

SHO martyred in Karak
F.P. Report
KARAK: Unknown armed men opened indiscriminate fire on a police party in Banda Daud Shah tehsil of Karak district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, as a result of which SHO Umar Nawaz was martyred along with two of his colleagues, while an officer was injured. The incident took place when SHO Umar Nawaz was on a routine patrol along with his officers.

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6 people killed in Kurram
F.P. Report
KURRAM: At least six people were killed when unidentified gunmen opened fire on a passenger vehicle in Lower Kurram area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Wednesday, police said. According to officials, the vehicle was traveling from Para Chamakni to Kohat when four armed men ambushed it in the Ahmad Jani Kalli area. All six passengers died on the spot.

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Xi declares China ‘unstoppable’ at nation’s mly parade

BEIJING (Reuters): Chinese President Xi Jinping warned the world was facing a choice between peace or war as he held his country's largest-ever military parade on Wednesday, flanked by Russia's Vladimir Putin and North Korea's Kim Jong Un.

The lavish event, also attended by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, to mark 80 years since Japan's defeat at the end of World War Two has been largely shunned by Western leaders, with Putin and Kim — pariahs in the West due to the Ukraine war and Kim's nuclear ambitions — the guests of honour.

Designed to project China's military might and diplomatic clout, it also comes as US President Donald Trump's trade tariffs and volatile policymaking strain its relations with allies and rivals alike. "Today, mankind is faced with the choice of peace or war, dialogue or confrontation, win-win or zero-sum," Xi told a crowd of more than 50,000 spectators at Tiananmen Square, adding that the Chinese people "firmly stand on the right side of history".

Riding in an open-top limousine, Xi then inspected the troops and cutting-edge military equipment such as missiles, tanks and drones on display. Helicopters trailing large banners and fighter jets flew in formation above during the 70-minute showcase, thick with symbolism and propaganda, which culminated in the release of 80,000 peace doves and colourful balloons.

Wearing a suit in the style of those worn by former leader Mao Zedong, Xi earlier greeted more than 20 leaders on the red carpet, including Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto, who made a surprise appearance despite widespread protests at home. Xi's wife, Peng Liyuan, could be heard saying "Nice to meet you" and "Welcome to China" to several of the guests in English.

Seated between Putin and Kim, Xi repeatedly initiated conversations with both leaders in the viewing gallery as troops and materiel paraded before them. "Please give my warmest regards to Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong Un, as you conspire against the United States of America," Trump said in a post on Truth Social, as the event kicked off. He also highlighted the US role in helping China secure its freedom from Japan. Trump had earlier told reporters he did not see the parade as a challenge to the US.

Japan's top government spokesperson declined to comment on the parade, adding Asia's top two economies were building "constructive relations". Xi has cast World War Two as a major turning point in the "great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation", in which it overcame the humiliation of Japan's invasion to become an economic and geopolitical powerhouse. Earlier this week, Xi unveiled his vision of a new global order at a regional security summit, calling for unity against "hegemonism and power politics", a thinly veiled swipe at his rival across the Pacific Ocean.

"Xi feels confident that the table has turned. It's China that is back in the driver's seat now," said Wen-Ti Sung, fellow at the Atlantic Council's Global China Hub, based in Taiwan. "It's been Trumpian unilateralism rather than China's wolf warrior diplomacy when people talk about the leading source of uncertainty in the international system," he added. Beyond the pomp, analysts are watching whether Xi, Putin and Kim may signal closer defence relations following a pact signed by Russia and North Korea in June 2024, and a similar alliance between Beijing and Pyongyang, an outcome that may alter the military calculus in the Asia-Pacific region.

Putin has already used the occa-

sion to seal deeper energy deals with China, while the gathering has given Kim an opportunity to gain implicit support for his banned nuclear weapons. Kim, debuting in his first major multilateral event, became the first North Korean to attend a Chinese military parade in 66 years. He travelled to Beijing with his daughter Ju Ae, whom South Korean intelligence consider his most likely successor, although she was not seen alongside him at the parade.

Over the past two years, more than a dozen generals — many formerly close to Xi — have been purged from the People's Liberation Army in a sweeping corruption crackdown. "The parade allows Xi to focus the world's attention on its impressive strides in modernising its military hardware, while overshadowing the stubborn challenges afflicting the PLA, most notably the continued purges rolling through the ranks of its most senior officers," said Jon Czin, a foreign policy analyst at Brookings Institution, a US-based think tank. The parade was not only aimed at projecting China's might to the outside world, but also galvanising patriotic spirit at home, analysts said.

In his keynote address, Xi called the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation "unstoppable". Civil servants up and down the country have been tasked with watching the parade and writing down their reflections, one of them told Reuters. Nothing was left to chance for the milestone gathering. Major roads and schools were closed in Beijing for the parade, the culmination of weeks of painstaking security preparations and midnight rehearsals. Local governments nationwide mobilised tens of thousands of volunteers and Communist Party members to monitor for any signs of potential unrest around the parade, estimates based on online recruitment notices show.



BEIJING: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif along with Russia's President Vladimir Putin and North Korea's Kim Jong Un walking with China's President Xi Jinping, during military parade in Tiananmen Square, China.

Deanth toll rises to 15in BNP rally attack

F.P. Report

QUETTA: Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Balochistan, Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat, on Wednesday confirmed that at least 15 people were killed and 72 injured in Tuesday's attack on a Balochistan National Party (BNP) rally in Quetta.

The BNP had organized a political gathering at Shahwani Stadium. Speaking to the media, Shafqaat said that 23 of the injured remain in critical condition. He added that Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti has announced Rs1.5 million compensation for each of the deceased, Rs500,000 for the severely injured, and Rs200,000 for those with minor injuries.

He said the blast occurred about 500 meters away from the rally venue and around 45 minutes after the event had concluded. Balochistan government made tighten security arrangements for the event and 112 security personnel were deployed, he added. Shafqaat noted that BNP organizers had been asked three times to end the rally earlier, but the gathering continued until late. "The attack happened away from the main venue. Investigations are underway, and those responsible will be identified," he said. He further remarked that "enemy elements want to destabilize Pakistan after their defeat in Marka-e-Haq," adding that currently, there are nearly 22 active threat alerts in the province.

Relief goods hand over to Afghan officials

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.

PM directs NDMA to ensure preparedness

Shehbaz directs to replicate China's quality standards at Pakistan hospitals

BEIJING (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday directed Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi to establish simple, robust and sustainable infrastructure at Islamabad's under-construction hospitals, including Jinnah Medical Complex, to deliver high-quality medical facilities, modeled on China's standards.

The prime minister, who is currently on a visit to China, telephoned the NDMA Chairman Lt General Inam Haider Malik, and directed him to issue early warnings to the public regarding the rising water levels in the said rivers. He also instructed the Authority to fully cooperate with provincial governments to expedite safety measures and relief operations.

The NDMA Chairman briefed the prime minister on the flood situation in Pakistan and ongoing relief operations, as well as the rising water levels in three rivers.

Meanwhile, the President and the Prime Minister issued strong condemnations following a devastating explosion near the Shahwani Stadium in Quetta, which targeted a political gathering of the Balochistan National Party.

President Asif Ali Zardari vehemently condemned the blast, said a statement from the Presidency, adding he directed the relevant institutions to launch a comprehensive investigation into the incident and ensure that the perpetrators were brought to justice.

The President expressed his profound grief and solidarity with the families of those who lost their lives in the attack, offering his heartfelt condolences. He also prayed for the swift recovery of the injured and issued directives to concerned officials to provide them with the best possible medical treatment.

In a separate statement issued from the Prime Minister's Office, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, who is currently on an official visit to Beijing, also condemned the attack in the strongest terms. The PM expressed his deep sorrow and anguish over the loss of precious lives. The Prime Minister characterized the assault on the political rally as "damning evidence of the nefarious conspiracy by terrorists to spread chaos in Balochistan." He asserted that "terrorists are the enemies of peace and development in Balochistan."

PM Sharif declared, "We will continue the war against terrorism until the complete eradication of this menace." He further stated that attacks on innocent and unarmed citizens are "cowardly and condemnable." The prime minister also instructed authorities to provide the best medical facilities to the wounded and to ensure the swift identification and prosecution of those involved in the bombing.

Sindh govt committed to supporting flood victims

F.P. Report

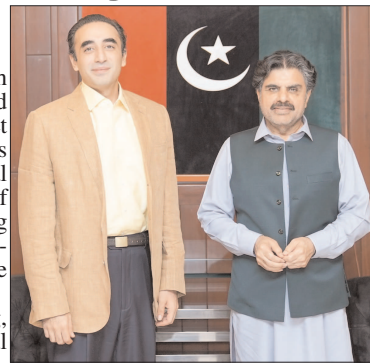
KARACHI: Sindh Energy Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah met with Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to brief him on the ongoing relief efforts in flood-affected areas across the province.

During the meeting, Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari emphasized the need for transparency and swift action in relief operations. "The Sindh government must leave no stone unturned in helping the flood victims," he stated. He further directed authorities to ensure immediate and effective response while also focusing on long-term rehabilitation of the affected regions through comprehensive planning.

Syed Nasir Hussain Shah informed the party chairman that relief and rescue operations are actively underway in Sukkur, Rohri, and other flood-hit areas. "Rescue teams and relief camps are fully operational, and all government machinery is on high alert," he said, reaffirming the provincial government's commitment to standing with the people in this difficult time.

The Sindh government continues to prioritize the safety, rehabilitation, and welfare of flood-affected communities, aiming to restore normalcy as quickly as possible.

Meanwhile, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has reaffirmed his party's unwavering support for security forces in the ongoing fight against extremism and terrorism. Condemning the attack on the FC headquarters in Bannu and the firing on police personnel in Lakki Marwat, Bilawal Bhutto praised the resolve and bravery of FC personnel in



foiling the terrorist attacks. He paid tribute to the security officers martyred in the gunfire exchange with terrorists and to the police personnel killed in Lakki Marwat, offering heartfelt condolences and solidarity to their families.

He also prayed for the swift recovery of those injured in the attacks, including both security personnel and civilians. The PPP chairman reiterated his commitment to continue supporting the security forces in the struggle against extremism and terrorism.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also condemned the blast at a rally of the Balochistan National Party (Mengal) in Quetta, expressing sorrow over the loss of precious lives and extending condolences to the victims' families and the BNP(M) leadership. He expressed confidence that the terrorists responsible for this heinous act would soon be brought to justice and urged the Balochistan government to ensure proper medical care for all injured civilians.

Exceptionally high flood to persist in Chenab, Sutlej rivers across Punjab

F.P. Report

LAHORE: Punjab is grappling with exceptionally high flood levels in major rivers, with authorities issuing urgent alerts to residents along riverbanks.

The Chenab River at Ganda Singh Wala is expected to sustain extreme levels until September 10, while the Indus near Guddu Barrage may see high to very high floods from September 6 to 7. Ongoing heavy rains have exacerbated the situation, prompting the opening of spillways and widespread evacuations.

At Head Marala on the Chenab, water discharge has surpassed 531,000 cusecs, forcing the closure of the river bridge and deployment of police at both ends. Khanki and Qadirabad Headworks are recording flows of 339,470 cusecs and 232,450 cusecs respectively. Meanwhile, Trimmu and Panjnad Headworks are observing 355,744 and 182,107 cusecs. The Sutlej River is swelling, with Ganda Singh Wala reporting 269,501 cusecs and Sulemanki Headworks at 122,736 cusecs.

Over 3,300 villages across Punjab have been impacted, displacing more than 3.36 million people. Relief authorities have established more than 400 relief and medical camps and 385 veterinary camps. In Bahawalnagar alone, approximately 6,690 residents from 124 villages have been forced to evacuate due to flood surges. Nearly 800,000 animals have also been shifted to safety.

Authorities remain on high alert as floodwaters from the Indian mainland and occupied Kashmir are expected to flow into Pakistan. NDMA officials have warned that free-flooded water from the Sutlej and Beas rivers is heading towards Kasur and Ganda Singh Wala, while rivers in Punjab, including Ravi, Chenab, and Jhelum, are expected to converge at Panjnad in Bahawalpur, Rajanpur, and Muzaffargarh by

September 4. Precautionary measures, including evacuation alerts and dam spillway operations, continue to protect communities and agricultural land. Khanpur Dam has reached full capacity, prompting the opening of spillways and advisories for residents and tourists. In addition, explosives were used at Myi Safuran bund near Head Sidhnai to prevent breaches, diverting water to safer channels and reducing potential damage to nearby settlements. Punjab authorities have urged citizens to remain vigilant, particularly in low-lying areas and along riverbeds, while monitoring continues for further rainfall and flood surges expected until September 10.

Federal Flood Commission (FFC) has said that urban flooding is expected in Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Gujrat, Gujranwala and Lahore during the next 24 hours. According to daily FFC report on Wednesday, a fresh exceptionally high flood wave is expected in River Chenab at Marala and Downstream from today while exceptionally high flood will continue in river Sutlej at Ganda Singh Wala, owing to release from Indian reservoirs.

Similarly, River Chenab at Panjnad is expected to attain very high flood from Thursday to Friday 4 while River Indus at Guddu is expected to attain very high flood from 6th to 7th September 2025. Currently, River Indus is flowing in medium flood at Guddu (Steady Condition), River Chenab is in very high flood in Marala-Khanki reach with rising trend. Moreover, River Ravi is also running in medium flood at Jassar with rising trend while river Sutlej is flowing in exceptionally high flood at Ganda Singh Wala (Steady Condition). Tarbela Dam is full to its maximum conservation level (MCL) of 1550 feet. Mangla Reservoir stands at 1227.80 feet which is 14.20 feet below its MCL of 1242 feet.

The combined live storage of

Tarbela, Chashma and Mangla reservoirs stands at 12,157 MAF, which is 91.30% of the total available live storage capacity of 13,316 MAF. For the next 24 hours Flood Forecasting Division Lahore has predicted scattered hunderstorm/rain with isolated heavy falls over Islamabad and Punjab (Rawalpindi, Gujrat, Gujranwala, Lahore & Sahiwal Divisions) including upper catchments of Rivers Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi & Sutlej. Isolated thunderstorm/rain may also occur over Punjab (Sargodha, Faisalabad, Multan, DG Khan & Bahawalpur Divisions), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Peshawar, Kohat, Bannu & DI Khan Divisions) and Northeastern Balochistan during the said period.

The Khanpur Dam has reached 99 percent of its storage capacity, prompting authorities to open its spillways at 2:00 PM on Wednesday to ensure safety and regulate water flow. According to official data, the inflow in the dam is recorded at 1,204 cusecs, while the outflow through the spillways has been increased to between 6,800 and 7,500 cusecs. The maximum conservation level of the reservoir is 1,982 feet, which is now nearly attained due to continuous inflow following torrential rains in the region. The district administration has issued safety advisories for residents and travelers living along the banks of the Haro River in Haripur district, Hasan Abdal, and Attock. People have been urged to exercise caution, avoid unnecessary travel near the river, and adopt preventive measures to avert any untoward incident. Rescue and relief teams have been placed on alert to deal with any emergency situation. Authorities emphasized that the opening of spillways is a routine safety measure during high water inflow and appealed to the public not to panic but to remain vigilant.

Saif urges federal govt to stand with Afghanistan in crisis

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Advisor to the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Information and Public Relations, Barrister Dr. Saif, has urged the Federal Government to step forward and extend support to the victims of the recent earthquake in Afghanistan. He stated that just as Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Khan Gandapur has taken the initiative, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif should also stand with Afghanistan in this difficult time. He added that Afghanistan is not only our neighbor but also a brotherly country, which is

economically vulnerable.

Barrister Dr. Saif appealed to Pakistan and the international community to provide assistance to the Afghan earthquake victims, stressing that as neighbors and fellow Muslims, it is our duty to fully support them.

He informed that, on the directives of the Chief Minister, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government has handed over 35 truckloads of relief goods to Afghan authorities at the Torkham border for the earthquake victims. The relief consignment included 500 winterized tents, 500 family-size tents, 1000 tarpau-

lins, 1500 mattresses, 3000 pillows, 1500 quilts, 500 blankets, and two truckloads of essential medicines. Afghan officials expressed their gratitude to the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, particularly Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, for the timely assistance during this challenging period. Barrister Dr. Saif further announced that additional relief consignments will soon be dispatched to Afghanistan. He assured that Afghan brothers injured in the earthquake will be provided free medical treatment in Peshawar as well as in hospitals across the province.

Sindh CM, Aleem Khan discuss progress on M-6, M-10

F.P. Report
KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that the Hyderabad-Sukkur Motorway (M-6) and the Karachi Northern Bypass-Jamshoro Motorway (M-10), both projects, are “vital not only for Sindh but for the entire country’s economy.” “M-6 would unlock opportunities for the youth of interior Sindh through enhanced connectivity, while M-10 would “resolve Karachi’s traffic bottle-necks once and for all.” This he said while talking to Federal Communications Minister Aleem Khan, who held a meeting with him here at CM House to review the progress of two major infrastructure projects, the Hyderabad-Sukkur Motorway (M-6) and the Karachi Northern Bypass-Jamshoro Motorway (M-10). Provincial Ministers Sharjeel Inam Memon, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, Haji Ali Hassan Zardari, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, Chairman P&D Najam Shah, and Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh attended the meeting. Federal Secretary of Communications Ali Sher and Chairman NHA Sahibzada Shahryar Sultan also attended the meeting. The chief minister and federal communication minister were briefed by federal Secretary Ali Sher that the Hyderabad-Sukkur Motorway (M-6), the last missing north-south motor-

cance, officials said that M-6 would complete Pakistan’s north-south motorway backbone, linking Peshawar to Karachi. It is expected to enhance trade, logistics, and regional development by reducing travel time, improving safety, and facilitating port-to-upcountry connectivity. M-10 Motorway: The meeting also discussed the M-10 Motorway project, which has evolved from a simple bypass upgrade into a two-segment mega initiative. The two segments

include upgrading Karachi Northern Bypass (34 km) - From ICI Bridge to Hamdard University Chowk, converted into an 8-lane motorway. New 134 km Motorway M-10 through Khirthar Range - A 6-lane motorway linking Hamdard University Chowk to the M-6 at Jamshoro. Additionally, a 23 km stretch from Hamdard University Chowk to the M-9 will be upgraded to a 6-lane road. This will transform the entire route from Karachi Port to M-6

in Jamshoro into a high-capacity motorway, the meeting was told. Currently, the M-10 is in the feasibility study stage, being conducted by NESPAK. The project’s core objective is to decongest Karachi by creating a direct high-speed link between the port and the national motorway network, bypassing city traffic, said Aleem Khan. Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah welcomed the federal government’s support and said both projects were

“vital not only for Sindh but for the entire country’s economy.” He added that M-6 would unlock opportunities for the youth of interior Sindh through enhanced connectivity, while M-10 would “resolve Karachi’s traffic bottle-necks once and for all.”

