

**PTI leader remanded**  
**F.P. Report**  
ISLAMABAD: An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) on Tuesday sent PTI NA-48's president Sohail Satti to jail on judicial remand in cases pertaining to riots of October 4, and November 26. The accused was produced before the court of ATC Judge Tahir Abbas Sapra by the police after ending of his physical remand. PTI lawyer Ali Bokhari also present on the occasion.

 @thefrontierpost

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

www.thefrontierpost.com

Vol. XXXIXII No. 213 Regd. No. 241 RABI-UL-AWWAL 08 1447 -- WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 03 2025 PESHAWAR EDITION 12 PAGES PRICE. 30



BEIJING: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif meets with President of Russia, Vladimir Putin.

## Five *Khawarij* killed in Bannu terrorist attack — six security personnel martyred

**F.P. Report**

RAWALPINDI: As many as five terrorists belonging to the Indian proxy Fitna al-Khawarij were eliminated, while six personnel of the Federal Constabulary and Pakistan Army embraced martyrdom in the early hours of Tuesday when terrorists attempted to storm the Federal Constabulary Headquarters in Bannu district.

"The Indian sponsored Kharjis attempted to breach the perimeter security; however, their nefarious designs were swiftly foiled by the vigilant and resolute response of their own troops. In their desperation, the

Kharjis rammed an explosive-laden vehicle into the perimeter wall. The suicide blast resulted in the partial collapse of the perimeter wall and damage to adjacent civilian infrastructure, inflicting injuries to three innocent civilians," said a news release by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) here.

Displaying unwavering courage and professional excellence, own troops engaged the Kharjis with precision and eliminated all five Khawarij belonging to the Indian proxy, Fitna al Khwarij. However, in this intense exchange of fire, six brave soldiers belonging to

the Federal Constabulary and the Pakistan Army, after putting up a heroic fight, embraced martyrdom in the line of duty, it further said.

The clearance operation in the area would continue, and perpetrators of this heinous and cowardly act will be brought to justice. The security forces of Pakistan, in step with the nation, remain steadfast in their resolve to eradicate Indian sponsored terrorism from the country, and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers and innocent civilians further strengthen our unwavering commitment to safeguarding our nation at all costs.

## KP govt dispatches relief goods to Afghanistan

**F.P. Report**

PESHAWAR: On the special instructions of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur, the provincial government has dispatched relief goods for earthquake victims in Afghanistan. On Tuesday, Special Assistant to the CM on Relief Nek Muhammad Khan, Chief Secretary Shahab Ali Shah, and other officials formally handed over the consignment-comprising 35 trucks of relief supplies to Afghanistan's Consul General in Peshawar, Hafiz Mohibullah Shakir.

The relief package includes 500 winterized tents, 500 family-size tents, 1,000 tarpaulins, 1,500 mattresses, 3,000 pillows, 1,500 quilts, and 500 blankets. Two truckloads of essential medicines are also part of the consignment. The aid is intended to meet the urgent needs of earthquake-affected families and to protect them from harsh weather conditions.

During the handing over ceremony, officials conveyed the provincial government's condolences and heartfelt sympathy to the families of those who lost their lives in the earthquake.

Afghan Consul General Mohibullah Shakir expressed gratitude on behalf of the Afghan government, thanking the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and particularly Chief Minister Gandapur for the timely assistance. In a statement, Chief Minister Gandapur reaffirmed that the provincial government and the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa stand shoulder to shoulder with their Afghan brothers and sisters in this hour of grief and will extend all possible support to the affected families and the Afghan government.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur, has extended full support to Afghanistan's earthquake victims, assuring that the KP government stands shoulder to shoulder with their Afghan brothers.

He stated on Tuesday that the provincial government is ready to provide rescue teams, medical facilities, and relief supplies, along with all possible assistance for the rehabilitation and other urgent needs of the quake-affected people. He added that formal contact has been made with the Afghan government to offer every kind of cooperation in this regard.

# The Frontier Post

**Four die in recent KP rains**  
**F.P. Report**

PESHAWAR: The Provincial Disaster Management Authority has released an initial report on the damages caused by recent rains and urban flooding in KP. According to PDMA on Tuesday, four people have lost their lives and four others were injured in separate incidents across the province. Among the deceased are three men and one child, while the injured include three children and one woman.

## Pakistan attaches immense importance to its ties with Russia

### Islamabad, Beijing vow to deepen ties

BEIJING (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Tuesday emphasized that Pakistan attached immense importance to its relations with Russia and said that it was heartening to note that both countries had almost similarity of approaches on various global platforms.

The prime minister met with President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin in Beijing, China, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. During the meeting both leaders acknowledged that the relationship today was underpinned by mutual trust, respect and warmth between the two sides. The prime minister conveyed Pakistan's readiness to enhance bilateral relations with Russia in areas such as trade connectivity, energy, agriculture, investment, defence, artificial intelligence, education, culture and people-to-people exchanges.

Furthermore, he also emphasized on the need for regular engagement of the established institutional mechanisms between the two countries. He stressed that tangible initiatives such as the flagship project of the proposed Pakistan Steel Mill (PSM) Karachi and investment in connectivity projects would be symbols of Pakistan-Russia friendship for the generations to come. Recalling their last meeting in Astana in 2024, both leaders expressed great satisfaction on expanding cooperation and increasing momentum over the course of past one year.

Agreeing with the assessment of the prime minister on bilateral relations, President Vladimir Putin noted the upward trajectory of ties between the two countries. He also stressed the importance of collaboration in organizations such as the SCO which in turn can serve a major role in regional and global security and stability. Moreover, he expressed Russia's commitment to further strengthen bilateral cooperation with Pakistan across a broad array of subjects.

The two leaders also discussed the situation in South Asia, Afghanistan, the Middle East and Ukraine conflict. "They also

exchanged views on ongoing cooperation at the multilateral forums, as well as on the long-standing issues and disputes of global interest such as Palestine and Kashmir," it was added. The Russian president extended a most cordial invitation to the prime minister to undertake an official visit to Russia.

PM, Tajik President satisfaction on ongoing bilateral cooperation during call-on: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif met President of Republic of Tajikistan where both leaders expressed their satisfaction on the ongoing cooperation between Pakistan and Tajikistan in all areas of mutual interest. The two leaders, met here, agreed to enhance collaboration in diverse fields including trade and investment, connectivity, energy, regional security, culture, and people-to-people exchanges, a Prime Minister's Office news release said. Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening Pakistan-Tajikistan relations rooted in shared cultural, historical, and religious ties. The two leaders also shared perspectives on regional and global issues of common concern.

exchanged views on ongoing cooperation at the multilateral forums, as well as on the long-standing issues and disputes of global interest such as Palestine and Kashmir," it was added. The Russian president extended a most cordial invitation to the prime minister to undertake an official visit to Russia.

PM, Tajik President satisfaction on ongoing bilateral cooperation during call-on: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif met President of Republic of Tajikistan where both leaders expressed their satisfaction on the ongoing cooperation between Pakistan and Tajikistan in all areas of mutual interest.

exchanged views on ongoing cooperation at the multilateral forums, as well as on the long-standing issues and disputes of global interest such as Palestine and Kashmir," it was added. The Russian president extended a most cordial invitation to the prime minister to undertake an official visit to Russia.

PM, Tajik President satisfaction on ongoing bilateral cooperation during call-on: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif met President of Republic of Tajikistan where both leaders expressed their satisfaction on the ongoing cooperation between Pakistan and Tajikistan in all areas of mutual interest.

## PM reviews flood situation from Beijing

BEIJING (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday chaired flood situation and relief operations review meeting from Beijing and directed the relevant authorities to expedite relief and rehabilitation activities in the flood affected areas of Punjab and Sindh.

The prime minister temporarily paused his engagements in Beijing to chair a review meeting regarding the ongoing monsoon spell, flood situation, and rescue and relief efforts in Pakistan. During the meeting Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Chief Secretaries of Punjab, Sindh, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and officials from various relevant institutions briefed the prime minister on the current flood conditions and the progress of relief operations.

The prime minister directed the National Highway Authority (NHA) and the Ministry of Energy to take immediate steps on a priority basis to restore damaged communication and electricity transmission systems affected by the floods. He emphasized full cooperation among the federal government, provincial governments, and all concerned institutions in providing relief to affected families, relocating them to safe areas, and rehabilitating damaged infrastructure.

The prime minister instructed authorities to focus particularly on relief and recovery operations in the flood-affected areas of Punjab and Sindh. He directed the Chairman NDMA to maintain full coordination with Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs) and provide all necessary support to the provincial governments. The prime minister also ordered the swift search and recovery of citizens who have gone missing due to the floods. During the meeting, the

prime minister was informed that authorities were continuously monitoring high flood levels in the Ravi, Chenab, and Sutlej rivers. "Regulation of dams and barges is ongoing in response to the rising water levels in these rivers."

Specific locations experiencing high flood levels or at risk include Trimmu, Balloki, Sidhnai, G.S. Wala, and Sulemanki along the rivers Chenab, Ravi, and Sutlej, the meeting was informed. "NDMA is working closely with provincial administrations and disaster management authorities at these sites." It was told in the meeting that a severe flood wave was expected at the Panjnad area following inflows from the Ravi, Chenab, and Sutlej rivers. This flood wave is anticipated to reach the Guddu Barrage by the afternoon of September 6, where the situation is under strict observation.

In anticipation of the expected flood wave at Guddu in Sindh, NDMA is providing full support to the Sindh government for necessary arrangements. The prime minister was further briefed that rescue operations were actively underway in affected areas with coordinated efforts from Rescue 1122, Pakistan Army, Rangers, NGOs, and PDMAs. Relief convoys continue to be dispatched to flood-hit regions.

Restoration of power supply and damaged electricity infrastructure is also progressing rapidly in flood-affected areas, the prime minister was informed. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi, and Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar participated in the meeting from Beijing, while the NDMA Chairman and senior officials from relevant institutions joined via video link from Pakistan.

## PM personally monitoring flood relief: NA told

**F.P. Report**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Saffron and Gilgit-Baltistan, Engr Ameer Maqam, on Tuesday said the federal government was actively engaged in relief and rehabilitation efforts in flood-hit areas of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif personally monitoring the situation daily.

Opening the debate in the National Assembly (NA) on the flood situation, Ameer Maqam, who also serves as the Prime Minister's coordinator for federal relief activities in KP, said the government had extended full support to affected communities in KP, GB and Azad Jammu and Kashmir following flash floods and cloudbursts since mid-August. He recalled that on August 14, a destructive flood struck Gilgit-Baltistan, claiming 41 lives and damaging critical road links. The Prime Minister, he said, visited the region, distributed compensation cheques at victims' doorsteps, and directed the National Highway Authority (NHA) to restore damaged roads.

The minister said another major flood hit Swat on August 15, causing heavy human and financial losses. "I was present in Swat at that time and witnessed the devastation. The very next day, the Prime Minister formed a special monitoring committee, which continues to hold daily meetings sometimes in person, sometimes via Zoom, even during his foreign visits," he added. The minister said he himself visited the worst-affected areas, including Swat, Shangla, Bajaur, Buner, and Swabi, while the Prime Minister's monitoring committee coordinated with provincial authorities, NDMA, Pakistan Army, and other stakeholders.

## German envoy, KP CM discuss uplift projects

**F.P. Report**

PESHAWAR: German Ambassador to Pakistan, Ina Lepel met the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur in Islamabad on Tuesday. The meeting focused on matters of mutual interest, particularly development projects in the province being carried out with the cooperation of German institutions in the social sector. Both sides expressed their resolve to broaden the scope of cooperation in various fields. The meeting was also attended by MNA Faisal Amin Gandapur, senior officials of the Forest Department, and representatives from the German Embassy.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur appreciated the role of German institutions in extending support to social sector initiatives and expressed the provincial government's desire to further enhance collaboration with Germany in potential sectors. He stated that the province was investing in key areas to generate additional revenue and expected greater support from international partners in the same sectors.

The Chief Minister underlined that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was confronted with major challenges, particularly those related to law and order and climate change. He said the provincial government was working on a number of projects to mitigate the impact of climate change, including the construction

## Gandapur takes notice of dengue fever spread

**F.P. Report**

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur, has taken stern notice of the potential spread of dengue fever following the recent spell of rains in the province and directed all concerned departments to launch urgent anti-dengue measures without delay.

In this connection, the Chief Minister's Secretariat has issued a formal communiqué to all divisional commissioners, deputy commissioners and relevant departments, underscoring that stagnant water after the rains is creating breeding grounds for dengue mosquitoes and must be addressed through immediate cleanliness and control drives. The directives call for special attention to be given to the drainage of accumulated water at public places, construction sites, markets, schools, government offices and sewerage lines. The Health Department has been instructed to ensure that hospitals are fully equipped in advance, with the availability of medicines, diagnostic facilities and treatment arrangements for dengue patients, while an integrated system is to be put in place for effective monitoring and timely reporting of dengue cases across the province. Local government bodies have been made responsible for regular spraying and larvicidal measures in all vulnerable areas.

of small dams and watershed management schemes aimed at reducing flood damages, for which international assistance was required.

Highlighting the province's priorities, the Chief Minister said that German technical assistance was particularly needed for forest conservation and scientific management. He emphasized the importance of modernizing the Forest Institute in line with contemporary requirements and equipping its staff with advanced training. He added that providing alternative sources of fuel in the hilly areas was crucial to curbing deforestation, an area where

there was significant potential for collaboration between the provincial government and German organizations.

Ali Amin Gandapur further noted that GPS technology and cataloguing were being employed to monitor and prevent illegal logging and timber transportation, and that the government was also working on the establishment of a dedicated Forest Force. He pointed out that as a result of the government's efforts, the province had witnessed a remarkable increase in wildlife populations, and a comprehensive forest management system had also been introduced.

## Sutlej flood wreaks havoc in Bahawalnagar, homes, crops destroyed

**F.P. Report**

BAHAWALNAGAR: A high flood in the Sutlej River has created a grave situation in Bahawalnagar district, with hundreds of villages inundated and thousands of people forced to flee their homes. According to details, Chishtian city is facing severe flooding as the Sutlej swells to dangerous levels.

The strong river currents have caused rapid erosion, while protective embankments at Motianwala Pattan and Moza Azeem have collapsed. The breach of these dykes has submerged more than 100 villages,

destroying hundreds of houses.

Nearly 10,000 acres of standing crops have been washed away, while key connecting roads between settlements have been swept under water, cutting off access to many localities. Thousands of residents have been displaced, appealing for urgent relief. A rescue operation led by the DSP is underway, and officials report that over 80 per cent of the affected population and livestock have been shifted to safer locations.

In Bahawalnagar, water levels continue to rise under Baba Farid Bridge and Bhokan Pattan Bridge, while floodwaters have

breached embankments at Chaweka and Bahadurka, inundating several more settlements including Chak Chaweka and Chak Bahadurka, leaving vast tracts of crops destroyed. The Chaweka Sutlej Road has been washed away, severing ground links to surrounding areas, as evacuations continue. Authorities confirmed that more than 150,000 cusecs of water is currently flowing in from Head Sulemanki, intensifying the crisis.

Meanwhile, India has released more water in Sutlej River, which can be between 2,50,000 to 3,00,000 cusecs, irrigation

sources here said on Tuesday.

The water stream released from India's Pong and Bakhra dams in Sutlej is expected to reach Pakistan within next 48 hours, according to sources. Indian authorities have informed about the water release from their dams through its high commission in Islamabad, irrigation sources said. It is pertinent to mention here that Sutlej River has been exceptionally high flood at Ganda Singh Wala Headworks for last one month.

The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Punjab has issued a high alert to districts adjacent to Sutlej after

India released more water flowing into Pakistan. "It has been high flood at India's Lower Harike and Lower Firozpur," the PDMA stated.

Punjab's Kasur, Okara, Bahawalnagar, Pakpattan, Vehari, Lodhran, Bahawalpur, Multan, and Muzaffargarh districts have been at the risk of inundation, officials said. Sutlej river has been in high flood at Head Sulemanki, while Chenab has been in high flood at Trimmu headworks and the flood flow is expected to reach Multan this evening.

The flood stream in Chenab entering at Rangpur point as

water level in the river continuously surging. A joint flood flow of 6,50,000 cusecs of Ravi and Chenab is expected to pass through the area. The Indus River carrying a large flood flow could enter in Sindh by September 6 to 7, officials said.

Currently, the river has been in low flood at Sindh's Guddu, Sukkur and Kotri barrages. Addressing a press conference at the New Sindh Secretariat, the chief minister said that 1.077 million cusecs flow had reached Qadirabad Barrage four days ago, with major river flows converging at Panjnad before entering the Indus at Kot Mithan.



# CM Maryam orders intensified relief operations amid flood emergency

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has directed the administration, Rescue 1122, and all supporting departments to remain fully vigilant and active in carrying out relief operations in view of the extraordinary flood situation across the province.

She instructed that all essential medicines be ensured at health centres in flood-affected areas, including treatment for diseases arising from stagnant water. The CM also ordered the provision of sanitary kits for women in relief camps and emphasized that Clinics-on-Wheels, Field Hospitals, and Mother & Child Clinics-on-Wheels must immediately be deployed in all flood-hit districts.

CM Maryam Nawaz directed that

medical relief camps be upgraded and strengthened, while the PDMA was instructed to urgently supply tents and other relief items as required, along with preparations for any potential emergency situation.

The CM was informed that Punjab has witnessed the largest evacuation and rescue operation in its history, successfully conducted through the tireless efforts of the administration and supporting agencies. She noted that timely and effective arrangements had saved thousands of lives, with early evacuations protecting 250,000 people from danger.

It was reported that more than 900,000 flood-affected people stranded in floodwaters were rescued in time due to coordinated efforts of the

administration and allied departments, preventing large-scale destruction.

CM Maryam Nawaz said that flood victims are "our guests" and stressed that no negligence will be tolerated in the provision of food, water, medical facilities, and other essential services. She acknowledged the ongoing super flood emergency, but assured that all government institutions are alert, active, and prepared to face any untoward situation.

The CM directed Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners, Police, Rescue 1122, Civil Defence, and all other relevant departments to remain on high alert and ensure immediate response in case of any emergency.



LAHORE: Flood-affected people queue up to receive food aid at a makeshift relief camp set up on high ground in a flooded area on the outskirts of the Provincial Capital. —APP Photo

## Mohtasib summons officials over poor vehicle emissions report

### F.P. Report

KARACHI: Termining the previous report regarding checking/examination of vehicles with regard to their environmental friendliness submitted by the authorities concerned as being unsatisfactory, the Wafaqi Mohtasib, Mr. Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi has summoned the SSP (Traffic), DC (ICT) and DG (Environment) on September 04, 2025. The Registrar, Wafaqi Mohtasib Office, has issued notices to the all concerned in this connection.

It may be recalled that earlier the Wafaqi Mohtasib had, while taking serious notice of the long queues of vehicles in the red zone,

Islamabad and the resultant congestion and inconvenience to the general public, called the officials concerned to his office on 29 August, 2025.

However, the officials who attended the hearing on August 29 submitted the initial report, which was found lacking in substance and clearly failed to answer the pertinent questions framed in this regard. Consequently, the Wafaqi Mohtasib, expressing his concern over the state of affairs, has directed to attend the next hearing positively scheduled for 04 September.

It may also be mentioned that the questionnaire submitted earlier specifically asked the authorities con-

cerned as to why a sensitive place like the red zone in the federal capital was chosen for determining the environmental friendliness of the vehicles and whether any awareness campaign in the print and electronic media preceded this activity, make and models of the vehicles specified or not and whether any separate booth/counters established for women and senior citizens for this purposes.

According to the Mohtasib's office, in absence of the specific information, people were found languishing in long queues only to be told at the end of the day that initially vehicles model upto 2015 are being examined in the first phase.

## Providing relief to flood victims' top priority: Ansari

KARACHI (APP): Federal Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Spokesperson for Sindh Affairs, Barrister Raja Khaleeq-uz-Zaman Ansari on Tuesday said that the entire nation stands shoulder to shoulder with the flood-affected people of Sindh. He stressed, in line with the vision of PML-N leader Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, all possible facilities will be extended to the victims so that they are not left alone in this difficult time.

He expressed these views during his visit to Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) Karachi Bureau, where he was warmly welcomed by Bureau Chief Abdullah Sarohi. Barrister Raja Ansari noted that while Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz is actively engaged in providing relief to flood affectees of the Punjab, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) was also fully assisting the Sindh government, PDMA, and district administrations in flood-affected areas.

He added that, under the directives of Federal Prime Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar, he himself was closely monitoring the situation in Sindh's flood-hit regions. He said that the NDMA, on the instructions of the federal government, has issued timely flood warnings in Sindh to ensure that people, along with their livestock, could move to safer places. Relief camps have also been established in affected districts, and federal representatives will continue visiting these camps to ensure delivery of aid.

During the visit, APP Karachi Bureau Chief Abdullah Sarohi briefed Barrister Ansari about the staff and performance of the Bureau. Barrister Ansari remarked that APP is a credible national institution and assured that its reputation would not be compromised. He added that steps are being taken to improve APP's English, Urdu, Sindhi, video, and photo services, while the scope of APP Digital Services would soon be expanded to Karachi as well. "We want to put the institution on its own strong footing," he emphasized. Radio Pakistan Karachi Station Director Mehboob Sarwar, Zaki Abro, APP Chief Reporter Syed Karam Ali Shah and other reporters were also present on the occasion.

## KP Police launches digital criminal database

### Syed Adnan

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police has introduced a province-wide digital criminal record database and multiple online services aimed at modernizing policing and strengthening counter-terrorism efforts. Inspector General of Police (IGP) Zulfiqar Hameed inaugurated the system on Monday, calling it a "long-missing tool" in the province's fight against crime and militancy.

According to the IGP, the database will store complete records of criminals, including those involved in murder, robbery and dacoity, with fingerprints now accessible in all 418 police stations. Previously, such data was limited to the Counter Terrorism

Department (CTD).

He added that scanning equipment has been provided to police stations across KP, while an E-License system has been integrated with NADRA and OneLink, allowing citizens to apply for learner permits, renew licenses, and pay traffic challans online. Residents, including those living outside the province, will also be able to obtain online verification and character certificates for employment and official purposes.

Zulfiqar Hameed said police stations are gradually being shifted to solar energy, while alternative connectivity solutions will be used in areas without reliable internet. "This digital leap will ensure access

to real-time data and make police services more transparent and efficient," he noted.

On security, the IGP acknowledged a recent rise in terrorist attacks but said casualties have dropped significantly due to effective responses. He confirmed that militants behind the Bannu Frontier Constabulary attack were neutralized in ongoing clearance operations. The IGP further stated that KP Police had achieved 25 percent more high-value target eliminations compared to last year, and terrorist movements were successfully blocked along highways in Upper Dir, Karak, Kurram, and Dera Ismail Khan.

## E-Pay fetches Rs 65b revenue in two months

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab government has collected a record tax revenue of over Rs. 65 billion through e-Pay Punjab, a flagship online platform for the collection of government receipts. Meanwhile, the number of online transactions through the system crossed the mark of 6 million during the first two months of FY 2025-26. This was highlighted during a progress review meeting presided over by PITB Chairman Faisal Yousaf, says a press release issued here on Tuesday.

The participants of the meeting were apprised that the trend of online payments by citizens continues to rise, with 70,000 new downloads of the app during the said time period. A significant share of the collections came from Sales Tax on Services amounting to over Rs. 40.6 billion, followed by Token Tax with Rs. 4.8 billion, Traffic Challan payments of Rs. 1.65 billion, and Property Tax collections worth Rs. 804 million. It is pertinent to mention here that 88 taxes of 18 departments, including Punjab Land Records Authority, can be paid through the portal.

In his remarks on the occasion, Chairman Faisal Yousaf said that new services are continuously being added to e-Pay Punjab to maximize public convenience. "Our aim is to streamline processes and make government services more transparent, efficient, and accessible to every citizen," he added. E-Pay Punjab, developed by PITB in collaboration with Punjab Finance Department and ILink, enables payments to be made via ATM, internet banking, mobile banking, or over the counter at any ILink member bank. Taxes can also be paid through Telco Agents and mobile wallets.

vacation, in relief activities; ensuring timely provision of meals for rescue personnel; deploying doctors rather than paramedical staff in relief camps; and keeping anti-snake venom vaccines readily available.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the district administration and officials from various departments engaged in rescue and relief operations.

