here Monday.

On the eve of the departure of the delegation, the ICCI President Nasir Mansoor Qureshi advised the participants to grasp and on-cash this golden opportunity to showcase Pakistan's true business potential before the world.

The BOC and awards ceremony will hopefully be attended by top dignitaries, including the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, the Governor of Malacca, federal ministers from both countries, leading CEOs, diplomats, diaspora leaders, and senior media professionals.

The program will feature exclusive B2B networking sessions, investment matchmaking, and business dialogues, facilitated by the Malaysian government, international business leaders, and the High Commission of Pakistan in Malaysia. Alongside business interactions, delegates will also explore Malaysia's rich heritage and culture through guided tours and entertainment programs.

Nasir Mansoor Qureshi further remarked that this milestone initiative would serve as a powerful branding platform for Pakistani enterprises to build strategic alliances, secure joint ventures, and strengthen economic diplomacy.

"This is the time to en-cash the opportunity, promote Pakistani products, and establish lasting partnerships with Malaysian counterparts," he emphasized.

Pakistan earns \$981m

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan earned US \$981.475 million by providing differential transport services in various countries during the fiscal year (2024-25) as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

This shows an increase of 27.90 percent as compared to \$767.399 million earned through the provision of services during the last fiscal year (2023-24), the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

During the period under review, the exports of sea transport services witnessed an increase of 34.26 percent, going up from \$109.654 million last year to \$147.226 million.

Among the sea transport services, the exports of freight services rose by 51.76 percent from \$61.623 million last year to \$93.520 million whereas the exports of other sea transport services rose by 11.82 percent from \$48.030 million to \$53.706 million, the PBS data revealed.

The exports of air transport also increased by 24.13 percent going up from \$626.953 million last year to \$778.256 million during the year under review.

Kamal concludes 4 days Bangladesh visit

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan has concluded his four-day visit to Bangladesh, where he had interaction with government officials and the business community with the objective of promoting economic relations between the two countries.

According to a press release issued by the Commerce Ministry here Monday, during the visit, the minister met Adviser for Industries, Adviser for Food and Adviser for

Commerce, visited Chambers of Commerce and Industries and interacted with business leaders from wide-ranging sectors.

The Minister also visited a ship-breaking facility and a pharmaceutical plant and discussed sectoral possibilities of collaborations.

His interactions with Bangladeshi economic and commercial officials included meetings with Executive Chairman, Bangladesh Investment Development Authority and Government officials from

National Board of Revenue, Bangladesh Bank, Trading Corporation of Bangladesh, the Ministry of Civil Aviation, and Trade and Tariff Commission.

The visit culminated in the signing of a MoU for the establishment of a Joint Working Group on Trade. The MoU will link the commerce officials of both countries, who in turn will synchronise their measures to enhance bilateral trade and investment, the statement added.

Food exports decrease 10.25 per cent in July

ISLAMABAD (APP): Food group exports from the country during the first month of the current financial year decreased by 10.25% as compared to the exports of the corresponding period of the last year.

During the month of July 2025, food commodities valued at 426.995 million were exported as compared to the exports of \$475.766 million of the same month of the last year, according to the data of the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.

In the first month of the

current financial year, the exports of the commodities, including rice, decreased by 18.29 percent, vegetables by 44.95%, oil seeds and nuts by 27.24 percent.

However, the import of the commodities, including fish and fish preparations, grew by 18.60 percent, fruits by 43.63% and tobacco export increased by 786.63 percent respectively.

Meanwhile, the exports of meat and meat preparations increased by 9.80 percent as over 9,031 metric tons of meat valued at

\$40.461 million were exported during the month of July 2025, as compared to the exports of 8,408 metric tons valued at \$36.849 million of the same month of the last year.

On the other hand, food imports into the country during the first month of current financial year grew by 44.490 percent as different food commodities worth \$743.879 million were imported as compared to the imports of \$513.389 million of the same month of the last year.

Flyadeal starts flights to Peshawar, Islamabad



F.P. Report

KARACHI: Flyadeal, the Saudi low-cost carrier, has expanded its scheduled operations to Pakistan with inaugural flights to Peshawar and Islamabad as well.

The first milestone was marked at Bacha Khan International Airport (BKIA), Peshawar on Monday, where the inaugural flight was welcomed with a cake-cutting ceremony organized by Menzies RAS at the International Departure Lounge in front

of the CIP Lounge.

The event, held from 05:05-05:25 AM, was attended by officials of the Pakistan Airports Authority (PAA), Airport Security Force, and Menzies RAS.

Flyadeal will now operate two weekly flights from Riyadh to Peshawar every Monday and Wednesday.

Earlier, on August 24, 2025, Flyadeal's inaugural flight FAD 651/652 arrived at Islamabad International Airport and was accorded traditional water salute

upon arrival.

The aircraft from Riyadh landed ahead of schedule at 06:08 AM hours with 65 passengers on board and was accorded a traditional water salute.

The return flight departed at 07:33 AM hours, carrying 172 passengers. Flyadeal will continue to operate a weekly flight between Riyadh and Islamabad every Sunday.

Public Notice

I hereby declare that Farman Ullah son of Mir Gul Shah, resident of Khadikhel, Post Office, Karak Kanda, Tehsil and District Karak, is the owner of a residential plot, Plot No. 09, Street No. 16, 5 Marla, PHA Jama Scheme, Kohat. I hereby appoint Khashif Mahmood son of Abdullah Shah, resident of Karak, as the general trustee of the said plot. If anyone has any objection to the transfer of the said plot, they should submit it to the office of the purchaser within 15 days. Contact the Assistant Director Estate Management 4 at 0919224208.

Lost & Found

I have lost my Blue World City file with Registration Number BWC41A10X73-01. If anyone finds it, kindly contact me at the following numbers: 03339623624. Jibraeel S/O Fazal Min Shah Address: Qoom Ali Khel, Ghuljo, Ghotak, District Orakzai, Pakistan.