Federal Minister Aleem Khan assured the CM that the Ministry of Communications and NHA were fully committed to completing both projects in a timely and transparent manner.

MNA Aseefa reviews flood preparedness in Benazirabad



F.P. Report
During her visit, Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari convened a detailed briefing session attended by the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, DIG, SSP, as well as senior officials from the Irrigation Department, Rescue 1122, and the Health Department. She was informed that under a super flood scenario up to 80,000 residents across 95 villages in nine union councils could be affected. Daily monitoring is being carried out with regular updates to assess and respond to the evolving situation. Officials also reported that approximately 64,000 livestock may be at risk, with evacuation efforts currently in progress. Areas in Qazi Ahmed and Sakrand, including That, Saeed Kando, Phullel, Khad, Gehram Mari, Bahawal Shah, Mehrabpur, Mari, and

Morya Lakho, have been identified as particularly vulnerable. To support relief efforts, 59 relief camps have been identified and 11 medical camps have been activated so far. Arrangements for life jackets, boats, fire brigades, ambulances, dewatering pumps, and ventilators have also been made. Commending the ongoing efforts, the First Lady appreciated the dedication of the administration, particularly the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, DIG, SSP, Rescue 1122, and health authorities for their commitment to safeguarding lives and livelihoods. Assuring the people of Shaheed Benazirabad that they would not be left alone in this hour of crisis, Bibi Aseefa Bhutto Zardari emphasized: “This is not a moment for political division but rather a time to stand together as one nation.” She directed all stakeholders to intensify relief work and continue working collectively to support flood-affected families, ensuring that every possible step is taken to protect lives and provide timely assistance.

FBR takes action against corrupt officials in smuggled vehicle scandal

F.P. Report
ISLAMABAD: In pursuit of its ongoing transformation agenda, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) continues to prioritize transparency, accountability, and institutional integrity. A key pillar of this reform effort is the establishment of internal checks and a policy of zero tolerance towards corrupt practices. This includes profiling of FBR’s workforce based on integrity and initiating disciplinary and criminal action where needed. It may be recalled that in order to strengthen control mechanisms and prevent the misuse of auctioned vehicles, FBR in August 2021 introduced the ‘Auction Module’ in its WeBOC system. This system enhancement was aimed at addressing the issue of multiple vehicles being registered against documents issued by Customs after the auction of confiscated smuggled vehicles. Through this module, Motor Registration Authorities (MRAs) were enabled to verify auctioned vehicle details online before registration, significantly reducing reliance on paper-based manual verifications. The goal was to both strengthen institutional controls and

facilitate legitimate buyers. However, despite these reforms, reports emerged in July 2025 regarding misuse of the aforementioned Auction Module. In response, FBR immediately initiated an inquiry into the matter. Since the module’s launch, details of 1,909 vehicles had been uploaded into the system. Upon detailed scrutiny, it was discovered that 103 of these vehicles had been fraudulently uploaded using fake user identities. MRAs had already registered 43 out of these 103 smuggled vehicles, effectively granting them an appearance of legal clearance. Based on a digital audit and internal investigations, FBR identified the user IDs through which the fraud was committed. As a result, on 9th July, 2025, FBR suspended one Deputy Collector and one Assistant Collector, whose credentials had been misused in the commission of this crime. The investigation further revealed that this was part of a wider criminal racket involving officials from MRAs and car dealers. Recognizing the gravity of the issue, FBR determined that the matter warranted action beyond internal disciplinary proceedings. Accordingly, a formal request by FBR was made on 9th July, 2025 for the constitution of a Joint Investigation Committee (JIT), comprising senior officers from the FIA, Customs, and Intelligence Agencies. The JIT was tasked with a comprehensive probe into the scam, including the manipulation of the Customs digital system. Following FBR’s formal complaint to FIA dated 10th July, 2025, the JIT commenced its investigation. As a result, on 28th August, 2025, the FIA lodged an FIR against already identified officers, after being found involved in fraudulently legalizing smuggled vehicles. Today, these individuals have been formally arrested by FIA. It is also pertinent to mention that Customs Enforcement has so far lodged seven FIRs and arrested 13 individuals in connection with this broader scam. This action sends a clear and firm signal that the criminal elements within the organization will be identified, exposed, and proceeded against in accordance with the law. FBR remains fully committed to holding its officers accountable and ensuring that the integrity of public service is upheld at all levels and at all costs.

Commissioner reviews flood relief operations and smog control measures

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Divisional Commissioner Maryam Khan on Wednesday visited the flood relief camp, established at Government Middle School Gao Shala, Shafique Abad Bund Road, where she inspected facilities and shared breakfast with the affected families residing there. Accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Lahore Musa Raza, the Commissioner interacted with camp residents, who expressed satisfaction over the arrangements made by the district administration. She also visited living quarters and the on-site medical center, reviewing healthcare facilities, medicines, and mobile “Clinic on Wheels” services being provided at the camp. Commissioner Maryam Khan informed that floods have affected 31 villages in Lahore, displacing 43,000 people and leading to the relocation of 13,621 livestock to safer locations. Currently, 3,898 individuals are residing in nine relief camps established across four tehsils of Lahore, including three camps in Ravi Town. In addition to shelter and food, clothing is also being provided to the displaced families. She added that, in line with the directives of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, 17 medical camps are functional across Lahore to provide healthcare against waterborne diseases, while nine veterinary relief camps and 17

mobile dispensaries are serving livestock. Later in the day, Commissioner Maryam Khan chaired a divisional meeting to review anti-dengue, anti-smog, and flood relief measures. The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners, Additional Commissioners, MD WASA, SSP Traffic, officials of MCL, Environment, Health, Rescue 1122, Industries, and other departments, while all Deputy Commissioners of Lahore Division joined via video link. During the briefing, officials informed that dengue larvae surveillance was ongoing across Lahore, with fewer cases reported this year compared to the same period last year. It was noted that larvicidal medicines were being safely applied to stagnant water, with special attention on hotspots including one union council in Iqbal Town.

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister and Chairman of the Cabinet Committee on Law and Order, Khawaja Salman Rafique, has said that extraordinary security arrangements are being made across the province for Eid Milad-un-Nabi (Peace Be Upon Him). He was chairing the 34th meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Law and Order at the Punjab Home Department on Wednesday. Provincial Ministers Malik Sohaib Ahmed Bharat and Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani attended the meeting in person, while Chaudhry Shafi Hussain and Bilal Akbar Khan joined via video link. The meeting reviewed security plans for Eid Milad-un-Nabi processions and gatherings, Pakistan Defense Day, the Pak-South Africa Women’s Cricket Series, and upcoming by-elections. Home Secretary Dr. Ahmed Javed Qazi, along with senior officials from law enforcement agencies, briefed the committee on the arrangements. The meeting directed to ensure foolproof measures for the cricket series and other key events.

Sindh launches PITP-II and Google Digital Sahafat scholarships



F.P. Report
KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Tuesday launched the People’s Information Technology Programme (PITP-II) and the Google Digital Sahafat Scholarships Programme, reaffirming his government’s commitment to youth empowerment, digital innovation, and credible journalism. The MoU and agreement signing ceremony was held at CM House, attended by Senior Minister for Information Sharjeel Inam Memon, Chairman HEC, Sindh Prof Tariq Rafi, Secretary IT Noor Samo, Vice Chancellors of NED University Dr Tufail, Mehran University Dr Tauha, Sukkur IBA Dr Asif Shaikh, Karachi University Dr Khalid Iraqi, VC Shaha Latif University CEO Tech Valley Umer Farooq, Google Asia head Paul Hutchings, CM spokesperson Nadir Gabol, Abdullah Baloch, DG Information Dept Moiz Pirzada, KUJ President Tahir Hassan, and other dignitaries. Speaking at the ceremony, the chief minister said

that Sindh was proud of the success of PITP-I, under which 13,565 students received world-class IT training, surpassing the original target. Over 4,300 graduates are now employed, while 300 Google Chromebooks were awarded to top-performing students. “The programme was not only about skills but also about inclusivity, with strong participation from women and students from rural Sindh,” he noted. Building on that momentum, the Murad Shah announced the launch of PITP-II, with an allocation of Rs1.4 billion, aimed at training 35,000 students in 12 high-demand technologies. The training will be delivered through NED University Karachi, Mehran University Jamshoro, and Sukkur IBA University, leveraging their provincial outreach. To recognise merit, 1,750 Chromebooks will be awarded to outstanding trainees, representing five per cent of graduates. The eligibility criteria have also been broadened to include students from

Matriculation, Intermediate, and Graduation levels across disciplines, with the age cap extended to 28 years. “PITP-II is not just training; it is a transformative leap that will cement Sindh’s leadership in inclusive, future-ready growth,” the CM said. Alongside PITP-II, Murad Shah also announced the launch of Digital Sahafat 2.0, under the Google News Initiative in collaboration with Tech Valley and the Government of Sindh. In its first phase, over 500 faculty members and media students were trained in digital reporting, fact-checking, verification, and AI-driven journalism. The new phase will provide 1,000 scholarships, equally divided among working journalists, government spokespersons, and media students from public universities. “This is not just about technology; it is about truth, accountability, and democracy. By equipping our journalists with digital tools, we strengthen transparency and public trust,” the CM

Newborn abducted from LGH recovered

LAHORE (APP): A newborn abducted from Lahore General Hospital (LGH) was safely recovered and handed over to the mother in deeply emotional and joyous moments. According to the LGH spokesperson on Wednesday, the hospital administration remained in close contact with the police as well as the parents throughout the recovery process. Principal of Postgraduate Medical Institute/Ameer-ud-Din Medical College and LGH, Professor Dr. Muhammad Farooq Afzal, along with Medical Superintendent Professor Dr. Faryad Hussain, lauded the efforts of the police. They stated that the safe recovery of the infant reflected the police’s professional competence and their commitment to public service. Professor Farooq Afzal further announced that the LGH administration would award commendation certificates to the police officials involved in the operation, to encourage them and to strengthen their resolve in tackling similar challenges in the future. He termed the safe return of the child to the parents as a “major success” made possible through exemplary coordination between the police and the hospital administration. The mother, holding her baby close to her chest, expressed immense happiness and relief, thanking both the police and the LGH administration. Family members described the occasion as one of the happiest moments of their lives.

Punjab finalizes security plan for Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH)

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister and Chairman of the Cabinet Committee on Law and Order at the Punjab Home Department on Wednesday. Provincial Ministers Malik Sohaib Ahmed Bharat and Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani attended the meeting in person, while Chaudhry Shafi Hussain and Bilal Akbar Khan joined via video link. The meeting reviewed security plans for Eid Milad-un-Nabi processions and gatherings, Pakistan Defense Day, the Pak-South Africa Women’s Cricket Series, and upcoming by-elections. Home Secretary Dr. Ahmed Javed Qazi, along with senior officials from law enforcement agencies, briefed the committee on the arrangements. The meeting directed to ensure foolproof measures for the cricket series and other key events.

OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT
DHQ TEACHING HOSPITAL KDA KOHAT
INVITATION TO BIDS THROUGH E-PADS

In terms of KPRA S.R.O. (23)/Vol: 1-34/2024-25 dated March 24, 2025; DHQ Teaching Hospital KDA Kohat intends to invited e-bids through E-Pak Acquisition and Disposal System (E-PADS), from firms/vendors registered with Income Tax and Sales Tax Department, for provision of Inverter Air Conditioners during the fiscal year 2025-2026. The procurement shall be carried out in accordance with Rule 6(2) (a) under the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (KPRA) Procurement Rules, 2014.

Bid Documents:
E-Bidding documents detailed terms and conditions, specification and requirements etc., are available for the registered bidders on E-PADS at <https://eprocure.gov.pk>

Terms and Conditions:
01. E-Bids, prepared in accordance to the instructions contained in the bidding documents along with bid security instrument, and required documents; must be submitted by using E-PADS on or before **September 16, 2025 till 11:00 am**. Manual bids shall not be accepted. Electronic Bids will be opened on the same day at 11:30 am.
02. Scanned copies of all documents shall be uploaded through E-PADS while submitting e-bid. However, bid security instrument amounting to Rs.100,000/- (Rupees one hundred thousand only) in form of Call Deposit Receipt (in original) shall also be submitted in the office of the Medical Superintendent DHQ Teaching Hospital KDA Kohat, before closing time for submission of e-bid along with attested copies of other documents uploaded on E-PADS.
03. The competent authority reserves the right to reject all bids or proposals at any time prior to the acceptance as provided under Rule 47 of the KPRA Procurement Rules, 2014.

DR. NAEEM SHAH
MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT
DHQ TEACHING HOSPITAL KOHAT - KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA
ZERO TOLERANCE TO CORRUPTION
INF(P) 3779/25

پی اے ایف میں، رسالہ پور
نیسٹر برائے فراہمی پودہ جات بیج
کھاد وغیرہ برائے مالیاتی سال 2025-26

پی اے ایف میں، رسالہ پور کو مالیاتی سال 2025-26 میں کاشت کے لیے مختلف قسم کے پھل دار، سادر اور پودہ جات، گھاس مختلف قسم کے کھاد، دھڑکی ادویات و دیگر کی فراہمی کے لیے گورنمنٹ سے مشورہ ٹکنیکل، جنرل آرڈر سائز، برسر کی مالکان سے ٹینڈر مطلوب ہیں جو اس اشتہار کی اشاعت کے **15 یوم** کے اندر آفیسر انچارج، پرنسپل انسٹوکارن، پی اے ایف میں، رسالہ پور کے آفس میں صبح 10 بجے تک وصول کیے جائیں گے۔ ٹینڈر کا دن دوسرے 12 بجے کو ملے جائیں گے۔ ایکٹیو انتظامیہ کی توجہ حاصل ہے۔ گھاس کی دھڑکی بھی ٹینڈر رکروے۔

آفیسر انچارج، پرنسپل انسٹوکارن
پی اے ایف میں، رسالہ پور
فون نمبر: 0923-6313391/0923-6313391
موبائل نمبر: 0323-9413312



PESHAWAR: Chief Secretary Shahab Ali Shah chairing a high-level meeting to review progress on set targets under the Good Governance Roadmap.

Joint Ulema conference on inter-sect harmony held

Syed Adnan

PESHAWAR: A joint Ulema Conference on inter-sect harmony was held at Javed Sultan Auditorium, Kohat, under the chairmanship of GOC 9 Division, Major General Shahid Amir Afzal.

The session was attended by Allama Dr. Mufti Raghbir Hussain Naeemi (Chairman Islamic Ideological Council), 120 scholars and youth from both Sunni and Shia sects hailing from Kurram, Hangu, Kohat, and Karak faculty and students of the

Department of Islamic Studies, and members of the Islamic Ideological Council.

In their addresses, religious scholars emphasized unity, peace, tolerance, and love for the homeland as the need of the hour. The speakers highlighted that successful examples of sectarian harmony exist in other regions, and sustainable peace in Kurram is also possible.

Participants appealed for the establishment of state writ, restoration of roads, immediate resolution of land disputes, and

the dignified return of displaced families without objections from either sect.

The Commissioner of Kohat stressed the need for eliminating weapons and bunkers, ensuring implementation of the Kohat Peace Accord, and highlighted major development projects planned for the region.

GOC 9 Division urged scholars and youth to foster brotherhood, promote education, utilize social media positively, and ensure fulfillment of peace agreements. He termed

public participation as vital for lasting peace.

The conference was widely welcomed by both sects, with a proposal to hold the next sessions in mosques and imambargahs of Parachinar and Sadda.

At the conclusion, the GOC 9 Division presented souvenirs to the Chairman, scholars, and members of the Islamic Ideological Council.

A joint declaration was issued by both sects, strongly condemning sectarian hatred and calling for peace and harmony in the region.

IGP chairs High-Level conference on security, development projects

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Zulfiqar Hameed, chaired a high-level video-link conference at the Central Police Office, Peshawar, on Wednesday. The meeting was attended by Additional IGP Operations, Capital City Police Officer Peshawar, DIG Operations, Commandant Special Security Unit, and AIG Operations, while Regional Police Officers (RPOs) and District Police Officers (DPOs) across the province joined via video link.

The conference reviewed security arrangements for foreigners working on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects, bank security, preparations for Eid Milad-un-Nabi and Defence Day,

the ongoing polio campaign, construction of police installations, and progress on land acquisition for new police projects.

Regional police chiefs briefed the IGP on measures taken to ensure the security of foreign nationals. Addressing the meeting, IGP Zulfiqar Hameed stressed that the protection of foreigners, particularly Chinese nationals working on development projects, is the government and police's top priority and "no compromise will be made in this regard." He directed that all foreign projects be provided foolproof security, with enhanced field coordination and a strengthened wireless communication system.

The IGP also instructed officials to maintain high standards in the construction of new police buildings and ensure timely

completion. He emphasized the need for strict monitoring of bank security, including CCTV systems, deployment of guards, vigilance at entry and exit points, enhanced patrolling, and a robust alert system to prevent untoward incidents.

On security for upcoming religious and national events, the IGP ordered foolproof arrangements across the province, including the deployment of police at mosques, Imambargahs, processions, and public gatherings. He further directed bomb disposal units, sniffer dogs, and modern equipment to be used in search and clearance operations, with additional forces stationed at sensitive locations and strict checking at entry and exit points of cities.

The meeting was also briefed on ongoing police development projects in

Kurram, Bajaur, Orakzai, Khyber, and Malakand districts. These projects aim to upgrade police stations, police lines, residential barracks, and offices with modern facilities. The IGP instructed officers to expedite land acquisition to avoid delays in project completion, ensuring better facilities for personnel and improved policing standards.

The overall law and order situation in the province was also reviewed. Regional police officers presented detailed reports on steps taken in their respective areas. The IGP reaffirmed that ensuring peace and safeguarding the lives and property of citizens is the foremost duty of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police, adding that the force will perform its responsibilities with full professionalism and commitment.

CS reviews progress on education and social welfare roadmap

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Shahab Ali Shah chaired a high-level meeting to review progress on set targets under the Good Governance Roadmap in the sectors of higher education, elementary & secondary education, and social welfare.

The meeting was attended by secretaries and senior officials of the concerned departments.

In the education sector, detailed deliberations were held on the launch of sports activities in schools, provision of 100% furniture, implementation of the "four teachers, five classrooms per school" formula, raising teacher attendance to 90%, reforms in the examination system, and outsourcing of the low-performing schools.

The Chief Secretary directed that the new alternative examination model must be enforced before the upcoming matriculation exams, with all necessary preparations completed well in advance.

For higher education, the meeting reviewed plans to outsource poorly performing colleges, convert commerce colleges into applied science centers, and provide merit-based scholarships to students.