## Board holds meeting on Karachi Education City development



### F.P. Report

KARACHI: An important meeting of the Board of Directors of Karachi Education City was held today at the Finance and Trade Center of Karachi Education City under the joint chairmanship of Chairman Education City Board Dr. Asim Hussain and Special Assistant to the Chief Minister Sindh on Investment and Public-Private Partnership Syed Qasim Naveed Qamar.

Dr. Asim Hussain attended the meeting via video link.

The meeting was attended by Secretary, Sindh Investment Department Raja Khurram Shahzad, members of the Board of Directors of Karachi Education City, Project Director

Education City Abrar Sheikh and senior officers of the Sindh Investment Department.

On this occasion, Project Director Karachi Education City Abrar Sheikh read out the minutes of the previous meeting of the Board of Directors and presented the new agenda items for approval.

On this occasion, Syed Qasim Naveed Qamar gave instructions that the construction of Education City should be made environment-friendly by using the latest technology.

In the meeting, the consultant explained in detail about the construction work of Karachi Education City with the help of maps, charts and photographs.

The meeting was

informed that FAST Institute has requested the Karachi Education City Board for approval for its site plan to start construction work in Karachi Education City with renowned international IT companies Google and Apple. The board approved it with the condition of mandatory participation of Google and Apple in FAST's project and emphasized on speedy progress.

At the end the Chairman Karachi Education City Board Dr. Asim Hussain thanked the members participating in the meeting and said that the Sindh government wants to make Karachi Education City an exemplary educational city through mutual consultation with all stakeholders.

## PA Speaker's uncle laid to rest in Fatahpur

LAHORE (APP): The maternal uncle of Speaker of the Punjab Assembly Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan and brother of Minister of State Malik Rasheed Ahmad Khan, Haji Hanif Khan, passed away.

The late Haji Hanif Khan was the father of MPA Malik Ahmad Saeed Khan and Malik Ahmad Raees Khan.

His funeral prayer was held in Fatahpur, Kasur, on Tuesday and led by Qari Sohaib Meer Muhammadi. Thousands of people from political, social, and religious circles attended, along with a large number of locals.

Prominent among those who attended the funeral were former Speaker of the

Punjab Assembly Muhammad Iqbal Khan and Provincial Health Minister Khawaja Imran Nazir. MPAs present included Iftikhar Ahmad Chhachhar, Noorul Amin Wattoo, Khan Bahadur, Mian Imran Javed, Rashid Minhas, Ahmar Bhatti, Rana Rashid, Sardar Rashid Tufail, Haji Naqem Safdar Ansari, Malik Asif Baha, Chaudhry Arif Gul, Junaid Safdar Sahi, Chaudhry Ilyas Khan, and Rana Arshad.

Others in attendance were Advisor to the Prime Minister Shabbir Ahmad Usmani, Advisor to the Prime Minister Asim Naseer, former MPA Baba Rasheed Bhatti, PML-N leader Tahir Jutt, Advocate

Munir Bhatti, and other senior League leaders.

From the Punjab Assembly, Secretary General Chaudhry Amir Habib, Secretary Affairs Khalid Mahmood, Principal Secretary to the Speaker Imad Hussain Bhalli, Director Media Rao Majid Ali, and other officers and staff participated.

Deputy Commissioner Kasur, DPO Kasur, officers of the district administration, religious scholars, and a large number of local citizens also attended the funeral prayer.

The participants prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul and for patience and strength for the bereaved family.

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has directed the Sindh Social Protection Authority (SSPA) to expand its Maternal and Child Support Program (MCSP), also known as the MAMTA program, to seven additional districts, increasing the total coverage to 22 districts.

The expansion is aimed at improving maternal and child health by providing integrated healthcare services along with enhanced cash support to pregnant and lactating women.

The decision was taken during the second board meeting of the SSPA, held at CM House on Tuesday. The meeting was attended by Health Minister Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho, Education Minister Syed Sardar Shah,

Special Assistant to CM on Social Protection Sarfraz Rajar, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Chairman P&D Najam Shah, Finance Secretary Fayaz Jatoti, Social Protection Secretary Muzamel Halepoto, Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh, CEO SSPA Samiullah Shaikh, and board members Sono Kingrani and Dr. Asma Hyder Baloch.

CEO Samiullah Shaikh gave a detailed briefing on the program's current implementation and proposed expansion. Following the presentation, the Chief Minister approved the inclusion of Larkana, Sukkur, Khairpur, Shaheed Benazirabad, Jamshoro, Dadu, and Nausheroferoze in the pro-

gram, which already operates in 15 rural districts.

With this expansion, pregnant and lactating women in 22 districts will now receive Rs41,000 in cash support over three years - up from the previous amount of Rs30,000. This assistance is aimed at ensuring proper maternal nutrition, promoting regular health checkups, and encouraging safe deliveries.

The programme is part of a broader Rs48.3 billion social protection initiative, of which Rs6.3 billion is being contributed by the Sindh government. Launched in January 2023, the programme is scheduled to run until December 2027.

To date, 770,000 pregnant and lactating women have been registered at

800 health facilities across the province, including 740 centres operated by the People's Primary Healthcare Initiative (PPHI) and 62 health facilities run by the Department of Health.

Eligibility criteria include being at least 18 years old, holding a valid Computerised National Identity Card (CNIC), and residing in the targeted districts.

The MCSP (MAMTA) programme is built on a conditional cash transfer model, linking financial support to key maternal health milestones such as antenatal visits, institutional deliveries, and postnatal care. The goal is to reduce maternal and infant mortality rates and ensure better

health outcomes for both mothers and children in low-income, underserved communities.

Based on population data and birth rate projections, an estimated 2.6 million pregnant and lactating women will live in the intervention districts over the program's five-year span. The government aims to reach 1.3 million women, representing 50 percent coverage of the projected eligible population.

The Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah said that expanding the Social Protection Delivery System is a major part of his government's strategy to improve maternal health, reduce poverty, and empower women, particularly in rural Sindh.

# Governor stresses strengthening Jirga System

PESHAWAR (APP): The Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi participated via video link in the third high-level meeting chaired by Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit Baltistan and SAFRON, Engineer Amir Muqam, to review strengthening of the jirga system and civil administration in the merged tribal districts.

Governor Kundi emphasized that the committee working on administrative and development matters, including the jirga system, must finalize its recommendations without delay.

The Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi directed all participants to submit their written proposals to the

Chairman, Federal Minister Amir Muqam, before the next meeting.

Highlighting the challenges faced by the people of the former FATA, the Governor said they remained caught between the provincial and federal systems.

He said that while good briefings and recommendations had been presented in the third meeting, consensus on finalizing them was urgently required.

Governor Kundi also raised the issue of the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award, stressing the need for clarity on how the share of merged districts would be determined and implemented.

The Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim

Kundi welcomed the proposal to establish a separate account for funds allocated to merged districts, saying it would ensure transparency and allow tribal communities to know when and how their money was being spent.

“The deprivation of the people of merged districts must come to an end, and ex-FATA should be brought at par with other developed regions of the country,” the Governor asserted.

The Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi added that the jirga system remained an effective mechanism for resolving local administrative issues promptly and should be strengthened to facilitate the tribal population and promote regional development.

## ATC summons witnesses

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: ATC Peshawar has adjourned the hearing in Police Lines blast case till 10th September. The court has summoned additional witnesses to testify in the case, on Tuesday.

According to prosecution, the blast occurred on 30th January, 2023, at the Malik Saad Police Lines in Peshawar, resulting in the deaths of over 92 people and injuring hundreds more. The prosecution alleges that the blast was a suicide attack.

Eight individuals, including the main accused Imtiaz alias Tora Shapa and policeman Wali Muhammad, have been named in the case. The court is conducting the trial after completing the investigation into the incident.

Meanwhile, seven witnesses have testified in the case so far. The court has adjourned the hearing to allow for additional witnesses to be summoned.



PESHAWAR: Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Shahab Ali Shah presiding over a review meeting on improving health services under Good Governance Roadmap.

## PHC grants bail to ESSI AD

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court (PHC) has granted bail to Noor Muhammad, an Assistant Director at the Employees Social Security Institute (ESSI), who was accused of embezzlement amounting to millions of rupees, on Tuesday.

The accused was alleged to have failed to perform his duties properly, resulting in a loss of millions of rupees to the national treasury. It was claimed that he did not collect complete data on employees of private companies, which led to the loss.

The lawyer argued that the petitioner had performed his duties and submitted reports to his superiors. There was no evidence of corruption or wrongdoing on the part of the accused.

The lawyer argued that as an Assistant Director, the petitioner's responsibility was to visit factories, collect data on employees, and submit reports to his superiors.

PHC single member bench of Justice Kamran Hayat Miankhal granted bail to the accused after hearing arguments from both sides.

## KP Assembly approves bills

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly here Tuesday approved bills for the establishment of a Climate Action Board and the extension of the service period of the Tourism Police.

Both bills were presented by Provincial Minister Aftab Alam in the Assembly chaired by Speaker Babar Salim Swati.

According to the bill, the service tenure of the Tourism Police has been extended. The extension will be granted only once. As per the bill's text, the decision was made due to the start of the tourist season and delays in new recruitment. Under the amendment, the recruitment of tourism police will be for a specific duration, and the authority may recruit its own police force after developing its institutional capacity.

On this occasion, PPP member Ahmed Kundi said that even after six years, a proper police establishment could not be formed under the Tourism Act. That is why new amendments are being introduced, which raises questions about the governance of the government. Opposition members demanded permanent appointments for the tourism police.

However, Law Minister Aftab Alam responded that out of 200 sanctioned posts for tourism police, 136 have been filled. Initially, they were paid Rs. 36,000 monthly, which was later increased by the Chief Minister. Under the original act, these police officers cannot be made permanent.

The service period of the tourism police ended on May 19, 2025, which is why their tenure is being extended. He stated that if the government decides to make them permanent, they will support the decision.

Regarding the second bill, the Climate Action Board will be financially autonomous. The board will oversee and coordinate environmental strategies across all government departments. It will also be responsible for the formulation, amendment, monitoring, and performance review of environmental policies. Other important responsibilities include research and collection of environmental funds. A special Climate Action Fund will also be established under the board.

Meanwhile, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Zakat and Ushr Bill 2025 was also passed in the House. The bill includes new proposals for disabled individuals, minority communities, and transgender persons. This bill was presented by Provincial Minister Qasim Ali Shah.

## QWP condemns CM statement on Kala Bagh issue

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Qaumi Watan Party (QWP) provincial Chairman Sikandar Hayat Khan Sherpao on Tuesday criticized Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur for his recent statement regarding the construction of Kalabagh dam and said that it was a controversial project.

“Three provincial assemblies in the country have passed unanimous resolutions against the Kalabagh dam project,” he told a press conference at Watan Kor here.

Sikandar Sherpao said Kalabagh dam issue was a dead horse as work was underway on the Diamer-Bhasha and Mohmand dams and these projects were supposed to be completed in 2030 and 2027 respectively.

He added that the QWP had opposed the construction of the controversial Kalabagh dam at every forum and would do so in the future as well. “We will oppose this issue tooth and nail,” he vowed.

“Pakistan is a federation and raising such controversial issues will undermine it,” he remarked. However, he said that some lobbies were raising such controversial issues to maintain their hegemony, which was harmful for the federation.

Expressing sorrow over the floods devastation in Punjab, he asked the federal government to help mitigate the difficulties of the affected population.

However, he explained that the floods that hit Punjab had nothing to do with Kalabagh dam project. He said the Ravi and Sutlej rivers surge caused flooding in Punjab.

He said that it was the KP chief minister who raised the issue of the Kalabagh dam during a briefing attended by the prime minister in Islamabad on the construction of reservoirs in the country.

He said that the chief minister was trying to divert attention from the issues facing the province. “The chief minister is enjoying power but he is least bothered to safeguard the interests of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa,” he said. He said that worsening law and order, mega corruption scandals and poor governance had plagued the province.

The QWP leader also expressed concern over the loss of lives in the recent earthquake in Afghanistan that left over 800 people dead and hundreds injured. He asked the federal government to dispatch a team of doctors, a consignment of medicines and other heavy machinery to help provide treatment to the injured and remove the debris to recover the trapped people.

## Beyond titles and tangibles: Rethinking true measures of success

Alamgir Khan

Modern society, with its obsession for status, designations, and material possessions, often overlooks the deeper forces that sustain individual growth and collective progress. While titles and tangibles may dazzle for a time, they rarely define a person's true worth. The measure of human excellence lies not in the superficial symbols of success but in the enduring values that shape character.

**“Dedication is more important than designation, sincerity is more important than seniority, values are more important than valuables, mindset is more important than marks, efforts are more important than the results, loyalty is more important than the royalty, and proper work is more important than the paperwork.”**

Dedication is far more meaningful than designation. Positions are temporary, but commitment to duty leaves a permanent mark. Likewise, sincerity surpasses seniority, for integrity in action carries more weight than years of service.

In the same spirit, values must be placed above valuables. Wealth may provide comfort, but it cannot replace honesty, humility,



and compassion. A nation that treasures values over materialism ensures lasting strength.

Education, too, demands a shift of focus-from marks to mindset. Grades may reflect memory, but curiosity and resilience drive real learning. Similarly, results may be celebrated, yet it is effort that sustains excellence.

In human relations, loyalty is more enduring than royalty. Power and privilege fade, but faithfulness and trust preserve bonds. And in governance and institutions, proper work holds more significance than endless paperwork.

To move forward, we must redefine success. Dedication, sincerity, values, mindset, effort, loyalty, and genuine work-these are the pillars of progress. The sooner we embrace them, the sooner we build a society that thrives not on appearances, but on substance.

## Secretary visits APCEA, vows support for gemstone exporters



### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Members of the All Pakistan Commercial Exporters Association (APCEA) have played a vital role for several decades in bringing foreign exchange to Pakistan through exports. Exporters are considered the backbone of any country's economic development, and it is the government's desire to fully utilize their potential by providing them with all necessary facilities and

ease of doing business so the country can move further toward progress.

These views were expressed by a high-level delegation led by Federal Secretary for Industries, Mr. Saif Anjum, during a visit to APCEA headquarters. The delegation included Additional Secretary for Industries Production Mr. Asad Islam, Mr. Alamgir Chaudhry of the Pakistan Gems and Jewellery Development Company, Additional Secretary for

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mines and Minerals Mr. Muhammad Asif, and Dr. Habib ur Rehman from the University of Engineering and Technology, Peshawar, among others.

On behalf of APCEA, Patron-in-Chief Haji Mamoor Khan, Chairman Iftikhar Ahmad, Senator & Vice Chairman Hannan Khan, Former Chairman Mushtaq Ahmad, and Finance Committee Chairman Anwar Ahmad warmly welcomed the

esteemed guests.

Federal Secretary Saif Anjum stated that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had specifically directed him to understand and resolve the challenges faced by the gemstone export sector.

Patron-in-Chief Haji Mamoor Khan thanked the delegation for their visit and emphasized the need for a separate export policy for gemstones, distinct from gold and silver jewelry.

APCEA Chairman Iftikhar Ahmad highlighted various issues such as customs clearance difficulties, domestic transportation challenges of gemstones, and the need to institutionalize the Pakistan Gems and Minerals Show, with financial support from the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP).

The Federal Secretary held detailed discussions with APCEA officials on these matters and assured them of his full cooperation at the federal level to resolve the issues faced by the gemstone exporters.

## Kalash Marriage Bill - A historic breakthrough

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Pakistan Council of World Religions - Faith Friends has expressed great joy over the submission of the Kalash Marriage Bill to the Provincial Cabinet Committee, calling it a historic milestone in Pakistan's history.

This bill legally recognizes the religious and cultural identity of the Kalash community and introduces a formal system for registration of marriages in accordance with their traditional values and religious principles.

The leadership of the Pakistan Council of World Religions - Faith Friends stated that this journey began in 2018, when, upon the request of the Kalash community leader and Chief Minister's Focal Person on Minority Affairs, Wazir Zada Sahib, the Council initiated a comprehensive research project in collaboration with him. The study revealed that the lack of formal marriage registration was causing serious social and legal challenges for the Kalash community.

Since then, the Council's top leadership including: Chairman Qari Roohullah Madni Dr. Qibla Ayaz; Bishop Humphrey Sarfraz Peters Hafiz Abdul Ghafoor; Allama Fakhar ul Hassan Kararvi; Haroon Sarab Diyali; Reverend Joseph John; Saima Mehboob worked closely with Wazir Zada Sahib, Minority MPA Baba Ji Guralp, and various government departments. The Council's team made several visits to Chitral, conducted consultative meetings with Kalash qazis (religious leaders), representatives, and lawyers, and played a

vital role in drafting the bill.

On this historic occasion, the Council extends its gratitude and congratulations to the Law Department, Local Government Department, and the Kalash community's qazis and legal experts for their longstanding support. The institutional role of Mr. Tariq Javed, Commissioner of NCHR Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Director Rizwanullah Shah is also highly commendable.

The Pakistan Council of World Religions - Faith

Friends believes this legislation will not only provide constitutional and legal protection to the social and cultural rights of the Kalash community but also significantly enhance interfaith harmony, pluralism, and mutual respect in Pakistan. The Council urges the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and all stakeholders to ensure swift passage of this bill through the Provincial Assembly so that the Kalash community can finally receive the legal protection and recognition they have awaited for centuries.

## Khyber Medical University to establish sub-campus in district Buner



### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Vice Chancellor of Khyber Medical University (KMU) Peshawar, Prof. Dr. Zia ul Haq, along with his team, visited the flood-affected areas of District Buner. On the occasion, he formally announced the establishment of a KMU sub-campus in the district in line with the directives of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur, and Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf,

Barrister Gohar Ali Khan. Prof. Dr. Zia ul Haq stated that the purpose of establishing this campus is to provide quality medical education and healthcare facilities at the doorstep of the people of Buner, one of the underdeveloped regions of the province. During his visit, he inspected the proposed site for the sub-campus along with his team and expressed satisfaction over the available facilities. He declared the site not only suitable for the commencement of programs such as

Doctor of Physical Therapy, Nursing, and Allied Health Sciences but also potentially appropriate for the establishment of a future medical college with some modifications.

He further announced that the new campus will initially launch academic programs including Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT), BS Audiology, BS Occupational Therapy, BS Speech and Language Pathology, BS Nursing, BS Vision Sciences, BS

Nutrition, and BS Allied Health Sciences. The regular classes are scheduled to begin in the upcoming academic session of October/November 2025, for which preparations are being carried out on an urgent basis.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice Chancellor said that the establishment of KMU's sub-campus in Buner is not only the beginning of a new era in medical education but will also serve as a milestone in addressing the region's healthcare challenges. He emphasized that the prime objective of KMU is to provide quality medical education facilities, particularly for students of remote and underprivileged areas, especially female students, at their doorstep.

According to him, this initiative will reduce the financial burden on students and parents, create local employment opportunities, and ensure better healthcare services for the people of Buner.

Later, Prof. Dr. Zia ul

Haq visited the Tehsil Headquarters Hospital, Pir Baba, and nearby flood-affected areas where KMU had deployed a mobile public health laboratory along with a 12-member qualified staff. The mobile laboratory is equipped with diagnostic facilities for waterborne and epidemic diseases commonly associated with floods, such as cholera, dengue, malaria, COVID-19, chikungunya, hepatitis, typhoid, influenza, skin infections, and throat infections.

Furthermore, KMU has established a free medical camp in Buner where local residents are being provided with free medical consultations, diagnostic services, and essential medicines. Earlier, upon his arrival in Daggar, Buner, Prof. Dr. Zia ul Haq attended as chief guest the graduation ceremony of the first batch of Noor Nursing College under the Umbrella Health and Education System, and also paid a visit to Zafar Sani Hospital, Daggar.

## Over 200 lives saved in torrential rains

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: During the recent heavy rains and flash floods in Peshawar, Rescue 1122 Peshawar demonstrated outstanding performance by rescuing more than 200 people in time.

Spokesperson Rescue 1122 KP, stated that due to last night's rains, floodwaters entered houses in various areas of Peshawar including Arbab Cottages Colony, Madina Colony, Regi Model Town, and the surroundings of Budhni Bridge, where many families were trapped. Rescue 1122 teams, using special boats, safely evacuated women, children, and elderly persons to secure locations.

During this operation, children stranded in a school bus, families trapped inside their homes, and citizens stuck in flooded streets were also safely rescued.



## In brief

GPS surveys initiated  
F.P. Report

KARAK: Due to the personal efforts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Agriculture Minister Major (R) Muhammad Sajjad Barakwal development projects are being implemented rapidly in Karak district. One of these projects is the construction of the road from Siraj Khel to Hawade, for which the government ensured timely provision of funds. In this regard, a GPS survey was started today under the leadership of C&W expert engineer Sher Hayat on the clear instructions of the provincial Agriculture Minister Major (R) Sajjad Barakwal. This survey is a basic and important stage for the construction of the road, after which practical work on the project will be started. Speaking on the occasion, the speakers said that the completion of this project will not only provide quality and safe travel facilities to the people of the area but will also promote business activities. Local farmers will find it easier to transport their agricultural produce to markets, while access to educational and medical facilities will also improve.

Employees hold protest  
F.P. Report

TANK: Government employees, staged a protest demonstration outside the Press Club Tank to express their grievances against interference in official matters. The protest was attended by employees and workers' unions from various departments. Addressing the protesters, Anar Gul Betani, President of All Teachers Association; Shahadat Khan Betani, President of Paramedics Association; and Zahid Khan, President of District Administration Employees, condemned the interference and warned of severe consequences if their demands are not met. "We cannot tolerate this kind of interference in our work," they said. "Today, employees are protesting, and citizens' work is being delayed in various offices. If the issue of unregistered press clubs and non-local journalists in Waziristan is not addressed, we will be forced to go on strike and stage a sit-in outside the Deputy Commissioner's office of south waziristan upper. The protesters demanded that the administration take immediate action to resolve the issue and ensure a smooth working environment for employees."

Minor killed his mother injured  
F.P. Report

BUNER: A 5-year old Mehran killed while his mother injured in village Ghero union council Bagra tehsil Daggar district Buner due to land sliding, on Tuesday. The locals and Rescue 1122 rescued the body and injured, shifted them to DHQ hospital Daggar. The emergency doctors confirmed the kid was already dead while his injured mother administered treatment, family members claimed. The recent death tools raised to 245 while 9 still missing. On the 18th day of flood disaster in Buner district rescue and relief operations still continued. The PDMA, NDMA, DDMA national and international non-governmental organizations the brother countries especially Saudi Arabia' King Abdullah relief goods in large quantity are being distributed among the flood affected people. The local, provincial and national doctor teams are actively involved in health sectors.

## TMC remains non-functional after 11 years



Haleem Asad

LOWER DIR: Despite the passage of more than a decade and spending billions of rupees from the national exchequer, Timergara Medical College (TMC) in Lower Dir has yet to be made functional, according to well-informed sources.

Talking to this scribe on Tuesday, they said the project, inaugurated by then prime minister Imran Khan and former chief minister Pervez Khattak on July 15, 2014, has failed to take off even after 11 years. The sources claimed that the college had been facing controversies since its inception, including allegations of corruption in the procurement of equipment, which were echoed on the floor of the provincial assembly.

According to the insiders, over one hundred low-grade employees have been recruited at TMC, who receive salaries every month, but the institution remains dysfunctional. They added that the most critical requirement, the approval of faculty positions, had not yet been granted, without which the idea of a medical college could not be realized. The

equipment has not been purchased, transport facilities have not been provided, and students have not been enrolled so far, they maintained.

The sources said that the TMC administration had sent nearly 200 letters to the chief minister, secretary health and other relevant authorities, seeking their attention towards the matter, but no response had been received.

