

ISPR releases patriotic song
F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) has released a new patriotic song “*Jaana Se Pyara Pakistan*” on the occasion of Independence Day and Marka-e-Haq. The song beautifully highlights the love for the homeland and the spirit of national unity. The determination, courage and preparedness of the Pakistan Army have been powerfully woven into the lyrics.



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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairing a meeting to review progress regarding Jinnah Medical Complex.

PM takes notice of urban flooding in Islamabad

— orders swift rescue, safety measures

Saqib Mushtaq

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday took serious notice of the flood-like situation that developed in various low-lying residential areas of the federal capital following recent heavy rainfall.

In a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office, PM Shehbaz directed the Capital Development Authority (CDA) and district administration to immediately launch rescue operations and ensure swift drainage of rainwater from the affected neighborhoods near stormwater drains. Expressing concern over the plight of residents in flood-prone zones, the Prime Minister instructed relevant authorities to implement precautionary measures to protect people living in vulnerable areas surrounding streams and nullahs.

He also ordered the health department to remain on high alert and take proactive steps to prevent the outbreak of waterborne diseases in the aftermath of the rainfall. PM Shehbaz constituted a special committee to oversee rescue operations, assess the evolving situation, and ensure the safety and relief of affected citizens.

The prime minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to protecting lives and property during natural calamities, stressing the need for a prompt and organized response from all concerned departments.

Shehbaz expresses satisfaction as KSE-100 crosses 145,000 points mark: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif expressed deep satisfaction over the performance of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), as

the benchmark KSE-100 Index surged past the historic 145,000-point milestone.

In a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office, Shehbaz Sharif said the bullish trend in the stock market is a strong reflection of investor confidence in the government's economic policies. "The recent upward momentum in the stock exchange indicates growing trust in the government's direction and commitment to economic stability," said the Prime Minister. He emphasized that facilitating business and investment remains among the government's top priorities.

PM Shehbaz pointed out that improvements in the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) have streamlined the tax system and provided relief to the business community. "Reforms in FBR have not only strengthened the tax structure but have also made it more business-friendly," he said. "Alhamdulillah, Pakistan's economic trajectory is improving, and we are steadily moving toward sustainable growth," the Prime Minister said.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also directed the relevant authorities to ensure global standards of specialized healthcare in the construction of Jinnah Medical Complex.

"Jinnah Medical Complex will be a world-class hospital providing medical treatment for patients from all four provinces, including Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan," the prime minister said while chairing a review meeting on the progress of JMC's construction. The prime minister directed to prioritize transparency and merit in the construction and staff

recruitment for Jinnah Medical Complex. He also instructed to ensure the third-party validation for construction quality and transparency.

He directed to prepare a plan to improve primary and secondary healthcare systems in Islamabad to reduce pressure on tertiary hospitals. He said Pakistan Kidney and Liver Institute (PKLI) was effectively serving as a source of treatment for patients.

"Jinnah Medical Complex will be built with international-standard facilities and it will have even better facilities as compared to that of PKLI," the prime minister said stressing to outsource all related services, including janitorial, totally on merit. During the meeting, the prime minister was briefed on the concept design, board formation, land acquisition, and progress regarding the proposed commercial center adjacent to the hospital.

The meeting was informed that the concept design, land transfer, and board appointments were in their final stages. It was further noted that geotechnical studies and social impact studies are underway to ensure the highest construction standards and to enhance the hospital's utility for residents of Islamabad and surrounding areas.

The meeting was also briefed on the timelines and targets for various initiatives. Federal Ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Ahad Khan Cheema, Syed Mustafa Kamal, PM's Coordinator for Health Dr. Mukhtar Bharath, PKLI Chairman Professor Dr. Saeed Akhtar, and relevant senior officials attended the meeting.

Army rejects rumours about Field Marshal

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: The Pakistan Army has rejected rumors about Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir becoming president. Director General of army media wing ISPR, Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, in an exclusive interview with The Economist, dismissed the reports of Field Marshal Munir becoming president as false.

Lt Gen Chaudhry stated categorically that Field Marshal Munir has never shown interest in ascendency to the presidency. "No such proposal is under consideration," he continued "These claims are irresponsible and purely fictional. Dragging the military into politics is dangerous and misleading," he added.

The Pakistan Army's spokesperson also rejected political analyses made after the recent military operation (referred to as "Ma'rakah-e-Haq" – Battle for Truth). When The Economist asked General Chaudhry what Pakistan's response would be to any Indian military action, he gave a clear and firm reply:

"If India attacks, this time we will start from the east. The response will begin with a deep strike inside India." He said that India needs to understand that they can be targeted anywhere. It may be recalled that Indian rumour machines started circulating news that Field Marshal Munir would soon take over Pakistan as president. The Indian media frenzy was based on an article in the British magazine The Economist published on August 3, in which Field Marshal Munir's leadership qualities were acknowledged for "giving a new direction to US-Pakistan relations" and his private meeting with President Donald Trump at the White House on June 18.

Pakistan Army chief Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir's leadership has been acknowledged at the global level for his role in improving the country image in the comity of nations and "strengthening ties with the United States."

No one can now block PTI founder's release: Saif

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Adviser Barrister Dr Saif has declared that no one can now block the release of PTI founder Imran Khan.

In his statement, Barrister Saif said that PTI staged a successful and peaceful protest yesterday (Tuesday), with a massive turnout in Punjab. He added that both PTI leadership and the public are now awaiting the party founder's next call. "Seeing the huge number of people on the streets nationwide yesterday shook the government," Saif stated. He emphasised that Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur successfully led the march, which drew an overwhelming public response.

He further said that the KP government is eagerly awaiting Imran Khan's next call, adding, "Once we receive it, we will take to the streets again—whether it is towards Islamabad or Lahore."

Barrister Saif clarified that no military operation or displacement is currently taking place in the tribal districts. He said that Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has held consultations with tribal elders to maintain peace in the region. Barrister Saif rejected the criticism being levelled at the Chief Minister regarding operations, calling it baseless.

He stressed that any future decisions will be made with the involvement and advice of the tribal people. He urged all political groups to support the government in its efforts to eliminate terrorism, warning that turning peace efforts into political point-scoring was unfair to the nation.

Trump slaps India with additional 25 per cent tariff

WASHINGTON/NEW DELHI (Reuters): US President Donald Trump on Wednesday issued an executive order imposing an additional 25% tariff on Indian goods citing New Delhi's continued imports of Russian oil, sharply escalating tensions between the two countries after trade talks collapsed.

The new measure raises tariffs on some Indian goods to as high as 50% — among the steepest faced by any US trading partner. The move is expected to hit key Indian export sectors including textiles, footwear, and gems and jewellery and marks the most serious downturn in U.S.-India relations since Trump returned to office in January.

It also comes as Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi prepares for his first visit to China in over seven years, suggesting a potential realignment in alliances as ties with Washington fray. "India will take all actions necessary to protect its national interests," India's external affairs ministry said in a statement, saying it was "extremely unfortunate that the US should choose to impose additional tariffs on India for actions that several other countries are also taking in their own national interest."

It said India's imports were based on market factors and aimed at energy security for its population of 1.4 billion. Trade analysts warned the tariffs could severely disrupt Indian exports. The additional 25% tariff comes into effect 21 days after August 7, the order said.

"With such obnoxious tariff rates, trade between the two nations would be practically dead," said Madhavi Arora, economist at Emkay Global. Indian officials

have privately acknowledged growing pressure to return to the negotiating table. A potential compromise could involve a phased reduction in Russian oil imports and diversification of energy sources.

A senior Indian official said New Delhi was blindsided by the sudden imposition of the new levy and the steep rate, as both countries continue to discuss trade issues. Trump's decision follows five rounds of inconclusive trade negotiations, which stalled over US demands for greater access to Indian agriculture and dairy markets.

India's refusal to curb Russian oil purchases — which surged to a record \$52 billion last year — ultimately triggered the tariff escalation. "Exports to the US become unviable at this rate. Clearly, risks to growth and exports are rising, and the rupee may face renewed pressure," said Garima Kapoor, economist at Elara Securities. "Calls for fiscal support are likely to intensify."

Trump's executive order does not mention China, which also buys Russian oil. A White House official had no immediate comment on whether an additional order covering those purchases would be forthcoming. US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent last week said he warned Chinese officials that continued purchases of sanctioned Russian oil would lead to big tariffs due to legislation in Congress, but was told that Beijing would protect its energy sovereignty.

The US and China have been engaged in discussions about trade and tariffs, with an eye to extending a 90-day tariff truce that is due to expire on August 12, when their bilateral tariffs shoot back up to triple-digit figures.

Major, 2 soldiers martyred in Mastung IED blast

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Three Pakistan Army soldiers, including a major, have embraced martyrdom in a terrorist attack late on the night of 5/6 August, when Indian-sponsored militants targeted a security forces' vehicle with an improvised explosive device (IED) in Mastung district of Balochistan.

According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), the assault was orchestrated by Fitna al Hindustan, a proxy group backed by Indian intelligence. The fallen soldiers were identified as Major Muhammad Rizwan Tahir, aged 31 and a resident of Narowal; Naik Ibni Amin, 37, from Swabi; and Lance Naik Muhammad Younas, 33, hailing from Karak. Major Rizwan, a decorated officer, had participated in several counter-terrorism operations and was known

Four FC personnel martyred in Karak

F.P. Report

KARAK: Four Frontier Corps (FC) personnel were martyred when terrorists ambushed their vehicle in Aman Kot Towee, Karak district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, on Wednesday.

According to reports, armed militants, hiding on a nearby hilltop, opened fire on an FC vehicle in the jurisdiction of Gurguri Police Station, as the personnel were departing for field security duty. All four FC men, including the driver, were martyred on the spot. Following the attack, security forces and police cordoned off the area and launched a search operation in the surrounding mountainous regions to track the assailants.

Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi today vehemently denounced the deadly assault on a Frontier Corps (FC) vehicle in Karak, attributing the violence to terrorists supported by India. Three FC personnel and their driver were killed in the attack.

for leading his men from the front.

In a swift response, Pakistani security forces launched a sanitisation operation in the area. Four Indian-sponsored terrorists connected to the attack

were located and eliminated. According to ISPR, the operation remains ongoing as troops continue efforts to clear the area of any remaining threats and dismantle networks linked to cross-border terrorism.

Modi to visit China for first time in 7 years

NEW DELHI (Reuters): Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit China for the first time in over seven years, a government source said on Wednesday, in a further sign of a diplomatic thaw with Beijing as tensions with the United States rise.

Modi will go to China for a summit of the multilateral Shanghai Cooperation Organization that begins on Aug. 31, the government source, with direct knowledge of the matter, told Reuters. India's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment. His trip will come at a time when India's relationship with the US faces its most serious crisis in years after President Donald Trump imposed the highest tariffs among Asian peers on goods imported from India, and has threatened an unspecified further penalty for New Delhi's purchases of Russian oil.

Modi's visit to the Chinese city of Tianjin for the summit of the SCO, a Eurasian political and security grouping that includes Russia, will be his first since June 2018. Subsequently, Sino-Indian ties deteriorated sharply after a military clash along their disputed Himalayan border in 2020. Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks on the sidelines of a BRICS summit in Russia in October that

led to a thaw. The giant Asian neighbors are now slowly defusing tensions that have hampered business relations and travel between the two countries.

Trump has threatened to charge an additional 10 percent tariff on imports from members — which include India — of the BRICS group of major emerging economies for "aligning themselves with Anti-American policies." Trump said on Wednesday his administration would decide on the penalty for buying Russian oil after the outcome of US efforts to seek a last-minute breakthrough that would bring about a ceasefire in the war in Ukraine.

Trump's top diplomatic envoy Steve Witkoff is in Moscow, two days before the expiry of a deadline the president set for Russia to agree to peace in Ukraine or face new sanctions. Meanwhile, India's National Security Adviser Ajit Doval is in Russia on a scheduled visit and is expected to discuss India's purchases of Russian oil in the wake of Trump's pressure on India to stop buying Russian crude, according to another government source, who also did not want to be named.

Doval is likely to address India's defense cooperation with Russia, including obtaining faster access to pending exports to India of

Moscow's S400 air defense system, and a possible visit by President Vladimir Putin to India. Doval's trip will be followed by Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar in the weeks to come.

US and Indian officials told Reuters a mix of political misjudgment, missed signals and bitterness scuttled trade deal negotiations between the world's biggest and fifth-largest economies, whose bilateral trade is worth over \$190 billion. India expects Trump's crackdown could cost it a competitive advantage in about \$64 billion worth of goods sent to the US that account for 80 percent of its total exports, four separate sources told Reuters, citing an internal government assessment.

However, the relatively low share of exports in India's \$4 trillion economy is expected to limit the direct impact on economic growth. On Wednesday, the Reserve Bank of India left its GDP growth forecast for the current April-March financial year unchanged at 6.5 percent and held rates steady despite the tariff uncertainties. India's government assessment report has assumed a 10 percent penalty for buying Russian oil, which would take the total US tariff to 35 percent, the sources said.

FIA unearths evidence of Rs 1.12b money laundering by Malik Riaz

Corruption scam of Rs 1.24b unveiled in APP: Tarar

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Wednesday said the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has recovered "irrefutable evidence" during its raid at the Safari Hospital which was being used as a front office to stash the complete record of Rs 1.12 billion money laundering by Malik Riaz and Bahria Town.

Sharing a latest development regarding the investigation into the Bahria Town corruption case, the minister told the media that the FIA had discovered important document during the raid which undertaken in accordance with the law. "Those documents are irrefutable evidence of Malik Riaz and Bahria Town corruption. These evidence exposed involvement of Malik Riaz and the staff of Bahria Town in a massive money laundering," the minister stressed.

He said the Safari Hospital was used as a front office to hide the evidence, regretting the transportation of the record through the ambulances. Tarar said the FIA team found Bahria Town staff burning the entire record, but a significant portion has been recovered. He questioned why the record needed to be burned if there was nothing illegal.

The minister confirmed that Khalil, a frontman who managed these affairs for Bahria Town, is now in custody. The evidence establishes links between Bahria Town CFO Amir Rashid, Head of Bahria Town Shahid Qureshi, and a racket of Hawala and Hundi operated by Imran and Qaiser.

He said this discovery points to a major money laundering network through which funds were sent out of Pakistan. "This is just the start of the investigation, and more than this Rs 1.12 billion will come to the fore with further investigation into the case." "More details will be shared with the people of Pakistan on further investi-

Minister vows media reforms

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar, on Wednesday emphasized the need to promote quality entertainment to counter rising intolerance in society. Speaking at a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting, chaired by Senator Syed Ali Zafar, the minister underscored the government's long-standing relationship with journalists, stressing the importance of addressing past injustices against media professionals.

The committee session discussed various agenda items, including the Motion Picture (Amendment) Bill 2024, concerns of journalists, cases under the PECA Act, and issues related to salaries and pensions of employees of PTV and Radio Pakistan. Addressing the issue of film certification, Minister Tarar said that the 18th Constitutional Amendment had created complications regarding film import and certification.

He explained that if each film required cabinet approval for a new censor board, the process would face serious delays. To address this, the proposed bill would empower the relevant federal minister to approve the Film Certification Board, enabling faster decision-making. He further emphasized that coordination between the federal and provincial governments is crucial to streamline film certification. The minister pointed out that Pakistani films have seen significant success abroad, including in Canada, and the government is committed to supporting such content without unnecessary hurdles.

gation," he added.

The FIA is further investigating the case and has traced the absconders associated with this issue, he said, urging them to surrender to the law. He described it as a "mega corruption scandal" involving Malik Riaz and Bahria Town. The minister noted that forensic analysis of the burnt records would be conducted, which he expects will further expose the operation.

Tarar also remarked that while some involved have tried to play the victim, they have caused billions of rupees in damage to the country. He assured that the rights of residents of Bahria Town will be protected at all costs and that this action is solely against Malik Riaz and those involved in the money laundering.

Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar also said that he would personally follow up on the Rs1.24 billion embezzlement case in the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) funds, during a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee

on Information and Broadcasting held here Wednesday.

He gave this response to a question raised by Senator Sarmad Ali, who asked why FIR had not been lodged even after more than ten months of the exposure of the Rs1.24 billion scam. Federal Minister Attaullah Tarar said the Managing Director of APP, Muhammad Asim Khichi, had uncovered a major scam involving misappropriation of Rs 1.24 billion provident fund (PF) and employees-related expenses (ERE) in the organization. He assured the committee that he would pursue the case himself for registration of an FIR against those responsible.

It was further told to the meeting that the amount mentioned in the mega corruption scam was duly endorsed in the Commercial Audit Report 2023-24 and 2025-26. Moreover, the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) had also issued directions to FIA for initiating legal action to recover the embezzled funds.



PESHAWAR: Deputy Speaker Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Suraya Bibi chairing a meeting regarding amendment of rules.

Cashless financial system in TMAs to promote transparency: Ayub

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A high-level meeting was held in Peshawar on Wednesday under the chairmanship of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Minister for Local Government, Arshad Ayub Khan. The meeting was attended by Secretary for Local Government Saqib Raza Aslam, Secretary of the Local Council Board (LCB) Waheed ur Rehman, and other relevant officials.

The meeting focused on the implementation of a Cashless Financial System (CFS) in the Tehsil Municipal Administrations (TMAs) of the province. Representatives from the LCB gave a comprehensive briefing on CFS," stating that under the minister's directives, the implementation process is ongoing in all TMAs to ensure transparency and effective monitoring of financial matters.

So far, 71 TMAs in the province have transitioned to this system, where all payments are being made via cross-checks or digital platforms.

For minor transactions and departmental collections, thermal printers are being used to instantly issue receipts.

It was informed that under this system, all payments including taxes, fees, parking charges, fines, and other expenses will be collected digitally. The system will be linked to banks, and a joint meeting with bank officials has already been held in this regard.

On the occasion, Minister Arshad Ayub Khan said that the CFS will not only eliminate corruption and ensure transparency but will also modernize and improve the system of public service delivery. He instructed the officers of the LCB to ensure rapid implementation.

Massive public protests in Punjab expose true face Sharifs

Rehana Dar's Arrest is a slap on the face of democracy, Dr. Shafqat Ayaz

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Science and Information Technology, Dr. Shafqat Ayaz, stated that the widespread public protests in Punjab have once again proven that the political future of the Sharif family hinges solely on Form-47. The people have seen through their hollow slogans and are no longer buying into their narrative.

Despite mass arrests, crackdowns, and the use of force, the people of Punjab - particularly the citizens of Lahore - took to the streets in large numbers, showing the Sharif family their true political worth.

Dr. Shafqat Ayaz said that yesterday's scenes, where massive crowds flooded the streets across the country, have sent a clear message to the illegitimate government: the people will no longer tolerate injustice.

Referring to the arrest of Rehana Dar, Dr. Ayaz called it a slap in the face of democracy. He said that a brave, ideological, and dignified woman is being targeted solely for her unwavering loyalty to Imran Khan- an act that clearly reflects the panic and fear within the ruling circles.

He condemned the arrest as not only unconstitutional but also as an attack on women's political participation.

He further added that the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa stand shoulder to shoulder with their brothers and sisters in Punjab. This movement is not just about the release of Imran Khan, but a broader struggle for the restoration of democracy, supremacy of the constitution, and the right of people to govern.

In conclusion, Dr. Ayaz vowed that every act of oppression will be confronted, and no sacrifice will be spared in the pursuit of truth and justice. "Our struggle will continue until the release of our leader, Imran Khan, and the establishment of genuine democracy in Pakistan," he affirmed.

Maulana Khabir Azad among religious scholars celebrates Pakistan success in Battle of Truth against India

PESHAWAR (APP): Under the auspices of the Majlis Ulema Pakistan, a National Stability of Pakistan Conference presided over by Chairman Central Ruet Hilal Committee Maulana Syed Abdul Khabir Azad was held at local hotel here on Wednesday.

The conference celebrated Independence Day and the great victory of Pakistan in the Battle of Truth/Operation Iron Wall, paying tribute to the sacrifices of the brave armed forces and honoring the martyrs of Pakistan.

The conference was presided over and led by Chairman of the Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Pakistan / Khatib and Imam of Badshahi Mosque Lahore, Ambassador of Peace, Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khabir Azad, while the chief guest was Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi.