The Chief Secretary clarified that outsourcing school and college buildings was not privatization, but an administrative reform aimed at utilizing private sector expertise while ensuring government ownership and safeguarding employee rights.

The meeting also reviewed welfare initiatives for widows, orphans, senior citizens, and the transgender community.

These include Zamong Kor, Dar-ul-Amans, the Senior Citizens Home in Peshawar, the Braille Academy, and the establishment of a Center of Excellence for Autism. Progress was also assessed on the transgender protection and empowerment policy, as well as the creation of a province-wide socio-economic registry through household data collection.

The Chief Secretary instructed concerned secretaries to expedite efforts for timely completion of all projects.

He stressed that teacher availability, classrooms, and basic facilities are essential for quality education, while outsourcing underperforming institutions is vital to improve standards and ensure a better learning environment for students.

PHSA marks 26th Foundation Day

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Provincial Health Services Academy (PHSA) celebrated its 26th Foundation Day with great enthusiasm in a ceremony held at its headquarters. Director General PHSA, Dr. Waheed-ur-Rehman, graced the occasion as the chief guest and led the celebrations by cutting a specially prepared anniversary cake.

The event was attended by PHSA staff, faculty, and students, reflecting the spirit of unity and progress within the institution. Faiz Muhammad, President of the PHSA Network Employees, welcomed the DG and participants, and highlighted the Academy's key achievements over the past year under the leadership of Dr. Waheed-ur-Rehman.

Among the notable

milestones celebrated were the affiliation of PHSA with Khyber Medical University (KMU) and the formal approval of the BS Paramedics Prospectus for the 2025-2029 academic session. Scholarships for students across PHSA Network institutes were also approved, marking a significant step toward educational support and equity.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Waheed-ur-Rehman shared that over 1,700 health personnel had received training under the Human Capital Investment Program (HCIP), while promotional training for management cadre officers from BPS-18 to BPS-19 was successfully conducted.

He further announced the formation of a Training Alliance under the leadership of the Secretary Health KP, aimed at

streamlining and enhancing health education and capacity building across the province. Additionally, 650 paid internships for BS Nursing students were approved, providing practical exposure and financial support to future healthcare professionals.

In a major development for nursing education, the government sanctioned 71 new teaching posts in public sector nursing colleges. These include 21 positions in BPS-20, 10 in BPS-19, 10 in BPS-18, and 30 in BPS-17, addressing longstanding staffing gaps and strengthening academic delivery.

In his concluding remarks, the DG PHSA commended the collective efforts and teamwork that enabled these achievements, emphasizing the importance of collaboration in driving institutional progress.

Contempt of Court plea filed against health dept officials

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: A contempt of court petition has been filed against Secretary Health Shahidullah, Special Secretary Health Sharif Hussain, and Section Officer Ashraf Khan for failing to present the case of Deputy District Health Officer Mardan. Dr. Ikramullah Safi, for promotion to Grade 19 before the Public Service Board (PSB) despite clear orders from the Peshawar High Court.

Dr. Ikramullah Safi had challenged an inquiry against him in the Peshawar High Court and obtained a stay order.

However, the Health

Department did not include his name in the promotion process from Grade 18 to Grade 19 due to the ongoing inquiry.

Dr. Ikramullah Safi then filed a petition in the Peshawar High Court, which was disposed of on August 13 with directions to the relevant authorities to place his name before the PSB in accordance with the law.

The contempt of court petition alleges that despite the court's orders, the Secretary Health, Special Secretary Health, and Section Officer failed to present Dr. Ikramullah Safi's case before the PSB. Meanwhile, junior doctors were given acting charge

promotions, which is alleged to be incorrect and amounts to contempt of court.

The petition argues that Dr. Ikramullah Safi had provided copies of the court orders to the relevant authorities, but despite this, his name was not included in the promotion list. This failure to comply with the court's orders is alleged to constitute contempt of court.

The petitioner seeks contempt of court proceedings against the Secretary Health, Special Secretary Health, and Section Officer. Additionally, the petitioner requests that Dr. Ikramullah Safi's name be immediately included in the PSB's list.

PHC directs Judicial Officers to install complaint boxes

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Chief Justice of Peshawar High Court, Justice S.M. Atique Shah, has directed all judicial officers to install complaint boxes and develop web portals for registering public grievances. The judicial officers have been instructed to resolve public complaints within 20

days. The Registrar of Peshawar High Court has issued a circular to all judicial officers in the province, directing them to install complaint boxes and develop web portals for registering public grievances.

The National Judicial Policy Making Committee meeting was held on

August 18 under the chairmanship of the Chief Justice of Pakistan. During the meeting, a procedure was devised for registering public grievances.

All judicial officers have been instructed to: Install complaint boxes for registering public grievances. Develop web portals for public complaints. Resolve public grievances

within 20 days.

The directions issued by the Chief Justice of Peshawar High Court will play a significant role in promoting transparency and accountability in the judicial system. The complaint boxes and web portals will enable the public to register their grievances easily and have them addressed.

Shafqat holds meeting on digitization of all educational boards

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Science and Information Technology, Dr. Shafqat Ayaz, held a detailed meeting with Chairman Mardan Board, Professor Jehan Zeb. The meeting revolved around the digitization of all educational boards in the province and the introduction of reforms to make the examination system completely free from cheating and malpractices.

During the meeting, Dr. Shafqat Ayaz highlighted that the provincial government is taking revolutionary steps to integrate technology into the examination system. He said that the creation of a comprehensive digital papers bank is one of the most important initiatives under this reform agenda. Explaining further, he stated that through this advanced system, more than one lac students will be able to receive unique and secure exam papers with a single click. Each paper will be generated automatically, ensuring that no two students receive the same version. This, he stressed, would completely eradicate the menace of paper leaks, duplication, and cheating, which have long plagued the examination process.

Dr. Shafqat Ayaz also pointed out that alongside the papers bank, other digital reforms such as e-marking and online result systems are being introduced. The e-marking initiative will bring transparency and fairness to the assessment process, minimizing human error and bias. The online result system, on the other hand, will allow students to access their results instantly and securely from their homes, reducing delays and complaints.

He added that digitization would not only modernize the system but also restore parents' trust in the examination boards. "Parents had long-standing concerns about irregularities, but through digitization, transparency and credibility will be ensured, and their confidence will be rebuilt," Dr. Shafqat Ayaz said.

Hamza Foundation collects 142 bags of blood

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: On 3rd September, 2025, Peshawar Medical College, in collaboration with Hamza Foundation, successfully organized a Blood Donation and Thalassemia Awareness campaign. During the Camp, a total of 142 bags of blood were collected.

RMOs of Hamza Foundation Mr. Ateeq Ur Rehman and Mr. Ibrarullah Jan delivered motivational speech to students about blood donation and also delivered awareness speech about Thalassemia disease and its prevention.

Dr. Kashmala Shah medical officer, RMOs Ateeq Ur Rehman and Ibrarullah Jan delivered motivation speech to the students about blood donation and also delivered awareness speech about Thalassemia disease and its prevention. The management of Hamza Foundation has thanked and appreciated Dr. Muhammad Aman Khan sahib (Principal), Junaid Ali, President Social welfare Society, Prof. Dr. Mohsina Haq, Chairperson SWS, Furqan Ali and Maheem Wahab, General Secretary, Ramsha Aman, President SWS and all the volunteers students for their sincere help and support for saving the ailing humanity. May Allah give them its best reward. Ameen.

On that occasion Mr. Ateeq ur Rehman

has presented HF shield to Dr. Muhammad Aman Khan sahib. Principal of PMC. Infact it was a great contribution of the said College regarding blood donation for saving the precious lives of registered poor Thalassemia and Hemophilia kids, which shows their great and sincere dedication for the ailing humanity.

The principal also appreciated the welfare services of Hamza Foundation, and committed that they will organize more blood donation camps in future.





In brief

Schools converted into camps F.P. Report

LARKANA: In order to shift the flood victims from the slum areas to the permanent settlements, the process of accommodating the victims in one thousand girls' primary schools in four talukas of the district, including Larkana 307, Ratodero 308, Bakrani 214, Dokri 146 and Kachi 32, has begun. Meanwhile, the district administration will provide food and other essential items to the flood victims in the relief camps. In this regard, according to District Education Officer Anis Jalbani, orders have also been issued to the headmasters of the schools converted into camps in the district to shift school records, furniture, electricity, solar panels and other equipment to safe places. While more than 32,900 flood victims can be accommodated in the said relief camps, when contacted by the media, DEO Anis Jalbani confirmed that on the instructions of the Ministry of higher authorities, one thousand government schools have been converted into relief camps for flood victims. Moreover, six family members Ghulam Nabi Abro, his wife Farzana Abro, daughter Farhana and his 3 sons Waqar, Popat and Farhan Abro fainted on the spot after eating poisonous food in the house of citizen Ghulam Nabi Abro in Badah city of Larkana district. They were shifted to a hospital in Larkana in a critical condition. When contacted by the media in this regard, according to Ghulam Nabi Abro's relatives, it is possible that the poison may have spread in their food due to the food they ate, which caused all the family members to faint. They are currently undergoing treatment in the hospital.

DPO visits Sholam hospital F.P. Report

WANA: District Police Officer (DPO) Lower Waziristan paid a visit to Sholam Hospital, where he inspected various departments including the laboratory, OPD, and gynecology ward, and interacted with the hospital staff to assess the situation on the ground. Speaking on the occasion, the DPO said he was well aware of the difficulties faced by doctors and paramedical staff in remote areas. He assured that police were committed to providing full security and, if required, additional personnel would be deployed. "Ensuring a safe environment for both patients and doctors is among our top priorities," he emphasized. Hospital sources, however, revealed serious administrative and financial challenges. According to them, the staff has not received salaries for the past two months, leaving them in severe financial distress. They also disclosed that a majority of government-appointed doctors do not regularly attend duty, compounding the problems for patients. Local residents and patients welcomed the DPO's visit but urged the authorities to go beyond security measures. They stressed the need for strict monitoring of doctors' attendance and called for immediate release of pending salaries as well as provision of basic healthcare facilities at the hospital. "Without these measures, the public continues to suffer," one resident remarked.

Work on Talash-bypass road halted again

Haleem Asad

LOWER DIR: The Kalpani Talash Bypass project started ten years ago with a cost of Rs 660 million, is yet to be completed despite the passage of ten years. The contractor has once again halted the incomplete construction work due to unknown reasons, causing anger and unrest among local people and transporters.

Talking to local journalists at Talash here on Wednesday, residents said that despite the availability of funds with the Communication and Works (C&W) department, work on the Talash Bypass has been stopped again. Due to the department's delay in sending a letter regarding the revised budget and other office matters, there is a possibility that this project will once again be put in cold storage. It should be remembered that Rs 330 million has already been released to the landowners, however, due to the continuous increase in the prices of construction materials, the cost of the project has increased from the initial Rs 660 million to over Rs 1000 million.

According to sources, out of the 10-kilometer-long project, blacktopping work has been completed on only six kilometers so far, while the rest remains incomplete. Local people say that if the project is completed, the traffic pressure on the NHA road will be significantly reduced, the daily accident rate will decrease and more than 7 million people of Bajaur, Chitral, Lower and Upper Dir will have ease in transportation. Political and social leaders have called the delay in the project as anti-people and appealed to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister Ali Amin Gandapur, Deputy Commissioner Lower Dir and the top officials of the C&W department for immediate intervention so that the construction work can resume and

the people can be relieved of further difficulties.

JUI-F criticizes KP CM: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Khyber Pakhtunkhwa deputy general secretary Maulana Muhammad Rahim Haqqani on Wednesday strongly reacted to the recent statements of Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur and said that the Chief Minister should speak according to his stature. Talking to local journalists at Timergara, he said that instead of improving its performance, the failed provincial government was making statements against the JUI-F leader Maulana Fazlur Rehman to divert the attention of the people from the real issues.

He said that at present the people of Malakand division were facing severe difficulties due to rain and floods, but the government institutions had proven to be completely unsuccessful in helping the victims. He said that an unannounced operation was underway in the province and the government had practically collapsed.

"Inflation in the province has made the lives of the people miserable, a 20 kg bag of flour costs Rs 2200 while the price of bread has also increased automatically, but the Chief Minister is using derogatory language against the Jamiat leader instead of focusing on good governance and public issues, which the Jamiat workers will not tolerate under any circumstances," he warned.

Maulana Rahim Haqqani said that on one hand, the PTI leadership frequently visited the house of Maulana Fazl ur Rehman, while on the other hand, an attempt was being made to create a distance between the two political parties by issuing statements through a powerless and puppet Chief Minister imposed by unseen forces.

Minister inaugurates two new roads in Siyab

F.P. Report

KOHAT: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister on Law and Parliamentary Affairs Aftab Alam Advocate has formally inaugurated the construction of 2 new roads in the Union Council Bilitang, Siyab area, district Kohat, aimed at improving the local infrastructure and easing public mobility.

The inaugural ceremony beside others, was also attended by the Chairman Tehsil Gumbat Sajid Iqbal, senior leader Haji Sher Zaman Afridi and large number of the PTI workers.

Residents had long complained about the poor state of roads in the area, which disrupted transport, delayed patient access to the hospitals and created difficulties for students. Local elders said, the new roads fulfilled a long-awaited demand, crediting MNA Shehryar Afridi, Minister Aftab Alam and Chairman Iqbal for addressing the issue.

Mr. Alam said the roads reflected the provincial government's commitment to people-friendly policies and pledged continued efforts to resolve basic problems. He added that the new roads would provide long-term social and economic benefits for the residents of Siyab and surrounding areas. The Locals welcomed the roads, calling it an important step toward the region's development.

Seerat-un-Nabi PBUH conference held: A Divisional Seerat-un-Nabi

Peace Be Upon Him (PBUH) Conference was held on Wednesday at the District Council Hall KDA in Kohat as part of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government's Rabi-ul-Awwal Celebrations.

The event was chaired by the Commissioner Kohat Division Syed Motasim Billah Shah, with the Chairman District Development Advisory Committee Shafi Jan MPA as the chief guest.

Senior government officials, scholars, local dignitaries and a large number of students attended the conference. The proceedings opened with the recitation from the Holy Quran followed by Naats in praise of the Holy Prophet Muhammad PBUH. A divisional-level Qirat and Naat competition was also held, judged by the prominent religious figures of the Division.

Speakers in their addresses, highlighted different aspects of the Oswa-e-Hasniah of the Holy Prophet's PBUH, stressing that His Teachings provide guidance for all the humanity. They underscored the need to familiarize youth with the Seerat-un-Nabi PBUH and to shape their character in line with the Islamic values. Such conferences, they said, foster social harmony, moral values and unity among Muslims.

In the Qirat competition, Muhammad Hassan secured 1st position, Muhammad Mustafa 2nd

and Qari Muhammad Ammar 3rd. In the Naat competition, Kamal Hussain won the 1st place, while Muhammad Ali and Muhammad Bilal shared 2nd place and Rizwanullah Shakir stood 3rd. The Cash Prizes of Rs. 80,000 for the 1st position, Rs. 60,000 for the 2nd and Rs. 40,000 for the 3rd along with certificates of appreciation were awarded to the winners. At the end, the chief guest and other dignitaries distributed cash awards and prayed for national security, prosperity and the unity of the Muslim Ummah.

420 food hampers distributed F.P. Report

GUJRAT: Rashida Shafi Foundation handed over 420 food hampers to the district administration for distribution among flood-affected families of Goraya and Kari villages.

On the invitation of the foundation, Deputy Commissioner Gujrat Noor-ul-Ain, along with her team, visited the affected areas and distributed rations door-to-door.

Vice President of the Gujrat Welfare Forum and representative of the foundation, Chaudhry Waheed-ud-Din Tanda, also accompanied the deputy commissioner during the activity.



QUETTA: Governor of Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail inquiring about health of blast injured person at Trauma Centre.

Emergency Ward at DHQ lacks facilities F.P. Report

CHARSADDA: The emergency ward of District Headquarters Hospital Charsadda is facing a severe shortage of basic medical facilities. The T.T. injection, which is essential after any accidental injury, is not available for patients. Similarly, bandages for wounds and warm bandages used for fractured bones are also missing.

According to sources, the hospital's Medical Superintendent (MS) seems more engaged in unnecessary activities and video-making rather than focusing on providing essential facilities. Locals say that the MS's primary responsibility is to ensure medical services for patients, not publicity stunts.

Today, an unfortunate incident occurred in the emergency ward where a patient with a hand injury could not be treated due to the unavailability of both T.T. injections and bandages. The staff told the patient to first purchase the required injection and bandages from outside, after which treatment would be provided.

Relief for Afghan families urged F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Abid Majeed insisted the officials to provide as much as relief to the repatriating Afghan citizens during his visit to the holding camp in Landi Kotal on Wednesday.

The visiting official inspected different sections of the holding camp and reviewed services, set up for the ease of deporting Afghans. He was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner, Khyber Capt. (Retd) Bilal Shahid, District Police Officer (DPO) Khyber Rai Mazhar Iqbal, Additional DC (Relief) Irshad Mohmand, Assistant Commissioner, Landi Kotal Afraseyab Zubair and other officials. ACS urged the officials to keep in view the dignified repatriation policy of the government, ensure honorable and peaceful return of the Afghan nationals.

Admn on high alert at River Ravi flood

F.P. Report

TOBA TEK SINGH: The divisional administration has been put on high alert in view of the flood situation in River Ravi.

Faisalabad Divisional Commissioner Raja Jahangir Anwar on Tuesday visited the flood-affected areas of tehsil Kamalia.

During the visit, Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naem Sandhu, District Police Officer Ibadat Nisar, and Assistant Commissioner Kamalia Iqra Nasir briefed the commissioner in detail about the prevailing flood situation and the precautionary measures being taken. The commissioner was informed that River Ravi was flowing at a very high flood level in both Kamalia and Pirmahal. He inspected protective arrangements from the Mill Fatiana bridge and also visited the inundated portion of Harappa Road.

Later, he visited the Tara Haveli relief camp, where he reviewed the arrangements made for the flood victims, including food supply. He also inspected the facilities being provided for livestock by the agriculture and livestock departments. At the camp, Anwar interacted with children, inquired about their education, and distributed biscuits and juice packs among them. He also ensured the medical examination of an elderly ailing woman in his presence, while separately meeting with women to ask about the facilities. The commissioner directed that "Clinic on Wheels" must be ensured at all relief

camps and nearby flood-hit areas so that people could get immediate medical assistance.

Protection of people's lives and property is the government's top priority and no negligence will be tolerated," he said. He further instructed the departments concerned to ensure the availability of all necessary facilities in the relief camps so that no affected family faced any hardship. Anwar also visited all the camp rooms and met with the affected families, who expressed satisfaction over the arrangements.