They pointed out that other medical colleges in Swat, Mardan and Dera Ismail Khan had become functional due to the personal interest of the then chief ministers Mahmood Khan, Ameer Haider Khan Hoti and Akram Khan Durrani, respectively. In contrast, they added, the elected representatives from Lower Dir and successive provincial governments had shown little interest in making Timergara Medical College operational. The insiders feared that the very existence of the project was under threat, and its future remained uncertain.

The locals expressed serious concern over the situation and urged Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur to take immediate notice and ensure the

college is made functional in line with the vision of Imran Khan. Meanwhile, TMC principal Prof Dr Samiullah told a group of local journalists that the facility lacked funds for hiring transport for students and faculty. He said that a total of 180 employees below grade 17 had been hired and all of them had been directed to perform duties at the college. The principal said the main issue was the hiring of proper and eligible faculty. "We advertised the positions on the government and PMDC approval," he said, adding that short listed faculty members were not agreed to join on the existing package. The principal said the government should permit the college to offer some incentivised package to the faculty. "We can also hire some retired faculty members on reasonable package but for that we need government and PMDC approval," he said. Dr Sami said that classes at the facility could be started once the faculty is hired. He said the college also lacked proper equipment according to the requirements of PMDC while the already procured equipment did not meet the PMDC criteria.

## BISE Mardan announces intermediate 2015 results

## F.P. Report

MARDAN: The Board of Intermediate and Secondary Mardan (BISE) Mardan has announced the annual results for FA and F. Sc, with Inshrah Hayat securing overall first position by scoring 1150 out of total 1200 marks, while Maheen Chand came second with 1149 marks.

Relevant officials of BISE Mardan announced the results of FA, F. Sc examinations-2025 in a ceremony held here on Tuesday in the Auditorium hall of the Board building. In the Pre-Medical group, Inshrah Hayat got overall first position with 1150 marks, Maheen Chand stood second with 1149, while Hannad Noor and Kashif Khan jointly secured third position with 1147 marks each.

In the Pre-Engineering group, Mahnoor of Girls Cadet College Mardan gained first position with 1133 marks, Ayesha Naveed came second with 1132, and Fiza Batool of Girls Cadet College Mardan obtained third position by securing 1130 marks.

In the Humanities group, Yoursa Mehaad of Government Girls Higher

Secondary School Mohib Banda, Nowshera clinched first position with 1092 marks, Labiba Bibi of Government Girls Higher Secondary School Gar Munara Swabi obtained second position with 1060 marks and Muhammad Zakariya of Government Post Graduate College Nowshera secured third place with 1059 marks.

In the General Science group, Mohid Saif achieved first position with 1121 marks, Sadaf Gul came second with 1111, and Abu Bakar Siddique third position with 1108 marks.

It is pertinent to mention here that girl-students dominated the FA / F. Sc results of examinations-2025 by clinching top 8 positions out of total twelve-positions to outshine the male-students.

**Rahmatul-lil-Alameen PBUEH conference at BKMC:** As part of the celebrations of Ashra Rahmatul-lil-Alameen level "Rahmatul-lil-Alameen Conference" was held at Bacha Khan Medical College, along with competitions in Qira'at (Qur'anic recitation) and Naat Khwani

(recitation in praise of the Prophet Muhammad, (PBUH)).

The event was graced by Provincial Minister for Food Zahir Shah Toru, Chairman DDAC Zarshed Khan, and Commissioner Mardan Division Nisar Ahmad, Markaz Taneem Tajiran Provincial General Secretary Zahir shah as chief guests. DPO Zahoor Babar Afridi, Additional Deputy Commissioner Eid Nawaz Shirani, Deputy Dean of the Medical College Dr. Moatasem Billah, religious scholars from Mardan and Swabi, district and tehsil Khateeb, school and madrasa teachers and students, and various government officials participated in large numbers.

Students from government schools and religious madaris of Mardan and Swabi actively participated in the competitions. According to the judges' decision, in the Qira'at category, Muhammad Rayan secured first position, Mir Alam came second, and Muhammad Essa stood third. In Naat Khwani, Saifulah won first place, Arooma Bibi came second, and Urooj Syed secured third position.

DIG assures probe against SHO in Mohsin murder  
F.P. Report

CHARSADDA: Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Mardan Jawad Qamar visited the residence of Mohsin Shah and assured the family of a transparent and impartial investigation. He said an inquiry team has been formed under the supervision of Nisar Khan to ensure justice.

The DIG emphasized that it is his duty to remain neutral, adding that even the slightest negligence from the police would not be tolerated. He confirmed that departmental action is also underway against SHO Bahramand Shah of Chota Lahore, Swabi. "We will not allow criminals to take advantage of the current situation. I promise a completely impartial investigation," DIG stated.

Speaking on the occasion, Majeed ur Rehman urged the authorities to review their past record and ensure coordination with the forces. He said the matter is now before the court and welcomed the DIG's visit, saying it has boosted police morale.

He further demanded that the investigation be carried out under the leadership of Nisar Khan and legal action be taken against the SHO in accordance with the law.

Minister inspects flood relief efforts  
F.P. Report

MULTAN: Punjab Minister for Health and Chairman Cabinet Committee on Disaster Management Khawaja Salman Rafique visited Head Muhammad Wala breaching point and flood relief camps here on Tuesday.

During the visit, the minister was briefed by Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Muhammad Abu Bakar and Executive Engineer Irrigation about the prevailing flood situation. He also inspected Rescue camps and appreciated the efforts of district officers and departments engaged in relief activities. Khawaja Salman Rafique said efforts were being made to minimize losses. He directed officials to ensure evacuation of affected people, along with uninterrupted supply of food and medical facilities.

The minister emphasized that no compromise would be made on relief camps and healthcare services. He ordered the availability of anti-snakebite vaccines and other essential medicines in every camp. Expressing satisfaction over the role of administration and police, he said the Punjab government stood with the people in this difficult time. "The situation is tough, but the courage of people is commendable," he observed.

He added that all resources were being utilized to facilitate flood victims, including provision of food, clean drinking water, medicines, fodder for livestock, and vaccination stock. Hospitals, he said, had been put on high alert to deal with emergencies. The minister informed that a flood flow of 500,000 cusecs from Head Trimmu was heading towards Multan. He said the district administration had been given full authority to manage Head Muhammad Wala breaching point.

## RIO visits flood-hit Swat Press Club



Shafi Ullah

MINGORA: Khan Sarwar Wazir, Regional Information Officer, visited the Swat Press Club recently affected by the floods. During his visit, he met with key office-bearers of the club, including President Niaz Ahmed Khan, General Secretary Muhammad Shafiullah, and Syed Shahabuddin, President of the Swat Union of Journalists.

Muhammad Shafiullah provided a detailed briefing on the extent of damage to the club's infrastructure, records, and equipment. Khan Sarwar Wazir inspected the affected areas, acknowledging the

significant impact of the floods on the Press Club.

The Regional Information Officer emphasized the importance of the Swat Press Club as a platform for journalists and the public, highlighting its role in amplifying the voices of the people. He praised the journalists for their profession, even in challenging situations. Khan Sarwar Wazir assured that the Information and Public Relations Department would utilize all available resources to restore the Press Club to its functional state.

The officer underscored the significance of journalism in society, stating that

the restoration of the Swat Press Club is essential for strengthening the public voice. He committed to taking practical steps for the construction, repair, and provision of facilities to the Press Club. Furthermore, he emphasized the need to take serious measures to mitigate the impact of natural disasters in the future.

Khan Sarwar Wazir reaffirmed the department's solidarity with journalists, pledging to work together to overcome the challenges posed by the floods. The visit demonstrated the department's commitment to supporting the Swat Press Club and the journalism community in times of need.

## Minister inspects uplift works on road

## F.P. Report

KOHAT: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Aftab Alam Advocate has visited the Tribal Sub Division (TSD) Darra Adam Khel (DAK) where he inspected the ongoing work on the Aara Khel-Jammu Road along with the Gumbat Tehsil Chairman Sajid Iqbal and the road inspection team.

The minister reviewed the ongoing construction works and directed the authorities concerned and contractor to ensure strict adherence to quality standards.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Aftab Alam said, "Public welfare projects are the top priority of the government. Transparency, quality, and timely completion are the key elements of our development vision." He emphasized that good governance and infrastructure improvement are essential for long-term progress adding that negligence or corruption in development schemes

would not be tolerated.

The minister underlined that contractors and relevant departments must deliver durable projects that directly benefit the people and leave a lasting impact for future generations.

Meanwhile, on the special directives of Law Minister Aftab Alam Advocate and Member National Assembly Shehryar Afridi, Tehsil Chairman Gumbat Sajid Iqbal inspected the asphalt work on Gumbat Main Road. He checked the quality of work and instructed the contractor to complete the project within the stipulated timeframe to provide improved travel facilities to the public.

**DC chair review meeting:** Deputy Commissioner Kohat has chaired a meeting on Tuesday to review the arrangements for Eid Milad-un-Nabi Peace Be Upon Him (PBUH) processions and related events in the district.

The meeting which held at the DC office, was attended by the Member

Provincial Assembly Shafiullah Jan, Additional Deputy Commissioner (G) Hamid Iqbal, police officials, representatives of the Milad committee, traders, peace committee members and officials from the relevant departments.

The meeting reviewed security and administrative measures, including cleanliness of the procession routes, repair of streetlights, provision of drinking water, parking facilities, traffic diversion plans and emergency medical services.

Mehsud directed the departments concerned to ensure timely and effective implementation of all arrangements, saying the administration's priority was to provide citizens with "the best facilities and a peaceful environment" during the celebrations. Shafi Jan said, the processions were an important part of the religious heritage and assured full cooperation with the district administration to ensure "foolproof security and public convenience."

## SACM on C&amp;W visits flood-hit areas in Khyber

## F.P. Report

JAMRUD: Special Assistant to the Chief Minister for Communication and Works, Muhammad Sohail Afridi on Tuesday visited the flood and windstorm-affected areas of Bara Tehsil and Jamrud Tehsil in District Khyber.

Senior officials from the Communication and Works Department and the Local Government Department also accompanied him on the occasion. The Special Assistant met with the local people in various affected areas, listened to their complaints and issues and directed the authorities to take immediate steps on an emergency basis to provide relief to the public. He said that providing

prompt assistance to the affected families is the government's top priority and all institutions must work in close coordination to accelerate the rehabilitation process.

In Jamrud Tehsil, Muhammad Sohail Afridi also held discussions with Assistant Commissioner Fahad Zia regarding the situation. On the occasion, he instructed that all VC Secretaries and local representatives should prepare comprehensive reports on the damages in their respective areas so that planning can be done for the rehabilitation of damaged houses, educational institutions, roads, and other essential infrastructure.

Later, the Special Assistant also visited the Government Girls Primary School Shalobar

Bara Latif Kallay, which had collapsed due to the recent severe windstorm. Teachers of the school were also present, who briefed him about the destruction of the institution.

Muhammad Sohail Afridi assured that the restoration work of the school would be started immediately so that the education of the students is not affected. He further said that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government is taking serious measures to address public problems and to reconstruct the affected areas and "we will not leave our people alone." He added that the rehabilitation of every family and every institution affected by floods and storms is the responsibility of the government.

## Winter is coming, but we have no roof: Buner flood victims

BUNER (APP): As the chilly winds of September descend upon the flood-ravaged valleys of Buner, a sense of urgency grips poor families like that of 65-year-old Rehmat Shah, who is eyeing to Govt help to rebuild his destroyed house.

The cold whispers of winter have begun creeping through the hills of Malakand division after the last night heavy rainfalls, but for many, the warmth of a roof and four walls remains a distant dream in the worst-hit Buner district. "I had purchased expensive furniture for my daughter's wedding next month," Rehmat Shah told APP, his eyes heavy with loss. "But the flood took everything in just a few minutes, it was all gone."

Standing atop the muddy remnants of what once was his home in flood hit Pir Baba in Buner,

Rehmat and his two sons spend their days hauling stones from nearby mountains, trying to build a single room before the winter frost sets in. The recent floods triggered by torrential rains and cloudbursts on August 15 have devastated large swathes of Malakand and Hazara divisions, sweeping away homes, businesses, roads, bridges and lives of many underprivileged.

Though familiar with seasonal flooding, locals say this year's disaster was unlike anything they've seen in decades. "The velocity of these floods was far greater than the ones we faced in 2022," said Rehmat. "Stone houses, decades old, crumbled like sand. We barely escaped with our lives."

According to official figures released by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government, the

floods claimed 411 lives, injured 132, and left 12 people missing. In total, 571 houses were completely destroyed and nearly 2,000 were partially damaged across the province. Buner, Shangla, Swat, Battagram, Bajaur, and Swabi were among the worst-hit.

The KP government has since increased compensation for fully destroyed homes from Rs400,000 to Rs1 million, and from Rs100,000 to Rs300,000 for partially damaged ones. Business owners whose shops were destroyed are now eligible for Rs500,000 in aid — a first in the province's history. So far, Rs704 million has been disbursed to the families of 352 deceased victims, while Rs30 million went to 60 of the injured. The provincial government claims that compensation for

homes and businesses is ongoing, with Rs367 million already distributed for fully destroyed houses, and another Rs126 million paid to 253 shopkeepers.

But for victims on the ground, the process is far from swift, forcing them to visit offices of the Deputy Commissioners and Revenue authorities to collect compensation package. "The ministers and NGO people come mostly for photos and leave after giving some hope," Rehmat says bitterly. "But we are still under the open sky despite passage of 34 days of floods."

With communication lines severed and roads still under repair, many families have taken matters into their own hands. In areas like Buner, where poverty was already widespread after floods, rebuilding without assistance feels like climbing a moun-

tain without shoes. Many flood survivors are rebuilding their homes using whatever materials they can salvage such as stones, mud, wood, knowing that they are racing against time due to looming winter.

The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) reports that 376 out of 406 damaged roads have been reopened, 65 of 77 bridges repaired, and 234 of 386 water supply schemes restored. Power has been reconnected to all 99 affected feeders, bringing some relief. Meanwhile, 8,000 families have received Rs1,500 each under the government's food stamp program, and the provincial government claims to have already released Rs4 billion for immediate relief and reconstruction, with another Rs5 billion in the pipeline.

Despite the statistical figures and announcements, what flood victims say they need most is not just money but dignity, speed, and attention in the wake of upcoming harsh weather. "I don't want charity. I just want what is promised, by KP Govt" Rehmat says. "My daughter deserves a warm room for her wedding, not a tent in the cold." As winter creeps closer, so too does a second humanitarian crisis in Buner where cold, disease, and displacement may take as much from families as the floodwaters did. The clock is ticking for the KP government to turn its promises into shelter, and its announcements into action. Until then, flood victims like Rehmat Shah continue to carry stones up steep mountain paths, holding onto the hope that the rulers won't leave them out in the cold.



KYIV: Ukrainians mourn during a funeral for two-year-old Angelyna and her mother, Nadiya Galych, 24, who were killed in a Russian attack.

## N Korean leader inspects new missile factory ahead of visit to China

SEOUL (AP): North Korea said leader Kim Jong Un inspected a new weapons factory that's key to his plan to accelerate mass production of missiles in a weekend visit before he departs for a major military parade in China.

North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency did not disclose the location of the factory Kim visited, but it may be in Jagang province, a hub of the country's munitions industry that borders China. Both China and North Korea confirmed last week that Kim will make his first visit to China in six years to attend a military parade in Beijing, which marks the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II and China's resistance against Japanese wartime aggression.

The 26 foreign leaders invited by Chinese President Xi Jinping also include Russia's Vladimir Putin, who has received major wartime support from Kim in his invasion of Ukraine, making the Beijing event a show of three-way alignment against US efforts to strengthen security cooperation with South Korea and Japan. South Korean media speculated Kim could depart for China by train sometime, pointing to height-

ened security measures at the Chinese border town of Dandong, where rail traffic was reportedly halted and hotels stopped receiving foreign guests.

KCNA said the factory had assembly lines to speed missile production and reported that Kim praised scientists and workers and ratified plans for improvement. South Korean officials say Kim has pushed to accelerate munitions production as he supplies Russia with large quantities of military equipment, including artillery and ballistic missiles. Kim has also sent thousands of troops since last fall to fight alongside Russian forces against Ukraine, as he prioritizes Moscow as part of a foreign policy aimed at expanding ties with nations confronting the United States. Since aligning with Russia, North Korea has become more vocal in international affairs beyond the Korean Peninsula, issuing diplomatic statements on conflicts in the Middle East and in the Taiwan Strait, while portraying itself as a part of a united front against Washington. Some experts say Kim's presence at the multilateral event in Beijing is part of efforts to develop partnerships

with other nations close to China and Russia.

China remains North Korea's largest trade partner and economic lifeline, and Kim's attendance at the Beijing military parade is also seen as an attempt to showcase ties with a major ally and boost leverage ahead of a possible resumption of negotiations with Washington. President Donald Trump and new liberal South Korean President Lee Jae Myung have repeatedly expressed their hopes to restart talks with North Korea, but the North has publicly dismissed their outreach. South Korea said it has suspended a military-run radio broadcast into North Korea as part of steps to ease tensions. Lee's government has already halted several other radio broadcasts containing South Korean and world news and removed front-line loudspeakers that used to blare K-pop songs, foreign news and propaganda messages across the border. North Korea has been shunning talks with the US and South Korea since Kim's earlier round of diplomacy with Trump collapsed in 2019 after Trump rejected Kim's demands for major sanctions relief in exchange for partial steps toward denuclearization.

## Israel sends tanks deeper in Gaza City, more families flee

CAIRO (Reuters): Israel pushed tanks deeper into Gaza City and detonated explosives-laden vehicles in one suburb as airstrikes killed at least 19 people, Palestinian officials and witnesses said.

Reports of the offensive came as the president of the world's leading genocide scholars' association said it had passed a resolution saying the legal criteria have been met to establish that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza. There was no immediate response from Israel on the reported offensive or on the statement from the International Association of Genocide Scholars. Israel has in the past strongly denied that its actions in Gaza amount to genocide.

The Israeli military said its forces were continuing to fight Hamas across the enclave and over the past day had struck several mili-

tary structures and outposts that had been used to stage attacks on its troops. Residents said Israeli forces sent old armored vehicles into the eastern parts of the overcrowded Sheikh Radwan neighborhood, then blew them up remotely, destroying several houses and forcing more families to flee.

Israel is pushing ahead with a plan to take full control of the whole Gaza Strip, starting with Gaza City, with the goal of destroying Hamas after nearly two years of war. In leaflets dropped over Gaza City, its military told residents to head south immediately, saying the army intended to expand its offensive westward of the city.

"People are confused, stay and die, or leave toward nowhere," Sheikh Radwan resident Mohammad Abu Abdallah told Reuters. "It was a night

of horror, explosions never stopped, and the drones never stopped hovering over the area. Many people quit their homes fearing for their lives, while others have no idea where to go," the 55-year-old said over a chat app. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu convened his security cabinet late on Sunday to discuss a new offensive to seize Gaza City, which he has described as the bastion of Palestinian militant group Hamas.

Local health authorities said the 14 people, including women and children, were killed in Israeli airstrikes on houses in Gaza City as tanks briefly crossed into Sheikh Radwan. The Israeli military had no immediate comment on those reports.

A full-scale offensive is not expected to start for weeks. Israel says it wants to evacuate the civilian

population before moving more ground forces in. Israel's military has warned its political leaders that the planned Gaza City offensive could endanger hostages still being held by Hamas. Protests in Israel calling for an end to the war and the release of the hostages have intensified in past weeks. The war began with a Hamas-led attack on southern Israel on October 7, 2023, in which around 1,200 people were killed, mostly civilians, and 251 taken hostage. Twenty of the remaining 48 hostages are believed to still be alive.

Israel's military campaign in Gaza has killed more than 63,000 people, mostly civilians, according to Gaza health officials, and it has plunged the enclave into a humanitarian crisis and left much of it in ruins. Ceasefire talks ended in July in deadlock and efforts to revive them have so far failed.

## War in Sudan: Humanitarian, fighting, control developments, August 2025

DARFUR: Sudan's civil war between the Sudanese armed forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) paramilitary has produced the largest humanitarian crisis in the world. Estimates suggested tens of thousands of people have died from combat and thousands more have perished from disease and hunger brought on by the war, now well into its third year.

There have been many significant military and political developments this month. Here are the key updates: The SAF is consolidating its control over the capital, Khartoum, which it took from the RSF in March. It also holds the central and eastern regions of Sudan, including its wartime capital of Port Sudan on the Red Sea. The RSF controls most of the sprawling western region of Darfur and much of the Kordofan region to the south. The RSF continues to besiege North Darfur's capital, el-Fasher, where the SAF has its last Darfur garrison. If el-Fasher falls, the RSF will rule over a stretch of land roughly the size of

France in western Sudan. The RSF has escalated attacks on el-Fasher and on nearby displacement camps, including the Abu Shouk camp, where 190,000 people from around Darfur have sought shelter. It has also erected massive sand berms around el-Fasher from the north, west and east, effectively creating a "kill-box," according to recent satellite imagery obtained by the Yale Humanitarian Research Hub. The RSF is working to expand its control in Kordofan by working with a new ally, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N), headed by Abdelaziz al-Hilu. The two allied in February to counter the SAF on the battlefield. With the help of the SPLM-N, the RSF retains control over most of West and South Kordofan, giving them cross-border access to South Sudan.

SAF controls the most strategic city in North Kordofan, el-Obeid, which the RSF is besieging. The SAF needs to hold onto el-Obeid to keep the RSF from

threatening central Sudan. The RSF has trapped an estimated 260,000 civilians, including 130,000 children, in el-Fasher, turning the city into an "epicentre of child suffering", according to UNICEF. Most are surviving on animal fodder known as ambaz - the residue of pressed oil seeds, such as peanuts, sesame, and sunflower - which they grind into a paste; however, even this is running low. About one-third of the children in Mellit, a city the RSF controls near el-Fasher, are severely malnourished, according to figures obtained by Relief International and shared with Al Jazeera. That is more than double the World Health Organization's threshold for a malnutrition emergency. A cholera outbreak is compounding the humanitarian crisis across the vast region of Darfur, according to Adam Rojal, internally displaced people spokesperson in Darfur. On August 30, he said the water-borne disease killed nine people that day and infected a total of 9,143 people, with 382 deaths,

since the epidemic first started in June 2025.

Food convoys from the United Nations and other nongovernmental organisations rarely reach the neglected region of Darfur due to road closures and bureaucratic impediments. Human rights groups and local activists accuse both sides of weaponising food. The World Food Programme told Al Jazeera that it provides electronic cash assistance to vulnerable people in North Darfur, but no food convoys have reached the region for more than a year. A UN food convoy was hit by a drone strike in North Darfur, the second aid convoy in three months to be targeted. The RSF and SAF traded blame for the attack. There is a similar hunger emergency in South Kordofan due to an RSF siege on the cities of Dilling and Kadugli. RSF leader Mohamed Hamdan "Hemedti" Dagalo was reportedly sworn in as president of the parallel "Peace government" on August 31 in South Darfur's capital, Nyala. SAF hit the city with a drone strike on the same day. — Aljazeera

## Europe is drawing up 'precise' plans to send troops to Ukraine

BRUSSELS (Reuters): Europe is drawing up "pretty precise plans" for a multinational troop deployment to Ukraine as part of post-conflict security guarantees that will have the backing of US capabilities, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen told the Financial Times in an interview published.

"President Trump reassured us that there will be (an) American presence as part of the backstop," von der Leyen told the FT, adding that "That was very clear and repeatedly affirmed." The deployment is set to include potentially tens of thousands of European-led troops, backed by assistance from the US, including control and command systems and intelligence and surveillance assets, the report said, adding that this arrangement was agreed at a meeting between US President Donald Trump, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and senior European leaders last month.

European leaders, including German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer, NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte and von der Leyen are expected to gather in Paris, at the invitation of French President Emmanuel Macron, to continue the high-level discussions on Ukraine, the FT reported, citing three diplomats briefed on the plans.

## Thousands attend funeral of Houthi leaders

SANAA (Reuters): Thousands of mourners attended a funeral at the largest mosque in Yemen's capital Sanaa for 12 senior Houthi figures, including their prime minister, who were killed by an Israeli strike. Last Thursday's attack, the first to kill top officials, struck a large number of people who had gathered to watch a televised speech recorded by top Houthi leader Abdul Malik Al-Houthi, and it left most members of the group's cabinet dead.