Also present at the conference were Provincial Minister for Religious Affairs and Auqaf Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Pir Adnan Qadri, Bishop of Peshawar Humphrey Sarfraz Peter, Maulana Tayyab Qureshi, Baba Ji Guralp Singh, Maulana Ashraf Ali, Allama Maqsood Salafi, Mufti Fazal Jamil Rizvi, Maulana Fazal Jamil Rizvi, Haroon Sarb Diyul, Maulana Rashid-ul-Haq, Maulana Roohullah Madani, Maulana Ehsan-ul-Haq, Maulana Abdul Rauf Madani, Maulana Dr. Siddique Chishti, Maulana Rafiullah Qasmi, Pastor Altaf Gohar, Pastor Shahid Yousaf and Mufti Atiqullah Qadri.

The conference was also attended by Maulana Hidayatullah, Amjad Aziz, Maulana Fazlullah Junaidi, Maulana Jaleel Jan, Syed Arshad Hussain Naqvi, Maulana Rahmatullah Qadri, Maulana Abid Israr, Pir Umar Farooq Shah, Malik Hameed ur Rehman, Qari Anwar Saleem, Qari Hassan al-Ma'ab, Prof. Zafarullah Jan, Mian Ajmal Abbas, Maulana Faisal Zaman, Pastor George Ghulam, Pastor Taman Lawrence, Mian Muhammad Iqbal, Nadeem Bangash, Hafiz Faqir Muhammad Madani, Maulana Hameedullah Qadri, Umar bin Abdul Aziz, Maulana Usama Qureshi, Hafiz Muhammad Ahmad Qureshi, Mufti Taj Muhammad Junaidi, Maulana Roohullah Touhidi, Maulana Waqar Haider, Zawar Hussain Zaidi, Syed Ghulam Hussain, and many other distinguished scholars, Sufi leaders, and representatives of world religions.

In his key note address, Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khabir Azad said that freedom is the greatest blessing of Allah Almighty.

"Today, we should all thank Allah Almighty for granting us a blessed country of Pakistan. Millions of people sacrificed their lives, wealth, and children for the creation of this beloved homeland. Pakistan was achieved on the foundation of Islam and the Kalima Tayyiba," he said.

He emphasized that today, Pakistan faces threats from its enemies. The Pakistan Armed Forces are our pride and the entire nation stands with its brave armed forces and the Commander-in-Chief, Field Marshal Hafiz General Syed Asim Munir.

He said our brave forces have destroyed the agenda of anti-state elements and our eternal enemy India.

Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad added that on the night of May 6th and 7th, when India launched a cowardly attack on Pakistan, targeting mosques, religious schools, children, women, and the elderly — they struck populated areas and places of worship.

But the entire Pakistani nation includes federal government, the Prime Minister, the armed forces, religious scholars, and general public united and crushed the arrogance of the enemy.

The Pakistan Armed Forces gave a crushing response to Indian aggression and won the hearts of the Pakistani nation and the Muslim Ummah.

Abdul Khabir Azad said the nation salutes the eternal sacrifices of the martyrs and the great victory in the Battle of Truth.

The President, the Prime Minister, and Field Marshal General Asim Munir's role in the progress and prosperity of Pakistan is commendable.

Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, in his speech, extended heartfelt congratulations to Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad for successfully organizing the National Stability of Pakistan Conference in Peshawar.

He said that Pakistan today urgently needs unity, religious harmony, tolerance, peace, love, brotherhood, stability, and national cohesion.

"We will collectively defeat all conspiracies of anti-state forces. Love for the homeland is part of our faith. Today, the entire nation is celebrating Independence Day and the great victory in the Battle of Truth with passion."

Provincial Minister Pir Adnan Qadri stated that our eternal enemy India is promoting terrorism, unrest, and sectarianism in Pakistan in a bid to divide us but failed.

PHC grants protective bail to PTI leaders including Shibli Faraz, Meena Khan

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court (PHC) has granted protective bail to four Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders, including Shibli Faraz, Zartaj Gul, provincial minister Meena Khan, and former member provincial assembly Arbab Jahan. The court directed the authorities not to arrest them and allowed them to approach the relevant courts, on Wednesday.

PHC divisional bench comprising of Syed Arshad Ali and Justice Farah Jamshed heard the petitions filed by the PTI leaders, who were seeking protective bail in cases registered against them.

The court was informed that Zartaj Gul had been sentenced to 10 years in prison by Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) Faisalabad, and that she wanted to file an appeal against the sentence. The court granted her protective bail until August 11, allowing her to approach the relevant court.

During the hearing, Justice Syed Arshad Ali observed that the petitioners' legal team seemed weak, and that they had not objected to the sentence handed down by the trial court. Justice Farah Jamshed asked why Zartaj Gul, who was from Dera Ghazi Khan, had approached the Peshawar High Court.

The counsel argued that Shibli Faraz was sentenced to 10 years in prison by ATC Faisalabad. The court granted him protective bail until August 11, allowing him to approach the relevant court to file an appeal.

The lawyer stated that cases have been registered against Meena Khan a provincial minister and Arbab Jahan Dad a former member of the Provincial Assembly. The court granted them protective bail and restrained the authorities from arresting and directed them to approach the relevant courts and adjourned the hearing.

After the hearing, Zartaj Gul spoke to the media, saying that the oppressed were being punished, and that cases were being registered against PTI leaders and workers. She said that the truth would prevail, and that PTI would continue to stand by its founder, Imran Khan.

ICP inspires young minds as symbol of freedom movement

PESHAWAR (APP): With the green and white of Pakistan's flag fluttering across the length and breadth of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the historic Islamia College Peshawar (ICP)—a cradle of the Pakistan Movement—witnessed a heartening influx of young students ahead of the nation's 78th Independence Day.

The iconic college, now a public sector university, resonated once again with the voices of youth echoing patriotic sentiments and admiration for a legacy deeply rooted in Pakistan's creation.

Students from government and private schools toured the grand domes and verdant lawns of ICP, learning firsthand the pivotal role the institution played in shaping the national consciousness during the struggle for independence.

Amid a sea of fluttering flags and chants of "Pakistan Zindabad," children like seven graders Malaika Bibi, Laiba Farooq, 5th grader Anaya Bibi, Arshiya, Aleena, second grader Ibrahim Khan and nursery student Ismail Khan voiced their awe for the college that not only symbolized academic excellence but also political awakening of people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The students went around its different sections including Khyber Union—a debating society visited by Father of the Nation Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

Their visit timed with the upcoming August 14 festivities was more than ceremonial; it was a walk through history, guided by the very walls that once echoed with debates and discussions that fueled the dream of a sovereign Muslim homeland.

"The history of the Pakistan Movement is incomplete without historic role played by students of Islamia College Peshawar," said Professor Dr Muhammad Naushad Khan, former Vice Chancellor, ICP while talking to APP.

Explaining its history, he said ICP was established on October 1, 1913 by Nawab Sir Sahibzada Abdul Qayyum Khan and british commissioner Sir George Roos-Keppel.

Their encounter with Pathan students at Aligarh Muslim University in 1909 sparked the idea of creating an institution for Muslim students in the North-West Frontier Province (NWFP), now Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

A modest fund of sixty rupees collected by the students was the first seed sown for what would become an intellectual fortress. Philanthropists like Abdul Karim Khan, Sethi Karim Bakhsh, and the Nawab of Dir generously contributed to the Nobel cause, paving the way for the establishment of a college that would nurture not just scholars, but future leaders of the nation.

The inaugural batch comprised only 26 students. Among them was Sahibzada Khurshid, who would later serve as Governor of then NWFP. The institution's first principal, Tipping, led ICP through its formative years, setting the stage for decades of educational excellence and political activism.

Islamia College was more than a center of learning—it was a beacon for the Pakistan Movement in the northwest. The college's debating society, Khyber Union (established in 1936), played a key role in raising political awareness and nurturing leadership skills among students.

Just as Aligarh Muslim University produced vanguards of independence in India, Islamia College Peshawar provided the ideological and intellectual leadership for Pakistan's creation," said Muhammad Younas Khan, Chairman, Department of Pakistan Studies at ICP.

Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah visited ICP thrice—once in 1936, then in 1945, and finally in 1948 as Pakistan's first Governor General. During his 1945 visit, students and the Muslim Students Federation presented him with Rs 8,000 for the Pakistan Movement—equivalent in spirit to thousands of volunteers pledging their lives to the cause.

The 1946 general elections and 1947 referendum saw overwhelming support from the NWFP (now KP) for the Muslim League and Pakistan.

"The province's enthusiastic endorsement of Quaid-e-Azam's vision cemented its place in history as a frontline region in the independence struggle," Younas added.

Quaid e Azam's affection for the institution was evident in both words and deeds. In a memorable speech to ICP students on April 12, 1948, he called them "future builders of Pakistan," urging them to develop discipline, character, and academic excellence. He left more than just words behind. In his will, penned in 1939, the great Quaid named ICP among three institutions to inherit his property, alongside Aligarh Muslim University and Sindh Madrassatul Islam.

The Quaid Trust eventually contributed over Rs 10 million to ICP, enabling the establishment of the Quaid-e-Azam College of Commerce, women's colleges, faculty residences, and Takbeer Block.

Today, the grand clock tower of Islamia College stands tall not just as a landmark of Peshawar, but as a proud symbol on the Rs 1000 currency note. From its humble beginnings, ICP has transformed into a public sector university offering education from kindergarten to PhD.

It remains rooted in its founding ideals of education, progress, and patriotism. Nearby, the University of Peshawar (established in 1949 per Jinnah's vision), the University of Engineering and Technology (UET), and the Agriculture University further echo the educational revolution sparked by ICP.

As Independence Day of Pakistan nears, the influx of young students to ICP is a heartening reminder that the spirit of freedom and unity still resonates powerfully among the youth.

By revisiting the college's storied past, these students are not only honoring history but inheriting a legacy that demands they, too, become torchbearers of knowledge, character, and national service. Islamia College Peshawar, once the dream of visionaries, continues to inspire, just as it did over a century ago.

DG Sports welcomes football hero Anees on return from Norway Cup

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR :A grand reception was held at the Peshawar Sports Complex by Director General Sports Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Tashfeen Haider, to welcome Muhammad Anees - a member of the Pakistan team that won the Norway Football Cup.

Muhammad Anees hails from Landi Kotal, Khyber and has brought great pride to the country through his outstanding performance on the international stage.

DG Sports, Tashfeen Haider, appreciated Muhammad Anees and lauded his remarkable achievement, stating that young athletes like him are not only the pride of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa but of the entire nation.

He added that Anees' hard work, dedication and success serve as a beacon of inspiration for the youth. The government is fully committed to providing all possible support and patronage to such talented individuals.

On this occasion, Director Sports (Operations) Jamshed Baloch, Regional Sports Officer Peshawar Kashif Farhan, Assistant Director Sports for Merged Districts Muhammad Riaz, Chief Coach Shafqat Ullah, Vice President Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tqball Association Akhtar Rasool, Administrator Yousaf Afridi, Coach Aman Ullah and other officials were also present. They extended their congratulations to Muhammad Anees and expressed pride in his international achievement.

KPIC issues show cause notice to DG Health Services

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Taking serious notice of the absence of the Public Information Officer (PIO) from personal hearing at the Commission, the KPIC issued a show cause notice to the Director General of Health Services, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Before this the PIO of the said department was summoned, for personal hearing in 12 different cases wherein citizens filed complaints to the Commission after the PIO's failure to provide their requested information under the KP RTI Act.

While in other cases PIOs of the Lady Reading Hospital, Khyber Medical College, Khyber Teaching Hospital, Science & Technology Department, and DHO among others attended the Commission.

In hearing of a complaint, the PIO of LRH provided the citizen-requested data, in which the complaints namely Zia Ullah Samdani resident of Mardan, filed an RTI request to LRH, wherein he sought information about a post of Pharmacy Manager, which was filled in 2022. He sought the List of appeared candidates, documents of selected candidate, names and minutes of the interview panel, and detail of marking by each member of the panel. But the public body failed to provide the citizen-requested information within the stipulated time period.

Deciding on citizen Shandana Amir's Complaint, the Commission directed the KMC to provide the complete data within five working days, as the citizen sought parawisely in her RTI request. Before the complaint she had filed an RTI request to KMC, wherein she sought data regarding the selection of Chairperson of the Pharmacology Department, Khyber Medical College.

While in the hearing, Science Technology & Information Technology Department, Health Department, and Directorate of Drugs Control & Pharmacy Services provided the citizen-requested data.





In brief

Three drug peddlers arrested F.P. Report

BUREWALA: Police on Wednesday arrested three drug peddlers in Vehari district. According to a spokesperson, police teams conducted raids, acting swiftly, officers established a checkpoint and intercepted a suspicious vehicle bearing registration number LEF-4695 and apprehended the suspects namely as Ali Dhaddi, Usama and Amin. Police recovered 11.808kg of opium and 36.25kgs of hashish from their possession. Cases were registered against the suspects while further investigation was underway.

Constructions demolished F.P. Report

FAISALABAD: Under the direction of Acting Director General Faisalabad Development Authority (FDA), the enforcement team successfully thwarted the establishment of eight illegal housing schemes and additional Abadies in the Dijkot area. The team demolished all their construction infrastructure. The operation was conducted under the supervision of Director Town Planning Asma Mohsin with Estate Officer Aneeb Aslam Randhawa leading the enforcement team. During an inspection in Dijkot, the team discovered that developers were attempting to establish housing schemes and four additional Abadies on land in Chak No. 262 and 263 RB under the names of Gulshan Habib, New Gulberg, Hidayat Town and Ali Garden.

Woman dies after falling into well F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: A woman died after falling into a deep well in Khazana Kotkay area of Lower Dir on Wednesday. Rescue 1122 officials said. According to the rescue service, teams rushed to the site immediately after receiving the alert and launched an operation. Due to the possible presence of toxic gases and risk of suffocation inside the well, a rescuer wearing a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) carried out the operation with full safety measures. The woman was retrieved from the well and shifted to the District Headquarters Hospital, where doctors confirmed she had died.

Imran's release demanded F.P. Report

MIRANSHAH: Provincial Minister for Relief, Rehabilitation and Settlement and President Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf North Waziristan Malik Nik Muhammad Khan Dawar, on August 5, at the Headquarters of North Waziristan, Miran Shah, was organized by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and a protest against the North Waziristan. Had to do a large number of party workers and Youth Wing officials participated in the protest. Addressing the protest, local Person Noor Alam Khan and Malik Karamat Khan said that Imran Khan is currently the hope and voice of the people of Pakistan who are being subjected to political retaliation. He said that all false and baseless cases should be abolished immediately and Imran Khan should be released immediately. Speakers added that under the leadership of Imran Khan, the country could be on the path of development and autonomy, so their freedom is the voice of every patriotic citizen. The protest ended peacefully and the workers expressed their commitment that they would continue to raise their voice on every forum until the release of their leader.



MULTAN: A flood-affected woman, along with her child, prepares traditional bread near the banks of the Chenab River, as rising floodwaters in the background keep surrounding rural areas on high alert during monsoon season.

17 managerial positions vacant in female education

F.P. Report

BUNER: District Education Officer (DEO) Female Laila Ali has revealed that there are 17 management cadre positions are vacant since long and argued to the high-ups for filling them for further promotion of female education, on Wednesday.

This she revealed while talking to The Frontier Post and added that the vacant seats including of six SDEOs and 11 ASDEOs seats. She has claimed that women's education in Buner is rapidly improving. She added that it can be further improved if appointments are made as soon as possible.

DEO Laila Ali has repeatedly requested the concerned authorities to make required appointments on priority basis. She shared that the role of District Education Officer is very important but having a team is very important.



Because the management team members are in direct contact with the teachers and students in schools and reports are made immediately and any issue is resolved well in time.

DEO said in response to a question that she is shouldering responsibilities of Mohmand district too. But in order to fulfill "my responsibilities" in a better manner, I have scheduled two days a week for completing mandatory office work and school visits as per the schedule so that time can be given to both the office and the field in Buner.

KP HCC seals 1,491 facilities in one year Haleem Asad

LOWER DIR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Care Commission (KP HCC) registered 2,397 healthcare establishments and sealed 1,491 others for various violations over the past year, an official said on Wednesday.

KP HCC spokesperson Azim ur Rehman told journalists in Chakdara that the commission conducted 9,100 inspections between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025, and issued notices to 2,821 facilities to rectify deficiencies and improve service standards.

He said the commission also issued 65 full licences and 344 provisional licences during the period, besides organising 24 training sessions on Minimum Service Delivery Standards, which benefited 486 healthcare professionals from various districts.

According to Mr Rehman, the commission received 1,111 complaints against healthcare facilities during the year, 94 per cent of which were resolved. He said the director Legal Affairs KP HCC, Mohsin Ali Turk, lauded the staff's performance, saying their commitment to ensuring quality healthcare for the province's residents was growing stronger.

Unknown motorcyclist looted woman F.P. Report

LARKANA: Unknown motorcyclists robbed of 100,000 from Miran Khatoon, a woman from the Jogi community, near Ghazi Chowk in Badah city, and escaped from the crime scene.

The victim protested in front of the media in this regard, the affected woman said that she was going home after withdrawing the installment amount for the construction of a government house from the bank when the motorcyclists held her hostage at Ghazi Chowk, robbed her of all the money and fled. On the other hand, a report of the incident has been filed at the Badah police station.

Kashmir Exploitation Day observed: On the special instructions of Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Nusrat Shah, Kashmir Exploitation Day was observed with great devotion and solidarity at SMBBMU, Larkana. On this occasion, a rally and ceremony were organized at Chandka Medical College Larkana to express solidarity with the oppressed Kashmiri people.

Cops directed not to misuse authority

Fazal Haq

MARDAN: Regional Police Officer (RPO) visited Mardan Police Lines on Wednesday, where a dignified ceremony was organized in his honor. The visit began with a visit to the Martyrs' Memorial, a salute by a decorated contingent, laying of wreaths and reciting Fateha. Later, the RPO conducted a detailed inspection of various departments, investigation and operational offices and available facilities of the Police Lines.

A police Darbar was also held on the occasion, in which DPO Mardan gave a briefing on the security situation of the district, crime control efforts, training measures and public service projects. The RPO, while addressing the police court, said with determination that my police service started from this region. Mardan is my second home, and the performance of the officers and men here has always been exemplary, which I am proud of.

RPO outlined three key priorities on which the regional command will focus: police welfare, improvement of infrastruc-

ture and establishment, and effective measures in counter-terrorism. He said that we will not sit silent against terrorists. After serving in CTD for eight and a half years, I know how to deal with the enemy. If someone martyrs our soldiers, we will not back down. The one who backs down cannot be our brother. He warned the officers not to misuse their position, not to take out personal enmity or revenge on anyone.

No officer, be it a DPO or an RPO, will ask you to do illegal work. If anyone puts pressure on you, refuse without hesitation. He further said that we have to do our job with honor. Every human being can make mistakes, but what will never be tolerated is hurting a poor person or taking money from him. Strict action will be taken against those who do this, because Allah does not help those who commit injustice. The RPO announced a full-scale jihad against drugs, especially ice, and said that if any police officer is found involved in dealings with drug dealers, strictest action will be taken against him. At the end of his

speech, he said.

Food recovered substandard eggs: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority (KPFSA) conducted a major raid on a warehouse located on Shamsi Road following a tip-off. During the operation, more than 2,000 cracked and substandard eggs were recovered. These eggs were being supplied to various hotels, bakeries, and other food outlets, posing a serious threat to public health.

All the recovered eggs were immediately transported to a designated dumping site and destroyed on the spot. The warehouse owner was heavily fined for gross violations of food safety laws, absence of a medical certificate, poor hygiene conditions, and endangering public health.

Assistant Director Food Safety, Rukia Nawaz Khan stated that the Mardan team will not tolerate food adulteration or the sale of hazardous food items under any circumstances. She further emphasized that such operations will continue regularly to ensure the health and safety of citizens, and no one will be allowed to play with human lives.

Integration of gown with town

Dr. Fakhr-ul-Islam

RECENTLY, I was invited to a panel discussion with fellow academicians to explore the theme: "Bridging the Gap Between Universities and Society at Large." I presented the following points:

1. The Changing Value of Resources: The traditional belief that a country's wealth is determined by its natural resources is no longer valid. In the modern era, human resources are considered more valuable than mineral wealth. Japan serves as a prime example—despite having scarce natural resources, it invested heavily in human capital and transformed itself into

a global economic superpower. Similar strategies have been adopted by many countries in East and Southeast Asia, including members of the BRICS group.

2. The Rise of the Knowledge Economy: The 21st century has ushered in the concept of the knowledge economy, where knowledge creation drives economic growth and wealth generation. A major pillar of this economy is the digital economy. Pakistan's IT exports currently stand at \$3.2 billion, which, although promising, fall significantly short compared to India's share of 18% in the global IT market. To remain competitive, Pakistan must overhaul its IT policy and set a clear

annual export target of \$10 billion in the coming years.

