

New polio case reported
F.P. Report
ISLAMABAD: The Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication at the National Institute of Health (NIH), Islamabad, has confirmed a new polio case from District Tank in Southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The latest polio case involves a 20-month-old girl from Union Council Ping A, District Tank. This is the 14th Polio case from Southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa this year.

Earthquake in Afghanistan kills 812

KABUL (Pajhwok): The death toll from the devastating earthquake in eastern Afghanistan has reached 812, with more than 2,800 people injured. The government has formed a special committee to coordinate the response and allocated 100 million afghanis for immediate relief.

The earthquake struck around midnight and measured 6.0 on the Richter scale, according to the United States Geological Survey (USGS). Zabiullah Mujahid, chief spokesman for the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA), told reporters in Kabul on Monday that in Kunar province's Nurgal district (Mazar Dara), Chawkay, Watapur, Manogi, Chapa Dara and surrounding areas, 800 people have died and 2,500 were injured.

In Nangarhar's Dara-i-Noor district, 12 people were killed and 255 injured. Laghman's Alingar district reported 58 injuries and Nuristan's Nurgam district reported four injuries. In Panjshir's Abshar district, five houses were destroyed, but no casualties were reported. Mujahid said the Prime Minister has formed a special committee led by the Minister of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Mullah Mohammad Yunus Akhundzada, with representatives from various ministries and agencies. "For urgent relief, the respected Prime Minister has allocated 100 million afghanis, which are being used now. Additional funds will be provided if needed," he added.

Since Sunday night, the Ministries of Interior, Defense and Public Health, along with provincial governors, disaster response departments, the Red Crescent and other officials, have taken measures to evacuate the deceased, transfer the injured, and deliver essential food, medical supplies, and other necessities. Forty flights have been conducted from Nangarhar's airport alone.

Mujahid, in response to the destruction of houses caused by this earthquake, said: "In Kunar province, many houses have been destroyed - meaning several villages have been destroyed. Mazar Dara, which we mentioned, the entire village has been destroyed. Exact figures regarding the houses have not yet arrived; of course, details will be published later. For now,



we have only shared with you the numbers of the martyrs and the wounded." Mujahid urged all charitable organizations, traders, and ordinary Afghans to support earthquake-affected communities.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday condoled the losses of life and property after a strong earthquake jolted the eastern provinces of Afghanistan and parts of Pakistan. "Deeply saddened by the devastating earthquake in eastern Afghanistan, which shook Kabul and was also felt in various parts of Pakistan, including Islamabad," the prime minister wrote on his X timeline, who was currently in China to attend the 25th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

He sympathised with the victims and their families as hundreds of deaths and the destruction of villages had been reported there. "On behalf of the people and Government of Pakistan, I extend my heartfelt condolences and prayers to the bereaved families," the prime minister said and expressed solidarity with the Afghan people in this hour of grief, offering all possible support in this regard.

Five soldiers perish in Army Copter crash

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Five Pakistan Army personnel were martyred when an MI-17 helicopter crashed near Hudor village, approximately 12 kilometers from Thakdas Cantonment, during a routine training exercise Monday morning.

The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) reported the aircraft experienced a mechanical malfunction around 10:00 a.m. The helicopter went down during a training flight. The deceased soldiers were identified as Major Atif (Pilot in Command), Major Faisal (Co-pilot), Naib Subedar Maqbool (Flight Engineer), Havaldar Jahangir (Crew Chief), and Naik Amir (Crew Chief).

The ISPR explained that training flights are a regular activity for Army Aviation to maintain operational preparedness for various duties, including combat support, humanitarian aid, and disaster response. The Pakistan Army reiterated its dedication to ensuring readiness in all operational areas.

President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the crash of an Army Aviation training helicopter near Thak Das cantonment area in Gilgit-Baltistan.

The president and the prime minister, in their separate statements, prayed for the elevation of ranks of the martyrs Major Atif, Major Faisal, Flight Engineer Maqbool, Havaldar Jahangir, and Naik Ameer in Jannah. Extending condolences to the families of the martyrs, they prayed for patience and strength for the bereaved families.

PM reaffirms Pak's commitment to SCO

- calls for dialogue, peace, regional connectivity

TIANJIN (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday stressed promoting regional cooperation, dialogue, and peace under the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) framework, urging the Organization's leadership to initiate a comprehensive and structured dialogue to address longstanding disputes in South Asia.

Highlighting Pakistan's support for multilateralism, the prime minister said the SCO remained a platform that best represents Pakistan's abiding commitment to regional cooperation and integration. "Pakistan has always believed in the power of multilateralism, dialogue and diplomacy, and shunning unilateralism," he said expressing disappointment over the region's extremely disturbing development in the last few months.

Addressing the 25th SCO Heads of States Council Meeting, he emphasized that Pakistan sought normal and stable relations with its neighbors, advocating dialogue over confrontation. On regional security, the prime minister reiterated Pakistan's condemnation of terrorism in all its forms, including what he termed "state terrorism," while recalling the country's immense sacrifices in the fight against extremism. "We have lost over 90,000 lives and endured economic losses exceeding \$152 billion - a sacrifice unparalleled in history," he said, adding that foreign elements were involved in recent terror incidents in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

"We condemn terrorism in all its forms... Those who have long used terrorism for advancing their political interest must know that the world no longer buys this narrative. We had irrefutable evidence of the involvement of some foreign hands in the devastating Jaffar Express train hostage incident as well as countless other terrorist attacks against us in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province," the prime minister remarked. The prime



minister strongly condemning Israel's unjustified aggression against Iran, a fellow SCO member, called for an immediate end to the bloodshed in Gaza. He reaffirmed Pakistan's support for the two-state solution with pre-1967 borders and Al-Quds Al-Sharif as the capital of Palestine.

As regards, Afghanistan situation, he said Pakistan supports a peaceful and stable Afghanistan for the benefit of the entire region. He expressed hope that trilateral cooperation between Pakistan, China, and Afghanistan would yield positive results. Addressing the challenge of climate-induced disasters, the prime minister spoke about the devastating floods currently affecting Pakistan due to torrential rains, which have caused massive human and economic losses. He thanked the international community, particularly China, for their solidarity and assistance.

Despite challenges, he noted that Pakistan was on a path of economic recovery, citing reduced inflation, a current account surplus, and rising capital market activity. He outlined Pakistan's economic transformation plan based on three pillars: export-led growth, foreign investment in key sectors

such as infrastructure, agriculture, AI, IT, minerals, and energy, and comprehensive tax reforms. Underscoring the importance of youth empowerment, the prime minister said Pakistan was creating new opportunities for meaningful employment and innovation, turning its large youth population into an asset for national development.

He also lauded China's successful chairmanship of the organization, describing it as a reflection of President Xi Jinping's visionary leadership, and praised initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The prime minister said today China's global leadership was exemplified not only through the SCO but also in the landmark initiatives such as Global Development Initiative (GDI), Global Security Initiative (GSI), Global Civilization Initiative (GCI) and Belt and Road initiative with the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as its flagship project. Highlighting the significance of enhanced regional connectivity, PM Shehbaz Sharif called for efficient land, air and rail corridors to ensure reliability of supply chains.

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Sindh ready to handle flows ranging from 0.8m to 1.1m cusecs: CM Murad

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has warned of a possible super flood in Sindh as India released massive flows into the Chenab River and urged the federal government to formulate a comprehensive climate change policy, stressing that Pakistan must be better prepared to deal with recurring natural disasters.

He said this while addressing a press conference at the New Sindh Secretariat, flanked by Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon and Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah.

"Four days ago, 1,077 million cusecs of water had reached Qadirabad Barrage," Shah said, explaining that water from the Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, and Sutlej rivers converges at Panjnad before merging into the Indus at Kot Mithan.

"Currently, around 250,000 cusecs from Ravi, 350,000 cusecs from Sutlej, and 200,000 cusecs from the Indus are combining with Chenab flows, and all this water eventually drains into the sea through the Indus." The NDMA has forecast 0.8 million to 1.1 million cusecs at Guddu Barrage around September 5, he revealed, warning that "anything above 900,000 cusecs is declared a super flood."

The Chief Minister Murad Shah assured that Sindh had made full preparations to face the looming challenge. "Our foremost responsibility is to protect human lives, livestock, and our barrages," he said. He added that his government has secured the

embankments. "After the 2010 floods, we raised them significantly, by around six feet," he said.

Murad Shah recalled that during the 2010 super flood, Guddu Barrage saw a flow of 1.148 million cusecs, while in 2014, 590,000 cusecs at Trimmu Barrage had passed safely. "Recently, 550,000 cusecs passed through Guddu Barrage on August 24 without any alarming situation. Today, we are prepared for up to 910,000 cusecs," he said. The CM said that every quarter mile of embankments now has a watch camp (landi) with 16 staff members monitoring round-the-clock and trained to respond immediately. Sensitive points have been fortified with machinery and other arrangements. Special focus has also been placed on the KK Bund to ensure its protection.

"All commissioners, deputy commissioners, and the PDMA have been directed to stay fully prepared. Villagers and livestock owners have been briefed, while the Health Department has been placed on high alert," Mr Shah said, adding that he himself, along with the Chief Secretary and provincial ministers, was monitoring the situation.

During the Question & Answers, Murad Shah Shah turned to the broader issue of climate change, calling it an undeniable reality. "We must acknowledge that the impacts of climate change are extremely dangerous," he stressed. "At the moment, my focus is on ensuring

Sindh passes the next 10 to 15 days safely. But nationally, we must develop a comprehensive policy to tackle climate change."

The CM recalled that in the 2022 floods, Sindh and Balochistan were the worst hit, but this time, Punjab had been most severely affected. "Our brothers and sisters in Punjab are suffering the most. People of Sindh stand shoulder to shoulder with them. Our prayers and assistance are with Punjab," he said. Explaining the dynamics of the current flooding, Shah clarified that the high flows in Punjab were caused by the Chenab, Ravi, and Sutlej rivers, and "this water cannot be diverted to Kalabagh."

The CM also highlighted the institutional legacy of disaster management, recalling that after the 1973 and 1976 floods, Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto established the Federal Flood Commission. "Today, we have the NDMA at the federal level and the PDMA at the provincial level, both working effectively to deal with natural disasters," he added. For field monitoring, Chief Minister Murad Shah announced that provincial Minister Muhammad Ali Malkani has been assigned to oversee the Left Bank of the Indus, while Riaz Shah Shirazi will supervise the Right Bank downstream of Kotri.

"The Sindh government is prepared to handle flows ranging from 0.8 million to 1.1 million cusecs. Every precautionary step is being taken," the Chief Minister concluded.

Rescue 1122 rescues 154,000 in floods, handles 223,000 emergencies

LAHORE (APP): Emergency Services Department (ESD) Punjab The Secretary Dr. Rizwan Naseer on Monday appreciated the tireless efforts of rescuers deployed in riverine and flood-affected areas.

He said that despite challenges to their own homes and families, these personnel have remained on duty round-the-clock, ensuring timely evacuation of residents and livestock, thereby saving countless lives.

Dr. Rizwan expressed these views while presiding over the monthly performance review meeting, which was attended by the heads of various wings at the Rescue 1122 Headquarters, while divisional and district emergency officers participated via video link and present-

ed detailed briefings on flood-related operations.

The secretary was briefed that over 154,000 flood-affected individuals have been rescued during the current monsoon operations. In addition, the service responded to 223,447 routine emergencies during the month of August alone.

The provincial monitoring officer informed the secretary that a total of 154,413 people were evacuated from flood-hit areas along the Indus, Chenab, Ravi, Sutlej, and Jhelum rivers using 827 rescue boats. The evacuations included, 42,355 people from Bahawalpur, 17,528 from Kasur, 13,147 from Pakpattan, 10,715 from Okara, 7,447 from Nankana Sahib, 6,413 from Rahim Yar Khan and 56,808 from

other districts. Additionally, 28,667 livestock were transported to safer locations.

According to the Rescue 1122 spokesperson, in August, department responded to 223,447 emergencies, which included 149,795 medical emergencies, 40,286 road traffic crashes (RTCs), 6,982 delivery cases, 6,209 falls/slips, 4,440 crime incidents, 2,315 occupational injuries, 1,998 electric shock cases, 1,623 animal rescues, 1,366 fire incidents, 286 burn cases, 137 drowning incidents, 127 structural collapses and 7,883 miscellaneous emergencies.

Among these, Lahore recorded the highest number with 7,459 RTCs, resulting in 37 fatalities. Other major cities included:

Faisalabad (2,747 RTCs), Multan (2,615), Gujranwala (2,099), Sheikhupura (1,443), and Rawalpindi (1,409). The remaining 22,514 road traffic crashes occurred in various other districts of Punjab.

Similarly, fire incidents were more prevalent in urban centers, with 320 cases reported in Lahore, followed by 100 in Faisalabad, 92 in Multan, 88 in Rawalpindi, 56 in Rahim Yar Khan, and 53 in Gujranwala.

The secretary advised the public to avoid unnecessary travel in flood-affected areas, especially during ongoing spells of heavy rain. Citizens were strongly urged to stay away from low-lying and hilly regions, as swift currents in rivers and seasonal streams pose a serious risk.

DC inspects flood relief camps

LAHORE (APP): Deputy Commissioner Syed Musa Raza visited various flood relief camps to review ongoing arrangements for affected families on Monday.

During the visit, DC Raza inspected relief centres at Marakah School, Chung Centre, and Raiwind, where he personally reviewed food distribution, shelter arrangements, and medical facilities. He also interacted with affected residents, who expressed satisfaction over the timely support provided by the district administration.

The DC issued strict instructions to maintain high standards of cleanliness, ensure availability of nutritious meals, and provide milk for children at all camps. He emphasised that there should be no shortcomings in food distribution or medical assistance.

402nd Urs of Hazrat Mian Mir (RA) begins

LAHORE (APP): Secretary Auqaf Punjab Dr. Tahir Raza Bukhari on Monday inaugurated the 402nd annual Urs of Hazrat Mian Mir (RA) with the ritual of covering the headscarf.

On this occasion, a special "Hazrat Mian Mir (RA) Interfaith Harmony Conference" was organized, in which Parliamentary Secretary Auqaf Malik Muhammad Waheed, Secretary Auqaf Dr. Tahir Raza Bukhari and Chairman Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Maulana Syed Abdul Khabir Azad addressed and said that the monasteries of Sufis are the biggest institutions of service to the people.

In the current flood situation, there is a need to open the doors of the monasteries for the vic-

tims. The government is fully prepared to protect the affected settlements from flood water.

They further said that Hazrat Mian Mir (RA) promoted mutual tolerance in the region. Hazrat Mian Mir (RA) was a pioneer of peace and a trustee of humanitarianism.

Addressing the conference, Director General Religious Affairs Khalid Mahmood Sindhu, Chairman Religious Affairs Committee Sahibzada Muhammad Shahzad Sultan, Maulana Shakeel-ur-Rehman Nasir, Mufi Imran Hanafi, Mufi Muhammad Shafiq, Allama Sajjad Hussain Jawadi and other speakers said that the current government has a firm belief in the universal values of Islam.

The Punjab Government is striving to create a toler-

ant and welfare society that is adorned with themes such as peace, coexistence, social protection, social welfare, sacrifice and brotherhood, adding, it is very important to light the candle of knowledge and awareness so that elements like extremism can be eradicated at the intellectual and ideological level.

On this occasion, Director Administration Auqaf Muhammad Shakir, Administrators Auqaf Ayaz Mahmood Lashari, Sheikh Jamil Ahmed, members of the Religious Affairs Committee Muhammad Farooq Mazhar Khan, Muhammad Aslam Tareen, Sheikh Muhammad Saeed, Manager Auqaf Gohar Mustafa and Rana Ehsanul-Haq, along with pilgrims and devotees, were present.

Ombudsman office achieves ISO certification

LAHORE (APP): The Office of the Ombudsman Punjab has been awarded the prestigious ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System (QMS) certification, marking a significant milestone in its journey towards excellence in public service delivery.

ISO 9001 is the world's most recognized standard for quality management systems. Its certification demonstrates that an organization has established effective mechanisms to ensure public satisfaction, continuous improvement, and employee involvement, while meeting regulatory requirements.

According to a spokesperson for Ombudsman Office, the certification process involved a detailed gap analysis, implementation of a comprehensive quality management system, internal audits, and an independent certification audit, followed by ongoing surveillance audits to maintain compliance.

With this achievement, the Ombudsman Punjab's office is expected to benefit from enhanced credibility, improved processes, greater efficiency, and a stronger competitive advantage in comparison with other institutions. The spokesman noted that the certification is not only a recognition of the office's sustained hard work and diligence but also a testament to its efficiency and commitment to ensuring timely, transparent, and effective service delivery to the public.



PESHAWAR: Shahid Afridi visits Malik Saad Shaheed Police Lines— laid floral wreaths at the Martyrs' Memorial and offered prayers.

LEAs arrest 63 drug smugglers

LAHORE (PPI): During an ongoing crackdown on drug smuggling in Punjab, law enforcement agencies arrested 63 individuals and registered 62 cases, while also seizing a large quantity of drugs.

This operation is part of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's "Safe Punjab" program, which aims to improve security and public order throughout the province. Police conducted 382 search operations, interrogated 11,276 individuals, and detained 27 on suspicion of various crimes.

Authorities also took action against electricity theft, resulting in the arrest of 59 individuals and the registration of 130 cases. In a separate operation against kite flying, 3 individuals were arrested, 3 cases were registered, and 5 kites were confiscated.

Action against traffic violations continued, with fines of 15 million rupees imposed on 26,550 violations. Eighteen smoke-emitting vehicles were impounded. In addition, 12,066 driving licenses were issued.

Police service centers provided 14 different services, benefiting 1,935 citizens. These ongoing operations demonstrate the Punjab Police's commitment to maintaining peace and order under the "Safe Punjab" initiative.

Wildlife Rangers recover 92 wild birds

LAHORE (APP): Under the direction of Senior Minister Maryam Aurangzeb and Secretary Forests, Wildlife and Fisheries Punjab Mudassar Riaz Malik, the Punjab Wildlife Department, under the leadership of Chief Wildlife Ranger Ramin Elahi, is taking the lead in flood rescue/relief activities, including wildlife rescue across the province, alongside the district administration.

Wildlife Rangers have recovered 92 wild birds from different places and recovered 18 illegal netting gears and issued challans to 32 accused and fined them Rs600,000. Quail netting gears were seized from Okara, and smuggling was foiled from Sahiwal and 48 quails were caught, while an accused was arrested in Chakwal for uploading pictures of illegal hunting on social media and fined Rs160,000.

Shahid Afridi pays tribute to KP Police martyrs in Peshawar visit

F.P Report

PESHAWAR: Former Pakistan cricket team captain and legendary all-rounder Shahid Afridi paid a special visit to Malik Saad Shaheed Police Lines in Peshawar. He was warmly received by senior police officers including the SSP Operations Masood Ahmed.

On his arrival, a smartly turned-out contingent of Peshawar Police presented a guard of honor. Afridi laid floral wreaths at the Martyrs' Memorial, offered prayers for the departed heroes of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police, and later held a meeting with the Police Officer. During the meeting, he was briefed on the city's law and order

situation and the police's community-oriented services.

The cricket star particularly lauded the "professional and exemplary" security arrangements made by Peshawar Police during the recent charity cricket match at Imran Khan Cricket Stadium for flood-affected families. He remarked that the quality of security demonstrated by Peshawar Police reflects the city's potential to successfully host national and international cricket matches. The Police Officer assured him that the force is fully prepared to provide comprehensive security for any future national or international sporting events.

Paying tribute to the sacrifices of Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa Police in the fight against terrorism, Afridi said: "Peshawar Police have always stood at the frontline to protect the lives and property of citizens, and their sacrifices are a source of pride for the entire nation."

He further stated that he considers himself a member of the proud Pashtun nation, cherishes his bond with the people of Peshawar, Khyber, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and pledged to stand with them in every difficult time. In conclusion, Afridi, on behalf of himself and Peshawar Zalmi, thanked Peshawar Police and the district administration for their cooperation, describing Peshawar Police as a professional and highly dedicated force.

Mustafa Kamal launches anti-polio campaign

KARACHI (APP): Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Syed Mustafa Kamal on Monday launched a National Anti-Polio Campaign at Sohrah Goth, to protect millions of children under the age of five from the virus.

While addressing the anti-polio launching ceremony, he underscored that the polio vaccine is safe, effective, and vital for saving the lives of children.

He further said that misconceptions portraying it as harmful or religiously

prohibited were inaccurate. The Minister emphasized that polio workers have been directed to request cooperation respectfully, while law enforcement agencies will be present only for the security of vaccination teams.

The Minister pointed out that coercion strengthens negative perceptions and undermines the campaign. Kamal cautioned that refusals remained a pressing challenge. He urged the members of the National and Provincial Assemblies to engage with communities patiently and constructively. He empha-

sized that better communication, respectful dialogue, and trust-building are essential, and that the campaign must rely on persuasion rather than pressure.

It was also stated that significant development work had been carried out in Sohrah Goth and along the Super Highway to resolve long-standing grievances of citizens.

Thousands of people who had suffered previously are now benefiting from improved infrastructure, while hospitals and graveyards have also been established to meet essential community needs.

Ministers review relief, rehabilitation activities

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Ministers Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora, Zeeshan Rafiq, and Sohaib Ahmed chaired a high-level meeting at the Commissioner's Office Gujranwala to review the flood situation and rehabilitation activities in the division.

The ministers directed that all available resources be utilized to protect lives and property, stressing that no delay would be tolerated in rescue and relief operations, said a handout issued here on Monday. They instructed the district administration to remain fully alert, particularly in low-lying areas, and to ensure immediate redressal of public grievances. Minorities Affairs Minister Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora underlined the need for close coordination among all institutions to effectively tackle the flood situation, warning that negligence in providing relief would not be accepted.

Local Government Minister Zeeshan Rafiq said administrative lapses or delays would be unacceptable under any circumstances. He stressed that officers must remain in the field and respond immediately to the needs of the public, especially in sensitive and vulnerable areas.

Communications and Works (C&W) Minister Sohaib Ahmed said that the Punjab government stands firmly with the people and will not leave them alone in this difficult time. He added that only collective efforts and teamwork could ensure success in overcoming the crisis and bringing relief to the flood-affected communities.



LAHORE: Students arriving at school on the first day after summer vacation in the provincial capital. —APP Photo

پیبلک نوٹس

غیر رجسٹرڈ خواتین کا تمام پرنٹنگ پریسز کے مالکان کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ وہ اپنے پرنٹنگ پریس کی مالدار رجسٹریشن برصورت 31 ستمبر 2025 تک مکمل کریں۔ مزید برآں، ایسے تمام پرنٹنگ پریس جو بغیر ڈبلکٹریشن کے غیر قانونی طور پر قائم ہیں، انہیں مبادت کی جاتی ہے کہ وہ غیر رجسٹرڈ خواتین، نیوز پیپر، ریزیڈنسی اینڈ بکس رجسٹریشن ایکٹ 2013 کے تحت لازمی ڈبلکٹریشن کے حصول کیلئے اپنے متعلقہ رجسٹریشن آفس سے مقررہ تاریخ سے قبل رجوع کریں۔ ورنہ رجسٹریشن کے بعد تمام غیر قانونی پرنٹنگ پریسز کے خلاف قانون کے مطابق سخت کارروائی عمل میں لائی جائے گی۔

حکومت ڈائریکٹر جنرل

انفارمیشن اینڈ پبلک ریلیشنز، خیبر پختونخوا

PHC seeks CS response against posting in Excise & Taxation

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court (PHC) has sought response from the Chief Secretary, Secretary Establishment, and Secretary Excise and Taxation along with others, on a petition challenging the appointment of Saud Khan Gundapur as the head of the Intelligence Bureau in the Excise and Taxation Department, on Monday.

The petitioners, including Azlan Aslam, are officials in the Excise and Taxation Department, ranging from inspectors to grade 18 officers. They have challenged the appointment of Saud Khan Gundapur, who is allegedly a relative of the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Saud Gundapur was appointed to a grade 17 post in the Provincial Assembly ten months ago and was still on probation when he was deputed to the Excise and Taxation Department.