Mourners chanted the Houthi slogan "God is Great, Death to America, Death to Israel, Curse on the Jews, Victory to Islam," as Mohammed Miftah, now de facto head of the Iran-aligned government in Sanaa, vowed revenge as well as an internal security crackdown against spies. "We are facing the strongest intelligence empire in the world, the one that targeted the government — the whole Zionist entity (comprising) the US administration, the Zionist entity, the Zionist Arabs and the spies inside Yemen," Miftah told the crowd of mourners at the Al Saleh mosque.

Miftah became the acting head of the Houthis' government on Saturday following the death in the Israeli strike of Prime Minister Ahmad Ghaaleb Al-Rahwi. Al-Rahwi was largely a figurehead and not part of the inner circle of power. Miftah had previously been his deputy. A raid on the United Nations offices in Sanaa on Sunday led to the detention of at least 11 UN personnel, the body said. The Houthis have given no reason for the raid but they have held a number of Yemeni employees of the UN and other aid agencies in the past on suspicion of spying.

Israel said on Friday its airstrike had targeted the Houthis' chief of staff, defense minister and other senior officials and that it was verifying the outcome. The fate of the Houthis' powerful defense minister, Mohamed Al-Atifi, who runs the Missiles Brigades Group, remains unclear as he has not made an appearance since the attack.

Abdul Malik Al-Houthi, who remains alive, has emerged in recent years as one of Iran's most prominent Arab allies and an enduring threat in Israel's side after it weakened many of its enemies in the region, including Lebanon's Hezbollah. Since Israel's war in Gaza against the Palestinian militant group Hamas began in October 2023, the Houthis have attacked vessels in the Red Sea in what they describe as acts of solidarity with the Palestinians.

## Pak Ambassador grieved over of Afghanistan quake

### F.P. Report

ABU DHABI: Pakistan's Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, has expressed deep sorrow and condolences over the severe loss of life and property caused by the recent earthquake and floods in Afghanistan.

In a written statement, he said that Pakistan stands with its Afghan brothers and sisters during this difficult time and shares equally in the grief of the Afghan community residing in the UAE. He added that both



Pakistan and Afghanistan are going through a challenging period due to the earthquakes and floods that

have struck the region. Pakistan and Afghanistan are two brotherly neighboring countries.

He expressed heartfelt sympathy to the families of those who lost their lives in Pakistan and Afghanistan and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured. Referring to those who were martyred in the earthquake and floods, he prayed that Allah grants patience to their bereaved families and bestows the highest place in Paradise upon the departed souls.

## Israel committing genocide in Gaza

GAZA (Reuters): The world's biggest academic association of genocide scholars has passed a resolution saying the legal criteria have been met to establish that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza, its president said.

Eighty-six per cent of those who voted among the 500-member International Association of Genocide Scholars (IAGS) backed the resolution declaring Israel's "policies and actions in Gaza" had met the legal definition set out in Article II of the 1948 UN Convention on genocide. Israel launched its devastating assault on the Gaza Strip in October 2023, after fighters from Hamas attacked Israeli communities, killing 1,200 people and capturing more than 250 hostages. Since then, Israel's military action has killed 63,000 people, damaged or destroyed most buildings in the territory and forced nearly all its residents to flee their homes at least once.

A global hunger monitor relied on by the United Nations says parts of the territory are now suffering a man-made famine, which Israel also denies. The three-page resolution calls on Israel to "immediately cease all acts that constitute genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity against Palestinians in Gaza, including deliberate attacks against and killing of civilians including children; starvation; deprivation of humanitarian aid, water, fuel, and other items essential to the survival of

the population; sexual and reproductive violence; and forced displacement of the population".

It also states that the Hamas attack on Israel, which precipitated the fighting, constituted international crimes. "This is a definitive statement from experts in the field of genocide studies that what is going on on the ground in Gaza is genocide," the association's president, Melanie O'Brien, a professor of international law at the University of Western Australia who specialises in genocide, told Reuters.

"There is no justification for the commission of war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide, not even self-defence," she added. Israel's foreign ministry called the statement disgraceful and "entirely based on Hamas' campaign of lies". Israel has in the past strongly denied that its actions in Gaza amount to genocide and claims they are justified as self-defence. It is fighting a case at the International Court of Justice in The Hague that accuses it of genocide.

The 1948 UN Genocide Convention, adopted in the wake of the mass murder of Jews by Nazi Germany, defines genocide as crimes committed "with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, as such". It requires all countries to act to prevent and stop genocide. Since the genocide scholars' association was founded in 1994, it

has passed nine resolutions recognising historic or ongoing episodes as genocides.

The IAGS publishes a journal and holds regular international conferences of scholars studying genocide, and is considered the largest academic group in the field. Another group, the International Network of Genocide Scholars, also holds conferences and publishes a journal, but does not issue similar resolutions. Ismail Al-Thawabta, head of the Gaza government media office, welcomed the resolution's "prestigious scholarly stance", which he said "places a legal and moral obligation on the international community to take urgent action to stop the crime, protect civilians, and hold the leaders of the occupation accountable".

Sergey Vasilev, a professor of international law at the Open University in the Netherlands who is not a member of the association, told Reuters the resolution showed that "this legal assessment has become mainstream within academia, particularly in the field of genocide studies". Several international rights groups and some Israeli NGOs have already accused Israel of committing genocide. Last week, hundreds of UN staff at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk wrote to ask him to explicitly describe the Gaza conflict as an unfolding genocide, according to a letter reviewed by Reuters.

## Trump says India offered to reduce tariffs

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump said that India has offered to reduce its tariffs on US goods to zero, even as Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was making public shows of solidarity with Chinese and Russian leaders in the face of trade pressure from Washington. While calling the US relationship with India "one sided," Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform: "They have now offered to cut their Tariffs to nothing, but it's getting late. They should have done so years ago."

The Indian Embassy in Washington did not immediately respond to Trump's comments, which follow the implementation of total duties as high as 50% on Indian goods that have

raised questions about the future of the US-India relationship. Trump's remark came as Modi was in China for a summit of more than 20 leaders of non-Western countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, a China-backed initiative given renewed impetus by Trump's global tariff offensive.

At the summit, Chinese President Xi Jinping pressed his vision for a new global security and economic order that prioritizes the "Global South," in a direct challenge to the US. The US-India relationship has strengthened in recent years, including during Trump's first term, given shared concerns about China's growing power, but Trump threatened the tariffs on India after it refused to stop buy-

ing Russian oil in defiance of his efforts to end Moscow's war in Ukraine.

In China, in an image designed to convey solidarity, Putin and Modi were shown holding hands as they walked jovially toward Xi before the summit opened. The three men stood shoulder-to-shoulder, laughing and surrounded by interpreters. Beijing has used the summit to mend ties with New Delhi. Modi, visiting China for the first time in seven years, and Xi agreed on Sunday their countries are development partners, not rivals, and discussed ways to improve trade. The US State Department and White House did not immediately respond to requests for comment on the meetings in China.

## SK suspends anti-North Korea radio broadcasts

SEOUL (Reuters): South Korea has suspended a military radio broadcast that transmits to North Korea as part of measures aimed at easing tensions with Pyongyang. Seoul's defence ministry said. It is the first time that South Korea has stopped the radio broadcast in 15 years since they resumed after North Korea's sinking of a South Korean warship, according to media reports.

The radio broadcast, called "Voice of Freedom", carries items such as news on the North's regime, South Korean economic development or K-pop culture. It has been used as one of South Korea's tools for

psychological warfare against the North. "The Ministry of National Defence has suspended broadcasts of Voice of Freedom as part of measures to ease military tensions between the South and North," Lee Kyung-ho, deputy spokesperson at the ministry, told a press briefing.

The two Koreas remain technically at war since the 1950-53 conflict ended in a truce, not a peace treaty. Shortly after he took office in June, the administration of South Korean President Lee Jae Myung switched off propaganda loudspeaker broadcasts on the border criticising the North's regime as it looks to revive

stalled dialogue with its neighbour.

Lee has vowed to take further steps to dial down tensions with North Korea and proposed a meeting between US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to build peace. But so far North Korea has rebuffed Lee's overtures and said it is not interested in dialogue with South Korea. The North Korean leader plans to visit China this week, its major ally and economic lifeline, to attend a military parade, along with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The Frontier Post

Rehmat Shah Afridi (Late)

Founder

Bilal Shah Afridi

Chief Executive

Jalil Afridi

Managing Editor

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

Peshawar Office: 0300- 9009001

Peshawar Fax: 091-5703687, Post Box No. 573

E-mail: fppeshawar@thefrontierpost.com

Lahore Office: 0335-4026284

Email: fplahore@thefrontierpost.com

Islamabad Office: 0321-5066253

Email: mahmoodafridi@thefrontierpost.com

Karachi Office: 021-32213411, 0300-8340907

Email: fpkarachi@thefrontierpost.com

\*USA and Canada Toll Free Number 1-800-5905747

## Dangers of dehumanization

WHEN a guest tried to bring up events in Gaza on Israel's Channel 13 in July, the host — former English Premier League footballer Eyal Berkovic — responded: "Why should we care?" According to Haartz's Roy Schwartz, writing in The Guardian, the exchange, where guest panelist Emmanuelle Elbaz-Phelps attempted to discuss Gaza only to be cut off and dismissed, is a typical feature of Israeli television's approach during the nearly two-year-long conflict. "References to the suffering of unarmed Palestinians are still relatively rare," Schwartz laments, with even the recent declaration by the UN that Gaza City is experiencing famine being met with "disbelief, seasoned with sarcasm." The concern, voiced by several Israeli authors and activists, as well as prominent outsiders like UN rights chief Volker Turk, is that this continues a trend of dehumanizing the Palestinians in Gaza.

As seen by the frequent protests against the war in Tel Aviv, many Israelis reject the dehumanizing discourse. A diverse section of society wants the war to end and many protesters hold "stop Gaza genocide" signs, emphasizing their empathy with suffering Palestinians. Moreover, of course, Hamas propaganda has its own dehumanizing discourse of Israeli society, contributing to the extent of the slaughter wreaked on Oct. 7, 2023. Many Israeli officials, though, espouse dehumanizing rhetoric. Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich's statement in August 2024 — that "nobody will let us cause 2 million civilians to die of hunger, even though it might be justified and moral, until our hostages are returned" — is one such prominent example. More recently, Tally Gotliv, an MP from Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud party, stated: "There are no noncombatants in Gaza. Everyone is responsible."

Such claims — that there are no innocent civilians or that starvation is a justifiable tactic against certain people — helps to build a negative picture of an "enemy" or "outsider," increasingly stripping them of their shared humanity, impacting their treatment. As Nick Haslam, a professor of psychology at the University of Melbourne in Australia, told the BBC: "People who dehumanize others are certainly more likely to treat them badly." And this seems to be being realized in Gaza. As Prof. Yuli Tamir, a former Israeli education minister, wrote in Haaretz. "Every war entails a certain level of dehumanization of the enemy. But it seems that in the current war in Gaza, the dehumanization of Palestinians is close to absolute." The discourse of leading politicians may therefore have contributed to the extent of the killing and the seeming lack of concern by TV anchors like Berkovic.

Yet, while the Israel-Gaza example is perhaps the most extreme, dehumanization is seemingly on the rise across the world. As is well known, the Trump administration has embarked on what he calls "the largest domestic deportation operation in American history," deporting more than 70,000 illegal migrants by July, with the number rising. Importantly, deportees have reportedly been treated poorly, both in the US and after deportation, such as those sent to mega-prisons in El Salvador, which Amnesty International describe as home to "widespread ill-treatment amounting to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment."

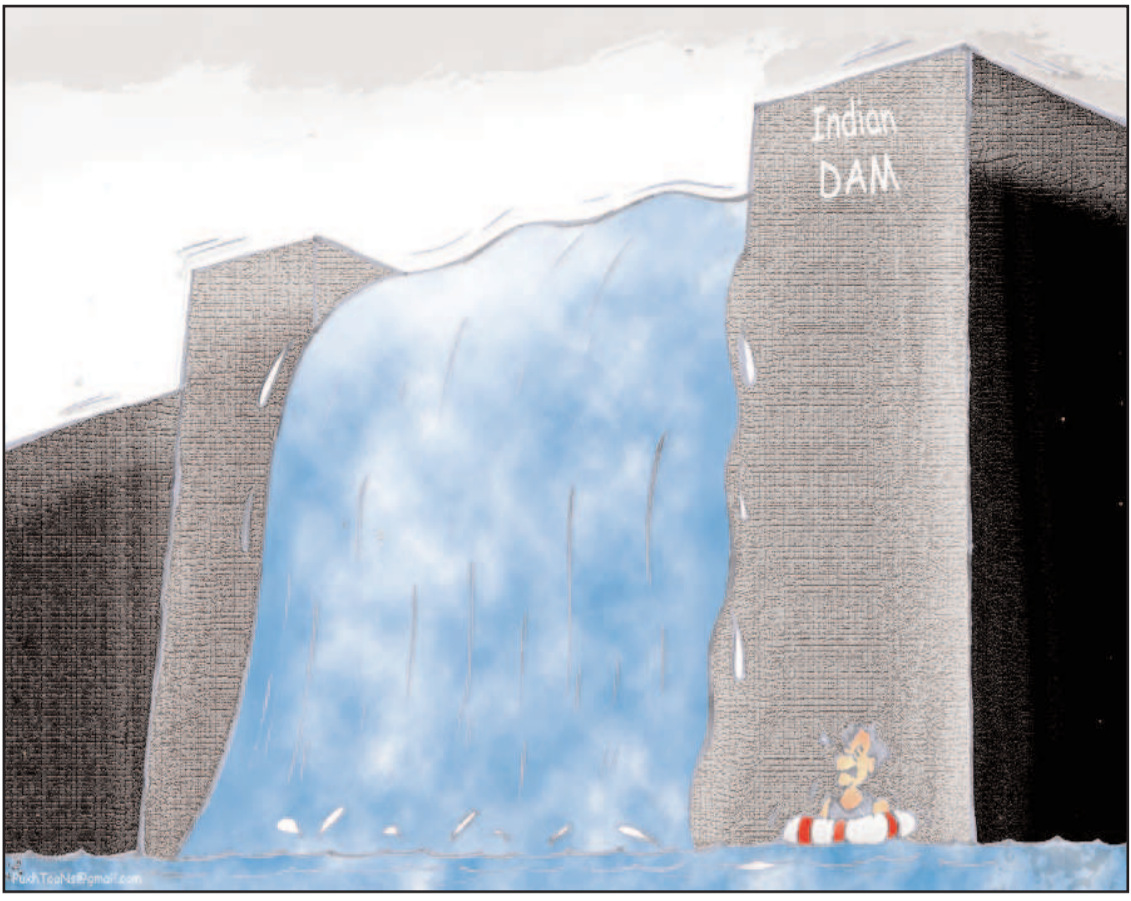
And while a majority (54 percent) of Americans, according to a recent PBS poll, think that Trump's Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency has gone "too far," a sizable number (18 percent) thought it had "not gone far enough." Another 26 percent thought its actions were "about right" — perhaps indicating the effectiveness of the discourse. Dehumanization is also widespread in Europe. Like in the US, immigration has increasingly attracted dehumanizing language. In the UK, politicians have long referred to migrants using animalistic words such as "swarm" or "swamping." As the number of small boats illegally ferrying migrants across the English Channel grew in 2022, then-UK Home Secretary Suella Braverman described "an invasion on our southern coast."

Last week, populist right-wing politician Nigel Farage, whose Reform UK party currently leads British opinion polls, announced a plan to deport up to 600,000 illegal migrants in five years if elected, describing them as an "invasion" and a "scourge" in a speech. Likewise, in Poland recently there has been a rise in protests against migrants, with far-right leaders describing new arrivals as "a flood." Nor is this unique to the West. Indeed, it is a process with a long, depressing history, going back centuries in some cases. In the most extreme examples, dehumanization can help lead to mass killing and slaughter, such as the Holocaust or the Rwandan genocide.

Some, such as the International Association of Genocide Scholars, have argued that is already happening in Gaza, with the organization recently voting that events in the Strip meet the legal definition of the crime. As Haslam argues, dehumanizing language may have played a role in the continued violence. But dehumanizing is not limited to the Gaza war and is now a common feature of many societies, encouraged by politicians, the media and other groups that wish to vilify perceived enemies or outsiders. A distinct lack of empathy and failure to see others' perspective is a concern and examples elsewhere show that this can contribute to dangerous violent outcomes.

### 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.



## Pakistan observing armed forces days this year with pride, resilience

Abdul Basit Alvi

THIS year, Pakistan is observing Defence Day on 6th September, Air Force Day on 7th September, and Navy Day on 8th September with an unprecedented surge of national pride, a deep sense of gratitude, and a collective sense of profound reassurance in the strength and capability of its armed forces. These commemorative days, which are always significant in the national calendar, have taken on a renewed and far deeper meaning in light of the Pakistan Armed Forces' recent exemplary performance in key military operations such as Marka Huq and Bunyan Marsoos.

These highly successful campaigns have not only solidified the Armed Forces' operational credibility on both conventional and unconventional fronts, but have also sent a resounding and unmistakable message to adversaries and allies alike: Pakistan's defense is not just strong—it is, in its core essence, invincible. This enhanced sense of national pride is now shared more deeply across all sectors of society, permeating from the bustling urban centers to the farthest and most remote frontiers, as Pakistanis collectively reaffirm their profound faith in the guardians of their sovereignty. The observance of these defense days is not a mere ceremonial ritual—it is a moment of profound national reckoning, of remembering the immense sacrifices made by those who wear the uniform, and of recognizing the ever-evolving security dynamics of a region that continues to face a complex and multifaceted array of challenges. This year, however, the tone is notably more assertive, confident, and resolute. The operational victories in Marka Huq and Bunyan Marsoos have demonstrated not only the tactical brilliance and strategic acumen of Pakistan's military leadership but also the extraordinary professionalism, unyielding resilience, and remarkable adaptability of its soldiers, airmen, and sailors. These complex operations, conducted under high-stakes scenarios with sophisticated and meticulous planning and real-time precision, were

not just military engagements—they were powerful affirmations of the doctrine that Pakistan's defense lies in proactive, multidimensional strength that seamlessly integrates land, air, and sea operations. In Marka Huq, the Pakistan Army executed a comprehensive and well-coordinated strategic maneuver.

Conducted under extremely difficult terrain and hostile weather conditions, Mark Huq proved the Army's unmatched endurance and intelligence superiority, utilizing advanced surveillance, precise targeting, and integrated army tactics with devastating effectiveness. The operation served as a clear and unambiguous indicator to both internal saboteurs and external foreign interests that Pakistan's resolve is unbreakable. Likewise, Bunyan al-Marsous was an equally significant demonstration of flawless air and naval synergy.

The Pakistan Air Force, with its modernized fleet and combat-hardened pilots, executed precision strikes that neutralized key enemy strongholds and command centers. These were not random retaliatory actions—they were highly coordinated, meticulously planned, and intelligence-backed operations aimed at securing vital national interests. The PAF displayed not only remarkable agility in the air but also a refined strategic outlook, using advanced electronic warfare capabilities and integrated command systems to dominate the battlespace. The Navy, on the other hand, maintained a vigilant and powerful presence in strategic maritime corridors throughout the operation, securing trade routes and providing essential logistical support to inter-service operations. Naval assets such as submarines, surface ships, and maritime patrol aircraft operated with clockwork coordination, further amplifying the deterrent power of Pakistan's tri-service integration.

The impact of these clear and decisive victories has reverberated throughout the entire nation. For the first time in many years, there is a widespread and deeply ingrained sense of certainty among citizens that their country's defense is in truly capable hands. The power-

ful psychological assurance that stems from watching one's armed forces respond with such precision, restraint, and overwhelming force when necessary, has profoundly emboldened national sentiment. From the bustling streets of Lahore to the majestic mountains of Swat and the coastal shores of Gwadar, there is a unified and shared belief that Pakistan's sovereignty is secured not merely by barbed wire and bunkers, but by the will, the skill, and the profound sacrifice of those who wear the uniform. Parents are now more proudly sending their children to join the military academies, young students are studying the history of these operations with patriotic fervor, and the media landscape is echoing with heartfelt tributes, insightful documentaries, and informed discussions on national resilience.

This year, as the commemorative ceremonies unfold across the country on Defence Day, Air Force Day, and Navy Day, there is more than just symbolism in the fly-pasts, parades, and wreath-laying at martyrs' monuments. These events have become powerful national affirmations—statements of unshakable strength, deep-seated unity, and a clear vision for the future. The nation's leadership, both civil and military, have used these moments to remind the world that Pakistan does not seek conflict, but neither will it ever compromise on its security. These commemorations also honor the sacred memory of those who laid down their lives in past battles—from the fierce tank duels in Chawinda in 1965, to the operations in Kargil, Swat, and Waziristan—linking the heroism of the past with the operational excellence of the present.

It is a powerful continuum of courage that has become an intrinsic part of the nation's military tradition. Furthermore, these national days are also fostering a renewed and healthier sense of civilian-military harmony. In a country that has often faced external misinformation campaigns aimed at sowing distrust between its institutions, the recent and clear achievements have helped bridge gaps in public perception. The Armed Forces

have become more engaged in community outreach, disaster response, and national development projects, all while maintaining peak operational readiness. On these commemorative days, public access to naval bases, spectacular air shows, and insightful military exhibitions serve not just to celebrate hardware and firepower, but to build an emotional and psychological trust between the people and their protectors. Pakistan's growing and profound emphasis on self-reliance in defense production has also played a major role in fueling this year's sense of national pride. Indigenous programs like the JF-17 Thunder fighter jet, advanced missile systems, naval modernization, and cutting-edge drone surveillance technology are all the hard-earned products of years of strategic investment in domestic capability.

The successful application of these indigenous assets in real-time operations during Marka Huq and Bunyan Marsoos has irrefutably validated those efforts and proved that Pakistan is no longer dependent solely on foreign defense procurement. The long-cherished vision of a modern, self-reliant, and invincible Pakistan Armed Forces is no longer a distant and abstract dream—it is a visible, tangible, and operational reality.

This year's observance of Defence Day, Air Force Day, and Navy Day is thus far more than a simple series of dates marked on a calendar. It is a powerful and unified convergence of national pride, operational success, strategic depth, and public confidence. These commemorations resonate louder in 2025 than perhaps any time in recent history because they are not just about past victories—they are powerful celebrations of present strength and a clear vision for future security.

Pakistanis now believe, with a renewed and unshakable conviction, that their defense is in safe and capable hands. The guardians of the nation's sovereignty—on land, in the skies, and across the seas—have proven, time and again, that they are not only the defenders of borders, but the steadfast defenders of hope, dignity, and the very soul of Pakistan.

## Role and impact of Amicus Curiae

Zia-ur-Rehman Tajik

**A**N amicus-curiae, a Latin term meaning "friend of the court," is a learned jurist who advises the court at its request. Their purpose is to help the court avoid errors in judgment and protect its honour by providing impartial information that may be beyond the court's notice or expertise. According to the Law Lexicon, an amicus-curiae either volunteers or is invited by the court to offer insight on a matter of law in which the court is doubtful or mistaken, or to provide facts necessary for a proper disposition of a case.

This concept is a pivotal aspect of judicial systems worldwide, including Pakistan. An amicus curiae's role is crucial in ensuring justice is served, especially in cases involving intricate legal questions or matters of significant public importance. The person appointed as amicus is typically a senior lawyer or an individual with significant expertise in the relevant field of law. They are an impartial advisor to a court of law, not engaged by any of the parties to the case. The amicus assists and advises the court on a legal issue that directly affects the matter in dispute. In the early 17th century, under Roman law, an accused person in heinous offences like murder, rape, and mutiny was not allowed to hire the services of a lawyer for their defence. Over time, however, the accused was permitted to defend themselves through a friend who was more acquainted with the facts of the case, which led to the development of the concept of the amicus curiae.