3. Bridging Academia and Industry: Unfortunately, a significant disconnect exists between academia and industry in Pakistan. At present, around 60,000 highly qualified professors are employed in universities across the country, and approximately 500,000 graduates enter the job market each year. Yet, the economy and industrial sectors gain minimal benefit from this skilled workforce. It is essential to formulate a comprehensive policy that fosters integration between academic institutions and the broader economy. This approach may aptly be termed "Integrating the Gown with the Town."

Man dies in DPO office

F.P. Report

HAFIZABAD: A tragic incident unfolded in Hafizabad as an elderly citizen lost his life while waiting for hours to meet the District Police Officer (DPO) outside the newly constructed DPO office. The unfortunate incident has sparked public outrage over the lack of basic facilities and empathy for citizens seeking justice.

According to details, Mujahid, a senior resident of Mohallah Hassan Town, had arrived at the DPO office the previous day with a written application, hoping to present his grievance directly to DPO Atif Nazir. However, he was made to wait in the open corridor of the newly built DPO complex for nearly five hours.

During this time, intense heat, suffocating humidity, and the blazing sun took a toll on the elderly man's fragile health. Before he could get an audience with the officer, he collapsed and passed away on the spot. His body was later shifted to his residence, where scenes of grief and mourning gripped the neighborhood as family and community members gathered in disbelief over the tragedy.

It is worth noting that the DPO office lacks proper waiting areas or shelter for visitors, many of whom travel from remote and rural

parts of the district in search of justice. On any given day, dozens of distressed complainants are seen sitting or standing for hours under the open sky, with no access to drinking water, seating, or shade.

This unfortunate incident has reignited criticism of the police administration for its failure to provide basic amenities for citizens, especially the elderly and vulnerable. Human rights activists and civil society representatives have called for immediate improvements in public dealing infrastructure and demanded a thorough inquiry into the circumstances that led to Mujahid's death. They further emphasized that justice cannot be achieved in a system where even seeking help becomes a matter of life and death.

Family park turns into filthy pond due to sewerage water accumulation: Once a vibrant recreational spot for families, the Family Park located on Park Road in Hafizabad has now turned into a filthy pond due to gross negligence and apathy of Municipal Committee officials. The park, which was once a symbol of beauty and community well-being, is now filled with sewage and drainage water, causing a foul stench and making it unfit for public use.

According to local residents, wastewater from

sewer lines and drainage systems has been deliberately diverted into the park, submerging it in contaminated water. The once lush green park that attracted families for morning and evening walks is now a breeding ground for mosquitoes and disease, and has become an eyesore in the name of the "Clean Punjab" initiative.

The issue has sparked widespread outrage among the public. Area residents and citizens have staged protests, holding the Municipal Committee responsible for the deplorable state of the park. They have criticized the concerned officials for their continued negligence and failure to maintain public spaces.

"The condition of the park reflects the failure of the local administration. It is heartbreaking to see such a beautiful park reduced to a filthy swamp," lamented a local resident.

Citizens have appealed to the Commissioner of Gujranwala Division and the Deputy Commissioner of Hafizabad to take immediate notice of the situation. They have demanded urgent measures to drain the sewage water and restore the park to its original condition, so that it may once again serve as a healthy recreational space for the families of Hafizabad.

The Butterfly, the rose, the fire — and Hanif Khalil

Farooq Sarwar

TODAY, I feel an urge to dedicate my column to a dear friend — Hanif Khalil. Hanif is a man who lives in a village engulfed by flames, where thousands of children are crying — surrounded by sorrow and trapped in countless troubles. Witnessing these scenes, Hanif becomes deeply distressed. He wishes to find a solution to these problems, to put out the fire ravaging his village, and to comfort the children — to rescue them from their misery.

In this moment of turmoil, he meets an old man — who speaks

to him gently: "Stop burdening yourself with the worries of the world. Don't try to carry every problem on your shoulders. The world has always moved like this, and it will continue this way. You should become a butterfly — the kind that lands on flowers, breathes in their fragrance, and delights in the beauty of life."

Hanif looks at the old man in surprise and suddenly, the man transforms into a butterfly and floats down to rest on a red rose. Hanif feels as though the old man is calling out to him: "Come, sit with me. Inhale the fragrance of this red rose. Take in the tenderness, the colors, and

the beauty of this life. Yes, the world is on fire, and we must try to put that fire out — but if we fail to notice the beauty, then our boat will never sail in the right direction."

Hanif smiles and says, "Yes — perhaps, for a while, I too should become a butterfly." And turning toward the fire, he says, "My battle with you will continue, but for a little while, like my elder, I will become a butterfly — and I will enjoy life." He then transforms into a butterfly, lands on the red rose, and begins to absorb its fragrance and its beauty.

Hanif Khalil currently resides in Islamabad. He teaches at

Islamabad University, where he is known as a kind and gracious mentor. He is regarded as one of the leading critics of Pashto literature. He has authored dozens of important books and has received major literary awards in both Pakistan and Afghanistan. To the best of my knowledge, he has also been honored with the Presidential Award.

Hanif is a dear and close friend of mine. Many of the smiles in my life are tied to his presence. From him, I learned that even in moments of worry, one can still smile — that friendship is not just about loyalty, but about sharing joy and laughter. Hanif and I have spent many

wandering nights together.

In Peshawar, we walked through the quiet streets at night. In Quetta, we felt the spirit of vagrancy on empty, sleeping roads. And in Islamabad, at two in the morning, we would sit in Hanif's car like two wandering souls, drifting through the silent city before dawn.

We enjoyed life together. With Hanif, I experienced the joy of good food, of books, of libraries, of bustling markets and quiet corners of beauty. And above all, I felt peace — because a soul as beautiful as Hanif's was always beside me. Hanif is not only a brilliant critic and writer — he is a fragrance, with-

out which our gatherings, our world, perhaps even our hearts, feel incomplete. That is why we remember him everywhere — and praise him from the heart.

Hanif Khalil has brought new dimensions to Pashto literature. He trained and nurtured emerging writers, encouraged them and I count myself among them, even though I see myself as a very ordinary writer. Pashto literature is incomplete without Hanif Khalil. His laughter is the fragrance of home. And my prayer is: May Allah always protect that smile — for it is a lamp that continues to glow, offering hope in the darkest of nights.



Thursday, August 07, 2025



SEOUL: Kim Keon Hee, the wife of South Korea's ousted former President Yoon Suk Yeol, arriving at the special prosecutor's office.

South Korea's former first lady 'sorry' about graft probe

SEOUL (Reuters): South Korea's former first lady Kim Keon Hee apologised on Wednesday as she appeared for questioning by investigators on a string of corruption charges that plagued her husband's term before it ended abruptly, calling herself "a nobody." Both Kim and ex-President Yoon Suk Yeol are under separate investigations by special prosecutors appointed after he was impeached and then removed from office for briefly declaring martial law.

Kim has been the subject of numerous high-profile scandals, some dating back more than 15 years, which overshadowed Yoon's turbulent presidency and inflicted political damage on him and his conservative party. "I am truly sorry that a nobody like myself has caused concern for everyone in the country," Kim said as she entered the office of the special prosecutor. She did not answer reporters' questions about the charges against her. South Korea has a long history of investigations into alleged wrongdoing by high-profile figures including former presidents and family-owned conglomerate leaders. Many have made similar expressions of remorse that are not necessarily considered an admission of guilt. Yoon, a career prosecutor who rose to the head of the powerful service before entering politics, was a senior investigator for an earlier special prosecutor's team that jailed former

President Park Geun-hye for corruption in 2017. Kim faces a long list of charges including stock fraud, bribery and illegal influence peddling that have implicated big business owners, religious figures and a political power broker. The charges are punishable by years in prison.

Before Yoon's election in 2022 and under intense political pressure even from his own party, Kim stood before cameras to apologise for falsifying her academic records and promised to behave as a responsible spouse of a national leader. Allegations of wrongdoing did not fade as Yoon narrowly won the presidency and served a tumultuous term marred by a bitter row with the main opposition party which had control of parliament and kept up pressure on the first family to come clean on Kim's personal scandals. When hidden camera footage that appeared to show Kim accepting a Christian Dior bag as a gift, Yoon refused to say it may have been illegal or inappropriate. After a review, the state prosecutors' office decided not to charge her.

Since Yoon's ouster and with the appointment of special prosecutors, the probe against Kim intensified, reopening a case of stock fraud dating back to 2009 which had been previously closed by state prosecutors for insufficient cause. The charges against her include whether she broke the law by wearing a luxury Van

Cleef pendant reportedly priced more than 60 million won (\$43,200) on the first couple's trip to the NATO summit in 2022. The item was not listed in the Yoons' financial disclosure as required by law, according to the charge. She is also accused of receiving two Chanel bags together valued at 20 million won and a diamond necklace from a religious group as a bribe in return for influence favourable to business interests it was pursuing.

An artwork valued at several million dollars and tens of thousands of dollars in cash seized by the special prosecutor's team are also linked to her, according to media reports that have extensively covered her travails. In a message to reporters, Kim's lawyers in late July denied the allegations against her and said news reports about some of the gifts she allegedly received were groundless speculation. Yoon is on trial on insurrection charges facing up to life imprisonment or the death penalty for his failed attempt to impose military rule in December that plunged the country into a political crisis and a power vacuum that lasted six months. Yoon has described the special prosecutor's probe against him as a political witch hunt and since being jailed on July 10 over the risk he will try to tamper with evidence, has refused to cooperate with the investigation or attend the insurrection trial.

Colombia's President accuses Peru of annexing disputed Amazon Island

BOGOTA: Colombian President Gustavo Petro has accused the neighbouring country of Peru of annexing a disputed island on the Amazon River, resuscitating a longstanding disagreement between the two nations. In a social media post, Petro said that Peru had acted to "unilaterally" assert control over the small island of Santa Rosa in a recent congressional vote.

"The Peruvian government has just appropriated it by law," Petro wrote on the social media platform X. He added that Peru's actions could block the Colombian city of Leticia from accessing the Amazon River. "Our government will resort to diplomacy to defend our national sovereignty," Petro's comments appeared to be a response to a vote in June, whereby Peru's Congress designated the island of Santa Rosa a district in its Loreto province. Who controls the

island has been a subject of debate between Peru and Colombia for nearly a century. Peru has claimed ownership based on treaties from 1922 and 1929, and it has administered Santa Rosa for decades. But Colombia maintains that the island of Santa Rosa had not emerged from the Amazon River at the time of the treaties and therefore is not subject to them. It has also argued that the treaties set the boundary between the two countries at the deepest point of the Amazon River, and that islands like Santa Rosa have emerged on the Colombian side of that dividing line.

"Islands have appeared north of the current deepest line, and the Peruvian government has just appropriated them by law and placed the capital of a municipality on land that, by treaty, should belong to Colombia," Petro wrote. He warned that Peru's claims to

Santa Rosa could inhibit travel and trade to nearby Leticia, which boasts a population of nearly 60,000. "This unilateral action", Petro wrote, "could make Leticia disappear as an Amazonian port, taking away its commercial life". Petro said he would hold celebrations commemorating Colombian independence from Spain in Leticia on Thursday, framing the island's status as a symbol of national sovereignty.

The Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs also said in a social media post that it would push for further diplomacy in determining the nationality of newly emerged islands. "For years, Colombia has maintained the need to carry out bilateral work for the allocation of islands," the ministry wrote. Colombia, it added, "has reiterated the position that 'Santa Rosa Island' has not been allocated to Peru". The Amazon

River is one of the longest waterways in the world, with the most water discharged of any river. But those powerful currents deposit and rearrange sediment throughout the river basin, forming - and sometimes erasing - islands. Santa Rosa is one of those newer islands. The land now contains forest and farmland, as well as the village of Santa Rosa de Yavari.

That town is home to a population of fewer than 1,000 people, according to Peru's latest census, and is largely reliant on tourism, based on its proximity to the Amazon. The Peruvian government has argued that making Santa Rosa a district was necessary to ensure it received federal funds and could collect taxes. "Peru is complying firmly with its obligations under international law and with valid bilateral treaties," the Peruvian government said in a statement. — Aljazeera

Eduardo Bolsonaro: 'Provocateur' inflaming US-Brazil spat

BRASILIA (AFP): Brazilian congressman Eduardo Bolsonaro is hailed by some as a slayer of tyrants in defense of his coup-accused father. For others, he is a "traitor" responsible for Washington's punitive tariffs on the largest economy in South America.

The 41-year-old lawyer is the son of ex-president Jair Bolsonaro, with whom he shares a circle of far-right acquaintances, a hatred of communism, a fondness for weapons and skepticism about climate change. For years, he has been the defender-in-chief of his father, who risks decades in prison if convicted of plotting to wrest back power after losing the 2022 election to leftist rival Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. Citing political persecution, the younger Bolsonaro took an extended leave of

absence in March from his post in Brazil's lower chamber and relocated to the United States, where he has been lobbying President Donald Trump and his entourage to act in defense of his dad. Last week, Trump announced a massive 50 percent tariff on many Brazilian exports to the United States, citing a "witch hunt" against his ally. Washington also slapped financial sanctions on the presiding judge in the coup case, Alexandre de Moraes of Brazil's Supreme Court -- whom Eduardo Bolsonaro has repeatedly called a "tyrant" and more recently a "psychopath out of control" for ordering his father placed under house arrest.

The younger Bolsonaro openly celebrated the sanctions as a "historic" blow against "judicial persecution" in a post on X, of

which he is a prolific user. Many in the deeply divided country took to social media to label him a "hero," while thousands rallied in the streets thanking Trump for upping the pressure. The tariff announcement prompted Lula to label the younger Bolsonaro "a traitor to the nation," while Moraes lambasted acts of "cowardice and treachery." The Folha de S. Paulo daily, in an editorial, meanwhile called him an "enemy of Brazil" who "does everything to defend his own family, without caring about national interests." The tariffs have also raised alarm among Brazil's business class and even some politicians on the right of the spectrum, including Sao Paulo governor Tarcisio de Freitas, who has worried about the impact on his state, Brazil's richest and

most populous. For his efforts, Eduardo Bolsonaro finds himself the target of an investigation, ordered by Moraes, into obstruction of justice in his father's trial. With his piercing gaze and athletic stature, Eduardo Bolsonaro entered politics in 2015 aged 30, vowing to emulate his controversial father, who calls him "zero three" for his birth order -- the third of five siblings.

He has three brothers also in politics: Flavio, a senator, and Carlo and Renan, city councilors. The younger Bolsonaro holds the record for the most votes ever received for a congressman in Brazil, over 1.8 million in 2018. That same year, he publicly expressed his open disdain for Brazilian institutions by declaring it would take just "a soldier and a corporal to shut down the Supreme Court."

Death toll in Yemen migrant shipwreck tops 90

SANAA (AFP): More than 90 people were killed when a migrant boat sank off Yemen's coast, Yemeni officials and a source at the International Organization for Migration told AFP, updating earlier tolls. The boat carrying mostly Ethiopian migrants sank as it headed towards Abyan governorate in southern Yemen, a frequent destination for boats smuggling African migrants hoping to reach the wealthy Gulf states.

A Yemeni source at UN agency the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said that two bodies, which were initially buried by local fishermen after they washed up on the beach and began rotting, had been recovered. This has taken the toll of confirmed deaths from the shipwreck to 96. Earlier a Yemeni security source and a local official in Abyan said 94 bodies had been recovered and most of them had been buried, with the local official saying corpses were still washing up on the shore. A journalist collaborating with AFP saw at least two corpses washed up on the shore, near the area where the ship sank. He also saw worn-out tents and African people being trucked out of the remote area from which smugglers operate. Authorities said security forces and government allies in Abyan carried out a sweep against camp sites for migrants on the coast, operated by smugglers. Abyan's province top security official, Brigadier General Ali Nasser Buzaid, said the dead included men and women.

Local authorities and the IOM said the boat was carrying around 200 people. Two Yemeni security officials told AFP that 32 people were rescued and dozens were still missing. Despite the civil war that has ravaged Yemen since 2014, the impoverished country has remained a key transit point for irregular migration, in particular from Ethiopia which itself has been roiled by ethnic conflict.

UK couple held in Iran speak to relatives

LONDON (AFP): A British couple held in Iran on espionage charges spoke by phone with relatives in the UK for the first time since they were detained in January, their family announced. It comes after their children learned over the weekend that Lindsay and Craig Foreman, both 52, have been moved to separate prisons in and near Tehran, heightening fears for their welfare.

Iranian authorities seized the pair in Kerman, in central Iran, in early January while they were on a round-the-world motorbike trip, claiming the following month that they were suspected spies. Little had been known about their whereabouts or welfare since. Distraught relatives have become increasingly vocal demanding that Iran allow the couple to phone home, and permit British officials more access to them. "For 213 days, we waited. Hoped. Held our breath. And today, we finally got those phone calls," Lindsay's son Joe Bennett said in a statement. "We finally heard their voices. After seven long months with no direct contact, we can now say what we've been desperate to say all this time: Lindsay and Craig are alive."

Bennett added the call lasted for around eight minutes, during which "we laughed, we cried, and for a few brief moments, it felt like the weight of the past seven months lifted". The 31-year-old said that "while it was amazing to hear their voices, we must also keep our eyes firmly on the real issues". Lindsay and Craig still haven't had a consular visit in months," he added. Bennett also urged the UK government to indicate "what it intends to do to secure their release", calling its "ongoing silence" over its strategy "deeply concerning". Craig's son Kieran Foreman said his separate call with his dad was "a massive relief". "It brings us back up from the hole of despair we have been in," he added, noting it gave him "hope".

Nationalist Nawrocki to be sworn in as Polish president

WARSAW (Reuters): Karol Nawrocki, a conservative historian and supporter of Donald Trump's MAGA movement, will be sworn in as Poland's president on Wednesday, setting the stage for conflict with the centrist government and potentially cooler relations with Ukraine.

The election victory of Nawrocki, who was backed by the nationalist opposition party Law and Justice (PiS), dealt a blow to Prime Minister Donald Tusk's hopes of cementing the pro-European Union course he has set for the bloc's largest eastern member and left his government floundering in the polls. Poland is now bracing for a continuation of the deadlock seen under nationalist outgoing President Andrzej Duda, with Nawrocki able to use his veto powers to stymie a government agenda that includes rolling back judicial reforms implemented by PiS, which critics said undermined the independence of the courts.

Nawrocki also looks set to pose a headache for the government by proposing measures such as tax cuts that are likely to be popular with many voters but hard to implement for an administration with a stretched

budget. Meanwhile, the incoming president has said he does not currently see a place for Ukraine in NATO or the EU, a marked shift in tone compared to Duda. As president, Nawrocki would be required to sign off on Poland's ratification of a new member joining NATO.

While Tusk has said that the European Union should play a bigger role in defence matters alongside NATO, PiS and Nawrocki have argued this would undermine Poland's alliance with the United States. "The United States is undoubtedly our priority partner," said Nawrocki's spokesman Rafal Leskiewicz. However, the fact that the former head of the Institute of National Remembrance is a political newcomer who was little known to the public before PiS threw its weight behind him means there is much uncertainty about how his presidency will pan out, political observers say. "I don't know if he will, in short, fully implement the policies of Law and Justice ... or if he will try to come up with his own initiatives," said Andrzej Rychard, a sociologist from the Polish Academy of

Science.

Nawrocki emerged victorious from a tumultuous campaign in which allegations regarding his past, including that he acquired a second property from an elderly man in return for a promise of care that he did not provide, frequently dominated the headlines.

Nawrocki denied accusations of wrongdoing, although he admitted to taking part in an organised fight between football hooligans, adding to the tough-guy image the amateur boxer had already sought to cultivate. After the election, supporters of defeated liberal candidate Rafal Trzaskowski filed thousands of protests to the Supreme Court over irregularities at some polling stations. However, the irregularities were not enough to materially alter the result. PiS accuse their liberal opponents of trying to subvert the will of the people and their supporters plan to march in the capital on inauguration day. "Whoever can - come to Warsaw ... for the swearing-in of the president," PiS lawmaker Michal Wojcik wrote on X. "Let's show that patriots are with Karol Nawrocki on this important day."

Ireland calls for hostages' release in Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE (Reuters): Ireland's Foreign Ministry called on Haitian authorities to ensure "everything is done" to secure the release of a group of people, including an Irish missionary and a 3-year-old child, taken by gunmen who stormed a local orphanage. Irish Foreign Minister Simon Harris spoke with his Haitian counterpart overnight, the government said in a statement, during which they agreed to stay in touch on their work to ensure the group is released, including missionary Gena Heraty.