The counsel Asif Yousafzai advocate argued that Saud Khan Gundapur's appointment is illegal and violates the rules. He claim that Saud Gundapur was appointed to a grade 17 post in the Excise Department without going through the Public Service Commission, which is mandatory for such

appointments. They also allege that Gundapur was promoted to a grade 18 post equivalent to the rank of Superintendent of Police without a special selection board.

PHC divisional bench comprising of Justice Waqar Ahmad and Justice Ijaz Khan has directed that no action should be taken against the petitioners until the next hearing. The court has also sought a response from the Chief Secretary and other respondents on the petition.

PHC suspends DHO Orakzai transfer order

The Peshawar High Court (PHC) has suspended the transfer order of the District Health Officer (DHO) Orakzai, Dr. Inayat Rahman, and sought a response from the Health Department. DHO Dr. Inayat Rahman has challenged his transfer, which he alleged was made on the recommendation of a local Member of the Provincial Assembly (MPA), on Monday.

The counsel Amin ur Rehman Advocate informed that the petitioner was appointed as DHO Orakzai and had initiated a recruitment process for technical staff positions in January 2025. The recruitment process was conducted transparently, and the selection committee recommended the appoint-

ment of successful candidates. However, the local MPA raised objections to the recruitment process and alleged that Dr. Inayat ur Rahman had taken money from successful candidates.

The MPA's personal secretary, who is also a doctor and an Afghan migrant, allegedly stormed Dr. Rahman's office with others and threatened him to leave his seat. FIR was registered against the incident at City police station Hangu, but instead of appreciating the petitioner for transparent recruitment process, he was transferred through a notification issued on 28th August, the lawyer argued.

The petitioner also sought directions to cancel the medical card of the MPA's personal secretary, who allegedly attacked DHO office. The lawyer requested the court to suspend the notification until the final decision on the petition, reinstate Dr. Rahman to his position, and send a reference to the Election Commission to disqualify the MPA.

PHC divisional bench comprising of Justice Waqar Ahmad and Justice Ijaz Khan Sabi suspended the transfer order and sought a response from the Health Department.

PHC seeks DGs ANF& FIA response in alleged

currency tampering

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court (PHC) has sought response from the Director General of the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) and the Director General of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on a petition alleging that the FIA tampered with currency seized from a currency dealer in Hangu, on Monday.

The petitioners, including Abdullah, are currency dealers whose shop was raided by the FIA at Hangu. The FIA seized foreign currency during the raid, and the petitioners were later acquitted by the Additional Sessions Judge, who ordered the return of the seized currency. However, the petitioners allege that the FIA tampered with the currency when it was returned to them. The petitioners claim that the FIA returned 40,800 dirhams instead of 42,300 dirhams and also replaced the original Saudi riyals with counterfeit currency. They allege that the FIA's actions were malicious and violated their rights.

PHC divisional bench comprising of Justice Waqar Ahmad and Justice Ijaz Khan has sought a response from the DG ANF and DG FIA on the petition and has adjourned the hearing.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Secretary Shahab Ali Shah presiding over the weekly review meeting on governance affairs.

Health Department to set up medical camp for Afghan refugees

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: In a proactive move to safeguard the health of Afghan refugees during their repatriation, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Advisor on Health, Ihtesham Ali, has announced the establishment of a medical relief camp in District Khyber.

In a statement issued on Monday, the health advisor

emphasized the need for urgent medical support, citing that vehicles carrying Afghan nationals — including children, elderly, and women — are lined up from Ali Masjid to the Afghan border. "Ensuring their safe and healthy return is our responsibility," said Ihtesham Ali.

Following the directive, the Director General Health Services has been

instructed to immediately deploy medical teams and set up the camp. The Health Department will provide essential medicines and medical supplies to support the initiative.

Ihtesham Ali further stated that the department remains committed to serving Afghan brothers in every possible way and will maintain a strong presence on the ground

throughout the repatriation process.

"This step is part of the provincial government's serious efforts to ensure a dignified and safe return for Afghan refugees," he added.

The camp is expected to offer basic health screenings, emergency care, and support for vulnerable individuals during the transition.

Coming era belongs to information technology: Shafqat

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Science and Information Technology, Dr. Shafqat Ayaz, has said that the coming era undoubtedly belongs to Information Technology, and the nations that adopt innovation and expertise in technology will be the ones leading the world. He stated that the developed countries of the world have strengthened their economies by laying digital foundations, and now it is time for Pakistan, particularly Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, to take strong steps in this direction.

Dr. Shafqat Ayaz said

that under the leadership of Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, the provincial government is making comprehensive plans for the implementation of the "Digital KP Vision." Under this vision, modern IT training centers, innovation hubs, startup incubation centers, and smart digital services are being introduced in every district of the province to provide opportunities to the youth according to the demands of the modern era. He added that the youth of the province are second to none in talent and intelligence; what they need is guidance and access to facilities.

The Special Assistant further said that freelancing, e-commerce, Artificial

Intelligence (AI), cybersecurity, and big data are the foundations of the future economic revolution. He urged the youth not to waste their time waiting for traditional jobs but instead acquire skills in these sectors, so they can not only earn their livelihood but also contribute valuable foreign exchange to the country.

He added that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government is building platforms where the youth can practically implement their ideas. Educational institutions and universities of the province have also been directed to improve the IT curriculum and incorporate emerging technologies so that students are ready for

the global market immediately after graduation.

Dr. Shafqat Ayaz emphasized that the visionary leadership of Imran Khan has always trusted the youth and prioritized providing them with opportunities. This is why the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government is giving special attention to the IT sector, enabling the province's youth to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the developed world.

He expressed confidence that in the coming days, the youth of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will emerge as Pakistan's leading freelancers and IT professionals, with the government standing firmly beside them in this journey.

Speaker chairs meeting on Hazara uplift projects

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A high-level review meeting on the developmental projects of Hazara Division was held under the chairmanship of Speaker Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, Mr. Babar Saleem Swati. The meeting was attended by elected MPAs from Hazara Division, including Nazeer Ahmad Abbasi, Arshad Ayub Khan, Mushtaq Ghani, Zahid Chanzab Khan, Akber Ayub Khan, Taj Tarand, Sajjad Ullah Khan, Ikram Ullah Ghazi, Zubair Khan, Rajab Ali Abbasi, and Fazal Haq. PTI Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Vice President Kamal Saleem Swati also participated. The Secretaries of Communications & Works (C&W) and Planning & Development (P&D), along with other concerned officials, were present at the meeting. The forum reviewed various developmental schemes in detail, while MPAs conveyed their concerns and suggestions to the respective departments. Speaking on the occasion, Speaker Babar Saleem Swati said that the elected representatives are the custodians of the public mandate and are committed to the welfare and development of their people. He further emphasized that timely and transparent completion of developmental projects remains the top priority of the government.

Women farmers provided digital literacy training

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: UN Women Pakistan, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, held Women Farmers' Digital Literacy Training Completion and mobile phone distribution ceremony at the FAO Office at the Directorate General of Agricultural System in Peshawar, marking the successful conclusion of the "Connected Futures" project.

Through this initiative, 750 women farmers from Bajaur, Mohmand, and Khyber merged districts received training in the essential digital skills to strengthen their productivity, expand their access to markets, and build resilience in the face of economic and environmental challenges through enhanced connectivity with the relevant service providers.

Carried out in hard-to-reach and security sensitive districts, the project benefited women farmers with little to no formal schooling. To address barriers to participation, a tailored and inclusive approach was developed. Women were provided hands-on practice with android phones, easy-to-use information packages with QR codes linking to instructional YouTube videos, and a specially designed visual manual for ongoing reference. These innovative methods ensured that women farmers with limited literacy could fully engage in the imparted training and apply the

skills in their daily agricultural practices.

Speaking at the event, representative of UN Women, Ms. Zainab Qaiser Khan, said:

"This project is a testament to the resilience and determination of women farmers in Khyber, Mohmand and Bajaur. Despite the challenges of low literacy and geographical remoteness, they embraced technology as a tool for empowerment. Connecting them digitally, will strengthen their role in agriculture sector and also enable them to effectively connect with markets and participate in the decision-making processes."

Representative of FAO, Ms. Kiyal Akmatbek emphasized the importance of collaboration, noting:

"FAO is proud to partner with UN Women and the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in this much

needed initiative. Access to digital tools and knowledge enhances farming practices, increases efficiency, improves efficiency, and connects women farmers to wider opportunities. This project reflects FAO's long-standing commitment to building inclusive and sustainable food systems in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa."

Representing the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ms. Najm us Sahar, Additional Secretary Agriculture Department stated: "The women farmers of our province are at the heart of agricultural development. By equipping them with digital skills and mobile technology, we are investing in stronger communities and a more prosperous future for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The Government remains committed to supporting such initiatives that uplift rural women and strengthen our agriculture sector."



PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Monday said that collective efforts are needed to project the province's soft image, urging the younger generation to rise above political affiliations and work for the betterment of the province.

He expressed these views while talking to a delegation led by Dr. Faryal Zaman at the Governor House.

The delegation briefed the Governor on ongoing relief activities for flood-affected people, being carried out under his guidance.

These activities include the distribution of food items,

non-food supplies, and other essential relief goods among affected families.

The delegation appreciated Governor Kundi's continuous interest and support, which, they said, had accelerated and facilitated relief efforts.

On the occasion, the Governor assured the dele-

gation of full cooperation in ensuring the supply of medicines to affected areas.

He emphasized that the rehabilitation phase of flood victims is the most crucial, and the government would take every possible step to ensure the long-term recovery and stability of affected families.

Technology may dazzle but strategy defines the battle's outcome

Izmi Herlani

ON 17 December 1903, the first flight wasn't a timid experiment; it was a dare to gravity, a vow that human will could braid space and time into a single breath. From that wind-kissed cradle, a ladder of leaps unfurled, each invention a rung toward possibility. The air became a stage for romance and risk, where the machine's heartbeat synced with a pilot's nerve and pistons roared as a chorus of human resolve. The horizon widened fast. In 1911, aircraft probed Libya for the first time, reconnaissance mapping the land as the world's powder-keg glowed. The Great War baptized the aerial realm in gunpowder and glory, mutating rudimentary skirmish into an existential theatre. Airpower's chivalry-courage, precision, restraint-was forged in combat heat. Yet doubt persisted: the air arm, costly and capricious, might never deserve a sovereign domain. And then the machines grew wiser and costlier. The era of kaleidoscopic innovation gave birth to the language of strategic airpower: air superiority, precision bombing, the unsettling precision of synchronized machine guns in the teeth of a dogfight. The Second World War accelerated this transformation into an imperative: the air arm could break the foe's spine not with bronze cannons alone but with the synergy of sensor-to-shooter timing, the execution of complex kill chains, and the realization that a single platform is but one note in a symphonic network. The post-war world watched as Korea and Vietnam shifted dogfights into the realm of infrared and radar-guided missiles, where range, reach and rapid information fusion became the new currency of victory. The phrase Lose Sight - Lose Fight did not disappear, but it was recalibrated by on board fire control and the omnipresent possibility of Beyond Visual Range engagements. In the arithmetic of wars past, airpower became both hammer and scalpel. The Gulf War in 1991 showcased air operations as a strategic nerve centre and a demonstration that modern airpower could reshape political outcomes with surgical strikes conducted at the speed of thought. The decades that followed wore a new face: Multi Domain Warfare, where Space, Cyber, Air, Land, Sea, Electronic Warfare, and an ever-expanding constellation of sensors and data streams wove a tapestry of real-time awareness. The battlefield no longer lived merely in airbases or runways; it lived in a mesh of interconnected domains where information superiority could translate into decisive action. The doctrine shifted from platform-centric glory to systems-based mastery, and with that shift, the fog of war began to lift in ways that were almost cinematic in their immediacy.

Thus, in the contemporary chronicle, airpower remains the theatre where speed, reach and precision duel for supremacy, while new actors-networks, fusion centres and autonomous systems-are the quiet directors behind the spectacle. The recent Indo-Pak conflict and many flashpoints of the modern era, reveal the truth that air operations, whether for deterrence, battlefield shaping or high-stakes engagement, are most potent when they are integrated into a broader strategic framework. The lessons are clear: Victory is less about a single miracle weapon and more about the orchestration of sensors, shooters and sovereign will across domains. In that sense, the modern battlefield is an ecosystem; one where a fighter's speed must be matched by the processor's speed, where a warrior's courage must be supported by data, and where an Air Force's prestige rests on the credibility of its entire network.

Today airpower is not a stand-alone artillery of the skies but a node in a living, breathing web of capability. Combat aircraft fly to deter, to threaten, to respond, but their true potential emerges when they operate in concert with space-based assets, cyber operations and rapidly evolving AI-enabled decision loops. The era of platform-centric boasting has faded; the era of System-of-Systems Dominance has taken the stage, where the value of a single aircraft lies in its ability to augment a broader Kill Chain, and where real-time data fusion defines victory as much as weaponry does. Under the bold and dynamic command of Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Pakistan Air Force has embarked on a path of unprecedented modernization, not through spectacle alone but through a relentless, methodical integration of modern weapon systems and niche technologies. The transformation is not limited to hardware only; it is about a culture of preparedness, disciplined training and a relentless pursuit of Network-centric Warfare capabilities that would render old prejudices obsolete and redefine what it means to be a modern airpower. PAF under ACM Sidhu has crafted a Multi Domain Operational Doctrine that fuses Air, Space, Cyber and Electronic Warfare into a single, coherent cortex for decision-making. It has built a robust sensor fusion capability that provides real-time battlefield awareness, a resilient command-and-control architecture capable of surviving jamming & cyber intrusions, and a logistics & human-resources pipeline that produces Shaheens who are not only technically proficient but emotionally tuned to the tempo of modern combat. The human element-training, leadership, morale-has become the fulcrum on which technology balances. The alignment of capability with doctrine in PAF is precise, audacious and relentlessly pragmatic.

In the recent military standoff with India, under the astute leadership of Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, PAF executed decisive Multi-Domain Operations in a synergistic manner that reshaped the map of airpower. The PAF's Kill Chain, painstakingly choreographed across sensors, data links and precision shooters was able to neutralize a numerically superior adversary with surgical efficiency. Six Indian fighter jets were downed, a Heron UAV valued at approximately USD 9.5 million was destroyed and the integrity of Indian high-value air defence infrastructure, including its C2 centres and S-400 systems, was undermined through a blend of cyber and kinetic operations. This was not achieved by any single platform's prowess alone but by a holistic, integrated approach that turned bottlenecks into opportunities, delay into decisive action, and perception into reality. Operation Bunyanum Marsoos proved that in a world where war seeks to be decided at the speed of information, the real edge belongs to those who can weave the entire spectrum of domains into a single, coherent mind of battle, and this is where PAF leadership made the difference. The romance of air power, the shimmer of jet exhaust, the elegant arc of a wingtip through a dawn-lit sky, evolves into a discipline of systems, networks and human mastery. The hard-won lessons from Kitty Hawk through the world wars to the future of Multi Domain Dominance remind us that Technology may dazzle, but Strategy defines the outcome. The future does not promise a romance with an easy victory; it demands Disciplined Vision, Rigorous Training and an Unwavering Willingness to adapt, to fuse and to reimagine the battlefield in every waking hour. This is not merely a chronicle of aviation's ascent. It is a meditation on leadership, on the crucible where science meets courage, and on the ethical responsibility that now accompanies every leap in capability. The sky has always been a frontier of possibility, and with it comes a mandate: to steward power with wisdom, to build alliances that endure, and to ensure that the instrument of airpower serves the long arc of peace as surely as it has served the necessity of defence.



In brief

Three siblings won four medals F.P. Report

MONGORA: Three siblings from Swat, Ayesha Ayaz, Zaryab Khan, and Gulalai Ayaz, won four medals at the MBW International Taekwondo Championship 2025 in Malaysia and dedicated them to the flood victims. The siblings, part of the Pakistani team, excelled in the championship, winning four medals and bringing honor to their country. In an interview on Pakhtunkhwa Radio FM 98 Swat's sports program "Har Jeet," the siblings shared their experiences. Ayesha Ayaz said she and her brother Zaryab Khan performed exceptionally well in the Poomsae category, winning gold medals. Ayesha also won a bronze medal in the fighting category, defeating players from Indonesia, Malaysia, and India. Nine-year-old Gulalai Ayaz made a remarkable international debut, winning a bronze medal and setting a record. The siblings' achievement is historic, as no other Pakistani siblings have won four medals in a single international event.

Wana Press Club to get furniture F.P. Report

WANA: District Police Officer (DPO) South Waziristan Lower, paid an official visit to key institutions, including the District Press Club, NADRA, and the Passport Office, on Monday. Upon his arrival at the Press Club, DPO was warmly received by the President of the District Press Club Wana, Shahzada Wazir, along with cabinet members and local journalists. The DPO inspected various sections of the Press Club and held a detailed interaction with the media fraternity. Speaking on the occasion, DPO Tahir Shah Wazir said that the presence of a functional Press Club in remote tribal districts was a highly encouraging development. He praised the dedication of regional journalists, emphasizing that local media plays a vital role in highlighting public issues, promoting social awareness, and supporting the cause of peace and stability. He added that the contribution of journalists towards the progress and prosperity of the area deserves appreciation. Later, the DPO proceeded to the NADRA and Passport Office, where he reviewed the security control room and received a comprehensive briefing from the staff regarding ongoing operations and public facilitation. He assured the employees that all genuine requirements of the institutions would be met to ensure smooth functioning.

Qirat, Naat competition ends F.P. Report

LOWER KOHISTAN: In connection with the celebrations of Ashra Rehmat-ul-Lil-Alameen Peace Be Upon Him (PHUH), the District Administration Lower Kohistan organized the concluding ceremony of the Qirat and Naat competition at Government Garrison High School Pattan, on Monday. Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Abdul Wali Khan was the chief guest, while Deputy District Education Officer (Male) Aurangzeb Khalil graced the occasion as a special guest. Speaking on the occasion, ADC Aul Khan highlighted the importance of Ashra Rehmat-ul-Lil-Alameen PBUH, saying that such events play a vital role in promoting the teachings of the Holy Prophet PBUH and nurturing the moral character of the young generation.

Loya Jirga announced to promote peace and unity in Dir

Haleem Asad

LOWER DIR: Elders, social and political figures in Talash Dushkhel have announced the establishment of a Loya Jirga (Grand Jirga) under the supervision of the Islami Jamhoori Falahi Jirga to foster peace, reconciliation, and unity in the area.

The decision was taken at a gathering held in the hujra of Dr Mohammad Saleem at Kalpani, Talash. The meeting, chaired by jirga elder Malik Mohammad Irshad, was attended by notables from all parts of Talash, religious, social and political workers. Former provincial minister Muzaffar Syed Advocate, retired education officer Haji Ali Haider, DRC Lower Dir member Syed Hasan Advocate, noted educationist Mohammad Rahim Haqqani, retired principal Aftab Alam Khan, JI Overseas Pakistanis president Haji Amir Zaman, Sher Mohammad Utmankhel, Mufti Khalid Mahmood, Mohammad Ayaz and others spoke on the occasion.

Speakers highlighted the traditional role of the jirga system in Pashtun society, terming it an effective mechanism for dispute resolution, social harmony, and community welfare. They said the new jirga would function as a platform to unite people beyond political or tribal divisions.

During the event, Mohammad Rahim Haqqani administered oath to the participants, while Syed Hasan Advocate administered oath to the newly-elected members of the interim cabinet.

According to the decision, retired bank manager Sultan Mohammad was elected as the central president, Ihsanur Rehman as senior vice-president, Maulana Noor Saleem as vice-president, Mohammad Yousaf as general secretary, Misal Khan as joint secretary, Mohammad Ilyas as information secretary, while Rahman Saeed and Zahir Shah were nominated as media coordinators. Senior vice-presidents were also named for each union council.

It was announced that union council-level cabinets would soon be formed, with 10 members each in the consultative council to carry out responsibilities under the jirga's constitution. The participants also presented the jirga's draft constitution, declaring that every resident of Talash Dushkhel could become its member without paying any fee. The jirga resolved that collective efforts would be made to keep the area peaceful and the law enforcement agencies would be provided with moral support in its war against terrorism in the region.

Residents block Indus Highway at Dhoda Chowk

F.P. Report

KOHAT: The residents blocked the Indus Highway at Dhoda Chowk in Kohat on Monday, demanding the construction of a flyover instead of an underpass, which they argued would be prone to flooding during rains. The blockade caused a major traffic jam, leaving passengers stranded for hours. Protesters said a flyover would provide a long-term solution to rising traffic congestion at the busy junction, through which thousands of vehicles pass daily.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Law Minister Aftab Alam Advocate, accompanied by the Member Provincial Assembly Daud Afridi and Deputy Commissioner

Kohat Rahimullah Mehsud, arrived at the site and held talks with the protestors.

The Minister assured that the government would prioritize public interest and take serious steps to resolve the issue. Following the assurance, the protestors dispersed peacefully and traffic on the Indus Highway was restored.

Commissioner visit BHU Togh Bala: Commissioner Kohat Division Syed Motasim Billah Shah has on Monday morning visited the Basic Health Unit (BHU) Togh Bala, Kohat where he attended the morning assembly of the frontline polio teams at the first day of the 4-Day anti-polio campaign.

He on this occasion, found all the vaccination teams, along with the police personnel assigned for security, reported on time at the assembly point. After receiving detailed instructions, the teams were formally dispatched to their respective destinations with prayers for their success.

Commissioner Shah praised the timely arrangements made by the district health department and emphasized the importance of punctuality, dedication and teamwork in ensuring the complete eradication of polio from the region. He added that the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is committed to providing all necessary resources and security measures to safeguard the health of children.

Teachers to oppose proposed privatization of schools

F.P. Report

SHANGLA: The President All CT Teacher Association Shangla and spokesperson of APGA, Afzal Khamosh, has stated that the privatization of educational institutions will close the doors of education for poor students. He emphasized that the privatization process needs to be reviewed, as it may have dangerous consequences and lead to the destruction of the education system. Afzal Khamosh expressed these views while talking to news representatives in Alpuri. He was accompanied by other representatives and teachers of the CT Teacher Association.

Khamosh clarified that the privatization of public institutions will create a crisis and deprive 80% of poor students of education. He added that making teachers surplus will exacerbate the problem. He urged the government to review the privatization process to provide relief to the public and students. Khamosh emphasized that privatization will not only severely affect the educa-

tion system but also have negative impacts. He stated that if the government wants to bring reforms to the education system, they are willing to cooperate.

However, privatization is a step that will be unfair to poor students and will not be tolerated. Privatization of Educational Institutions Will Close Doors for Poor Students. The President of All CT Teacher Association Shangla and spokesperson of APGA, Afzal Khamosh, has stated that the privatization of educational institutions will close the doors of education for poor students.

Residents demanded Agri relief package: Demand for Agricultural Package and Waiver of Loans and The people of Shangla are demanding an immediate agricultural package, waiver of agricultural loans, and electricity dues to help them recover from the losses caused by the recent floods.

The floods have severely damaged agricultural lands, orchards, and crops in the area, leaving

farmers in a difficult situation.

The demand is being made to the federal government to provide relief to the farmers and landowners who have suffered losses due to the floods. The government is being urged to waive off the agricultural loans and electricity dues of the affected people. The floods have had a devastating impact on the agricultural sector in Shangla. The crops and orchards have been damaged, and the farmers are struggling to recover from the losses. The people of Shangla are heavily dependent on agriculture, and the floods have further exacerbated their problems.

The people of Shangla are appealing to the federal government to take immediate action to provide relief to the affected farmers and landowners. They are also urging the Member of National Assembly and Federal Minister, Engineer Amir Muqam, to raise this issue with the federal government and ensure that the agricultural loans and electricity dues are waived off.

WSSCM chief inspects cleanliness drive F.P. Report

MARDAN: Chairman Board of Directors Water and Sanitation Services Company Mardan (WSSCM) paid a surprise visit to review the ongoing sanitation operation. He visited Mardan Nowshera Road, Muqam Chowk, Center Colony Baghdadada, Kaskorona, Mardan Khas, and Bejli Gar and inspected the cleanliness of streets and drains, on Monday.