Medical relief camp held: According to the Details, On direction of deputy commissioner Toba Tek Singh Muhammad Naem Sandhu and CEO Health Dr. Kashif, Medical Relief Camp have been established at Mal Fatyana, Tara Haveli, Chak No.736 GB and kot Pathana.

In these camps all necessary Medicine including emergency medicine and three different kind of vaccine including AVR, ASV and TT have been provided. 24 hrs medical service is provided in these camps. DDO Health Kamalia Dr. Asim Ijaz, who was present at the medical relief camp, said that medicine is being provided to the flood-affected people in this medical relief camp and our medical staff are performing their duties efficiently. He further said that I appeal to the flood victims that if you have any kind of problem, please immediately visit our established medical relief camps so that you can be checked and provided with medicine in a timely manner.

Commissioner directs PTB to secure farmers interest

F.P. Report

MARDAN: Commissioner Mardan has said that tobacco is a cash crop of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and a source of livelihood for millions of people. He urged the Pakistan Tobacco Board (PTB) to safeguard the interests of farmers at all costs and immediately announce the surplus quota to prevent further losses for growers.

He made these remarks while addressing an important meeting convened in his office to discuss the challenges faced by tobacco farmers. The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Mardan Wasif Rahman, PTB officials, representatives from tobacco companies, members of the Kisan Board, Anjuman Kashtkaran, Coordination Council Swabi and other relevant stakeholders.

Commissioner Nisar Ahmad stated that the board should determine production targets through research and forecasting to maintain market balance and ensure fair compensation for farmers. He stressed strict enforcement of the quota system and timely payments for the harvested crop. He directed companies to complete procurement as per their agreements and ensure prompt payments at PTB's set prices. He also instructed companies to arrange the purchase of lower-quality tobacco to prevent farmers' efforts from going to waste.

Highlighting the importance of environmental responsibility, the commissioner urged companies to allocate a portion of their earnings for tree plantation to mitigate the impact of climate change.

Farmers' representatives expressed their concerns,

stating that PTB and companies were not fulfilling their responsibilities. Rizwanullah Mohmand of the Kisan Board, Ajmal Shah Roghani of Anjuman Kashtkaran, and Nasir Khan of the Coordination Council complained that the procurement process lacked transparency. They said that although buying centers were opened on July 4, many companies failed to begin timely purchases, causing severe distress to farmers.

They further alleged that smaller companies were reluctant in purchasing lower-grade tobacco, while larger firms performed comparatively better. Although 17 quality grades were officially designated, companies failed to adhere to them. Even high-quality tobacco was bought below the allocated quota, they said.

Cultivating futures: How China-Pakistan agricultural training program can transform our farming sector

Mashal Rehman

WITH 1000 young professionals set to receive advanced training in China, Pakistan has a chance to modernize its agriculture, boost food security, and strengthen rural livelihoods. Agriculture remains the backbone of Pakistan's economy, contributing nearly 20 percent to the national GDP and providing livelihoods to almost two-thirds of the population.

Yet, despite this central role, the sector faces daunting challenges: stagnant crop yields, water scarcity, post-harvest losses, outdated farming practices, and limited mechanization. Climate change has only worsened the crisis, as farmers face unpredictable rains, heatwaves, and pest outbreaks.

In this context, the recent announcement of the China-Pakistan 1000 Agricultural Training Program is both timely and transformative. By sending 1000 of our agricultural professionals, scientists, and students to China for specialized training,

Pakistan has an opportunity to bridge the gap between traditional farming methods and modern agri-tech solutions. This initiative goes beyond academic exchange; it represents a strategic investment in the future of our food security.

China is an ideal partner for this initiative. Over the last four decades, it has moved from food shortages to becoming the world's largest producer of rice, wheat, and vegetables. Its agricultural success rests on high-yield seed varieties, precision irrigation, protected cultivation, and advanced mechanization. China is also a global pioneer in digital farming, using drones, sensors, and artificial intelligence to monitor soil, water, and crop health. Such innovations are exactly what Pakistan needs to cope with shrinking resources and rising demands. Beyond technology, China's policy-driven success consistent investment in farmer training, rural industrialization, and market linkages offers valuable lessons for Pakistan to strengthen its own frameworks.

By sending our brightest

minds to China under this program, Pakistan will be accessing a living laboratory of modern agriculture, one that has already solved many of the problems we continue to struggle with. The training is expected to cover hybrid seed technology, water-efficient irrigation, mechanization for smallholders and large farms, greenhouse and hydroponic cultivation, post-harvest management, digital agriculture, and agri-entrepreneurship. These areas address not only crop production but also the entire value chain, ensuring that participants return with skills to improve yields, reduce wastage, and strengthen farmer incomes.

The urgency of such training becomes clear when viewed against Pakistan's current bottlenecks. Wheat yields here average three tons per hectare, compared to six tons in China. Irrigation efficiency is below 40 percent in one of the most water-stressed countries in the world. Up to 40 percent of fruits and vegetables are lost due to poor handling and lack of cold storage, while only 10-15 percent of farms use modern

machinery or precision tools. Extreme floods in 2022 caused agricultural losses of more than \$4 billion, underscoring the need for climate-smart solutions. The training initiative directly addresses these weaknesses by equipping our professionals with tools to enhance efficiency, resilience, and sustainability.

The real challenge, however, will be in implementation. Sending 1000 professionals to China is only the first step; ensuring that their learning translates into tangible benefits at home will be the true test. This requires careful selection of participants young scientists, extension workers, progressive farmers, and agri-entrepreneurs who can serve as multipliers of knowledge. Graduates must be linked with universities, research institutes, and provincial agriculture departments upon return. Demonstration plots and farmer schools should be established to ensure that practical techniques are transferred to local communities. Partnerships with the private sector can accelerate adoption

of new technologies, while monitoring systems must track improvements in yields, water use, and farmer incomes.

Experts in the field have already expressed optimism. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal, a senior agricultural economist, observes: "This is a golden opportunity to bring back not only technology but also a new mindset of efficiency and innovation. The key will be in effective dissemination." From the Chinese side, Prof. Li Yan of China Agricultural University notes: "Our partnership with Pakistan is built on shared challenges and shared solutions. The training program is designed to empower participants with both technical and practical skills." These voices highlight that the program is not just symbolic, it has the potential to create lasting change.

The China-Pakistan 1000 Agricultural Training Program is more than a knowledge exchange; it is a vision of food-secure, modern, and resilient agriculture in Pakistan. By equipping our professionals with cutting-edge knowledge,

Pakistan can move closer to self-sufficiency in staple crops, expansion of exports through value-added products, empowerment of smallholder farmers through technology, and climate resilience across food systems. This is not just about farming techniques; it is about reshaping livelihoods, uplifting rural economies, and securing a brighter future for millions.

The next decade will decide the fate of Pakistan's agriculture. Will we continue to rely on outdated methods, or will we embrace technology, innovation, and collaboration? The China-Pakistan 1000 Agricultural Training Program provides us with the tools and opportunities we desperately need. Its success will depend on how well we integrate these learnings into our policies, institutions, and farms. If implemented with vision and dedication, this initiative could become a turning point in Pakistan's agricultural history, one where we move from subsistence to sustainability and from potential to prosperity.



Rights group says 20 missing after deadly Indonesia protests

JAKARTA (AFP): At least 20 people are missing after violent protests, sparked by lavish perks for Indonesian lawmakers that have widened to include anger against police, a rights group said. At least six people have been killed since protests rocked Southeast Asia's biggest economy last week, intensified by footage spreading of the killing of a young delivery driver by a paramilitary police unit.

The unrest emerged in cities across Indonesia, forcing President Prabowo Subianto into a U-turn on the lawmaker perks after the worst protests since the ex-general took power last year. The Commission for the Disappeared and Victims of Violence (KontraS) said 23 reports of missing persons had been received. "After the search and verification process, 20 missing persons remain unbound," it said in a statement.

The group said the 20 were reported missing in the cities of Bandung and Depok on Java island, and in the administrative districts of Central Jakarta, East Jakarta and North Jakarta that make up the wider capital city. One report involved an "unknown location", KontraS said. The National Police did not respond immediately to an AFP request for comment. Police have said 1,240 people had been arrested in Jakarta since August 25, according to the Antara state news agency.

Jakarta police spokesman Ade Ary Syam Indradi said that officers arrested activist Delpedro

Marhaen, the director of the Lokataru Foundation. The NGO confirmed the arrest. He was held "on suspicion of making provocative incitement to commit anarchic actions", Ade said in comments aired by broadcaster Kompas TV. Ade also said police in Jakarta had identified another 38 people as suspects for allegedly committing "anarchic activities", including throwing Molotov cocktails towards officers and torching a bus stop. In Central Java, police had detained more than 1,700 people, most of them aged under 18. Of those, 46 were identified as suspects, Central Java police official Dwi Subagio told a news conference.

More protests had been expected outside parliament in Jakarta but crowds, which have dwindled since the military was deployed to the capital, did not emerge. The United Nations human rights office called for an investigation into the alleged use of unnecessary or disproportionate force in responding to the rallies. The unrest initially forced Prabowo to cancel a planned trip to China, but State Secretariat Minister Prasetyo Hadi said that the president would visit Beijing for a military parade after all. "Today he monitored the situation and received reports from all relevant officials that public life was gradually returning to normal," said Prasetyo. The military was deployed across Jakarta as hundreds gathered again outside parliament and clashes were reported in several other cities.

Prabowo criticised protesters as he visited injured

police at a hospital and said rallies should end by sundown. In Bandung, protesters hurled Molotov cocktails at a provincial council building before police fired tear gas overnight at "suspected... anarchists" who blocked a road. Officers clashed with protesters whom they accused of trying to draw them into a campus at the Bandung Islamic University, West Java police spokesman Hendra Rochman said in a statement. Some social media users accused police of firing tear gas and rubber bullets into the campus and storming it. "Officers maintained a distance of approximately 200 metres from the campus and no shots were directed at the campus," Hendra said. The university denied its students had instigated unrest. Thousands more rallied in Palembang on Sumatra island and hundreds gathered in Banjarmasin on Borneo island, Yogyakarta on Java, and Makassar on Sulawesi. In Gorontalo city on Sulawesi island, protesters clashed with police who responded with tear gas and water cannon. Gorontalo police spokesman Desmont Harjendro told reporters police arrested 11 people for questioning over the protests. Social media platform TikTok said it had lifted a suspension of its live feature, which it had imposed three days earlier in anticipation of further unrest. Human Rights Watch deputy Asia director Meenakshi Ganguly said security forces had "acted irresponsibly by treating the protests as acts of treason or terrorism" and called for an investigation.

Macron urges US to revise decision on Palestinian visas

PARIS (Reuters): French President Emmanuel Macron said the United States' decision not to grant visas to Palestinian officials for the upcoming United Nations General Assembly in New York was "unacceptable" and should be reversed. "We call for this measure to be reversed and for Palestinian representation to be ensured in accordance with the Host Country Agreement," Macron said on social platform X.

Washington said last week it would not allow Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and others to travel to New York, where several US allies are set to recognise Palestine as a state. Macron made the comments after speaking with the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia with whom he will co-chair the Conference on the Two-State Solution in New York on Sept. 22. "Our objective is clear: to rally the broadest possible international support for the Two-State Solution-the only way to meet the legitimate aspirations of both Israelis and Palestinians," he added. "No offensive, annexation attempt, or forced displacement of populations will derail the momentum we have created with the Crown Prince, momentum that many partners have already joined."

Rubio cites Poland role in Cuba as he hails dissident

WASHINGTON (AFP): US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said that Poland has played a behind-the-scenes role in Cuba as he hailed a leading dissident from the communist-run island. Poland invited Rubio as it honored Berta Soler, the leader of the Ladies in White protest movement, with an award named for Lech Walesa, the union leader who mobilized opposition to communism and was democratically elected as president in 1990 after the Moscow-backed government fell.

Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski attended the ceremony in Florida, home to a major Cuban diaspora that includes Rubio, a fierce critic of Havana. Rubio said without further elaboration that he had asked Poland "for a favor" regarding Cuba several months ago. "It happened instantly and immediately," Rubio said. "It shows you that of all the nations in the world who have overcome the tyranny of communism, the one that most certainly hasn't forgotten what it took to overcome it and have raised their voice and taken action to be supportive of those who seek to overcome it, is our allies and friends in Poland," Rubio said.

His praise for Poland's role came despite a social media feud with Sikorski in March when Rubio, backing belittling remarks by Elon Musk, accused the top Polish diplomat of ingratitude over the tech billionaire's Starlink satellite-based internet in Ukraine. Poland has been among the European nations most concerned for Ukraine's future as President Donald Trump reaches out to Russia, although Poland remains a close US ally, with right-wing President Karol Nawrocki meeting Trump at the White House this week. Rubio, who has ramped up pressure on Cuba since taking office in January, hailed Soler for not leaving the island and instead showing "her willingness to step forward because she identified and saw oppression." "I think more people need to know about what she's done -- about how inspirational she is," Rubio said. Solder has held regular demonstrations with relatives of prisoners and has been repeatedly arrested.

She addressed the award ceremony with a pre-recorded video. "Poland and Cuba share a common thread in their history. Both people have suffered communist oppression," she said. "Poland freed itself from communism, with the unions leading the struggle," she said. "We Cubans continue to fight against communism. We have been fighting for 66 years against communist tyranny."



NEW DELHI: A resident moves his belongings to a safer place after the river Yamuna, swollen by incessant rain in the higher regions, overran its banks, in India.

Families of Boeing crash victims to make potential final plea

DALLAS (AP): A hearing set for Wednesday in federal court in Texas could provide families of the victims killed in two crashes of Boeing 737 Max jetliners with their final opportunity to demand that the company face criminal prosecution.

US District Chief Judge Reed O'Connor will hear arguments on a motion by the federal government to dismiss a felony fraud charge against Boeing in connection with the crash that killed 346 people off the coast of Indonesia and in Ethiopia. In exchange, Boeing said it would pay or invest another \$1.1 billion in fines, compensation for the crash victims' families, and internal safety and quality measures.

Prosecutors have said that Boeing deceived government regulators about a flight-control system that was later implicated in the fatal flights, which happened less than five months apart in 2018 and 2019. The hearing in Fort Worth comes more than four years after the Justice Department first announced it had charged Boeing in January 2021 and reached a \$2.5 billion settlement with the aircraft maker. That deal would have protected Boeing from criminal prosecution if it strengthened its ethics and legal compliance programs, but prosecutors revived the charge last year after they said Boeing had violated the agreement.

Boeing decided to plead guilty instead of going to trial, but in December 2024, O'Connor rejected

that plea agreement. O'Connor, who was appointed by President George W. Bush, cited concerns he had over how diversity policies both at the federal government and at Boeing could influence the selection of an independent monitor charged with overseeing the company's promised reforms. Lawyers representing relatives of some of the victims who want a public trial and for the company to receive more severe financial punishment welcomed the judge's decision. But the delay worked in Boeing's favor.

The judge's refusal to accept the agreement meant the company was free to challenge the Justice Department's rationale for charging Boeing as a corporation. It also meant prosecutors would have to secure a new deal for a guilty plea, and they spent six months renegotiating with Boeing. During that time, President Donald Trump returned to office and ordered an end to the diversity initiatives that gave O'Connor pause. By late May, the two sides struck a new deal that took both the criminal charge and Boeing's guilty plea off the table. The Justice Department said it offered those terms in light of "significant changes" Boeing has made to its quality control and anti-fraud programs since last summer. O'Connor has invited some of the families to speak on Wednesday. That includes relatives traveling from France, Ireland and Canada who plan to ask

the judge to deny the government's request and appoint a special prosecutor to take over the case, according to lawyers for the families.

Chris and Clariss Moore of Toronto, whose 24-year-old daughter, Danielle, died when a 737 Max crashed shortly after takeoff from Ethiopia's Addis Ababa Bole International Airport, said in a statement that the pending agreement would allow Boeing to escape justice. "The safety of passengers will be held in the balance," the statement said. Justice Department lawyers say the families of 110 crash victims either support resolving the case before it reaches trial or do not oppose the new deal. The Justice Department has also asked the judge to leave open the possibility of refiling the conspiracy charge if the company does not hold up its end of the deal over the next two years. The department said it thought that persuading a jury to punish the company with a criminal conviction would be risky, while the new deal ensures "meaningful accountability, delivers substantial and immediate public benefits, and brings finality to a difficult and complex case whose outcome would otherwise be uncertain."

While federal judges typically defer to the discretion of prosecutors in such situations, court approval is not automatic. The yearslong case centers around a software system that Boeing developed for the Max, which began flying in 2017.

Brazil court shrugs off US 'threats' as it mulls Bolsonaro fate

BRASILIA (AFP): Brazil's Supreme Court vowed not to bend to pressure from Washington in deciding the fate of far-right former president Jair Bolsonaro, a Donald Trump ally on trial for allegedly plotting a coup. Kicking off a five-day process of passing judgment in the final stage of the trial, presiding judge Alexandre Moraes said Bolsonaro had aimed to install a "real dictatorship."

Bolsonaro, 70, risks a prison sentence of 43 years if convicted of conspiring to cling to power after losing 2022 elections to leftist rival Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, now in office. The trial of Bolsonaro, who claims to be the victim of political persecution, has soured Brasilia's relations with President Trump, whose administration slapped a 50 percent tariff on some Brazilian exports over what he termed a "witch hunt" targeting his friend. It also imposed financial sanctions on Moraes.

The judge insisted the

court will not bow to "internal or external threats and coercion" and will stand "absolutely inflexible in defending national sovereignty." Bolsonaro and his seven co-accused, including former ministers and generals, will learn their fate by September 12. The final phase of the trial has been staggered over five non-consecutive days, with statements by Moraes and each of the four other judges, as well as defense lawyers and prosecutors. At the end, the judges will vote whether to convict or acquit. Security around the court has been stepped up. Apart from a lengthy prison sentence, a guilty verdict could also scupper Bolsonaro's hopes of making a Trump-style come-back from a criminal conviction to the country's top job.

The former army officer, who is under house arrest, was not at court for proceedings. One of his lawyers, Paulo Cunha Bueno, said Bolsonaro was feeling "weak." The right-

winger, who served a single term in office from 2019 to 2022, has had recurring health problems since being stabbed in the abdomen at a campaign rally in 2018. The trial is the first on coup charges of a former Brazilian president. For many Brazilians it is a test of democracy 40 years after the end of military dictatorship, for others a political show trial. Prosecutors accuse Bolsonaro of having led a "criminal organization" that conspired to claw power back from Lula. They charge that Bolsonaro plotted to declare a state of emergency and call new elections but failed to win the support of the military top brass. Prosecutors also allege that he knew of a plan to assassinate Lula, his vice president Geraldo Alckmin and Moraes. On January 8, 2023, mobs of Bolsonaro supporters stormed the Supreme Court, presidential palace and parliament, calling for the military to depose Lula, who had just been inaugurated. Bolsonaro was in the

United States at the time but has been accused of instigating the unrest.