Types of Amicus Curiae: The advice and assistance of an amicus curiae can significantly influence a court's decision, as well as the administration and delivery of justice. An amicus provides relevant information, suggestions, and expertise to ensure a complete presentation of an issue, which the court considers before ruling.

There are two main types of amicus curiae: De jure amicus curiae: This refers to an amicus who directly assists the court by filing a brief and presenting arguments. The court gives significant weight to their submissions. De facto amicus curiae: These are individuals who do not file a formal brief but present their viewpoints in print, social, and electronic media based on their expertise. While they are technically considered amici, there's no guarantee that their opinions, newspaper editorials, or blogs will be read. However, their views still have the potential to influence a court's decision.

Amicus Curiae's Responsibilities and Duties: Upon appointment, an amicus-curiae must not have any prior relationship with the parties involved in the case. They cannot take instructions from the parties and cannot be dismissed by them. Their duty is to the court, not to the parties. They are not responsible for formulating a party's arguments or representing them in the way an advocate would represent a client. The amicus must fairly assess the case and argue it in a way that avoids any inference of tilting toward a particular party.

The help of an amicus is needed by the court to avoid actual unfairness and to deal with the issue expeditiously

and fairly. The appointment of an amicus curiae provides a safeguard to ensure that arguments are properly considered in a manner that is most helpful to the court and advantageous to the litigants. They must perform their duties effectively and in accordance with the conditions mentioned in the court's order.

While the parties to a case generally focus on the facts and law relating to their specific case, an amicus curiae provides additional information that is not limited to the record on file. An amicus provides expertise and suggestions to the court from outside sources, such as historical developments of a legal rule or rules followed in other jurisdictions. Amicus briefs and arguments are generally viewed as being less formal than the parties' briefs and help in understanding complex technical issues.

The Amicus Curiae in Pakistan: In Pakistan, the appointment of an amicus curiae is either legislative or part of the court's inherent power. Traditionally, their role is not to advocate on behalf of a particular party. The Supreme Court and High Courts in Pakistan appoint senior advocates with substantial experience and expertise as amici curiae. An amicus is appointed when the court feels the need for an expert opinion, such as when a matter involves the interpretation of law and the constitution, the upholding of justice, the protection of fundamental rights, and the independence of the judiciary.

The amicus curiae had significantly impacted the dispensation of justice in Pakistan, contributing to more informed and balanced decisions. Their involvement has enhanced the judiciary's understanding of complex legal issues, ensured fair trials, and upheld the principles of natural justice and equality before the law.

Criticisms and Challenges: Despite the benefits and the vital role an amicus-curiae plays in the development of legal jurisprudence, its role has been subjected to criticism and challenges.

Risk of Bias: While an amicus is expected to be impartial, there is always a risk of bias, especially when the amicus has prior affiliations or interests related to the case.

Increased Time and Resources: The involvement of an amicus curiae can increase the time and resources required to resolve a case. Over-reliance on an amicus can also undermine the role of the actual parties in the litigation. An amicus also does not fulfill the role that an advocate would fulfill had a party chosen to appoint their own lawyer.

Lack of Experience: The appointment of a less experienced lawyer as an amicus is potentially disadvantageous. Their limited knowledge could lead to them being easily influenced by the parties, resulting in biased and incomplete information. A less experienced advocate's arguments and assistance may also be perceived by the court as less credible due to a lack of an established reputation. Poor preparation by an amicus can also require judges to spend more time and effort sifting through irrelevant information, suggestions, and submissions.

The writer is an Advocate, Supreme Court of Pakistan, based at Peshawar, LLM (Constitutional Law).

## Pakistan needs its own rules for AI before it too late

Dr. Muhammad Anwar Farooq

**A**RTIFICIAL Intelligence is no longer a futuristic idea. It is already woven into daily life even in Pakistan. TikTok filters, predictive text on phones, banking chatbots and facial recognition at airports all show how quietly it has arrived. The problem is that while the technology is moving quickly, the rules are missing. And when powerful tools spread without safeguards, they bring not only innovation but also the risk of abuse.

At the moment Pakistan is simply observing how others act. Europe has passed the EU AI Act, the first comprehensive law that classifies AI systems according to their level of risk. The United States has leaned on voluntary standards, allowing industry to regulate itself. China has chosen the opposite route, embedding AI into its system of surveillance and control. These examples may tempt Pakistan to copy

them, but they cannot be transplanted here. Each country writes its rules according to its own priorities. Europe emphasizes privacy and human rights. China emphasizes state stability. Pakistan faces weak institutions, low digital literacy and mistrust between citizens and government. Imported rules will not fit these conditions.

The risks of waiting are serious. During an election, deepfake videos could flood WhatsApp groups and spread lies faster than facts can correct them. AI-powered surveillance could quietly expand in cities without oversight, justified in the name of security. Private companies might use facial recognition for advertising without citizens even realizing their images are being collected. These scenarios are not distant speculation. The United States already struggles with AI-generated deepfake videos, a devastating tool of online harassment

targeting women. China's widespread facial recognition has drawn global alarm. In Kenya, AI-powered credit apps have pushed people into cycles of debt. Pakistan will face similar challenges if it does not prepare.

Pakistan's vulnerabilities are sharper than most. Disinformation already poisons politics, with doctored images and edited audio circulating widely. AI-generated deepfakes would make this even worse. Banks and telecom companies are beginning to use AI for customer service and financial decisions. If an algorithm wrongly blocks a SIM card or denies a loan, who is responsible? The company, the software developer or the system itself? In Pakistan's weak regulatory culture, citizens will be left helpless. Language is another barrier. Most AI tools operate in English, excluding Pakistanis who rely on Urdu

or regional languages. No doubt, surveillance is an additional risk. With already implemented biometric databases and Safe City projects already in place, AI could rapidly expand monitoring powers. Without legal protections this would create unchecked authority.

The lesson from abroad is to adapt rather than imitate. Europe's insistence on transparency, requiring companies to explain how AI affects people's rights, provides a model that Pakistan could apply in banking, policing and healthcare. The American approach shows how voluntary standards can encourage innovation but also invite abuse. That is a mistake Pakistan cannot afford. China shows the efficiency of state-led AI but also the cost, which is the erosion of freedom. Pakistan, still struggling to strengthen its democracy, must avoid this path.

A Pakistani approach should begin with the most urgent issue, elections. If AI-generated disinformation is left unchecked, democratic credibility will be the first casualty. The Election Commission, supported by technology platforms, should ban deepfakes in campaigns and create rapid response systems to detect and remove them. Consumer protection must also be a priority. Citizens using AI systems in banks, hospitals or telecom services should be informed and have the right to request a human review if a decision feels unfair. Biometric data must be shielded by strict legal protections to prevent misuse for political or commercial purposes.

Inclusion is equally important. If AI tools for education or public services remain in English, the gap between elites and the majority will widen. Urdu and regional languages must be built into these systems from the start. Finally, Pakistan

requires an independent AI commission with real authority, not a symbolic office inside a ministry. This commission should bring together technologists, ethicists, civil society and policymakers to ensure AI is developed and used responsibly.

The temptation will be to wait, as Pakistan often does, until problems erupt. But AI is not like a fuel shortage or a flood. Once embedded in everyday systems, it becomes invisible and irreversible. If boundaries are not set now, we will be governed by technologies that we neither understand nor control. The countries that will succeed in the AI era are not only those inventing the smartest tools. They are also the ones writing the smartest rules. Pakistan cannot afford to remain a bystander. If we do not shape our own AI story, others will shape it for us and the ending may not be one we like.

# The Druze-Bedouin clashes in Syria were not a sectarian conflict

Haian Dukhan & Dawn Chatty

**THE flare-up of violence in Syria's southern province of Suwayda in July has once again raised fears that the country may slip back into conflict. Media headlines were quick to paint this as another episode in the region's longstanding "sectarian strife" between Druze and Sunni Bedouin communities. But such framing obscures more than it reveals.**

The reality is more complex. While sectarian identities have been invoked during periods of tension, the root causes of this conflict lie elsewhere: in historical disputes over land and pastures, in competition over smuggling routes and state patronage, and in economic collapse exacerbated by prolonged drought and climate change. To reduce this flare-up to a matter of religious hatred is to erase the deeper political ecology and social history of the region and obfuscate ways to resolve tensions.

In the 18th century, the Druze began migrating to Jabal al-Arab, a mountainous region in what was then the Hauran Sanjak of the Ottoman Empire, as a result of contestations among the various Druze tribes in Mount Lebanon. They established villages, cultivated land, and eventually asserted political and military dominance in the region.

The Druze saw their settlement of the area as reclaiming barren terrain — a land they described in their oral tradition as "empty". But this narrative has been deeply contested by the Bedouin herding communities, who had a presence in the region centuries earlier. The Bedouin were a mobile society and did not establish permanent settlements; they used the land seasonally to graze their herds, navigating ancient migration routes and relying on water sources that could not be owned privately. To them, these were not vacant spaces but

ancestral landscapes, and the Druze tribes were the newcomers.

This inevitably led to conflict. Skirmishes over pasture rights, access to wells, and control of borderlands were a recurring feature of the region's social fabric. Historical accounts refer to these confrontations as ghazawat — tribal raids and counter-raids that were as much about resource competition as they were about honour and survival. Druze oral history tended to depict Bedouins as marauders, prone to betrayal. Bedouin narratives portrayed Druze expansion as a form of territorial encroachment.

And yet, the relationship was never exclusively hostile. There were periods of coexistence and cooperation: Druze farmers hired Bedouin herders, and Bedouin communities relied on Druze markets and grain supplies. But this fragile equilibrium often collapsed during times of stress, particularly during drought, state collapse, or political interference. Over the course of the past two centuries, successive regimes — from the Ottomans to the French Mandate and then the rule of the Assad family — exploited and entrenched local tensions to serve broader strategies of control.

To reassert its authority over the increasingly autonomous Druze of Jabal al-Arab, the Ottoman Empire turned to the Bedouin tribes and encouraged their raids on rebellious Druze villages. The aim was not only to punish dissent among the Druze but also to counterbalance their growing influence without committing large imperial forces. The result was a deliberate deepening of inter-communal hostilities between the Druze and the Bedouin at the turn of the 20th century. France, which took control of Syria after World War I,

also sought to control the region by exploiting existing fault lines. It gave special privileges to the Druze by establishing the Jabal Druze State, but that did not placate the community.

In 1925, a revolt broke out in Jabal al-Arab led by Druze commander Sultan al-Atrash. Bedouin groups joined forces with the Druze, fighting together in major engagements such as the battles of al-Kafir and al-Mazraa. This moment of cooperation between Druze and Bedouin communities was born out of shared grievances and a collective opposition to colonial rule. It demonstrated the potential for intercommunal unity in resistance.

After independence in 1946, this fragile relationship deteriorated once more when President Adib Shishakli launched a violent campaign against the Druze, portraying them as a threat to national unity. His forces occupied the Jabal and reportedly encouraged Bedouin tribes to raid Druze villages, rekindling fears of collusion and solidifying a narrative of betrayal.

The civil war brought the Syrian economy to the brink, which badly affected the south, long neglected by the central government. For both communities, survival has come to depend not on formal employment or agriculture alone, but on informal economies that intersect and compete in dangerous ways.

In the absence of state services, many parts of southern Syria have become reliant on smuggling routes, especially across the porous Jordanian border. Fuel, narcotics, and basic goods all move through these corridors. Controlling a checkpoint or a smuggling route today can mean the difference between subsistence and destitution. For Druze factions in Suwayda and Bedouin groups oper-

ating on the desert fringes, this has translated into conflict over territory, disguised as security enforcement or tribal honour.

These are strategic contests over mobility and access. A Bedouin group accused of cooperating with traffickers may clash with a Druze militia that seeks to police the area, or vice versa. Accusations of betrayal, retaliatory killings, and road closures follow. What might appear externally as communal violence is, in practice, a struggle over the spoils of an informal economy in a lawless zone.

Compounding this is the region's increasing vulnerability to climate change. Recurrent droughts have devastated traditional forms of livelihood. Druze farmers have seen crop yields collapse; Bedouin pastoralists can no longer sustain herds on shrinking grasslands. What was once a seasonal rhythm of co-dependence — grazing on open land in winter, planting and harvest in summer — has broken down. Both communities now compete over increasingly scarce and degraded land.

In this context, to frame the violence purely as a sectarian feud is not only inaccurate; it is politically dangerous. Such a narrative serves those who benefit from fragmentation. Portraying local conflicts as ancient hatreds justifies repression and delays any serious efforts to implement decentralisation or pursue reconciliation. It erases the long history of cooperation, trade, and even shared struggle between Druze and Bedouin tribal communities. And it silences the real, material demands at stake: secure land rights, sustainable economic opportunities, and an end to imposed political marginality. Understanding this conflict as economic and political, rather than a religious or tribal one, is the first step towards ending it.

# I survived the Gaza genocide only to witness firsthand Western complicity

Nour Elassy

**I write this from Paris, a city wrapped in blue and yellow. All around me, Ukrainian flags hang like moral badges pinned to French facades. I arrived in this city just a few weeks ago as a survivor of the genocide in Gaza, leaving my country burning behind me. I had the privilege to be evacuated by the French government as a student admitted to a French university.**

What first struck me about Paris, this so-called city of liberty, was its curated grief, sanctioned empathy, and decorated silence. France mourns Ukraine loudly. Gaza, on the other hand, must be whispered. The Palestinian flag cannot be seen here. It is hidden, feared, criminalised. If you're lucky, you find it painted in graffiti, a shy declaration of solidarity hastily sprayed like a secret.

Should I be surprised? After all, France is a colonial empire that never dismantled itself, but only rebranded. From Algeria to Vietnam to Syria, France's hands are stained with the blood of those who dared to resist it. When France supported the Zionist movement in the 20th century, when it trained Israeli officers, when it helped militarise a settler-colonial state on stolen land, it wasn't out of ignorance. It was out of solidarity, white solidarity, with another colonial project.

France condemned the Russian invasion of Ukraine within hours. It opened its borders. It cried on TV. It cancelled concerts and imposed sanctions. Why?

Because Ukraine is white. But when Israel flattens entire neighbourhoods in Gaza, when it bombs hospitals, starves children, cuts water, drops banned weapons, and grinds families into bone dust, France hesitates. It equivocates. It blames Hamas. It insists on "context". It hands Israel even more weapons. What is happening in Gaza is not a "conflict". It is not "complicated". It is a genocide.

By official statistics, more than 63,000 Palestinians have been killed since October 7, 2023; by scientific estimates, the true death toll is in the hundreds of thousands. Over 70 percent are women and children. More than 80 percent of the population is surviving, barely, on one meal a day, often canned food or cooked grass or leaves. Every day, we lose dozens of civilians trying to get aid. Some 340 children and adults have died from starvation in just a few months.

Every hospital in the north has been destroyed. Children are getting amputated without anaesthesia. People with chronic diseases are dying on a mass scale due to the lack of medication and treatment. Aid trucks are blocked. Water desalination plants are bombed. More than two million people are displaced. And still, there is silence.

United Nations experts, all major international human rights organisations, thousands of legal and other scholars, and even former Israeli officials have said

that this war has crossed every red line of international law. And yet, here in France, we are told to lower our voices. We are told that shouting "Free Palestine" might be anti-Semitic. The people who wave Ukrainian flags with pride tell us our grief must be "balanced". They rage against Russian imperialism but justify Israeli settler colonialism. This isn't neutrality. This is white supremacy.

Gaza has become their moral exception. Their blind spot. Their expendable other. The news every newsroom twists itself to avoid. But here is the truth: Palestine has no army, no jets, no ships, no nuclear weapons. What we have is resistance. Hamas is not a state military. It is the outcome of decades of siege, occupation, apartheid, and abandonment. And while European leaders rush to condemn Hamas at every opportunity they get, they refuse to condemn the occupation that birthed it. They erase our right to resist, while glorifying the Ukrainian resistance, heaping on it weapons and praise.

In Ukraine, Molotov cocktails are "heroism". In Gaza, stones are "terrorism". That's hypocrisy. That's the algorithm of white empathy. What is happening in Gaza is not a war between two armies. It is the wholesale destruction of an occupied people by one of the most advanced armies in the world. It is genocide aided by Western arms, pro-

tested by Western silence, and beautified by humanitarian lies.

France wants to pretend its complicity is historical, that it ended with the end of formal colonialism. But how do you explain the weapons? The diplomatic immunity? The refusal to abide by the arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu? The banning of pro-Palestinian protests in Paris? The surveillance of Muslim students? I left Gaza in a United Nations-escorted evacuation, organised by the French consulate in Jerusalem, my name selected among thousands. I was not allowed to carry anything. No laptop. No books. No memories. Just the clothes on my back and my phone.

I passed through Israeli checkpoints where soldiers looked at me as if I were not human. Four hours across the desert felt like four decades. And now I'm here, walking the boulevards of a city that claims to love freedom, while my people die for daring to want it. Do not tell me this is just politics. It is racism. It is hypocrisy. The genocide of my people is being watched from balconies draped with Ukrainian flags. I don't want pity. I want accountability. I want justice. I want to see Palestinian flags hanging next to those of Ukraine, not as competition, but as truth. Because if solidarity depends on skin colour, borders, or geopolitical interest, it is not solidarity. It is supremacy.

Aljazeera

# Gaza famine is a time bomb threatening Arab security

Hani Hazaimeh

**THE unfolding famine in Gaza has been framed almost exclusively as a humanitarian catastrophe, a moral test for the international community and a devastating chapter in the long saga of Palestinian suffering. But to reduce it merely to a tragedy contained within Gaza's besieged borders is to miss the broader picture. What Israel is enacting through deliberate starvation policies is not only a war crime under international law, but also the seed of a looming Arab security crisis. The reverberations of Gaza's famine will extend far beyond its borders, threatening to destabilize Jordan, Egypt and the wider Arab world in ways that the region cannot afford to ignore.**

For months, Israel has maintained an ironclad blockade, restricting food, water, medicine and other essentials from entering Gaza. This is not collateral damage or the byproduct of war, it is a calculated policy aimed at breaking the will of a civilian population. Children are malnourished, hospitals are collapsing and families are surviving on little more than animal feed. International aid convoys have been consistently blocked and humanitarian appeals repeatedly disregarded. This has created a famine in real time, visible to the world through harrowing images and testimonies. But what Israel sees as a tool to weaken Hamas has far wider implications, partic-

ularly for the stability of neighboring Arab states.

The most immediate risk lies in the potential for mass displacement. Gaza's population of more than 2 million people has been effectively trapped within an open-air prison. If famine continues to deepen and if Israeli military operations expand, the likelihood of a forced mass exodus increases dramatically.

Egypt, already grappling with economic challenges, would face unbearable pressure should Palestinians be pushed toward the Sinai Peninsula. Jordan, with its own delicate demographic and political balance, cannot absorb another wave of refugees without inflaming tensions at home. The Arab world knows well from history that refugee crises do not remain temporary; they reshape the politics, security and stability of host countries for decades.

But the refugee threat is only one layer of the problem. Famine is a radicalizing force. A generation of young Palestinians growing up under starvation, siege and the complete absence of hope will not emerge as passive victims. They will carry the scars of hunger and humiliation into adulthood, fueling militancy and creating fertile ground for extremist ideologies.

For Arab states that have long sought to prevent the spread of radicalization within their borders, this is an uncontrollable wildfire waiting to spread.

Israel's actions may weaken Hamas in the short term, but they will almost certainly create a more fragmented, more desperate and more volatile set of actors within Palestinian society — actors whose rage will not be contained by Gaza's walls.

Moreover, famine erodes the very idea of international order in the region. The Arab world has long relied, however uneasily, on international law, humanitarian conventions and multilateral institutions to protect Palestinian rights. Yet what Gaza demonstrates is that Israel can impose starvation with impunity, shielded by US vetoes at the UN and Western silence. This collapse of accountability sends a dangerous message: that brute force and collective punishment are permissible tools of statecraft.

If this precedent holds, what is to stop similar tactics from being used elsewhere? Arab states must recognize that the normalization of famine as a weapon sets a precedent that threatens their own security in future conflicts. From a strategic perspective, Israel's starvation policy is short-sighted even on its own terms. Starving Gaza into submission will not bring long-term peace or security for Israelis. Instead, it will destabilize the region, create new fronts of conflict and deepen Israel's isolation. For Arab states, the danger lies not only in responding to the immediate humanitarian disaster but also in

preparing for the ripple effects — waves of refugees, militant radicalization, political upheaval and the erosion of international norms.

The famine in Gaza is therefore not just a Palestinian tragedy, it is a mirror reflecting the vulnerabilities of the Arab world itself. It challenges Arab governments to confront a stark reality: that their security is inseparable from the fate of Palestinians. To view Gaza's starvation as a contained crisis is to indulge in a dangerous illusion. In truth, it is a time bomb ticking at the heart of Arab security. The question is not whether the consequences will spill over but how quickly and how destructively they will do so.

The Arab response must go beyond charity and humanitarian aid. It requires a unified political stance that treats Gaza's famine not only as a moral outrage but as a direct national security threat. Failure to act decisively will leave Arab states scrambling to manage the fallout of a crisis that could have been confronted at its root. History will not forgive hesitation in the face of starvation. Gaza's famine is a deliberate act of war and its consequences will not stop at the Erez or Rafah crossings. They will reverberate through several Arab capitals and beyond. For the Arab world, the choice is stark: act now to confront this policy of starvation or face the unraveling of regional stability for years to come.

Arab News

# Shaheer's tragedy — A mirror to our collective failure

**THE death of Shaheer, a brilliant 15-year-old A-Level student from Chakwal, is more than a personal tragedy — it is a wake-up call for us all. With his father's pistol, Shaheer silenced a promising life, but not before leaving behind haunting words rooted in the philosophy of Nihilism — the belief that life has no meaning, love is merely chemical, virtue is instinct, and death the only escape.**

His writings reveal not just an individual's despair but the growing crisis of meaning and belonging faced by many of our youth. The pressing question is unavoidable: Why did a child so young, so intelligent, and so full of potential, come to see life as unworthy of living? And more importantly: Where did parents, teachers, and society fail him?

Parents: The First Line of Care; The family is a child's first institution of love, guidance, and safety. Yet in many homes, emotional connection is overshadowed by pressure, comparison, and silence. Children often carry unasked questions and unspoken fears because they are afraid of rejection or criticism. Parents must realize that their children's worth cannot be reduced to grades or achievements. Listening, empathy, and unconditional love are the

Dr. Inayat-ur-Rehman

shields that can protect young hearts from falling into hopelessness.

Teachers: Beyond Examinations; In our education system, teachers are often confined to transmitting knowledge and measuring performance. But the role of a teacher is far greater — to guide, mentor, and nurture. A quiet student, a sudden change in behavior, or a troubling question are signals that must not be ignored. A compassionate teacher can become the bridge between despair and resilience, often making the difference between life and death.

Society: Rethinking Success; As a society, we glorify wealth, grades, and social status as the only measures of success. From an early age, children are taught that they must outpace others in a never-ending race. This ruthless competition suffocates individuality and leaves many behind in silent misery. The narrative must change: true success lies not in defeating others, but in building character, kindness, and humanity. Communities, media, and policymakers must work together to shift these values.

Religion and Sports: Protective Anchors; It is worth noting that, so far, neither a truly religious youth nor a committed sportsman has been driven to suicide. Religion pro-

vides purpose, meaning, and hope — teaching patience, resilience, and the understanding that life is a test, not a void. Sports, on the other hand, channel energy, reduce stress, and build discipline and teamwork. Depriving children of religion or physical activity strips them of two of the strongest shields against despair. Parents and schools must ensure that young people remain connected to both faith and sports. These are not optional luxuries — they are essential lifelines.

Conclusion: Shaheer's death is not only a personal loss for his family; it is a collective failure of our homes, schools, and social values. If parents continue to measure children only by grades, if teachers remain examiners rather than mentors, and if society keeps glorifying wealth over character, more tragedies will follow.

The lesson from Shaheer's story is clear: our children must know they are valued, whether they succeed or fail, whether they win or lose. Only when parents offer love, teachers provide guidance, and society respects humanity above numbers, can we prevent such tragedies and replace despair with hope.