General Manager of WSSCM, also accompanied him during the visit. Speaking on the occasion, He stated that the primary purpose of the surprise visit was not only to assess the overall cleanliness of the city but to ensure the attendance of sanitation workers, supervisors, inspectors, and management staff of WSSCM as well.

Engineer Adil Nawaz said that despite limited resources, the company is making tireless efforts day and night to improve the cleanliness and drainage system, but this mission cannot be accomplished without the cooperation and support of citizens.

Cop laid to rest at his native village F.P. Report

TAKHTBHAI: The funeral prayers of Constable Muhammad Arif Khan, who was martyred, while bravely confronting terrorists during a search and targeted operation in District Mohmand, offered in his native village Takhtbhai with full honors and deep reverence.

The funeral was attended by Regional Police Officer (RPO) Mardan, senior police officials, local elders, and a large number of citizens. The martyred officer was laid to rest with full police honors. Following the funeral, RPO Mardan Jawad Qamar visited the home of the martyr to offer heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. He assured them of the police department's unwavering support during this difficult time.

On the occasion, RPO said that brave officers like Constable Muhammad Arif are the true pride of the nation. His sacrifice is living proof that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police remain steadfast in their duty to protect the lives and property of the public under all circumstances.

Admn on high alert F.P. Report

TOBA TEK SINGH: The district administration has been placed on high alert as a high-level flood wave in River Ravi passes through Kamalia and Pir Mahal, affecting 63 villages. Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naem Sandhu is in the field, directly monitoring the situation.

So far, 76,719 out of 80,679 affected people have been shifted to safe places. Rescue operations are underway with the participation of the Pakistan Army, Punjab Police, Civil Defence, Rescue 1122 and health teams. Over 9,600 people have been evacuated, 889 provided medical aid, while 61,999 cattle have been shifted to safety.

49131 PoR card holders repatriate in August



F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: From Aug 01 till Aug 31, 49131 Proof of Registration (PoR) card holders' Afghan nationals returned to Afghanistan, an official of Home and Tribal Affairs department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government officials informed.

They said that they repatriated to their motherland voluntarily and after expiring the deadline (31 August) PoR, Afghan Citizen Card (ACC) and Afghan citizens without any kind of documents

(illegal) will be expelled forcibly from Pakistan.

Sharing details officials said a total of 599511, Illegal, ACC and PoR Afghanis have been sent back to Afghanistan mostly via Torkham and Angoor Adda. They said that in the previous month 9618 ACC card holders comprising 8473 from Punjab 842 from Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) 302 from Islam and 01 from Gilgit-Baltistan repatriated.

Similarly 19782 Illegal Afghan nationals containing 12846 from Punjab, 5807 from Islamabad, 1084

from AJK, 44 from Sindh and 01 from Gilgit-Baltistan. They further stated that through Peshawar transit point 68 ACC and 5523 Afghan citizens deported while 422 ACC and 1639 Afghanis went off repatriated through Landi Kotal transit point.

The report further said that total deportation of PoR through Khyber Pakhtunkwa has 49131, ACC 46251 and Illegal 599511 has been recorded so far. It is to be stated that the purge operation against Illegal Afghan citizens launched in August 2024.

Students hold protest in favour of demands

F.P. Report

LARKANA: Separate protest demonstrations were held by various parties in Larkana for recognition of their demands. According to details, students of Chandka Medical College, on the platform of the Students Action Committee, took out a protest rally from the admin block against the administration's increase in fees and lack of facilities in the hostel and demonstrated in front of the university's Gate, on Monday.

The students held placards and banners and raised strong slogans against the administration. On this occasion, student leaders Gulfam Habib Malik, Muzammil Sangi and others protested and said that the SMMB University administration has taken away term back from the students without any justification, which has created

great anxiety among the students.

The demanded improvement in the environment of the university and eliminate the additional fees along with harassing the students. Students can continue their education. On the other hand, candidates who passed the IBE test in Larkana protested in front of the Press Club against the trampling of merit. The students also raised slogans of "Save Merit" with banners in their hands. On this occasion, the candidates protested and said that more than 20,000 orders were issued for the recruitment of GST teachers by failing the candidates who scored 32 and 33 marks in the IBE test, while we kept the candidates who scored 40 to 50 percent marks in the waiting list for three years and did not issue offer orders.

Almost 5514 personnel deployed for polio cam-

paign: During the ongoing polio campaign across Pakistan, 4488 teams and 5514 police officers have been appointed to tighten security arrangements for the personnel deployed at 309 transition points in all five districts of the division, Qambar-Shahdadkot, Larkana, Shikarpur, Jacobabad and Kashmore-Kandakot, till September 7 of this month.

In the light of the orders issued by the Deputy Inspector General of Range Police Larkana, the polio campaign will continue from 2025-09-01 to 2025-09-07 in all five districts of the Larkana range. During the polio campaign, the SSPs of the Larkana range will personally monitor security, while special control rooms have been set up in all five districts of the Larkana range and the range office during the polio campaign.

WASA & Municipal committee negligence submerges Hafizabad

F.P. Report

HAFIZABAD: Severe negligence and apathy of WASA and Municipal Committee officials left Hafizabad city submerged after heavy rains yesterday. Blocked drainage channels and the failure to ensure timely cleaning turned streets, neighborhoods, and main roads into streams and ponds. Instead of resolving the crisis, WASA's inexperienced and untrained supervisors only worsened the plight of citizens.

Rainwater entered government buildings, shops, and houses, causing damages worth millions of rupees to furniture and other valuables. According to details, since WASA assumed charge in the city, unskilled supervisors and inefficient staff have

brought the system to the brink of collapse, submerging the city within weeks.

Municipal Committee officials also failed to initiate effective drainage, resulting in city-wide flooding.

During the downpour, rainwater accumulated several feet high inside DHQ Hospital, Government Girls Degree College, District Public Library, Girls Double Section School, the Anti-Corruption Office, and various other government institutions. The railway track was completely submerged, forcing Rehman Baba Express to remain stranded at Hafizabad Railway Station for over six hours.

Citizens strongly protested against the negligence of WASA and Municipal Committee offi-

cials, warning that if this situation continues, future monsoon rains could bring large-scale devastation to the city. They urged Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the Chief Secretary Punjab, and Commissioner Gujranwala to take immediate notice and initiate action.

DC visits flood affected areas: Deputy Commissioner Hafizabad, Abdul Razzaq, visited flood-affected areas including Jalalpur Bhattian, Pindi Bhattian, Tahlil Goraya, and various flood relief centers to review the drainage situation, relief operations, and facilities provided to affected families. He was accompanied by MPA Auon Intsar Bhatti and Assistant Commissioner Pindi Bhattian, Jawad Hussain Malik.

AI's transformation in e-commerce and online business

Nadeem Iqbal

ARTIFICIAL intelligence (AI) is revolutionizing e-commerce and online business, transforming how businesses operate and engage with customers worldwide, including in Pakistan. Globally, the e-commerce market surpassed \$6.3 trillion in 2024, driven by AI technologies that enhance personalization, streamline operations, and boost profitability.

In Pakistan, where digitalization is a cornerstone of economic growth, AI-powered e-commerce is creating new opportunities, aligning with the spirit of Independence Day on 14 August to foster a digitally empowered nation. By leveraging AI, Pakistan can strengthen its economy, create jobs, and position itself in the global digital marketplace, reflecting the vision of a progressive and self-reliant country.

AI transforms e-commerce through personalized customer experiences, intelligent search, and efficient operations. Recommendation engines, powered by machine learning, analyze customer behavior—such as browsing history and purchases—to suggest relevant products, boosting sales by up to 15%. For instance, platforms like Daraz in Pakistan use AI to tailor product suggestions, increasing customer satisfaction and conversion rates. AI-driven chatbots, utilizing natural language processing, provide 24/7 customer support, handling inquiries and reducing cart abandonment rates, which globally average 70.19%. In Pakistan, these chatbots enable small businesses to scale customer service without high costs, fostering trust and loyalty. AI also optimizes inventory management by predicting demand, reducing stockouts, and cutting costs by 20-30%, as seen in global plat-

forms like Shopify, which are increasingly adopted in Pakistan.

In Pakistan, e-commerce contributes significantly to the economy, with online retail sales projected to reach \$6 billion by 2025. AI-driven platforms like Daraz and local marketplaces support small and medium enterprises, creating jobs and boosting exports. Freelancing platforms such as Upwork and Fiverr enable Pakistanis to earn dollars through AI-related services like digital marketing and software development, with IT exports exceeding \$3.5 billion in 2024. These earnings strengthen foreign exchange reserves, mirroring the \$30 billion in remittances that bolster Pakistan's economy. AI enhances operational efficiency, reduces costs, and empowers businesses to compete globally, aligning with Pakistan's Digital Pakistan vision and the economic self-reliance celebrated on 14

August.

Enhancing AI adoption in Pakistan's e-commerce requires strategic steps. Improving digital infrastructure, such as high-speed internet and mobile payment systems like JazzCash, is critical, especially in rural areas. Government initiatives, like the e-visa system and Digital Pakistan, support this growth. Training programs in AI, machine learning, and digital marketing can equip the youth with skills for freelancing and e-commerce entrepreneurship. Ensuring data privacy and compliance with regulations like GDPR builds consumer trust. Promoting AI tools for small businesses, such as automated pricing and inventory systems, can enhance competitiveness. These efforts align with the national pride of 14 August, showcasing Pakistan's potential to lead in the digital economy.

Independence Day in August is a vibrant opportunity to pro-

mote AI-driven e-commerce. Celebrations featuring flag-hoisting, parades, and cultural events in cities like Islamabad and Lahore attract domestic and international attention. Digital campaigns during these festivities can highlight e-commerce platforms, showcasing local products and AI-powered services to global audiences. Events at landmarks like Minar-e-Pakistan can integrate virtual tours and online shopping promotions, merging cultural pride with economic innovation. These initiatives open doors for e-commerce growth, reflecting Pakistan's journey toward digital self-reliance.

The BS Fintech and E-commerce program at the National Skills University (NSU) Islamabad is pivotal in this transformation. This four-year program equips students with skills in digital marketing, blockchain, and online payment systems, enabling them to devel-

op AI-driven e-commerce solutions. Practical training and industry partnerships prepare graduates for roles in startups and tech firms, while freelancing opportunities allow earning during studies. This learn-and-earn model empowers students financially and supports Pakistan's digital economy, embodying the spirit of August by fostering innovation and economic independence.

AI's transformation of e-commerce is reshaping Pakistan's economy, creating jobs, and enhancing global competitiveness. By investing in infrastructure, skills, and digital campaigns tied to Independence Day, Pakistan can amplify its e-commerce potential. This progress honors the vision of a prosperous nation, celebrated each August, as AI paves the way for a digitally empowered future.

The writer is Professor at National Skills University Islamabad.



Sudan army strike kills 12 in Darfur

DARFUR (AFP): A war monitoring group said that an army drone strike on a clinic in the city of Nyala, western Sudan, under paramilitary control, had killed at least 12 people. Their report came after a medical source said that shelling by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) force had killed at least seven people and wounded 71 others in the besieged city of El-Fasher.

The army strike hit the Yashfeen clinic in Nyala, the capital of South Darfur, a source from the Emergency Lawyers group told AFP. Speaking on condition of anonymity for safety reasons, the source said they expected the death toll to rise, as preliminary reports had indicated that dozens of civilians and medical staff may have been killed. There was no immediate comment from the Sudanese army. The deadly shelling of El-Fasher happened, said the medical source. The city is the last major bastion in the vast western Darfur region still under army control.

El-Fasher has become the most violent front line in the war between the Sudanese army and the RSF, which erupted in April 2023. In recent weeks, paramilitary forces have escalated their long-running siege, launching fierce artillery barrages and ground incursions into densely populated neighbourhoods, the city's airport and the famine-hit Abu Shouk displacement camp. The few hospitals still operational have been repeatedly bombed and the local police headquarters captured by the RSF.

The medical source, who requested anonymity for

safety reasons, said the true toll from attack was "likely higher", as many of the wounded had been unable to reach the hospital due to the intensity of the bombardment. Of those wounded, mainly by shrapnel, 22 were reported to be in a critical condition, said the source, who was reached via satellite internet to bypass a communications blackout. Local activists said the attack hit several neighbourhoods in the city's west near the airport, which RSF forces have sought to capture. The RSF evolved from the Janjaweed Arab militias accused of genocide in Darfur in the early 2000s. It wants to wrest full control of the region from the army after being pushed out of the capital Khartoum earlier this year.

Satellite imagery from Yale University's Humanitarian Research Lab revealed that the RSF had constructed more than 31 kilometres of berms -- raised earth barriers -- "creating a literal kill box" in the city, the report said. Its imagery also identified munitions impact damage at the city's water authority, which supplies El-Fasher with fresh drinking water. Nathaniel Raymond, the lab's executive director, said the RSF had confined the Sudanese army and its allied militias to less than five square miles (12.9 kilometres) in the city. "It's the smallest it's been since the siege began," he told AFP. The besieged population -- estimated by the UN at some 300,000 -- has endured severe shortages of water and food for over a year, according to humanitarian workers.

Famine was officially

declared in three displacement camps around El-Fasher last year, and the UN warned it could spread to the city itself by last May. Lack of data has so far prevented an official declaration of famine, but the UN estimates that nearly 40 percent of children under five are acutely malnourished, with 11 percent severely so. Many have resorted to eating animal fodder, while desperate attempts to escape into the desert often end in death from exposure, starvation or violence. "They are dying in poverty, crossfire and bombardment and they're being killed as they're trying to leave," he added. The RSF, which recently announced the formation of a parallel government in the region, would control all five Darfur state capitals if it were to successfully capture El-Fasher. Experts have warned that the city's non-Arab Zaghawa tribe may face a similar fate to the non-Arab Massalit tribe in West Darfur's state capital of El-Geneina. UN experts found up to 150,000 people, mostly from the tribe, were killed in 2023 massacres blamed on RSF forces. Both sides have been accused of war crimes, but the RSF has, in particular, been accused of genocide, sexual violence and systematic looting.

In the early 2000s, the paramilitary force led a government-orchestrated campaign of ethnic cleansing against non-Arab ethnic groups in Darfur, killing an estimated 300,000 people. "The Janjaweed are about to win the entire genocide that began in the early 21st century," Raymond said. "And the world isn't going to do anything about it."

Merz expects Ukraine war to last a long time

BERLIN (Reuters): German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said he was braced for the Ukraine war to last a long time given that wars usually end in military defeat or economic exhaustion, scenarios he does not see on the horizon for either Kyiv or Moscow.

Merz's comments come a day before the expiry of a deadline set by US President Donald Trump for a meeting between the presidents of Russia and Ukraine with a view to paving the way for peace talks. Trump has threatened "consequences" if the meeting does not take place.

Merz and French President Emmanuel Macron have said the fault lies with Russian President Vladimir Putin, and have urged the US to impose tougher sanctions on Moscow. "I am preparing myself inwardly for this war to last a long time," Merz said in an interview with public broadcaster ZDF. Efforts are being made through intensive diplomatic initiatives to end the war as quickly as possible, but this cannot be "at the price of Ukraine's capitulation" because Russia would then simply target another country, he said.

"And then the day after tomorrow it will be us," Merz added. "That is not an option." He refused to be drawn in the interview on the issue of a possible deployment of German troops to Ukraine as part of security guarantees in the event of a peace deal. Britain and France are spearheading a proposal for a "reassurance force" to deter potential future Russian aggression within that context, but the prospect of Germany joining them has sparked unease in a country scarred by its Nazi past. The Kremlin said that European powers were hindering Trump's peace efforts, and that Russia would continue its operation in Ukraine until Moscow saw real signs that Kyiv was ready for peace.



JAKARTA: Marines secure positions along a street outside the parliament in capital of Indonesia.

French PM says 'fate of France' at stake in confidence vote

PARIS (AFP): French Prime Minister Francois Bayrou said the destiny of France was at stake in a forthcoming confidence vote, which he called to resolve a budget standoff but is expected to lose.

Bayrou sat down for an interview with four news channels as the clock ticks down to the September 8 vote in parliament. Opposition parties have already said they will not back his austerity budget. The vote in parliament will not decide "the fate of the prime minister" but "the fate of France", Bayrou said. He stunned France on Monday by saying he would request the vote in a divided parliament, as he tries to garner enough support for his minority government's plan to slash spending.

"The days ahead are crucial," the 74-year-old prime minister said in the interview with franceinfo, LCI, BFMTV and Cnews. He indicated that he was not ready to say "goodbye", as the opposition urged. "If you think that I can give up the battles that I fight, that I am fighting here, that I have been fighting for years and that I will continue to fight in the future, you are mistaken." Bayrou accused some political forces in France of wanting to sow "chaos", targeting in particular hard-left firebrand Jean-Luc Melenchon.

From Monday Bayrou hopes to

hold negotiations with the opposition parties provided they commit to savings measures to reduce France's debt. Members of the opposition, however, say it is too late. Socialist leader Olivier Faure said the party's decision to vote against Bayrou's government was final. "The only thing I'm waiting for him to do now is to say goodbye," said Faure, referring to the prime minister. Bayrou dismissed the Socialist Party's budget proposals.

"What the Socialist party is proposing is not to curb spending, but to let spending take off again," he said. Bayrou has said sacrifices must be made to ensure France's future. Bayrou said he wanted to save about 44 billion euros (\$51 billion), but his plan -- which includes reducing the number of holidays and placing a freeze on spending increases -- has proved unpopular. Seven out of 10 French people say they want Bayrou to lose the confidence vote, according to a recent poll. Trade unions have urged French people to stage protests on September 18 over the "horror show" draft budget. Bayrou's gamble has raised fears that France risks a new period of political and financial instability. Speaking, Justice Minister Gerald Darmanin called on political forces to find a compromise, saying he was concerned that the legacy of the Fifth Republic's founding father

Charles De Gaulle was at risk.

"General De Gaulle's institutions are at stake if we fall back into the instability of the Fourth Republic, where governments came and went, where the authority of the state was not guaranteed, where the administration had no leader," Darmanin said. Recent polls suggest support for the far-right National Rally (RN) has been steadily rising, and the party of Marine Le Pen senses a real chance to come to power. RN deputy leader Sebastien Chenu said the party would fight to obtain an absolute majority in parliament's lower house if new parliamentary elections were called. "The French people have seen what an assembly without a majority is like," he said. "Stability, it's us," he said, referring to RN. France has been mired in deadlock ever since Macron gambled on snap elections last summer following far-right gains in European election in the hopes of bolstering his authority. Voters elected a parliament fractured between three rival blocs, and Macron later acknowledged that his move backfired.

But he has also said that the French parliament reflects the political divisions among the public. He has urged politicians to find a way to work together, pointing to Germany as an example.

Aid flotilla with Greta Thunberg sets sail for Gaza

GAZA (AFP): A flotilla carrying humanitarian aid and activists, including Swedish climate campaigner Greta Thunberg, left Barcelona vowing to try to "break the illegal siege of Gaza", organisers said. Some 20 vessels set off from the port city on Spain's east coast just after 3.30 pm (1330 GMT) pledging to "open a humanitarian corridor and end the ongoing genocide of the Palestinian people", said the Global Sumud Flotilla -- a coalition of the Arabic term for "resilience".

The group defines itself on its website as an independent organisation with no affiliation to any government or political party. The flotilla, flying Palestinian flags, has hundreds of people aboard, among them activists from dozens of countries including Irish actor Liam Cunningham and Spain's Eduard Fernandez. Also aboard were European lawmakers and public figures including former Barcelona mayor Ada Colau. The flotilla is expected to arrive at the war-ravaged coastal enclave in mid-September. "The question here today is not why we are sailing. This story is not at all about the mission that we are about to embark upon," Thunberg told reporters. "The story here is about

Palestine. The story here is how people are being deliberately deprived of the very basic means to survive. The story here is how the world can be silent," she added. For Cunningham, "the fact that you guys are here, and the flotilla is happening, is an indication of the world's failure to uphold international law and humanitarian law, and it is a shameful, shameful period in the history of our world. And we should be collectively ashamed." Organisers said that dozens of other vessels are expected to leave Tunisia and other Mediterranean ports on September 4 to join the aid mission. Activists will also stage simultaneous demonstrations and other protests in 44 countries "in solidarity with the Palestinian people", Thunberg, part of the flotilla's steering committee, wrote on Instagram.

"This will be the largest solidarity mission in history, with more people and more boats than all previous attempts combined," Brazilian activist Thiago Avila told journalists in Barcelona last week. "We understand that this is a legal mission under international law," Portuguese lawmaker Mariana Mortagua, who will join the mission, told journalists in Lisbon last week. Israel has already blocked two

attempts by activists to deliver aid by ship to Gaza, in June and July. In June, 12 activists on board the sailboat Madleen, from France, Germany, Brazil, Turkey, Sweden, Spain and the Netherlands were intercepted by Israeli forces 185 kilometres (115 miles) west of Gaza. Its passengers, who included Thunberg, were detained and eventually expelled.

In July, 21 activists from 10 countries were intercepted as they tried to approach Gaza in another vessel, the Handala. The Spanish government says it will "deploy all of its diplomatic and consular protection to protect our citizens" sailing with the flotilla, the country's Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares said. Madrid last year recognised Palestine as an independent state. The humanitarian situation in Gaza has worsened in recent weeks. The United Nations declared a state of famine in the territory this month, warning that 500,000 people face "catastrophic" conditions. The war in Gaza was triggered by an unprecedented cross-border attack by Palestinian group Hamas into Israel on October 7, 2023, which resulted in the death of 1,219 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on official data.

Indonesia tightens security

JAKARTA (AFP): Indonesian authorities ramped up security Monday after six people were killed in unrest over lavish perks for lawmakers that escalated into violent anger against the nation's police force. The deadly protests, which began last week over MP housing allowances nearly 10 times the minimum wage in the capital Jakarta, have forced President Prabowo Subianto to make a U-turn over the measures.

Demonstrations began peacefully, but turned violent against the nation's elite paramilitary police unit after footage showed one of its teams running over 21-year-old delivery driver Affan Kurniawan. Protests have since spread from Jakarta to other major cities, in the worst unrest since Prabowo took power, with more rallies planned Monday across Indonesia's vast archipelago. Police set up checkpoints across the capital on Monday, while officers and the military conducted city-wide patrols and deployed snipers in key locations.

Demonstrators were expected to start gathering outside parliament in Jakarta and at the national police headquarters. The capital's police force paraded a convoy of armoured cars and motorbikes outside parliament, in a show of force as they attempt to warn off protesters. Schools and universities in Jakarta were holding classes online and civil servants based in Jakarta were asked to work from home. The crisis prompted Prabowo to cancel a trip to China this week for a military parade commemorating the end of World War II.

The protests are the biggest and most violent of his presidency, a key test less than a year into his rule. Defence Minister Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin warned that the security forces would take "firm action" against "rioters and looters", after the finance minister's house was pillaged. Several lawmakers have reportedly had their houses ransacked in recent days.

Alawite families flee Damascus suburb after violence and eviction threats

DAMASCUS (AP): Many of Syria's Alawite religious minority are leaving a Damascus suburb where thousands of their members live in ramshackle houses, days after it was raided by a Syrian pro-government armed faction who beat and arrested many and ordered them to evacuate their homes.

The Muslim minority group was seen as privileged under the rule of the Alawite Assad family, but since Bashar Assad's government fell late last year, members have feared revenge from the country's Sunni majority. Though government officials later said there was no such eviction order, many residents of Sumariya packed their belongings into trucks and left their homes, fearing further attacks.

The incident illustrated how delicate the situation in Syria is nearly nine months after Assad was ousted in a rebel offensive, ending 50 years of his family's rule. United Nations spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said UN officials were "following with concern the developments ... including reports of threats of evictions and the reports of abuses against innocent civilians, including women and children." Assad was a member of the Alawite minority, and during his time, Alawites were disproportionately represented in the security and intelligence forces. The Sumariya area, northwest of Damascus, once contained military housing, including for members of the 4th Armored Division, which Syrian opposition activists accused of carrying out extrajudicial killings, torture, extortion and drug trafficking.