استخبارات:۔۔۔ بعد اوت جناب ایف اے علی صاحب ڈسٹرکٹ اینڈ سیشن جج آئی بی بیٹنگ کورٹ۔۔۔ 4 نیچر ہیکٹو نوٹیفکیشن
انفیرل جڈ ٹیل پبلکس ٹیر 7 جیات آباد پیارہ۔۔۔ ZTBL۔۔۔ مردان ہاؤس۔۔۔ نام۔۔۔ ہمارے خان
(مردم) (سید جواد خان)۔۔۔ 1۔۔۔ 2۔۔۔ 3۔۔۔ 4۔۔۔ 5۔۔۔ 6۔۔۔ 7۔۔۔ 8۔۔۔ 9۔۔۔ 10۔۔۔ 11۔۔۔ 12۔۔۔ 13۔۔۔ 14۔۔۔ 15۔۔۔ 16۔۔۔ 17۔۔۔ 18۔۔۔ 19۔۔۔ 20۔۔۔ 21۔۔۔ 22۔۔۔ 23۔۔۔ 24۔۔۔ 25۔۔۔ 26۔۔۔ 27۔۔۔ 28۔۔۔ 29۔۔۔ 30۔۔۔ 31۔۔۔ 32۔۔۔ 33۔۔۔ 34۔۔۔ 35۔۔۔ 36۔۔۔ 37۔۔۔ 38۔۔۔ 39۔۔۔ 40۔۔۔ 41۔۔۔ 42۔۔۔ 43۔۔۔ 44۔۔۔ 45۔۔۔ 46۔۔۔ 47۔۔۔ 48۔۔۔ 49۔۔۔ 50۔۔۔ 51۔۔۔ 52۔۔۔ 53۔۔۔ 54۔۔۔ 55۔۔۔ 56۔۔۔ 57۔۔۔ 58۔۔۔ 59۔۔۔ 60۔۔۔ 61۔۔۔ 62۔۔۔ 63۔۔۔ 64۔۔۔ 65۔۔۔ 66۔۔۔ 67۔۔۔ 68۔۔۔ 69۔۔۔ 70۔۔۔ 71۔۔۔ 72۔۔۔ 73۔۔۔ 74۔۔۔ 75۔۔۔ 76۔۔۔ 77۔۔۔ 78۔۔۔ 79۔۔۔ 80۔۔۔ 81۔۔۔ 82۔۔۔ 83۔۔۔ 84۔۔۔ 85۔۔۔ 86۔۔۔ 87۔۔۔ 88۔۔۔ 89۔۔۔ 90۔۔۔ 91۔۔۔ 92۔۔۔ 93۔۔۔ 94۔۔۔ 95۔۔۔ 96۔۔۔ 97۔۔۔ 98۔۔۔ 99۔۔۔ 100۔۔۔ 101۔۔۔ 102۔۔۔ 103۔۔۔ 104۔۔۔ 105۔۔۔ 106۔۔۔ 107۔۔۔ 108۔۔۔ 109۔۔۔ 110۔۔۔ 111۔۔۔ 112۔۔۔ 113۔۔۔ 114۔۔۔ 115۔۔۔ 116۔۔۔ 117۔۔۔ 118۔۔۔ 119۔۔۔ 120۔۔۔ 121۔۔۔ 122۔۔۔ 123۔۔۔ 124۔۔۔ 125۔۔۔ 126۔۔۔ 127۔۔۔ 128۔۔۔ 129۔۔۔ 130۔۔۔ 131۔۔۔ 132۔۔۔ 133۔۔۔ 134۔۔۔ 135۔۔۔ 136۔۔۔ 137۔۔۔ 138۔۔۔ 139۔۔۔ 140۔۔۔ 141۔۔۔ 142۔۔۔ 143۔۔۔ 144۔۔۔ 145۔۔۔ 146۔۔۔ 147۔۔۔ 148۔۔۔ 149۔۔۔ 150۔۔۔ 151۔۔۔ 152۔۔۔ 153۔۔۔ 154۔۔۔ 155۔۔۔ 156۔۔۔ 157۔۔۔ 158۔۔۔ 159۔۔۔ 160۔۔۔ 161۔۔۔ 162۔۔۔ 163۔۔۔ 164۔۔۔ 165۔۔۔ 166۔۔۔ 167۔۔۔ 168۔۔۔ 169۔۔۔ 170۔۔۔ 171۔۔۔ 172۔۔۔ 173۔۔۔ 174۔۔۔ 175۔۔۔ 176۔۔۔ 177۔۔۔ 178۔۔۔ 179۔۔۔ 180۔۔۔ 181۔۔۔ 182۔۔۔ 183۔۔۔ 184۔۔۔ 185۔۔۔ 186۔۔۔ 187۔۔۔ 188۔۔۔ 189۔۔۔ 190۔۔۔ 191۔۔۔ 192۔۔۔ 193۔۔۔ 194۔۔۔ 195۔۔۔ 196۔۔۔ 197۔۔۔ 198۔۔۔ 199۔۔۔ 200۔۔۔ 201۔۔۔ 202۔۔۔ 203۔۔۔ 204۔۔۔ 205۔۔۔ 206۔۔۔ 207۔۔۔ 208۔۔۔ 209۔۔۔ 210۔۔۔ 211۔۔۔ 212۔۔۔ 213۔۔۔ 214۔۔۔ 215۔۔۔ 216۔۔۔ 217۔۔۔ 218۔۔۔ 219۔۔۔ 220۔۔۔ 221۔۔۔ 222۔۔۔ 223۔۔۔ 224۔۔۔ 225۔۔۔ 226۔۔۔ 227۔۔۔ 228۔۔۔ 229۔۔۔ 230۔۔۔ 231۔۔۔ 232۔۔۔ 233۔۔۔ 234۔۔۔ 235۔۔۔ 236۔۔۔ 237۔۔۔ 238۔۔۔ 239۔۔۔ 240۔۔۔ 241۔۔۔ 242۔۔۔ 243۔۔۔ 244۔۔۔ 245۔۔۔ 246۔۔۔ 247۔۔۔ 248۔۔۔ 249۔۔۔ 250۔۔۔ 251۔۔۔ 252۔۔۔ 253۔۔۔ 254۔۔۔ 255۔۔۔ 256۔۔۔ 257۔۔۔ 258۔۔۔ 259۔۔۔ 260۔۔۔ 261۔۔۔ 262۔۔۔ 263۔۔۔ 264۔۔۔ 265۔۔۔ 266۔۔۔ 267۔۔۔ 268۔۔۔ 269۔۔۔ 270۔۔۔ 271۔۔۔ 272۔۔۔ 273۔۔۔ 274۔۔۔ 275۔۔۔ 276۔۔۔ 277۔۔۔ 278۔۔۔ 279۔۔۔ 280۔۔۔ 281۔۔۔ 282۔۔۔ 283۔۔۔ 284۔۔۔ 285۔۔۔ 286۔۔۔ 287۔۔۔ 288۔۔۔ 289۔۔۔ 290۔۔۔ 291۔۔۔ 292۔۔۔ 293۔۔۔ 294۔۔۔ 295۔۔۔ 296۔۔۔ 297۔۔۔ 298۔۔۔ 299۔۔۔ 300۔۔۔ 301۔۔۔ 302۔۔۔ 303۔۔۔ 304۔۔۔ 305۔۔۔ 306۔۔۔ 307۔۔۔ 308۔۔۔ 309۔۔۔ 310۔۔۔ 311۔۔۔ 312۔۔۔ 313۔۔۔ 314۔۔۔ 315۔۔۔ 316۔۔۔ 317۔۔۔ 318۔۔۔ 319۔۔۔ 320۔۔۔ 321۔۔۔ 322۔۔۔ 323۔۔۔ 324۔۔۔ 325۔۔۔ 326۔۔۔ 327۔۔۔ 328۔۔۔ 329۔۔۔ 330۔۔۔ 331۔۔۔ 332۔۔۔ 333۔۔۔ 334۔۔۔ 335۔۔۔ 336۔۔۔ 337۔۔۔ 338۔۔۔ 339۔۔۔ 340۔۔۔ 341۔۔۔ 342۔۔۔ 343۔۔۔ 344۔۔۔ 345۔۔۔ 346۔۔۔ 347۔۔۔ 348۔۔۔ 349۔۔۔ 350۔۔۔ 351۔۔۔ 352۔۔۔ 353۔۔۔ 354۔۔۔ 355۔۔۔ 356۔۔۔ 357۔۔۔ 358۔۔۔ 359۔۔۔ 360۔۔۔ 361۔۔۔ 362۔۔۔ 363۔۔۔ 364۔۔۔ 365۔۔۔ 366۔۔۔ 367۔۔۔ 368۔۔۔ 369۔۔۔ 370۔۔۔ 371۔۔۔ 372۔۔۔ 373۔۔۔ 374۔۔۔ 375۔۔۔ 376۔۔۔ 377۔۔۔ 378۔۔۔ 379۔۔۔ 380۔۔۔ 381۔۔۔ 382۔۔۔ 383۔۔۔ 384۔۔۔ 385۔۔۔ 386۔۔۔ 387۔۔۔ 388۔۔۔ 389۔۔۔ 390۔۔۔ 391۔۔۔ 392۔۔۔ 393۔۔۔ 394۔۔۔ 395۔۔۔ 396۔۔۔ 397۔۔۔ 398۔۔۔ 399۔۔۔ 400۔۔۔ 401۔۔۔ 402۔۔۔ 403۔۔۔ 404۔۔۔ 405۔۔۔ 406۔۔۔ 407۔۔۔ 408۔۔۔ 409۔۔۔ 410۔۔۔ 411۔۔۔ 412۔۔۔ 413۔۔۔ 414۔۔۔ 415۔۔۔ 416۔۔۔ 417۔۔۔ 418۔۔۔ 419۔۔۔ 420۔۔۔ 421۔۔۔ 422۔۔۔ 423۔۔۔ 424۔۔۔ 425۔۔۔ 426۔۔۔ 427۔۔۔ 428۔۔۔ 429۔۔۔ 430۔۔۔ 431۔۔۔ 432۔۔۔ 433۔۔۔ 434۔۔۔ 435۔۔۔ 436۔۔۔ 437۔۔۔ 438۔۔۔ 439۔۔۔ 440۔۔۔ 441۔۔۔ 442۔۔۔ 443۔۔۔ 444۔۔۔ 445۔۔۔ 446۔۔۔ 447۔۔۔ 448۔۔۔ 449۔۔۔ 450۔۔۔ 451۔۔۔ 452۔۔۔ 453۔۔۔ 454۔۔۔ 455۔۔۔ 456۔۔۔ 457۔۔۔ 458۔۔۔ 459۔۔۔ 460۔۔۔ 461۔۔۔ 462۔۔۔ 463۔۔۔ 464۔۔۔ 465۔۔۔ 466۔۔۔ 467۔۔۔ 468۔۔۔ 469۔۔۔ 470۔۔۔ 471۔۔۔ 472۔۔۔ 473۔۔۔ 474۔۔۔ 475۔۔۔ 476۔۔۔ 477۔۔۔ 478۔۔۔ 479۔۔۔ 480۔۔۔ 481۔۔۔ 482۔۔۔ 483۔۔۔ 484۔۔۔ 485۔۔۔ 486۔۔۔ 487۔۔۔ 488۔۔۔ 489۔۔۔ 490۔۔۔ 491۔۔۔ 492۔۔۔ 493۔۔۔ 494۔۔۔ 495۔۔۔ 496۔۔۔ 497۔۔۔ 498۔۔۔ 499۔۔۔ 500۔۔۔ 501۔۔۔ 502۔۔۔ 503۔۔۔ 504۔۔۔ 505۔۔۔ 506۔



In brief

Saka to miss four weeks through injury

LONDON (Agencies): Bukayo Saka is set to miss Arsenal's game at Liverpool on Sunday as well as England's World Cup qualifiers against Andorra and Serbia next month. The 23-year-old went off with a hamstring injury in Saturday's home win against Leeds United and it is estimated the forward will be unavailable for up to four weeks. Arsenal captain Martin Odegaard is doubtful for the match at Anfield as a result of a shoulder injury suffered in the victory against Leeds. Odegaard looked in pain as he was replaced in the first half of the 5-0 win and the former Real Madrid attacking midfielder is understood to have left Emirates Stadium with his shoulder in a sling. The Norway playmaker has not yet been ruled out of the game against the Premier League champions and there is optimism at Arsenal that neither the 26-year-old or Saka will be long-term casualties. There is particular relief regarding Saka, who missed three months of last season with a hamstring injury. Arsenal have a much deeper pool of attacking talent this season though, having signed Viktor Gyokeres, Noni Madueke and Eberechi Eze this summer. Gunners manager Mikel Arteta also has Gabriel Martinelli, Leandro Trossard, Ethan Nwaneri and Max Dowman to mitigate the absences of Saka and Odegaard.