"It is imperative that she is released immediately," Harris said separately on social media. The attacks took place over the weekend when gunmen stormed the orphanage in Kenscoff, a mountainous community on the outskirts of the capital Port-au-Prince that has been under deadly attacks by armed gangs since the start of this year. Father

Richard Frechette, who works with Nos Petits Freres et Soeurs, the international charity that runs the orphanage, told Reuters a total of eight people had been kidnapped including the 3-year-old boy, six staff members and Heraty, who heads special needs programs at the orphanage. "We have not yet been able to reach a ransom agreement to free them," he said.

"We hope for their fast and safe return," the charity added on social media. "Our commitment to the Haitian people remains as strong as ever." Armed gangs have in recent years targeted a number of religious, charitable and medical aid groups, including hospitals, NGOs, nuns and priests from congregations based in and around the capital, as well as foreign missionaries. A recent report by the UN office in Haiti (BINUH) found the situation remained "very volatile" in Kenscoff while gangs intensified and

expanded their attacks in central Haiti and the agricultural Artibonite region. BINUH considers Kenscoff of "major strategic importance" as it overlooks the suburb of Petion-Ville, one of the capital's last hold-outs and the site of multiple embassies, banking institutions and hotels serving as diplomatic meeting places. Over 3,100 people were killed and 336 kidnapped for ransom in the first half of this year in Haiti, according to BINUH estimates, as the number of residents displaced by the extended conflict with the powerful gangs - largely grouped behind a coalition called Viv Ansanm - nearly doubled to 1.3 million. Haitian authorities have repeatedly called for more resources to fight the gangs. A partially deployed and deeply under-equipped UN-backed mission kicked off over a year ago but has had little effect in slowing gangs' advances.

60,000 displaced in Mozambique: UN

MOZAMBIQUE (AFP): Nearly 60,000 people have fled Mozambique's northern Cabo Delgado province in two weeks, a United Nations agency has said, amid a years-long rebellion by fighters affiliated with ISIL (ISIS). The International Organization for Migration (IOM) said in a statement that escalating attacks that began on July 20 had displaced 57,034 people, or 13,343 families.

Chiure was the hardest-hit district, with more than 42,000 people uprooted, more than half of them children, the IOM said. "So far, around 30,000 displaced people have received food, water, shelter, and essential household items," Paola Emerson, who heads the Mozambique branch of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), told the AFP news agency. Emerson said

OCHA was preparing to step up its assistance in the coming days. "The response, however, is not yet at the scale required to meet growing needs," she said, in a context of cuts to international aid by the United States and other countries. "Funding cuts mean life-saving aid is being scaled back," she added. The UN's 2025 Humanitarian Response Plan for Mozambique has so far received only 19 percent of the pledges requested.

The organisation also stressed that the lack of safety and documentation, and involuntary relocations, were compounding protection risks. The Southern African nation has been fighting a rebellion by a group known locally as al-Shabab, though with no links to the Somali fighters of a similar name, in the north for at least eight

years. Rwandan soldiers have been deployed to help Mozambique fight them. More than 6,100 people have been killed since the beginning of the insurrection, according to conflict tracker ACLED, including 364 last year, according to data from the Africa Centre for Strategic Studies. Cabo Delgado has large offshore natural gas reserves, and the fighting caused the suspension of operations by the French company Total Energies in 2021. The French fossil fuel giant has said it hopes to re-ignite the \$20bn gas project this summer. Human Rights Watch last month said the armed group had "ramped up abductions of children", using them as fighters or for labour or marriage. The group said recruiting or using children under the age of 15 to participate actively in hostilities constitutes a war crime.

US starts seabed mineral talks with Cook Islands

WASHINGTON (Reuters): The US has begun talks with the Cook Islands for research on seabed minerals exploration and development, the State Department said. The Cook Islands lie halfway between New Zealand and Hawaii and are made up of 15 islands and atolls. The country in 2021 had a population of 15,040.

Western nations that traditionally held sway in the Pacific Islands have

become increasingly concerned about China's plans to increase influence after Beijing signed defense, trade and financial deals with Pacific countries in recent years. Earlier this year, a strategic partnership deal between China and the Cook Islands was signed. It spanned areas from deep-sea mining to education scholarships but excluded security ties. "The Government of the United States of America has

begun discussions with the Government of the Cook Islands to support the research necessary to inform seabed exploration and responsible development within the Cook Islands' Exclusive Economic Zone," the Statement Department said in a statement.

US-linked firms "sit at the forefront" of deep seabed mineral research and exploration in the Cook Islands, it said.

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How everyone benefits from the UAE's growing non-oil economy

FOR many people, midway through the year is a good time to take stock, review progress and plan for the future. The same is true for countries and economies, making this week's news that Abu Dhabi's non-oil foreign trade in the first half of this year jumped 34.7 per cent annually to Dh195.4 billion (\$53.2 billion) significant.

As the emirate's non-oil economy continues to expand amid diversification drives and government initiatives, these latest figures reveal that a thriving, post-hydrocarbons UAE is no longer about near-future speculation; it is unfolding now. The reasons behind this are varied but they are not only of national interest – they have global relevance too.

One important driver of the UAE's flourishing non-oil trade is the country's economic relationships with an expanding list of partner states. By signing new trade deals, such as the more than two dozen Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreements (Cepas) struck in recent years, the Emirates is opening new markets, boosting trade and investment flows, and removing tariffs.

The UAE's growing domestic manufacturing base also plays an important role in building up the non-oil economy; in 2023 alone, Abu Dhabi's industrial sector contributed to 16.5 per cent to the emirate's non-oil gross domestic product and represented 51.3 per cent of the UAE's manufacturing sector.

Similarly, the UAE's growing relevance as an AI and technology hub gives it a critical role in the 21st-century global economy. Research from PricewaterhouseCoopers, one of the world's largest professional services companies, predicts that AI alone will contribute close to 14 per cent of the UAE's GDP by 2030. This aligns with the country's National Artificial Intelligence Strategy, which aims to have the technology contribute 20 per cent to non-oil GDP by 2031.

None of this is to suggest that energy is taking a back seat, rather that the focus has changed. Energy is the engine of economic growth and hydrocarbons globally continue to play a vital role. Entities like XRG and the Emirates Nuclear Energy Company are leading the drive to ensure energy demands are met and sources are diversified.

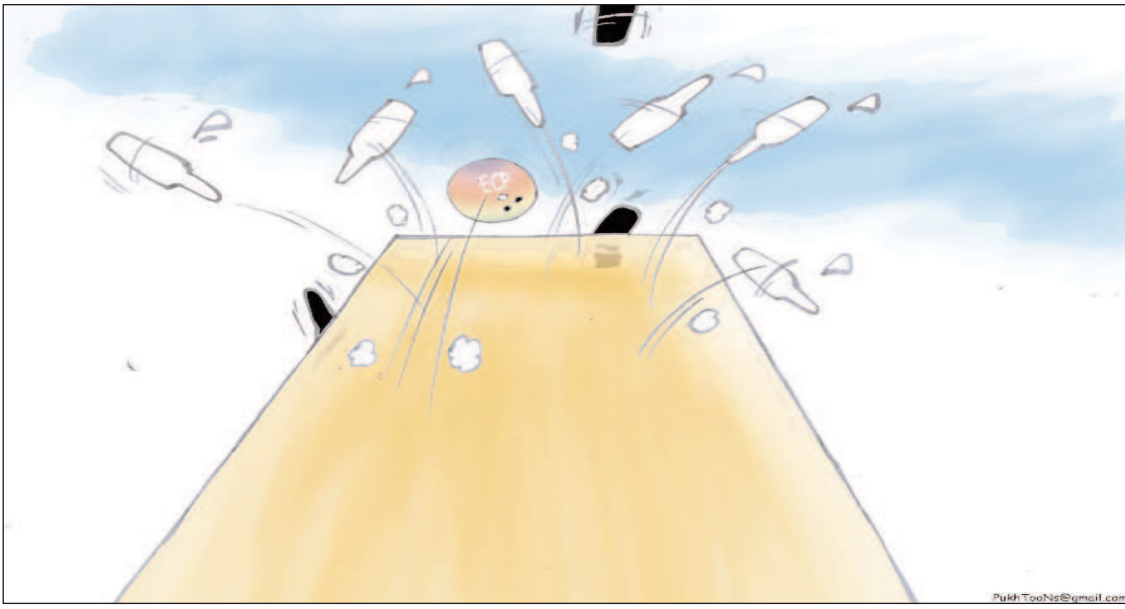
But the country is also investing billions in renewable energy projects and technologies. Although the focus so far has largely been on reducing the country's carbon footprint and ensuring a sustainable supply of domestic power in the future, the UAE looks set to become an important exporter of green energy. The country's National Hydrogen Strategy, for example, has the goal of becoming a top 10 global producer and supplier of low-emission hydrogen by 2031.

All of the above require solid infrastructure, technical innovation and skilled people. This is certainly good news for the UAE because the country's commitment to developing these resources will not only boost its non-oil trade, it will also benefit citizens and residents. A recent train journey from Dubai to Fujairah taken by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid, Vice President and Ruler of Dubai, showed how the Etihad Rail project will not only be critical in economic terms by boosting logistics, connectivity and supply chains, it will improve the quality of life for those who live here. Job creation, more foreign direct investment and local supply chains for clean energy technologies will be important and beneficial consequences of the UAE's non-oil economy.

None of these developments came to fruition overnight. They have required significant strategising, infrastructural investment and technical know-how. That takes years of planning but we are now seeing the fruits of that long-term vision. Success in driving the UAE's non-oil economy – alongside other important sectors such as tourism and financial services – shows that the country has been prescient in future proofing for uncertain times.

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Overseas Pakistanis: The unsung heroes of the nation

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal

SINCE the inception of Pakistan in 1947, the sons and daughters of the soil who ventured beyond its borders have remained deeply attached to their motherland. These overseas Pakistanis, scattered across continents, have played a vital role in the development and prosperity of Pakistan-not merely through financial remittances, but also in the realms of philanthropy, advocacy, national image-building, and crisis support. Their story is not just one of expatriate or economic migration, but of sustained contribution, undying loyalty, and deep-seated patriotism.

From the early 1970s, Pakistan saw a wave of migration, particularly towards the oil-rich Gulf countries. The decade marked the beginning of large-scale labour migration, with thousands of Pakistanis moving to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, and Bahrain. These workers-many of them unskilled or semi-skilled-helped build the infrastructure of Gulf cities, and in doing so, began to send back foreign exchange to Pakistan in unprecedented amounts. In 1974, the remittances stood at around \$143 million. By the end of that decade, these had surged, and remittances became a crucial support for Pakistan's balance of payments.

In the 1980s, the trend deepened. As the number of Pakistani workers grew, particularly in the Gulf, so too did the foreign exchange inflows. The decade saw annual remittances crossing \$2 billion. The Middle East remained the primary destination, but migration to Europe also rose. Pakistani communities in the United Kingdom, Norway, Germany, France, and Italy became more organised, with many becoming second-generation migrants. In the UK alone, the Pakistani community grew steadily,

becoming one of the largest ethnic groups. These communities sent remittances, built schools and mosques back home, and contributed to local development in their villages and towns.

The 1990s witnessed diversification. While the Gulf continued to absorb Pakistani workers, migration towards North America and Canada saw significant acceleration. Educated professionals, IT specialists, doctors, and engineers began settling in the United States and Canada. By the end of the 1990s, remittances had reached \$1.2 billion per annum-a figure which, though slightly lower than the 1980s due to informal transfer channels like Hundi. Overseas Pakistanis also began to participate more actively in Pakistan's politics, media, and advocacy, supporting democracy and voicing concerns over governance and rights.

The 2000s saw a technological transformation in the financial world. With the introduction of formal channels and stricter regulations post-9/11, more remittances began to flow through official banking systems. By 2009-10, Pakistan was receiving over \$8 billion annually in foreign remittances. The diaspora in the Gulf, UK, USA, and Canada had now grown in size and stature. Moreover, this period saw the emergence of overseas Pakistani philanthropic organisations-raising funds for disaster relief after the 2005 earthquake and the 2010 floods. Charitable initiatives helped build hospitals, schools, roads, and provided emergency relief. The diaspora emerged not just as financial supporters, but as partners in nation-building.

The 2010s and beyond marked a golden era of overseas contributions. Officially, the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis in December 2017 estimated about 8.87million Pakistanis living abroad. By

2023, the Ministry of Emigration and Overseas Employment reported that well over 10.87million had migrated since 1990. The United Nations places Pakistan among the six countries with the largest diaspora globally. A widely cited breakdown from 2021 holds that over 4.77million now dwell in the Middle East, 1.67million in Britain, followed by the United States, Canada, and Europe.

With remittances rising each year, 2022 recorded an all-time high of over \$31 billion in remittances, making Pakistan one of the top five recipient countries globally. Saudi Arabia contributed around \$8 billion, UAE about \$6 billion, followed by the UK (\$4.5 billion) and the USA (\$3 billion). Today, over 9 million Pakistanis live abroad. Approximately 2.64 million reside in Saudi Arabia, 1.5 million in the UAE, over 1.5 million in the UK, 1.2 million in the USA, around 300,000 in Canada, over 200,000 in Italy, and tens of thousands scattered across France, Germany, Norway, Spain, Greece, Australia, Malaysia, and South Africa.

Apart from sending remittances, overseas Pakistanis have played a heroic role in charitable initiatives. They were among the first responders during national calamities-donating generously during the 2010 and 2022 floods, COVID-19 relief campaigns, and in countless medical and educational projects. Philanthropists among them helped retire Pakistan's external debt on various occasions. Institutions like Shaukat Khanum Cancer Hospital, Edhi Foundation, Indus Hospital, and countless orphanages and schools have benefited from their largesse.

Furthermore, their role in promoting Pakistan's soft image abroad cannot be overstated. Pakistani professionals, academics, and businesspersons have served as ambassadors of

goodwill. From Silicon Valley to the British Parliament, from Canadian think tanks to European humanitarian organisations, Pakistanis have made their mark with dignity and competence. They have challenged stereotypes, promoted cultural exchange, and built bridges of understanding between Pakistan and the global community.

Notably, over a dozen British-Pakistanis have served as Members of Parliament in the UK, including figures like Sajid Javid, Sadiq Khan, Yasmin Qureshi, and Imran Hussain. In Canada, several Pakistan-origin individuals have been elected to federal and provincial legislatures. In Norway, politicians of Pakistani descent like Abid Raja have held ministerial positions. These achievements reflect the values, discipline, and public service ethos carried from Pakistan to their adopted lands.

Yet, despite their immense contribution, overseas Pakistanis often remain distant from policy-making within the country. They have long demanded voting rights, proper representation, and facilitation in investment. While steps have been taken over time, more institutionalised support is needed. A well-structured diaspora engagement policy is the need of the hour-one that not only honours their past contributions but also harnesses their future potential.

In conclusion, overseas Pakistanis have been more than just remitters of money. They have been the silent builders of Pakistan's economy, the quiet benefactors of its institutions, and the unsung heroes of its tragedies and triumphs. Their role-steadfast, sincere, and selfless-must be recognised, celebrated, and institutionalised, for no nation can afford to neglect the outstretched hands of its own scattered across the world, who have never ceased to pray, work, and hope for the homeland they carry in their hearts.

Global cooperation key to regulating AI

Harvey Dzodin

PREMIER Li Qiang's bold proposal at the World Artificial Intelligence Conference in Shanghai on July 26 for establishing a global organization to promote international cooperation for guiding and regulating AI promises is a milestone in using AI for the common good of humanity. At the same time, it will help prevent AI from becoming our master.

In his keynote speech, Li called for the establishment of a global framework of rules to govern AI. He emphasized that this framework be shaped by a broad international consensus and called for striking a balance between AI development and security. Also, he warned that in the absence of coordinated global governance, AI could become the exclusive domain of a few countries and companies, primarily benefiting wealthier nations while leaving others, especially countries in the Global South, behind.

Throughout his address, Li reaffirmed China's commitment to multilateralism and to sharing its AI technology achievements with the broader international community, while underscoring the importance of ensuring universal access to this transformative technology, and calling for international collaboration, including joint scientific research and open-source initiatives. His address highlighted China's commitment to playing a leading role in building a fair and inclusive global AI ecosystem.

Concurrently, China released its Global AI

Governance Action Plan, which proposes that a United Nations-led international organization coordinate AI development and regulations and emphasizes the importance to uphold multilateralism, promote inclusivity and ensure equal participation for all countries. The plan envisions open-source cooperation, technology-sharing, and joint research, and accords priority to the bridging of digital divide through AI education, infrastructure and talent-cultivation such as those pioneered by Chinese companies like Huawei. Among the bedrock principles are responsible, people-centered AI with clearly defined and enforced ethical and legal safeguards.

China's plan is in sharp contrast to the United States administration's irresponsible zero-sum "Winning the AI Race: America's AI Action Plan" released a few days earlier. It is not a win-win plan to save humanity from runaway AI, but an irresponsible political diatribe against China which would further widen global divisions.

It aims to create a "US AI exports program" that bundles US chips, models and standards into full-stack packages for allies, while increasing export control against "adversaries" in a policy that could split global markets, force countries to choose sides and undermine universal safety guardrails.

Not surprisingly, it even reverses the modest protections enshrined in previous US president Joe Biden's

"AI Bill of Rights".

To add to the urgency, Geoffrey Hinton, considered by many to be the "godfather of AI" and 2024 Nobel Physics laureate, warned the World Artificial Intelligence Conference that advanced AI could soon surpass human intelligence and become uncontrollable. He compared super-intelligent AI to a tiger cub that grows ever more dangerous as it matures, and warned that eventually even trying to shut AI off may not work.

Hinton's plea brought back memories of Stanley Kubrick's 1968 classic and prescient film 2001: A Space Odyssey. In this science fiction movie, set in 2001 but which is still a must-see, the onboard AI computer, HAL 9000, kills several crew members due to a contradictory programming error the computer was unable to resolve. Now Hinton is afraid that life will soon be lethally imitating art.

Hinton made a passionate plea for global cooperation to align AI with human values, proposed an international safety consortium, and urged young researchers to proceed boldly but emphasized the urgent need to ensure AI remains beneficial to humans, while warning that unchecked AI could harm or replace humans if not trained within the framework of established guardrails.

It is clear to me which of the two plans Hinton thinks is urgently needed, and which one he considers an existential threat to all

humanity. No wonder the 77-year-old Canadian scientist chose the WAIC for his first trip to China as a venue to emphasize the urgency of his message.

In taking the more responsible approach, China is not in uncharted territory. There is a little-known precedent, similar to what China is proposing: an organization based in Geneva, Switzerland, known mostly to scientists and policy wonks, which has an unblemished record of success. It is called CERN by its French acronym, or the European Organization for Nuclear Research, founded in 1954 by 12 European countries seeking to re-establish peaceful scientific cooperation after World War II and it is where, among other technologies, the World Wide Web was spun and touch-screen technology was invented in the 1970s, decades before smartphones came in.

CERN is governed by consensus among its 25 politically diverse member states. The organization's leadership rotates to avoid favoritism and it is known for its transparency and open decision-making. Knowing how thorough the Chinese government's decision-making is, it's likely that CERN was considered when Premier Li proposed at the WAIC the establishment of a global organization to promote international cooperation.

I hope that for the sake of humanity this important proposal is swiftly implemented. Time is of the essence, and, once again, China is leading the way forward.

Operation Bunyan Marsoos redefines faith and fear

Abdul Basit Alvi

IN the ongoing conflict between India and Pakistan, military operations often carry deep ideological, national, and religious significance. One such operation, Operation Bunyan Marsoos, recently launched by the Pakistani military, has garnered attention not only for its military objectives but also for the faith-driven motivation behind it. This operation, seen by people as a defensive response to Indian aggression, was more than just a military engagement; to Pakistani Muslims, it represented Jihad and a path to Shahadat (martyrdom).

In contrast, Indian military forces, involved in the confrontation, often experience anxiety and fear of death, especially when confronted by what is perceived as the religious zeal of their adversaries. Operation Bunyan Marsoos, launched against Indian forces after their attacks on Pakistan's civilian population, was framed by Pakistani religious leaders and military commanders as an extension of defensive Jihad. This understanding of Jihad is further strengthened by the aspiration for Shahadat, which represents martyrdom in the path of Allah. For those involved in this operation, the battle was not merely about defeating the enemy; it is about achieving martyrdom, considered the highest spiritual honor in Islam.