The violence bore uncanny similarities to the January 6, 2021 attack by Trump supporters on Congress in Washington in a failed attempt to prevent certification of Joe Biden's presidential election win. A simple majority of three of the five judges is needed for a guilty verdict. Bolsonaro can appeal to a full chamber of the Supreme Court. His allies, meanwhile, are pushing Congress to pass an amnesty law to save Bolsonaro from prison. Scuffles ensued between supporters and detractors of Bolsonaro outside the luxury gated community in Brasilia where the ex-president is under house arrest, AFP observed. Backers tried to tear down a banner reading "Bolsonaro to jail" held aloft by demonstrators who also bore a giant inflatable doll dressed in prison clothes. The sentencing proceedings will continue Wednesday.

UN watchdog finds uranium traces in Syria

VIENNA (AP): The United Nations' nuclear watchdog said that its inspectors found traces of uranium at a site in Syria believed to be part of a clandestine nuclear program by the former government. Syria under former President Bashar Assad was believed to have operated an extensive undeclared nuclear program, which included an undeclared nuclear reactor built by North Korea in eastern Deir el-Zour province.

The International Atomic Energy Agency's director-general, Rafael Mariano Grossi, previously told The Associated Press that some of Syria's activities "were, in the judgment of the agency, probably related to nuclear weapons." Last year, IAEA inspectors visited and took environmental samples at "three locations that were allegedly functionally related" to the Deir el-Zour site, and "analysis revealed a significant number of anthropogenic natural uranium particles in samples

taken at one of the three locations." IAEA spokesman Fredrik Dahl said in a statement. "Some of these uranium particles are consistent with the conversion of uranium ore concentrate to uranium oxide," he said. This would be typical of a nuclear power reactor. Grossi reported these findings to the agency's board of directors in a report on developments in Syria.

The Deir el-Zour site only became public knowledge after Israel - which is believed to be the Middle East's only state with nuclear weapons, although it has not declared its own program - launched airstrikes in 2007 destroying the facility. Syria later leveled the site and never responded fully to the IAEA's questions. An IAEA team in visited some sites of interest last year while Assad was still in power. After Assad's fall, the new government led by interim President Ahmad al-Sharaa agreed to cooperate with the agency and

again provided inspectors access to the site where the uranium particles had been found. They took more samples there and "will evaluate the results of all of the environmental samples taken at this location and the information acquired from the planned visit to the (Deir el-Zour) site, and may conduct follow-up activities, as necessary," Dahl said. In an interview with the AP in June during a visit to Damascus, Grossi said al-Sharaa had expressed an interest in pursuing nuclear energy for Syria in the future. A number of other countries in the region are pursuing nuclear energy in some form. Grossi said Syria would most likely be looking into small modular reactors, which are cheaper and easier to deploy than traditional large ones. He also said that IAEA is prepared to help Syria rebuild the radiotherapy, nuclear medicine and oncology infrastructure in a health system severely weakened by nearly 14 years of civil war.

Peru pledges to probe 'heinous' killing

JAKARTA: The Peruvian government has offered its condolences for the "assassination" of an Indonesian diplomat in its capital, Lima, calling the situation "lamentable" and a "heinous act". The country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement expressing its "deepest condolences and deepest condemnation" for the killing of Zetro Leonardo Purba, 40, a member of Indonesia's diplomatic corps.

Surveillance footage released by Peruvian police shows Purba bicycling home to his apartment, when an unknown assailant, wearing a helmet, approaches him near the building's entrance and shoots him twice, after Purba fell from his bike, the gunman shot him a third time before fleeing on a motorcycle driven by a suspected accomplice. Purba was later declared dead at a Peruvian hospital. A motive for the shooting remains unknown. In statement, the Peruvian Foreign Ministry confirmed an investigation was under way to find those responsible. It also offered support and enhanced police protection to Indonesia's embassy staff.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will continue to provide all the support and assistance required by the Indonesian authorities in this matter and affirms that this crime will be thoroughly investigated," it wrote. Sugiono, Indonesia's minister of foreign affairs, also said he held a call with his Peruvian counterpart, Elmer Schialer, to push for a rigorous investigation into the shooting. "We trust Peru will ensure the highest protection for our embassy staff, families, & citizens in [the country]," Sugiono, who goes by a single name, wrote on social media. The head of Peru's national police, Victor Guivar, speculated on TV Peru that the attack could be a targeted assassination to settle scores.

"Based on the physical characteristics we have been able to see on the video surveillance cameras, they would be foreign citizens," Guivar said. But various Indonesian officials have told Peruvian media they doubt that assessment, explaining that Purba had not received threats in the lead-up to the shooting. According to media reports,

Purba had lived in Lima for about five months with his wife and children at the time of his death. One Indonesian embassy worker, Irwan Butapierre, told local media he blamed rampant crime in the Peruvian capital. "Peru is an unsafe country. He was calmly riding his bike, not anticipating any danger," the newspaper La Republica quoted Butapierre as saying. "I don't know why they killed him."

Under Peruvian President Dina Boluarte, homicides and extortion in the country have risen. An estimated 6,041 people were killed between January and mid-August, the highest number for that period since 2017. And reports of extortion totalled 15,989 between January and July, a 28 percent increase over that period in 2024. Just last month, Boluarte completed a diplomatic visit to the Merdeka Palace in Jakarta, where she and President Prabowo Subianto celebrated 50 years of diplomatic relations between Peru and Indonesia. They also signed a free-trade agreement to boost the economic ties between the two countries. — Aljazeera

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Starmer must not squander his second chance

THERE are always arguments against having a reshuffle, chief among them a desire to project stability and avoid the impression of a panicked response to short-term difficulties. Sometimes, however, needs must. And this is certainly true now.

Sir Keir Starmer has been in No 10 for more than a year; he swept to office on the back of a big majority and broad public goodwill. With his ratings plummeting and Reform UK riding high, a lot of that early political capital has gone. And while some of the blame attaches to events beyond his control, much of the rest can be traced to a sense of dysfunction and drift at Downing Street, so it is quite right that he has begun there, according to the The Independent.

At the top of the list had to be strengthening the economic policy side and drastically improving the government's messaging. The appointment of Darren Jones, the well-regarded chief secretary to the Treasury, the replacement of his principal private secretary, Nin Pandit, with Dan York-Smith, from the Treasury, and the recruitment as economic adviser of Minouche Shafik, formerly of the Bank of England, the IMF and a host of other institutions, would seem to add considerably to No 10's economic firepower - although the risk of openly divergent thinking at No 10 and No 11 will have to be avoided.

Of more concern, perhaps, is that selecting people and steering the government machine have not featured among the prime minister's obvious strengths over his first year in office.

Key appointments, starting with that of Sue Gray as his chief of staff to oversee the transition into government, turned out badly. It is reported that he is suffering buyer's remorse over his choice — after a long selection process — of Sir Chris Wormald as cabinet secretary and head of the civil service.

The new communications team is not yet complete, but will follow a succession of changes over the past year and a record of often mixed, or even no, messaging — disastrously so over this summer, where Nigel Farage and Reform were allowed to dominate the field on small boats and asylum hotels, largely unchallenged. Communications are all the more important when, as now, the prime minister is not a natural communicator himself.

The immediate priority for Sir Keir and his new team, along with trying to wrest back the initiative from Reform on migration, will be getting both the substance and the "sell" right on their economic priorities ahead of Rachel Reeves's second Budget. This is crucial, because the public, smarting from continuing rises in the cost of living — specifically in the food and energy sectors — have been left with little idea of where the government is going here.

Before Reeves's first Budget, the messages had two main themes: not scaring the horses of big business, and the pursuit of growth, including through accelerated housebuilding, to fuel higher living standards. These themes have almost vanished. In fact, some of Reeves's headline measures from that Budget — on curbing tax privileges for non-doms and raising employers' national insurance contributions — appear to have had the reverse of the desired effect, even if the exodus of the wealthy may be smaller than some had forecast.

Above-inflation pay rises for some public sector workers, including resident doctors, have had the entirely predictable effect of fuelling the appetite for more. Meanwhile, a relatively unambitious effort to curb benefits and encourage more people into work was thwarted by an internal party revolt.

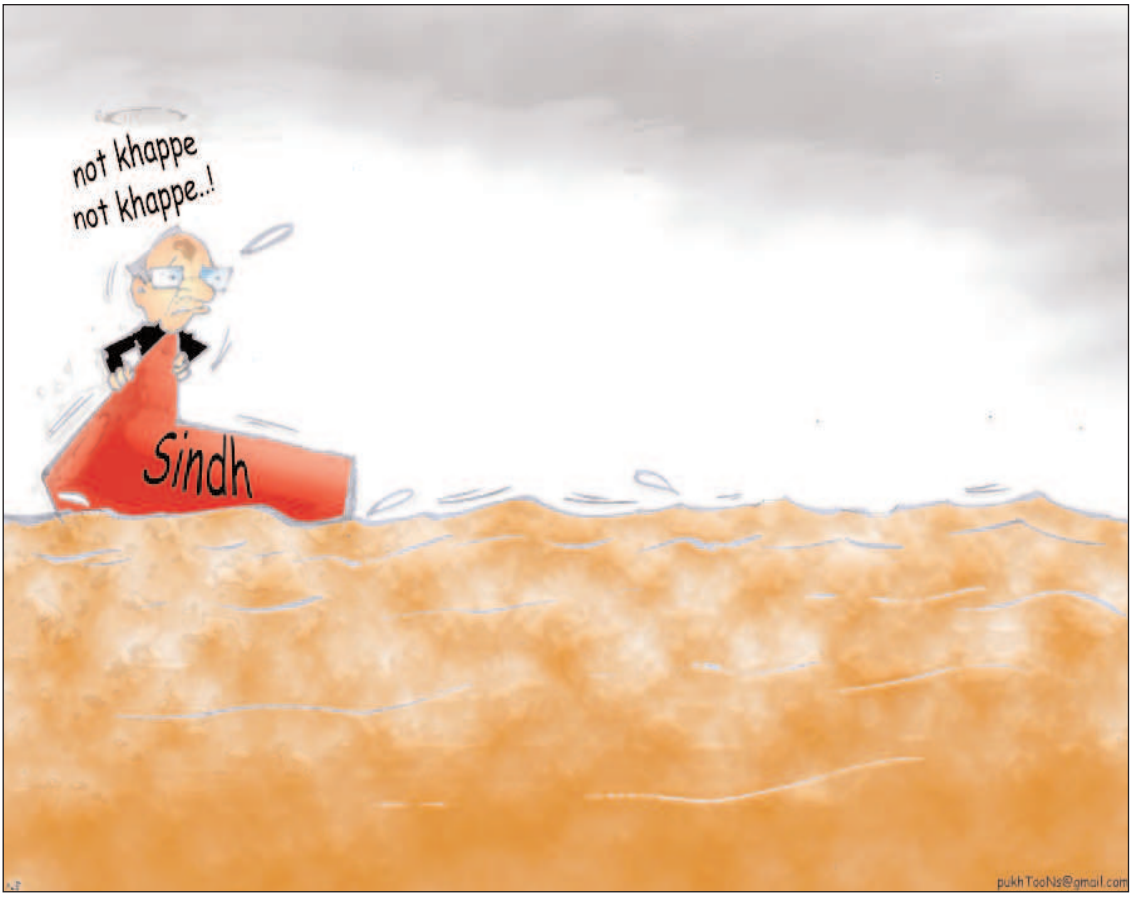
What is more, certain well-rehearsed messages will no longer work. It was all very well to blame past Conservative governments in the first months, but that much-vaunted £22bn "black hole" has now swollen to more than £50bn — all on this government's watch. Starmer and Reeves now have less than two months between them to devise (and prepare public opinion for) a Budget that is bound to entail tax rises.

So far, the messaging, such as it has been, has left a lot to be desired. Disparate kite-flying about changes to property and other taxes has had the effect of almost paralysing the housing market and discouraging consumers from spending on other things.

There can be arguments for and against falling house prices, but for the market simply to be stuck for months in anticipation of new levies that may or may not happen only undermines confidence more widely.

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.



Higher education at crossroads

Dr. Tasneem Ahmad

PAKISTAN'S universities are being recognised internationally more than before. Eighteen institutions are now included in the QS World University Rankings 2026, with Quaid-i-Azam University, NUST, Punjab University, and LUMS leading the list. The Times Higher Education 2025 rankings feature 47 Pakistani universities, placing QAU in the 401-500 band and several others between 601 and 1000. These achievements are encouraging and admirable. But behind the numbers lies a governance crisis that is steadily undermining the credibility of higher education.

The Higher Education Commission (HEC), meant to serve as the guardian of standards, has been embroiled in leadership instability. The abrupt removal of Executive Director Dr Ziaul Qayyum, his brief court-ordered reinstatement, and his subsequent dismissal reflected both legal confusion and institutional paralysis. Around the same time, Chairman Dr Mukhtar Ahmed retired after completing his extended tenure. Instead of appointing a permanent successor, the government handed temporary charge to a bureaucrat. Such ad hoc arrangements show how higher education, rather than being insulated from politics, is subject to it.

When the regulator itself is unstable, universities cannot remain unaffected. The same dysfunction is mirrored in universities themselves. The University of

Agriculture Faisalabad, once considered among Asia's leading agricultural institutions, has steadily fallen in international rankings.

During the extended tenures of its former vice chancellor, Dr Iqrar Ahmad Khan, from 2008 to 2025, the institution became mired in nepotism, arbitrary appointments, declining academic integrity, and the weakening of academic standards.

Institutional decline at such a major university is a reminder that governance lapses, if unchecked, can undo decades of academic progress and excellence. Quality Enhancement Cells, created across public and private sector universities to strengthen accountability, have struggled to play their role effectively. Too often, their assessments are shaped to please administrators. Plagiarism cases involving influential academics are quietly set aside. Research funds are diverted to construction projects or ceremonial events, while faculty training and student feedback are treated as paperwork exercises. The result is a widening gap between what is claimed on paper and what is delivered in reality. The tragedy is that Pakistan's higher education sector does not lack the basic framework for improvement. More than 130 QECs are in place, assessment processes have been developed, and some universities such as NUST and PIEAS have gradually improved their global standing.

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When Food heals, pharma loses? The silent conflict

Dr. Sadaf Javeria

GLOBAL health spending is projected to cross 10 trillion US dollars by 2030, according to the World Health Organization. Much of this colossal budget is consumed by non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disorders, and obesity. What makes this troubling is that up to 80% of these conditions are preventable with better nutrition and lifestyle choices.

And yet, nutrition remains a neglected stepchild in global health systems.

A 2019 Lancet study found that less than 10% of medical schools worldwide provide structured nutrition education. The irony is stark: medical graduates are well trained in prescribing medications but rarely trained in prescribing diet.

At the same time, industries on both sides of the equation thrive. The global processed food industry grows steadily at 5-6% annually, while the pharmaceutical market has already crossed 1.5 trillion dollars. The result is a paradox: as people consume

more nutrient-poor, ultra-processed foods, chronic illnesses multiply fueling the demand for long-term medication.

This brings us to a difficult but necessary question:

When populations eat well, does the pharmaceutical industry lose? It may not be a deliberate conspiracy, but the systemic neglect of nutrition is undeniable. Public health campaigns often focus on fortification and supplementation, while the harder but more effective path reshaping diets and food systems remains underfunded. Nutrition research struggles for grants, while the budgets of drug development and hospital infrastructure expand exponentially. Consider this: the same hospitals that treat heart patients often serve fried foods in their cafeterias. School canteens across developing countries continue to sell sugary drinks and snacks, normalizing poor nutrition for the next generation. Even global policy discussions on food systems are often dominated by agricultural yields and food security, while the question of nutrient quality remains secondary.

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ity remains secondary.

The consequence is a world where we spend trillions treating diseases that could have been prevented at the dining table.

If we are serious about sustainable healthcare, three shifts are urgent:

1. Integrating Nutrition into Medicine: Every doctor should graduate with core nutrition training, not just pharmacology.

2. Food-Pharma Collaboration: Instead of working at cross-purposes, industries must recognize that prevention and treatment are complementary, not competing.

3. Policy Realignment: Governments and global institutions need to invest in nutrition education, dietary diversity, and behavior change campaigns with the same seriousness as drug procurement.

Health does not begin in the hospital. It begins on the plate. Unless nutrition moves from the margins to the center of health policy, we will remain locked in a cycle where food creates disease, and pharma profits from it.

The world deserves better than a business model built on preventable suffering.

US' denial of visas to Palestinian officials could backfire

Dr. Abdel Aziz Aluwaisheg

THE Trump administration decided last week to revoke the visas previously given to the Palestinian Authority leadership. Unless the decision is rescinded soon, canceling their visas will prevent the delegation from physically taking part in the UN General Assembly's 80th session, which will start later this month in New York. Issues related to Palestine, including Gaza, the West Bank and independence, are expected to be high on the UN's agenda. It will also have serious repercussions for the US' standing in the region and around the world.

Saudi Arabia and France are going to host a high-level conference on the margins of the UNGA session — probably the most important high-level meetings held at the UN in some time — on the implementation of the two-state solution. In the words of French President Emmanuel Macron, this conference could be a “decisive turning point for peace and security for all in the region.”

These two countries have championed the cause of completing the circle of recognitions of the state of Palestine. On Tuesday, Belgian Foreign Minister Maxime Prevot said his country will recognize an independent Palestinian state at the UNGA, making Belgium the most recent addition to the list of countries planning such action in New York. Prevot also announced “firm sanctions” on the Israeli government.

At least half a dozen other states are expected to announce their support for Palestinian independence, bringing the total to more than 150, including some of America's closest allies and partners. This total represents about 78 percent of the UN's 193-strong membership and 95 percent of the world population, a stunning majority.

On Wednesday, Macron wrote on X, after speaking with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, that they will co-chair the conference in New York on Sept. 22. He added that “the American decision not to grant visas to Palestinian officials is unacceptable,” while calling for “this measure to be reversed” to ensure proper Palestinian representation “in accordance with the Host Country Agreement.”

Macron said that the conference's objective was clear: “To rally the broadest possible international support for the two-state solution — the only way to meet the legitimate aspirations of both Israelis and Palestinians.” Achieving this objective will require a “permanent ceasefire, the release of hostages, the large-scale delivery of humanitarian aid,” Macron said.

Spelling out an important element of France's thinking on the future of Gaza, Macron said that “the deployment of a stabilization mission in Gaza” will be needed. He added: “We are also working to ensure that, the day after, Hamas is disarmed and excluded from any governance of Gaza.”