Medvedev needs help after meltdown

NEW YORK (AFP): German tennis legend Boris Becker believes Daniil Medvedev should seek "professional help" after the Russian crashed out of the US Open following the latest in a long line of spectacular on-court meltdowns. Medvedev was at the centre of extraordinary scenes during his late-night battle with France's Benjamin Bonzi on Sunday, losing in five sets in a game that descended into chaos during the third set. The drama unfolded when chair umpire Greg Allensworth awarded Bonzi a first serve as he served on match point after a photographer mistakenly wandered onto the court. That ruling sparked a furious reaction from Medvedev, who unleashed an angry tirade at Allensworth, accusing the official of wanting to end the game early. "Are you a man? Are you a man?" Medvedev ranted. "He wants to go home guys. He doesn't like to be here, he gets paid by the match, not by the hour." Medvedev then turned to the Louis Armstrong Stadium crowd, waving his arms wildly to encourage them to voice their displeasure, leading to a six-minute delay before Bonzi could finally serve. The rattled Frenchman subsequently lost his serve and the set, but later fought back to clinch a 6-3, 7-5, 6-7 (5/7), 0-6, 6-4 victory. Medvedev's final act was to violently smash his racket in anger following the loss. The Russian later told reporters he was expecting a big fine for his actions but denied inciting the crowd, leading to the six-minute delay. "I'm getting big fine enough, so if I speak, I'm in big trouble, so I'm not going to speak," Medvedev said. Asked if he was deliberately testing officials to see how far he could go before being defaulted from a tournament, he replied: "Today I didn't do anything bad, no."

Pakistan squad named for ICC Women's CWC 2025

ISLAMABAD (APP): The women's national selection committee has named a 15-member squad for the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 set to take place from September 30 to November 2. The same squad will also feature in a three-match ODI series against South Africa, scheduled at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore from September 16 to 22, said a press release. Uncapped right-handed batter Eyman Fatima, who recently made her T20I debut against Ireland, is part of the ODI squad. Fatima Sana, who represented Pakistan in the previous edition of ICC Women's Cricket World Cup, will lead the side for the first time in the mega event. The 23-year-old had previously captained the side in the ICC Women's CWC Qualifier held in Lahore this year, where the team maintained a 100 per cent win record to secure qualification for this year's ICC Women's Cricket World Cup set to take place in India and Sri Lanka. Pakistan will play all their group-stage matches at the R Premadasa

International Cricket Stadium in Colombo. Should Pakistan qualify for the October 29 semifinal and the November 2 final, then both the matches will take place in Colombo. Also, six players - Natalia Parvaiz (8 ODIs, 24T20Is), Rameen Shamim (8 ODIs, 11 T20Is), Sadaf Shamas (15 ODIs, 12 T20Is), Sadia Iqbal (27 ODIs, 50 T20Is), Shawaal Zulfiqar (3 ODIs, 9 T20Is) and Syeda Aroob Shah (2 ODIs, 15 T20Is) are set to feature in their maiden ODI World Cup. Moreover, 21-year-old Aroob, 20-year-old Shawaal alongside 20-year-old Eyman featured for Pakistan in the inaugural edition of ICC Women's U19 T20 World Cup held in South Africa in January 2023. Additionally, two changes have been made from the 15-member squad that featured in the ICC Women's CWC Qualifier. Eyman and Sadaf come into the squad in place of Gull Feroza and Najiha Alvi, who have been named in the five-member non-travelling reserves alongside Tuba Hassan, Umm-e-Hani and Waheeda Akhtar.

The 15 players alongside five reserves players will take part in a 14-day pre-South Africa series camp from August 29. The players under the coaching staff led by Muhammad Wasim will undergo practice sessions as well as 50-over practice matches. More details regarding the camp will be announced in due course. South Africa women's cricket team will arrive in Lahore on September 12. 15-member squad: Fatima Sana (captain), Muneeba Ali Siddiqui (vice-captain), Aliya Riaz, Diana Baig, Eyman Fatima, Nashra Sundhu, Natalia Parvaiz, Omaima Sohail, Rameen Shamim, Sadaf Shamas, Sadia Iqbal, Shawaal Zulfiqar, Sidra Amin, Sidra Nawaz (wicket-keeper) and Syeda Aroob Shah. Non-travelling reserves: Gull Feroza, Najiha Alvi, Tuba Hassan, Umm-e-Hani and Waheeda Akhtar. Player support personnel: Hina Munawar (manager), Muhammad Wasim (head coach), Junaid Khan (assistant coach bowling), Tahir Khan (assistant coach bowling), Abdul Saad (fielding coach), Muhammad Rafi Ullah (media manager), Muhammad Asfand Yar (strength and conditioning coach), Waleed Ahmed (analyst), Tehreem Sumbal (physiotherapist), Kiran Shahzadi (masseuse) and team doctor (tbc). Pakistan will play South Africa in the ODIs on September 16, 19 and 22. Pakistan team fixtures in ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 include October 2 vs Bangladesh; October 5 vs India; October 8 vs Australia; October 15 vs England; October 18 vs New Zealand; October 21 vs South Africa and October 24 vs Sri Lanka.

NA body forms sub-committee to inquire PHF affairs

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Standing Committee of the National Assembly on Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) on Monday constituted a sub-committee to inquire the affairs of the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF). The agenda of the meeting included briefings on matters relating to Pakistan Hockey, particularly the payment of players, participation in the International Hockey Federation events, the Constitution and election process of the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF), along with other allied issues. The Committee also received a briefing from the PHF regarding financial irregularities, its election procedure, and constitutional matters during the Financial Year 2024-25.

However, the agenda item pertaining to the National Internship Program could not be discussed. The Committee, which met here at the Parliament House, under the chairmanship of Member National Assembly (MNA) Muhammad Sana Ullah Khan Masti Khel, constituted a sub-committee under the convenorship of MNA Sheikh Aftab Ahmed, to examine the legal status of the PHF body, financial irregularities, and other related issues, and to prepare a future road map. The sub-committee will be assisted by the Secretaries of the Ministry of Law and Inter Provincial Coordination (IPC), the Director General, Pakistan Sports Board, a representative from the Office of the

Attorney General, as well as the President and Secretary of the PHF. The Sub-Committee will submit its report to the main Committee. The meeting was attended by MNAs Anjum Aqeel Khan, Sheikh Aftab Ahmed, Waseem Qadir, Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Khan Nasar, Haji Rasool Bux Chandio, Syeda Shehla Raza, Dr. Mehreen Razzaq Bhutto, Muhammad Iqbal Khan, Khawaja Izhar-ul-Hassan, Yousaf Khan, and Syed Sami Ullah. The Secretary and Additional Secretary of the Ministry of IPC, the DG Pakistan Sports Board, DG Internship Programme, representatives from SNGPL, and the President and Secretary PHF also attended the meeting.

Gaudu outwits rivals in hairpin turn to win Vuelta stage 3



CERES (AFP): David Gaudu took revenge on Jonas Vingegaard on Monday surging to victory in the third stage of the Vuelta Espana in Ceres, in Italy, a day after being edged by the Dane. "That was hard," said Gaudu at the finish. "I finished in the top three yesterday. I won today. I would have signed up for that scenario with both hands." After the bonuses were totted up, the two men were tied at the top of the overall standings but Vingegaard retained the red jersey. The day before, Vingegaard powered away from his rivals in an uphill sprint to take the overall lead. Frenchman Gaudu finished that stage third. On Monday, at the end of a hilly 134.6 kilometre run from San Maurizio Canavese, Vingegaard was again well positioned as the pack came out of a final hairpin for a rising run to the line. But Gaudu handled the corner better and when the Frenchman, who rides for Groupama, and Mads Pedersen, a Dane with Lidl Trek, accelerated in the home stretch, Vingegaard eased up, unable to match them. "I got into the right wheel in the last two kilometres," Gaudu told Eurosport. "Then Mads didn't close the door and I took advantage of it. I probably had a little more speed."