Most of the 4th division members fled the area when Assad fell. But civilian families also lived there, many in small, shoddily constructed single-story houses. Mohammad Ibrahim, a retired government worker, told The Associated Press he had bought his small house in 2010, and later got a court decision making the ownership official. "The walls, if you hit them, they will break, and the doors are the

same. It's housing for the most basic level of living," he said.

The Syria Report, a publication tracking the country's economy, said Sumariya emerged in the 1980s on land expropriated from the town of Moadamiyat al-Sham. It noted that "many current occupants lack official documents proving their ownership or rental agreements, making them vulnerable to sudden eviction." But even those with documentation said they were threatened and ordered to evacuate. Ragda Jerawa, a mother of two and government employee living in one of the small houses in Sumariya, said that residents had been told that an inspection committee would come to check ownership papers. "We had our papers ready, so we thought that's it, no one would bother us," she said. "The next day I went to work, and my husband called me saying they came in, beat him up and beat up my son, and they didn't even ask for papers."

Jerawa said the armed men told residents that they

must leave within 48 hours, "otherwise we'll demolish the houses over your heads." Some men were rounded up, detained, beaten and coerced into signing documents giving up their houses, she said. Karam Khuzam, head of the neighborhood committee, said it had been notified by security officials that inspectors would come to issue eviction orders for some illegally constructed homes whose residents did not have ownership papers for them. There had been a court order issued in 2004 legalizing the ownership of land in Sumariya, he said, but after Assad's fall, some of the original land owners in Moadamiyat al-Sham said the people who had bought houses in Sumariya no longer had legal standing. However, instead of a legal process to determine ownership, armed men descended on the neighborhood and ordered residents to get out immediately. "There were some violations - beating and insulting people, random arrests... some of the guys hit women," Khuzam said.

Yemen's Huthis detain 11 UN staff

NEW YORK (AFP): The United Nations said Yemen's Huthis detained at least 11 workers in raids on UN premises, after rebel authorities made numerous arrests following Israel's killing of their prime minister. The Huthi authorities have not yet commented on the reported raids, but the group has previously arrested international aid workers.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for their "immediate and unconditional release", confirming that 11 UN personnel had been subjected to "arbitrary detentions... by the Huthi de facto authorities". UN envoy to Yemen Hans Grundberg said the detentions, carried out in Sanaa and Hodeida, came after "the forced entry into UN premises and seizure of UN property". The Huthis were already detaining 23 UN personnel, some since 2021 and 2023, he added. In January, the Huthi rebels detained eight UN workers.

The Huthis claimed arrests made in June 2024 included "an American-Israeli spy network" operating under the cover of humanitarian organisations -- allegations emphatically rejected by the UN.

The World Food Programme said one of its staff had been detained in the rebel-held capital Sanaa. It said it was "urgently seeking additional information" from the Huthi authorities, who seized Sanaa in 2014 and now control large parts of Yemen. A security source in Sanaa told AFP that seven WFP employees and three UNICEF workers had been arrested after their offices were raided.

The WFP statement said the "arbitrary detention of humanitarian staff is unacceptable. The safety and security of personnel is essential to carrying out life-saving humanitarian work". Grundberg said the arrests violated "the fundamental obligation to respect

and protect their (UN personnel) safety, dignity, and ability to carry out their essential work in Yemen". A decade of civil war has plunged Yemen into one of the world's worst humanitarian crises, with more than half of the population relying on aid. The arrests last year prompted the UN to limit its deployments and suspend activities in some regions of the Arabian Peninsula's poorest country. A Yemeni security source told AFP that Huthi authorities had arrested dozens of people in Sanaa and other areas "on suspicion of collaborating with Israel". It came after Israel's strike that killed the Huthis' prime minister, Ahmed Ghaleb Nasser al-Rahawi, along with other officials. The Iran-backed group vowed to intensify its attacks on Israel after the killing of Rahawi, the most senior Huthi official known to have died in a series of Israeli attacks during the Gaza war.

Lebanon's speaker calls for national dialogue on Hezbollah's weapons

BEIRUT (AP): Lebanon's parliament speaker criticized Washington's push to quickly to disarm the Hezbollah militant group, and called instead for a calm national dialogue to determine "the fate of those weapons."

Nabih Berri, a key ally of Hezbollah who was instrumental in negotiating with Washington to reach a ceasefire that ended a monthslong war between Israel and Hezbollah in November, made the remarks in an address to the country commemorating the disappearance of prominent Shiite cleric Moussa al-Sadr. The Lebanese military will soon present a plan to the government on disarming Hezbollah by the end of the year, after President Joseph Aoun and most of Prime Minister Nawaf Salam's government endorsed a proposal by US envoy Tom Barrack. Both since coming

to power earlier this year have vowed to monopolize all weapons in the hands of the Lebanese military and security agencies.

Hezbollah leader Sheikh Naim Kassim has refused to discuss the matter of the Iran-backed group and political party's weapons until the Israeli military withdraws from five hills in southern Lebanon it controls and stops its near-daily strikes on Lebanon. "We are open to discussing the fate of these weapons, which we Lebanese see as honorable, within the framework of a calm and consensual dialogue," said Berri. He said that would be in line with Aoun and Salam's policies.

Hours before the address, Israeli jets launched intense airstrikes over the southern Nabatieh province. Lebanon's state-run National News Agency said they damaged some shops and homes. Israel said it was

targeting Hezbollah infrastructure. Videos after the strike showed large smoke plumes coming from the rolling hills in the area. There was no immediate word of casualties. The original ceasefire plan last November called for Hezbollah to disarm in southern Lebanon below the Litani River, while Israel would withdraw its forces from Lebanon and stop its strikes. Disarming the group and other non-state actors in other parts of the country was to be addressed in a later stage. However, US officials have told Lebanese authorities not to expect the Israelis to take any steps to withdraw before seeing some sort of disarmament plan go into effect.

Hezbollah insists that it has disarmed in the south and has done its part of the deal. Israel believes it is trying to rebuild its military capacities there. What the

The Frontier Post

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Failings in mental health care demand decisive action

Our reporting of the failings of the Huntercombe Hospital in Maidenhead, renamed Taplow Manor, and finally closed in 2023, should act as a warning of what can happen in the mental healthcare sector.

Most mental healthcare in Britain is good and compassionate, where it is available. The biggest problem is long waiting lists, especially for young people, and especially at a time when mental illness is becoming more common among young people for reasons that are not well understood, according to the The Independent.

But The Independent's campaigning journalism, led by our award-winning reporter Rebecca Thomas, has revealed the dangers of institutions such as Huntercombe when they fail to meet the standards that every patient has a right to expect.

Huntercombe had a history of poor care, which its owners repeatedly insisted to the authorities they were putting right. It should have been closed a long time before it finally shut its doors.

In our report today, Philip King, a former Huntercombe Group executive, speaking out for the first time, says that the hospital should have been closed years before it was.

Our report focuses on the tragic case of Ruth Szymankiewicz, a 14-year-old patient who died in 2022, two days after she fatally self-harmed when she was left alone by an inexperienced care worker, who had had a day and a half of training, and who was hired under a fake ID.

In the five years before Ruth's death, the Care Quality Commission, the body charged with ensuring that hospitals, care homes, and mental health services provide safe and effective care, published four reports warning about standards at the hospital.

Ruth's parents feel that they were misled when the Commission, which had rated the hospital "inadequate" in February 2021, changed it in July 2021, saying that improvements had been made. Our report reveals that just 11 days before Ruth died, the watchdog raised fresh concerns about understaffing at the hospital and found staff were not being told what was required of them.

We believe that Ruth's death and the wider failings of Huntercombe contain two important lessons, and we hope that Wes Streeting, the health and social care secretary, will act upon them.

One is that the Care Quality Commission did not act quickly enough or forcefully enough when concerns about Huntercombe were raised. It allowed itself to be fobbed off too easily by assurances from the managers that the failings were being addressed.

Inertia means that there will often be a temptation to keep an institution going rather than shut it down, causing disruption to patients. But the Commission should be readier to take bold action and to bring in entirely new providers. Sometimes, starting afresh, rather than simply changing the name on the board outside, as happened in this case, is the only way to change a deep problem.

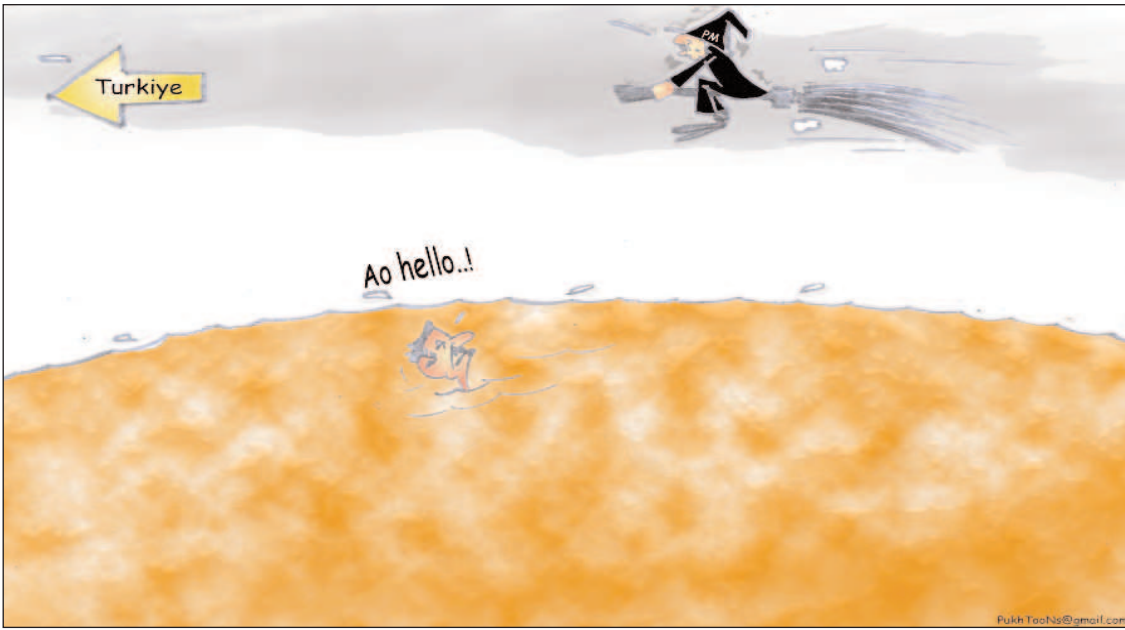
The other lesson is that the Mental Health Act should be changed to protect children's access to their families while they are detained in mental health hospitals. One of Huntercombe's biggest failings, according to Ruth's parents, was that she was denied visits by her family, which caused her huge distress.

They are backed by Dame Rachel de Souza, the Children's Commissioner, who told The Independent that the law should be changed to allow families to visit whenever they like. "This was cruelly and wrongly denied to Ruth's parents, so we must act now to stop it from ever happening again," Dame Rachel said.

Mr Streeting must demand a tougher approach from the Care Quality Commission, and he should change the law so that inpatient care is less likely to isolate children from their support networks and families. It is too late to secure justice for Ruth, but it can never be too late to learn the lessons from her death.

Important Notice

The Frontier Post will not be responsible for the comments in the articles and letters. The Frontier Post requests the writers of articles and letters to please make sure that they write their email addresses and mention the names of the cities, towns, districts or tehsil of their residences at the bottom of their articles and letters.



Is the tide finally turning against Israel?

Dr. Ramzy Baroud

Is it finally happening? Is the West turning against Israel? Or are we, whether motivated by hope or driven by despair, simply engaging in wishful thinking? The matter is not so simple.

In July, a significant number of countries and organizations signed the New York Declaration, a strong statement that followed a high-level meeting titled "Conference on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine."

The conference and its bold conclusion warrant a deeper conversation. What matters for now, however, is the identity of the countries involved. Aside from states that have traditionally advocated for international justice and law in Palestine, many of the signatories were countries that had previously supported Israel regardless of context or circumstance.

These mostly Western countries included Australia, Canada and the UK. Some of these nations are also expected to formally recognize the state of Palestine at the UN General Assembly this month. Of course, one has no illusions about the hypocrisy of supporting peace in Palestine while still arming the Israeli war machine that is carrying out a genocide in Gaza. That notwithstanding, the political change is too significant to ignore.

In the cases of Ireland, Norway, Spain, Luxembourg, Malta and Portugal, among others, one can explain the growing rift with Israel and the championing of Palestinian rights based on historical evidence. Most of these countries have historically teetered on the edge between the Western common denominator and a

more humanistic approach to the Palestinian struggle. This shift began years prior to the start of the ongoing Israeli genocide.

But what is one to make of the positions of Australia and the Netherlands, two of the most adamantly pro-Israel governments anywhere?

In Australia's case, media accounts argue that the friction began when the federal government denied an extremist Israeli lawmaker, Simcha Rothman, a visa for a speaking tour. Israel quickly retaliated by canceling the visas of three Australian diplomats in the Occupied Territories. This step was not a mere tit-for-tat response but the start of a virulent campaign by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to wage a diplomatic war against Australia.

"History will remember (Australian Prime Minister Anthony) Albanese for what he is: a weak politician who betrayed Israel and abandoned Australia's Jews," Netanyahu said, again infusing the same logic of lies and manipulation tactics.

Israel's anger was not directly related to Rothman's visa. That was a mere opportunity for Netanyahu to respond to Australia's signature on the New York Declaration, its pending decision to recognize Palestine and its growing criticism of Israel's genocide in Gaza.

Though Albanese did not engage Netanyahu directly, Home Affairs Minister Tony Burke did. He answered the accusations of weakness by boldly arguing that "strength is not measured by how many people you can blow up."

This statement is both

true and self-indicting, not only for Australia but for other Western governments. For years, and numerous times during the Gaza genocide, Australian leaders have argued that "Israel has the right to defend itself." Since blowing people up hardly qualifies as self-defense, it follows that Canberra knew all along that Israel's conduct amounted to war crimes. So, why the sudden, though still unconvincing, shift in position?

The answer is directly related to the mass mobilizations in Australia. On a single Sunday in August, hundreds of thousands of Australians took to the streets in what organizers described as the largest pro-Palestinian demonstrations in the country's history. Marches were held in more than 40 cities and towns, including a massive rally in Sydney that drew a crowd of up to 300,000 people and brought the Sydney Harbour Bridge to a standstill. These protests, which called for sanctions and an end to Australia's arms trade with Israel, demonstrated the immense public pressure on the government.

In other words, it is the Australian people who have truly spoken, courageously standing up to Netanyahu and to their own government's refusal to take any meaningful steps to hold Israel accountable. If anyone should be congratulated on their strength and resolve, it is the millions of Australians who relentlessly continue to rally for peace, justice and an end to the genocide in Gaza. Similarly, the political crisis in the Netherlands, starting with the resignation of Foreign

Minister Caspar Veldkamp on Aug. 22, is indicative of the significant change in European politics toward Israel and Palestine.

"The Israeli government's actions violate international treaties. A line must be drawn," said Eddy van Hijum, the leader of the country's New Social Contract party and deputy prime minister.

The "line" was indeed drawn, and quickly so, when Veldkamp resigned, ushering in mass resignations by other key ministers in the government. The idea of a major political crisis in the Netherlands sparked by Israeli war crimes in Palestine would have been unthinkable in the past.

The political shift in the Netherlands, much like in Australia, would not have happened without massive public mobilization around the Gaza genocide, which continues to grow worldwide. While pro-Palestine protests have occurred in the past, they have never achieved the critical mass needed to compel governments to act.

Though these governmental actions remain timid and reluctant, the momentum is undeniable. People power is proving more than capable of swaying some governments to impose sanctions and sever diplomatic ties with Israel, not only through pressure in the streets but also through pressure at the ballot box. While the West has not yet fully turned against Israel, it may only be a matter of time. The precious blood of hundreds of thousands of innocent Palestinians in Gaza deserves for history to be finally altered. The children of Palestine deserve this global awakening of conscience.

Have mass deportations become a vote-winning ticket in the UK?

Chris Doyle

WHAT to make of a British political leader who pledges to deport 600,000 immigrants in his first term? That is 120,000 people a year. This would even include doing a deal with the Taliban, a movement the UK was fighting against for so many years, to facilitate deportations to Afghanistan.

This is the jaw-dropping, headline-grabbing proposition that far-right leader of the Reform UK party, Nigel Farage, made in a speech last week. He claims this would only cost £10 billion (\$13.5 billion). Other estimates veer closer to the £50 billion mark. Farage typically could not explain how this would be funded.

Not long ago, such a statement from such a person would have been heralded as loony fringe political idiocy. Not so in 2025. Farage's party now heads the polls by as much as 10 percent and it has momentum. Farage's populist antics are cutting through and he is successfully whipping up every anti-immigrant emotion possible. His other tactic is to warn of the very violence that he has been stirring up. "We are not far away from major civil disorder. It is an invasion, as these young men illegally break into our country," he said last week.

The racist part is the fixation on attacking every nonwhite person coming to the UK as a vile criminal and threat to the British way of life. In the past, this

would not have worked.

Equally as extraordinary as the outlandish and vile proposals from Farage is the stunning absence of a response from Prime Minister Keir Starmer and his government. No minister challenged the reference to an "invasion." It is as if they are unable or even unwilling to mount any challenge to the Reform momentum.

Not only is this wrong in terms of a failure to challenge xenophobic hate speech, but it is also poor politics. The Labour Party and, for that matter, the Conservatives, are never going to outbid Farage for the anti-immigrant vote. Starmer, for example, does not push to leave the European Convention on Human Rights but to work to reform it — a position reminiscent of David Cameron's failure to renegotiate Britain's membership of the EU and freedom of movement.

And the target that Farage has given his opponents is unmissable for those prepared to take the pot shot and go at him. Reform's plans are simply unworkable, just as many of the Conservatives' plans were when they were in office. There is barely any detail and even what is there is imprecise. Farage knows his polling success does not hinge on expertise and detail. His narrative, his story, however mired in venom, is what counts.

Presenting Britain as being taken over by an invasion of foreigners works. Even then, the facts do not back Farage up. On a per capita basis, the UK received the 17th-highest number of asylum applications if one includes all 27 EU member states plus Switzerland, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. Refugees constitute a mere 0.5 percent of the UK population.

The Starmer approach is tinkering around the edges. The government is trying to speed up the asylum decision-making process to reduce the backlog and ensure the removal of those whose application is denied. But it lacks any semblance of realistic strategy as to how to reduce immigration to reasonable amounts, uphold Britain's obligations to legitimate asylum seekers and reassure the ever-growing percentage of the population that has succumbed to Farage's scare tactics.

Farage would have to wage war on the British judiciary, as most far-right groups have always done. This would include going after what he calls "activist judges." He would have to take Britain out of human rights treaties including the European Convention on Human Rights, which would have major implications for the Good Friday Agreement in Northern Ireland. Farage would also disapply the 1951 UN

Refugee Convention for a five-year period — and expect Conservative leader Kemi Badenoch to follow suit in backing this in October.

Whether one likes it or not, mass deportations are now a vote-winning ticket in many countries. Large swathes of populations are treated no better than herds of cattle. We have also seen this in the US. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is, for different reasons, seeking the same for Palestinians, attempting to force them out of Gaza and much of the West Bank.

The case for why immigration matters is not being made, or rather it is not being listened to because many are trying but they do not get the airtime in a right-wing-dominated media environment. Most European countries, including the UK, depend on migrant labor. For example, the health services in these countries would collapse without immigration. Their societies are enriched by all the skills and experiences immigrant populations have brought. If this plays out across Europe and in North America. Immigration is increasingly being seen as an evil. Few understand the differences between an economic migrant and a genuine asylum seeker fleeing war and persecution. The far right has a narrative. Other political trends either try to mimic this or sit on the fence, devoid of any policy. Hate and fear is winning.

Closing the health research gender gap

Maha Akeel

I was shocked to read that only 1 percent of healthcare research and innovation worldwide is invested in female-specific conditions beyond oncology. This was highlighted in an announcement by the Gates Foundation last month, as it committed \$2.5 billion through 2030 to accelerate research and development focused exclusively on women's health because it remains chronically underfunded. So, I investigated this subject and the data is astounding.

In 2020, only 5 percent of global research and development funding was allocated to women's health research. Four percent was for women's cancer and the other 1 percent for all other women-specific health conditions — and, of that 1 percent, 25 percent was further limited to fertility research. This focus on fertility overlooks a broad range of health conditions that disproportionately affect women, including autoimmune diseases and depressive disorders, as well as conditions that present different symptoms in women than men, such as cardiovascular disease.

Heart disease is the leading cause of death for women globally, killing more women than all forms of cancer combined. This is often due to factors like high blood pressure, high cholesterol, unhealthy eating, smoking, lack of exercise or genetics, with risks increasing after menopause and during pregnancy.

Historically, women have rarely been included in clinical trials. Despite women being half the global population, men's bodies were considered the "norm," while physical, physiological and psychological differences between men and women were ignored. In addition to historical bias, there are policies that are meant to protect unborn children from exposure to drugs and treatments — therefore, pregnant or childbearing-age women are restricted from participating in clinical trials, which is good, but it also limits the

pool of women. In 1993, the US Congress passed a law requiring the inclusion of women in clinical research. Furthermore, there are social and cultural aspects that make it a challenge to recruit and retain women in clinical trials and medical research. This failure to study how medications and other interventions affect women contributes to them experiencing adverse effects from medications at twice the rate of men. A 2013 study found that women with metal hip replacements were 29 percent more likely than men to experience implant failure, possibly due to anatomical differences and inadequate testing in women. Despite living an average of five years longer than men, women spend 25 percent more of their lives in poor health or with some degree of disability.

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Women's bodies are fundamentally different from men's, with unique organs, genes, hormones and other physiological processes. These differences cause women to experience many medical conditions differently and disproportionately compared to men. Yet, gender-specific research is lacking. Only 7 percent of healthcare research focuses on conditions exclusively affecting women. Not including women in clinical trials can lead to inaccurate dosing and compromises in safety and efficacy.

Pregnant and breastfeeding women face even greater risks. Only 5 percent of available medications have been adequately tested, monitored and labeled with safety information for use during pregnancy and breastfeeding. Furthermore, gender-disaggregated data is frequently missing from published trials, which undermines the ability to design effective, targeted interventions that reflect how women uniquely experience disease. This gender gap in health research can further cause women to face misdiagnoses, delayed treatment and preventable suffering.

There is also gender bias in treating women. A 2022 study in the US found that nearly 30 percent of women report having their health concerns dismissed by a provider and 15 percent say their provider did not believe they were telling the truth. Research shows that women are 13 percent to 25 percent less likely than men to receive opioid analgesia when reporting acute abdominal pain. Another study showed that women experience longer emergency department waiting and processing times than men.

Addressing women's health is also good for the economy. According to research by the World Economic Forum released last year, addressing the disparities between men's and women's health could not only improve the length and quality of life for millions for women, but also boost the global economy by more than \$1 trillion annually by 2040. Fewer sick days, less time at the hospital and less pain and inability to function all adds up to better health and better productivity, not just in the workplace but also in women's personal lives as caretakers and family supporters. More personalized medical care for women, addressing their specific health issues, and better preventive strategies would have a positive impact on their lives and consequently economic development.

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strategic priority in Saudi Arabia's national health system. The Ministry of Health is committed to providing comprehensive, integrated healthcare for women throughout all stages of their life. National initiatives for women's health aim to raise awareness, empower women to make informed health decisions and ensure access to preventive, curative and rehabilitative services.

A significant initiative on research is the Rofaida Women's Health Organization, which was established in 2016 at the King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre. It takes a holistic approach and focuses on women's health and wellness through empowering women with knowledge, skills and supportive policies that enable them to make informed health decisions. Rofaida's core strategy is to inform, educate and advocate. Among the content on its website is research done on Saudi women's health.