Martyrdom is central to the religious consciousness of the Pakistani soldier, who is taught that death in the path of Jihad opens the door to eternal rewards in the afterlife. Numerous videos have circulated on social media, showing Pakistani soldiers expressing their deep desire and joy at the

In the context of Operation Bunyan Marsoos, the message was clear: those who die in battle are not seen as victims but as witnesses to their faith. For Pakistani Muslims, the operation presented an opportunity to reaffirm their commitment to Islam by participating in what they viewed as a holy war. The connection between religious duty and military engagement provides significant psychological strength, transforming death from an obstacle to a goal. In this context, Shahadat is viewed as a reward rather than a loss. This perspective offers those fighting a sense of peace and acceptance in the face of potential death, as they believe their sacrifice serves a higher, divine purpose. On the other hand, Indian soldiers faced a different psychological reality. They confronted an enemy whose motivations are rooted deeply in spiritual and religious beliefs. For the Indian military, the battle is primarily focused on national defense and territorial sovereignty, rather than a religious or spiritual mission.

prospect of martyrdom. For them, the fear of death is often replaced with a profound sense of divine purpose and spiritual fervor. Death is no longer seen as an end but as a transition to paradise.

The Quran and Hadith frequently emphasize the value of Shahadat, with the belief that a martyr's soul is granted eternal peace and divine favor. This belief dramatically alters the psychological approach to warfare. Soldiers motivated by these teachings are driven not by fear or hesitation but by a sense of honor, duty, and commitment to their religious cause.

In the context of Operation Bunyan Marsoos, the message was clear: those who die in battle are not seen as victims but as witnesses to their faith. For Pakistani Muslims, the operation presented an opportunity to reaffirm their commitment to Islam by participating in what they viewed as a holy war. The connection between religious duty and military engagement provides significant psychological strength, transforming death from an obstacle to a goal. In this context, Shahadat is viewed as a reward rather than a loss. This perspective offers those fighting a sense of peace and acceptance in the face of potential death, as they believe their sacrifice serves a higher, divine purpose. On the other hand, Indian soldiers faced a different psychological reality. They confronted an enemy whose motivations are rooted deeply in spiritual and religious beliefs. For

the Indian military, the battle is primarily focused on national defense and territorial sovereignty, rather than a religious or spiritual mission. This contrast creates a unique tension, as Indian soldiers recognize that their adversaries are driven by a blend of faith, ideology, and the promise of martyrdom, which does not play as central a role in their own motivations.

The fear of death may be more pronounced for Indian soldiers in this situation, especially when facing an enemy that does not fear death but embraces it as part of their divine mission. In contrast to the Pakistani view of Shahadat, where martyrdom is celebrated as an honor, Indian forces regard death as a tragic and unfortunate event to be avoided. In a secular military context, the concept of dying for a higher purpose is not as ingrained as it is in religiously motivated forces. For Indian soldiers, the psychological burden of fighting an enemy that sees death through the lens of religious zeal creates an environment of uncertainty and intimidation. This fear of death also leads to a psychological disadvantage for Indian forces when engaging in direct combat with an opponent who seems to be fighting for more than just national pride-they are fighting for spiritual redemption.

This contrast results in an imbalance in the battle, where one side is driven by a sense of spiritual victory while the other, despite its commitment to national defense, faces the natural fear of mortality. One of the central aspects of Operation Bunyan Marsoos was the ideological clash between the religious zeal of the Pakistani forces and the secular nationalism of the Indian

forces. For Pakistan's military, Jihad is not only a geopolitical struggle but a spiritual one. The soldiers see themselves as part of a divinely ordained mission, aligning their actions with a larger narrative of Islamic resistance. The concept of Shahadat strengthens the Pakistani soldiers' sense of purpose, as they view their participation in the war as an act of devotion to Allah.

On the Indian side, however, the conflict was viewed primarily in terms of national sovereignty. The Indian military doctrine focuses on protecting the state, its territory, and its people. Indian soldiers face the inherent fear of death that comes from knowing their sacrifices carry no spiritual or religious reward. Death in combat is seen as a tragic loss rather than a transition to eternal life or a source of divine blessing. The stark ideological difference between these two perspectives creates a situation where religious passion and national survival intersect.

The outstanding success of Pakistan and the Pakistani Army in Operation Bunyan Marsoos serves as a wake-up call to both internal and external adversaries. For the Pakistani people and the armed forces, defending the country is not just a duty, but a matter of faith, and they are unafraid to give their lives for this noble cause. Our enemies should reconsider their actions and think carefully before launching any form of aggression against a nation with such unwavering faith.

Accepted but trapped: Why won't the UK evacuate its students from Gaza?

— *Aljazeera*

Our shared goal is to build cities that are safer, smarter and more sustainable, cities where data serve people, and not the other way around. In this journey, dialogue matters. The opportunity to learn from each other across cultures, regions, and governance models will define the next era of progress. After all, the digital century isn't coming. It's already here, and in Dubai, it's already working.



PSX hits new milestone, surges 2,051 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Stock Exchange's benchmark KSE-100 Index continued with bullish trend on Wednesday, gaining 2,051.33 more points, a positive of 1.43 percent, hitting new mile stone by reaching 145,088.50 points against 143,037.17 points last trading day.

A total of 788,463,721 shares were traded during the day as compared to 549,719,494 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 52.780 billion against Rs 37,040 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 484 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 264 of them recorded gains and 192 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 28 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were Bank of Punjab with 67,554,764 shares at Rs 14.24 per

share, National Bank XD with 49,133,499 shares at Rs139.22 per share and First Dawood Prop with 44,652,962 shares at Rs 7.04 per share.

PIA Holding Company LimitedB witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 1,419.87 per share price, closing at Rs 30,935.90, whereas the runner-up was Nestle Pakistan Limited with Rs869.83 rise in its per share price to Rs 9,568.15.

Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs321.66 per share closing at Rs 33,092.14 followed by Ismail Industries Limited with Rs49.04 decline in its share price to close at Rs2,130.99.

Rupee sheds 10 paise against US Dollar

The Rupee on Wednesday depreciated by 10 paise against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 282.67

against the previous day's closing Rs 282.57.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 284.35 and Rs 285.15, respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by 96 paise to close at Rs 327.16 against the last day's closing of Rs 326.20, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs 1.91, whereas an increase of 62 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs 375.55 compared to the previous day's closing of Rs 374.93.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal went up by 02 and 01 paise to close at Rs 76.95 and Rs 75.33, respectively.

Gold prices up by

Rs1,300 to Rs359,300 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of 24 karat per tola gold witnessed an increase of Rs1,300 on Wednesday and was sold at Rs359,300 against its sale at Rs358,000 on the previous trading day, All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association reported.

The prices of 10 grams of 24 karat also increased by Rs 1,114 to Rs.308,041 from Rs 306,927 whereas the price of 10 grams of 22 Karat went up by 1,022 to Rs 282,381 from Rs 281,359.

The rates of per tola and ten gram silver increased by Rs39 and Rs33 to Rs4,010 and Rs 3,437 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market increased by \$13 to \$3,366 from \$3,353 whereas silver increased \$0.39 to \$37.77 against \$37.38, the Association reported.



ISLAMABAD: Japanese Ambassador Akamatsu Shuichi meeting with Special Assistant to Prime Minister Haroon Akhtar Khan at Ministry of Industries and Production.

Dawlance CEO meets Turkish Ambassador F.P. Report

KARACHI: Umar Ahsan Khan, CEO of Dawlance, met with the Ambassador of Türkiye to discuss strengthening bilateral economic relations and exploring investment opportunities.

The meeting emphasized the deep historical ties between Pakistan and Türkiye and highlighted the potential for increased cooperation in trade and investment sectors. Umar Khan shared that since Dawlance became a part of Beko, the company has achieved significant milestones over the past nine years in Pakistan, including notable local value addition, retail innovation, technology transfer, and long-term strategic planning in the market.

Both parties acknowledged that while progress has been made, bilateral trade has not yet reached its full potential.

They agreed that deeper and mutually beneficial economic engagement is essential to unlock this opportunity. Umar Khan stated that Dawlance and Beko are among the largest Turkish investors in Pakistan and serve as a reliable bridge for attracting further investment from Türkiye.

However, he emphasized the need to resolve operational challenges to promote further investment and growth. The Turkish Ambassador appreciated the contributions of Dawlance and Beko to Pakistan's economy and reaffirmed Türkiye's commitment to strengthening trade and investment relations between the two countries.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to further enhance this strategic economic partnership.

Police, traders liaison may revitalise economy

FAISALABAD (APP): Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) President Rehan Naseem Bharara said that liaison between the business community and police could play a key role in revitalising the economy on a solid and sustained basis.

Addressing the under training ASPs (Assistant Superintendent Police) during a meeting, he briefed them about the economic pulse of Faisalabad and said that FCCI is an apolitical, elected not for profit body which has been recognized as a bridge between Government and business community.

He said that FCCI has the best working relationship with district police which helped in expediting the industrialization of this metropolis.

He said that the business community, fully aware of its CSR obligations, was also contributing towards the welfare of police officials, martyrs and rehabilitation of their dependents.

He said that FCCI was also sharing its role in the settlement of business related disputes to offload the police.

He hoped that new induction in the police department would help in promoting positive and healthy traditions in this department.

Pakistan's regional exports increase 2.08% in FY 2025

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's exports to the seven regional countries increased by 2.08 percent during the fiscal year 2024-25 compared to the previous year 2023-24.

The country's exports to the regional countries including Afghanistan, China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Nepal and Maldives remained small amount of \$4.427 billion, which is 13.70 percent of Pakistan's overall exports of \$32.295 billion during July-June (2024-25), State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported on Wednesday.

China tops the list of the countries in terms of Pakistan's exports to its neighboring countries, leaving behind other countries such as Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

Pakistan carried out its border trade with farther neighbour Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, and Maldives.

Pakistan's exports to China witnessed a decrease

of 8.60 per cent from \$2709.901 million last year to \$2476.790 million whereas exports to Afghanistan surged to \$773.892 million from \$558.032 million.

The country's exports to Bangladesh also increased by 19.08 per cent to \$787.348 million from \$661.192 million whereas exports to Sri Lanka decreased to \$376.612 million from \$392.899.

The exports to Nepal decreased to \$2.438 million from \$2.711 million in the previous year.

Pakistan exports to Maldives witnessed a nominal decrease of 0.98 cent to \$9.121 million from \$9.212 million while exports to India decreased to \$1.429 million from \$3.447 million, it added.

On the other hand, the imports from seven regional countries were recorded at \$16.699 billion during the period under review as compared

to \$13.838 billion during the previous year 2023-24, showing an increase of 30.07 percent.

The imports from China during July-June 2024-25 were recorded at \$16.312 billion against the \$13.504 billion during July-June 2023-24, showing an increase of 20.79 percent.

Among other countries, imports from India increased to \$220.580 million from \$206.892 million whereas imports from Afghanistan also increased by 116.53 percent from \$11.960 million to \$25.898 million.

Imports from Sri Lanka surged by 2.45 percent from \$58.302 million to \$59.731 million whereas imports from Bangladesh recorded at \$ 78.312 million from \$56.555 million during last year.

The imports from Nepal into the country were recorded at \$2.013 million as compared to \$0.418 million last year, it added.

Long-term investment policy essential — to unlock Pak's economic potential

ISLAMABAD (APP): Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), has urged the government to take concrete and practical steps to establish an investor-friendly environment that encourages both foreign and local investment.

Speaking to a delegation of visiting businessmen Wednesday, alongside ICCI Senior Vice President Abdul Rehman Siddiqui and Vice

President Nasir Mehmood Chaudhry, Qureshi highlighted Pakistan's immense investment potential across diverse sectors.

These include information technology, cement, pharmaceuticals, textiles, surgical instruments, sports goods, mining and minerals, and unique commodities like pink salt.

He emphasized that the country urgently needs a long-term, consistent investment policy formulated in

close consultation with real stakeholders. "Only through inclusive policy-making we can ensure sustainable economic growth and investor confidence," he stated.

The ICCI President pointed out that strategies must be grounded in practical realities and address the genuine challenges facing the business community, particularly in terms of regulatory complexities and the Federal Board of Revenue's (FBR) taxation practices.

Federal Cabinet appoints Shoaib Javed as CEO of SLIC

F.P. Report

KARACHI: The Federal Cabinet, on the recommendation of the Ministry of Commerce, appoints Shoaib Javed Hussain as the Chief Executive Officer of State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan (SLIC), for a further 3 years effective August 6, 2025.

The corporation has undergone a significant transformation, marked by innovation and significant growth, since Hussain took charge in March 2021. In just four years, SLIC has grown its market share, recording an extraordinary +300% increase in profit, a +181% surge in revenue growth, and a +100% increase in profit allocated to policyholders. Growth has been driven by accelerated digital transformation,

the launch of innovative products, and enhancements in service delivery.

Shoaib Javed Hussain is a qualified actuary with an MSc in Actuarial Management from Bayes Business School, City University London, and is a Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries (UK). He has more than 20 years work experience across Europe, North America and Asia. Before joining SLIC in 2021, he held senior executive roles in institutions including AIA Group, Milliman, Prudential, EY, and HSBC. He also serves as Chairman of the Insurance Association of Pakistan and holds board positions at Sui Southern Gas Company, Pakistan Cables Limited, and Fauji



Fertilizer Company.

Established in 1972, the State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan (SLIC) has stood as a symbol of financial stability and reliability. As the country's largest public sector life and health insurer, it has consistently maintained a AAA rating and remains a trusted institution for millions of Pakistanis. Backed by the Government of Pakistan, SLIC plays a central role in advancing national goals of financial security, social protection, and economic inclusion by providing accessible, reliable, and inclusive life and health insurance solutions to individuals, families, and businesses across Pakistan.

jurisdictions. As part of its efforts to enhance market access and financial inclusion, the SECP issued a total of 60 licenses during the month across multiple regulatory domains, including five in capital markets, one in insurance, two to non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), and fifty-two to not-for-profit associations.

Following the recent Registrars Conference, the SECP is launching a comprehensive awareness drive to promote the advantages of incorporation among the business community.

SECP records highest-ever company registrations in July 2025

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has achieved a historic milestone by registering a record 4,065 companies in July 2025—the highest monthly registrations to date, surpassing the previous record of 3,609 set in May 2025.

With 99.9% of incorporations processed digitally, the total number of registered companies in Pakistan now stands at 262,309, said a press release.

The total paid-up capital for July 2025 amounted to Rs. 4.96 million. Private limited companies accounted

for 57% of new registrations, followed by single-member companies at 39%.

The remaining 4% comprised public unlisted companies, not-for-profit organizations, companies limited by guarantee, and limited liability partnerships.

The Information Technology and e-commerce sectors led with 862 new incorporations, followed by trading (530), services (468), and real estate development and construction (398).

Other active sectors included tourism and transport (295), food and beverages (203), education (148), marketing and advertise-

ment (98), mining and quarrying (95), textiles (91), pharmaceuticals (86), agricultural farming (74), engineering (64), cosmetics and toiletries (59), and chemicals and healthcare (56).

An additional 482 companies were registered across other sectors, including fuel and energy, non-profits under Section 42, auto and allied, power generation, and communications.

Foreign investment also showed positive momentum, with 96 newly registered companies receiving capital from international investors across diverse

Document Lost

I had lost my original documents of State Life Insurance bearing No: 606229556-7. If anyone finds then send to Nargis Begum daughter of Ghulam Muhammad on Street No#4 Pohan Colony, Post Office Baghdadah tehsil and district Mardan


Name Correction

I correct name is Mustaqeem Ahmad while it is mistakenly written as Mustaqeem Ahmed in Matric and F. Sc DMCs and certificates. Please correct it

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is published through this Notice That I Mr Noshad Gul Son of Nawab Gul Resident of House no 7, Sector no IV KDA Kohat is the owner of Plot no 85 Sector no E-3 Size 10 Maria Phase 2 KDA Kohat Has Appointed has is Brother Mr Ghaffar Gul Son of Nawab Gul Resident of House no 7, Sector no IV KDA Kohat Through (Special) Deed no 185 Bahi no 04 Volume no.300 Dated 02/05/2025 which is Registered in The office Kohat of Tehsildar/SUB Registrar The Attorney Holder now wants to Transfer The Above Said Plot if any Bank/ Institution/ Firm/ Person has any objection About The Transfer he Should Contact The.Housing officer UADA Within 15 Days in Writing with Proofs otherwise Plot will be Transfer and no objection will Be Accepted (Housing Officer Urban Area KDA Kohat)

Change of Name & Correction of Father's Name



I HANZALA IFTIKHAR s/o IFTIKHAR AHMED Resident of H.NO.124A, Street NO-8, Near Madrassa Khalid Bin Waleed, Sohan Islamabad, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under:-

1. That I was registered with FBSE at SSC level under registration No. 2214951023 and passed the SSC Annual Examination 2022 under Roll no. 1011378, where my name is HANZALA MUJAHID BIN IFTIKHAR and my father name is IFTIKHAR AHMED KHAN.

2. That I have decided to change my name from HANZALA MUJAHID BIN IFTIKHAR to HANZALA IFTIKHAR which is written as HANZALA MUJAHID BIN IFTIKHAR and correction in my father's name from IFTIKHAR AHMED KHAN to IFTIKHAR AHMED KHAN in board's documentation/record. Hence the same may be changed /corrected.

3. That the statement given above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, belief and nothing has been concealed or withheld.



In brief

Pak to participate in World Games

ISLAMABAD (APP): For the first time in history, Pakistan's senior squash players will be representing the nation in the World Games Chengdu scheduled to be held in China from August 8 to 12. Led by Head Coach Fahim Gul, the Pakistani contingent includes players Nasir Iqbal and Noor Zaman, said a press release. The Pakistan Squash Federation (PSF) said the World Games is a mega event that brings together top athletes from around the globe, and it is an honor to have Pakistan's squash team participating in the mega event. This is a momentous occasion for Pakistani squash, and we're thrilled to see our players take on the best in the world. Let's wish our players the best of luck and show our support as they make their mark on the world stage, PSF said.

PFF to hold national futsal team tryouts

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Football Federation is set to conduct its first-ever national futsal team tryouts ahead of the AFC Futsal Asian Cup Indonesia 2026 Qualifiers. Open to futsal players across the country, the tryouts will take place on 10th August 2025 at the 5th Generation Sports Complex in DHA Phase 8, Lahore, from 9am to 6pm, said a press release. The players must bring valid identification, including a passport and CNIC, to be eligible for selection. The Pakistan Football Federation's technical team will finalize the squad in due course, with a training camp scheduled to begin in the first week of September. Pakistan has been drawn into Group D alongside Iraq, Chinese Taipei and host nation Saudi Arabia. The group stage matches will be played in Dammam, Saudi Arabia, with Pakistan set to face Iraq on September 20, Saudi Arabia on September 22 and Chinese Taipei on September 24.

Maguire cleared to resume bowling

DUBLIN (Agencies): Ireland left-arm spinner Aimee Maguire has been cleared to resume bowling in international cricket with immediate effect. Maguire, 18, was suspended from bowling earlier this year after being reported during the first ODI against India in Rajkot on January 10. Her action was deemed suspect under the ICC's Illegal Bowling Regulations. Maguire has since remodelled her action and subsequently underwent an independent re-assessment at an ICC-accredited testing centre where she was cleared. "An independent assessment of Maguire's remodelled bowling action at an ICC accredited testing centre concluded that the amount of elbow extension was within the 15-degree level of tolerance permitted under the ICC Illegal Bowling Regulations," an ICC release said. Maguire made her ODI and T20I debut against West Indies in July 2023. She has so far played 11 ODIs, where she has picked 16 wickets, with best bowling figures of 5 for 19 against England last year. Maguire has also played nine T20Is, where she has nine wickets at an economy rate of 7.20. The 18-year-old is not part of the Ireland squad that faces Pakistan in a three-match T20I series, which begins in Dublin on Wednesday.

Pakistan players move up in ICC rankings after WI win

DUBAI (Monitoring Desk): Pakistan's cricketers' ICC T20I rankings surged after a strong showing in their recent three-match series against the West Indies.

Middle-order batter Hassan Nawaz climbed 24 spots to reach 30th place with 569 rating points, following a consistent run that saw him score 79 runs across the series.

Top-order batter Saim Ayub, who led the series with 130 runs including two half-centuries, jumped 25 places to claim the 37th position, earning 559 points.

Fellow opener Sahibzada Farhan, who scored 91 runs in the series, surged 34 spots to claim the 63rd spot with 484 rating points.

Captain Salman Ali Agha and experienced batter Fakhar Zaman also saw improvements in their rankings, moving up 15 and three places to 76th and 78th positions, respectively.

However, seasoned players Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan, who have been inactive in T20Is since 2024, experienced a drop in rankings. Babar now sits at 17th, and Rizwan at 19th, both slipping three places.

Wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Harris, who struggled during the Caribbean tour, dropped 21 places to 86th with 413 points.

India's Abhishek Sharma retained the top position among T20I batters, followed by Australia's Travis Head and

India's Tilak Varma in second and third, respectively.

In the bowling rankings, no Pakistani bowler features in the top 20. Fast bowler Haris Rauf maintained his 26th position with 575 points, while young pacer Abbas Afridi dropped three spots to 27th.

Left-arm spinner Sufiyan Muqeem made a stunning jump of 69 places to reach 34th with 542 points. Meanwhile, Shaheen Afridi slipped one position to 36th, and Mohammad Nawaz climbed 51 places to 56th with 489 points.

Abraar Ahmed dropped nine spots to 60th, and T20I vice-captain Shadab Khan fell five places to 72nd.

New Zealand's Jacob Duffy continued to top the bowling rankings, followed by England's Adil Rashid, while West Indies' Akeal Hosein moved up to third, replacing India's Varun Chakaravathy.

In the all-rounders category, Shadab Khan dropped two spots to 19th. Rising star Saim Ayub made a massive leap, climbing 70 places to 24th with 119 rating points.

Mohammad Nawaz jumped 13 places to 36th, while Abbas Afridi dropped four places to 56th. Iftikhar Ahmed fell six places to 70th, and Faheem Ashraf moved up five spots to 77th with 58 points.

India's Hardik Pandya remains the number one T20I all-rounder, followed by Nepal's Dipendra Singh Airee and Afghanistan's Mohammad Nabi in second and third, respectively.

Messi ruled out of Miami's clash with Pumas

MIAMI (AFP): Football legend Lionel Messi won't be taking the field for Inter Miami in their important Leagues Cup match against Pumas UNAM.

The star forward has picked up a minor muscle injury, his coach said, adding that the footballer needs time to recover before playing again.

The Argentinian striker suffered what Mascherano described as a "minor muscle injury" in his upper right leg during Miami's win over Necaxa last Saturday.

While there is no set timetable for Messi's return, Mascherano remained hopeful the star forward would be back on the pitch soon.

"Within the bad news, it's good news," Mascherano told reporters.

"He usually recovers very well from injuries and, above all, normally does so with speed, so we will see. But clearly, for tomorrow he is unavailable. Then we'll see how he feels, how he progresses."

Messi, who leads the league with 18 goals in

MLS matches this season, helped guide Miami to the Leagues Cup title in 2023 shortly after joining the Herons.

Inter Miami will likely need a win over Pumas in their final group stage match to reach the quarter-finals of the Leagues Cup, which includes teams from MLS and Mexico's top division.

If Miami progress to the knockout stage, Messi would have two weeks to recover before the quarter-finals. Miami's next MLS fixture is scheduled for Sunday against Orlando.

Sports key to student health: Rana Sanaullah

ISLAMABAD (APP): Advisor to the Prime Minister on Political and Public Affairs, Rana Sanaullah, has stressed the significance of sports activities in student life, saying that students are not healthy if they are not involved in sports.

He made these remarks while inaugurating a Padel court at the Islamabad College for Girls F6 Wednesday. The ceremony was attended by Ms. Farah Naz Akbar, Parliamentary Secretary, Secretary Inter Provincial Coordination (IPC) Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, and other officials.

Sanaullah emphasized that besides education, sports activities should

also be given priority, as a student should be both mentally and physically fit. He highlighted the importance of educating women, saying that it is equivalent to educating the whole nation.

Sanaullah, who also holds the portfolio of the Ministry of Inter Provincial Coordination (IPC), said that the government is giving top priority to sports and has already made Padel courts in three colleges in the federal capital, providing mind games rooms and track suits to students.

He also announced plans to construct more Padel and Futsal courts in the coming days. Sanaullah praised

Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani for promoting education and healthy sports activities in the federal capital.

Meanwhile, Ms. Farah Naz congratulated Rana Sanaullah and Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani for their initiative, emphasizing that education and health are top priorities under the Prime Minister's vision.

ICG Principal Shazia Shamim thanked Rana Sanaullah, Ms. Farah Naz Akbar, and Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani for the initiative, stating that ICG students will greatly benefit from the game of Padel.

Earlier, Rana Sanaullah inaugurated the Padel court and was also presented with souvenirs at the end of the ceremony.

Fritz, Shelton set up all-American Toronto semi-final



TORONTO (AFP): US second seed Taylor Fritz overcame a late niggles while serving for the match on Tuesday to beat Andrey Rublev 6-3, 7-6 (7/4) and reach the ATP Toronto Masters semi-finals.

The American claimed his place in a fifth semi-final of the season after losing serve while trying to close out what had been looking like a quick win, finally coming through into the last four at this level for the first time after 83 minutes.

The Californian will play for a spot in the Thursday final when he

takes on fourth seed Ben Shelton, who won a Masters quarter-final on his fourth attempt, defeating Australian Alex de Minaur 6-3, 6-4.

Shelton laid down 11 aces in his 91-minute victory and dominated on rallies longer than nine shots. The result ended a seven-match win streak for last week's Washington champion de Minaur.

"I'm really happy with that performance. It showed mental toughness from start to finish," Shelton said. "This win gives me a lot of confidence, I'm excited about the semi-final."

"People often just see me as a server, not much of a grinder, but when I go into lockdown mode and put a lot of balls onto the court, it surprises guys sometimes."

"Winning longer rallies is all part of my evolution."

Shelton set up three match points with his final ace and needed only one chance to emerge the winner.

Fritz admitted he was struck by brain freeze as he served for victory leading a set and 5-4. After saving three break points he put a return into the net for 5-all as



DUBLIN: Amy Hunter top-scored for Ireland, Ireland Women vs Pakistan Women, 1st T20I.

Arsenal have 'belief' to end trophy drought, says Arteta

LONDON (AFP): Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta said the Gunners believe this season will be different as they aim to get over a series of near misses at winning silverware.

Arteta has not won a trophy since lifting the FA Cup in his debut season in charge in 2019/20.

However, he has transformed Arsenal back into serial contenders for major trophies. Arteta's men have finished second in the Premier League for the past three years and reached the Champions League semi-finals for the first time since 2009 last season.

The pressure is now on the Spaniard to get over the line after another major investment in new players in the transfer window.

Nearly £200 million (\$266 million) has been spent on new striker Viktor Gyokeres, midfielders Martin Zubimendi and Christian Norgaard, centre-back Cristhian Mosquera as well as winger Noni Madueke and goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga.

"We know what our targets are and what we want to achieve this season -- there is a big belief in our ability to achieve that," Arteta said in his programme notes ahead of Wednesday's pre-season friendly against Villarreal.

"We have been very, very close the last few seasons and the whole team is going to determine whether we achieve that or not."

"But at the same time, we have to make sure that we don't lose sight of what we have to do on a daily basis to get to the levels that we want."

"We have to set the demands that we want within this goal, because that's the most important thing -- the internal demands have to always exceed any external demand. That is what we are trying to achieve every single day," Arteta added he wants his players to feel "invincible" at home thanks to a special connection with the club's fans.

"We want our people to start connecting with our players straight away, to start to build momentum and to start to feel that at home we are invincible," he said. "That we play here with such passion, energy and connection with our people, that we are going to win the game."

Arsenal begin their Premier League campaign with a blockbuster trip to Manchester United on August 17.

Rublev held on.

"That game was so shaky for me, we had both been holding serve easily, everything felt calm and chill," he said. "It came out of nowhere, the pressure of that game. It was tight and my brain just turned off."

"The only thing to do is to come back and try to win the set. That's what is able to make it all feel not as bad."

Fritz did just that, closing out the win 15 minutes later in the second-set tiebreaker with a serve winner. Fritz struck a personal-best 20 aces (for three-set matches) among his 29 winners. He now stands 6-4 over Rublev.

The American has now won 19 of his last 22 matches including reaching the Wimbledon semi-finals.

KP welcomes football hero on return from Norway Cup

PESHAWAR (APP): A grand reception was held at the Peshawar Sports Complex under the auspices of Directorate General of Sports Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to welcome Muhammad Anees, a distinguished member of the Pakistan team that won the Norway Football Cup, said a press release issued here on Wednesday.

Muhammad Anees hails from Landi Kotal, District Khyber and has brought great pride to the country through his outstanding performance on

the international stage.

DG Sports, Tashfeen Haider, appreciated Muhammad Anees and lauded his remarkable achievement, stating that young athletes like him are not only the pride of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa but of the entire nation.

He added that Anees' hard work, dedication and success serve as a beacon of inspiration for the youth. The government is fully committed to providing all possible support and patronage to such talented individuals.

Director Sports Operations Jamshed Baloch, Regional Sports Officer Peshawar Kashif Farhan, Assistant Director Sports for Merged Districts Muhammad Riaz, Chief Coach Shafqat Ullah, Vice President Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Teyball Association Akhtar Rasool, Administrator Yousaf Afridi, Coach Aman Ullah and other officials were also present. They extended their congratulations to Muhammad Anees and expressed pride in his international achievement.

Over 35,000+ youth join PMYP–Lahore Qalandars talent hunt



FAISALABAD (Monitoring Desk): The cricketing heartbeat of Pakistan is growing louder with every passing day as the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) – Lahore Qalandars talent hunt cricket trials continue to inspire and empower thousands across the country.

From the land of Shaheens, Sargodha, to the industrial capital of Pakistan, Faisalabad, more than 35,000 male and female youth participated in the talent hunt, reaffirming the belief that Pakistan's cricketing future lies in its grassroots.

Sargodha witnessed a turnout of over 15,000 plus passionate young cricketers, while Faisalabad surpassed expectations with more than 20,000 aspiring players attending the trials. The nationwide initiative, a collaborative venture

between PMYP and the Lahore Qalandars' globally acclaimed Player Development Program (PDP), is unlocking opportunities for youth who have long been overlooked.

Lahore Qalandars CEO Atif Rana expressed his pride in witnessing the overwhelming participation across both cities. "The energy, talent, and sheer numbers we have seen in Sargodha and Faisalabad are nothing short of extraordinary," he said. "These cities have always had cricketing spirit, but through this platform, we are channeling it in the right direction."

"We are deeply thankful to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, PMYP Chairman Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, and the entire PMYP team for trusting Lahore Qalandars and for enabling this national movement.

West Indies announce squad for ODI series

TRINIDAD (Agencies): Cricket West Indies announced their 15-member squad for the upcoming Pakistan vs West Indies ODI series on Wednesday. Set to begin on August 8, the three-match ODI series will be played at the iconic Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Tarouba, Trinidad.

As per the schedule, the second ODI will be played on August 10, while the third and final Pakistan vs West Indies ODI will be held on August 12.

The hosts would look to secure their fourth consecutive ODI series win, having won their previous home series against England and Bangladesh in 2024 and the tour of the United Kingdom

earlier this year.

"Alzarri Joseph has been given an extended rest to continue workload management while Romario Shepherd makes a return after missing the matches against Ireland and England earlier this year," Cricket West Indies said in a statement.

According to the board, the upcoming ODI series will provide an opportunity for the side to build its team ahead of the Men's Cricket World Cup 2027.

Head Coach Daren Sammy expressed his excitement for the three home ODI games against the Men in Green.

"Pakistan presents a different test and chal-

lenge as we continue our push for automatic qualification for the 2027 World Cup," he said.

"While qualifying is our immediate goal, maintaining a winning mentality and team cohesion is essential for long-term success," Sammy added.

West Indies Squad Pakistan vs West Indies ODI series:

Shai Hope (c), Jewel Andrew, Jediah Blades, Keacy Carty, Roston Chase, Matthew Forde, Justin Greaves, Amir Jangoo, Shamir Joseph, Brandon King, Evin Lewis, Gudakesh Motie, Sherfane Rutherford, Jayden Seales, and Romario Shepherd.

**In brief****IRSA releases 297,200 cusecs water**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Wednesday released 297,200 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 343,100 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1545.00 feet higher than 143.00 feet higher than the dead level of 1402.00 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 211,800 cusecs and 182,400 cusecs, respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1203.75 feet, which was 153.75 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 24,500 cusecs and 8,000 cusecs, respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 207,100, 188,200, 253,200 and 210,300 cusecs, respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 29,400 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 47,300 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

Wanted criminal arrested

RAWALPINDI (APP): Kahuta Police arrested a fugitive wanted for killing his daughter-in-law over a domestic dispute. The arrest was made more than a year after the tragic incident took place in June 2023. According to a police spokesperson, the suspect had allegedly shot and killed his daughter-in-law. His son, who was also involved in the murder, was already arrested earlier in the case. The fugitive is now in police custody, and further investigation is underway. SP Potohar Division, Muhammad Nabeel Khokhar, said the accused will be presented in court with solid evidence. He praised the efforts of the police team involved in the arrest and reaffirmed the department's commitment to delivering justice. He added that protecting citizens' lives and property remains the police's top priority.

Rickshaw driver nabbed

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Sadiqabad Police on Wednesday nabbed a rickshaw driver for allegedly misbehaving and manhandling a man and her wife after exchanging hot words over a minor issue. According to the Rawalpindi Police spokesman, the plaintiff in a complaint with the New Town Police claimed that during an altercation with him and his wife, the accused not only abused them but also thrashed them. The accused escaped from the scene after the incident. The Sadiqabad Police registered a case against the accused, and trace and nab him using all means including human intelligence, the spokesman said.

19 outlaws held

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police, Kohsar, Karachi Company, Golra, Phulgran and Shahzad Town police station teams have apprehended seven accused involved in various criminal activities. An official told APP on Wednesday that police teams also recovered 274 grams of Ice, 48 wine bottles and a pistol with ammunition from their possessions. Cases have been registered against the accused while further investigation is underway. Additionally, during a special campaign launched for the arrest of proclaimed offenders and absconders, various police teams took 12 criminals into custody. Following the special directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, the Islamabad Police continues its effective crack-down against crime.

Committee formed for Rawalpindi-Islamabad water project: Talal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Interior, Talal Chaudhry said that Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif has constituted a high-level committee, headed by the Interior Minister, to oversee a mega water supply project for Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

Speaking in the National Assembly on Wednesday, in response to a call-attention notice by Anjum Aqeel Khan regarding the dangerously low water table in the capital, he explained that the underground water level in Islamabad, which stood at 10 metres in 1960, has now dropped to over 120 metres.

He attributed this alarming decline to rapid population growth and urban expansion. The capital requires approximately 120 million gallons of water daily, but the Capital Development Authority (CDA) is currently supplying only 60 million gallons—meeting 90% of urban and just 15-20% of rural water needs. He said a mega water project is essential to bridge this gap adding that a feasibility study is already underway.

He further informed the house that, in a bid to raise groundwater levels, CDA has revised its building by-laws, making rainwater harvesting mandatory for all new residential and commercial constructions.

Soak wells are being installed to ensure that rainwater seeps into the ground, and the practice of groundwater extraction through boring is being actively discouraged.

To address the shortfall, treated water from Sangjani and water tankers from Khanpur are being used. He revealed that residents of a 10-marla house pay Rs192 per month for water, while those living in one-kanal houses are charged Rs280—rates that cover only half the actual cost of supply.

Highlighting the situation in rural areas, he said the government has launched 44 water supply schemes worth billions of rupees, but only 12 are currently operational. The remaining projects are hindered by issues such as faulty motors or unpaid electricity bills.

Meanwhile, Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry noted that water supply remains limited to urban parts of Islamabad, leaving over 1.2 million people in rural areas without regular access. He said the government is working to address this imbalance, with plans underway for the construction of small dams in Shahdara, Chirah, and parts of Rawalpindi. "We are committed to resolving this crisis during our term in office," he said.

Pakistan ramps up fight against climate change: Dr. Shezra

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Climate Change on Wednesday stated that Pakistan is stepping up its fight against the devastating effects of climate change through initiatives like the National Adaptation Plan and the Recharge Pakistan programme.

Addressing the National Assembly in response to a question from MP Shahida Rehmani, Dr Shezra Mansab Ali underscored the severe challenges posed by climate change, which has made Pakistan one of the world's most vulnerable nations.

"We are witnessing its impacts through recent heavy rains and earthquakes," she said. "To counter this, we have developed the National Adaptation Plan, under which several key programmes are being implemented." Among these is Recharge Pakistan, a major initiative aimed at conserving and storing water resources. Partnering with the World Wide Fund for Nature

(WWF), the programme employs nature-based solutions to manage rainwater and floodwater.

"We are diverting this water to natural lakes, ensuring it is stored and used effectively rather than wasted," she explained. The initiative also includes the National Capital Land Water project, designed to bolster water management.

In addition to water conservation, Pakistan is focusing on urban resilience. She highlighted new regulations mandating green building standards for future constructions. She added, "These rules ensure that new buildings are resilient and environmentally sustainable." Efforts are also underway to address illegal encroachments, with the Capital Development Authority (CDA) tasked with controlling such activities.

Responding to a supplementary question from MP Naeema Kishwar, Dr Shezra elaborated on Recharge Pakistan's role in water conservation and

storage, describing it as a "pivotal programme."

She noted that environmental issues, including deforestation, are now a provincial responsibility following the 18th Amendment. "We are working closely with provincial governments to curb tree-cutting and other harmful practices," she said.

To mitigate the risk of natural disasters, she stressed the importance of public awareness and disaster management. "The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has established warning systems and issued public alerts for natural calamities," she said.

"However, we need to do more to raise awareness so people avoid high-risk areas during flood or heavy rainfall warnings and take necessary precautions, she stated. Pakistan's multifaceted approach, from innovative water management to resilient urban planning, reflects its determination to tackle climate change head-on, she said.

Preparations finalized for Bari Imam Urs

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration has finalized arrangements for the Urs celebrations at Bari Imam, scheduled to begin on August 7.

In this regard, Additional Deputy Commissioner General (ADCG) Sahibzada Yousaf had visited the area to inspect the preparations, which include parking facilities, cleanliness, administrative coordination, and security arrangements, said the spokesman of ICT administration here Wednesday.

During his visit, Assistant Commissioner Secretariat provided a detailed briefing about the measures in place for crowd management and public convenience. Officials reviewed the entry and exit routes for vehicles and pedestrians, ensuring there would be no disruptions in traffic flow during the event.

Security arrangements have also been tightened around the shrine area, with deployment of police and other law enforcement

personnel. Surveillance systems and walk-through gates have been installed at key entry points to monitor the movement of visitors.

To manage the expected crowd, the administration has arranged designated parking areas, shuttle services, and clear signboards for guidance. Sanitation workers have been deployed to maintain cleanliness throughout the Urs.

Special attention has been given to the hygiene of food stalls and temporary shops set up around the shrine. Health and safety teams are expected to remain present during the event to monitor compliance with basic food safety standards.

Meanwhile, the district administration has also intensified its anti-encroachment campaign across the city. A targeted operation has been launched in the Bari Imam area under the supervision of Assistant Commissioner Secretariat Uzair Ali Khan.

According to the administration, illegal structures and encroachments around the shrine and nearby roads

are being removed to ensure smooth movement of visitors. This operation is part of a broader city-wide initiative to clear public spaces and restore access to walkways, streets, and government land.

Officials said that shopkeepers and vendors had been issued prior warnings, and action is now being taken against those who failed to comply. Heavy machinery is being used to remove illegal stalls, sheds, and other encroachments.

The administration has urged citizens and visitors to cooperate with the authorities during the Urs and avoid any activities that may disrupt the event or cause inconvenience to others.

The Urs of Hazrat Bari Imam is one of the most attended religious gatherings in the federal capital, attracting devotees from various parts of the country. The district administration plans to keep monitoring the situation throughout the event to ensure everything runs smoothly.

NA adopts resolutions on Palestinian support, digital harassment and honour killings

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly on Wednesday adopted a resolution reaffirming Pakistan's historic and unwavering support for the Palestinian people and their struggle for freedom, dignity and justice. The resolution, moved by PPP lawmaker Shazia Marri, expressed deep concern over the continuing and escalating Israeli military aggression in Gaza, which has resulted in the killing of civilians and widespread destruction of homes and infrastructure.

It strongly condemned recent statements and actions by Israeli authorities indicating plans for the long-term occupation of Gaza, forced displacement of its population, and attempts to erase the Palestinian identity of the territory. The resolution also denounced the use of starvation, siege, and collective punishment as tools of war, emphasizing that these acts constitute war crimes under international law. The House called upon



the United Nations and the international community to fulfill their moral and legal responsibilities by taking immediate and concrete steps to end Israeli military aggression in Gaza, ensure the protection of civilians, and guarantee unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance. It further urged that the occupying power be held accountable for war crimes and crimes against humanity, and that the Palestinian people be sup-

ported in their quest for justice and self-determination. The resolution also urged the government to continue to raise its voice for the Palestinian cause at all international forums, including the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

In another resolution, moved by Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), the House urged the federal government to strengthen

the legal framework to ensure strict punishment for unauthorized video recording, cyber harassment, and digital defamation.