Vingegaard collected a four-second bonus for finishing third but Gaudu gained 10 seconds and moved level on time with the Dane. Gaudu had not won at cycling's World Tour

level since 2023. This season after an anonymous 66th place in the Giro d'Italia, his team did not take him to the Tour de France. "I'm so happy for the team. I've had a tough time this season, sometimes through my own fault, sometimes not," said Gaudu. "But the guys always got me back on track. Raising my arms is a great reward for the team." "Difficult day" The finish completed a tough day for Vingegaard's Visma Lease a Bike team. They announced in the morning that 18 of their bikes had been stolen overnight from a parked truck and also that one of Vingegaard's lieutenants Axel Zingle had been forced to drop out. The Gazzetta Dello Sport reported that Visma lost bikes worth a total of 250,000 euros (\$292,378), while Movistar and Lidl-Trek, who were staying in the same hotel near Turin, did not lose any equipment. Zingle dislocated a shoulder the day before when he was taken down by Vingegaard as a group of riders crashed at the foot of the final climb on a rainy day. "It was a difficult day, but in the end, I can be satisfied. Third place is good. On a finish like this, I knew I was inferior to a guy like Pedersen," said Vingegaard. On Tuesday, the Vuelta rolls into France on a 206.7km stage that starts in Susa in Italy, climbs over a couple of Alpine summits and then drops down to finish in Voiron near Grenoble.

Pakistan National Ranking Tennis Tournament kicks off

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Independence Day National Ranking Tennis Tournament commenced here at the PTF Tennis Complex on Monday. A total of 110 entries across nine categories (Men's Singles, Men's Doubles, Ladies' Singles, Boys 18&under, Girls 18&under, Boys 14&under, Girls 14&under Boys 12&under, and Girls 12&under are participating in the event. Among the top players in action are Aqeel Khan, Muzammil Murtaza, Yousaf Khalil, Barkat Ullah, Shahzad Khan, Hamza Roman, Sami Zeb Khan, Ushna Suhail, Sheeza Sajid, Esha Jawad, and Noor Malik. The tournament is being organized to commemorate Pakistan's Independence Day and to celebrate the spirit of sports. Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi - President-PTF and Col. (R) Zia-ud-Din Tufail Secretary General-PTF extended their best wishes to all participants, encouraging them to

demonstrate their talent, sportsmanship, and commitment throughout the event. In Men's Singles 1st Round 1st Round: Aqeel Khan beat Sami Zeb Khan 6-3,6-3; Ahmed Nael Qureshi beat Muhammad Salar 6-3,6-2; Hamza Roman beat Abdullah Adnan 6-0,6-3; Yousaf Khalil beat Muhammad Yahya 6-1,6-0; Muzammil Murtaza beat Shahzad Khan 6-1,6-3; Barkatullah beat Ahmed Chudhary 6-3,5-0(ret'd); Hamza Asim beat M.Tlah Khan 6-1,6-2; Mudassir Murtaza beat Huzafa Khan 6-0,6-4. In Ladies Singles 1st Round 1st Round: Sheeza Sajid beat labika Durab 6-3,6-0; Shimza Naz Durab beat Sania Zahra 6-0,6-0; Shandana Rabi beat Sofia Tariq 6-0,6-3 ; Soha Ali beat Lalarukh Sajid 6-0,6-0; Romaisa Malik beat Maria Rasheed 6-1,6-0. In Boys 18&under Singles 1st Round: Abdul Basit beat Amir Mazari 6-0,6-0; Haziq Asim beat Inam Qadir

6-1,6-2; Razik Sultan beat Moazzam Babar 6-0,6-3 ; Hassan Usmani beat Mahad Mehmood 6-0,6-1; Hamza Roman beat Rajam Taha 6-0,6-0; Muhammad Yahya beat ahmed Raza 6-1,7-5. In Girls 14&under Singles 1st Round: Zainah Abdullah beat Zoya Mustaf 4-1,4-1; Shahreen Umer beat Areeba Adnan 4-0,4-1. In Boys 14&under Singles 1st Round: Behroze Mahmood beat M.Turab Bhatti 4-1,4-0; M.Ayyan beat Haseeb Mustafa 4-0,4-0; Ahmed Afzal beat Abdullah Haider 4-0,4-0; M. Faizan beat Mozzam Babar 5-4(6), 4-0; M.Umar Ali beat M.Ehsan Bari 4-0,4-0 Mahad Mehmood beat Ashtar Alam 5-4 (6), 5-4(4); M.Muaz beat Raja Taha 4-0,4-0. In Boys 12&under Singles 1st Round: M.Turab Bhatti beat Ali Asghar 5-4(5), 4-1; Behroze Mehmood beat Zulfiqar Omer 4-1,4-1; Salar Khan beat Saifullah Omer 4-0,4-0.



NEW YORK: Barbora Krejickova of Czechia plays a forehand shot against Victoria Mboko of Canada during their Women's Singles First Round match on Day Two of the 2025 US Open.

PCB contradicts news of replacing captains

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Monday strongly rejected media reports suggesting that Mohammad Rizwan and Shan Masood were being replaced as captains of the national white-ball and red-ball teams, respectively. In a statement issued by PCB Media Manager Syed Nazir Ahmed, the board dismissed the claims as baseless and fabricated. The reports had speculated that Salman Ali Agha would take over ODI captaincy from Rizwan and Saud Shakeel would replace Masood as Test captain. The PCB clarified that no such proposals were under consideration by the Selection Committee, and there had been no changes to the players' contract categories.

Iran secures sixth world title

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan, Dr Reza Amiri Moghadam, on Monday congratulated Iranian wrestlers for clinching the championship title at the World Junior Greco-Roman Wrestling Championships held in Bulgaria. The Iranian team secured its sixth world title with an impressive tally of one gold, two silver, and two bronze medals, amassing a total of 117 points. The victory reaffirmed Iran's longstanding legacy and dominance in the sport of wrestling on the global stage. Dr Amiri Moghadam praised the young wrestlers as "champions who have once again demonstrated the strength and heritage of Iranian wrestling before the world." The envoy also lauded the Armenian and Azerbaijani teams for their remarkable performances, finishing second and third, respectively. He commended their "dedication, sportsmanship, and courage" as a source of pride for the wrestling fraternity. "Wrestling continues to unite and inspire. Here's to the spirit of competition and friendship among nations," the ambassador remarked.

Djokovic battles past Tien to reach second round

NEW YORK (Agencies): In his first competitive outing after a six-week hiatus, there were times when an increasingly frustrated Novak Djokovic looked dead on his feet. However, in the most important moments of his turbulent first round match against American teenager Learner Tien, Djokovic worked through his physical discomfort and then held his nerve in the decisive moments to win 6-1, 7-6 (3), 6-2 and reach the second round of the US Open. Even at 38 years old, Djokovic has been the third best player at the grand slam tournaments this year, reaching the semi-final of all three prior events. However, his ageing body has struggled to handle the physicality required to succeed in the best of five sets format. After his straight sets loss to Jannik Sinner at Wimbledon, Djokovic cast doubt on his ability to remain fresh and healthy deep in the grand slam tournaments at his age. Djokovic opted not to compete between Wimbledon and the US Open in order to prioritise his family and the challenge here was surviving a talented young opponent in Tien, a 19 year-old American, who has made his mark on the tour this year with a number of big wins, including a victory over Daniil Medvedev at the Australian Open. "I wish I had Learner Tien's age, but that's not possible," said Djokovic. "Actually he's [half] my age, that's incredible." After blazing through the opening set, Djokovic began to struggle as Tien grew into the match, dragging the Serb into extended, physical exchanges that exposed his deficient match fitness. The American increasingly controlled the baseline with his wicked lefty forehand. Djokovic looked exhausted at points during the second set and as his unforced error count accordingly piled up, he repeatedly shouted his frustrations

towards his player box. Still, Djokovic served well at the key points, saving a set point at 4-5 with an ace, and he continually looked for opportunities to shorten points by approaching the net. "I started great," said Djokovic. "Just over 20 minutes, first set, I felt really good. Then some long games to start the second set, and then I start to feel really... I don't know why. I really was surprised how bad I was feeling in the second set physically." Towards the end of the second set, Djokovic's physical struggles worsened, with the Serb repeatedly stretching out his left leg, his upper body and bending over. Tien tried to exploit the Serb's difficulties by dragging him into lengthy rallies, causing Djokovic to bail out some points with last ditch drop shots. At one point in the second set tie-break, Djokovic conceded a second time violation warning as he tried to catch his breath after a lengthy exchange. No matter, Djokovic emerged from the second set tie-break with a two-set lead before rolling to victory. "Good thing, two days off now," Djokovic said. "But yeah, it's slightly a concern. I don't know. I don't have any injury or anything. I just struggled a lot to stay in long exchanges and recover after points. It is what it is." Djokovic will next face the American qualifier Zachary Svajda, who reached the second round with a 6-4, 6-2, 7-5 win over Zsombor Piros. "In the important moments I just put one ball more in the court than he did," Djokovic said. "I think it was also good to experience that, in a sense, kind of break the ice officially in the tournament. Looking forward to the next challenge." Elsewhere, the inform sixth seed Ben Shelton opened his tournament with a solid showing, outplaying Ignacio Buse of Peru 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 to advance to the second round.