Although its focus is primarily on reproductive and sexual health, its founders — a group of professional Saudi women medical practitioners — recognize that women's health is not only gynecological health and that there is a need for comprehensive research on women's health in Saudi Arabia, as globally. They call for personalized healthcare and evidence-based practices as a fundamental right for women.

This one word captures the most important division among Democrats

AS President Donald Trump openly contemplates sending military forces into more American cities, the leading congressional Democrats almost invariably describe his actions as an attempt to create a “distraction” from something else — whether that’s the cost of living, the massive Medicaid cuts he signed into law, or the controversy around the Jeffrey Epstein files.

That reflex captures the overwhelming preference of top DC Democrats to frame the 2026 election on familiar partisan grounds, particularly the charge that Trump has failed in his core 2024 promise to bring down the cost of living for average families. It also reflects their hesitation about contesting Trump’s actions relating to immigration and crime.

But the tendency of Democratic congressional leaders like Chuck Schumer and Hakeem Jeffries to dismiss Trump’s moves threatening democracy as a “distraction” from other issues has created the most significant fissure between the party’s grassroots and its Washington leadership.

That one word now divides the principal competing theories of how Democrats should respond to Trump’s militant second term.

While the Democratic congressional leadership believes that focusing on the economy gives the party its best chance of gaining ground in next year’s midterm elections, many party activists argue they are failing to convey the urgency of the sweeping actions Trump has taken to erode American democracy.

The party’s top political strategists are equally split. Some believe that Trump’s 2024 victory demonstrated the necessity of remaining “laser-focused” on average families’ economic struggles, while others are just as certain that soft-pedaling Trump’s moves to shatter democratic safeguards — especially his domestic deployment of the military — is a moral as well as an electoral failure. Far from a distraction, the latter group argues, Trump’s efforts to raze democratic safeguards, crush opposition and entrench his hold on power constitute the central goal of his second term — and the greatest threat facing the country.

Describing Trump’s actions as “a distraction” is “absolutely wrong,” said Celinda Lake, a veteran Democratic pollster. “I think it misses completely where Democrats are at.”

If party leaders maintain that course, in 2026 Democratic candidates “would have turnout problems that would make the turnout problems of ‘24 look like child’s play,” Lake said. “They don’t understand that it is the central ballgame, the central point — that we are under a fascist dictatorship for billionaires. They are completely out of touch with the base.”

Other leading Democrats maintain that the party can only slow down Trump by winning back the House next year — and that focusing mostly on the economy offers the best chance of doing that. “Based on my research with these voters that we lost and we have to make up ground with ... it’s the economy, it’s the economy, it’s the economy,” said

Democratic pollster Ben Tulchin. Democrats in this camp see the special election victory last week of an Iowa Democratic state Senate candidate who ran on a message of affordability in a deep red-district as evidence they’re right.

By describing Trump’s actions as a “distraction,” the congressional leaders may be engaging in a form of projection. They clearly see time spent focusing on those moves as a distraction from their own desire to center the 2026 campaigns on the argument that Trump’s agenda has favored the rich at the expense of average families, couched in language that Chris Matthews could have written for Tip O’Neill to use against Ronald Reagan.

When Schumer and Jeffries have discussed Trump’s deployment of military forces to Los Angeles and Washington, DC, they have denounced it. In June, Schumer called Trump’s dispatch of the National Guard and Marines to Los Angeles “a dangerous authoritarian overreach that threatens the very fabric of our democracy.” When Trump sent the Guard into Washington and seized control of the city’s police department, Jeffries described it as “nothing more than an illegitimate power grab.”

But both men have also repeatedly signaled — using that flashpoint word — that they don’t want to dwell on these issues. After the deployment to Washington, Schumer told one podcast host that Trump’s action were a distraction, “plain and simple.”

“What’s he trying to distract from?” Schumer continued. “Well, a lot of things. But above all, Epstein.”

Jeffries last week used a similar formulation but pointed to a different target. Trump, with his troop deployments, is trying “to manufacture a crisis and create a distraction because he’s deeply unpopular,” Jeffries told CNN’s Dana Bash on “State of the Union.” He added, “The one big ugly bill is deeply unpopular.”

This approach has deeply frustrated those Democrats who believe that it shows these leaders consider Trump’s assaults on democratic institutions less important than whatever they say he’s diverting attention from. “You’re dismissing (Trump’s troop deployments), and you are dismissing all of the people who are horrified by it, and all of the people who are living under this level of oppression,” said Lake.

The conflict over the word “distraction” is, of course, a proxy for the much larger debate over which messages Democrats should emphasize as they work to rebuild the party’s tattered image and shape their campaigns for 2026. Democrats have been compulsively picking at that scab since the 2024 election, when many across the party felt that Vice President Kamala Harris failed to articulate a convincing economic message and relied too much on warnings about democracy.

To a striking extent, this divide does not track the party’s familiar tensions between progressive and centrist elements.

Tulchin, for instance, was the pollster for Sen. Bernie Sanders’ insurgent presidential campaigns in 2016 and 2020. But while he is outraged by many of Trump’s

Ronald Brownstein

actions, he believes the party’s congressional leaders are correct to prioritize economic concerns. “If you have one thing to say, hammer Trump on the economy,” Tulchin said. “Ultimately it’s going to be the most effective thing we do through next November.”

Longtime Democratic communications consultant Jesse Ferguson was on the other side of the 2016 presidential race as a senior adviser to Hillary Clinton. But he agrees that Democrats should emphasize the economy rather than Trump’s authoritarian actions. “He doesn’t want the country debating the economy, inflation,” or the GOP’s cuts to Medicaid, Ferguson said. “He wants us locked in a fight over this instead.”

Anat Shenker-Osorio, a leading progressive message consultant, believes this argument is flawed on many levels. The biggest problem, she said, is that party leaders are unlikely to reach the public in today’s media cacophony by repeating the familiar economic arguments that Democrats have long leveled against Republicans. “They may agree with it,” she said, “but they are never going to hear it, and they are not going to repeat to their neighbors.”

Moreover, Shenker-Osorio said, the choice to avoid consistent confrontation over Trump’s anti-democratic actions is compounding the party’s biggest problem: the perception that it is weak and cannot effectively advance its goals. “When you are not even willing to admit we are in a fight against fascism, not a fight against inflation ... how are people going to believe you are going to be their champion on any dimension, including the economic one?” she said.

Sean Clegg, a senior strategist for California Gov. Gavin Newsom, has generally argued for moving the party in a more centrist direction. But on this he agrees with Shenker-Osorio. “In our party we have so many armchair generals who love to spout the conventional wisdom about ‘only fighting on our terrain,’” Clegg said. “That’s not really how war works. You don’t always get to pick your ground. Sometimes you have to stand and fight.”

Democratic congressional leaders may be especially hesitant about opposing Trump’s National Guard deployments because of their links to immigration and crime, two of his strongest issues in polls. In a recent memo, the Democratic consulting firm Blue Rose Research argued that the party should quickly “pivot” away from the troop deployments back toward tariffs and the Medicaid cuts. Partly, they maintained, that was because Trump’s claim that he was “restoring order” proved “highly persuasive” to voters.

Brad Todd, a Republican strategist and CNN commentator, says Democratic congressional leaders are correct to resist a full-scale confrontation over Trump’s domestic troop deployments. “I think they rightly understand that fighting Trump on crime and immigration is picking ground he’s going to beat you on,” Todd said.

“And part of that is because Democrats got

themselves way out of position in 2020 and the four years of the Joe Biden administration, and voters do not trust them on those two issues.”

Still, several recent polls have found that more Americans oppose than support Trump’s DC deployment (though another also found most say it’s acceptable for the National Guard to “assist” local police). And Clegg noted that support for Trump’s handling of internal immigration enforcement — as opposed to securing the border — has dropped since Newsom and others confronted the president over his Los Angeles offensive.

Newsom has emphasized that Trump is not floating troop deployments into red-state cities with higher crime and murder rates than Washington. “If the president is sincere about the issue of crime and violence, there’s no question in my mind that he’ll likely be sending the troops into Louisiana and Mississippi to address the just unconscionable wave of violence that continues to plague those states,” Newsom said at a news conference on Thursday.

With their reticence, the congressional Democratic leaders have left a huge vacuum in the party. Gov. JB Pritzker of Illinois and Newsom, a pair of potential 2028 presidential candidates, have most effectively filled that space.

Pritzker has been unsparing in denouncing Trump as a “wannabe dictator,” as he put in a fiery news conference last week decrying the president’s threats to deploy the National Guard to Chicago. Surrounded by local business, religious and civic leaders, Pritzker struck a conspicuously more urgent tone than the party’s Congressional leadership. “If it sounds to you like I am alarmist, that is because I am ringing an alarm,” Pritzker insisted, before describing the prospect of troops on Chicago streets as “unprecedented, unwarranted, illegal, unconstitutional, un-American.”

Newsom has attracted even more attention among Democrats by resisting Trump actions he’s portrayed as a threat to democracy through over three dozen lawsuits; speeches; mocking social media posts; and his ballot initiative to offset the Texas Republican gerrymander.

Tellingly, on the day Trump sent the National Guard into Washington, former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi posted on social media that the president was acting “to distract” from his policy “blunders.” Newsom posted: “This is what dictators do.”

In a recent interview with podcaster Molly Jong-Fast, Newsom implicitly criticized the instinct of other Democratic leaders to pivot back to economic issues whenever possible. “I know a lot of good people (say), ‘Just play nice ... and people will pay attention to your 10-point plan on affordability,’” he told her. “Well, we’ve been doing that every damn day for years and years and years.”

Democratic pollster Anna Greenberg says that while there is an electoral logic to the congressional determination to center economic issues, Newsom is much more accurately reflecting the mounting frustration and anxiety of party activists.

“They feel the Democratic Party is not taking on Trump effectively and they don’t understand what anyone is doing,” she said. “And that makes them feel the party is weak. So, when people like Newsom do what he’s done, he represents kind of what Democratic voters are looking for in the party.”

Voters’ lukewarm response to Harris’ democracy messages last year, Greenberg added, is no guarantee they would not react to a more forceful message now that Trump has fulfilled or exceeded many of her warnings. “Everybody is overlearning the lessons from the last election,” she said.

Neither side in this Democratic debate sees the choice as absolute. Tulchin agrees that showing concern about Trump’s moves to consolidate power will be essential to turning out the party’s growing base of college-educated voters — who respond much more powerfully than swing working-class voters to messages about democracy, he said. Conversely, Lake, Shenker-Osorio, Greenberg and Clegg all agree the party must present a sharp populist critique of Trump’s economic priorities.

Yet the difference in emphasis between these two approaches is real, and not unique to Democrats. These same tensions have divided other parties around the world facing opponents maneuvering to entrench strongman rule, said Brendan Nyhan, a Dartmouth University political scientist who studies democratic backsliding.

Looking at the experience of other countries, Nyhan said, “the science isn’t clear” on whether it is more effective for parties opposing quasi-authoritarian opponents to stress their anti-democratic actions or to focus on conventional political concerns like affordability. Most parties, he said, nonetheless choose the latter approach of emphasizing kitchen-table issues — the course Democratic congressional leaders clearly prefer.

But whatever the long-term electoral merits of such an approach, Nyhan argued, it carries the substantial short-term price of failing to present the public a compelling case that Trump’s actions are unraveling the nation’s democratic traditions. “Democrats have been so paralyzed and so hyper-cautious that they may be underproviding those messages,” he said. Polls showing that more voters are worried about material issues than democracy can become a self-perpetuating cycle, he said.

Shenker-Osorio similarly argued that the messaging from party leadership has the wrong goal. Democrats are looking for ways to drive down Trump’s approval rating, she said, but this far from the next election they should be trying instead to sharpen public concern about his assault on democratic institutions — just as the GOP in recent years elevated the salience of issues around transgender rights, classroom teaching of race and gender, and undocumented immigrants.

Nyhan agrees. Only partially joking, he said the Democratic congressional leadership may still be shouting “‘What about the price of eggs?!” when “they are dragged off to the camps.”

The US government does not want any Palestinian to speak

Daoud Kuttab

September, France, Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, Portugal, and Malta may join the 147 UN member states that already recognise Palestinian statehood.

The Trump administration has been pressuring these countries not to go forward with their plan. Since that may not work, Washington is likely trying to deny the Palestinians an opportunity to celebrate this moment and a platform to speak out about the continuing Israeli atrocities in Gaza and the occupied West Bank.

By contrast, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will be welcomed with open arms in the US. Despite the International Criminal Court (ICC) issuing a warrant for his arrest, Netanyahu has been the most frequent guest at the White House since Trump’s inauguration; he will also be in attendance at the UNGA. Curiously, the Trump administration is offering a similar justification, claiming the decision reflects US “national security interests” and accusing the Palestinian Authority (PA) of “not complying with their commitments, and ... undermining the prospects for peace”. The official US rationale that the PA has failed to repudiate “terrorism”, including the October 7, 2023 attacks, is flimsy. Under President Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian leadership has consistently condemned “terrorism”, including the attacks, and has gone even further by supporting the French-Saudi statement that called for Hamas’s disarmament. It is important to remember that the PA was created by the 1993 Oslo Accords, which were signed at the White House by Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, with US President Bill Clinton hosting the ceremony. In the following years, the PA received substantial support from Washington, including a significant amount of funds, and went along with any US-led peace initiative. In this regard, to accuse the PA of “undermining the prospects for peace” is simply absurd. The reason for the visa denials clearly lies elsewhere. The Trump administration’s decision coincides with a global moment where leaders of several Western countries have expressed their intention to recognise Palestine at the UNGA this month. It is expected that by the end of September, France, Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, Portugal, and Malta may join the 147 UN member states that already recognise Palestinian statehood. The Trump administration has been pressuring these countries not to go forward with their plan. Since that may not work, Washington is likely trying to deny the Palestinians an opportunity to celebrate this moment and a platform to speak out about the continuing Israeli atrocities in Gaza and the occupied West Bank. By contrast, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will be welcomed with open arms in the US. Despite the International Criminal Court (ICC) issuing a warrant for his arrest, Netanyahu has been the most frequent guest at the White House since Trump’s inauguration; he will also be in attendance at the UNGA. Curiously, in 2013, the US government denied a visa to Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, citing his ICC arrest warrant. If even a compliant Palestinian body that has renounced armed struggle is not allowed to speak, then who is? Who can speak for the Palestinians? The current US position appears to be supporting the Israeli occupiers’ efforts to remove Palestinians from their homeland and erase Palestinian self-determination. But you cannot wish away an entire people from the face of the Earth, even if you are the sole superpower on it.

The man who closed the chapter of both Assads

Ghassan Charbel

AS I entered the Syrian presidential palace, I observed a young man called Ahmad Al-Sharaa at the seat of the two Assads. My realization grew stronger that what had happened in Syria was immense and would leave its mark on the country and perhaps beyond.

Al-Sharaa’s tempest not only uprooted an excessively cruel regime that had ruled for over half a century, but it also cast aside mentalities that had prevailed for decades. Observing Al-Sharaa at the presidential palace, one cannot forget that his tempest also extracted Syria from the so-called Axis of Resistance and diminished Iran’s role in the region. Al-Sharaa’s tempest severed the Tehran-Beirut route that passed through Iraqi and Syrian territories. It was the supply route of “resistance” rockets and the shaping and diminishing of roles.

I do not want to exaggerate the change in Syria, but it really did reshape roles and sizes, starting from Hezbollah in Lebanon to the Popular Mobilization Forces in Iraq.

I noticed that Al-Sharaa’s entourage did not ask the people invited to the palace to avoid asking sensitive questions. No subject was off limits and it quickly became evident that Al-Sharaa would not get flustered when it came to speaking about his past.

He spoke clearly and frankly about complex issues. He said he does not view himself as an extension of religious extremist or nationalist movements, which, according to him, have failed. He also stressed that he was not affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood.

He expressed his position in practical terms and called on the world to approach Syria through its people and its

state, not separate segments and shares. He expressed a readiness to discuss lingering concerns as long as Syria’s unity is protected.

Al-Sharaa acknowledged that the developments in Sweida have left a wound and that violations had taken place before that by other parties, including the security forces. He wants to avoid a bloody clash with the Kurds, led by Mazloun Abdi, while questions remain over Turkiye and the US’ interests.

Al-Sharaa was obviously very at ease with the network of international relations he has forged, starting with the regional support embodied by Saudi Arabia and Turkiye, and the new chapter in ties with Washington, which is credited to Riyadh’s encouragement.

The visitor realizes that Al-Sharaa is adopting a policy of “Syria First” and that he did not

come to power with a view of changing the region or the world. He is a man of state, not a leader of a faction. He spoke in detail about the economy and establishing a suitable investment environment. He is banking on a partnership of interests with Iraq and Lebanon through full economic integration, ignoring the wounds inflicted on Syria by the PMF and Hezbollah.

Al-Sharaa spoke of ending problems with Syria’s neighbors. He did not rule out striking a security agreement with Israel similar to the 1974 deal. He noted that the Abraham Accords were struck with countries that do not neighbor Israel and that do not have territory occupied by it.

Al-Sharaa is aware that the Syrians have for decades suffered poverty, oppression, injustice, immigration and displacement. A million

died in the war, hundreds of thousands are missing and the “biggest butchers have escaped” justice. Al-Sharaa knows that time eats away at the euphoria of new beginnings. But he is banking on the people and he does not hesitate in approaching them and listening to their complaints.

Still in his 40s, Al-Sharaa has amassed vast experience through the difficulties he has endured. He speaks confidently in practical terms and is banking on establishing a prosperous Syria.

He is a strong man with the traits of a prominent regional player should he succeed in navigating the minefield and Syria’s problems: an economy in ruins, complex relations between various parties, and contradictory advice from various friends.

I do not claim to have the right words to accu-

rately write about the man who surprised Syria and the world. I read and asked a lot about him, but this was the first time that I had the opportunity to listen to him in person. My career has taught me that it is wrong to be charmed by the dreams of the person in power. It has taught me that our countries are difficult and full of traps that eat away at the dreams of the ambitious leader who is seeking change.

It taught me that the past often pounces and debilitates the future, leaving countries to tread carefully on shattered glass.

Time is a master in changing fates. Hafez Assad was deluded in believing that he would remain in power forever. He imposed his rule on Syria by force and thought he could freeze time the way time was frozen for the prisoners who languished in Sednaya jail. He thought he would not have to

worry when he died, as he would rule Syria from the grave through his sons and their sons. This was nothing unusual. Damascus, like Baghdad, helps its rulers in building these delusions. Perhaps it is because of their location or vast history ... but time can be deceptive and treacherous.

I recalled a visit to Baghdad after Saddam Hussein’s ouster. I could not find a trace of the president, his army or party, not even his grave. People unleashed their anger on his statues. They erased any traces of him from the palaces, books and local currency. But the man who was quick to send people to their deaths stood defiantly in front of his own noose.

The master of Baghdad does not die in his bed of old age. Assad was fortunate. The American army did not sweep in to topple him and the people did

not dare to even dream of such a thing. They remembered what happened in Hama. Joining the opposition would put anyone at risk of death, no matter how young. Even cities like Hama were not spared a deadly ending. Assad saved Syria from the cycle of coups.

This costly stability allowed Syria to become a regional player. Mr. President felt like he owned the country and that he had even invented it. When illness struck, he named his son Bashar as his successor.

For a quarter of a century, Bashar was the one and only ruler. He never believed that the winds blowing from Idlib would soon turn into a hurricane that would lead him to his frosty exile in Russia. Al-Sharaa closed the chapter of both Assads. Bashar opted for exile instead of joining Hafez, Saddam and Qaddafi and their fate in the palace or the grave.



Governor launches LCCI Directory of Trade & Industry 2025

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider launched the Directory of Trade & Industry 2025 by Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) here at a ceremony on Monday.

The directory is a publication aimed at strengthening business networking, boosting trade and attracting investment opportunities.

The Directory of Trade & Industry 2025 includes the details of 36,500 members, classified into five major categories: Manufacturers 5,315, Exporters 5,135, Importers 9,011, Traders 17,072 and Services 10,047. It covers a broad spectrum of industries, including agriculture & horticulture, automobiles, construction, building materials, chemicals, textiles, food & beverages, iron & steel, leather, IT & software, furniture & wood, jewellery, dairy products and livestock & fisheries.

The directory has been developed in a classified and indexed format, divided into six sections including manufacturers, exporters, importers, indenters, traders and services. Each section is alphabetically arranged for ease of use, with colored index pages and an advanced online search system available

through the LCCI website.

LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad, Senior Vice President Engineer Khalid Usman and Vice President Shahid Nazir Chaudhry also spoke on the occasion while LCCI Executive Committee Members Khuram Lodhi, Ahad Amin Malik, Asif Khan, Rana Muhammad Nisar, Firdous Nisar, Ali Imran, Sheikh Muhammad Fayyaz, Asif Malik, Irfan Ahmad Qureshi, Omer Sarfraz, Muhammad Muneeb Monnoo, Ahsan Shahid, Syed Hassan Raza, Amina Randhawa, Manzoor Hussain Jaffery and Shouban Akhter were also present.

On this occasion, the Governor praised LCCI's efforts, describing the directory as a gateway for identifying potential trade partners, boosting exports and attracting investments. He said that authentic and comprehensive business data is indispensable for Pakistan's economic growth.

LCCI President Mian Abuzar Shad presented a cheque of Rs. 2.5 million to the Governor for flood relief. The Governor acknowledged the LCCI support saying that the resources of the nation must be spent on the nation itself. Flood victims are in a dire need of help. Pakistan

has immense potential for dam construction. If we utilize this water through storage, it will become a blessing rather than a disaster.

The Governor said that after Tarbela and Mangla, no major dam had been built, stressing that accountability must be ensured for those who allowed housing societies on riverbeds. He said that since the 2021 floods, the Sindh government has constructed 2.1 million houses with solar systems for flood victims.

In today's era, business linkages are the key to growth and trade directories play a vital role in this regard. This publication provides detailed information about members from every sector of the economy, enabling meaningful networking and partnerships. This directory is a valuable tool that will contribute positively to trade facilitation, connecting businesses across Pakistan and beyond.

The LCCI President also praised the Governor for his supportive and approachable leadership.

Mian Abuzar Shad highlighted the devastating impact on the economy, particularly agriculture and energy. He revealed that the current floods in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa alone have

caused damages worth Rs. 98 billion, while the 2022 floods inflicted losses of over USD 30 billion nationwide. He said that unless urgent action is taken to construct small and large dams, Pakistan would continue to face catastrophic consequences.

He said that every year USD 12 billion worth of water flows into the sea, which, if stored, could significantly increase agricultural output, power generation and water supply. He underscored the importance of building Kalabagh Dam, proposing that it be rebranded as a "storage tank" to address political sensitivities, while still harnessing its potential of 3,600 MW of cheap electricity and 6.1 MAF water storage capacity.

The LCCI President urged the government to take strict action against illegal housing societies on riverbeds, pointing out that even with only 200,000 cuses of water in the Ravi, many societies were submerged, causing severe losses to homeowners.

He stressed the urgent need for public-private partnerships in dam construction, effective water management, afforestation and climate adaptation strategies to secure Pakistan's future.



BEIJING: Finance and Revenue Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb holding a key meeting with Chairman Hongta Securities Jing Feng.

Gold prices up by Rs3,300

ISLAMABAD (APP): The price of 24 karat per tola gold increased by Rs 3,300 and was traded at Rs 370,700 on Monday against its sale at Rs 367,400 the previous day. All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association reported.

The prices of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs. 2,829 to Rs 317,815 from Rs 314,986, whereas that of 10 grams of 22 karat gold went up by Rs 2,594 to Rs 291,341 from Rs 288,747.

The rates of per tola and ten gram silver increased by Rs 101 and Rs 87 to trade at Rs 4,303 and Rs 3,689.

The price of gold in the international market increased by \$33 to \$3,480 from \$3,447, whereas the rates of silver in international market rose by \$1.01 to \$40.70 from \$39.69, the Association reported.

Export of sports goods increased

ISLAMABAD (APP): The export of sports goods from the country witnessed an increase of 32.50 percent during the first month of the current financial year (2025-26) as compared to the exports of the corresponding last year.