It stressed enhancing the capacity of law enforcement agencies, including digital forensic units, to investigate and respond promptly and effectively. The House also called for targeted public awareness campaigns on digital rights, legal remedies, and safe reporting channels, in addition to establishing dedicated complaint desks in police stations. It further recommended introducing educational modules on digital ethics, privacy rights, and anti-harassment laws in institutions.

The National Assembly also adopted a resolution strongly condemning the unlawful acts of so-called honour killings. Moved by Shahida Rehmani, it emphasized zero tolerance for such acts and proposed the formation of an inter-provincial task force for coordinated action to curb these crimes.

ANF recovers 44 kg of drugs

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF), conducting 5 operations across the country, recovered as many as 44 kilograms of drugs worth more than Rs 6.4 million and arrested 8 suspects, including 2 women, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman on Wednesday.

He informed that 479 grams of ice-filled capsules were recovered from the stomach of a Bahrain-bound passenger at Faisalabad Airport. In another operation, 16.8 kg of hashish was recovered from a vehicle near Sangjani Toll Plaza, Islamabad and the accused was arrested.

Similarly, 12 kg of hashish was recovered from 3 accused, including two women, riding in a bus near the Islamabad Motorway Toll Plaza. 10.5 kg of ice was recovered from a rickshaw near Golra Mor, Islamabad, and the accused was arrested. As much as 5 kg of ice was recovered from a vehicle near Sher Shah Toll Plaza, Multan and 2 accused were arrested. Cases have been registered against the arrested suspects under the Narcotics Control Act, and further investigations are underway.

PO arrested for murder

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Kahuta Police on Wednesday arrested a proclaimed offender who along with his son had killed his other son's wife over a domestic dispute about two years ago.

The accused after killing his daughter-in-law had gone into hiding while his son (the deceased's brother-in-law) was already taken into custody by the police, the Rawalpindi Police spokesman said.

A case of the incident was registered in June 2023. Superintendent of Police Sadder Muhammad Nabeel Khokhar directed the Kahuta Police to prepare the challan against the accused with solid evidence to get them convicted from the court of law.

RAWALPINDI (APP): Commissioner Aamir Khattak has asked the Chairman National Highway Authority to convene a meeting for approval of the revised design of the Rawalpindi Ring Road (RRR) and issue a No Objection Certificate (NOC) promptly.

He said this during a visit to review the pace of work at RRR here on Wednesday.

The Commissioner, who is also the Project Director of the RRR, reviewed the overall progress of the project and directed the officials to speed up the work to achieve the target timely.

He stressed the need for planning in view of the weather conditions and said that a strategy should be made in such a way that the monsoon rains do not affect the pace of work. Aamir directed the officials to start the process of acquiring land at Thallian

Interchange immediately and kick off the construction of the bridge at Chakri Interchange.

Slope cutting and development work must be completed at the earliest, where the sub-base work has not been started. He further directed to amplify progress on the railway bridge and Banth Interchange. On the occasion, the officials briefed the Commissioner that around 70 per cent work on the project has been finished, while backfilling work was in progress on the drains, rivers and sub-way from Thallian to Banth Interchange.

In addition, the work of superstructure (deck launching) of bridges was also being resumed. The Commissioner directed that an activity and component-wise daily progress report be prepared on the project. He further said that the project should be divided into four sections: Thalian to

Chakri, Chakri to Khasala, Khasala to Chak Belly and Chak Belly to Banath, and a detailed schedule of remaining activities should be prepared for each section.

In addition, the roads for the construction structures are in poor condition; they should be repaired immediately. Aamir directed the concerned to complete the fencing around the RRR well in time. He directed Frontier Works Organisation to review the performance of subcontractors and replace ineffective contractors.

Director General Rawalpindi Development Authority Kanzi Murtaza, Director Development Zenia, DG Parks and Horticulture Authority Ahmed Hassan Ranjha, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue), Deputy Project Director Ring Road, concerned Assistant Commissioners, representatives of FWO were also present.

Rigorous preventive actions, zero dengue case in 48 hours

RAWALPINDI (APP): The District Health Authority Rawalpindi has reported a significant breakthrough in dengue prevention, with no new cases confirmed in the last 48 hours. Targeting the hotspots, particularly in Murree which has recently been declared as a dengue epicenter, the health authorities have ramped up anti-dengue operations across the district.

An intensified surveillance focused on the outbreak's epicenter in Kohati, Union Council Ghel in Murree. According to the details, teams have targeted hotspots such as Hoteer, Baraiti, Barsaka, Chapri, Uppar Kahkagri and the Bright School area in Murree, through rigorous larvæ elimination, environmental sanitation, and targeted fogging to control the mosquito popula-

tion. "The escalated efforts have produced positive results, with health facilities reporting no new dengue cases", said Dr. Waqar, the DHA Spokesman.

A district-wide surveillance program has also been strengthened to monitor and manage the situation, reflecting a comprehensive public health strategy. Officials are urging a continued public cooperation to sustain this progress.

According to the latest data shared by the health department, 4,173 patients have been screened in hospitals this year, with 34 confirmed dengue cases, 11 suspect patients admissions, and no deaths. The data shows that vector surveillance since January this year was conducted with 4.1 million houses checked,

of which 49,619 were detected positive, and 59,946 with larvae detected.

Punitive actions taken by the authorities include 1879 FIRs registered against the violators, 1130 points sealings including houses, shops, offices etc, 3,353 challans were issued and fines were imposed totalling Rs.3.49 million

Dr. Waqar confirmed that the authority was fully cognizant of the situation to yield potential outcomes.

On the other side, the district administration has decided to hold a daily review meeting and to share performance data with the media on a weekly basis. Moreover, it has been decided to take stern actions against health officials found negligent in rendering dengue preventive activities.

NAB hosts high-level seminar on anti-money laundering

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Accountability Bureau (NAB), in collaboration with Adam Smith International and the British High Commission, organized a high-level seminar on "Anti-Money Laundering, Challenges and Responsibilities."

The seminar was attended by the Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Senator Azam Nazir Tarar, as the chief guest. In addition, officers from NAB's seven regional offices participated online.

The purpose of the seminar was to review financial crimes (money laundering) occurring in Pakistan, assess the efforts of

law enforcement agencies, and collectively chart a strategy to combat this issue.

During the seminar, the Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazir Tarar expressed that this seminar was a milestone for the topic at hand. He emphasized that the best strategy for addressing such sensitive matters is for all relevant Stakeholders to come together under one roof, raise issues, and find mutually agreed-upon solutions.

He also mentioned that money laundering is a significant challenge for any country and its economy. He warned that failure to take strong action against the perpetrators would not only harm the national economy but would also distort Pakistan's image in the eyes of the world.

The Federal Minister urged all relevant agencies to carry out their responsibilities with dedication and efforts towards increasing public respect and trust in these institutions. He also lauded the performance of all LEAs, especially NAB.

The event was also attended by Raja Riffat Mukhtar, DG; Sameera Azam, Director FIA;

Aqeel Ahmed Siddiqui, DG FBR; Major General Abdul Moeed, DG; Israr Ahmad, Director ANF; Wasem Ahmad Khan, Additional IG CTD; Muhammad Javed Ismail, DG FMU; Mushtaq Ahmed Sukhira, Chairman AML/CFT; and Umar Riaz Cheema, DIG UPSCALE.

They shared their thoughts, providing an overview of their agencies' work and successes, while also identifying challenges and offering effective solutions. They emphasized that all agencies would utilize their best capabilities to eradicate these crimes from Pakistan and fulfill their

national responsibilities.

On this occasion, NAB's Deputy Chairman, Sohail Nasir, expressed that the goal of bringing all agencies together through this seminar was not only to learn from each other's expertise and working methods but also to identify and correct any mistakes.

NAB Chairman, Lt. Gen (Retd) Nazir Ahmad, welcomed the seminar participants and stated that NAB had taken the first step towards fighting money laundering through joint efforts. He emphasized that now, it is the responsibility of all

agencies to organize such events periodically, benefiting from each other's expertise, experience, performance, and successes, thereby enhancing their own capabilities. He further stated that tackling such crimes can only be successful if all agencies work together to fulfill their duties in the national interest.

The Chairman also thanked the Federal Minister for Law and Justice for his participation and assured that despite challenges, all agencies would perform their duties without any negligence for the sake of national security and reputation.

1 killed, 7 hurt in explosion

PARUN (Pajhwok): One individual was killed and seven others were injured in an explosion at a gemstone mine in the Doab district of central Nuristan province on Wednesday. According to a statement from the Nuristan police, the blast occurred in the Mawe area of Doab district due to the detonation of explosives used at the mine. The statement confirmed that one person died in the incident, while seven others sustained injuries.

3 schools get new buildings

GHAZNI CITY (Pajhwok): New buildings have been constructed and put into service at three schools in the Ajristan district of southern Ghazni province, at a cost of 33 million afghanis. Maulvi Izzatullah Saeedi, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the funding for these projects was provided by the government of Japan. He added that the total cost on the three buildings amounted to 33 million afghanis.

Kabul trade township inaugurated

KABUL (TOLOnews): A trade township aimed at attracting investment from returning Afghans and creating job opportunities was inaugurated in the Lattaband area of Kabul. This township will serve as a processing hub for goods imported from Europe and other countries and will facilitate the activities of returning traders. Officials emphasize that the investments made reflect improved security and economic growth in the country. Noorul Haq Anwar, Director General of the Administrative Office of the Prime Minister, said at the inauguration ceremony: "Now the conditions for Afghans to return have been made favorable. The pleasing point is that Afghans and migrant traders are returning to the country after decades." On the other hand, the contracting company says traders will first process and package imported goods from Europe and other countries here and then sell them in domestic and international markets. According to the company official, significant efforts have been made to transfer the capital of traders who previously operated in Pakistan, Iran and Tajikistan. Abdul Basir Mashal, the township's director, said: "The markets and shops of this township will be built like warehouses. Imported goods from Europe will be processed here, and most will be re-exported to Asian countries." Political analyst Fazel Rahman Oria stated: "Hundreds and thousands of people will work here. Many workers will benefit both directly and indirectly. Trade facilities will be established in the country." Lack of employment opportunities is considered one of the main challenges for citizens, but analysts believe that any investment in various domestic production sectors can reduce issues of unemployment, hardship, and poverty.

Iraqi investors eye energy production opportunities



KABUL (BNA): Mullah Abdul Latif Mansoor, the Minister of Energy and Water, held a meeting with Ahmed Hamed Saeed, an Iraqi investor, to discuss potential investments in energy production projects utilizing innovative technologies. During the meeting, Saeed introduced a ground-breaking electricity-generating device developed by his team, which reportedly operates without the need for traditional resources such as oil, gas, or water. Minister Mansoor welcomed the initiative, expressing the ministry's readiness to facilitate the necessary conditions for such investments. He highlighted the importance of foreign investment in enhancing the country's energy capabilities and integrating modern technologies into the sector. The collaboration with Iraqi investors could pave the way for a more resilient and efficient energy production system in the country.

Residents of Herat demand healthcare

HERAT CITY (Pajhwok): In remote villages of western Herat province, poverty, lack of adequate infrastructure and long distances from health centres are daily realities and the absence of medical services has become one of the most serious daily challenges. Noor Gul, a resident of Pashtjoy village in Injil district who has been suffering from an illness for a long time, says: "I am jobless; there are no jobs and our farming land yields very little. In this harsh economic situation, how can I afford to take myself or my sick relative to the city for treatment?" He urged the caretaker government to establish health centres in far-flung districts so that people could transfer their patients in time and get them treated. Shamoun, a resident of Pashtun Zarghun district who had brought a patient to Herat city for treatment, said: "There are no doctors, no medicine and no clinics in our area. People see with their own eyes their loved ones are dying from simple illnesses. A neighbour's father lost his eyesight because of the lack of medicine and healthcare facilities." He added that hundreds of families in Pashtun Zarghun lived far from the district centre and available medical services. He also believed that remote areas were in dire need of healthcare and these services should not be limited to district centres alone. "This pain is not ours alone—neighbouring districts face the same conditions. We have no clinics, no doctors. Diseases are increasing, but no one is there to help," he added. Similarly, Sediq Ahmad, a resident of Zawal district, said: "In our villages, there is not even a single clinic. If someone falls ill, they must go to Shindand district. But most people cannot afford the cost of transport and medical care." According to him, unemployment and the poor economic situation have forced many people to give up on taking their sick family members to the city or nearby districts for treatment. At the same time, social affairs experts stress that access to healthcare is a fundamental right of every citizen. They say the government, in collaboration with its partner organisations, must strive to provide widespread and accessible healthcare—especially in districts and remote regions. Gulab Haidari, a social affairs expert, described the current situation in remote areas as "tragic" and emphasised that the government must provide essential healthcare services for these communities, such as free local clinics, mobile health teams and emergency ambulance services. According to him, the lack of basic health services not only endangers individual wellbeing but also creates a fertile ground for the spread of dangerous diseases. Healthcare workers also acknowledge that many patients from remote areas only reach hospitals when their condition is deteriorated so severely that even doctors could no longer help. Hamid Rasouli, a healthcare worker at a private hospital, warned that the spread of contagious diseases in remote areas could lead to a humanitarian catastrophe because, as he noted, people were not only impoverished but also lived far from healthcare facilities.

Over 1,000 Afghans returned from Pakistan

KABUL (TOLOnews): In the past five days, more than one thousand Afghans have returned to the country through the Spin Boldak crossing, including 400 prisoners. Migrants say that mistreatment of migrants in Pakistan continues. Zabiullah, 22, after spending five days in a Pakistani prison, says the arrest, imprisonment, and torture of Afghans in Pakistani jails still continues. He told TOLOnews: "There was only rice, nothing else. They took us to prison and did not even give us water. They also tortured us." Several other recently returned migrants from Pakistan also complained about the mistreatment by that country's security forces toward Afghans. Noor Mohammad, who was deported from Pakistan, said: "They were very cruel to us. They took everything we had. We were imprisoned for twenty days and treated very unjustly." Shafiullah, another deportee from Pakistan, said: "In Quetta and Qalae-Saifullah, there was harassment. We moved to another place, thinking they would come there too, so we decided it was better to return to our country." Officials at the border migration office in Spin Boldak, Kandahar, say that since August 1, 2025, 950 migrants and 400 prisoners have returned to the country. Abdul Latif Hakimi, head of the migrant registration committee in Spin Boldak district, said: "From August 1 to 5, 180 families, totaling 950 people, and 400 prisoners have returned to the country." In addition to humanitarian and cash assistance, emergency aid is also being provided to returnees for resettlement in their original homes.

Kabir, IOM team discuss support for returnees

KABUL (Pajhwok): The Acting Minister of Refugees and Repatriation Maulvi Abdul Kabir and officials from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) have discussed measures to prevent the forced deportation of Afghan refugees.

Maulvi Kabir also called on the organisation to support the construction of permanent shelters for returnees. According to a statement from the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation (MoRRR), Kabir met with Mohammed Abdiker, Chief of Staff at IOM, along with a delegation accompanying him. The meeting was also attended by Eiori Kato, IOM's Regional Director for Asia, and Mihyung Park, the organisation's Chief of Mission in Afghanistan. The ministry said that discussions focused on strengthening future cooperation and supporting Afghan refugees.



During the meeting, Maulvi Abdul Kabir reiterated his call to end the forced deportation of Afghan refugees and emphasised the need to safeguard their assets and possessions. He noted that Afghan citizens would remain dependent on international humanitarian aid until they could achieve self-sufficiency. He also urged the international community to provide support for building permanent shelters, warning that the challenges facing returnees would worsen with the onset of winter. Mohammed Abdiker, for his part, said that the purpose of his visit to Kabul was to find solutions to the difficulties faced by returning Afghan refugees and to mobilise additional financial resources. He added that the IOM was coordinating with other agencies to address the needs of returnees and described the efforts of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan in this regard as effective. Referring to his recent visit to Herat, Abdiker said he would share detailed information regarding the situation of returnee and internally displaced families with UN officials and international donors.

Apple yield estimated to reach 19,000mt this year

PUL-I-ALAM (Pajhwok): Apple yield in central Logar province of Afghanistan are expected to reach 19,000 metric tons this year — a nearly five percent increase compared to last year's harvest. Abdul Basir Shahid, spokesman for the Department of Agriculture, told Pajhwok Afghan News that orchard owners in the province produced around 18,000 metric tons of apples last year. "This year, yields from Pul-i-Alam, the provincial capital, and other districts are estimated to reach approximately 19,000 metric tons — a 4% increase over the previous year," he said. Sahid added that with support from various institutions and personal investment by farmers, seven hectares of new apple orchards and 150 acres (about 60 hectares) of other fruit orchards have been established this year. He attributed the growth in production to the expansion of orchards and the delivery of professional training and agricultural guidance to local farmers.

Health Ministry seeks enhanced cooperation

KABUL (BNA): Mawlawi Abdul Wali Haqqani, Deputy Minister for Health Services, has called for increased cooperation from the Bill Gates Foundation during a recent meeting aimed at bolstering vaccination efforts and eradicating polio in Afghanistan. The Ministry of Public Health issued a statement today detailing the discussions that took place, which included key figures such as Dr. Haidarkhan Haidar, Director General of Disease Control and Prevention, and Dr. Hakim Hemat, Head of the Mass Immunization Program. Representatives from the Bill Gates Foundation were also present. The meeting centered on critical issues such as the effectiveness of the mass immunization program and strategies for eliminating the polio virus, particularly in six districts identified as having low vaccination coverage. Mawlawi Abdul Wali Haqqani expressed strong support for the initiatives discussed and emphasized the need for further collaboration with the Bill Gates Foundation to enhance health services in the region. Additionally, the Ministry highlighted that the mass immunization programs encompass not only polio vaccination but also campaigns against measles, with ongoing joint monitoring efforts to ensure the well-being of children across the country.

Besides treatment, drug addicts learning skills

HERAT CITY (Pajhwok): Alongside ongoing treatment, vocational training is being provided to 500 drug addicts in western Herat province, an official said on Wednesday. Maulvi Hayatullah Rohani, director of counter-narcotics department at the Police Headquarters, said the initiative was aimed at empowering recovering patients and paving the way for employment opportunities after overcoming addiction. He said the programmes were being implemented in different two-month, three-month and six-month phases, depending on individuals' abilities and circumstances and would have a positive impact both on their psychological and economic conditions. Meanwhile, some patients undergoing treatment and enrolled in training programmes said learning skills such as fridge repairs, tailoring, vehicle maintenance and other trades has given them greater motivation to start a new life. Abdul Samad, an inhabitant of Obek district in Herat, who has been receiving treatment at the provincial rehabilitation centre for the past two and a half months, said: "I was familiar with radio and other electrical appliance repair since teenage. Now these training programmes have been launched, I believe after full recovery, I will not only be free from addiction but also able to earn livelihoods for myself and my family." He urged the entities concerned to continue and expand these initiatives.



Dozens of girls stich a new future at Shukria's workshop



KABUL (Pajhwok): Shukria Shams, a woman in Kabul, has established a sewing workshop, not only supporting her family but also creating employment opportunities for dozens of other women and girls. She calls on the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) to support domestic products by reducing imports of foreign clothing. In a bustling old alley of Sang-i-Tarashan in Kabul's Shor Bazaar, the rhythmic hum of sewing machines is intertwined with the dreams of young girls who stitch hope and future with thread and needle each day. In the heart of this lively and warm atmosphere, 38-year-old Shukria Shams — a mother of several children — founded the "Afghan Women's Business Center", where sewing is not just a job, but a path to independence, self-confidence, and rebuilding lives. From Iran to Kabul: Starting with empty hands Shukria developed a love for sewing in childhood. While living as a refugee in Iran, she learned tailoring from her mother and later earned a bachelor's degree in fashion design. When she returned to Afghanistan after many years, few believed she would succeed. But she says, "When I came from Iran, most of my friends told me there's no work here. But I started from zero, with minimal capital, just one sewing machine and my skills. I had no fear." Initially, she worked from home, sewing clothes for neighbors and friends. But over time, word of her talent spread, and customers began coming from various parts of Kabul. Turning passion into enterprise: Launching a large workshop Shukria's dream was bigger than a small shop. Her passion for sewing inspired her to transform her tailoring shop into a full-fledged workshop where more women could work. Two years ago, with a capital investment of \$30,000, she purchased 25 sewing machines and essential equipment, launching a large workshop in Shor Bazaar. Today, it employs more than 30 women and girls. These women work daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in areas such as stitching, cutting, ironing, and more. Shukria is pleased with her growing business and says she earns between 50,000 to 100,000 afghanis in monthly profit. She acknowledges the challenges she's faced along the way but says she never gave up. Her ambition is to expand her business enough to one day provide jobs for thousands of Afghan women. Designing women's dresses In the warm, energetic environment of the workshop, the sound of sewing machines, scissors, colorful threads, and cut fabrics breathes new life into the art of tailoring. As she stitched a dress alongside her colleagues, Shukria said: "The dress I'm working on now is for a client's henna night. Including fabric and material costs plus profit, I'm making it for 25,000 afghanis — whereas a similar dress could cost up to 45,000 afghanis in the market." She not only shares her skills with her students but puts in every effort to ensure they are properly trained and can eventually work independently. A message to girls, government Shukria encourages other women and girls not to neglect their talents and abilities. "Our youth should start from small things and take action. They should bring their ideas to life and never lose hope. What matters is their mindset and motivation to reach their goals," she said. She also calls on families to support their daughters in learning practical skills and urges the government to back local production and limit foreign clothing imports to increase job opportunities for Afghan women.