India cricket ends \$43.6 mn sponsorship

NEW DELHI (AFP): Indian cricket is looking for a new main sponsor after a fantasy sports gaming platform pulled out of a deal worth \$43.6 million following a government ban on online gambling, reports said Monday. Dream11, the biggest online gaming platform in the country, became the lead sponsor of the men's and women's national teams after signing a three-year deal in July 2023. The Dream11 logo is printed on the jerseys of the Indian players. It is also the sponsor of several Indian Premier League franchises. Last week, the Indian parliament passed the Promotion and Regulation

of Online Gaming Bill, criminalising the offering and financing of such games, with offenders facing up to five years in prison. The Indian Express newspaper said Monday that representatives of Dream11 visited the office of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and informed its chief executive, Hemang Amin, that they won't be able to continue. "As a result, they won't be the team's sponsors for the Asia Cup. The BCCI will float a new tender soon," the daily said, quoting a BCCI official. The T20 Asia Cup starts on September 9 in the United Arab Emirates. "There's not much time

left for the Asia Cup, but we are exploring options," a board official was quoted as saying by Sportstar website. Dream11 is also the official partner of the Caribbean Premier League and sponsors Australia's Big Bash League. The gaming ban impacts platforms for card games, poker and fantasy sports, including India's wildly popular homegrown fantasy cricket apps. The government said the rapid spread of gambling platforms had caused widespread financial distress, addiction and even suicide among the youth. It also said it was linked to fraud, money laundering and terrorism financing.



In brief

Ten dengue patients admitted in hospitals

RAWALPINDI (APP): Currently 10 patients affected by dengue are admitted in hospitals, campaign intensified. According to the details released by the District Health Authority (DHA), Rawalpindi, 1246 teams are actively working in the field. For the inspection of dengue larvae breeding. This year 2057 FIRs have been registered across the district for violations of dengue SOPs. According to data, 1251 locations have been sealed and a fine of 64.71 million has been imposed. DHA Spokesman, Dr. Waqar said that the anti-dengue campaign is ongoing throughout the district, ensuring compliance with dengue SOPs. The risk of dengue larvae breeding has increased due to monsoon rains. The public is urged to follow the precautionary measures issued by the health department and cooperate with the anti-dengue teams. The public is encouraged to support the health department to promote a safe and healthy society.

ITP vows strict action against parking violations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Superintendent of Police (SP) Traffic Majid Iqbal has issued strict instructions to all zonal DSPs to ensure zero tolerance against illegal parking in the federal capital, directing that action against violators be intensified to maintain smooth traffic flow and road discipline. An ITP official told APP on Monday that special teams have been deployed at shopping malls, commercial centers, markets, and major highways to take indiscriminate action against vehicles parked in no-parking zones and on footpaths. SP Majid Iqbal emphasized that parking must be confined to designated areas, particularly in busy commercial hubs. "Footpaths are the right of pedestrians, and no encroachment or parking will be tolerated," he added. The spokesperson said ITP is committed to facilitating citizens visiting shopping and business centers by maintaining traffic discipline and ensuring uninterrupted road movement. Citizens have been urged to cooperate with traffic police by following rules so that an integrated traffic system can be ensured across the city.

IRSA releases 429,400 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 429,400 cusecs of water from various rim stations with an inflow of 460,200 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indu at Tarbela Dam was 1549.20 feet, which was 147.20 feet higher than the dead level of 1402.00 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 231,800 cusecs and 231,400 cusecs, respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1220.25 feet, which was 170.20 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water were recorded as 38,400 cusecs and 8,000 cusecs, respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 261,500, 185,300, 450,100 and 428,400 cusecs, respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 46,400 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 120,900 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

NA Speaker appeals for unified national support to flood victims

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Monday called upon citizens, civil society, and the business community to extend wholehearted support to families affected by recent floods across Pakistan, terming rehabilitation a "collective national responsibility."

In a statement, the Speaker emphasised that both individual and coordinated efforts were vital to provide relief and rehabilitation to those who had lost their homes, livelihoods, and loved ones. He urged philanthropists, welfare organisations, and civil society to actively contribute to ongoing relief operations, noting that joint efforts alongside government measures would significantly ease the suffering of flood victims.

He stressed that coordinated assistance alongside the government's ongoing measures would significantly ease the suffering of the victims.

"Rehabilitation of the flood-affected communities is our collective national responsibility. No segment of society can remain indifferent at this critical hour," Speaker Sadiq remarked. He highlighted that the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu & Kashmir, and several other regions of the country are in urgent need of food, shelter, and medical assistance.

Appealing to the business community and generous individuals, the Speaker called for wholehearted contributions for the reconstruction of damaged houses and the restoration of basic facilities in flood-

affected areas.

Sardar Ayaz Sadiq also appealed to the youth of Pakistan to volunteer their time and energy in relief and rehabilitation efforts. "Young volunteers can play a decisive role in assisting with the distribution of food, medical supplies, and in rebuilding the lives of those devastated by floods," he added. The Speaker urged the nation to demonstrate unity, compassion, and a spirit of sacrifice during this difficult period. He underlined the importance of making affected families feel that they are not alone in their struggle.

"This is a time for solidarity and empathy. Standing by our brothers and sisters in their hour of need is not only a moral obligation but also a national duty," Sardar Ayaz Sadiq said.

SC acquits accused from drugs recovery case

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Monday acquitted the accused in the drug recovery case and ruled that complainant and investigation officer shouldn't be the same officer. Justice Muhammad Hashim Khan Kakar issued a 6-page judgment in the case.

The Supreme Court said in the judgment that the police claimed to have recovered 1280 grams of hashish from the accused Zahid Nawaz on December 14, 2022. Both the complainant and the investigating officer was the same person, Inspector Muhammad Naem Zia.

If the complainant conducts the investigation himself than it could affect

the transparency. Justice should also be seen to be done, it said.

The judgment said that according to the accused Zahid Nawaz, the police inspector used to take free food and loans from his hotel. According to the accused, when he asked for money, the police inspector made a false case out of enmity. The accused Zahid Nawaz had called the investigation biased from the beginning. The complainant himself becoming an investigator is a violation of the basic principles of justice.

It said that the prosecution could not prove the safe custody of the samples and the remaining property. The 64 gram sample was

submitted to the treasury after a delay of 15 days and the remaining 1216 gram hashish was also submitted to the treasury after 12 days.

The Supreme Court ruled that punishment cannot be given if the chain of custody is not proven. The police officers can be witnesses in their own capacity, but without independent testimony, the risk of injustice increases.

The court said that justice requires that the plaintiff and the investigator should be separate, adding that the accused's position is on record that the police made the case out of hostility. The prosecution could not prove the case beyond doubt. The court acquitted the accused from the case.

Kamal reviews medical devices' licensing system

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Health, Mustafa Kamal has visited the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) to review and oversee the newly deployed online registration and licensing system for medical devices.

During briefing, the CEO DRAP apprised that the system was inaugurated by the Prime Minister on 21st July 2025.

The minister was informed that since its launch, a total of 940 applications have been received, including 610 registration applications, 53 Post Registration Variations, 75 Product Renewals, 31 new Licensing applications, 7 Post Licensing Variations, and 22 Renewals of Licenses.

Out of these, 188 applications have already been

approved with Digital Letters issued to the companies, while the remaining applications are under process and will be completed within the stipulated timelines.

The Minister was informed that the system is continuously evolving, and within just one month the parameters on the Management Dashboard have increased from 10 to 23, ensuring more vigilant monitoring and effective management of the regulatory process.

The Minister said that the digitization of the medical devices system has not only facilitated ease of doing business, but also promoted domestic and foreign investment, and enabled the growth of the local industry.

He said that significant progress has been made to align the medical devices

regulatory system with international standards.

He said that digitization has improved medical standards in the country, ensured timely and easy availability of quality medical devices across Pakistan, and enhanced global confidence in Pakistan's medical devices regulatory system.

Prior to this initiative, obtaining a license for medical devices took 18 to 24 months, creating unnecessary hurdles for business persons. With the fully digitalized system, licenses are now being issued within 20 days.

This reform ensures that citizens are now submitting their applications online from even their home and conveniently obtain licenses digitally, reflecting the government's commitment to transparency, efficiency, and public service.

IWMB launches plantation drive to restore Margalla Hills ecosystem

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB), in collaboration with the Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) and the Zoological Survey of Pakistan (ZSP), has launched a plantation drive in Margalla Hills National Park to restore the park's natural ecosystem and strengthen conservation efforts.

The initiative, which saw active participation from volunteers, students, and local communities, aims to enhance biodiversity and combat climate change through increased tree cover in what are often referred to as the capital's "green lungs."

Senior officials, including Aamir Abbas Khan, Director (A, L/E), Mohsina Zubair, Director (Lab/NEQS), and Rana Asif, Deputy Director

(A/F), joined the plantation activity.

Interns' representative Mahnoor Idrees and Zahid ul Rehman also took part in the drive, reflecting the broad community involvement in the initiative.

An IWMB spokesperson told APP that the plantation campaign is part of a wider strategy to protect Margalla Hills from deforestation and environmental degradation.

"Preserving our forests is not just about safeguarding wildlife, but also about ensuring a healthier, greener future for generations to come," the spokesperson noted.

The IWMB reiterated its commitment to ongoing conservation measures in Margalla Hills, urging the public to support such initiatives and contribute to building climate resilience across the country.

RPO holds Open Court to address public grievances

RAWALPINDI (APP): Regional Police Officer (RPO) Rawalpindi, Babar Sarfraz Alpa, held an open court at TMA Hall in jurisdiction of City Police station to listen directly to public grievances here on Monday. SP Rawal, SDPO City, SHOs and other police officers were also present on the occasion. Citizens presented their complaints, which the RPO heard attentively. He issued on-the-spot directions to concerned officers for timely and transparent action.