Referring to Israeli efforts to prevent the conference from fulfilling its objectives, the French president said: “No offensive, annexation attempt or forced displacement of populations will derail the momentum we have created with the crown prince — momentum that many partners have already joined.” Israel has deliberately taken unprecedented actions in Gaza and the West Bank so that, when the conference is convened later this month, there will be no Palestine to recognize, according to ministers in Benjamin Netanyahu's Cabinet.

The US State Department's decision to cancel the Palestinian delegation's visas, including that of President Mahmoud Abbas, appears to be in sync with the Netanyahu government's

attempts to derail the conference. Denying the PA a place at the table when the fate of its people is at stake is a clear departure from US policy since 1993, when America brokered a historic deal between Israel and Palestine. Since then, support for the PA has been a cornerstone of US policy, including financial and political support and ensuring Israeli-Palestinian security coordination.

Together with the EU, the US has been among the PA's main financial backers. This sudden volte face is astounding — it is a gift to Palestinian extremists, along with Israeli and Iranian hard-liners, all of whom want to undermine the PA for different reasons. This step goes against the US' declared policy of preventing Hamas and similar hard-line groups from running Gaza.

American allies and partners have expressed disappointment at the administration's hasty action against the moderate Palestinian leadership, which represents the only legitimate and globally recognized authority capable of running Gaza and the West Bank and leading efforts toward peace with Israel. The State Department could have taken less drastic action, such as restricting the delegation to a limited geographic area around New York, which would allow its members to take part in UN proceedings. Such restrictions have been used in the past when dealing with officials from countries with which the US had disagreements, such as Iran and Cuba.

The US' denial of entry to the Palestinian leadership certainly places it on the wrong side of history and clearly outside the global consensus. It adds insult to the injury of the Palestinians who are dying daily by the score due to Israel's brutal military onslaught, its deliberate policy of starving women and children in Gaza, and unprecedented settler violence in the West Bank.

This step complements other regrettable actions, also taken in haste, to shield Israel from international scrutiny, including sanctions imposed on the International Criminal Court officials involved in the investigation of Israel's war crimes and crimes against humanity. They have been accompanied by unhinged statements by some anti-Palestinian lawmakers in support of these sanctions.

All these steps come at a time when there is universal recognition that Israel is committing the crime of genocide in Gaza, as renowned legal authorities the world over, including in Israel, have concluded time and again. For example, the International Association of Genocide Scholars this week passed a resolution calling on the government of Israel to “immediately cease all acts that constitute genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity against Palestinians in Gaza,” including starvation, blocking aid and forced displacement.

Raz Segal, the Israeli-American associate professor of Holocaust and genocide studies at Stockton University, has said that what is happening in Gaza is a “textbook case of genocide.” And Israeli human rights organizations, like their counterparts around the world, have come to the same conclusion.

The US' silent support for Israel when it is clearly committing genocide and other war crimes in Gaza strengthens the belief around the world of Washington's acquiescence to Israeli actions, if not its straight-out complicity.

It may preclude the US from playing the constructive role it has sought in the past in shaping a future for Palestinians and Israelis living side by side in peace and security in their respective independent states.

Trump is furious at China, but he’s making US foes great again

PRESIDENT Donald Trump is mad that China is palling around with his strong-fren friends.

Trump erupted on social media late Tuesday night — US time — as television footage aired of Chinese leader Xi Jinping hosting the authoritarian leaders of Russia and North Korea at a stunning military parade in Beijing.

“Please give my warmest regards to Vladimir Putin, and Kim Jong Un, as you conspire against The United States of America,” Trump wrote in a message to Xi.

The Truth Social post heard around the world means one thing: If China’s two big gatherings of authoritarian leaders, US adversaries and erstwhile allies this week was intended as a personal affront to the US president, it worked perfectly. And it underscored the futility of his attempts to subject the true global hard men to his art-of-the-deal charms and his claims that his supposedly close relationships with such leaders can be decisive.

Trump met with Putin in Alaska last month, but his gushing red-carpet welcome has so far failed to unlock any progress toward ending the war in Ukraine. Putin has defied Trump’s hopes by escalating attacks on civilians and is stalling on talks with President Volodymyr Zelensky. The US president’s first-term summits with Kim were similarly unsuccessful. The North Korean leader has more nuclear weapons now than he did before taking part in Trump’s photo-op diplomacy.

The president’s online tirade went on to point out that Americans had suffered heavy losses in the struggle against a common enemy, imperial Japan, the 80th anniversary of whose defeat was marked in Beijing on Wednesday.

“Many Americans died in China’s quest for Victory and Glory. I hope that they are rightfully Honored and Remembered for their Bravery and Sacrifice!” Trump wrote.

China’s big celebration comes at a tense international moment as the new Asian superpower seeks to capitalize on Trump’s erratic foreign policy, which has shattered America’s reputation as a reliable great power.

Trump’s fury was ironic, since the last few days in China have seen the kind of performative spectacle that he loves.

But the gathering of anti-Western powers in Tianjin and Beijing is about more than trolling. It’s an early warning that Trump’s second-term policies based on tariff coercion, the bullying of lesser powers and “America First” nationalism may be backfiring.

“China is leveraging the missteps or mistakes that the US (is making),” Jackie S.H. Wong, an assistant professor of international studies at the American University of Sharjah, told CNN’s Becky Anderson on

“Connect the World” Tuesday.

Some of the alarmist talk about China and Russia building a new axis of resistance to the US is overblown. Nations represented at a Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in the northern Chinese city of Tianjin lack formal defense agreements or pooled economic sovereignty to compare to groups like NATO or the European Union.

Territorial tensions periodically spark between China and India. Moscow might need China’s help in fighting its war in Ukraine, but the Kremlin is still getting used to being the junior superpower. And despite Communist Party iron rule, China suffers from internal political and economic pressures, demonstrated by Xi’s regular purges of top

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officials and military brass.

But the festivities of recent days are part of China’s wider effort to showcase its emerging might and to test out alternative global affiliations and systems as it seeks to eclipse the West. By gathering leaders from Asia, the Middle East and elsewhere, it was demonstrating the capacity of a bloc to frustrate US global power on multiple fronts.

One top US military leader on Tuesday downplayed the significance of events in China.

“Nations like China and North Korea and Russia, and others do these kind of events. There’s certainly a big focus on messaging,” Gen. Kevin Schneider, commander of the US Pacific Air Forces, told an online talk Tuesday.

“But I think the take-away for this is we are not deterred,” Schneider said.

A lot of this predates Trump.

Eight decades after the end of World War II, it’s not surprising that institutions born in the aftermath of the horror need a reboot. The rise of populous developing nations was always going to threaten American hegemony and the global system built and dominated by the West. And as the last members of the Greatest Generation fade away, the triumph of the democracies in World War II is becoming history rather than a tangible human memory.

But Trump’s choices in the first eight months of his second term are accelerating a shift of global power to the East. They’re playing

Stephen Collinson

into Xi’s quest to revive what he believes is China’s rightful global prominence. Trump’s attacks on allies and desecration of US foreign aid programs are brewing resentment among erstwhile American friends who are now hedging their bets with an alternative superpower.

Incredibly, the force doing most to undermine the West is the president of the country — the United States — that guaranteed freedom and democracy for generations.

Many steps that Trump takes to demonstrate US power end up undermining it.

By taking on Beijing in a massive trade offensive, Trump picked on the one nation that would be ready to absorb economic pain to

prevent India and China — which are home to a billion people each — from moving closer together.

Laughing and shaking hands, Xi and Modi both argued their two countries, long separated by mistrust, could be partners and not rivals.

Modi’s interaction with a jovial Putin was even more overt. Last month, the Russian leader had a private chat in Trump’s Beast limousine at their summit in Alaska. In China, Putin one-upped Trump, inviting Modi into his ride, and a photographer was on hand to capture the friendly hourlong chat inside.

Xi’s welcome to Modi matched that of Putin.

India is “signaling to the US that ‘we have alternatives, and China can be that alternative,’” Wong told Anderson on CNN

International. “I would say China is leveraging that opportunity.” Trump’s misstep is more surprising since he jelled with Modi during his first term. But India is a deeply proud nation whose colonial history makes it especially sensitive to being bullied. It is hyper-touchy about anything to do with its arch-rival Pakistan. Such subtleties seem to escape the White House. Perhaps Trump’s purge of State Department experts is taking a toll. Russia is often portrayed in the West as a decrepit power; a shadow of the Soviet Union despite its vast nuclear arsenal. There’s some truth to this after 25 years of Putin’s corrupt rule. But the Russian leader buttressed his image in defying Trump.

This has left the US president expressing disappointment and resorting to his classic tactic of teasing apparently imminent announcements to spare his embarrassment. He told reporters Tuesday he’d spoken to Putin and “learned things that will be very interesting. I think in the next few days, you’ll find out.” Many foreign policy experts thought a shrewd second term goal for Trump would be to push US adversaries like Russia, China and North Korea apart. Instead, he’s driven them together, and driven India, a member of the US “Quad” grouping with Australia and Japan, closer into their orbit.

Hate and prejudice on the UK’s streets

Daoud Kuttab

THE continuing protests at UK hotels housing asylum seekers no doubt risk slowly descending into a breakdown of law and order if they are left undealt with by a government that is trying its best to contain public anger and a far right that is determined to use the immigration debate to win as many votes as possible. The UK government of Labour Prime Minister Keir Starmer, after only one year in office, seems to be fighting a losing battle as it seeks to stem public anger and attempts to erode its legitimacy based on the false narrative that it is failing to control the UK’s borders.

The UK’s immigration system needs fixing; not now, not yesterday, but for the past several decades. The problem today, however, is how the current government diffuse the tension that is mounting every day in communities up and down the country? How can it calm those who believe the nation is being invaded by foreigners — people that “don’t look like us” and are culturally different.

Even before the social media era, history was awash with stories of failed integration, and that remains a ready recipe to be whipped up by populist leaders and right-wing parties to create a schism in society that will only increase hate and uncertainty. This is not only for the newcomers, but also for those in society who are demonstrating and protesting, as the end result might be more isolationism, prejudice and social segregation that tarnishes the country for decades to come.

Above all, the danger is that the UK, like many countries in the Western world, is at the mercy of a global trend of increasing migration due to many factors, such as conflict, instability, food shortages, climate change and socioeconomic adversities. These issues have been battering many people and leading them to seek new homes.

At the same time, the world is looking increasingly at the mercy of a “hate the others” trend. This is especially apparent in Europe, which many believe has been at the mercy of malicious campaigns that aim to sow chaos and undermine its liberties and democracies. The winds of such toxic narratives blowing from the US are only exacerbating intolerance, spurring some into anti-immigrant and xenophobic actions with the aim of remodeling countries along intolerant lines that reject multiculturalism in favor of a more homogenous state and society.

The recent protests and besieging of asylum seeker housing centers have been slowly eroding public safety for some. Meanwhile, efforts to raise flags in towns and cities as a symbolic patriotic gesture are creating a type of hostile environment for all communities

in a very mixed UK, among them the supporters of right-wing parties that have been championing divisive actions in the name of taking back control of borders and towns.

The government has been trying its best to stem the flow of migrants crossing the English Channel in small boats, but the devil is in the details. Migration has been out of control for decades and if the government is to pursue a just and equitable solution, taking into consideration human rights and refugee conventions, it will take a very long time. Taking radical actions, such as using executive orders to repatriate failed asylum seekers en masse, as seen in the US, is not yet possible in the British system due to its independent judiciary and the government’s commitment to conventions and treaties. However, such notions are now thought to be outdated by some.

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social media and opposition parties bent on using every opportunity to politicize the complex issue of taming migration, the government is looking increasingly like a lame duck. Home Secretary Yvette Cooper has been reminding everyone that the government is determined to maintain its current approach of ending the use of hotels to house asylum seekers and preventing the dangerous small-boat crossings, which have been enraging the right-wing parties, while putting in place a fair system that supports genuine refugees, as this country has always done. However, this is unlikely to satisfy the opposition parties.

For years, the UK, like many countries, have grappled with issues around integration and

promoting multiculturalism. It has struggled to accept and celebrate the contribution of migrants and refugees to what is effectively a nation of migrants. But amid today’s discord and extreme populist and supremacist narratives, facilitated and magnified by the “Make America Great Again” tribe in the US, it looks increasingly difficult to foresee a way in which any government could mount a credible defense of immigrants, both virtually and physically. Those behind the anti-immigration campaigns are whipping up hate and prejudice and sowing chaos that could remind people of the dark days witnessed in some parts of Europe on the eve of the Second World War.

One fears that even worse protests could be just around the corner, further endangering social cohesion in a pluralist UK.

In Iceland, dozens of vigilantes sporting black shirts emblazoned with the Iron Cross have recently been seen roaming the streets of central Reykjavik, surprising

some and sowing fears among others. In Poland and the Netherlands, vigilantes have been seen roaming border regions close to Germany ready to turn back any asylum seekers. In Belfast in Northern Ireland, vigilantes were last month filmed roaming the streets after sunset, demanding to see identity documents of people of color.

These groups have sprung up in recent months, claiming to be reassurance and protection forces, but those who know the practices of vigilantes know how their actions often exacerbate security concerns and not reduce them, while undermining the agents of the law. Meanwhile, politicians search for solutions to remedy any ills or grievances as a result of migration or asylum.

After the quake, Afghanistan’s children facing crisis

Abdurahman Sharif

AS a ruthless magnitude 6.0 earthquake ripped through eastern Afghanistan this week, it flattened entire mountain villages and shattered the fragile lives of thousands, particularly children, who were already grappling with soaring humanitarian needs and funding cuts.

This earthquake, centered in the provinces of Kunar and Nangarhar, has already killed more than 1,400 people and the number is expected to rise, while aftershocks continue to wreak havoc. Thousands more are injured, with entire villages levelled in remote, mountainous terrain where roads are blocked, and rescue teams — including Save the Children mobile health staff — are battling to reach those in need.

But this is not just another natural disaster — it is a collision of disasters for Afghanistan, where nearly 23 million

people — or just less than half of the population — need humanitarian assistance this year. More than 9 million people will face acute food insecurity, according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, before October. At least 2 million people have been forced to return to Afghanistan this year alone from Iran and Pakistan. The result is catastrophic — and it is children who bear the brunt.

Such natural disasters demand a rapid and robust humanitarian response. Children need immediate medical attention, clean water, shelter and psychosocial support to recover from trauma. Yet these essential operations are being constrained — curtailed by aid cuts inflicted upon the global humanitarian system.

This year, international donors have cut foreign aid budgets. These decisions have come at exact-

ly the wrong time. About 126 programmes run by Save the Children globally had been shut down by cuts in aid as of May, affecting about 10.3 million people.

In Afghanistan, these cuts have meant less staff to respond when disaster strikes and to respond to a disaster such as this earthquake. Medical clinics have been closed, so there are fewer facilities to treat the injured, and the health facilities that are still open are desperately over-stretched, even before this disaster happened. Health services in Afghanistan cannot absorb blows like this earthquake. The effect of aid cuts in Afghanistan has been acutely felt by Save the Children. The Children lost funding for 14 health clinics in northern and eastern Afghanistan, although we are using alternative short-term funding to keep them open currently. The loss of these clinics would mean 13,000 children losing access to healthcare in their villages. Earlier this year, I visited Nangarhar province, now lying devastated by the huge earthquake, and I met children and their families struggling to survive. I have seen entire health centres run by our partners shut down. Families told me what that means: Mothers unable to give birth safely, children missing critical vaccinations, and households left without hope. The scale of the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, exacerbated by aid cuts and now combined with a sudden-response scenario like the Afghan earthquake, makes for a crisis within a crisis. Aid agencies are stretched thin — or absent — due to staff layoffs and the closure of programmes and offices. This earthquake should be a clarion call — for us to reinvest in humanitarian aid, swiftly and generously.

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a crisis. Aid agencies are stretched thin — or absent — due to staff layoffs and the closure of programmes and offices.

This earthquake should be a clarion call — for us to reinvest in humanitarian aid, swiftly and generously. Donor governments must reverse course, unblock emergency funding, and commit to longer-term financing of child-focused services.

Without immediate, sustained funding, we anticipate a rapid deterioration — children exposed to waterborne diseases, families forced into negative coping strategies like child labour or early marriage, and rising rates of malnutrition in a country where one in five children already faced crisis levels of hunger before the quake. By October this year, five million Afghan children — or about 20% of children in Afghanistan — were expected to face acute hunger, with funding cuts

reducing the amount of food aid available by 40% and 420 health centres closed, removing access for three million people. Even before the aid cuts, 14 million people had limited access to healthcare.

We must ensure that when disaster strikes — whether an earthquake or conflict — we have the ability to respond — and quickly. We must make sure children’s rights endure, even when budgets falter.

This is a crisis compounding a crisis. We are witnessing the collapse of protective systems for children — medical, nutritional, educational, psychosocial — when they are most critical. No child should die because the world’s attention wanes or budgets shrink. The children of Afghanistan were already vulnerable to hunger, disease, poverty, and isolation, and they have now been plunged into a deeper abyss.



Wheat movement from Punjab: SCCI, flour millers reject unconstitutional ban

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Flour Mills Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa berated the Punjab government over imposition of ban on interprovincial movement of wheat to the province, calling it as 'unconstitutional', and feared KP may face shortage of flour, if the restrictions couldn't lift forthwith.

Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Fazal Moqem Khan and Pakistan Flour Mills Association KP Chairman Naeem Butt addressed a crowded joint news conference at chamber house on Tuesday blamed the Punjab Government and it's a top bureaucrat for halting supply of wheat to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with nexus of mafia, described the ban was sheer violation of article 151 of the constitution of the country.

They elaborated Punjab authorities concerned had erected a special checkpoint, barring wheat-laden vehicles from entry in K-P, calling it as economic terrorism of the province, which is facing a huge deficit of wheat, dependent on procurement from open

market.

Responding to a question from reporters, Fazal Moqem and Naeem Butt said KP is facing a shortfall of wheat 41,000 metric ton as the province's total wheat production of KP is 12,000 metric ton against its demand of 51,000 metric ton.

They informed only 2 lakh 71 thousand metric ton wheat stock available in government godowns, which is insufficient to meet the requirement of the province as still seven to eight months are left in the season.

A substantial increase in flour prices witnessed after restrictions on supply of wheat to KP from Punjab, forcing people to buy flour at high rates, which is completely unjust with them, they added, warning of further increase if the ban was not lifted immediately.

Fazal Moqem Khan and Naeem Butt warned the restrictions of Punjab government would further push the terrorism-battered flour industry to standstill situation.

They stated the wheat sector has deregulated under agreement with the IMF, after which wheat and flour are put under open market mechanism, barring

the government from determining prices of wheat and flour and imposing any kind of restrictions on movement of wheat.