The country exported sports goods worth US\$38.901 million during July 2025 as opposed to the export of US\$29.358 million during July 2024, showing a growth of 32.50 percent, according to the data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

Among the sports products, the exports of footballs rose by 44.70 percent, surging from US\$17.775 million to US\$25.720 million during the month under review.

The gloves exports also increased 9.18 percent by going up from US\$4.606 million last year to US\$5.029 million, the PBS data revealed.

Likewise, the exports of all other sports goods rose by 16.84 percent to US\$8.152 million from US\$6.977 million same month last year.

Meanwhile, on a month-on-month basis, the exports of sports goods increased by 6.93 percent during July 2025, in contrast to the exports of US\$36.378 million in June 2025, the PBS data revealed.

On a month-on-month basis, the exports of footballs increased by 18.44 percent while the exports of gloves and all other sports products decreased by 8.90 and 10.83 percent, respectively.

Pakistan and China explore stronger capital, financial sector ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb during a meeting with Hongta Securities Chairman Jing Feng in Beijing discussed strengthening capital market cooperation and enhancing financial sector linkages between Pakistan and China.

The Finance Minister emphasized that Pakistan was working to diversify its financial options and deepen engagement with leading global and Chinese institutional investors, according to press release

issued by finance ministry here Monday.

The minister also highlighted Pakistan's recent economic performance and reaffirmed the government's commitment to continuing structural reforms aimed at achieving sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

"Pakistan is firmly committed to its reform agenda and greatly values its partnership with Chinese investors. Together, we can unlock new opportunities that will strengthen our economies and deepen our

financial cooperation," Senator Aurangzeb said.

Senator Aurangzeb underscored the growing confidence of international credit rating agencies in Pakistan's economic outlook, the statement added.

The minister noted with satisfaction the recent upgrades, including Moody's raising Pakistan's rating from Caa2 to Caa1 (Stable Outlook), Fitch upgrading from CCC+ to B- (Stable Outlook), and Standard & Poor's (S&P) similarly upgrading from CCC+ to B- (Stable Outlook).

Women empowerment key pillar of ICCI's vision

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) has reaffirmed its strong commitment to empowering women economically, with a special focus on promoting entrepreneurship as a catalyst for sustainable economic growth in the country.

This resolve was expressed by ICCI President Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, along with Senior Vice President Abdul Rehman Siddiqui and Vice President Nasir Mehmood Chaudhry, while addressing a visiting delegation of women entrepreneurs at the chamber on Monday.

President ICCI emphasized that women entrepreneurs are a vital force for the country's development and highlighted the Chamber's ongoing efforts

to build an inclusive and supportive entrepreneurial ecosystem.

"Empowering women through business and innovation is not only a social imperative but an economic necessity," he remarked.

He shared that ICCI has entered into strategic partnerships with several leading universities in the region, signing multiple Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) aimed at supporting women-led enterprises.

These partnerships are fostering entrepreneurship through joint initiatives, mentorship programs, and tailored skills development. Nasir also stressed the need to align academic curricula with industry requirements to enhance the employability of university graduates. He

noted that ICCI is proactively conducting practical training sessions and capacity-building programs to equip fresh graduates with relevant market-oriented skills.

He assured the delegation that ICCI will continue to champion the cause of women entrepreneurs and young professionals by offering institutional support, advocating for enabling policies, and creating networking and growth opportunities.

(استخبارت برائے دودھ پلاٹس)
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مرلہ BTKP .MSM.3504 یہ دونوں پلاٹس بکر
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Lost Notice
My name is Zawar Hussain, son of Hashim, resident of Block No. 73-B, Flat No. 1, G-9/2, Islamabad. My original CNIC No. 61101-8384998-1 has been lost while traveling. If anyone finds it, kindly contact me at the number below. Contact No: 0321-5146873

COURT NOTICE
In the Court of Zahid Ali Civil Judge-II, North Waziristan at Bannu, Suit No.261/1 Institution 2024 Next date of hearing 2024 Case Title: Niaz Wali Jan Vs Rasool Wali Khan etc. Notice to: 5.Rahmat Jan 6.Rasool Mar Khan Sons News Bat Khan 13.Badshah Khan 14.Ahamad Khan Sons Rasool Jan 16.Rashid Khan Son Rahmat Jan 10.Qismat Noor Khan son Rasool Khan 21.Minullah Jan 25.Muhamad Bagh Jan Sons Lal Jan R/o Loli Pakiran Sedgi Bar Kala Tahsil Ghulam Khan North Waziristan presently Abroad. Whereas in the above case titled the service of above defendant (s) is not possible through ordinary means, therefore , your defendant (s) is / are informed through this publication that on 04-09-2025 at 8.00 AM. You has / have to appear before this court either personally or through attorney or through counsel to pursue the suit noted above, otherwise, Ex-parte proceeding will be initiated against you.

PSX witnesses bullish trend, gains 1,353 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) benchmark KSE-100 Index witnessed bullish trend on Monday, gaining 1,353.34 points, a positive change of 0.91 percent, closing at 149,971.12 points against 148,617.78 points last trading day.

A total of 1,183,076,656 shares were traded during the day as compared to 1,342,203,045 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 48.849 billion against Rs 52.305 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 480 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 272 of them recorded gains and 175 sustained losses, whereas the share price of

33 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were B.O. Punjab with 97,697,793 shares at Rs 16.58 per share, K-Electric Limited with 85,903,125 shares at Rs5.43 per share and Pervez Ahmed Co. with 54,520,834 shares at Rs3.04 per share.

PAI Holding Company LimitedB witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 301.00 per share price, closing at Rs 27,300.00, whereas the runner-up was Hoechst Pakistan Limited with Rs216.81 rise in its per share price to Rs4,026.63.

Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 920.32 per share closing at Rs 32,701.00 followed by

Nestle Pakistan Limited with Rs 77.20 decline in its share price to close at Rs 8,439.18.

Meanwhile, in the future market, as many as 328 companies traded shares in the market out of which 236 witnessed gain, 90 loss where the prices of 2 companies remained unchanged.

Rupee gains 02 paisa against US Dollar

The Rupee on Monday appreciated by 02 paisa against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 281.75 against the previous day's closing Rs 281.77.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood

at Rs 282.9 and Rs 283.7, respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by Rs 1.33 to close at Rs 330.21 against the last day's closing of Rs 328.88, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs 1.91, whereas an increase of Rs 1.10 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs 381.16 compared to the previous day's closing of Rs 380.06.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal came down by 01 paisa each to close at Rs 76.70 and Rs 75.08 respectively.

Core inflation decelerates to 3 per cent in August 2025

ISLAMABAD (APP): The core inflation measured by Consumer Price Index (CPI) decelerated to 3 percent during August 2025 as compared to 4.1 percent recorded during July 2025, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Monday.

According to PBS data, the CPI based inflation during the same month of last year (August 2024) was recorded at 9.6%.

On month-on-month basis, it decreased by 0.6% in August 2025 as compared to an increase of 2.9% in the previous month and an increase of 0.4% in August 2024.

The CPI inflation Urban, increased by 3.4% on year-on-year (YoY) basis in August 2025 as compared to

4.4% of the previous month and 11.7% in August 2024. On month-on-month (MoM) basis, it decreased by 0.7% in August 2025 as compared to 3.4% in the previous month and an increase of 0.3% in August 2024.

CPI inflation Rural, increased by 2.4% on year-on-year basis in August 2025 as compared to an increase of 3.5% in the previous month and 6.7% in August 2024. On month-on-month basis, it decreased by 0.5% in August 2025 as compared to an increase of 2.2% in the previous month and an increase of 0.6% in August 2024.

The Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI) inflation on YoY basis increased by 2.6% in August 2025 as

compared to a decrease of 0.9% a month earlier and an increase of 10.8% in August 2024. On MoM basis, it increased by 3.2% in August 2025 as compared to 3.1% in a month earlier and a decrease of 0.3% in August 2024.

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation on YoY basis decreased by 1.0% in August 2025 as compared to a decrease of 0.5% in the previous month and an increase of 6.3% in August 2024. On month-on-month basis, it decreased by 0.2% in August 2025 as compared to 1.2% in the previous month and an increase of 0.3% in August 2024.

The core inflation measured by non-food non-energy urban increased by 6.9%

on (YoY) basis in August 2025 as compared to 7.0% of the previous month and 10.2% in August 2024. On (MoM) basis, it increased by 0.3% in August 2025 as compared to an increase of 0.8% measured in the previous month and an increase of 0.4% in the corresponding month of last year i.e. August 2024.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was report at the port where four ships, Bentley-1, Maya Gas-1, Cartagena and Al-Sakhamah carrying Palm oil, LPG, Gasoline and LNG, berthed at Liquid Cargo Terminal, Engro Vopak Terminal, FOTCO oil Terminal and Engro Elengy Terminal respectively on Sunday.

Meanwhile another containers ship 'MSC Capri' also arrived at outer anchorage on Monday.

A total of six ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them a bulk cargo carrier 'Sea Falcon' expected to sail. Cargo volume of 109,275 tonnes, comprising 109,275 tonnes imports cargo was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

There are 05 ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of a containers ship 'MSC Capri' & three more ships, X-Press Salween, Seaspan Santos and Carl Schulte with container expected to take berths at QICT respectively, while two more container ships, GFS Juno and MSC Pratiti due to arrive at outer anchorage today (Tuesday).

Alibaba soars but Europe and Asia stocks mixed

TOKYO (AFP/APP): Chinese ecommerce giant Alibaba soared on Monday but Asian and European markets were mixed after Wall Street retreated from record highs.

Alibaba rocketed almost 20 percent following bumper results on Friday, including a surge in AI revenue. Its US-listed shares added 13 percent on Friday too.

Alibaba lifted the Hang Seng by two percent and Shanghai rose half a percent.

Other Asian indexes were in the red, however, with Japan's Nikkei off more than one percent as chip shares came under pressure.

Seoul's Kospi was also off even after South Korean data showed record monthly semiconductor exports in

August despite growing pressure from US tariffs.

In Europe, London and Paris were higher in early trade but Frankfurt fell back. Oil prices edged up.

On Friday US stocks fell, with the Dow and S&P 500 retreating from record highs ahead of the long Labor Day weekend.

An acceleration of a key US inflation reading lowered prospects for sustained interest rate cuts by the Federal Reserve in the coming months.

Although a September cut of 25 points is probably still on the cards, "it may be hard for them to move as quickly or aggressively as they'd like, with inflation moving higher," said eToro analyst Bret Kenwell.

German inflation rose in

August for the first time this year, data showed Friday, which could lessen the chances for further European Central Bank rate cuts too.

On tariffs, a US appeals court ruled Friday that President Donald Trump exceeded his authority in tapping emergency economic powers to impose wide-ranging duties.

The tariffs remained in place for now though, and hitting out at the ruling Trump said that "the United States of America will win in the end".

Japan's tariffs envoy cancelled a trip to Washington last week over plans for a presidential order including stepped-up Japanese purchases of US rice, the Nikkei reported.



In brief

QOC expresses solidarity with Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Alpine Club of Pakistan (ACP) has received a condolence message from the Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC), expressing solidarity with the people of Pakistan in the wake of the recent devastating floods. In a letter addressed to ACP President Maj Gen Irfan Arshad, Asma bint Thani Al-Thani, Director of the Marketing and International Cooperation Sector at QOC, conveyed heartfelt sympathy to the victims and their families. She lauded the resilience and courage of the Pakistani people in facing the calamity and reaffirmed that the QOC stands shoulder to shoulder with Pakistan during this difficult period. Responding to the message, Maj Gen Arshad expressed gratitude to Ms. Al-Thani and the QOC for their support. "Her message of compassion is a source of immense strength for the people of Pakistan," he said. "We deeply appreciate the solidarity extended by our friends in Qatar during this national tragedy."

Davies returns to training

MUNICH (AFP): Bayern Munich and Canada left-back Alphonso Davies has returned to training with the ball, five months after tearing his ACL while on international duty, his club announced Monday. Davies, 24, injured his knee while playing for Canada against the United States in their Nations League third-place playoff in March. "Alphonso Davies was able to train again with the ball on Monday," Bayern said in a statement. Having returned to individual training a month ago, Davies is expected to be available for the Bundesliga side in October. Davies, who captains the Canadian national side, extended his deal in Munich to 2030 in February. Injured Bayern forward Jamal Musiala is not expected to return from a broken ankle until 2026, while defender Hiroki Itō may make it back from a foot injury by the end of the calendar year.

Joe Bugner dies aged 75

LONDON (AFP): Former British heavyweight boxer Joe Bugner, who took Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier the distance in the 1970s, has died at the age of 75. The Hungary-born fighter faced Ali and Frazier in 1973, before taking on Ali again in a world title bout in Kuala Lumpur in 1975, losing each contest on points. Bugner's other notable opponents included American Earnie Shavers and British rivals Henry Cooper and Frank Bruno. A career spanning 32 years ended in 1999, by which time he had relocated to Australia, where he spent the final years of his life in a care home after being diagnosed with dementia. The British Boxing Board of Control said: "It is with great sadness that the former British, European, Commonwealth heavyweight champion and world championship contender Joe Bugner has passed away at his care home in Brisbane, Australia." "The British Boxing Board of Control passes on its condolences to Joe's family," Bugner, who was a child refugee when he moved to Britain after his family fled the 1956 Soviet invasion of Hungary, won 69 of his 83 contests, with 13 defeats and one draw. He twice held the British and Commonwealth heavyweight titles and was a three-time European champion.



SHARJAH: Ibrahim Zadran made 63 in 40 balls, U.A.E. vs Afghanistan, UAE Tri-Series.

Women's Cricket WC prize money to outstrip men: ICC

NEW DELHI (AFP): Prize money for the Women's World Cup cricket will outstrip the men's edition by more than a third, boasting an overall purse of \$13.88 million, the sport's governing body said Monday. The prize pot is up from \$3.5 million in 2022 and eclipses the total \$10 million for the last men's World Cup. The 13th edition of the women's showpiece 50-over tournament, which begins September 30 in India and Sri Lanka, is a "monumental rise" from the previous edition in New Zealand three years ago, the International Cricket Council said.

"This announcement marks a defining milestone in the journey of women's cricket," ICC chairman Jay Shah said. "This four-fold increase in prize money is a landmark moment for women's cricket and reflects our clear commitment to its long-term growth."

Shah, former chief of India's cricket board (BCCI), said: "Our message is simple, women cricketers must know they will be treated on par with men if they choose this sport professionally."

The winners of this year's Women's World Cup will get \$4.48 million. That is a

239 percent increase from the \$1.32 million awarded to Australia in 2022. The runners-up will receive \$2.24 million, in comparison to the \$600,000 England won three years ago.

Co-hosts India will face Sri Lanka in the opener in Guwahati. Pakistan will play all their matches in Colombo as part of a compromise deal that allows both India and Pakistan to play at neutral venues in multi-nation tournaments. The final will be played on November 2 either in Mumbai or Colombo, depending on whether Pakistan reach the title clash.

Akram urges Afridi to prioritize Test cricket

ISLAMABAD/LAHORE (PPI): Cricket icon Wasim Akram has encouraged fast bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi to concentrate on Test matches to cement his place among the sport's elite.

Speaking on a television program, the 59-year-old Akram stated that while Afridi is already a prominent player, maintaining composure during games is crucial for him to reach his full capacity. Akram believes Afridi possesses the skills to emulate his achievements, but emphasized the importance of red-ball cricket in this pursuit. He suggested that excelling in the longer format would naturally enhance other aspects of Afridi's game.

The former captain highlighted the significance of a lasting impact over immediate financial rewards. He advised Afridi to consider how he wants to be remembered after retirement, urging him to strive for recognition as a truly exceptional cricketer. Akram also shared insights from his own playing days, recalling how senior players emphasized the importance of both rising to challenges during difficult times and supporting younger players when the squad was performing well.

Wazeer claims WBC silver welterweight title

ISLAMABAD (PPI): Pakistani boxing sensation Usman Wazeer has crossed a historic milestone, claiming the WBC Silver Welterweight Championship after a thrilling knockout victory in Bangkok, Thailand.

Dubbed the "Battle of Bangkok," Wazeer triumphed over top-ranked Indonesian opponent Fernandes in the final round of a grueling ten-round bout.

Fernandes, a former WBC Asian champion, proved a formidable adversary. However, Wazeer's power and precision ultimately prevailed. The electrifying knockout victory extended the Pakistani boxer's unbeaten streak in international competition to an impressive 17-0, with 12 wins coming by way of knockout.

The match, broadcast live on DAZN, marked a significant milestone for Pakistani boxing. Wazeer's victory was broadcast to viewers in 168 countries on the popular sports streaming service. This marks the first instance of a Pakistani boxer being broadcast live on DAZN. Following his victory, the newly crowned champion dedicated his success to his compatriots affected by the devastating floods.

Pakistan U23 football team arrives in Cambodia

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan U23 national football team has reached Phnom Penh, Cambodia, to take part in the AFC U23 Asian Cup 2026 Qualifiers. The squad travelled from Karachi via a private airline with a layover in Bangkok and landed in the Cambodian capital on Monday, said a press release. Pakistan will face Iraq in its opening group match on September 3.

Bangladesh crush Netherlands to clinch T20 series

Sylhet (AFP): Spinner Nasum Ahmed returned figures of 3-21 to help Bangladesh thrash the Netherlands by nine wickets in the second T20 international on Monday as the hosts clinched the three-match series.

Bangladesh bundled out the tourists for a paltry 103 and romped home to their target in 13.1 overs to take a 2-0 lead in the series in Sylhet.

Bangladesh, who won a third successive T20 series, have kept their momentum ahead of the T20 Asia Cup starting September 9 in the United Arab Emirates.

Left-handed opener Tanzid Hasan made 54 and put on an unbeaten 64-run stand with skipper Litton Das, who scored 18.

But it was Bangladesh's bowlers who set up victory as Nasum, who came into the team as one of two changes, struck twice on successive balls in the third over.

Dutch skipper Scott Edwards played out the hat-trick ball from Nasum but later fell for nine off left-arm quick Mustafizur Rahman.

Opener Vikramjit Singh made 24 off 17 ball before he fell to pace bowler

Taskin Ahmed and was one of just three batsmen to manage double figures.

The wickets kept tumbling as the Netherlands survived just 17.3 overs after being invited to bat first.

Number nine Aryan Dutt made 30 as he took the team past 100 before he was the last wicket to fall.

Bangladesh started their chase briskly with Parvez Hossain Emon's 23 off 21, and after his departure Tanzid and Litton steered the team home.

The final match of the series is on Wednesday at the same venue.

Leverkusen sack Erik ten Hag after two league matches

BERLIN (AFP): Bayer Leverkusen have sacked manager Erik ten Hag after just two Bundesliga matches in charge, the club announced on Monday.

Fired by Manchester United last October, Ten Hag signed a contract until 2027 in May, taking over as the successor to Xabi Alonso, who moved to Real Madrid. But the Dutchman had to contend with the sale of a handful of the Leverkusen stars who won the Bundesliga title in 2024 and his new team have struggled in the first few games of the new season.

"This decision was not easy for us. Nobody wanted to take this step," sporting director Simon Rolfes said in a statement. "The past few weeks have shown that the steps to build a new and successful team have not been effective," Rolfes said.

Club CEO Fernando Carro said the decision was "painful, but necessary".

The 55-year-old Dutchman now has the unwanted record of breaking the previous mark for a coach of five matches before dismissal. Named United manager in July

2022, Ten Hag won the FA and League Cups but was let go after a run of just one win in eight matches midway through the 2024-25 season, the club's worst start to a campaign in the Premier League era.

Ten Hag took over after the most successful period in Leverkusen's history and was tasked with overseeing a dramatic rebuild. Leverkusen won an unbeaten league and cup double in 2023-24, including a first ever Bundesliga title.

They have sold several core members of the team this summer, including Florian Wirtz, Granit Xhaka, Jonathan Tah, Jeremie Frimpong, Amine Adli and Lukas Hradecky.

The club did not name a replacement for Ten Hag on Monday, saying the "training work would be taken over by the assistant coaching staff for the time being". Named Leverkusen manager on July 1, Ten Hag's first match in charge was a 5-1 drubbing by Flamengo's under-20s team in a friendly in Brazil.

After a 4-0 win over fourth-tier Sonnenhof Grossaspach in their

German Cup opener, Leverkusen claimed one point from their first two Bundesliga fixtures.

Leverkusen let a one-goal lead slip to lose 2-1 at home to Hoffenheim and on Saturday conceded two late goals against a 10-man Werder Bremen to draw 3-3, having led 2-0 and 3-1.

On Sunday, German outlets Bild and Kicker both reported Ten Hag was facing the sack, despite his short tenure at the club.

Bild reported the coach had "lost credit internally in a very short time" and there was "no personal connection between him and the players". Kicker said Ten Hag's style of "communication, lack of match preparation, in-game coaching and tactical approach" was a "culture shock" and showed "a lack of prospect of success".

The tabloid reported Ten Hag was left out of discussions on the signing of former Real defender Lucas Vazquez, who joined Leverkusen on Tuesday.

Ten Hag was tasked with bedding in more than a dozen new signings ahead of this season, including several young players.

Alcaraz, Djokovic stroll into US Open quarter-finals as Sabalenka cruises



NEW YORK (AFP/APP): Carlos Alcaraz and Novak Djokovic motored into the quarter-finals of the US Open on Sunday as reigning women's champion Aryna Sabalenka kept her title defence firmly on track.

Spanish second seed Alcaraz and tennis icon Djokovic -- who are on course to meet in the semi-finals -- both recorded straight-sets wins on the Arthur Ashe Stadium main court. Five-time Grand Slam champion Alcaraz overpowered France's Arthur Rinderknech 7-6 (7/3), 6-3, 6-4 and has not dropped a set to date at the championships.

"I think my style of tennis suits pretty well the energy here in New York," the 22-year-old said.

"The energy is special playing the day session, playing the night session. It doesn't matter, people are always there. I love it and I think that's why I play my best tennis here," he added.

Alcaraz will face Czech 20th seed Jiri Lehecka in the quarter-finals on Tuesday. Lehecka reached the last eight of a Grand Slam for only the second time after battling past veteran Frenchman Adrian Mannarino, winning 7-6 (7/4), 6-4, 2-6, 6-2.

Djokovic, 38, continued his latest bid for a record 25th Grand Slam singles title with a brisk 6-3, 6-3, 6-2 defeat of unseeded German Jan-Lennard Struff. "It definitely helps if you

serve well. I think I had a great serving performance last round and also tonight," said Djokovic. "That helps make it easier on the court."

Djokovic faces a quarter-final on Tuesday against fourth seed Taylor Fritz, the lone American man left in the draw.

Fritz sprinted into the last eight with a brisk 6-4, 6-3, 6-3 defeat of the Czech Republic's Tomas Machac in 1hr 38min.

Fritz is carrying hopes of first US men's Grand Slam champion since Andy Roddick in 2003 following the exits of fellow seeds Ben Shelton, Tommy Paul and Frances Tiafoe.

But Fritz will head into his quarter-final against Djokovic with history stacked against him. Djokovic has won all 10 of their past meetings, including a 2023 quarter-final win at the US Open.

"I think the first, almost like seven or eight times I played him. I probably just wasn't a good enough player to really have that much of a chance," said Fritz.

"I think only the last couple times we've played I think I've been this just better player that can, you know, I'd say compete and have chances."

- Sabalenka balance -

In the women's draw, Sabalenka never looked troubled in a 6-1, 6-4 defeat of Moldova-born Spaniard Cristina Bucsa, ranked 95th in the world. Sabalenka has now

reached the quarter-finals or better at 12 straight Grand Slam tournaments, a consistency she attributes to striking a balance in her life on and off the court.

"I'm super proud, I think that's an incredible achievement," Sabalenka said.

"I think for me the key was balancing on and off-the-court life. I think I've done a great job on balancing really hard work and also great recovery and some fun time outside of tennis court. I think that's been the key."