He further directed that reports on all applications must be submitted within the prescribed time frame. RPO Babar Sarfraz Alpa said that open courts are an effective and transparent way to provide justice and strengthen communication between the police and the public. Later, the RPO visited City, Ganjmandi and Ratta Amaral police stations. He inspected the front desks, reference systems, and records to review performance and facilities being provided to the public.



ISSI, BISS sign MoU to strengthen strategic cooperation

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Further strengthening its international partnerships, the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Bangladesh Institute of Strategic Studies (BISS), a prominent think-tank.

The MoU was signed during the official two-day visit of Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar to Dhaka on 23-24

August 2025.

Major General Iftekhar Anis, DG BISS, signed the MoU on behalf of BISS, while Pakistan's High Commissioner to Bangladesh Mr. Imran Haider signed it on behalf of ISSI.

The signing ceremony, in which several agreements, MoUs and other instruments were signed, was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar; Advisor on Foreign Affairs, Government of Bangladesh, Mr. Md. Tuhid Hossain; Pakistan's Additional Foreign

Secretary (Asia-Pacific) Ambassador Imran Ahmed Siddiqui, and other senior officials on both sides.

Consistent with shared desire of promoting mutual understanding and people-to-people links between Pakistan and Bangladesh, the ISSI-BISS MoU is aimed at enhancing institutionalized cooperation between the two Institutes. It will facilitate establishing academic contacts and engaging in research endeavors on areas of emerging national, regional, and global issues. The MoU envisages a detailed

program of cooperation, including exchange of information, improvement of research and academic programs, and exchange of experts and researchers.

Welcoming the signing of the MoU, DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood said that, "in essence, it [MoU] reflects a shared commitment to fostering deeper understanding, mutual dialogue, and academic and research collaboration -- thus contributing to the further growth of fraternal ties between Pakistan and Bangladesh."

NHA announces toll rate hike for M-2 Motorway

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Highway Authority (NHA) has announced new rates for the toll taxes of Lahore-Islamabad Motorway (M2) that will be implemented from August 26, 2025, until August 25, 2026.

According to an official notification issued on Monday, the annual 10% escalation in toll rates is in line with the concession agreement signed with Motorway Operations and Rehabilitation Engineering (Private) Limited—a subsidiary of the Frontier Works Organization (FWO)—on April 23, 2014. The agreement, which is on a Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) basis, mandates this annual adjustment starting from the second operational year.

As per the revised schedule, Cars, Jeeps, and Taxis (Class 1) will be charged Rs. 1,330, calculated at a rate of Rs 3.72 per kilometer. Wagons (Class 2) will now pay Rs 2,240 (Rs 6.24/km), while the toll for Buses has been set at Rs 3,130 (Rs 8.73/km).

For freight carriers, 2-Axle Trucks (Class 4) will be subject to a toll of Rs 4,460 (Rs 12.45/km), and 3-Axle Trucks (Class 5) will pay Rs 5,800 (Rs 16.20/km). Articulated Trucks (Class 6) will incur a toll of Rs 7,460, based on a rate of Rs 20.83 per kilometer.

ANF recovers over 57 kg of drugs worth Rs 7.6 million

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF), conducting 10 operations across the country, recovered as many as 57.245 kg of drugs worth over Rs 7.6 million and arrested 14 suspects, including 4 women, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman on Monday.

He informed that 4.8 kg of hashish was recovered from 2 accused near University Road, Gilgit. Similarly, 4.8 kg of hashish was recovered from 2 accused near a private college during another operation in Gilgit.

As much as 500 grams of hashish was recovered from an accused near a college

area in Mansehra. The arrested suspects confessed to selling drugs to students of educational institutions.

During another operation, 69 heroin capsules weighing 410 grams were recovered from the stomach of a Dubai-bound passenger at Multan International Airport.

As many as 1.425 kg of ice was recovered from a parcel sent to New Zealand from a courier office in Johar Town, Lahore.

Similarly, 26.4 kg of hashish, 1 kg of heroin, 2.4 kg of opium, and 500 grams of ice were recovered from the possession of 3 female passengers at the Rashaghi Toll Plaza. As

many as 7.2 kg of hashish was recovered from the possession of a female passenger traveling on a bus near Jamshoro Toll Plaza.

In another operation, 7.2 kg of hashish was recovered from a passenger near Mehran Colony Bus Terminal. As much as 520 grams of heroin and a drone were recovered from 2 suspects near the border area in Lahore.

Similarly, 90 grams of heroin were recovered from a vehicle at the Motorway Toll Plaza, Islamabad. Cases have been registered against the arrested suspects under the Narcotics Control Act, and further investigations are underway.

Islamabad to get free public Wi-Fi at 30 key locations

ISLAMABAD (APP): The federal capital will soon have free Wi-Fi facilities at 30 locations, including commercial centres, public transport stations, and parks. The decision was finalized during a meeting chaired by Chairman CDA, Muhammad Ali Randhawa on Monday.

The first phase will cover high-traffic areas such as main commercial markets, metro and feeder bus stations, and recreational areas. "The facility will ensure maximum citizens benefit from modern connectivity, easing access to digital services and brid-

ing communication gaps," the meeting was briefed.

Chairman Randhawa directed that a sustainable operational and marketing model be developed for the project, ensuring that revenue generated is reinvested into maintaining and upgrading the system.

"No effort should be spared to digitize Islamabad and turn it into a free Wi-Fi city. All necessary resources must be utilized to ensure uninterrupted, top-quality facilities for citizens," Randhawa said.

The NTC will be responsible for the operation and

maintenance of the system, while CDA's technical team will provide support to ensure smooth execution.

The initiative, being rolled out under the vision of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and directives of Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi, aims to make the capital a "free Wi-Fi city."

Senior officials from the CDA and the National Telecommunication Corporation (NTC), including NTC Managing Director Major General (R) Ali Farhan, participated in the session.

Pakistan–Morocco group calls for stronger parliamentary ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan–Morocco Parliamentary Friendship Group on Monday said that regular parliamentary exchanges can help build long-term cooperation and strengthen people-to-people links between the two countries.

The meeting, chaired by Senator Bilal Ahmed Khan, was attended by Moroccan Ambassador Mohamed Karmoune, senior Moroccan officials, and Senators Faisal Saleem Rahman, Mir Dostain Khan Domki, Umer Farooq, along with Senate Advisor Ms Misbah Khar.

In his opening remarks, Senator Bilal Ahmed Khan underscored the importance of fostering closer Parliamentary, economic, and diplomatic ties between the two countries. Senators and Advisor to the Chairman Senate, Ms. Misbah Khar, extended a warm welcome to the delegation.

Both sides expressed mutual interest in expanding cooperation in key sectors such as education, health, trade, and agriculture. The group emphasised that regular parliamentary exchanges can serve as a strong foundation for long-



term collaboration and people-to-people connectivity.

Supporting these views, Ms. Misbah Khar highlighted the need for institutional collaboration within bilateral and constitutional policy frameworks. She also identified trade, tourism, and cultural

exchange as key areas for building a long-term partnership. Mr. Mohamed Karmoune reaffirmed Morocco's commitment to advancing bilateral relations with Pakistan. He stressed the importance of balancing trade by encouraging greater imports from Pakistan. During the meeting, it was also addressed that the challenges faced by Moroccan nationals in obtaining Pakistani visas.

He added that Morocco has already extended the

facility of e-visa for Pakistani citizens and requested reciprocal facilitation to ease the process for Moroccan applicants. He also extended an invitation to undertake high-level visits to further strengthen bilateral relations.

Senator Mir Dostain Khan Domki appreciated the convening of the Friendship Group meeting, extended a warm welcome to the Moroccan delegation, and underscored its significance in strengthening bilateral relations between Pakistan and Morocco.

Senator Faisal Saleem Rahman identified several promising areas for future collaboration, including education, medical equipment, sports, tourism, and defence training. He emphasised that

a bilateral agreement should be established between Pakistan and Morocco to promote tourism.

Senator Umer Farooq stated that scholarships should be awarded to students in Pakistan on a province-wise basis. He further emphasised the need to promote trade to strengthen the national economy.

The meeting concluded with both sides reaffirming their commitment to further deepen Pakistan–Morocco relations through sustained parliamentary diplomacy and enhanced institutional cooperation. Members underscored that continued dialogue, regular exchanges, and practical initiatives will catalyse fostering stronger bilateral ties and greater people-to-people connectivity.

21 crime suspects arrested

SHIBERGHAN (Pajhwok): Security forces arrested 21 crime suspects in Jawzjan. Police spokesman Qari Abdul Sattar Halimi said that in separate operations over the past two weeks, 21 people were arrested in Shiberghan and several districts of the province on charges of theft, gambling and moral corruption. The intelligence and security forces are constantly working to prevent any kind of disorder and disruption to public order, and no one will be allowed to disturb the peace of society.