Defying the constitutional relevant article and agreement, Fazal Moqem Khan and Naeem Butt said movement of wheat banned following instruction of Chief Secretary Punjab on August 26, opening ways of speed money and corruption for police, administration and authorities concerned and started charging Rs150,000 per truck as bribe on various illegal checkpoints, without any official record and receipt.

They continued to say that such decisions had never proved productive in the past, and always gave birth to crisis and recent embargo was imposed on pretext of Chief Secretary Punjab, subsequently famers community bear the brunt of these wrong policies, once again the top bureaucrat in connivance of the mafia want to create crisis in the K-P, to pave way for wheat import and fill their pocket from commission.

Fazal Moqem Khan and Naeem Butt said thousands of ton wheat available with government in carry forward despite the fact that

such tactics a bid to create artificial crisis, which would not only damage to ordinary citizen but flour mill industry, which is already battling for its survival and it would further push to complete destruction.

Rejecting the unconstitutional ban on wheat movement from Punjab, they appealed Field Marshal Gen Asim Munir, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain, Chief Minister Gandapur to immediately intervene into the matter and order to lift the restriction to avert flour crisis situation in K-P.

They emphasized steps to ensure all constitutional requirements regarding free inter-provincial trade to halt any such step in future in the country and abolish the extortion system forever. They announced their decision to decide future course of action if the ban was not lifted immediately.

Apart from executive member of the chamber Sabir Ahmad Bangash, the flour mills association office bearers, mill owners, representatives and others were present in a large number during the press conference.



PESHAWAR: President Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Fazal Moqem Khan and Chairman Pakistan Flour Mills Association KP Naeem Butt addressing a joint press conference at Chamber's House.

RCCI shines at global stage

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has been acknowledged at the ongoing Global SME Summit-2025 in Davos, Switzerland, as Usman Shaukat, President RCCI is to present Pakistan's robust industrial potential before the world's top enterprises.

The three day summit started from 3rd September, is focusing on small and media enterprises through interactive bilateral and multi later engagements strengthening business to business bonds among the participants.

In an exclusive brief interaction with APP, Usman highlighted his aims to represent Pakistan at the summit, where he will deliver a presentation and address to portray the country's potential as 'a lucrative investment destination'.

"Pakistan is open for business," he said, emphasizing the country's diverse sectors, including manufacturing and services.

Usman, in his address at the global economic stage will showcase Pakistan's economic outlook, the role of the Special Investment Facilitation Council, and the government's efforts to attract foreign direct investment.

"From Rawalpindi's pharmaceutical and IT clusters to Sialkot's surgical and sports industries, and Gujarat's fan and ceramic sectors, Pakistan's SME sector is the backbone of our economy," usman said when asked the key features of Pakistan's production domain.

Usman Shaukat aims to promote these strengths to global representatives, including ministers and business leaders, to foster collaboration and attract investment in Pakistan.

"I have the honours present represent Pakistan at the highest and most potent international economic event after WEF, where over 300 delegates from 40 plus countries, including above 200 CEOs, executives, entrepreneurs, investors, industry experts and representatives from international financial institutions will be present", he said. The focus of Global SME Summit is on empowering SMEs, which form the backbone of the global economy.

Usman reiterated his commitment to strengthen trade and investment ties of Pakistani traders with the global partners by exploiting the magnificent opportunity at Davos Summit.

PSX continues with bullish trend, gains 1,226 more points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) benchmark KSE-100 Index continued with bullish trend on Wednesday, gaining 1,226.39 more points, a positive change of 0.81 percent, closing at 152,201.88 points against 150,975.48 points last trading day.

A total of 1,043,232,122 shares were traded during the day as compared to 1,081,077,703 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 51.308 billion against Rs 44.424 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 477 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 242 of them recorded gains and 204 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 31 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were Pace (Pak) Limited with 89,287,134 shares at Rs 6.95 per share, Fauji Foods Limited with 73,360,809 shares at Rs18.15 per share and Bank of Punjab with 51,572,354 shares at Rs17.37 per share.

Hoechst Pakistan Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 210.03 per share price, closing at Rs 3,999.38, whereas the runner-up was PIA Holding Company LimitedB with Rs158.30 rise in its per share price to Rs26,815.80.

Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 281.29 per share closing at Rs 32,703.51 followed by Rafhan Maize Products Company Limited with Rs 68.89 decline in its share price to close at Rs 9,605.11.

Meanwhile, in the future market, as many as 318 companies traded shares in the market out of which 189 witnessed gain, 125 loss where the prices of 4 companies remained unchanged.

Rupee gains 02 paise against US Dollar

The Rupee on Wednesday appreciated by 02 paise against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 281.70 against the previous day's closing Rs 281.72.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 282.6 and Rs 283.4, respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by 33 paise to close at Rs 328.33 against the last day's closing of Rs 328.03, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs 1.89, whereas an increase of 58 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound,

which was traded at Rs377.74 compared to the previous day's closing of Rs377.16.

The exchange rate of the Emirates Dirham declined by 01 paisa, while the Saudi Riyal stood stagnant to close at Rs75.07.

Gold price soars to record high of Rs376,700 per tola

The price of 24-karat gold surged by Rs. 4,000 on Wednesday, reaching a historic high of Rs. 376,700 per tola against Rs.370,700 per tola on the previous day, according to data released by the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association.

Similarly, the price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold rose by Rs. 5,144 to settle at Rs. 322,959, up from Rs. 317,815. The 22-karat gold rate also witnessed a notable increase, climbing by Rs. 4,715 to Rs. 296,056 from the previous Rs. 291,341.

Silver prices followed suit, with per tola silver rising by Rs. 12 to Rs. 4,315, while the price of 10 grams increased by Rs. 10 to Rs. 3,699.

In the international market, gold prices also hit an all-time high, rising by \$60 to reach \$3,540 per ounce, compared to \$3,480 in the previous session. Silver was recorded at \$40.82 per ounce, marking a modest increase of \$0.12.

ICCI calls for export facilitation Roadmap to boost global trade

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) has underlined that Pakistan's economic future lies in expanding its footprint in international markets through stronger exports.

It emphasized that achieving this goal requires the government to foster an enabling environment by eliminating unnecessary barriers, lowering the cost of doing business and ensuring easier access for Pakistani products and services into global markets.

President ICCI Nasir Mansoor Qureshi said Pakistan holds vast potential in key sectors including tex-

tiles, IT, pharmaceuticals, and engineering goods. However, exporters continue to face structural hurdles that limit competitiveness, said a press release issued here Wednesday.

He urged the government to simplify export procedures, cut bureaucratic red tape, and provide consistent support for international trade promotion initiatives.

Senior Vice President Abdul Rehman Siddiqui noted that high energy tariffs, rising input costs, and complicated taxation frameworks are undermining the profitability of industries, making Paki-

stani exports less attractive in global markets.

He stressed the urgent need for reforms that would lower production costs and create a fair playing field for exporters.

Vice President Nasir Mehmood Chaudhry emphasized the importance of diversifying into non-traditional markets such as Africa, Central Asia, and Latin America while fully capitalizing on opportunities available under regional trade agreements.

He also called for stronger representation of Pakistani businesses in international exhibitions and trade delegations to

open new growth avenues.

The ICCI leadership reaffirmed the commitment of Islamabad's business community to contribute actively towards enhancing exports and driving economic growth. It urged the government to extend robust facilitation and ensure consistency in policies so that Pakistan can secure a stronger and more sustainable presence in the global marketplace.

It further offered to work closely with policymakers in developing an "Export Facilitation Roadmap" that would serve as a joint strategy for boosting Pakistan's trade potential worldwide.

MG, MCB partner to offer auto financing with unmatched benefits

F.P. Report

KARACHI: MG Motors Pakistan has partnered with MCB Bank Limited to introduce an exclusive auto financing package on its premium SUVs, the MG HS PHEV and MG HS Trophy, making luxury mobility more accessible for Pakistani customers.

The limited-time offer, valid from September 1 to October 31, 2025, is designed to provide affordability and convenience with the key benefits such as free registration, priority delivery, discounted financing rate of 1-Year KIBOR + 2.75% and insurance at just 1.5%.

This collaboration reflects MG's commitment to delivering premium experiences with unmatched value while ensuring that cus-



tomers can enjoy cutting-edge technology and eco-friendly driving solutions without financial strain.

Commenting on the partnership, Syed Asif Ahmed, General Manager, Market-

ing Division, MG Motors Pakistan, said "Our collaboration with MCB Bank underscores our vision of combining premium mobility with greater accessibility. With exclusive benefits

such as free registration, priority delivery, and highly competitive financing rates, customers can now enjoy MG's innovative SUVs with unmatched peace of mind and convenience."

LCCI calls for urgent construction of rainwater harvesting dams

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) here Wednesday urged the government to immediately launch a nationwide programme for the construction of rainwater harvesting dams to protect Pakistan from recurring floods and looming droughts.

The president Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) Mian Abuzar Shad, Senior Vice President Engineer Khalid Usman and Vice President Shahid Nazir Chaudhry said that although the country is facing devastating floods at present, Pakistan is among the most water-stressed countries in the world as per capita water availability has drastically fallen from 5,600 cubic meters in 1951 to only 860 cubic meters in 2025, which is far below the international water scarcity

threshold.

They said that while every year billions of cubic meters of rainwater flows into the sea without being utilized, the nation simultaneously faces crippling droughts in arid regions. They said that this dual challenge of devastating floods and acute water shortages represents a national tragedy which must be addressed through urgent, practical and cost-effective solutions.

The president Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) Mian Abuzar Shad said that rainwater harvesting dams are the most immediate and viable solution to save Pakistan from water insecurity and climate shocks.

He said that the 2022 floods inflicted losses of over USD 30 billion and displaced more than 33 million people, while the 2025

floods have already claimed more hundreds of lives and destroyed infrastructure, agri land, crops and livestock worth billions of dollars.

"If we fail to store rainwater through small and medium-sized dams, we will continue to suffer the same devastation every year. With proper planning, the same water that today wreaks havoc could instead become a source of prosperity," the president Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) Mian Abuzar Shad remarked.

Senior Vice President Engineer Khalid Usman said that rainwater harvesting dams will not only mitigate flood losses but also recharge groundwater, support agriculture, provide drinking water and create livelihood opportunities in rural areas.

The president Lahore

Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) Mian Abuzar Shad said that such projects are less time-consuming and less costly compared to mega dams, yet their cumulative impact on water security and climate resilience is extraordinary.

Vice President Shahid Nazir Chaudhry said that these dams can also attract international climate financing through IMF's Resilience and Sustainability Facility and World Bank programmes.

The LCCI office-bearers said that a sustainable national programme with at least Rs. 200 to 300 billion annual allocation, developed under a public-private partnership framework and monitored through digital systems, could ensure transparency, efficiency and long-term impact.

They said that by con-

structing rainwater harvesting dams across Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab's Potohar region, Sindh's arid zones and Gilgit-Baltistan and AJK, Pakistan could store an additional six to seven million acre feet of water, almost equal to the combined storage capacity of Tarbela and Mangla. They said that such an initiative would reduce flood losses by nearly half and simultaneously strengthen food security, energy potential, and climate resilience.

The LCCI office-bearers said that Pakistan cannot afford further delays. If we fail to act today, the next future generations will inherit only floods, droughts and despair. Rainwater harvesting dams are not an option but a necessity for Pakistan's survival, progress and prosperity.

1.3m cotton bales arrival recorded

MULTAN (APP): Seed Cotton (Phutti) equivalent to over 1.3 million bales have reached ginning factories across Pakistan till Aug 31,2025, registering an increase of 8.95 percent as compared to corresponding period of last year.

According to a fortnightly report of PCGA issued to the media on Wednesday, over 1.1 million bales have undergone the ginning process i.e converted into bales

Cotton arrivals in Punjab were recorded 465,570 bales registering an increase of 2.81 percent as compared to the corresponding period of last year when arrivals were recorded 773,091 bales.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Seven ships, MSC Pratiti, WFS Juno, Princess Gefa, Nakhal Silver, IDI, Al-Slami and Galini carrying Container, Steel Pallets, Palm oil, Gas oil, LNG and Coal, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, Liquid Cargo Terminal, FOTCO oil Terminal, Pakistan Gas Port Terminal and Pakistan International Bulk Terminal respectively on Tuesday.

Meanwhile four more ships, Hansa Africa, Jin Shun He, Sentosa-66 and Ionic Kibou with Container, Fertilizer and Soya Bean Seed are also arrived at outer anchorage on during last 24 hours.

Eight ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships, MSC Pratiti and GFS Juno are left the port on today morning,

while three more ships, Jin Shun He, Princess Wafya and Meghna Rose expected to sail.

Cargo volume of 131,128 tonnes, comprising 109,878 tonnes imports cargo and 21,250 export cargo carried in 3,147 Containers (1,897 TEUs Imports & 1,250 TEUs Export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

Six ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of four ships, Ionic Kibou, Al-Diab-II, Hansa Africa and Jin Shun He & three more ships, CMA CGM Phoenix, Yuan Xiang Fa Zhan and PHC Glory scheduled to load/offload Soya Bean Seed, LNG, Container and Rice are expected to take berths at FAP, EVT, QICT and MW-2 respectively, while another containers ship 'MSC York-VII' due to arrive at outer anchorage today (Thursday).



In brief

Pakistan stands chance to qualify for WC

LAHORE (Monitoring Desk): Pakistan's men's hockey team has got yet another opportunity to play in the World Cup (WC) as now it has emerged that the Green Shirts can participate in the tournament despite not playing in the Asia Cup, presently underway in India. Sources told the 24NewsHD TV channel that the winner of the Asia Cup would straight away qualify for the WC, while the remaining five teams would have to play in the qualifying round. Fédération Internationale de Hockey (FIH) had included Pakistan as the sixth team in the qualifying event and had informed the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) of its decision, sources explained. Giving further details, they said that in order to qualify for the qualifying round, Pakistan would have to play a three-match series against a team standing fifth in the Asia Cup. And in the event of success in the series, the country could go on to play in the qualifying round. And in case the team remains successful in the qualifying round, Pakistan will qualify for the world cup.

Training camp continues despite rain

LAHORE (Monitoring Desk): The Pakistan Women's Cricket Team is continuing its preparations for the upcoming ICC Women's Cricket World Cup and the home series against South Africa, with a training camp underway in Lahore despite weather disruptions. On the sixth day of the camp, persistent rain affected outdoor batting, bowling, and fielding sessions. However, the players took part in a three-hour indoor evening session at the High Performance Centre under the supervision of head coach Muhammad Wasim. The indoor training focused on batting, bowling, fielding drills, and improving running between wickets. Coaches also provided players with guidance on skill development and tactical awareness. The training camp will continue in Lahore until September 11, ahead of the team's engagement with South Africa Women and their preparations for the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup.

Nagelsmann warns Wirtz 'needs time' to shine

BERLIN (AFP): Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann on Monday backed new Liverpool recruit Florian Wirtz to return to his best form after a low-key start to his Premier League career. Wirtz joined Liverpool from Bayer Leverkusen in the summer for 125 million euros (\$134 million) plus bonuses, but has not stood out despite the Reds winning their first three matches. Speaking to reporters in Bratislava before Germany's World Cup qualifier against Slovakia on Thursday, Nagelsmann called the 22-year-old midfielder "a key player for us". The coach said Wirtz had "not been incredibly dominant", and added he needed time to adjust at Liverpool. "You have to look at the whole gang playing around him. They've spent a few euros on the top squad they've got there and you don't always stand out as an individual. "Rather it's the overall construct which should work -- and it does work. "It's normal that you need a bit more time in a new culture, a new league, in a new stadium at a new club. "He'll play some great games there. He'll score, he'll assist. He can start that with us tomorrow," he added.



BILBAO: Riders of the Israel Premier Tech team compete as people holding Palestinian flags try to disrupt the eleventh stage of the Vuelta a Espana cycling race.

Protesters force early end to Vuelta stage 11; No winner declared

BILBAO (AP): The 11th stage of the Spanish Vuelta was cut short and finished without a winner because of a disruption by pro-Palestinian protesters near the finish line in the Basque Country city of Bilbao on Wednesday. The protesters appeared to be targeting riders from the Israel Premier Tech team. Some attempted to invade the road when the riders of the Israeli team crossed in front of them, prompting organizers and security staff to rush in to try to contain them behind the security fences. Police were called in to contain the protesters, many of whom carried Palestine flags and pro-Palestine signs. Race officials made an announcement to the teams as the riders had about 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) to go in the 157.4-kilometer (98-mile) stage that also started in Bilbao. "Due to some incidents at the finish line, we have decided to take the time at

3 kilometers before the line. We won't have a stage winner. We will give the points for the mountain classification and the intermediate sprint, but not on the finish line," they said. The start of the stage also had been disrupted by protesters who forced race officials to pause the peloton for a few minutes. The police appeared to have the crowd under control by the finish, forming a line to keep the protesters from going over the security fences, but officials decided it was safer to keep riders from reaching that point.

At the Tour de France in July, a man protesting the participation of Israel Premier Tech ran onto the course as the leaders raced for the finish line. A security guard ran out and apprehended the man. The team had previously faced protests because of its association with Israel, which has killed 63,633 Palestinians since the start of the Israel-Hamas war,

according to the Gaza Health Ministry. The war was sparked by the Hamas-led attack on southern Israel that killed some 1,200 people on Oct. 7, 2023.

Vingegaard disappointed Overall Spanish Vuelta leader Jonas Vingegaard, of team Visma-Lease a Bike, said it was disappointing not to be able to finish the stage.

"It's a big shame, we really would have loved to win the stage," he said, adding that he was looking forward to a strong finish by his team on the day of his son's birthday. Tom Pidcock, a British rider from team Q36.5 Pro Cycling, had been ahead during the final parts of the stage. "It's hard to describe the disappointment, to be honest," he said. "I felt like today was my day. I had a good chance to win."

Pidcock continued through the finish line despite the decision to cut the stage short. Thursday's 12th stage will take riders on a 145-kilometer (90-mile) route with mid-size mountains.

Cummins to take rehab 'risks' to be fit for Ashes

SYDNEY (Agencies): Australia captain Pat Cummins is willing to be "aggressive" and "take risks" with his rehabilitation from a back injury in order to be fit for the first Ashes Test against England this winter. Cummins has been ruled out of Australia's upcoming white-ball series against New Zealand and India after scans revealed a lumbar bone stress in his back.

The 32-year-old said it would be "devastating" if he missed out on the first Ashes Test, which starts on 21 November in Perth, Western Australia. "I'm never going to go into a Test match unless I think I can finish the Test match," Cummins said. "But when you're 18 or 19, you're like, 'let's make

sure this is the perfect rehab, whether it takes an extra six months'. Whereas, I'm happy to be a bit like, 'well, it's an Ashes series, whatever it takes to play it'.