Girls making a living through sewing Hasna, a resident of Shor Bazaar who has been coming to the center for nearly two years, says she sews Punjabi dresses, Gand-i-Afghani dresses, and six-panel designs. She says she wants to fight economic hardships through tailoring, become self-sufficient, and dreams of establishing her own center to empower other girls. Pleased with the workshop's environment, Hasna says the manager is deeply committed to helping girls learn proper tailoring skills and supports all trainees with dedication. Zainab, another young woman, has been sewing at the workshop for a year. She works daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., making a variety of women's clothing. She urges other girls to join tailoring so they can meet their financial needs and become self-reliant. Experts: Women entrepreneur should be supported Lima Shirzai, a women's rights activist, told Pajhwok that women entrepreneurs play a vital role in strengthening both national and household economies. "The government must provide easy, long-term loans to women so they can contribute to their country while supporting their families," she said. Abdullah Kakar Nissari, a professor of law and political science in Kabul, also emphasized the significance of women's economic participation: "It enhances their social role and gives them a sense of self-sufficiency and financial independence." He stressed that women must be supported by both their families and the government, adding, "Creating job opportunities for women not only boosts family incomes but also contributes to national economic growth." The Ministry of Commerce and Industry says 1,200 Licenses were issued to women entrepreneurs since the re-establishment of IEA. Akhundzada Abdul Salam Jawad, spokesman for the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, told Pajhwok that before the return of the Islamic Emirate, more than 9,000 business licenses had been issued to women. Since the Emirate's return to power, around 1,200 licenses have been granted to female investors. He added that currently, businesswomen are active in seven sectors — including health, agriculture and livestock, construction, humanitarian work, business advocacy, services, and industry. While he did not specify how many women are employed by businesses run by women, he noted that roughly 50,000 women are currently engaged in informal work such as poultry farming, dairy production, and tailoring. Meanwhile, Salma Yousafzai, head of the Afghan Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that 10,661 women across the country are actively involved in various types of businesses. She also emphasized the importance of women entrepreneurs in improving household income and reducing poverty, saying, "Creating more work opportunities for women leads to stronger financial stability for families and a healthier economy for the nation."



ISLAMABAD: President, Asif Ali Zardari exchanging views with Fahad Sulaiman Khalaf Al Kharusi, Ambassador of Sultanate of Oman to Pakistan during meeting held at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

President seeks stronger ties with Oman

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Pakistan, Fahad Sulaiman Khalaf Al Kharusi, met with President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr to explore avenues for enhanced bilateral cooperation. Both leaders emphasized the importance of strengthening the relationship for the mutual advantage of their countries.

President Zardari affirmed the strong bond between Pakistan and Oman, rooted in shared faith, cultural heritage, and principles. He suggested that increased high-level engagements would further solidify the positive relationship. The President advocated for expanded commercial and financial partnerships. He expressed Pakistan's eagerness to grow bilateral commerce and investments in sectors like information technology, infrastructure development, medical services, food security, and power generation. He stressed that government involvement would stimulate private sector collaboration, thus propelling trade and investment.

President Zardari thanked Oman for its backing of Pakistan's successful bid for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for 2025-2026. He also acknowledged Oman's hospitality towards the large Pakistani community residing there, recognizing their contributions to Oman's progress and their role as a bridge between the two nations.

Kashmir Solidarity marked

F.P. Report

DUBAI: The Consulate General of Pakistan in Dubai organized a ceremony on Kashmir Siege Day to mark the sixth anniversary of India's unilateral actions in Jammu and Kashmir, taken on August 5, 2019.

Members of the Pakistani and Kashmiri communities in the UAE attended the event, reaffirming their support for the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK).

Consul General Hussain Muhammad, while addressing the gathering, condemned India's actions as violations of UN Security Council resolutions and the UN Charter. He stated that these illegal steps have worsened the human rights situation in Kashmir but have failed to suppress the Kashmiri struggle for self-determination.

He reiterated Pakistan's unwavering political, diplomatic, and moral support for the Kashmiri people and called for a resolution based on UN resolutions and the will of the Kashmiri population. Messages from Pakistan's leadership were read out, and a documentary highlighting human rights violations in the region was screened during the event.

Wildfires, heatwaves grip S Europe

MADRID: Southern Europe is battling deadly wildfires and extreme heat this week, with record temperatures and dry conditions forcing evacuations across France, Spain and Portugal.

An enormous wildfire in southern France's Aude region has killed one person, injured nine others, marking the country's largest wildfire this season. The blaze, which erupted on Tuesday, has already scorched at least 15,000 hectares (37,000 acres) – an area larger than the city of Paris – in less than 24 hours. Fires have consumed forests, ravaged villages and damaged or destroyed at least 25 homes, with emergency officials warning that the blaze remains out of control.

"All of the nation's resources are mobilised," President Emmanuel Macron said in a post on X, urging people to act with "the utmost caution". More than 1,800 firefighters have been sent to battle the flames, backed by 600 vehicles and water-dropping aircraft. — Aljazeera

KP jirga discuss law, order situation

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The third consultative sitting of the ongoing series of local jirgas to deliberate on the restoration of normalcy in the merged districts was held here on Wednesday in Chief Minister's House, Peshawar with Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Khan Gandapur as its host.

The jirga brought together tribal elders, representatives of political party, and concerned members of the provincial and national assemblies from North Waziristan, Upper and Lower South Waziristan, as well as the tribal subdivi-

sions of Wazir, Bettani, Darazinda, and Jandola. Adviser to the Chief Minister on Information, Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif, Senator Noor-ul-Haq Qadri, the Chief Secretary, the Inspector General of Police, concerned commissioners, deputy commissioners, and senior police officials also attended the jirga.

Participants held detailed consultations on the current law and order situation and presented unanimous recommendations for the way forward. They praised the Chief Minister for convening jirgas of tribal elders on peace and security, stressing that

peace is a fundamental need. "We want peace, and we stand united against terrorists and terrorism," they affirmed.

The jirga recommended forming a delegation comprising representatives from the federal and provincial governments, tribal elders, and political leaders to engage in dialogue with Afghanistan for lasting peace in the region. Participants emphasised that they aspire to development, which is intrinsically linked to peace and stability. They noted that without a secure environment, no effort towards development and prosperity can yield lasting results.

Imran announces countrywide strike on 14th

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan has called on the public to take to the streets on August 14 to demand "true freedom," condemning what he described as an unlawful and oppressive system.

Speaking through family members after a meeting at Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail, Imran Khan also declared that no new candidates would be nominated to replace the PTI leaders who were disqualified, as he considers those disqualifications illegal and unjust.

Aleema Khan, who met him along with their sister Uzma Khan, spoke to the media afterwards. She said it was a blessing that their meeting with Imran Khan and his wife, Bushra Bibi, had taken place, and that the sisters had waited outside the prison together. Aleema revealed that

Imran Khan had inquired about his children's possible return to Pakistan and expressed satisfaction over recent protests, praising the people for taking to the streets despite state oppression.

According to her, Imran Khan was pleased to learn that citizens in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab had shown strong participation in the demonstrations. He paid tribute to the nation and compared the current repression to even more severe than that under past dictators.

Imran Khan reportedly said: "Yahya Khan divided the country to retain power—today, we're again being pushed toward a similar fate. Media is gagged, and if we want real freedom, we must stand up now." He made no complaints about the treatment he personally faced in jail, Aleema said, but he firmly reiterated his call for

protests on August 14, asserting that rule of law no longer exists in the country. He urged PTI leaders not to fear arrests or imprisonment. Additionally, Imran Khan has sent a clear message to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government, demanding an immediate halt to ongoing operations in the province. He emphasised that actions against their own people only fuel resentment against the party.

He advised that conflict resolution should be pursued through traditional jirgas (tribal councils), not force. Addressing Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, Khan warned that if the government cannot stop the operation, the CM must seriously reconsider his next steps. This renewed call for national mobilization comes amid escalating political tensions and crackdowns on PTI members and supporters.

PHC grants protective bail to Shibli, Zartaj Gul

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court (PHC) granted protective bail to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders Shibli Faraz and Zartaj Gul in the May 9 incident cases.

According to media reports, the High Court announced its reserved ruling on the bail plea submitted by the two leaders. Both Shibli Faraz and Zartaj Gul were awarded protective bail until August 11. The court further instructed them to appear before the relevant High Court and file appeals by the given date. It also ordered that the two leaders must not be arrested until then. This legal development provides temporary relief to the PTI figures amidst ongoing legal proceedings tied to the events of May 9.

Court sought compliance report in contempt of court petition: The Peshawar High Court (PHC) has expressed indignation over the non-compliance with its orders regarding the restriction on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Azam Swati's foreign travel and the failure to remove his name from the Exit Control List (ECL). The court has sought a report from the relevant authorities on the implementation of its orders, on Wednesday.

PHC's divisional bench comprising of Justice Syed Arshad Ali and Justice

Farah Jamshed heard the contempt of court petition filed by Azam Swati. During the hearing, Justice Syed Arshad Ali asked Azam Swati's lawyer, about the status of the petitioner's travel plans. The lawyer replied that despite the court's orders, Azam Swati was stopped at Peshawar airport and prevented from traveling abroad.

Justice Syed Arshad Ali expressed strong displeasure over the non-compliance with the court's orders, questioning the Additional Attorney General about the authorities' failure to implement the court's directives. The Additional Attorney General attributed the non-compliance to possible miscommunication and sought time to verify the facts.

PHC directed the relevant authorities to submit a report on the implementation of its orders by 12th August. The court also issued notices to the authorities, seeking their response to the contempt petition.

NAB decides to freezes assets of seven more accused: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has decided to freeze the assets of seven more accused involved in the Kohistan mega corruption scandal. The decision comes as part of the ongoing investigation into the massive financial irregularities in the province.

The scandal involves a whopping Rs40 billion embezzlement from the

provincial government's accounts, with Rs25 billion already recovered. The accused individuals have allegedly built assets worth hundreds of millions of rupees through corrupt means. The freeze on assets includes both movable and immovable properties.

The seven accused individuals including of four men named as Habibullah, Riaz, Naseer and Touseef along with three women whose names are not disclosed. Some of these individuals are alleged to be Benamidars (front-men) for the main accused, who have built assets in their names.

NAB has already issued 32 freezing orders, and with these seven additional orders, the total number will reach 39. The bureau is expected to file applications in the accountability court to confirm the freezing orders. The investigation into the Kohistan corruption scandal is ongoing, with more arrests expected. NAB has been probing the roles of government officials and private contractors in the scandal.

The scandal involves the misappropriation of funds from the provincial government's accounts through fake bills, inflated contracts, and other financial irregularities. The investigation has revealed serious flaws in the province's financial system and hints at deliberate sabotage.

India's flood rescue efforts hampered by landslides

NEW DELHI: Rescue workers are battling heavy rain and blocked roads after at least four people were killed and dozens reported missing after flash floods and landslides swept through parts of India's northern Himalayan state of Uttarakhand.

The flood struck Dharali, a village in Uttarkashi district and a popular stop on the way to the Hindu pilgrimage town of Gangotri, after a sudden surge of muddy water mixed with debris engulfed the valley on Tuesday. The flooding was triggered by intense monsoon rains, which continued to lash the region into Wednesday, complicating rescue efforts.

Al Jazeera understands that among the missing are at least eight soldiers from a nearby army base, while more than 190 people have

been rescued. Telephone lines remain damaged, and communication with the affected area is limited. Roads leading to the village have either collapsed or been blocked by large boulders, according to local official Prashant Arya. "A large part of the village is engulfed in mud," he told the news agency Reuters. "Some areas are covered up to 15 metres deep – enough to bury entire buildings."

The Indian army said it is leading efforts to find approximately 50 people still unaccounted for. Mohsen Shahedi of the National Disaster Response Force said "the search for the missing is continuing". The army's central command confirmed that "additional military columns" have been deployed, along with tracker dogs, drones and heavy

earthmoving equipment. Military helicopters are delivering supplies, including medical aid, and evacuating those stranded. Mobile and electricity towers were swept away by the floodwaters, forcing authorities to issue satellite phones to rescue teams. Television footage showed torrents of dark, debris-filled water crashing through Dharali, sweeping away buildings and roads as residents fled for their lives. A video shared by the office of Uttarakhand's chief minister showed parts of the village buried under mud. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama confirmed that about 130 people had been rescued by Tuesday night, and that helicopters were ready to deliver relief supplies to remote areas cut off by the flooding. - Aljazeera

38 more Palestinians killed seeking aid in Gaza

GAZA STIP (AP): At least 38 Palestinians were killed overnight and into Wednesday in the Gaza Strip while seeking aid from United Nations convoys and sites run by an Israeli-backed American contractor, according to local health officials. The Israeli military said it had fired warning shots when crowds approached its forces.

Another 25 people were killed in Israeli airstrikes, according to local hospitals in Gaza. There was no comment from the Israeli military on the strikes. The latest deaths came as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was expected to announce further military action — and possibly plans for Israel to fully reoccupy Gaza. Experts say Israel's ongoing military offensive and blockade are already pushing the territory of some 2 million Palestinians into famine.

Another escalation of the nearly 22-month war could put the lives of countless Palestinians and around 20 living Israeli hostages at risk, and would draw fierce opposition both internationally and within Israel. Netanyahu's far-right coalition allies have long called for the war to be expanded, and for Israel to eventually take over Gaza, relocate much of its population and rebuild Jewish settlements there. US President Donald Trump, asked by a reporter Tuesday whether he supported the reoccupation of Gaza, said he wasn't aware of the "suggestion" but that "it's going to be pretty much up to Israel."

Of the 38 Palestinians killed while seeking aid, at least 28 died in the Morag Corridor, an Israeli military zone in southern Gaza where UN convoys have been repeatedly overwhelmed by looters and desperate crowds in recent days, and where witnesses say Israeli forces have repeatedly opened fire. The Israeli military said troops fired warning shots as Palestinians advanced toward them, and that it was not aware of any casualties.

Nasser Hospital, which received the bodies, said another four people were killed in the Teina area, on a

route leading to a site in southern Gaza run by the Israeli-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, an American contractor. The Al-Awda Hospital said it received the bodies of six people killed near a GHF site in central Gaza. GHF said there were no violent incidents at or near its sites. Two of the Israeli airstrikes hit Gaza City, in the north of the territory, killing 13 people there, including six children and five women, according to the Al-Ahli Hospital, which received the bodies.

The Israeli military says it only targets militants and blames civilian deaths on Hamas because its militants are entrenched in heavily populated areas. Israel facilitated the establishment of four GHF sites in May after blocking the entry of all food, medicine and other goods for 2 1/2 months. Israeli and US officials said a new system was needed to prevent Hamas from siphoning off humanitarian aid.

The United Nations, which has delivered aid to hundreds of distribution points across Gaza throughout the war when conditions allow, has rejected the new system, saying it forces Palestinians to travel long distances and risk their lives for food, and that it allows Israel to control who gets aid, potentially using it to advance plans for further mass displacement. The UN human rights office said last week that some 1,400 Palestinians have been killed seeking aid since May, mostly near GHF sites but also along UN convoy routes where trucks have been overwhelmed by crowds. It says nearly all were killed by Israeli fire.

This week, a group of UN special rapporteurs and independent human rights experts called for the GHF to be disbanded, saying it is "an utterly disturbing example of how humanitarian relief can be exploited for covert military and geopolitical agendas in serious breach of international law." The experts work with the UN but do not represent the world body. The GHF did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The Israeli military says it has only fired warning shots when crowds threatened its forces, and GHF says its armed contractors have only used pepper spray and fired into the air on some occasions to prevent deadly crowding at its sites.

Israel's blockade and military offensive have made it nearly impossible for anyone to safely deliver aid, and aid groups say recent Israeli measures to facilitate more assistance are far from sufficient. Hospitals recorded four more malnutrition-related deaths over the last 24 hours, bringing the total to 193 people, including 96 children, since the war began in October 2023, according to the Gaza Health Ministry.

Jordan said Israeli settlers blocked roads and hurled stones at a convoy of four trucks carrying aid bound for Gaza after they drove across the border into the Israeli-occupied West Bank. Israeli far-right activists have repeatedly sought to halt aid from entering Gaza. Jordanian government spokesperson Mohammed Al-Momani condemned the attack, which he said had shattered the windshields of the trucks, according to the Jordanian state-run Petra News Agency.

The Israeli military said security forces went to the scene to disperse the gathering and accompanied the trucks to their destination. Hamas-led militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, in the Oct. 7 attack and abducted another 251. Most of the hostages have been released in ceasefires or other deals. Of the 50 still held in Gaza, around 20 are believed to be alive.

Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed over 61,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not say how many were fighters or civilians but says around half were women and children. It is part of the now largely defunct Hamas-run government and staffed by medical professionals. The UN and independent experts consider it the most reliable source for the number of war casualties.

Pakistan, Turkish Navies conduct exercise

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Pakistan Navy and Turkish Navy have successfully concluded first Bilateral Amphibious Exercise. The exercise marks a significant milestone in strengthening maritime collaboration and interoperability between two friendly navies.

The exercise featured a comprehensive range of training activities including combat firing techniques, amphibious operation drills, convoy escorting drills and military operations in urban terrain. Live firing drills and close combat scenarios, designed to sharpen tactical coordination and readiness



in littoral environments were also a part of the exercise.

The exercise culminated with a comprehensive amphibious drill in the designated coastal area validating operational readiness of both navies. The conduct of

bilateral exercise reflected deep rooted defence partnership between Pakistan and Türkiye and reaffirmed shared commitment towards regional peace through regular collaborative training initiatives.

Ghana's ministers among 8 killed in helicopter crash

GHANA: A helicopter crash has killed all eight people on board, including the nation's defence and environment ministers, according to Ghana's government. Defence Minister Edward Omana Boamah and Environment Minister Ibrahim Murtala Muhammed were among the victims of the crash in the southern Ashanti region of the country, said Julius Debrah, chief of staff to President John Mahama, on Wednesday.

"The president and the government extend their condolences and solidarity to the families of our comrades and soldiers who fell in their service to the nation," said Debrah. Also among the victims were Alhaji Mohammad Muniru Limuna, deputy national security coordinator and former minister of agriculture, and Samuel Sarpong, vice chairman of Mahama's

National Democratic Congress (NDC) party.

Boamah was helming Ghana's defence ministry at a time when armed groups across its northern border in Burkina Faso had become increasingly restive. While Ghana has so far avoided a rebel spillover from the Sahel – unlike neighbours Togo and Benin – observers have warned of increased arms trafficking and of fighters from Burkina Faso crossing the porous border to use Ghana as a rear base.

A medical doctor by training, Boamah's career in government included stints as communications minister during Mahama's previous 2012-2017 tenure. Before that, he was the deputy minister for the environment. As Ghana has pursued increased diplomacy with Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger – all ruled by military governments who have broken with

the ECOWAS West African regional bloc – Boamah led a delegation to Ouagadougou in May.

He had been set to release a book titled, A Peaceful Man in an African Democracy, about former President John Atta Mills, who died in 2012. The Ghanaian Armed Forces had reported earlier Wednesday that an air force helicopter had fallen off radar after taking off from Accra just after 9:00am (09:00 GMT). It had been headed towards the town of Obuasi, the northwest of the capital. The statement had said that three crew and five passengers were on board, without specifying at the time that the ministers were among them. All flags were to be flown at half-staff, Debrah said, while the presidency said Mahama had cancelled his official activities for the day. — Aljazeera