KP CM directs payment to flood victims in six days

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Khan Gandapur has given concerned quarters a six-day deadline to ensure payment of all compensations to flood-affected families in relevant districts. He issued these directives while chairing a video-link meeting on Monday, which reviewed district-wise progress on relief disbursements.

The meeting was attended by Advisor on Finance Muzammil Aslam, Chief Secretary Shahab Ali Shah, Secretary Relief, DG PDMA, and deputy commissioners of flood-hit districts. The Chief Minister directed that payments to the heirs of deceased persons, the injured, and owners of damaged houses and shops must be completed by the coming Sunday.

He stressed that compensation procedures should be accelerated, and workable mechanisms must be devised for children of deceased persons who do not have CNICs or bank accounts. Additional health

teams were also ordered to be deployed for speedy verification of the injured, while compensation must also be provided to families of missing persons.

The Chief Minister directed the concerned officials to complete the verification of damaged houses and shops without delay and to collect data on houses destroyed along waterways. He further directed that owners of such homes be engaged for relocation to safer sites. He also directed for payment of financial assistance of Rs 100,000 per household for cleaning houses inundated by floodwaters and debris.

He directed the Finance Department to immediately release Rs 5 billion to PDMA for disbursements and rehabilitation efforts. He also instructed that displaced families from Bajaur should be given cash payments instead of non-food items. Officials briefing the meeting informed that so far 406 deaths and 247 injuries have been confirmed. Compensation of Rs 2 million each has been paid to the heirs of 332

deceased persons, while payments of Rs 500,000 each to injured persons have started with 35 cases settled so far.

Authorities apprised that 28 people are still missing. Out of 5,720 affected families, 4,398 have received food package payments. In Bajaur, 9,698 displaced individuals were provided food assistance. Regarding infrastructure losses, officials said 598 houses were completely destroyed and 2,971 partially damaged. Compensation has already begun, with 43 households receiving payments. Floods also damaged 526 link roads, 106 bridges, 326 schools, 38 health centers, 67 government offices, and 2,808 shops. Compensation to shopkeepers will begin once damage assessments are finalized. The Chief Minister emphasized that the compensation process must be completed within the set timeframe to expedite rehabilitation. He assured that there is no shortage of funds for the purpose, and stressed transparency and strict monitoring in the utilization of resources.

Iran offers support after for flood victims

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi received a telephone call from his Iranian counterpart, General Iskandar Momeni, who expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives caused by torrential rains and floods in Pakistan, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan.

The Iranian Interior Minister conveyed heartfelt condolences to the families of those who lost their loved ones and prayed for patience and strength for the bereaved. He also offered assistance to Pakistan in relief efforts for the flood victims, stressing that Iran considers Pakistan a brotherly neighboring country and stands ready to extend every possible help during this time of trial.

"Pakistan's devastation from these floods is truly heartbreaking. Hundreds of people have been separated from their loved ones. We stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Pakistan," said the Iranian minister. In response, Minister Mohsin Naqvi thanked his Iranian counterpart for the solidarity and support extended. He said Pakistan and Iran share both joys and sorrows, emphasizing that climate change has emerged as a major challenge, causing unprecedented destruction in the country. "For the first time in history, Pakistan is facing such dangerous climate conditions. All institutions are actively engaged in relief and rehabilitation efforts, with the well-being of the flood victims as our top priority," Naqvi stated.

ATC sentences 59 PTI leaders, supporters

F.P. Report

FAISALABAD: A Faisalabad anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Monday sentenced 59 PTI leaders and supporters to 10 years of imprisonment and acquitted 34 others in the case of an attack on former interior minister Rana Sanaullah's house during the May 9, 2023 riots.

On May 9, 2023, PTI supporters, protesting party founder Imran Khan's arrest, staged violent protests throughout the country, following which thousands were arrested. PTI legal team head Malik Khalid Shafiq confirmed the convictions to Dawn.com, adding that 16 individuals were handed three years' jail time.

The deadline given to ATCs to decide various May 9 cases had already passed earlier this month. Therefore, day-to-day hearings were being held in the case, according to Shafiq.

Last week, the Kasur Crime Control Department (CCD) presented former Faisalabad Civil Lines station house officer Zeeshan Khalid Randhawa as a witness during the trial. The former SHO was already under arrest in a separate kidnap and murder case of a Kasur resident. A joint investigation team probing the case had been summoned by an ATC in July 2024 to submit the charge sheet.

Court grants remand of Farhan Ghani

F.P. Report

KARACHI: An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) in Karachi has handed over Sindh provincial minister Syed Ghani's brother, Chanesar Town Chairman Farhan Ghani, along with two co-accused, to police on a four-day physical remand in a case of allegedly assaulting and threatening government employees.

The three accused, including Farhan Ghani, Shakeel, and Qamar Ahmed, were produced before the ATC by Karachi police on Monday. During the hearing, the court questioned the prosecutor and the investigating officer about the nature of the complainant's employment and the work they were performing at the time of the incident.

The investigation officer informed the court that the complainant and others were working under official supervision, but the prosecutor failed to clarify which government department employed them.



NAUNDERO: PPP Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari distributing land papers to flood affectees during a ceremony.

Bilawal hand over houses to flood-affected families

F.P. Report

NAUNDERO: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that the Sindh Government's decision to transfer ownership rights of the houses being built for 2.1 million families affected by the 2022 floods in the name of women is inspired by the vision of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, who firmly believed in women's economic empowerment. He added that these newly constructed houses are not merely shelters but valuable assets that will strengthen the financial security of the women who own them.

According to the press release issued by the Media Cell Bilawal House, Chairman PPP visited the newly constructed and under-construction houses for flood-affected families in the village of Rahooja, Taluka Ratodero, where he distributed ownership certificates to the beneficiaries. On this occasion, PPP Women Wing Central President Faryal Talpur and Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah also accompanied the Party Chairman.

Addressing the beneficiaries, Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari congratulated the women who

received ownership rights of their new homes, along with their families, and extended his best wishes. He said that with the construction of these houses, he and the Sindh Government had fulfilled their promise to the people. Speaking directly to the women homeowners, he said: "These are not just houses but valuable assets whose worth will continue to increase over time. Safeguard them as your own—no one can ever take these homes away from you."

Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that the Pakistan Peoples Party is carrying forward the vision of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, who had pledged to provide the people with Roti, Kapra Aur Makan (bread, clothing, and shelter). He said that, in her memory, the ownership rights of the newly built homes are being granted in the names of women, so that they may achieve greater economic strength and empowerment.

Chairman PPP also praised the commitment and efforts of the Sindh Government in undertaking the ambitious project of constructing 2.1 million houses for flood-affected families. He pointed out that the provincial government is striving to equip these homes with solar energy sys-

tems to meet their electricity needs, while also working on projects to ensure proper sanitation and wash facilities.

During his visit, Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari interacted warmly with the residents of Rahuja village, discussing the construction of their homes, their economic conditions, and the education of their children. He was also given a detailed briefing by representatives of the Sindh People's Housing for Flood Affectees (SPHF) and the Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO). It was informed that out of 122,000 houses planned in Larkana district, construction on 90,000 has already commenced.

The briefing further highlighted that, based on the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) survey, the Sindh Government has distributed thousands of solar kits—comprising bulbs, fans, inverters, batteries, and cables—among deserving families, including flood affectees. On this occasion, Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's Political Secretary and MPA Jameel Ahmed Soomro, along with other members of the Assembly, local government representatives, party office-bearers, and workers, were also present.

Israeli airstrike on Gaza hospital kills 20, including journalists

KHAN YOUNIS: An Israeli airstrike hit the fourth floor of southern Gaza's main hospital Monday, killing at least 20 people, Gaza's health ministry said. The ministry said the victims on the fourth floor of Nasser Hospital were killed in a double-tap strike — one missile hitting first, then another moments later as rescue crews arrived.

The victims of the strike included four journalists, Palestinian health officials said. Cameraman Hossam Al-Masri, who was killed in the strike, was a contractor for Reuters. Photographer Hatem Khaled, who was also a Reuters contractor, was wounded, the officials said. Al Jazeera also confirmed photjournalist, Mohammad Salama, was killed in the hospital strike.

The other victims included, Mariam Abu Daqa, who had worked for various outlets including The Independent Arabic and Associated Press as well as Moaz Abu Taha, a journalist with NBC network. Khan Yonis' Nasser Hospital, the largest in southern Gaza, has withstood raids and bombardment throughout 22 months of war, with officials citing critical shortages of supplies and staff. Israel's military did not immediately respond to questions about the strike.

The Israeli military said Monday it will investigate a strike in the area of Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis. Israeli attacks on hospitals are not uncommon. Multiple hospitals were struck or raided across the strip with Israel claiming attacking militants operating from inside the medical facilities without providing evidence. A June strike on Nasser hospital killed three people and wounded 10.

At the time Israeli military said it had precisely struck Hamas militants operating from within a command and control center at the hospital, however, no evidence was provided of the claim.

Meanwhile, Hezbollah and its ally, the Amal Movement, retracted a joint invitation issued on Monday to their supporters to take to the streets in protest of a government decision limiting the possession of weapons to the Lebanese state. This move came hours after the two groups had called on "workers and their unions" to gather on Wednesday afternoon in Riyadh Al-Solh Square in the heart of Beirut, just meters away from the government headquarters, to denounce the Cabinet decision and defend "the sanctity of the resistance and its noble weapon," a ruling which they called "a decision contrary to the supreme national interest and the formula for coexistence."