*The writer is teacher Islamia Collegiate School of Islamia College University Peshawar.*

# What is driving rise of radical right in Europe?

Eyad Abu Shakra

**I have been living in Britain since the late 1970s, but have never witnessed what I am seeing today. Some roundabouts in London have been painted with the red cross of St. George — England's historic and religious emblem, which also features, alongside the cross of St. Andrew for Scotland and the cross of St. Patrick for Ireland, on the Union Flag — against a white background.**

This symbolism emphasizes an English identity over identification with Britain. We should note that, hard-line English isolationists see "Britishness" as a contrived identity born out of the Anglo-Saxon nationalist expansion that subdued, then subsumed, the Celtic minorities — the Scots, Irish, and Welsh — under the imperial crown.

It is true that the evolution of the UK — the official name for Great Britain and Northern Ireland — weakened ethno-linguistic loyalties and nationalisms to a degree, but it has not eliminated them entirely. In many conservative rural regions of England, many continue to see the Labour Party as a representative of minorities and foreigners. This sentiment has long empowered the Conservative Party politically. At the dawn of the 20th century, the Conservatives — the natural heirs of the old Tory Party — and the Liberals, who inherited the position of the Whigs, were the primary protagonists of British politics.

With the French Revolution having released the ideals of liberalism, these soon spread to Britain's North American colonies. However, the excesses of France's post-revolutionary Reign of Terror gave rise to a pragmatic, conservative intellectual backlash seeking to curb the excesses of liberalism, restore the authority of state power, and safeguard the cohesion and interests of the British Empire. The conflict between the liberal camp, which advocated emancipation and liberation, and the conservative camp, which championed the empire and stability, soon shaped both domestic and foreign policy. Over the ensuing decades, the Conservatives and Liberals produced some of the most prominent statesmen in Britain's imperial history.

Things began to shift, however, with the rise of socialist ideas in Europe,

and with the emergence of influential socialist thinkers in Germany, Britain, and elsewhere. Without delving too deeply into this intellectual history, several models for a "socialist alternative" took shape across the Continent, creating a spectrum that spanned communism, or "scientific socialism," to social democracy. Britain was not insulated from socialist thought, neither intellectually nor in terms of its labor movement. Together, these forces gave rise to a new political force of the left: the Labour Party. Over time, Labour established itself as a central political player, becoming the primary rival of the Conservatives, which represented the institutional and pragmatic right.

The two main parties, Conservatives and Labour, along with the Liberal Party, which became the Liberal Democrats after merging with the breakaway Social Democratic Party (1981–1988), remain fixtures in British politics. Despite their long history, these three parties have faced mounting challenges from two new political models. The first model includes parties and movements centered on ethnolinguistic identity. Often, these advocated separatism or autonomy: the Scottish National Party, the major parties of Northern Ireland (notably the Catholic Sinn Féin and the Protestant Democratic Unionist Party), and Welsh nationalist Plaid Cymru.

The second is radical parties, both on the far right and far left. The leading force of this politics is the Reform Party, an ultra-right-wing, anti-immigrant, anti-European movement. A less prominent movement has been formed by the radical left, notably the party being established by Jeremy Corbyn, a former left-wing Labour leader. Under the leadership of Nigel Farage, the Reform Party currently leads opinion polls, ahead of both Labour and the Conservatives. Notably, the more confident the party becomes about its popularity, the more acrid and overtly racist its rhetoric becomes, as we see with calls for sending "illegal immigrants" back to their countries.

The Reform Party is hardly an isolated phenomenon, whether in Britain or Europe more

broadly. Britain has known similar figures before: the most notable was Sir Oswald Mosley (1896–1980), the leader of the British Union of Fascists; and Enoch Powell (1912–1998), a hard-line Conservative who later left the party and returned to Parliament representing one of Northern Ireland's right-wing parties. Without underestimating the influence of far-right movements in the US under Donald Trump, or in India under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, this right-wing surge can be placed within the context of a broader phenomenon in Europe.

Parties once relegated to the margins are now behind the wheel in countries such as Italy, the Netherlands, and Hungary, and are becoming increasingly powerful in France, Spain, Portugal, and Greece. Several factors explain the rise of the radical, racist right and the simultaneous decline of the left. Among the most significant of these factors is globalization; over the past few decades, it has erased political and geographical boundaries between nations and sharply increased migration to Western countries, particularly from Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

A second factor is the diminishing value of the individual in the face of rapid technological advances, including artificial intelligence, making stable employment seem far-fetched to billions of people. In turn, this precarity undercuts the capacity of labor unions and leftist parties to provide safety nets for their constituencies. A third factor is the demographic shift underway in "white Christian European societies," whose population is either growing slowly or stagnant in Europe, North America, and Australia, while the population of "non-Christian, non-white migrant communities" rises at a far faster rate.

I will conclude with an incidental, but telling, observation. The "Trump phenomenon" in the US emerged only a few years after the country elected its first African American president. Likewise, in Britain, the Conservative Party's popularity began declining in favor of the extremists of the Reform Party after the Conservatives elected two leaders of immigrant heritage, the first of Indian origin, and the second of African origin.

constant at Rs 370,700 on Tuesday. All Pakistan Sarda Gems and Jewelers Association reported.

The prices of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also witnessed no change and was sold at Rs 317,815 whereas that of 10 grams of 22 karat gold was also traded on existing rates of Rs 291,341.

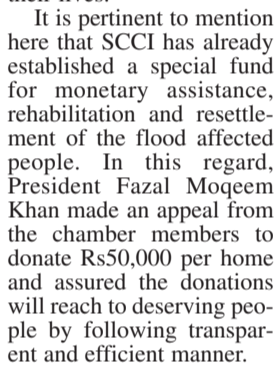
The rates of per tola and ten gram silver remained stagnant at Rs 4,303 and Rs 3,689 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market remained unchanged at \$3,480 and same was case with silver which was traded at \$40.70, the Association reported.

The launch of thinkPVC Lahore reinforces EPCL's commitment to downstream innovation, customer engagement, and the "Made in Pakistan" ethos. As the platform scales across Pakistan, Engro looks forward to continued support from its stakeholders in driving progress and transformation in the construction sector.

Reaffirming Hashoo Foundation's commitment to creating sustainable and diverse income generating avenues for socio-economic uplift, Haris Qayyum Khan, CEO Hashoo Foundation, said: "At Hashoo Foundation, we believe sustainable livelihoods are the cornerstone of resilient communities. Through initiatives like Crafts of Compassion, we are not only creating economic opportunities for Afghan refugees but also driving dignity, inclusion, and long-term self-reliance."

Saudi is investing to become a global hub for events, as part of its Vision 2030 goal of diversifying the economy and expanding the tourism sector. It has committed \$800 billion to the sector, which is projected to reach \$22.4 billion in market value by 2030 and contribute \$16.5bn to GDP by 2030. Events play a pivotal role in this, boosting tourism numbers, driving infrastructure growth, creating jobs, and inspiring youth participation. Investments in stadiums, arenas, and grassroots programs are helping shape Saudi's legacy as a leader not only in global sports tourism, but wider entertainment. Explore Saudi's Unreal Calendar here.



The event will feature thought-provoking discussions, knowledge-sharing sessions, and global insights on how data-driven leadership and effective evaluation can create positive, sustainable impact in education. By engaging school heads, experts and policy makers, SIQA Moot 2025 reinforces The City School's commitment to building stronger schools and shaping better futures for students across Pakistan.

Available in Pearl White and Dynamic Green, its layered nacre-inspired textures and ultra-slim 7.9mm Metallic Frame make it a true fashion statement. Expressing his thoughts, Khushhal Khan shared: "What excites me most about the Y400 is its underwater photography feature it gives me the freedom to explore and capture moments in a completely new way."

[illegible]



In brief

Asif Ali retires from int'l cricket

ISLAMABAD (AP): Pakistan batter Asif Ali retired from international cricket on Monday after 79 white-ball matches in a career often criticized for being too carefree. The 33-year-old Asif represented Pakistan in 58 Twenty20s and 21 one-day internationals. His T20 highlight was 25 off seven balls during a win over Afghanistan at the 2021 T20 World Cup in the United Arab Emirates. His last international was at the 2023 Asia Games. The middle-order power-hitter scored 577 runs in T20s with a top score of 41 not out against Zimbabwe in 2018. In ODIs, he made 382 runs with 21 sixes and 22 fours. His last ODI was against Australia in 2022. "Wearing the Pakistan jersey has been the greatest honor of my life and serving my country on the cricket field has been my proudest chapter," Asif said on X. "To my family and friends, who stood with me in moments of joy and in the deepest of trials, including the loss of my beloved daughter during the WC, your strength carried me forward."

Zehri to fight Indian boxer

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's Quetta-born boxer Shoaib Khan Zehri will step up to the super-lightweight division to face India's Thakur Kumar at an international boxing show in Istanbul on September 27. Usually competing as a light-weight, Zehri said the switch in category would not deter him. "I will give my best to raise Pakistan's flag high," he told APP on Tuesday. "This fight is about Pakistan's honour. I am fully prepared and confident of beating my opponent," he added. The 27-year-old, who has already impressed in global contests, said his training had been tailored for endurance and speed. "I have trained hard for this challenge. My focus is on discipline, endurance and strategy," he added. "The youth of Balochistan and all over Pakistan look up to me, and I want to show them that with commitment and hard work nothing is impossible," he remarked. Shoaib's achievements have already earned him a place among the most promising athletes, inspiring countless young sportsmen.

Injured Olympic 200m champion Thomas out of Worlds

NEW YORK (AFP): Olympic 200m gold medalist Gabby Thomas has withdrawn from this month's World Championships in Tokyo with an injury, she confirmed in a statement to US media on Tuesday. The 28-year-old US sprint star, who also won gold in the 4x100m and 4x400m relays at last year's Olympics in Paris, has been suffering from an Achilles problem, US media reports said. Thomas looked short of her best form at the US trials in Eugene last month, finishing third in the 200m in a time of 22.20sec, well outside her personal best of 21.60sec. "I understand that it will be disappointing for some track fans to hear this news, but I've finally come to the realization that it's OK to be human and take care of myself," Thomas said in a statement quoted by NBC announcing her withdrawal. "As an athlete you always want to keep grinding, but sometimes you simply can't outwork an injury. Sometimes it's about patience and making the right decision for the long term. "All the best to my Team USA teammates fighting for medals in Tokyo." In a separate post on X, she later thanked well-wishers for their support following her announcement.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in a meeting with CEO Lahore Qalandars Rana Atif at Parliament House.

# NA Speaker meets CEO of Lahore Qalandars Atif Rana

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq met today with the Chief Executive Officer of Lahore Qalandars, Mr. Atif Rana, at the Parliament House in Islamabad. During the meeting, the Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq appreciated the initiatives taken by Lahore Qalandars to engage the youth of Pakistan in healthy sporting activities. He emphasized that providing young people with opportunities to participate in sports not only helps in their physical and mental well-being but also guarantees a brighter and more prosperous future for the country. Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq highlighted that

Pakistan is blessed with immense talent among its youth. He said that it is the responsibility of institutions and organizations to channel this talent in constructive directions. The Speaker lauded the efforts of Lahore Qalandars for offering equal opportunities to women in the field of sports, terming it a significant step towards inclusivity and empowerment. Briefing the Speaker, CEO Lahore Qalandars Mr.Atif Rana informed that under the Player Development Program, more than one hundred thousand young players from across Pakistan have been trained. He further stated that providing opportunities for youth in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa remains a top priority for Lahore

Qalandars, as these regions have tremendous untapped sporting potential.Mr. Atif Rana also apprised that a Talent Hunt Program for Women Cricketers has been successfully conducted in more than 25 cities across the country, helping to discover and nurture female talent in cricket. He added that the mission of Lahore Qalandars is to bring sports and entertainment opportunities to the common people of Pakistan, ensuring inclusivity and accessibility for all segments of society. The Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq commended these initiatives and assured that such efforts will play an important role in strengthening Pakistan's image as a country rich in youth potential, resilience, and sporting spirit.

## Vingegaard takes Vuelta red as Vine wins stage 10

SPAIN (AFP): Jonas Vingegaard claimed the overall Vuelta a Espana lead on Tuesday while Jay Vine earned stage 10 victory for his second triumph of the race. Two-time Tour de France winner Vingegaard overhauled Torstein Traen's lead to head the general classification by 26 seconds from the Norwegian, with Joao Almeida third and trailing the Dane by 38 seconds. Vine put in an unmatched performance on the final climb to finish ahead of Spanish Movistar riders Pablo Castrello and Javier Romo. "Back in red, I'm happy with it, it's a beautiful jersey," said Vingegaard. "I'm happy with how the day went, I was feeling good... every day this week is going to be a fight for the GC (general classification) I think." Attackers tried their best to escape at the start of the 175 kilometre run from the Sendaviva nature park to the Larra-Belagua ski resort near Spain's border with France, but were not allowed to break free. A mass crash in the bunch affected Spaniard Raul Garcia Pierna, who withdrew from the race. Vine carved out a few seconds on the pack but was caught 75 kilometres in as the peloton persisted for two intense hours. Finally a large break formed over halfway through the race, earning three minutes on the peloton.

Almeida's team-mate Juan Ayuso made headlines during the rest day on Monday as his split with Team UAE at the end of the season was made public. The Spaniard was criticised by Almeida for not showing solidarity last week but led out for the Portuguese to help the peloton cut down the gap up the road. With Almeida driving on, followed by Vingegaard and Tom Pidcock among others, the red jersey-wearing Traen was dropped. Palestine protest Visma-Lease a Bike's Vingegaard took the overall lead as Traen and his group finished over a minute behind the main general classification contenders. Vine powered into a solo lead during the day's main climb up to the ski resort, crossing the line with his finger in the air, trailed by Castrello who came in 35 seconds behind.

# South Africa thrash England in 1st ODI

LEEDS (AFP): South Africa inflicted a humiliating seven-wicket defeat upon England in the first one-day international in Leeds on Tuesday. Victory for the Proteas was all but assured after they skittled out England for just 131 with more than half of the hosts' overs remaining. Left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj (4-22) and all-rounder Wiaan Mulder (3-33) did the bulk of the damage at an over-cast Headingley after Proteas captain Temba Bavuma won the toss. South Africa opener Aiden Markram then struck a 23-ball fifty, including eight fours and two sixes, as South Africa finished on 137-3 with nearly 30 overs to spare. Markram was especially severe on England debutant Sonny Baker. The Hampshire fast bowler's seven overs cost a hugely expensive 76 runs. He had earlier been out for golden duck. Markram was dismissed for 86, well caught by a diving Jamie Smith at cover

off leg-spinner Adil Rashid (3-26). Rashid then took two wickets in two balls on his Yorkshire home ground with the scores level. Dewald Brevis survived the hat-trick and next ball finished the match with a straight six off Rashid as the Proteas went 1-0 up in a three-match series, with Harry Brook's six-game winning streak as England's white-ball captain coming to an emphatic end. Earlier, opener Smith, with 54, was the only England batsman to make an impact, with the hosts' next highest score Jos Buttler's 15. England came into the match with no 50-overs-per-side preparation against a South Africa side fresh from a 2-1 series win in Australia. Brook (12) and Joe Root (14), who both featured in an enthralling drawn Test series against India and then went straight into the Hundred franchise competition, were out cheaply on their Yorkshire home ground. The Proteas were

without fast bowlers Kagiso Rabada and Marco Jansen but England, on a good pitch, still lost their last eight wickets for 49 runs from the relative safety of 82-2. Maharaj, the world's top-ranked ODI bowler, had Jacob Bethell (one) caught off a thick outside edge and held a gentle return catch to dismiss Will Jacks. Mulder removed Buttler and Jofra Archer with successive deliveries before Maharaj also took two wickets in two balls to wrap up England's innings in 24.3 overs. He had Rashid lbw and then clean bowled last man Baker. The series continues at Lord's on Thursday. Brief scores England 131, 24.3 overs (J Smith 54; K Maharaj 4-22, W Mulder 3-33) South Africa 137-3, 20.5 overs (A Markram 86; A Rashid 3-26) Result: South Africa won by seven wickets Series: South Africa lead three-match series 1-0.



LEEDS: Nandre Burger dismissed Ben Duckett in his second over.

# Women's Asia Cup 2025 begins September 5

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Women's Asia Cup 2025 - Asia's premier hockey women's tournament will be held from September 5 to 14 at Gongshu, China, with the champions punching their ticket to the FIH Hockey World Cup Belgium & Netherlands 2026. The tournament will feature 8 teams, split into Pool A & B. The top two from each pool will advance to a Super 4s pool stage, where the teams will compete in a secondary pool and get ranked from one to four, said a press release. The semi-finals line-up will be decided on the basis of the secondary pool results, while the bottom two teams from each pool, of the first pool stage, will play for classifications and world ranking points. Pools- Pool A: China, Chinese Taipei, Korea, Malaysia; Pool B: India, Japan, Thailand, Singapore. The tournament will

begin the competition with Pool B action on September 5, as Japan will take on Singapore in the first match followed by India taking on Thailand. Pool A matches will follow as all 8 teams will take the field on opening day. Korea vs Chinese Taipei will get Pool A underway before the final match of the day will pit hosts China against Malaysia. The initial pool stage for the women's competition will be played from September 5 to 8, followed by the secondary pool stage, positional playoffs and medal matches being played from September 10 to 14. The winner of the women's competition will earn a coveted spot at the FIH Hockey World Cup Belgium and Netherlands 2026. Six teams have now qualified for the women's competition at the FIH Hockey World Cup 2026. Belgium and Netherlands, on account of being hosts of the event,

gained direct qualification. Germany and Argentina qualified through the previous two editions of the FIH Hockey Pro League. USA secured qualification through the Pan American Cup and Spain qualified from the Eurohockey C'ship. Along with Asia, continental championships in Africa and Oceania will determine three direct qualifiers for the event, with the remaining seven teams qualifying through the FIH Hockey World Cup Qualifiers in 2026. Based on their performance at the Pan American Cup and the EuroHockey Championships, the following women's teams have qualified for the FIH Hockey World Cup Qualifiers 2026: Uruguay, Chile, Canada, Ireland, England, France, Italy, Wales, Scotland, Austria and Switzerland, with with four further sides qualifying from the upcoming Asia Cup and one from the Oceania Cup.

# Australian fast bowler Starc retires from T20 international cricket

SYDNEY (AFP/APP): Prolific Australian fast bowler Mitchell Starc announced his immediate retirement from T20 international cricket on Tuesday, saying he wanted to focus on his Test and ODI career. "Test cricket is and has always been my highest priority," the 35-year-old said in a statement, ruling himself out of the T20 World Cup in February-March. "I have loved every minute of every T20 game I have played for Australia, particularly the 2021 World Cup," he added. Starc, who played 65 matches for his country in the shortest format, was part of the Australia side that lifted the world title that year. His 79 wickets in T20Is make him the second-highest for Australia after Adam Zampa. Starc steps away with a busy schedule to come,



including a home Ashes series starting later this year and a one-day World Cup on the horizon. "Looking ahead to an away Indian Test tour, the Ashes and an ODI World Cup in 2027, I feel this is my best way forward to remain fresh, fit and at my best for those campaigns," said Starc. "It also gives the bowling group time to prepare for the T20 World Cup in the matches leading into

allow him to extend his Test and ODI careers as long as possible, which we fully support," he added. In July, Starc produced a devastating opening spell as the West Indies were demolished for 27, the second-lowest score in Test history. Starc also reached the landmark of 400 Test wickets. "Mitch should be incredibly proud of his T20 career for Australia," chair of selectors George Bailey said. "He was an integral member of the 2021 World Cup winning side and, as across all his cricket, had a great skill for blowing games open with his wicket-taking ability," Bailey said. "We will acknowledge and celebrate his T20 career at the right time, but pleasingly he remains focused on continuing to play Test and ODI cricket for as long as possible," he added.

# 150,000 young cricketers shine in PM's Talent Hunt

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP), in collaboration with Lahore Qalandars, has achieved a remarkable milestone in its Cricket Talent Hunt Trials, with over 150,000 young cricketers showcasing their talent across the country. This initiative aims to discover and groom rising cricket stars, providing them with expert coaching and nationwide exposure. According to official sources, the trials, which are being held in major cities, have attracted a massive response from young cricket enthusiasts aged 15 to 25. The program offers a golden opportunity for talented youngsters to shine on a national platform and potentially launch their cricketing careers. Participants will have the chance to receive professional coaching, training, and exposure to local and international selectors and media. The Prime Minister's Youth Programme is committed to promoting youth development through sports and skill development. This initiative is part of the program's overall strat-

egy to create opportunities for young individuals to engage in sports, receive scholarships, learn digital skills, and create employment. The success of the PM's Cricket Talent Hunt Trials is a testament to the program's potential to identify and nurture young talent in Pakistan. With its focus on merit-based selection, transparency, and inclusivity, the program is poised to make a significant impact on the country's cricketing landscape. As the trials continue, young cricketers are eager to showcase their skills and take the first step towards a successful crick-eting career. The PM's Cricket Talent Hunt Program is an excellent opportunity for aspiring cricketers to achieve their dreams and make a name for themselves in the world of cricket. The program's collaboration with Lahore Qalandars, a leading franchise in the Pakistan Super League, ensures that the selected cricketers will receive top-notch training and exposure. This partnership is expected to elevate the standards of

cricket in Pakistan and provide a platform for young cricketers to showcase their talent to a global audience. The Prime Minister's Youth Programme has been instrumental in promoting youth development and empowerment in Pakistan. The Cricket Talent Hunt Trials are a significant step towards identifying and nurturing young talent in the country. With its commitment to merit-based selection and transparency, the program is expected to produce a new generation of cricket stars who will make Pakistan proud on the international stage. The PM's Cricket Talent Hunt Program is a dream come true for many aspiring cricketers, and the response has been overwhelming. With its focus on youth development and sports promotion, the program is set to make a lasting impact on Pakistan's cricketing landscape. Notably, the trials in Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) were temporarily suspended due to flood, but they are expected to resume soon.



## In brief

### IRSA releases 343,300 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 343,300 cusecs of water from various rim stations with inflow of 365,200 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1549.78 feet, which was 147.78 feet higher than the dead level of 1402.00 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 199,500 cusecs and 205,500 cusecs, respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1226.50 feet, which was 176.50 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 35,900 cusecs and 8,000 cusecs, respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 231,400, 219,500, 345,400 and 231,500 cusecs, respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 34,300 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 94,500 cusecs were released from River Chenab at Marala.

### ICT arrest wife, accomplice in husband's murder

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police's Sumbal Police Station team and Homicide Investigation Unit (HIU) have arrested a woman and her accomplice for allegedly murdering her husband in a planned attack. An official told APP on Tuesday that the suspects identified as Shahin Bibi, alias Muskan and Abid Ali had used a sharp-edged weapon to kill Tanveer Anjum within the jurisdiction of Sumbal Police Station. The official said that the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Muhammad Jawad Tariq took immediate notice of the case and directed the police to ensure the swift arrest of those involved. Acting on his instructions, a police team led by the Superintendent of Police (SP) Saddar Zone conducted an investigation using modern technology and scientific methods. The official said that during the probe, evidence confirmed the involvement of the woman, the victim's wife, and her accomplice in the murder. Both suspects have since been apprehended. The DIG Islamabad emphasized that the accused would be prosecuted based on solid evidence to ensure exemplary punishment through the court of law.

### ANF foils smuggling bid

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) on Tuesday foiled an International drug smuggling attempt to smuggle a huge consignment of 13 kg of ice abroad under the guise of books. According to an ANF spokesman, on a tip-off, a parcel sent to Australia was seized and checked at a courier office located on Mall Road, Lahore. During checking, the drugs were discovered in the pages of the medical books in the parcel. ANF personnel confirmed the presence of ice in the books with the help of a drug testing device. The parcel was booked by a person named Fazal Rehman, a resident of Peshawar. The parcel has been sent to a laboratory for drug isolation. The ANF started an investigation to find the suspect involved in the smuggling of drugs and is taking all possible steps to deal with drug trafficking through parcels in collaboration with courier companies, he said.