Sabalenka faces a quarter-final against either ninth seed Elena Rybakina or the Czech Republic's Marketa Vondrousova, who were playing later Sunday.

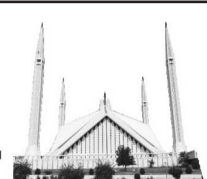
In other women's draw action on Sunday, the Czech Republic's unseeded former French Open and Wimbledon champion Barbora Krejickova conjured a remarkable escape to oust Taylor Townsend, saving an incredible eight match points before digging out a 1-6, 7-6 (15/13), 6-3 victory.

Krejickova fought off a match point on her own serve at 5-4 down in the second set, and then somehow survived seven match points in an enthralling tie-breaker to move on.

"What a match," said Krejickova, who revealed she had wondered if she would ever play tennis again after missing the opening months of the season with a back injury.

"I was sidelined for six months and didn't know if I would ever play again. I'm super happy I can be here."

Krejickova will face American fourth seed Jessica Pegula in the quarter-finals. Pegula, beaten in the final last year, advanced to the last eight after breezing past compatriot Ann Li 6-1, 6-2 on the Arthur Ashe Stadium court.



In brief

1800 cops deployed for polio drive

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi Police have made comprehensive security arrangements for the ongoing four-day anti-polio campaign here on Monday, informed police spokesman. Around 1,800 officers and personnel have been deployed across the district to ensure safety of polio teams. A total of 554 polio teams, 304 transit points, and 207 centers are being provided security. Police mobile units, the Elite Force, and Dolphin Squad are carrying out special patrols in different areas to maintain law and order. According to a police spokesperson, foolproof security has been put in place for the campaign. Rawalpindi Police remain fully committed and active in protecting the lives and property of citizens. The campaign will be conducted in Gujar Khan, Kahuta, Kallar Syedan, Kotli Sattian, Murree, Rawalpindi Cantt, Rawalpindi Rural, and Taxila Rural.

CTP ensures smooth traffic flow amid rainfall

RAWALPINDI (APP): City Traffic Police (CTP) have made sufficient arrangements to maintain traffic flow during rain. The wardens were not only performing their official duties but also assisting citizens and vehicles at multiple points. Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Rawalpindi, Farhan Aslam, instructed all supervisory officers to remain visibly active in the field and work diligently to keep traffic moving during the wet spell. He confirmed that additional personnel had been deployed at underpasses and key thoroughfares to prevent congestion and facilitate commuters. The CTO also directed circle officers to maintain close coordination with WASA authorities to expedite drainage of rainwater from low-lying areas. Furthermore, wardens were told to respond swiftly to citizens' calls for assistance. Highlighting safety precautions, CTO Farhan Aslam urged both citizens and traffic wardens to avoid going near electric poles and other installations during rainfall, stressing that preventive care was essential to avoid mishaps.

Khichi visits flood-affected areas

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Aurangzeb Khan Khichi Monday visited the flood-affected areas of his constituency Mailsi to review the situation and relief efforts, on the special instructions of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. District Police Officer Vehari, Muhammad Afzal, and senior district administration officials also accompanied him. During the visit, the Federal Minister inspected the relief camp in Mailsi and interacted with the affected people. The district administration briefed him in detail about the ongoing rescue operations and the overall flood situation. Aurangzeb Khan Khichi directed the administration to speed up relief operations and ensure immediate assistance to the affected families. He said the biggest challenge at present is the rehabilitation of those displaced by floods. "The government will fulfill its role completely. Every possible assistance will be extended to the victims," he emphasized. The federal minister reiterated that the government stands shoulder to shoulder with the people in this difficult time and announced that all available resources would be mobilized for their relief and rehabilitation. Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif and CM Maryam Nawaz have also assured that both federal.



ISLAMABAD: An attractive view of clouds hovering over the sky of Federal Capital. —APP Photo

Ali Muhammad urges national policy on dams construction

ISLAMABAD (APP): Member of the National Assembly, Ali Muhammad Khan, on Monday stressed the urgent need for a national policy on water reservoirs and dams to mitigate the recurring devastation caused by floods across Pakistan.

Speaking in the National Assembly, Member Ali Muhammad Khan shared that he had arrived directly from the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House, where the chief minister, provincial leadership, and party colleagues were holding meetings on the ongoing crisis.

He expressed gratitude to the Speaker for offering prayers for the martyrs and victims, and commended the House for demonstrat-

ing unity on the issue.

Ali Muhammad Khan recalled that natural disasters had already hit Buner, Swat, and parts of Mansehra earlier, while Azad Kashmir also suffered heavily.

"Now Punjab is facing similar devastation, and this requires the federal government and provincial administrations to stand shoulder to shoulder," he said.

He proposed that Parliament should hold a dedicated session to discuss long-term solutions for water management, particularly the construction of new dams and reservoirs. Referring to past initiatives, he said the Mohmand Dam project was initiated during PTI's tenure and called

upon Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's government to accelerate its work.

The MNA urged all political parties to set aside politics on the issue, terming dam construction a matter of national interest.

He underlined that no mega-dam of the scale of Mangla or Tarbela had been built for decades, despite the immense need.

"This Parliament can give the greatest gift to the nation by framing a comprehensive water storage policy, which will safeguard Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Kashmir, and Sindh from recurring floods," he said, emphasizing that such an initiative would strengthen Pakistan's future generations.

HRCP pays tribute to Syed Ali Gilani Shaheed

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Human Rights Council of Pakistan (HRCP) on Monday organized a solemn commemorative event in honor of Syed Ali Gilani Shaheed, the legendary Kashmiri leader, at the Conference Room of the Islamabad Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industries.

An HRCP spokesperson told APP that the event paid rich tribute to Syed Ali Gilani's lifelong struggle for the rights of the Kashmiri people and his unwavering commitment to the cause of self-determination. He said the participants offered prayers for his departed soul and reflected on the immense sacrifices made by the Kashmiri people in their ongoing pursuit of justice and freedom.

He said the prominent speakers at the event included HRCP Chairman Jamsheed Hussain, Federal Cabinet President Murad Ali, General Secretary Hammad Abbasi, Kashif Kamal, and Sadia Ali. They highlighted the life and legacy of Syed Ali Gilani, recalling his steadfastness in the face of adversity and his lifelong dedication to the Kashmir freedom movement.

He said the speakers emphasized that Syed Ali Gilani's resilience, ideological clarity, and fearless leadership would continue to inspire generations committed to the principles of justice, human rights, and self-determination.

He added that the Human Rights Council of Pakistan reaffirmed its unwavering solidarity with the people of Kashmir and pledged to continue advocating for their right to self-determination in line with international law and United Nations resolutions.

Rescue 1122 put on high alert during rain

RAWALPINDI (APP): With continuous showers and the threat of heavy downpours across the twin cities, Rescue 1122 Rawalpindi has been placed on high alert to respond to any emergencies. Teams have been deployed around Nullah Leh, Katarian, Gawalmandi, and other low-lying areas that are prone to flooding.

According to Rescue officials, personnel will remain on round-the-clock duty throughout the rainy spell, ensuring quick evacuation and assistance if water levels rise. Extra monitoring has been arranged around Nullah Leh, a critical flood zone, as the risk of urban flooding increases.

Citizens have been strongly advised to exercise caution during the monsoon season. Parents are urged not to allow children near storm drains, Nullah Leh, or electric installations. Motorists have been directed to reduce speed, while residents living in vulnerable areas are encouraged to shift to safer locations ahead of possible flooding. Officials further warned that residents living in such vulnerable areas must not ignore these precautionary measures. In case of any emergency, citizens are urged to immediately contact the Rescue Helpline 1122 for assistance.

Speaker directs NA Secretariat to devise event on Rabi-ul-Awwal

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, while addressing the National Assembly at the commencement of today's session, said that the blessed month of Rabi-ul-Awwal has begun.

This year, the month carries historic significance as it marks the fifteen hundred years of the birth anniversary of the Last Prophet, Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa Peace Be Upon Him (PBUH).

The Speaker stated that the National Assembly Secretariat had devised a comprehensive programme to commemorate this sacred month and the occasion of Eid Milad-un-Nabi PBUH, including illuminations, exhibitions, Milad gatherings and other

events.

However, during the past two weeks, the country has faced unprecedented devastation caused by torrential rains, cloud-bursts, and sudden release of water into the eastern rivers by India, resulting in one of the worst floods in history.

Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq remarked that after heavy loss of lives, destruction of property and infrastructure in Gilgit-Baltistan, Kashmir, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Karachi, the "super flood" is now moving towards Sindh.

He said that in this hour of trial and grief, the entire nation is in distress. At such a time, we are all in need of the mercy of the Holy Prophet PBUH. As elected representatives, it is our responsibility to

guide the nation in the light of the teachings of Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa PBUH.

The Speaker further stated that a simple yet dignified programme to mark Eid Milad-un-Nabi PBUH has been initiated at Parliament House. On this occasion, he appealed to all Members of the National Assembly to dedicate the holy month of Rabi-ul-Awwal to the service of humanity.

He emphasized that this is not the time for political differences but rather for national unity and solidarity. He underscored that the fifteen hundred years' commemoration of Eid Milad-un-Nabi PBUH should be observed with simplicity and in accordance with the noble traditions of the Holy Prophet PBUH.

Naveed announces one month salary for flood victims

ISLAMABAD (APP): Member National Assembly (MNA) Naveed Qamar on Monday announced to donate his one-month salary for the relief of flood victims, urging collective national action against climate change and environmental mismanagement.

Speaking on the floor of the National Assembly, he thanked Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq for prioritizing debate on the flood crisis by postponing other business.

Naveed Qamar said that while natural calamities are inevitable, much of the devastation was caused by human mismanagement and misuse of natural

resources.

He added that the impacts of climate change were now visible in daily life, with glacial melt, blocked waterways, and unchecked deforestation intensifying disasters.

"When we cut a tree today for temporary gain, its price is paid by the child who loses a home or life in the floods," he said.

Citing expert warnings, the PPP leader said that floods next year could be 22 percent more destructive, while in the long term, melting glaciers might dry up the Indus and other rivers, turning fertile lands into deserts and threatening centuries-old ecosystems.

The senior PPP parlia-

mentarian emphasized the urgent need for a collective national resolve, involving all political parties, to enforce bans on deforestation, river and drain encroachments, and mismanagement of natural resources. He added that flood preparedness must begin immediately, as reliance on divine mercy alone is not a solution.

Naveed said Parliament was the only platform to build consensus and guide government action through constructive criticism and solutions. "Politics has its time, but in the face of national calamities, we must rise above partisanship and work together," he said.

Waqar attends Vietnam National Day celebration



F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Waqar Shahzad, Advocate, had the honor of attending the Vietnam National Day reception. The event was graciously hosted by H.E. Pham Anh Tuan, Ambassador of Vietnam to Pakistan.

The reception was a vibrant celebration of Vietnamese culture and friendship, showcasing the rich heritage and traditions of Vietnam.

Sardar Waqar Shahzad expressed his gratitude to the Ambassador and his team for their warm hospitality and extended his

best wishes for the strengthening of Pakistan-Vietnam ties.

This occasion highlights the growing diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Vietnam, and Sardar Waqar Shahzad looks forward to continued cooperation and collaboration between the two nations.

Over 200-year-old Jamia Masjid Rajgan discovered

ISLAMABAD (APP): Construction workers uncovered the remains of over 200-year-old Jamia Masjid Rajgan during development work in the Paryan area of Islamabad, where archaeologists say the Mughal-style mosque once served as a central place of worship for a thriving village community.

The discovery was made during development work at Lotus Park, where bulldozers and diggers were preparing the ground for new recreational facilities. What first appeared to be uneven foundations soon revealed itself as the ancient walls and arched niches of a mosque lost to time. Work was halted, and officials from the Department of Archaeology were called in to examine the site.

Experts believe the mosque dates back to the early 19th century, with its design bearing a strong resemblance to Mughal-era architecture. The remains include high arched doorways, prayer niches, and layers of handmade brickwork — all pointing to the

mosque's historic and cultural value. "This was not just a small village mosque," said Anjum Dara, archaeologist involved in the survey. "Its scale and craftsmanship suggest it once served as the spiritual center of a thriving settlement."

The mosque's surroundings — dense with trees and untouched greenery — add to its mystique. Even in ruin, the site carries a spiritual silence, a reminder of prayers once offered here by villagers long gone.

For locals, the rediscovery has stirred both pride and concern. Many fear that without urgent action, the fragile structure could once again vanish — this time to modern development. "We grew up hearing stories of an old mosque hidden somewhere in the hills, but we never thought it would come to light like this," said Khalid Mehmood, a resident of Rajgan. "The government must restore it. This is our heritage." Civic groups in Islamabad are now pushing for the mosque's preservation, noting that the city often overlooks its own cultural

past in the rush toward modernization. Historians also see an opportunity to turn the site into a heritage attraction that could draw researchers and visitors alike.

The Department of Archaeology has confirmed that Jamia Masjid Rajgan is of significant historical importance. According to initial investigations, its foundation was laid in the early 1800s, making it one of the oldest surviving religious structures in the Islamabad region. Authorities have stated that the mosque will soon be proposed for inclusion in the national register of protected heritage sites. Once listed, it would receive state-backed conservation efforts, ensuring its survival for generations to come.

The rediscovery of Jamia Masjid Rajgan is a reminder that Islamabad, often seen as a modern planned city, holds within it layers of forgotten history. Beyond being a place of worship, the mosque represents the continuity of Islamic culture, art, and community life in this region.

Heavy rain, floods predicated

KABUL (Pajhwok): Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation (MoTCA) has predicated heavy rains and flash floods in nine provinces of the country. In a statement, the MoTCA said heavy rainfall and flash floods, thunderstorms and lightning will likely lash Nuristan, Kunar, Nangarhar, Laghman, Kapisa, Logar, Khost, Paktia and Paktika provinces. The amount of rainfall in different places is expected to be between 10 and 30 millimeters, the MoTCA added.

91,671mt of goods transported

KABUL (BNA): Ministry of Public Works announced on Monday that a total of 91,671 metric tons of goods, including petroleum and non-petroleum products, were imported and exported through the country's major ports last week. The breakdown of goods transported is as follows: Hairatan Port 60,602 tons, Aqina Port 5,833 tons, Turghundi Port 13,120 tons, Khawaf-Herat 12,116 tons. 126 metric tons of commercial goods were exported.

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

Iran extends condolences, aid to Afghan quake victims

KABUL (Pajhwok): Iran on Monday expressed sympathy for Afghanistan's earthquake victims, particularly the families of the deceased, and announced its readiness to assist the Afghan government with relief and rescue efforts in the eastern provinces. Afghanistan's Ministry of Interior reported that the quake in Kunar and Nangarhar provinces claimed 622 lives and injured 1,555 people, while destroying a large number of homes. The Ministry of Public Health also reported 80 injuries in Laghman province of Afghanistan. Iran's embassy in Kabul wrote on its X page: "The Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to assist Afghanistan following the magnitude 6.0 earthquake in the eastern part of the country. Esmail Baghaei, spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran, expressed our country's sympathy with the people of Afghanistan, particularly the families of those who lost their lives in Kunar, Nuristan, Nangarhar and Laghman provinces and prayed for the health and recovery of the injured and affected."

Team departs for Russia to attend Falcon Day



KABUL (Pajhwok): Maulvi Mati-ul-Haq Khalis, Chief of the National Environmental Protection Authority (NEPA), on Monday departed for Russia at the head of a delegation to participate in the third International Forum for the Protection of Breeding of Birds of Prey. Also known as "Falcon Day", the annual forum in Russia focuses on the conservation of falcons and other birds of prey through dialogue and international cooperation. In a statement, NEPA said Khalis left Kabul on Monday to attend the forum, marking the first time Afghanistan has received an official invitation to this international event. The forum is scheduled to take place from 3-6

September at the Far Eastern Federal University in Vladivostok, Russia. NEPA noted that the forum was initiated in 2023 under the instructions of the Russian President, with the aim of protecting rare birds and preventing the extinction of raptor species. The event brings together representatives from environmental protection authorities worldwide, members of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), research specialists and eco-tourism advocates. The forum's agenda includes strategies for conserving endangered birds of prey, effective methods for restoring natural populations, sharing experiences from breeding and rehabilitation centres, measures to prevent illegal hunting, the use of new technologies and raising public awareness. This year's programme also features an "International Falcon Auction", with proceeds designated for falcon family restoration projects, conservation centres, scientific research and the promotion of eco-tourism. NEPA said the Afghan delegation would present detailed information on the current status of rare birds in Afghanistan, government and institutional protection measures, and future practical programmes. The statement added that Afghanistan's participation would provide opportunities to learn from other countries' successful experiences, particularly in falcon conservation and breeding traditions. Previous forums have resulted in a joint declaration between Russia, China, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Qatar on the conservation of the "white falcon" species. The falcon is considered one of Afghanistan's most important natural symbols and holds special significance in the Islamic world. Afghanistan's participation in the international forum is thus regarded as an important diplomatic and environmental milestone for the country.

Health service center to be built in Bamyan



BAMYAN (BNA): A health service center is being built in the Wars district of Bamyan at a cost of 5 million Afghanis. According to a report by Bakhtar News Agency, Mawlawi Abdullah Sarhadi, the governor of Bamyan, stated at the inauguration ceremony of the health center that the center is being constructed in the Bastuk area of the district with financial support from a local businessman of Wars. At the ceremony, the governor of Bamyan emphasized that the local administration leadership

of Bamyan is always striving to provide necessary facilities, address the needs, and solve the problems of the people of the province. He also assured that the administration is working to provide essential services, especially in health, education, and infrastructure. Moreover, Sabur Farzan Sighani, spokesperson for the governor, noted that the health center building will include 12 rooms, equipment, and other necessary facilities. He added that the center will operate under the Ministry of Public Health and, once completed, will provide free health services to the residents of Bastuk village in Wars district.

Karzai and Abdullah call for aid

KABUL (Ariana News): Former Afghan President Hamid Karzai has expressed deep sorrow over the loss of life and property caused by Sunday night's 6.0-magnitude earthquake in Afghanistan's provinces. So far over 610 people are confirmed dead. Officials say the number is expected to rise as frantic rescue efforts continue. The worst hit province was Kunar, but other provinces that were also badly affected included Nangarhar, Laghman, Nuristan, and Panjshir. Karzai meanwhile urged the Afghan people and aid organizations to provide comprehensive support and assistance to those affected. Abdullah, former chairman of the High Council for National Reconciliation, wrote on his Facebook page: "With immense grief and sorrow, we have learned that last night's earthquake in Kunar province claimed the lives of many of our compatriots, leaving others injured and causing severe financial losses."

He added: "This great tragedy, which has impacted all Afghans and also caused damage in Laghman and Nangarhar provinces, has deeply saddened us. I extend my heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims, and I pray to Almighty Allah for paradise for the martyrs, a speedy recovery for the injured, and patience for the bereaved families." Abdullah further appealed to all aid agencies, charitable organizations, investors, and citizens across the country to deliver urgent assistance to the victims and to help rescue those still trapped under the rubble. Separately, Deputy Prime Minister of Pakistan, Ishaq Dar, expressed deep sorrow and solidarity on behalf of the government and people of Pakistan with the people and government of Afghanistan.

Victims face shortage of female doctors

KABUL (Amu TV): Women injured in the earthquake that struck eastern Afghanistan on Sunday night are facing serious difficulties due to a shortage of female doctors, local sources told Amu. According to the sources, local residents have appealed to Taliban authorities to allow female physicians to work in the affected areas to help treat the wounded. This comes as Taliban have banned women from medical education as well as attending universities. International organizations have already warned that the ban would further worsen the country's fragile health system. The quake, which struck just after midnight near Asadabad in Kunar province, had a magnitude of 6.0 and a depth of about 27 kilometers (17 miles) near Jalalabad, according to preliminary reports. The death toll from the earthquake has surpassed 800, according to Taliban chief spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid, who said that 2,500 others have been wounded.

Kunar, Nangarhar quake: Sympathy, aid pours in

KABUL (Pajhwok): The United Nations, the European Union, Japan and Turkey have expressed deep sorrow over the deadly earthquake that struck eastern Afghanistan on Sunday night and have sent teams to provide urgent assistance to the affected communities. The earthquake struck around midnight, registering a magnitude of 6.0 on the Richter scale, according to the United States Geological Survey (USGS). The Ministry of Interior Affairs reported that the quake in Kunar and Nangarhar provinces claimed 622 lives and injured 1,555 people, while destroying a large number of homes. The Ministry of Public Health said 80 people were also injured in Laghman province. UN Secretary-General António Guterres wrote on X: "I stand in full solidarity with the people of Afghanistan after the devastating earthquake that struck the country today. I extend my deepest condolences to the families of the victims and wish a speedy recovery to the injured."

He added that the UN team in Afghanistan has been mobilized and will spare no effort to assist those in need. The UN in Afghanistan also stated on X: "A devastating earthquake has shaken eastern Afghanistan, killing hundreds and injuring many more. Our teams are on the ground providing urgent aid and life-saving support."



The European Union in Afghanistan wrote on X: "We extend our heartfelt condolences to all affected by the recent earthquake in Kunar and Nangarhar provinces. Our humanitarian partners are actively on the ground, providing critical aid. We stand in full solidarity with Afghans." Takayoshi Kurumaya, Japan's ambassador to Kabul, expressed sadness over the casualties and

extended his condolences to the victims. The Turkish Embassy in Kabul posted on X: "We received with great sorrow the news that many people lost their lives in last night's earthquake. We pray to Almighty God for mercy on the deceased and a swift recovery for the injured, and we extend our condolences to the brotherly people of Afghanistan. Turkey is closely monitoring the situation."

Petroleum imports must follow legal standards, says MoCI

KABUL (Pajhwok): The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) announced on Monday that the import of diesel, liquefied gas and other petroleum products will now only be permitted if fully compliant with valid standards and violators will be dealt with legally. In a statement issued on Monday, the MoCI said that new standards for diesel, liquefied gas and other petroleum products—developed based on national criteria and considering climatic conditions and national requirements—were prepared by the National Standards Authority in cooperation with the committee tasked with preventing low-quality oil fraud and the technical committee for drafting petroleum product standards. After a thorough technical review and evaluation, these standards were approved by the Supreme Standards Council and officially enacted under the decree of the Leader of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA). Relevant authorities have been instructed to ensure strict compliance. The ministry emphasized that full adherence to these standards is mandatory to ensure the import of high-quality petroleum products, safeguard public health, protect the environment and prevent the entry of low-quality petroleum products and liquefied gas.

The statement added: "From now on, the import of diesel, liquefied gas, and other petroleum products will only be allowed in accordance with valid norms and standards. Any violations will be thoroughly, impartially and properly investigated, and legal action will be taken by the responsible authorities." The MoCI also noted that traders who have repeatedly imported low-quality petroleum products and liquefied gas in the past must refrain from misleading, false, or baseless advertising. Furthermore, all traders and sellers are required to cooperate in maintaining price stability and strictly

avoid any unwarranted or arbitrary price increases. Offenders will be dealt with seriously in accordance with Sharia and applicable regulations. The ministry stressed: "The committee tasked with preventing low-quality oil fraud is always ready to address legitimate complaints and petitions from traders and companies importing petroleum products." The MoCI affirmed that the government is committed to ensuring the proper, swift, and accurate implementation of valid standards nationwide, exercising comprehensive and ongoing supervision, and considers this a fundamental and urgent priority.

Baghlan's 3rd Ghorri cement factory construction kicks off

KABUL (Pajhwok): Construction of the third Ghorri Cement factory in northern Baghlan province has begun, with a total cost of \$86.7 million. The factory is expected to produce 5,000 tonnes of cement daily. At the opening ceremony on Sunday, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, said it was a matter of great pleasure to inaugurate a cement production facility in the country. He emphasised that industrial development is crucial for any nation, noting that countries with factories not only strengthen domestic production but also contribute significantly to the growth of the national economy. Baradar described the inauguration as a major step towards self-sufficiency in cement production, providing employment opportunities and supporting the country's industrialisation.