The call to take to the streets and the subsequent announcement of its postponement came on the eve of pivotal meetings with US Envoy Thomas Barrack, who is expected in Beirut on Tuesday to relay Israel's response to a US-Lebanese proposal on implementing the ceasefire terms between Israel and Hezbollah. The protest suspension signals that Hezbollah and Amal are awaiting the outcome of Barrack's talks before escalating their opposition to the government ruling. A ministerial source told Arab News that "communications took place between decision makers, including Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, the architect of the ceasefire agreement, and concluded that it is not permissible to pre-

empt Barrack's arrival in Beirut and what Israeli responses he may be carrying, nor to preempt the next session of the Council of Ministers, during which the Lebanese army is scheduled to present its plan for withdrawing illegal weapons."

Barrack, who has so far employed a "step-by-step" approach in his diplomatic efforts, met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Tel Aviv last weekend. The latter's office stated on Monday that "Israel will gradually reduce its presence in Lebanon if the Lebanese security forces take steps to disarm Hezbollah." Netanyahu's office said in a statement that Tel Aviv "appreciates Lebanon's steps regarding the restriction of arms by the end of this year, and considers this decision fundamental and an opportunity for Lebanon to regain its sovereignty and build its institutions."

"Israel will take reciprocal steps, including a gradual reduction of the Israeli army's presence, in coordination with the United States." The statement added that "the time has come to work with Lebanon in a spirit of cooperation with the aim of disarming Hezbollah. Israel is ready to support Lebanon in its efforts to disarm Hezbollah and work together towards a safer and more stable future for both countries." The Israeli Army Radio reported that Tel Aviv agreed to a "gradual withdrawal" from the five points along the border with Lebanon, "provided that the disarmament of Hezbollah begins," and that these positions are not part of the ceasefire agreement, but rather a fait accompli imposed by Israel, which will establish these positions. — Arab News

US National Guard troops begin carrying weapons

WASHINGTON: National Guard troops patrolling the United States capital at the direction of President Donald Trump have started carrying firearms, the military said. "Starting the late evening of August 24, 2025, [Joint Task Force-DC] service members began carrying their service-issued weapon," the Joint Task Force-DC said in a statement.

The troops are only authorised to use force "as a last resort and solely in response to an imminent threat of death or serious bodily harm", the statement said. Unnamed officials told the Reuters news agency that the National Guard would either carry M17 pistols or M4 rifles. The announcement came as Trump claimed, without evidence, on Sunday that there is "no crime and no murder in DC!", one week after he deployed troops there.

In the same post on Truth Social, Trump said he might "send in the 'troops'" to neighbouring Baltimore, which he described as "out of control" and "crime-ridden". Responding to an invitation from Maryland

Governor Wes Moore to visit Baltimore and walk its streets, Trump said: "I would much prefer that he clean up this Crime disaster before I go there for a 'walk'."

However, according to the Baltimore police department, there was a double-digit reduction in gun violence in July compared with the previous year. The city has had 84 homicides so far this year—the fewest in more than 50 years, according to Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott. In Washington, DC, which has a population of just more than 700,000 people, thousands of National Guard and federal law enforcement officers are now patrolling the streets.

The National Guard is a part-time force of reserve soldiers, which, according to the US Army, can be called on to respond to domestic emergencies, overseas combat missions and "counter-drug efforts". Their presence in the national capital, along with federal law enforcement officers, has been met by protests, as well as fear and confusion from residents.

At Trump's request, some Republican governors have sent hundreds of National Guard troops to Washington, DC, which the president has depicted as being in the grip of a crime wave, although official data shows crime is down in the city.

Since Washington, DC, is not a state, the president has the power to take over policing in the capital for up to 30 days. Many residents have long advocated for the district to become a state. However, Democrats did not further pursue efforts to make it a state after passing a bill in favour of it through the then-Democrat-controlled House of Representatives in 2020.

Meanwhile, JB Pritzker, the Democratic governor of Illinois, on Sunday rejected Trump's push to send troops into Chicago. "Donald Trump is attempting to manufacture a crisis, politicise Americans who serve in uniform, and continue abusing his power to distract from the pain he is causing working families," Pritzker said in a statement. — Aljazeera

UK migrant arrivals on boats reach new record

LONDON (Reuters): A record 28,076 migrants have crossed the Channel to Britain in small boats this year, a 46 percent rise on the same period in 2024, government data showed on Monday, piling pressure on Prime Minister Keir Starmer over his handling of immigration.

The sharp increase comes amid mounting public concern over immigration, which is polling as the public's top concern, with anti-migrant protests continuing outside hotels housing asylum seekers. The record was reached on Sunday after 212 migrants arrived in four different boats that day, the data showed.

The Home Office, or interior ministry, did not immediately respond to a

request for comment. Demonstrations took place across Britain over the weekend following a court ruling last week that ordered the removal of asylum seekers from a hotel in Epping, north-east of London, the latest flash-point in the immigration debate.

Starmer's Labour government has pledged to phase out hotel use by 2029 and to overhaul the asylum system. On Sunday it announced reforms to speed up asylum appeals and reduce a backlog of more than 100,000 cases. Home Secretary Yvette Cooper, the country's interior minister, said the changes were aimed at restoring "control and order" to a system she described as "in complete

chaos."

Official data last week showed asylum claims were at a record high, with more migrants being housed in hotels compared with a year ago. Nigel Farage, leader of the right-wing Reform UK party that has topped recent surveys of voting intentions, outlined plans for "mass deportations" of migrants arriving by small boats. These would include taking Britain out of the European Convention on Human Rights, barring asylum claims, and building detention centers for 24,000 people. He told The Times newspaper he would strike repatriation deals with countries such as Afghanistan and Eritrea, and arrange daily deportation flights.

IHC intervenes in Afghan nationals' deportation

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has temporarily blocked the deportation of 18 Afghan citizens, demanding a response from the Pakistani government. Chief Justice Sarfraz Dogar issued the stay on Monday, halting repatriation proceedings against the individuals and preventing further measures against them. Notices were served to several government bodies, including the Ministry of Interior, NADRA, the Director General Immigration, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), and the police,

requiring them to submit their responses.

The Afghans had petitioned the court after their Proof of Residence (PoR) cards were revoked on August 4, leading to deportation orders. Their lawyer contended that they are relatives of the late Fazlur Rehman, who had initiated the process for Pakistani citizenship in 2008. However, a final decision on his application remains pending.

The court barred authorities from any action against the petitioners until the subsequent hearing slated for September 18, directing all involved entities to provide detailed comments. This interven-

tion comes amidst the Pakistani government's declaration earlier this month to initiate the repatriation of over 1.3 million Afghan refugees holding PoR cards starting September 1. The Ministry of Interior had previously announced on July 31 that these cardholders, the last group of Afghans legally residing in Pakistan without visas, would lose their legal status after June 30 upon the expiration of their cards. On August 4, instructions for enforcing the Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan (IFRP) were dispatched to provincial authorities across Pakistan.

Trump says he wants meeting with Kim as Lee visits White House

WASHINGTON/SEOUL (Reuters): US President Donald Trump said on Monday he wanted to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and that he was open to further trade talks with South Korea even as he lobbed new criticisms at the visiting Asian ally.

South Korea's new President, Lee Jae Myung, arrived for talks just after Trump criticized the South Korean government, apparently over its handling of investigations related to his conservative predecessor's December attempt to impose martial law. The remarks cast a dark mood over high-stakes talks for Lee, who took office in June after a snap election that followed Yoon Suk Yeol's impeachment and removal. Welcoming Lee to the White House's Oval Office, Trump said he was open to negotiating aspects of the US-South Korean trade deal and to meeting Kim.

"I'd like to have a meeting," Trump told reporters. "I look forward to meeting with Kim Jong Un in the appropriate future." Lee showered praise on Trump and said he hoped for Trump to engage with North Korea. South Korea's economy relies heavily on the US, with Washington underwriting its security with troops and nuclear deterrence. Trump has called Seoul a "money machine" that takes advantage of American military protection.

Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump signed an executive order on Monday that seeks to end cashless bail by threatening to revoke federal funding for jurisdictions that use it, part of a White House effort to push crime fighting to the top of the national agenda. Trump signed a separate order that instructs police in Washington, D.C. to charge suspects with federal crimes and

hold them in federal custody to avoid cashless bail, according to a fact sheet seen by Reuters.

"Cashless bail, we're ending it. But we're starting by ending it in D.C. and that we have the right to do through federalization," Trump said during a signing ceremony in the White House. Trump has seized control of the police force in Washington and is allowing National Guard troops to carry weapons while on patrol in the city. He is also threatening to expand the US military presence to Democratically-controlled cities like Baltimore and Chicago. Critics have slammed the administration's actions as unnecessary overreach. The focus on crime is seen as a preview of how Trump and his fellow Republicans plan to use the issue as they seek to retain control of both houses of Congress in the midterm elections next year.