# Small dams imperative, all CMs to play role: Aleem

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan on Tuesday welcomed the sentiments expressed by Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur regarding the construction of the Kalabagh Dam.

He emphasized that Kalabagh along with other new dams should be built with the consensus and consultation of all provinces. He asserted that all four Provincial Assemblies and Chief Ministers must jointly find a solution to this pressing national issue, said a press release.

In his statement, Abdul Aleem Khan appreciated the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief

Minister's support for Kalabagh Dam noting that the construction of new dams is vital to safeguard against future water shortages and natural disasters as well as floods. He stated that new dams would help to save trillions of rupees worth of water from going to waste. Floods are no longer the issue of a single province it has become a challenge for the entire country, he added.

Abdul Aleem Khan highlighted that Pakistan as a whole is facing the adverse impacts of climate change while the recent torrential rains in Gilgit-Baltistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab have caused massive loss of lives and property which he

termed deeply tragic.

He stressed that the immediate construction of small dams in all four provinces has become unavoidable and must be pursued on an urgent basis.

He reaffirmed that protecting the country from future floods is a shared national responsibility. He assured that his Party is fully prepared to play its role in creating national consensus on this issue.

He further said that the construction of small dams requires collective national effort and a comprehensive policy framework at the national level as fragmented approaches cannot resolve such critical national challenges.

## Govt committed to compensating flood victims: Wattoo

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Water Resources Muhammad Mueen Wattoo on Tuesday said surveys were underway to assess flood-related losses, including damage to crops, livestock, and houses, with compensation to be provided to all affected families.

Speaking in the National Assembly, he said estimates were being finalized to ensure timely financial assistance. "The government is committed to providing compensation to all affected families," he assured.

Wattoo said Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif was not only focused on immediate relief but also on long-term

measures to mitigate the impact of future floods.

For this purpose, directives were issued for the early completion of under-construction dams, planning of new reservoirs, and development of water storage projects.

The House was informed that relevant authorities — including the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Federal Flood Commission, provincial irrigation departments, and other institutions — had been tasked with strengthening early warning and monitoring systems to reduce future risks.

He added that the Prime Minister was personally monitoring the situation

across Gilgit-Baltistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Sindh, and Balochistan. "He is in constant touch with the authorities, receiving updates and issuing directives for immediate relief measures," he said.

He stressed that proper planning was essential to avoid recurring damages, noting that all concerned departments had been assigned responsibilities and a comprehensive plan would be formulated with input from parliamentarians.

"The government is fully aware of the situation, the damage assessment is underway, and compensation to victims will be ensured," he added.

## CDA installs 1,419 new LED lights on Islamabad roads

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has reported major progress in its citywide street lighting upgrade, announcing that 1,419 LED lights have already been installed across Islamabad, with the remaining fixtures to be completed within the current month.

Chairman CDA and Chief Commissioner Islamabad Muhammad Ali Randhawa, while chairing a review meeting on Tuesday, was briefed that the new energy-efficient lights have been installed on Srinagar Highway leading to the New Islamabad International Airport, Faizabad to Shah Faisal Mosque, and Margalla Road from F-5 to F-11.

The project aims to replace hundreds of outdated and defective lights, enhancing both safety and the city's night-time aes-

thetics. Randhawa directed that installation be accelerated, especially in high-traffic corridors and public parks. He instructed that lighting and poles in F-9 Park and other green spaces be completed at the earliest to benefit citizens.

"Modern and reliable street lighting is vital for safe commuting and for showcasing Islamabad as a modern and vibrant capital. The results must be visible within weeks," he said.

Officials added that once the ongoing phase is complete, thousands of streetlights across the city will have been upgraded to LEDs, cutting maintenance costs and ensuring brighter, more durable illumination. While the lighting project took center stage, the CDA board also reviewed other major development schemes. The Shaheen

Chowk underpass project has completed its bidding process. Randhawa directed that an alternative traffic plan be introduced along with temporary parking near Fatima Jinnah Park to minimize disruption during construction.

Similarly, the T-Chowk Rawat flyover project was discussed, with instructions to install permanent LED and SMD lighting. At the Faizabad Interchange, the chairman ordered a complete redesign to resolve traffic congestion on a permanent basis. The meeting also reviewed the upgrade of the CDA Nursery into a "Gardenia Hub", which now features greenhouses and floral shops. Randhawa directed that a specific area be reserved for the diplomatic community to participate in tree plantation.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of Staff of Bahrain Defence Force, Lieutenant General Thiab Bin Saqer Abdullah Al Nuaimi called on Minister for Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif. —APP Photo

## Supreme Court grants bail to accused in murder case F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan (SCP) has granted bail to the accused, Fazal Qadir, in a murder case related to a women's dispute in Shangla.

The counsel Danyal Chamkani advocate argued that case dates back to April 4, 2025, when a shooting incident resulted in the death of Syed Moinuddin and injuries to two others, including a woman.

The accused and four others were named in the case, and a police station in Shangla registered the FIR.

SCP's two-member bench comprising of Justice Shahid Rizvi and Justice Malik Shahzad, heard the case. The lawyer, Daniel argued that the other four accused had already been granted bail by the lower court and the high court had upheld their bail.

The high court had upheld bail to the other four accused but canceled the bail of Fazal Qadir. The Supreme Court noted this discrepancy and granted bail to Fazal Qadir, citing that there was no substantial difference in the allegations against him and the other accused who had already been granted bail.

The Supreme Court granted bail to Fazal Qadir on two personal sureties and bond of PKR 500,000.

Meanwhile, uplift work on graveyards along the Expressway, including construction of boundary walls, is nearing completion. Concluding the session, Randhawa urged that all projects move forward without delay. "The timely completion of these works will not only enhance facilities for citizens but also help transform Islamabad into a modern, safe, and model city," he remarked.

## Pakistan's name to remain alive, eternal: Hanif

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Railways Hanif Abbasi on Tuesday said that the name of Pakistan would remain alive and eternal, crediting the nation's survival and defense to the sacrifices of the armed forces and martyrs.

Addressing the National Assembly, he said Pakistan's defense was acknowledged worldwide. "The powerful is not the one who captures others' land but the one who protects his own honor, life, property, and country," he said. He paid rich tribute to the collective sacrifices of the armed forces and the people for the protection of the motherland.

Expressing deep sorrow over the recent floods, he sympathized with the victims, saying a home lost to natural disasters meant the loss of years of hard work and left behind indescribable

pain. He stressed that the entire House must feel the suffering of those affected.

The minister regretted that some politicians sought fame by blaming the bureaucracy and state institutions. "If this is all they have to say, they should leave the government benches and sit in the opposition, because such language does not suit the treasury benches," he added.

Highlighting Rawalpindi's development, Abbasi said the Punjab government had improved hospitals, educational institutions, sanitation, drainage, and transport systems, all of which stood as evidence of public service.

He added that blaming the entire bureaucracy was unfair, noting that the obsession with going viral in politics had become a "disease." He criticized the opposition for failing

to play its role responsibly, accusing it of acting under the influence of the PTI founder. "The government carries the real responsibility of delivering according to public expectations. Alhamdulillah, today Pakistan's economy and defense are in strong hands," he asserted.

Abbasi praised Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's foreign policy, saying that in 77 years, Pakistan had never received the level of global recognition it was now witnessing. "This foreign policy is presenting Pakistan to the world as a victor," he said. Referring to a recent tragedy in Rawalpindi, he said a retired colonel and his daughter had lost their lives in a flood wave, yet some elements mocked the incident on social media. He urged steps to curb such indecency and ridicule online.

## Samia Hijab lodges harassment, abduction case

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police's Shalimar Police Station registered a case on the complaint of TikToker Samia Hijab over harassment, intimidation, assault, and abduction attempt.

An official told APP on Tuesday that the complainant stated the suspect, Hassan Zahid, had been stalking her for several months, forcing her to marry him, sending repeated gifts, and issuing threats. Despite her refusal, he allegedly visited her residence repeatedly without consent.

She added that on August 31, around 6:30 p.m., when she stepped outside her house to return those gifts, Zahid humiliated her in

public, slapped her several times, and caused severe physical and mental trauma. She further alleged that Zahid attempted to forcibly abduct her, snatched her mobile phone, and openly threatened to kill her while vowing to take revenge.

The complainant said the suspect had also been making persistent phone calls and issued categorical threats earlier the same day, warning that if she stepped out of her house, he would beat her. She stated that she called the police helpline 15 during the incident.

As evidence, Samia Hijab submitted CCTV footage and a call recording, in which Zahid can be heard threatening her with constant surveillance and

revenge "extending to future generations." She also handed over her video statement uploaded on social media.

Samia added that the ordeal had caused her severe distress, particularly as she was a close friend of slain TikToker Sana Yousaf from Islamabad, and the threats reminded her of that tragic killing.

Police registered the case under Sections 365, 511, 354, 506(ii), 509, 500, and 392 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC), covering abduction, attempt to commit offence, assault, criminal intimidation, harassment, defamation, and robbery. Further investigation is underway, the official added.

# Uzbek envoy declares Pakistan a significant strategic partner on Uzbekistan's 34th Independence Day



ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan is Alisher Tukhtaev, has declared Pakistan a significant strategic partner of Uzbekistan on the occasion of the "34th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Uzbekistan" in Uzbek cultural vibes.

"I welcome you all to this reception dedicated to the 34th Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan. For every Uzbek, this day is not just a holiday. It is the heartbeat of our nation. It is the

day when the dream of millions of families — to live under their own flag, in a free country — became a reality," the Ambassador said.

The Uzbek envoy said that under the leadership of President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the country has entered a new era — the era of the New Uzbekistan. "We proudly say that we are reviving the traditions of the First and Second Renaissance, and we are confidently moving toward the Third Renaissance — a bridge between our famous past and a bright future of

revival and progress.

Let me share with you what Independence means in real terms. Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan is Alisher Tukhtaev, said this while addressing the "34th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Uzbekistan."

The Ambassador said that Independence is not an abstract word, but it is the smile of a child walking to school with bright eyes and his first book in hand.

Meanwhile, highlighting the economic performance of Uzbekistan in last

decades, he said that despite global challenges, Uzbekistan's economy is growing by more than 6 percent every year and in just eight years, our GDP has doubled, reaching 115 billion US dollars last year, and is expected to exceed 130 billion this year, he said.

Alisher said that exports have grown to \$26 billion, while our gold and foreign exchange reserves have, for the first time, surpassed \$48 billion and over the past years, Uzbekistan has attracted about \$130 billion in foreign investment.

This year alone, \$35 billion of investments are creating almost 9,000 new enterprises and service complexes and on the eve of Independence Day, 79 major projects worth \$4 billion were launched — a true gift to our people for the holiday, he said.

The Uzbek envoy said the number of small and medium-sized businesses has doubled, and today they employ more than 10 million people. At the beginning of this year, we set the ambitious goal of creating 5.5 million new jobs.

He said that in just eight months, 5 million people have already been employed and most touch-

ing of all, 700,000 of our compatriots who had been working abroad returned home, believing in the future of their country.

Uzbekistan is opening wider to the world and last year, more than 10 million tourists visited our country, bringing more than \$3 billion in revenue and by 2030, "we aim to attract an additional \$35 billion of investment and increase the share of renewable "green" energy to 54 percent, he said.

Today, Uzbekistan is no longer just an exporter of raw materials but our industrial output has grown from \$29 billion in 2017 to \$70 billion today.

Modern technologies and new knowledge are transforming every sector, creating hundreds of thousands of jobs and building a strong workforce for the future, he said.

"Our pride is not only in the economy, and for the first time in history, the national football team of Uzbekistan has qualified for the World Cup! This historic success united millions of hearts, showing that the spirit of Uzbekistan can reach the highest peaks — in sports, in science, in culture, and in every area of life."

The Ambassador said

that Uzbekistan and Pakistan are connected not only by economic interests but "We are bound by centuries of shared history, culture, and spirituality."

Today, these ties are gaining new strength, turning into a true strategic partnership built on trust, respect, and brotherhood.

In February this year, the official visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to Uzbekistan was a milestone and "Our leaders signed the Joint Declaration and the Protocol on establishing the High Council of Strategic Partnership as well as this historic step laid the foundation for long-term and multi-dimensional cooperation."

The ambassador said that "We are working together on projects of historic importance — above all, the Trans-Afghan Railway, which will connect not only Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, but CIS countries with South Asia, opening huge opportunities for regional trade and integration."

He said that both sides of trade are also growing rapidly, and in 2024, turnover exceeded 404.5 million US dollars. In just the first seven months of this year, it reached \$320 million — an increase of 126 percent

compared to last year.

Uzbekistan has become Pakistan's largest trading partner in Central Asia, and our leaders have set a goal to bring this figure to \$2 billion, and steps such as exhibitions, trade houses, new air routes, and cultural exchanges are already bringing us closer to this target.

Talking on people to people, he said Uzbekistan has simplified the visa regime for Pakistani brothers, sisters and opened direct flights between Tashkent and Lahore, as well as Tashkent and Islamabad and business forums, roadshows and cultural events held this year in Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, and many other cities of Pakistan attracted great interest and strengthened people-to-people connections.

As "we celebrate the Independence Day of Uzbekistan today, let me express my deep gratitude to the Government and people of Pakistan, to the diplomatic corps, the business community, academics, cultural figures, the media, and all friends of Uzbekistan for being here with us", he said. On behalf of the people and leadership of Uzbekistan, "I wish the brotherly people of Pakistan peace, prosperity, and continued success."

Robbery gang ringleader held

KABUL (Pajhwok): Security forces have arrested the ringleader of an armed robbery gang in central Bamyan province with 1.08 million afghanis in stolen cash, the MoI said on Tuesday. The suspect was apprehended during a search operation, the MoI said in a statement, accusing the group of steaing three million afghanis in Bamyan province. The ministry added that police were investigating to locate the suspect's accomplices and recover the remaining stolen money.

Herat man arrested

KABUL (Pajhwok): A man has been arrested for allegedly killing his wife, mother and a daughter in western Herat province, an official said on Tuesday. MoI spokesman Mufti Abdul Matin Qani told Pajhwok the arrested individual had brutally killed three members of his family a few days ago. According to Qani, police detained the killer in Injil district. The arrested suspect has confessed to his crime and would be referred to the judicial organs after initial interrogation.

Quake death toll in Kunar crosses 1,400, with 3,124 injured



KABUL (Pajhwok): The death toll from the devastating earthquake in the provincial capital and five districts of eastern Kunar

province, has climbed to 1,411 with 3,124 others injured, while 5,412 houses have been destroyed. The midnight earthquake

was recorded at magnitude 6.0 on the Richter Scale by the United States Geological Survey (USGS).

Zabihullah Mujahid, chief spokesman for the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA), wrote on X that as of now, the earthquake in Asadabad (the center of Kunar) and the districts of Nurgal, Chawkay, Chapa Dara, Pechdara, and Watapur has caused 1,411 deaths and 3,124 injuries.

He also said that 5,412 homes were destroyed in the affected areas.

This comes after the Afghan Red Crescent Society earlier reported that in the deadly earthquake in Kunar, Nangarhar, and Laghman provinces, 1,124 people had died, 3,251 were injured, and more than 8,000 homes flattened.

UK allocates £1m aid for quake victims

KABUL (Pajhwok): The UK Foreign Office has allocated £1 million in emergency aid to help victims of the recent earthquake in eastern Afghanistan, saying the money would be distributed through UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC).

In a statement, the UK Foreign Office wrote: "These funds will be split equally between the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and the International Red Cross (IFRC) to deliver critical healthcare and emergency supplies to Afghans in the most affected regions."

Foreign Secretary David Lammy said: "News of the earthquake in the Kunar Province of Afghanistan is truly tragic. The UK remains committed to the people of Afghanistan, and this emergency funding will help our partners to deliver critical healthcare and emergency supplies to the most hard-hit".

Two nights ago, shortly after 12am, a 6.0 magnitude earthquake shook most parts of Afghannistan, leaving hundreds of people dead and thousands injured in eastern Kunar Province of Afghanistan.

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) Zabihullah Mujahid, told media in Kabul that the death toll from the earthquake in the districts of Nur Gul (Mazar Dara), Chawki, Watapur, Manogi, Chapa Dara and other areas of Kunar has reached 800, and another 2,500 people have been injured.

Earthquake survivors lose families, homes

KUNAR (TOLOnews): In Ghazi Abad village of Nurgal district in Kunar, most villages were destroyed by the devastating earthquake that struck late the night before.

Residents of this village say that in addition to losing members of their families, they have also lost all their belongings.

One victim, Rabbani, said: "We have seven martyrs and four or five wounded. People are still under the rubble. The earthquake struck at midnight. We managed to pull out some trapped people, but some are still stuck."

Another victim, Ajmal, said: "This whole area has

been buried. No one is left. Some children are alive and some have been martyred. One injured person was rescued."

According to the victims, many family members remain trapped under the rubble.

Among the casualties, most are women and children. Local people are demanding the acceleration of rescue operations.

A victim, Asadullah, said: "This entire area has collapsed. Some people are injured, but others are still buried under the soil. In the whole village, not a single room is left standing; the entire place has been leveled. Even the villages on

the other side are completely flattened. Dead bodies and the wounded are all trapped."

Another victim, Abdul Latif, said: "The losses are enormous. If you look at the area, people are still pulling out bodies. In one house, everyone has died. In another house, 13 people were killed. In the upper house, 11 people were killed."

This comes as the Ministry of Defense helicopters, the Ministry of Public Health's mobile medical teams, and charity organizations are busy conducting rescue operations and distributing aid to the victims.

Condolences, aid pledges continue

KABUL (Pajhwok): The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Canada and Switzerland have extended condolences and pledged assistance following a deadly earthquake that struck eastern Afghanistan.

The Secretary General of the Muslim World League, as well as Uzbekistan and the Czech Republic, also issued messages of sympathy.

The quake, which struck shortly after midnight on Sunday, was recorded at a magnitude of 6.0 on the Richter scale by the United States Geological Survey.

On Monday, Zabihullah Mujahid, chief spokesman for the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, confirmed that the death toll from the devastating earthquake had

risen to 812, with more than 2,800 people injured.

OIC Secretary General Hissein Ibrahim Taha expressed sympathy with the affected families, stating that the organisation stood ready to provide support during these difficult times. He instructed the OIC office in Afghanistan to coordinate with local authorities and work closely with humanitarian agencies and partners to ensure aid reached those in need.

Separately, the Secretary General of the Muslim World League, Mohammed bin Abdul Karim Al-Issa, expressed sorrow on his social media page over the heavy loss of life and injuries caused by the powerful quake. Canadian Prime

Minister Mark Carney also wrote on X: "The aftermath of the earthquake in Afghanistan is horrific. Hundreds of lives lost, families displaced, and communities facing unimaginable hardship. As the Afghan people recover and rebuild, Canada stands ready to provide humanitarian support through our partners."

Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev likewise extended condolences to the victims and wished the injured a swift recovery.

The Czech Republic's Ministry of Foreign Affairs conveyed its sympathies on X, writing: "We express our deepest condolences to all those affected by the devastating earthquake in Afghanistan's Kunar and

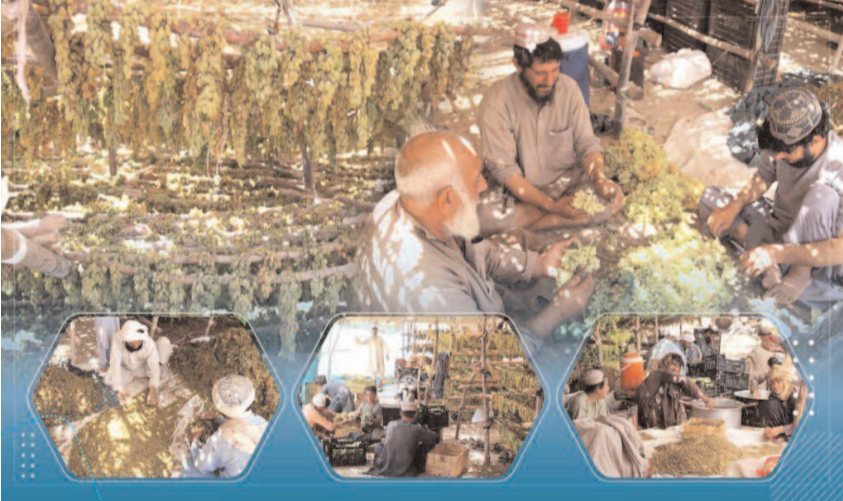
Nangarhar provinces. The Czech Republic stands in solidarity with the people of Afghanistan."

Switzerland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs also posted on X, expressing solidarity with the victims of the quake in eastern Afghanistan and noted that humanitarian assistance was being delivered through its office in Kabul.

Previously, the United States, UK, Russia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Bangladesh, Qatar, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Turkey, India, Pakistan and Iran had also offered condolences to the victims of the disaster.

UN and EU announced that their teams had been dispatched to the region to provide emergency relief.

Kandahar traders urge govt expand raisin exports



KANDAHAR (Pajhwok): The Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock in Kandahar has estimated grape production in the southern province at 205,000 tonnes this year, with half expected to be converted into raisins.

Traders, however, are calling on the government and the Chamber of Commerce to help secure access to international markets for the dried fruit.

Grape orchards in Kandahar cover more than 20,000 hectares, including

both long-established and newly planted areas.

Agriculture specialist Aimal Hakimi told Pajhwok Afghan News that orchards in Arghandab, Daman, Dand, Shawalikot, Khakrez, Panjwayi, Zherai, Maroof and Miyanshin districts had produced a bumper harvest this year, resulting in a higher yield of quality raisins.

He said the province's grape harvest was estimated at 205,000 tonnes, with about 50 percent expected to be dried and processed

into raisins.

Last year, production stood at 195,000 tonnes, but pests had affected the crop and reduced its quality.

Hakimi added that this year's harvest was far better, with both quantity and quality showing significant improvement.

Traders stress the need for access to foreign markets

Gran Mohammad, a raisin trader in the province, told Pajhwok that a kilogram of quality raisins currently sells for between 200 and 250 afghanis, with

prices expected to rise. "This year our raisins are excellent. Prices are still low, but once harvesting is complete, they will certainly go up because the quality is very high," he said.

Another trader, Mohammad Dawood, noted: "Almost half of Kandahar's grapes are turned into raisins. Without access to foreign markets, domestic prices remain depressed. We hope international markets can be secured so our raisins fetch better prices, as they are among the most flavoursome in the world."

Mohammadullah, a worker at a raisin-processing facility in Panjwayi district, added: "Since the grape crop was good this year, the raisins are of fine quality too. Prices are low at the start of the season, but we expect them to increase."

Traders in Kandahar urged the government and relevant authorities to create opportunities for raisin exports, saying this would benefit both farmers and businessmen by improving their economic conditions.

They emphasised that Afghanistan is one of the world's leading producers of high-quality raisins and that access to international markets could generate substantial revenue.

Trader Abdul Samad said: "We can export raisins abroad with excellent quality and packaging, but it is up to the government and the Chamber of Commerce to pave the way for exports, as this is beyond our capacity."

Meanwhile, Abdul Baqi Bina, deputy head of the Kandahar Chamber of Commerce, blamed delays in exports on tensions between India and Pakistan. He said efforts were underway to resolve these challenges or to find alternative routes.

"The delay in raisin exports is due to ongoing problems between India and Pakistan, which have disrupted Afghanistan's dried fruit exports. In coordination with the government, we are trying to export via Iran or other alternative routes," he explained.

Kandahar farmers and traders believe that facilitating raisin exports will not only boost prices but also create a major economic opportunity for the country.

6,485 carats of emeralds fetch \$107,559

PARAKH (Pajhwok): The Department of Mines and Petroleum in central Panjshir province has sold 6,485 carats of emeralds for 107,559 US dollars at the ninth auction, the provincial media office said on Tuesday.

A statement from the media office said the high-quality emeralds of Panjshir have been able to connect Afghanistan with global markets and play an important role in attracting the attention of domestic and foreign investors.

It said this amount of emeralds was sold to domestic and foreign traders.

"This auction was held in the presence of national traders and relevant institutions, and its process was transparent and competitive".

Sfter being examined and packaged, the mined emeralds were presented in the presence of the auction's supervisory board to maintain transparency and trust in the sales process.