He said the factory's construction will cost \$86.7 million and is scheduled for completion within 18 months. Once operational, Baradar added, the factory will meet domestic cement demand, reduce foreign currency expenditure, create jobs and help stabilise cement prices. At the same event, head

of Emirati companies, Mullah Ahmad Jan Bilal, said the new factory represents a key milestone for the country's industrial independence. It will strengthen national production, create jobs for young people, and support economic growth. He said: "Our resolve is to develop our country through our people and our own will, and based on this

determination, we will achieve our goals." Baghlan governor, Mullah Abdul Rahman Haqqani, said the factory will bring progress to the country. He added that countries with strong industrial sectors lead globally, and since the re-establishment of the Islamic Emirate, the industrial sector has been steadily expanding.

UN Chief vondoles victims of deadly Kunar earthquake

KABUL (Khaama Press): UN Secretary General António Guterres expressed condolences over the deadly earthquake in Kunar, eastern Afghanistan, where more than 600 were killed and over 1,500 injured, pledging UN support. A powerful earthquake measuring 6.0 on the Richter scale struck eastern Afghanistan late on Sunday night, killing at least 622 people and injuring more than 1,500. The tremor, which hit at 11:47 p.m. local time, devastated Kunar Province and parts of neighboring Nangarhar, toppling homes and triggering landslides. According to Taliban officials, entire villages in Nurgal District were flattened, with mud-brick homes collapsing under the force of the quake. Roads were blocked by landslides, severely delaying rescue efforts, while helicopters and ambulances were dispatched to reach isolated communities. UN Secretary General António Guterres expressed deep sorrow over the tragedy, extending condolences to the victims' families. He confirmed that UN teams in Afghanistan are prepared to provide urgent assistance to the affected regions. The European Union's delegation in Afghanistan also voiced solidarity with survivors and pledged readiness to support humanitarian operations. Earlier, Richard Bennett, the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Afghanistan, had expressed his condolences to the families of those killed. Rescue workers and volunteers continue to search for survivors under the rubble, but officials warn the death toll may rise further as access to remote villages remains limited. Emergency medical facilities are struggling to treat the influx of injured people.

Revival of historic monuments demanded

GHAZNI CITY (Pajhwok): Some residents of southern Ghazni province have voiced concern over the deteriorating state of historical sites and monuments, urging the government to prioritise their restoration and preservation. Provincial officials say that some monuments have already been rehabilitated, while efforts are under way to repair others. Ghazni, one of Afghanistan's most ancient provinces, is home to numerous historical landmarks, around one hundred of which are registered with the Ministry of Information and Culture (MoIC). In 2013, the province was declared the "Centre of Islamic Civilisation," and several of its historic areas were reconstructed. However, due to poor workmanship, many of these

sites have since fallen into disrepair. According to local authorities, Ghaznin Fort, several historical towers, the palace of Mohammad Sharif Khan, Qala-i-Ghaznin Mosque, Begum Tomb and the shrine of Mullah Mushk Alam are among the landmarks most urgently in need of restoration. Mohammad Ghaws Alimi, an elder from Ghazni's old city, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the province has long been a cradle of ancient civilisations. Its monuments span pre-Islamic Zoroastrian and Buddhist eras, as well as Islamic relics from the Ghaznavid, Ghurid and Timurid dynasties. "Historical monuments are the most authentic markers of a community's past," he said, calling on the Islamic Emirate to ensure their protection. Another elder, Sayed Agha Qadiri, stressed that cultural heritage embodies national identity and must be safeguarded. "Our province is filled with countless historic monuments, each with its own unique background and value," he explained. "Sadly, previous governments neglected their preservation, leaving many at risk of complete destruction."

Qadiri listed Ghazni's historic fort, Bala Hisar, its minarets, Sharif Khan's palace, the old city's Grand Mosque, Bargat Fort, the grave of Hazrat Turk, Nai Qala, the mausoleum of Khwaja Malekyar Paranda, Begum Tomb, the tomb of Mullah Mushk Alam and the tomb of Shahabuddin among the most important sites requiring urgent protection. Residents acknowledged that while some monuments have been repaired under the Islamic Emirate, many remain in a vulnerable state. Cultural activist Mohammad Asif Hanifi described such landmarks as vital reflections of a nation's identity. "The stronger a nation's heritage, the more vividly it showcases its deep history and civilisation," he said. "Protecting these monuments is not optional—it is essential. If they vanish, we lose not just our past, but also our identity."

Mullah Hamidullah Nisar, Director of Information and Culture in Ghazni, confirmed that some damaged monuments had been repaired last year, after years of destruction caused by conflict and natural disasters. However, he warned that

many others remain under serious threat, including Ghaznin Fort, the historical towers, Mohammad Sharif Khan's palace, Qala-i-Ghaznin Mosque, Begum Tomb and the shrine of Mullah Mushk Alam. He added that he had repeatedly appealed to the ministry for assistance and called on international cultural organisations to contribute to preservation efforts. Meanwhile, Maulvi Atiqullah Azizi, Deputy Minister for Arts and Culture at the MoIC, said during a recent visit to Ghazni that dozens of monuments across the country are currently undergoing restoration. He assured residents that Ghazni has not been overlooked, and pledged that further steps would be taken to rehabilitate the province's historical landmarks still in disrepair.

Rs704 million paid to KP flood-hit families: CM

Saqib Mushtaq

ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Khan Gandapur has said that torrential floods, heavy rains and landslides triggered by cloudbursts in Malakand and Hazara divisions have severely affected several districts of the province, with Buner, Shangla, Swat, Battagram, Bajaur and Swabi among the worst-hit.

Speaking at an informal interaction with senior journalists in Islamabad on Monday, the Chief Minister said that the calamity had claimed 411 lives, left 132 injured while 12 people were still missing. More than 12,000 families had been affected in total, he added. According to official data, 571 houses were completely destroyed while 1,983 were partially damaged. Similarly, the floods had damaged 1,996 shops, 413 roads, 72 bridges, 589 government buildings and 99 power feeders.

The Chief Minister informed that a provincial government helicopter engaged in relief activities had also crashed during the operations, claiming the lives of five crew members. He said timely measures by the provincial government enabled rescue agencies and district administrations to save 6,700 lives. For the purpose, 2,500 Rescue 1122 personnel, 1,000 civil defense volunteers, three army units and five helicopters were deployed. From August 15, immediate emergency was imposed in the affected districts where 176 rescue vehicles, including ambulances, fire trucks and boats, were rushed, while 200 heavy machinery units, medical camps and four mobile hospitals were also established. To date, he added, cooked meals had been provided to 250,000 people, 140 trucks of non-food items distributed and 15 water filtration plants installed in the disaster-hit areas.

Highlighting the provincial government's relief measures, Ali Amin Gandapur said compensation for deaths had been doubled from Rs1 million to Rs2 million per victim, while for the injured it was raised from Rs250,000 to Rs500,000. For completely destroyed houses, compensation was enhanced from Rs400,000 to Rs1 million, while for partially damaged houses it was increased from Rs100,000 to Rs300,000. For the first time, compensation of Rs500,000 per shop had also been fixed for destroyed businesses.

Giving details of payments so far, he said that out of 411 deaths, com-

Gandapur reviews progress on relief, rehabilitation activities

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Khan Gandapur chaired an important meeting via video link on Monday to review the progress on relief and rehabilitation activities in flood-hit areas of the province. The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister on Finance Muzammil Aslam, Chief Secretary Shahab Ali Shah, Additional Chief Secretary Home Muhammad Abid Majeed, Secretary Relief, Director General PDMA and deputy commissioners of the affected districts. Briefing the forum on the latest situation, officials informed that compensation had been disbursed to the heirs of 352 out of 411 deceased persons, amounting to Rs704 million so far. Likewise, among 132 injured, compensation payments had been made to 60, with Rs30 million released under this head.

The participants were also informed that the data of all damaged private properties had also been compiled. Out of 571 completely destroyed houses, compensation had been paid to the owners of 367, while out of 1,983 partially damaged houses, 1,094 had so far been compensated. Payments made to affected households have reached Rs595 million, with the remaining disbursements to be completed within the next couple of days. In addition, Rs296 million worth of food package assistance has been distributed among 29,631 families. The Chief Minister directed the authorities concerned to expedite the compensation process and begin the rehabilitation phase immediately thereafter, for which preparations should remain fully in place. He further instructed that the data collection process regarding damage to public infrastructure must be completed without delay, and deputy commissioners should personally supervise the entire restoration exercise. The Chief Minister emphasized that PC-I documents for reconstruction and rehabilitation should not be prepared within offices but through fieldwork to reflect the real needs.

Ali Amin Khan Gandapur announced that, in order to avert such large-scale losses in future, a comprehensive one-time project would be initiated for de-silting rivers and water channels, coupled with the construction of protective embankments. Deputy commissioners were tasked with setting priorities in their respective districts and compiling data on water flows over the last 40 years to design a viable plan for de-silting waterways. He also directed them to take concrete steps for the removal of encroachments along streams and watercourses, beginning with the issuance of notices and followed by indiscriminate action. The Chief Minister stressed that prefabricated structures should be installed on an urgent basis to restore damaged schools and health facilities. He further instructed authorities to take curative measures to contain any possible outbreak of epidemics in flood-hit areas. While addressing the meeting, the Chief Minister lauded the performance of the civil administration during the recent calamity, terming the emergency response unprecedented in the country's history. He said the swiftness with which relief was provided and compensation delivered to the victims after rescue operations was commendable, describing it as clear proof of improved governance in the province.

penetration had been disbursed to 352 affected families amounting to Rs704 million, while Rs30 million had been paid to 60 out of 136 injured persons. Likewise, Rs367 million had been released to owners of 367 completely destroyed houses, Rs328 million to owners of 1,094 partially damaged houses, and Rs126 million to 253 shopkeepers out of 1,996 whose businesses were ruined. Additionally, 8,000 families had been given Rs1,500 each under food stamps. The Chief Minister added that compensation for the loss of livestock would also be provided and data was being

collected in this regard. He assured that within the next couple of days, disbursement of all categories of compensation would be completed.

On restoration work, the chief minister said that all 99 affected power feeders had been restored, 376 out of 406 damaged roads reopened, 65 of 77 bridges repaired, while 234 of the 386 impacted water supply schemes had been either fully or partially restored. He further announced that the provincial government had already released Rs4 billion for relief and rehabilitation, while another Rs5 billion would soon be issued.

Brutal killing of lawyer: KP Assembly refers case to committee

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly has handed over the case of the brutal killing of a lawyer in Charsadda at the hands of the police to the Standing Committee on Home Department, directing it to submit a report within fifteen days.

During Monday's session, PML-N member Sobia Shahid said that four days ago, a young lawyer named Asim Shah Advocate was brutally killed by an SHO during a jirga (tribal meeting) at a guesthouse. The police fled the scene, and the SHO later returned with heavy force, injured his own constables to fabricate a story, and illegally detained the victim's family. She demanded the immediate arrest of SHO Bahramand, who is freely roaming despite the FIR against him.

Government member Khalid Khan strongly condemned the incident and demanded a judicial inquiry, highlighting public concern in Charsadda. Provincial Minister Fazal Shakoor proposed either handing the case to the Home Committee or forming a judicial commission, emphasizing both sides should get a fair hearing.

Opposition Leader Dr. Ibadullah labeled the incident worse than terrorism and stressed the urgency of restoring public trust in the police. Law Minister Aftab Alam noted that although the police have sacrificed a lot for peace, this incident was disturbing. He cited a similar case in Kohat where the responsible officer was arrested and dismissed.

In the Charsadda case, he expressed surprise at the police version, questioning why there was firing inside the house when the armed individuals were allegedly outside. He proposed a time-bound investigation. The IG Police has appointed CPO Maroof Khan as the inquiry officer. The Speaker later referred the

matter to the Standing Committee.

Meanwhile, Minority MPA Suresh Kumar raised a "Call Attention Notice" regarding the unfair implementation of a 2% quota for minority students in medical colleges. He said that instead of giving 2% of total seats, authorities only allocate two general seats and four self-financed seats, violating government policy. Similar discrimination was reported at Islamia College University.

Minister for Higher Education Mena Khan Afridi clarified that medical colleges don't fall under the Higher Education Department's jurisdiction but confirmed that the department is committed to implementing the 2% quota across colleges. He added that Islamia College's Syndicate has approved this, and the University of Peshawar. The Assembly passed two amendment bills namely Press, Newspapers, News Agencies and Books Registration Amendment Bill Introduced by Law Minister Aftab Alam.

The bill is aimed to bring digital, cable, and social media advertisements under legal regulation and allows newspaper declarations to be transferred outside the family after ten years. PPP parliamentary leader Ahmad Kundi criticized the Punjab government's ban on wheat supply to KP and the cancellation of issued permits. He called it a public-hostile decision causing a surge in flour prices and disturbing demand-supply equilibrium. He submitted a motion of adjournment, stating this decision has harmed citizens' fundamental right to food. The motion aims to ensure food security for the province and restore free wheat.

Meanwhile, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly has unanimously passed a resolution expressing sorrow over the loss of life and property caused by the recent earth-

quake in Afghanistan.

The resolution was presented by government member Ubaid-ur-Rehman, in which prayers were offered for the forgiveness of those who lost their lives in the earthquake and for the speedy recovery of the injured. The resolution stated that, as a brotherly Islamic and neighboring country, Pakistan considers it a humanitarian, Islamic, and moral responsibility to extend all possible assistance to the Afghan people.

The resolution recommended that the provincial government provide immediate and quality medical facilities to the injured Afghan citizens affected by the earthquake. It also proposed that severely injured individuals be brought to Pakistan without a visa, as a gesture of goodwill, and be given the best possible medical treatment.

It was further stated that both the provincial and federal governments should work in collaboration to immediately dispatch relief teams, medicines, and other essential medical supplies to the affected areas. The House also appealed to international organizations to fully support the relief and rehabilitation efforts for the earthquake victims in Afghanistan.

Earlier, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly expressed sorrow over the loss of life and property caused by the earthquake in neighboring Afghanistan the previous day and offered prayers for the deceased. The provincial assembly session was held on Monday under the chairmanship of Speaker Babar Saleem Swati. After the recitation of the Holy Quran, Special Assistant Sohail Afridi raised a point of order, requesting the House to offer prayers for the victims of the earthquake in Afghanistan. On the Speaker's instructions, Provincial Minister Dr. Amjad Ali led prayers for the forgiveness of the deceased.

Heavy rains lash Islamabad

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Heavy rain lashed parts of Islamabad on Monday, inundating low-lying areas and disrupting daily life, while similar downpours were reported from other parts of the country. The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has issued a flood alert for Nullah Lai after water levels rose sharply, cautioning residents in surrounding localities to remain vigilant. According to PMD, Islamabad's Sector H-8 recorded the highest rainfall at 95mm, followed by continuous showers in Sector G-11 and adjacent areas. Although no major flooding has been reported yet, authorities have warned that the situation could worsen if the downpour continues. Emergency teams remain on high alert for possible evacuations and rescue operations.

The PMD and National Disaster

Management Authority (NDMA) had earlier warned of heavy rainfall between September 1 and 3 in Islamabad and several districts of Punjab, highlighting the risks of flash floods, urban flooding, and landslides in vulnerable areas. Districts including Murree, Jhelum, Attock, Gujranwala, Narowal, and Sialkot have been marked as sensitive due to past flood incidents.

Infrastructure strain, including overloaded drainage systems and the threat of power outages, is among the immediate concerns. Municipal teams are working to clear clogged roads to maintain traffic flow, while residents near water channels have been urged to avoid unnecessary travel and stay indoors during heavy spells.

For Tuesday, the weather forecast indicates widespread rain-wind/thundershower in Kashmir and northeast Punjab, while at scattered places in

Islamabad and upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Heavy fall is expected at scattered places in Kashmir, northeast Punjab and upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Hot and dry weather is expected in other parts of the country.

During tonight and 2nd September, torrential rains may cause urban flooding in low-lying areas and flash floods in local nullahs and streams of Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Narowal, Sialkot, Gujranwala, Gujrat, Mandi Bahauddin, Lahore, Kasur, Okara, Sheikhupura, Hafizabad and adjoining areas. Torrential rains may also trigger landslides and urban flooding in local nullahs of Jammu, Bhimber, Mirpur, Kotli, Punch, Haveli and adjoining areas. Landslides and mudslides may cause road closures in the vulnerable hilly areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Murree, Galiyat and Kashmir during the forecast period.



ISLAMABAD: President Peshawar Press Club, Muhammad Riaz discussing issues faced by journalists with Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur.

Court extends remand of four accused

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Accountability Court Peshawar Judge Ali Gohar has extended the physical remand of four accused individuals involved in the Upper Kohistan scandal for an additional four days. The court handed over the accused to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) for further investigation, on Monday.

The NAB's request to extend the physical remand of the accused. The accused, including Gul Rehman and Musharraf Shah, were presented before the court. The NAB prosecutor informed the court that the accused, including Gul Rehman, Shafiq Ali, Alamzeb, and Musharraf Shah, were working as cashiers in a bank and allegedly issued fake checks to various construction companies without verification, resulting in heavy transactions.

Shafiq Ali, the owner of a private construction company, allegedly opened transaction accounts and facilitated the transactions. Alamzeb, a senior auditor in the Accountant General's office, allegedly assisted the other accused in creating accounts and facilitating transactions. The court extended the physical remand of the four accused for an additional four days, allowing the NAB to continue its investigation.

Aftershocks rock KP

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A series of aftershocks continued after the magnitude 6 earthquake struck the upper and northern parts of the country, including Rawalpindi and Islamabad, besides Afghanistan, India and Tajikistan, late Sunday night.

The first aftershock, measuring 4.9 on the Richter scale, and having a depth of 155 kilometers, struck Peshawar, Mansehra, Swat, Abbottabad, Chitral and Hunza at 1:14 AM. The same areas received another aftershock at 1:29 AM. This time it was measured at 4.6, while its depth was only 15 kilometers. The third time these areas were jolted were at 1:37 AM.

Chief of Staff of Bahrain Defence Force visits Air HQs

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Lieutenant General Thiab Saqr Abdulla Al Nuaimi, Chief of Staff, Bahrain Defence Force, called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force during his visit to Air Headquarters, Islamabad. The meeting focused on key areas of mutual interest and exploring avenues of enhanced cooperation between the two countries. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to sustained military-to-military engagement, emphasizing joint training and collective growth as a unified team.

Upon his arrival, a smartly turned-out contingent of Pakistan Air Force presented Guard of Honour to Lieutenant General Thiab Saqr Abdulla Al Nuaimi. The Air Chief extended a gracious welcome to the distinguished guests, highlighting that Pakistan and Bahrain enjoy deep-rooted religious and historic bonds, which are reflected in the exemplary military to military relationships between the two countries.

During the meeting, Chief of the Air Staff reiterated his resolve to further expand the bilateral military

Heavy rains trigger flash floods in Mansehra

F.P. Report

MANSEHRA: Torrential rains lashed Mansehra and adjoining areas, causing flash floods in streams and nullahs.

The heavy downpour led to the overflow of a seasonal stream, with floodwaters entering houses and markets. One house sustained damage in the incident. At least three vehicles were swept away by the flood currents, while a madrasa also came under threat. However, rescue teams managed to safely evacuate all the students present inside.

Meanwhile, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has issued a weather alert, warning of heavy rains in Islamabad and various districts of Punjab from Monday until September 3. Meanwhile a massive landslide struck near Hassa,

Balakot, in Mansehra district, when a large portion of a mountain broke away and crashed onto the road, spreading panic among local residents on Monday.

The heavy landslide completely blocked the road, halting traffic in the area. National Highway Authority (NHA) machinery promptly arrived at the site, and efforts to restore the route are underway. In the meantime, all traffic has been diverted to alternate routes. The incident occurred a day after the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) forecast thundershowers and landslide threats in northern and northeastern regions, including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Murree, Galiyat, and Azad Kashmir.

Meteorological officials have also warned of heightened glacier lake outburst flood (GLOF) and flash

flood risks due to unusually high temperatures recorded in the Arkari, Bad Swat, Darkut, Hispar Hopper, Gandus, and Gulkin valleys. Experts fear that rapid glacier melting could trigger sudden floods in vulnerable areas. Communities living near glacier lakes have been urged to remain alert and adopt precautionary measures.

It is worth mentioning that only last month, on August 14, landslides and floods hit Babusar Top in Gilgit-Baltistan, blocking the main road at two points. A vehicle was struck by a landslide, injuring a child. Several houses and farmlands were damaged as floods swept through the region. Authorities stopped tourists and passengers at safe points while Diamer police and local administration launched emergency operations.

Missing persons cases: PHC questions police failure

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: Justice Kamran Hayat Miankhel of the Peshawar High Court (PHC) has questioned why Station House Officers (SHOs) and senior officials fail to conduct inquiries when informed about a missing person, on Monday.

PHC issued notices to the federal and provincial governments and other relevant authorities, seeking responses on petitions filed for the recovery of 11 missing persons from different areas.

The lawyers informed the court that the petitioners' relatives had been missing for some time and had approached the high court for their recovery. One petitioner's lawyer stated that when the family went to the police station to file a First Information Report (FIR), it was not registered.

Justice Kamran Hayat Miankhel remarked that when an SHO is informed about a missing person, they should conduct an inquiry. He questioned why SHOs and District Police Officers (DPOs), who are based in Peshawar, cannot even write a simple report.

The Additional Advocate

General explained that there is a procedure for handling missing persons cases, which involves collecting reports and sending them to the Ministry of Interior, causing delays. PHC single bench of Justice Kamran Hayat Miankhel has adjourned the hearing until September 12 and directed the parties to submit their reports.

PHC dismisses petitions challenging disqualification of SIC& PTI leaders: The Peshawar High Court (PHC) has dismissed petitions filed by Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) Chairman Sahibzada Hamid Raza and PTI leaders Rai Haider Ali, Rai Hassan Khan, Rai Murtaza, and Rai Ansar challenging their disqualification. Justice Muhammad Aijaz Khan authored the 15-page judgment. The petitioners were convicted by the Anti-Terrorism Court in Faisalabad on July 31, and the Election Commission of Pakistan disqualified them from the assembly on August 5. The petitioners challenged their disqualification in the Peshawar High Court.

The court held that the petitions were not maintainable in the Peshawar High Court as the petition-

ers were convicted by a court in Faisalabad and disqualified by the Election Commission's principal office in Islamabad. The court directed the petitioners to approach the Lahore High Court or Islamabad High Court.

The court relied on Articles 175 and 192 of the Constitution, which define the jurisdiction of high courts. The court noted that no high court can interfere in the jurisdiction of another high court. The petitioners' counsel cited several cases, including Asghar Hussain vs. Election Commission of Pakistan (PLD 1968 SC 387), but the court found that these cases were not relevant to the present petitions.

PHC distinguished the present cases from those of Umar Ayub, Shibli Faraz, and Zartaj Gul, noting that Umar Ayub and Shibli Faraz were from the same province and had been elected by the people, while during the hearing of Zartaj Gul's case did not raise any jurisdictional issues by respondents. PHC dismissed the petitions, holding that they were not maintainable in the Peshawar High Court. The petitioners were directed to approach the relevant high court.



operation, particularly in the domains of joint training and knowledge-sharing initiatives. He further emphasized that Pakistan deeply values its strong diplomatic and defence ties with Bahrain, which are firmly anchored in shared commitment of both the countries on regional peace, security and stability.

The visiting dignitary lauded the professionalism of PAF personnel and commended the remarkable strides made by Pakistan Air Force, particularly in indigenization and technological advancement. Underscoring the significance of knowledge-sharing in Multi Domain operations to augment the operational readiness of Bahrain

Air Force, he conveyed his earnest desire to gain deeper insight into PAF's complete methodology of Multi Domain warfare, with the aim of learning from its rich operational experience.

The visiting dignitary also expressed interest in initiating joint training programs for Bahraini pilots and engineers at all levels. Chief of Staff, Bahrain Defence Force was highly appreciative of PAF's indigenization efforts and particularly commended the role of National Aerospace Science & Technology Park in spearheading innovation and building advanced indigenous capabilities.