Psycho patients to be collected for treatment

KABUL (Pajhwok): The Ministry of Vice and Virtue and Complaints Hearing says it will collect mentally ill and psycho patients (both male and female) and hand them over to the Red Crescent Society for treatment and care as per a special order of the Islamic Emirate leadership.

In a statement, the ministry said it has been tasked with protecting the metal patients (male and female) and creating a healthy and peaceful society through their treatment.

It said insane people (male or female) found throughout the country, must be collected and handed over to the Afghan Red Crescent Society departments for treatment and care.

The ministry asked the public to share information about this with the provincial governors and district ombudsmen.

The ministry wrote that people could also contact the toll-free number 191 in this regard.

The statement said that the Ministry of Public Health has given necessary instructions to all ombudsmen to pay attention to decency, humanity, and Islamic principles in the care of these patients and to avoid any kind of negligence.

All Red Crescent-related departments have also been obliged to make serious efforts in the treatment, hospitalization, and care of these patients.

Women mushroom farmers in Kabul seek cold storages

KABUL (Pajhwok): A number of women in Kabul, working with diligent hands and hopeful hearts to cultivate mushrooms using straw, lime and bran, say they need cold storage facilities to expand their businesses.

Around three years ago, 25 women from the Charasiab and Darulaman areas of Kabul were trained in mushroom cultivation with financial support from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

Today, each of these women is engaged in mushroom farming at home and playing an important role in supporting their families' income.

Breshna Taheri, a resident of Darulaman and founder of the "Sadafi" mushroom farm, told Pajhwok Afghan News that before establishing the farm

and learning mushroom cultivation, her family's economic situation was poor as her husband was unemployed.

With her husband's support, she now grows mushrooms in the basement of their home in Charasiab.

She said the harvested mushrooms were packaged and taken to a cold storage facility they built by themselves in Darulaman, from where they were sold to shopkeepers in Kabul.

Taheri explained that she learnt mushroom cultivation through a three-month FAO training programme, during which participants also received raw materials.

"In that programme, we were taught the proper and technical process of mushroom cultivation—from preparing the raw materials and growing the mushrooms to harvesting them," she said.

She is satisfied with her business, noting that she and other women trained in mushroom cultivation earn up to 18,000 afghanis a month from this work. According to her, the price of each kilogram of mushrooms produced on her farm was 350 afghanis in Kabul markets.

Another mushroom grower, Samia Jabari, said: "Mushrooms are cultivated in a completely clean, disinfected and contamination-free environment."

She explained that the straw used in mushroom farms was first washed and then boiled at a specific temperature. The boiled straw was placed in disinfected plastic bags and mixed with lime and bran, which provide nutrients for growth. The mushrooms grow inside these bags within about 40 days, after which they are harvested,

packaged and made ready for sale.

She urged people to support domestic production, adding: "We women produce clean mushrooms free from germs and supply them to the market. Most of our products are sold in Kabul."

Jabari also called on national and international institutions to expand mushroom cultivation programmes for women, saying: "Mushroom farming is a good source of income for women who are unemployed and face economic hardship."

Similarly, Saheba Sadat, another mushroom grower, said she was delighted to have participated in a mushroom cultivation programme and now plays a positive role in her family's economy.

She also urged for greater support for women

mushroom growers.

"The lack of cold storages is one of our main challenges. If this problem is resolved, our production and sales will expand and we may even begin exports," she said.

She added that currently one kilogram of dried mushrooms, used for medicinal purposes, is sold for 500 afghanis in the market.

According to her, dried mushrooms are also exported abroad, particularly to India.

Experts: Expand sustainable programmes to empower Afghan women

Women's rights activist Lamia Shirzai praised the work of these women in mushroom cultivation and said such programmes should be expanded.

Highlighting the economic challenges faced by families, she called for comprehensive and sustain-

able programmes from national and international institutions to empower Afghan women.

At the same time, economic expert Isa Mubarez said: "Any initiative that creates employment opportunities for women is a positive step towards Afghanistan's economic self-sufficiency."

He stressed that establishing small-scale farms for women in agriculture and livestock could strengthen household incomes and contribute to national economic growth.

"Afghan women already have valuable experience in agriculture, and if employment opportunities are provided, they can become a strong pillar of the country's economy," he added.

Officials: Striving to address farmers' problems and promote agriculture

Hatimi, spokesman for the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MoAIL), said that between 70 and 75 percent of Afghans were engaged in farming and livestock, and women actively contribute alongside men both in Kabul and the provinces.

Referring to the work of mushroom growers, he said: "Women play a significant role in mushroom cultivation, household gardening and other agricultural activities."

Hatimi said the ministry, in cooperation with national and international institutions, has provided specialised training and facilities for women with the aim of boosting their economic growth and supporting their families.

He noted that the ministry is currently working with organisations such as FAO and the World Food

Programme (WFP) to address farmers' challenges and promote agricultural development.

Richard Trenchard, FAO's representative in Afghanistan, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the organisation was supporting vulnerable families, especially women-headed households, through assistance packages aimed at improving nutrition and agricultural production.

"Our focus is on creating sustainable opportunities and empowering local communities so that they can be more resilient against economic and climate-related challenges," he said.

According to him, in recent years FAO has implemented projects in crop production, livestock, distribution of improved seeds and animal vaccination.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur is called on by German Ambassador, Ms Ina Lepel.

# US sends stern message, India must reconsider ties with China, Russia

Saqib Mushtaq

ISLAMABAD: The United States has delivered a strong and clear warning to India, signaling that New Delhi cannot simultaneously deepen its ties with Washington while cozying up to Moscow and Beijing. Analysts describe this as nothing less than a "shut-up call" from Washington, aimed at reminding India where its true strategic interests lie.

In recent months, India has expanded cooperation with Russia in defense and energy while maintaining a cautious balancing act with China. However, US policymakers are increasingly viewing this dual strategy as unacceptable, especially when Washington and its allies are working to counter Russian aggression and China's growing assertiveness in Asia.

According to diplomatic sources, Washington has several tools at its disposal to pressure India: Trade Leverage: The US is a vital export market for India. Any tightening of trade rules or tariffs could significantly hurt New Delhi's economy.

Defense Partnerships: America has opened its advanced defense technology to India, but this cooperation could be limited if India continues to rely heavily on Russian military sup-



plies. Regional Diplomacy: By working with allies such as Japan, Australia, and the European Union, the US can diplomatically isolate India if it drifts too close to Moscow and Beijing.

Financial Influence: With strong weight in international financial institutions, Washington can quietly apply pressure on India's economic outlook if needed. Experts note that Washington is not seeking hostility with India but rather sending a reminder that "India cannot have it both ways." The US sees New Delhi as a crucial partner in the Indo-

Pacific, but only if it aligns with the broader Western framework instead of hedging between rival blocs.

"The message is simple: America wants India on its side, not playing a double game," one foreign policy analyst said. "This is a decisive moment for New Delhi. Ignoring Washington's signals could cost India dearly." With global power rivalries sharpening, America's latest message is a clear indication that New Delhi must choose its side carefully or face consequences that could reshape its economic and diplomatic future.

## KP to support Afghan quake victims: Saif

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Advisor to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government on Information, Barrister Dr. Saif on Tuesday expressed deep sorrow and grief over the loss of lives and property caused by the recent earthquake in Afghanistan.

He assured that the KP government will extend full support to the affected Afghan families, emphasizing solidarity in this hour of hardship. "We stand shoulder to shoulder with our Afghan brothers during this difficult time and assure them of all possible assistance."

Barrister Saif added that hospitals across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are open and ready to treat injured Afghan victims of the earthquake. Relief teams, rescue workers, medicines, tents, and food supplies are prepared for immediate dispatch to the affected areas. He reaffirmed that the provincial government remains committed to helping Afghan brothers in every possible way during this crisis.

## PHC seeks govt and NADRA reply

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court (PHC) has directed the provincial and federal governments, Ministry of Interior, and National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) to respond to a petition filed by over 100 Afghan refugees seeking Pakistani citizenship, on Tuesday.

During the hearing, Justice Waqar Ahmed observed that the Ministry of Interior lacked a proper mechanism to manage the refugees' issues. He emphasized that the court is not asking for relief to be given to those who are not entitled to it, but rather for the deserving individuals to be granted their rights. Justice Ijaz Khan stressed the need for providing facilities to the people and utilizing technology to simplify the process. He directed NADRA to ensure that its offices are equipped with adequate staff and technology to handle the refugees' cases efficiently.

The Director General of NADRA informed the court that a zonal verification board has been established to address the issues of Afghan refugees. He stated that the NADRA cancels the Accelerated Citizenship Certificate (ACC) and Proof of Residence (POR) cards on the directives of the Ministry of Safron.

# No one to be allowed to disrespect court: CJ

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan Yahya Khan Afridi on Tuesday said there would be no leniency and no one would be allowed to disrespect the court. He gave these remarks during the hearing of a case regarding non-payment of default rent against a fictitious tenant. A 3-member bench headed by the chief justice heard the case.

He said "we will not allow anyone to disrespect the court." During hearing, the CJP advised the petitioner's lawyer to withdraw the petition, adding that "if

they pursue this case, there will be a problem." The Chief Justice enquired who was the petitioner, if she had arrived here. The petitioner's lawyer replied that she was living abroad, adding "If you ask, I will call her."

The CJP directed the lawyer to submit the documents of his client including identity card and passport in writing. The petitioner's lawyer said that "I will submit all the documents". He prayed the court to grant one day's time. During the hearing, the real owner of the house appeared in court and sub-

mitted the house registry.

The Chief Justice asked the petitioner's lawyer that "they are saying that they are living in this house, you are saying that the owner of the house is someone else; what is this; we will not allow anyone to disrespect the court." The petitioner's lawyer said that whoever disobeyed the court orders, a case should be filed against him. The Chief Justice remarked that "we will see whom the case should be filed against." The Supreme Court reserved the decision with the indication of passing an appropriate verdict.

# Israel pushes into initial stages of Gaza City offensive

DEIR AL BALAH (Reuters): Tens of thousands of reservists started to report for duty on Tuesday ahead of a new Israeli offensive in Gaza City, which Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu wants to speed up, despite warnings from senior ranks.

Israeli Army Radio said that some 40,000 reservists would report for duty on Tuesday for the Gaza City offensive. The military said it was readying logistically for the intake of reservists ahead of the offensive. Israel's security cabinet, chaired by Netanyahu, approved a plan last month to expand the campaign in Gaza with the aim of taking Gaza City, where Israeli forces waged fierce urban warfare with Hamas in the early stages of the war. Israel currently holds about 75 percent of the Gaza Strip.

A security cabinet meeting late on Sunday included angry exchanges between Netanyahu and his ministers, who want to push ahead with the Gaza City offensive, and military chief Eyal Zamir, who has urged the politicians to reach a ceasefire deal. Zamir said the campaign will endanger hostages and put further strain on the already over-stretched army, according to four ministers and two military officials present at the meeting. This follows similar exchanges between Zamir and Netanyahu's cabinet last month. Netanyahu said on August 20 that he gave the instruction to speed up the timetable for taking what he describes as Hamas' last bastion.

But on August 21, in discussions to approve the battle plans, the military again warned against hostages being endangered and said it could not begin the campaign for at least two months, according to a

source in Netanyahu's circle and a defense official. The military's main reason was that more time was needed for humanitarian efforts. But surveys have shown a substantial proportion of reservists are unhappy with the cabinet's plans, with some having taken the unusual step of openly accusing the government of lacking a cohesive strategy for Gaza, a post-war plan for the enclave or clear victory metrics.

"I don't feel like I'm doing anything that really applies significant pressure to have Hamas release the hostages," one combat reservist who has been serving in Gaza since October 7 told Reuters, speaking on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to speak publicly. At least 86 people were killed in Israeli strikes across Gaza, and scores more were wounded in the past 24 hours, local health authorities said.

Three separate airstrikes killed 26 people in total in houses in the Gaza City suburbs, where the Israeli forces stepped up aerial and ground bombardment in preparation for expanding the fighting. Outside Gaza City's Al-Shifa hospital, white plastic body bags with corpses were laid out on the street spattered with blood. Crowds wailed for slain relatives.

"We fled (our homes) with nothing. They went to get clothes and food from their homes, to bring clothes for their children and food for themselves... and Look now! They came back as martyrs!" said Nasr Nasr, a relative of some of the dead. Hundreds of mourners carried bodies through the streets. Others stood and prayed around a group of five bodies in shrouds, including three tiny children. The Israeli army's Arabic

service spokesperson told residents of Gaza there would be better humanitarian services in the south, as the army prepared to expand the Gaza City offensive. The Israeli military did not immediately respond to a request for comment but it has stated that its forces are combating fighters on the outskirts of Gaza City, destroying tunnels and militant infrastructure and seizing weapons.

Other deaths reported on Tuesday included five people killed while waiting in a food line in the south, nine killed in a strike on an apartment, and seven killed by Israeli tank fire. Thirteen more Palestinians, including three children, died of malnutrition and starvation in Gaza in the past 24 hours, the territory's health ministry said on Tuesday, raising officially reported deaths from such causes to at least 361, including 130 children, the vast majority in recent weeks.

Israel disputes the hunger fatality figures given by the health ministry of Gaza's government, arguing that deaths were due to other medical causes. The war in Gaza began on October 7, 2023, when gunmen led by Hamas attacked southern Israeli communities near the border, killing some 1,200 people, mainly civilians, and taking 251 hostages including children into Gaza, according to Israeli figures.

Over 62,000 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's air and ground war in Gaza since then, according to Gaza health officials, who do not say how many were militants but have said most of those killed have been women and children. Ceasefire talks that would see a pause in the fighting ended in a deadlock in July.

## Quetta blast claims five lives

F.P. Report

QUETTA: At least five people have died in an explosion near Shahwani Stadium on Sariab Road in Quetta, officials confirmed. The incident spread fear across the area as emergency responders and security personnel reached the site.

According to the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD), initial findings suggest the blast was a suicide attack. Forensic teams collected evidence from the scene to confirm the nature of the explosion. The provincial Home Department announced that the Government of Balochistan has ordered a formal inquiry into the incident.

Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti condemned the attack in strong terms, calling it a cowardly assault on humanity. He said the provincial government was determined to foil the designs of terrorists and ensure peace in the region. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi also condemned the Quetta blast. He said that terrorists "sponsored from across the border" were targeting civilians in a bid to create instability. Naqvi vowed that national unity would defeat such "heinous agendas." Following the blast, security in Quetta was placed on high alert. Rescue teams transported the injured to nearby hospitals while law enforcement agencies cordoned off the area. Authorities said investigations were underway and further details would be shared once confirmed.

## Landslide flattens Sudan, kills 1,000

KHARTOUM (AFP): Rescue teams were struggling to reach a remote mountain village in Sudan's Darfur region on Tuesday after a devastating landslide buried almost the entire community killing more than 1,000 people.

Heavy rain triggered the disaster on Sunday, flattening the village of Tarasin in the Jebel Marra range, the rebel Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM) faction which controls the area said in a statement, adding that there was only one survivor. "Initial information indicates the death of all village residents, estimated at more than 1,000 individuals, with only one survivor," the faction led by Abdulwahid Al-Nur said, calling the landslide "massive and devastating."

The group appealed to the United Nations and other aid organizations for help recovering the dead still buried under mud and debris. "This is beyond our capacity," Nur told AFP via a messaging app. "Masses of mud fell onto the village. Our humanitarian teams and local residents are trying to retrieve the bodies, but the scale of the disaster is far greater than the resources available to us," he said.

The African Union urged Sudan to "silence the guns" and allow aid delivery to victims of the deadly landslide. "In these painful circumstances, the chairperson of the Commission... calls on all Sudanese stakeholders to silence the guns and unite in facilitating the swift and effective delivery of emergency humanitarian assistance to those in need," the bloc said in a statement.

Images the SLM published on its website appeared to show huge sections of the mountainside collapsed, burying the village under thick mud and uprooted trees. Footage showed people standing on jagged rocks as they searched for those buried beneath the mud. The SLM controls parts of the Jebel Marra range and has mostly stayed out of the conflict, but hundreds of thousands of people have fled into SLM-held territory to escape the violence.

Jebel Marra is a rugged volcanic range stretching about 160 kilometers (100 miles) southwest of North Darfur's besieged state capital El-Fasher, which the RSF is pushing to capture after besieging it for more than a year. The area is prone to landslides, particularly during the rainy season which peaks in August. A 2018 landslide in nearby Toukoli killed at least 20 people. Since April 2023, Sudan has been ravaged by a war that erupted from a power struggle between army chief Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan and his former deputy, RSF commander Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo.

# Opposition flays ministers' absence in KP PA

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The opposition members in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly criticized the continuous absence and lack of interest shown by government ministers in the Assembly.

In response, Speaker Babar Saleem Swati expressed displeasure over the ministers' non-attendance and referred questions related to the Irrigation Department to the Standing Committee. The Assembly session, held on Tuesday under the chairmanship of Speaker Babar Saleem Swati, began with the recitation of the Holy Quran. During the question hour, PPP Parliamentary Leader Ahmed Kundi pointed out that most of the ministers from the ruling PTI were absent.

He reminded the Speaker that it had been decided earlier that if a minister is absent, questions related to their departments would be referred to standing committees. He questioned how ministers could be held accountable if they are not present or interested in Assembly proceedings. Addressing the Law Minister, the Speaker said, "How long will you carry the burden of all departments alone? We have ignored this for too long. I had given a ruling earlier that if a minister is absent without a valid excuse, the questions would be sent to the Standing Committee."

In response, Law Minister Aftab Alam admitted the situation was problematic and said "what you're saying is true, but it's also regretful." He added that parliamentary secretaries have been notified, but there are coordination issues at the departmental level. If the secretaries are not present, then the ministers themselves must respond. Subsequently, the Speaker referred four questions related to the Irrigation Department to the relevant Standing Committee and ruled that in future, ministers must be present during their question hour to satisfy the members. If they are not, their parliamentary secretaries must fulfill their responsibilities. Otherwise, questions will be forwarded to committees without any discussion.

During the session, Speaker Babar Saleem Swati issued a stern warning to PML-N MPA Jalal Khan for continuously interrupting proceedings. While Jalal Khan was pointing out ministers' absences, the Speaker warned "You have a serious problem; you need to fix it. If you don't stay silent, you will be removed from the House."

"The absent Irrigation Minister, Aqibullah, is a decent man, but the absence of ministers is becoming a norm. The Speaker should give strict rulings or enforce discipline so things improve." The Speaker replied that Jalal Khan's statements always disturb the House and added "You want to be removed from the House because you've received orders from above but we will bring you under discipline." Speaker Salim Swati also expressed his anger at senior bureaucrats for not sharing personal information, citing security concerns. The issue arose during a question posed by PML-N MPA Sobia Shahid, who claimed that government flats are not being allotted to eligible

officers. She said that, based on her information, the flats had been allotted to officers of grade 14 to 16. PPP's Ahmed Kundi stated that government officers are gazetted officials, and no personal data was asked for only official information. He criticized hiding behind "security" as a new trend and said the sanctity of the Assembly should be respected. Speaker Swati questioned whether the government had issued any official notification declaring such flat allotments as classified and added "Don't make a joke of this. Everyone knows where the CM, Governor, IG, and Chief Secretary live. If you're going to waste the Assembly's time with nonsense like this, that's not acceptable."

Law Minister Aftab Alam responded that the question was about flats, not homes, and that personal information related to officers' flats could pose a security risk. The Speaker, unsatisfied with the response, referred the matter to the Standing Committee. Speaker Babar Saleem Swati remarked that HESCO and PESCO have become business entities operating under the government's umbrella. He said that when the government releases development funds, there should also be a clear timeframe for project completion.

During the session, government MPA Taj Mohammad Khan presented a call attention Nlotice, saying that the current government had released funds to each district for electricity and gas projects, but many DCs transferred the schemes to WAPDA, and even after months, WAPDA had not provided necessary materials, delaying public access to electricity. Revenue Minister Nazir Abbasi said that work in Hazara and Swat is not possible during winters, which leads to funds being lapsed. He suggested calling the HESCO and PESCO chiefs to the Assembly to explain.

PPP's Ahmed Kundi proposed referring the matter to the Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) forum. Law Minister Aftab Alam explained that the Hazara Electric Supply Company (HESCO) was recently established and earlier fund transfers were delayed because PESCO did not operate in Hazara. He cited an August 26 letter confirming that over Rs. 681 million had now been transferred to HESCO and assured that funds for development work would be released soon. The Speaker reiterated that these companies are businesses selling services under government protection and stressed that a clear timeline must accompany funding. He questioned whether the Energy and Power Department held any responsibility in this matter. The issue was then referred to the Standing Committee. Meanwhile, MPA Ehsanullah raised a call attention notice, stating that in public degree colleges, BS examinations are both set and checked by the same teachers, which raises concerns over transparency. He suggested forming an independent body, similar to the Educational Boards, to regulate exam setting and checking procedures. Due to the absence of the relevant minister, the notice was deferred to the Standing Committee.

# Chief of Staff Bahrain Defence Force calls on Naval Chief

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Staff Bahrian Defence Force Lt General Theyab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naved Ashraf at Naval Headquarters, Islamabad. Upon arrival at Naval Headquarters, Chief of Staff Bahrian Defence Force was received by the Naval Chief.

During the meeting, both the leaders exchanged views on matters of mutual interest, focusing on regional maritime security and prospects for deepening cooperation in defence, training and joint maritime security operations. Admiral Naveed Ashraf underscored Pakistan Navy's efforts to promote



maritime stability through initiatives such as the Regional Maritime Security Patrols.

Lt Gen Al Nuaimi commended Pakistan Navy's professional capabilities and steadfast commitment for collaborative efforts to ensure maritime security in the region. Both leaders reaffirmed commitment to strengthen and diversify the

scope of existing bilateral defence relationship.

Pakistan and Bahrain share a longstanding, cordial relationship, with robust naval cooperation, particularly in the domains of maritime security and professional training. The visit will further deepen bilateral defence ties and enhance collaboration in regional security initiatives.

# Era of large dams is over, says Sherry Rehman

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Vice President of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Senator Sherry Rehman, stated that the era of large dams is over and that the solution to floods lies elsewhere.

Speaking to a private TV channel, Sherry Rehman emphasized that even if the Kalabagh Dam is constructed through some miraculous intervention, it would not prevent floods. "Floods will still occur, even if Kalabagh Dam is built," she asserted, adding that the focus should shift to more practical and sustainable solutions.

Rehman argued that whenever Pakistan experiences a super flood, the temptation to seek "magic bullet" solutions like mega dams becomes stronger. However, she made it clear that the era of massive dams like Tarbela and Mangla, which were built with international financial support, is long past. She pointed out that both of these dams are now dealing with significant

siltation problems due to the high silt flows from the Himalayan range.

"There is no doubt that the need for better storage exists, but we must focus on small, manageable solutions such as micro-dams and water harvesting reservoirs," Rehman continued. "We need to build a network of small dams that can absorb surges and store water without causing flooding. Let's not confuse the concept of water storage with flood control."

PPP senator also highlighted what she called Pakistan's "ridiculously low" storage capacity and stressed that small dams are the way forward. These smaller projects are not only easier to maintain and finance but can be operationalized much faster. When it comes to addressing the root causes of flooding, Rehman called for a comprehensive climate-water audit of the country. This audit should include joint solutions to tackle unchecked urban development, rampant deforestation, and unsustainable mountain

mining practices. She stressed that while such steps won't completely eliminate floods, they will help mitigate the impact.

"The reality is that floods are a result of climate change, deforestation, and unchecked urban expansion. Flooding will continue to occur, but we can manage how we respond to it, minimizing loss, including agricultural damage," she said. Rehman also underscored the importance of reassessing agricultural land use to ensure future food and water security. She warned that the increasing glacial melt in the country's mountainous regions, with some peaks seeing a 16% increase, will only intensify the frequency and severity of floods. She further criticized the KP Chief Minister for refusing to engage in discussions on flood management. Rehman remarked that the CM's decision to skip meetings and his rejection of dam construction proposals were contributing to a lack of informed dialogue on the issue.