"Then, say, at the end, if you're still not 100% and you need to have a bit of a break next year, there's not another Ashes series."

Cummins has been restricted to light gym work since his last Test appearance against West Indies in July and is prepared to go into the Ashes without having played any domestic cricket. "You're willing to take a few risks and be a little bit aggressive to try and play as many Tests as you can," he added. "I'm pretty confident even if I don't get a chance to play a [Sheffield] Shield game, I can get up to speed

pretty quickly. 'I'm still doing a bit of gym work, but no real running, no bowling. Get that right and then we'll build up to the summer.

"We've got loads of time, there's about 12 weeks until the first Test. We'll see how the next little bit pans out."

Cummins has a history of back injuries, with flare-ups in 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2015-16 causing him to miss three Australian summers in four years. In 2018, he suffered a recurrence that ruled him out of the Indian Premier League in April and an October tour of Pakistan, although he has stayed relatively free of injury since then. Australia drew 2-2 in England to retain the Ashes in 2023 and Cummins took 18 wickets during the series.

Djokovic sets up Alcaraz US Open blockbuster as Sabalenka advances

NEW YORK (AFP/APP): Novak Djokovic advanced to a blockbuster US Open showdown with Carlos Alcaraz on Tuesday as reigning women's champion Aryna Sabalenka vaulted into the semi-finals without having to lift her racket.

Djokovic snuffed out Taylor Fritz's hopes of becoming the first American man to win a Grand Slam singles title since 2003 with a 6-3, 7-5, 3-6, 6-4 quarter-final victory on the Arthur Ashe Stadium court.

The win sent the 38-year-old Serbian -- chasing a record-breaking 25th Grand Slam victory -- into a mouthwatering semi-final against Spanish second seed Alcaraz on Friday.

Djokovic clinched victory when fourth seed Fritz double-faulted on match point in the 10th game of the final set and could not hide his relief at finally emerging victorious.

"In this kind of match a few points on either side decide the winner," he said.

"It was an incredibly close match. It was really anybody's match."

Fritz was left rueing his failure to make the most of the opportunities that came his way, converting only two of 13 points during an absorbing three-hour 24-minute battle. The American fourth seed squandered five break points in the opening set that would have made it 5-4, instead allowing Djokovic to wriggle off the hook and take a one-set lead.

Then, after battling back to break Djokovic to get to 5-5 in the second, Fritz was broken immediately to surrender the initiative. Djokovic duly held to take a two-set lead, and while Fritz hit back to take the third set, the veteran Serb regrouped to wrap up victory in the next set. "I thought I was really lucky to save some crucial break points in the second set," Djokovic said. "I think for most of the second and third sets he was the better player."

Djokovic will meet Alcaraz in the last four with

the 22-year-old Spaniard in blistering form.

The five-time Grand Slam champion needed just one hour and 56 minutes to seal a convincing 6-4, 6-2, 6-4 defeat of Czech 20th seed Jiri Lehecka. Alcaraz has not dropped a set during a relentless march into the semi-finals and was once again in complete control against Lehecka.

"I just played a really -- or almost perfect match," said Alcaraz, who has won 35 of his last 36 matches since the start of the Italian Open in May.

"It seems like, OK, just two more steps to do, and let's see what happens. But yeah, I'm just feeling great and hungry to make it."

- Sabalenka walkover - In the women's draw on Tuesday, world number one and defending champion Sabalenka moved into the semi-finals after Czech quarter-final opponent Marketa Vondrousova pulled out with a knee injury.

Sabalenka, bidding to become the first woman to

successfully defend the US Open since Serena Williams completed a hat-trick of titles in 2014, extended sympathy to Vondrousova, the 2023 Wimbledon champion.

"So sorry for Marketa after all she's been through. She has been playing amazing tennis and I know how badly this must hurt for her," said Sabalenka, who has now reached the US Open semi-finals or better for five tournaments in a row.

The walkover sets up a repeat of last year's US Open final in the last four, with Sabalenka facing American fourth seed Jessica Pegula on Thursday. Pegula reached the semi-finals earlier on Tuesday after a 6-3, 6-3 defeat of unseeded Czech Barbora Krejickova.

Pegula entered the US Open on the back of a dismal run of form that had seen her make early exits at WTA tournaments in Washington, Montreal and Cincinnati.

Raza crowned as the new ODI all-rounder in latest ICC rankings

HARARE (Agencies): Zimbabwe's all-rounder Sikandar Raza has reached the pinnacle of the ICC Men's ODI All-rounder rankings for the first time in his career after performing in the recent series against Sri Lanka.

The 39-year-old made 92 runs and an unbeaten 59, along with a wicket in the two-match ODI series in Harare, propelling him past Afghanistan's Azmatullah Omarzai and Mohammad Nabi, who now sit second and third, respectively.

Raza's previous career-best in the all-rounder charts was No.2, achieved in December 2023.

Raza's batting contributions also earned him a significant boost in the ICC ODI Batting Rankings, where he surged nine places to 22nd, moving close to his career-best 24th position set last year.

His bowling saw a modest improvement as well, climbing one spot to 38th.

Sri Lanka's Pathum Nissanka emerged as the leading run-scorer in the series with 198 runs and earned the Player of the Series award. His consistency lifted him seven positions to 13th among ODI batters.

Janith Liyanage also made gains, rising 13 places to 29th, while Zimbabwe's Sean Williams climbed three spots to 47th.

South Africa's Tony de Zorzi also made strides, moving to 64th following strong performances.

In the ICC Men's ODI Bowling Rankings, South Africa's Keshav Maharaj claimed the No.1 spot outright after a four-wicket haul against England in Leeds pushed him ahead of Sri Lanka's Maheesh Theekshana.

England's Jofra Archer rose six places to 19th, while South Africa's Lungi Ngidi climbed five positions to joint-23rd.

Sri Lanka's Asitha Fernando jumped to 31st and Dilshan Madushanka advanced from 60th to 52nd.

Iraq thrash Pakistan 8-1 in AFC U23 Asian Cup 2026 Qualifiers

PHNOM PENH (Monitoring Desk): Pakistan endured a nightmare start to their AFC U23 Asian Cup 2026 Qualifiers campaign as they were thrashed 8-1 by Iraq at the Olympic Stadium, Phnom Penh, on Wednesday.

Iraq's Ali Jasim was the star of the night, netting a hat-trick to spearhead his side's win.

The Green Shirts' troubles began early when Mohibullah Afridi was shown a red card in the 30th minute, leaving Pakistan with 10 men.

Just three minutes later, Iraq were awarded a penal-

ty following another foul by Pakistan and calmly converted it to take the lead.

The score remained 1-0 in Iraq's favour at half-time.

Following the break, Jasim netted his first goal in the 48th minute to double Iraq's lead.

Pakistan managed to pull one back 15 minutes later when McKee Abdullah successfully converted the penalty.

Iraq then launched a scathing attack and smashed six more goals in the remaining 27 minutes to round up a commanding 8-

1 victory over Pakistan.

The resounding victory put Iraq at the top of the Group G standings with three points and a goal difference of seven, while Pakistan succumbed to the bottom.

The Green Shirts next face Cambodia on September 6 before wrapping up their group stage campaign against Chinese Taipei on September 9.

It is worth noting that only the group winners and four second-placed teams will qualify for the AFC U23 Asian Cup 2026, scheduled to take place in Saudi Arabia.

Bangladesh win T20 series against Netherlands

SYLHET (AFP): Bangladesh won their three-match T20 series against the Netherlands 2-0 after rain forced the final match to be abandoned on Wednesday.

Skipper Litton Das hammered 73 off 46 balls to guide Bangladesh to 164-4 in 18.2 overs when rain interrupted play for the second and final time in Sylhet.

Bangladesh, who made five changes to their team after they clinched the series in the second match,

are preparing for the T20 Asia Cup starting September 9 in the United Arab Emirates.

Bangladesh's innings witnessed an 11-minute break due to floodlight failure followed by a 35-minute rain delay.

Litton raced to his second fifty of the series in 27 balls with a six over deep mid-wicket off left-arm spinner Daniel Doran.

Tim Pringle took the wicket of Towhid Hridoy for nine before medium-

pace bowler Kyle Klein struck twice in one over.

Klein sent back Litton, who was named player of the series for his 145 runs, and Shamim Hossain, for 21, in the space of three deliveries.

Nurul Hasan, who hit 22 not out, and Jaker Ali, who made an unbeaten 20, put together an unbroken partnership of 42 when rain forced the players off the ground and after a long delay the officials called off the match.

Haider Ali cleared of rape allegation

LAHORE (Monitoring Desk): Pakistani cricketer Haider Ali has been cleared of rape allegations after Greater Manchester Police formally closed the case, citing insufficient evidence to move forward.

The 24-year-old batter had been accused by a British-Pakistani woman of assaulting her at a Manchester hotel.

However, police have now dropped the investigation, allowing Ali to reclaim his passport and regain freedom to return to Pakistan or travel abroad.

According to the complainant, she first met

Haider Ali on July 23 at a Manchester hotel and later encountered him again on August 1 in Ashford.

She filed a complaint on August 4, after which Ali was arrested at Kent's Spitfire County Cricket Ground.

The cricketer was taken into custody for questioning but consistently denied the allegations, insisting the pair were friends and that the claims came as a shock.

Ali's case was represented by barrister Moeen Khan, a criminal law specialist. Following a joint review by Greater Manchester Police and the

Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), authorities concluded there was not enough evidence to pursue charges.

During the investigation, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) provisionally suspended Ali from crick-

eting duties. Ali, who made his international debut in 2020, has so far represented Pakistan in 35 T20 internationals and two one-day internationals.

With the case now closed, his return to competitive cricket will depend on the PCB's review of his suspension and clearance to rejoin the national setup.



SYLHET: Litton Das was sublime in hitting sixes off spin.

Salah slams fan 'disrespect' to ex-Liverpool players

LONDON (Reuters): Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah called out a popular fan account on Wednesday for "disrespecting" former teammates Luis Diaz and Darwin Nunez after a social media post mocked their close-season departures.

Salah took exception to a post on X featuring images of the departed duo in black-and-white over new signings Florian Wirtz and Alexander Isak with the caption: "Name a bigger upgrade in footballing history."

"How about we celebrate the great signings without disrespecting the PL (Premier League) champions?" Salah fired back on X, defending his fellow strikers who helped Liverpool claim their 20th league title.

The Anfield Edition site, which has more than

half a million followers, quickly apologized.

"It wasn't the intention to disrespect, more to highlight the incredible transfers this summer. But we're sorry," it posted with a picture of Salah on a throne.

The social media spat came after a summer of big-money moves that saw Colombian winger Diaz head to Bayern Munich for 75 million euros (\$87.80 million), while Nunez joined Saudi Arabia's Al-Hilal for a reported 53 million euros.

Liverpool then splashed the cash on replacements, signing Wirtz for 116 million pounds (\$156.70 million) with add-ons before smashing the British transfer record to bring in Isak for 125 million pounds.

While Diaz made a sig-

nificant contribution to Liverpool's title triumph with 13 goals and seven assists from 36 games, Nunez struggled to make his mark, netting only five times in 30 games.

Though he remained popular at Anfield for his work rate, Nunez faced harsh mockery on social media for missed chances.

Last month, Salah also took to social media to criticize UEFA's tribute to the late Suleiman Al-Obeid, known as the "Palestinian Pele," after European soccer's governing body failed to reference the circumstances surrounding his death.

"Can you tell us how he died, where, and why?" Salah wrote.

According to Obeid's family, he was killed by an Israeli tank shell while queuing to collect food in Gaza.



In brief

Accused surrenders in drugs case

ISLAMABAD (APP): An accused in a drug case on Wednesday surrendered before Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) after the Supreme Court rejected his bail petition. The lawyer of accused, Mazhar Iqbal Sidhu, took the stance during the hearing that the accused wanted to surrender after the bail was rejected. The prosecutor took the stand that the ANF was an independent force. Justice Hassan Azhar noted that 10 kg of drugs and a drone were also recovered from the accused. The accused withdrew the application after observations were made to reject the bail application. The Supreme Court included the arrest of the accused in the court order. The Supreme Court had rejected pre-arrest bail of accused Fayyaz Alias Bhola in drug smuggling case. A case of drug smuggling was registered against the accused in Lahore in August 2023.

IRSA releases 414,300 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Wednesday released 414,300 cusecs of water from various rim stations with inflow of 455,700 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1549.85 feet, which was 147.85 feet higher than the dead level of 1402.00 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 197,500 cusecs and 195,100 cusecs, respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1227.55 feet, which was 177.55 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 47,000 cusecs and 8,000 cusecs, respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 236,400, 217,400, 354,200 and 250,900 cusecs, respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 42,600 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 167,200 cusecs were released from River Chenab at Marala.

Police nab armed suspect

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police, under the guidance of SP/SDPO City Zone and the direct supervision of SDPO Kohsar Circle Zulfiqar Ali, carried out a successful operation and arrested an armed suspect with illegal weapons in the jurisdiction of Kohsar Police Station. An official told APP on Wednesday that SHO Kohsar Police Station Mian Khuram Shehzad, along with Investigating Officer SI Muhammad Akbar and his team, conducted a raid and apprehended the accused Waqas Mahmood, son of Khalid Mahmood, a resident of Street 31/C, Irfanabad, Tramri, Islamabad. He said during the search, police recovered a 30-bore pistol along with five live rounds from the suspect's possession. He said the recovered weapon was taken into custody, and a case (No. 958 dated 02-09-2025) under AO 13/20/65 was registered at Kohsar Police Station. Further investigation is underway to ascertain where and for what purpose the weapon was to be used. He added that the force is strictly implementing a zero-tolerance policy against criminal elements. Daily operations are being conducted to ensure citizens' safety, and the public has been urged to promptly report any suspicious activity for timely crime prevention.



ISLAMABAD: UNESCO Chief to Pakistan called on Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui. —APP Photo

Ashrafi urges calls for humanitarian aid to flood victims

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of the Pakistan Ulema Council, Hafiz Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi Wednesday underscored the significance of national unity, urging everyone to follow the path of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and extend a helping hand to the flood victims as a humanitarian effort. While speaking to state news channel, Hafiz Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi highlighted the profound importance of the month of Eid Milad un Nabi, emphasizing that it is not just a time of celebration, but also a moment for Muslims to reflect deeply on the life and teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

He appealed to the nation and all stakeholders to unite and help the flood-affected areas, stressing the importance of collective efforts for

immediate relief and long-term support to rebuild the communities.

He further pointed out that this sacred month serves as a reminder of the Prophet's exemplary character is kindness, justice and commitment to spreading peace.

It is a time to renew one's commitment to following the path of the Prophet, striving to embody his values of compassion, humility and righteousness in all aspects of life. Ashrafi explained that Eid Milad un Nabi is not only a celebration of the Prophet's birth but also an opportunity to promote unity and peace within the Muslim community and beyond.

He emphasized that the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) encourage a spirit of harmony, where people from different back-

grounds and faiths can live together in respect and understanding, adding, this month is a call for Muslims to unite in their efforts to build a just and compassionate society, one that reflects the values of love, equality, and mutual respect.

Lastly, Hafiz Ashrafi underscored the importance of following the path of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in everyday life, reminding the nation that his legacy is a blueprint for a peaceful, just and prosperous society.

He expressed hope that this sacred month would inspire individuals to take concrete steps toward personal and societal betterment, walking in the footsteps of the Prophet by embodying his teachings of peace, tolerance and service to humanity.

Justice Gul Hassan highlights importance of ADR for fast, fair justice

Saqib Mushtaq

ISLAMABAD: A two-day Training on Arbitration concluded on Tuesday at the Balochistan Judicial Academy organized by the International Mediation & Arbitration Centre (IMAC) under the Ministry of Law & Justice, in collaboration with the Balochistan Judicial Academy.

The training aimed to enhance the capacity of legal professionals and other ADR stakeholders in modern arbitration practices.

Justice Gul Hassan Tareen of the High Court of Balochistan graced the concluding ceremony as the Chief Guest. In his address, Justice Gul Hassan, while referring to Article 37(d) of the Constitution, emphasized that "the State shall ensure

inexpensive and expeditious justice."

He highlighted that mediation, arbitration, and other ADR mechanisms are vital instruments to achieve this constitutional mandate. He underscored that ADR not only reduces the burden on courts but also provides parties with efficient, cost-effective, and amicable means of resolving disputes, thereby advancing access to justice across the country.

Jan Muhammad Gohar, Director General of the Balochistan Judicial Academy, praised IMAC and the Ministry of Law & Justice for organizing this much-needed initiative, particularly for young lawyers. He highlighted the critical role such training plays in preparing the next generation of legal practitioners to meet

evolving demands.

The training featured sessions by renowned international arbitrators, including Mian Sheeraz Javed and Syed Hamad Yousaf Gillani, covering a wide array of topics such as the fundamentals of ADR, national and international arbitration frameworks, procedural aspects of arbitration, and practical insights into arbitration practice.

Participants appreciated the training, stating that it provided valuable practical knowledge and exposure to international standards of arbitration. Many highlighted the relevance of the sessions to their professional growth and expressed confidence that the skills acquired would enable them to play a more effective role in advancing ADR in Balochistan and

beyond.

The Registrar of IMAC, Ehsan Ullah Khan, extended heartfelt thanks to Justice Gul Hassan Tareen for his gracious presence at the concluding ceremony. He also expressed deep appreciation to the distinguished guests, trainers, and participants for their valuable support and active engagement, which contributed to making the training a resounding success.

This training is part of IMAC's broader mandate to institutionalize ADR mechanisms across Pakistan. Since its establishment, IMAC has conducted a series of capacity-building workshops engaging a wide range of stakeholders, including lawyers, judges, government officials, and business professionals.

Tree plantation drive held at Sixth Road Park

RAWALPINDI (APP): A tree plantation campaign was organized here at Sixth Road Park to promote environmental improvement and tree plantation in the Rawalpindi city. Member of the National Assembly Tahira Aurangzeb and Parliamentary Secretary Information and Culture Punjab Shazia Rizwan inaugurated the drive by planting a sapling.

The ceremony was attended by the people from different walks of life, including senior officers of the Health Department and Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA). MNA Tahira Aurangzeb, in her remarks, said the government was taking vigorous steps to give the people a green and lush Pakistan.

She said that planting trees was a continuing charity and every citizen should actively participate in the campaign. Parliamentary Secretary Shazia Rizwan said that the tree plantation campaign was not just a one-day process but it was a continuous struggle. He appealed to the public to not only plant trees but also ensure their protection so that future generations could have a better environment.

Chief Executive Health Dr. Ehsan Ghani said, "The trees not only help in keeping the environment clean but also have positive effects on human health." He said steps would be taken to control pollution and provide a healthy environment for citizens through tree plantation.

Minister Siddiqui meets UNESCO Chief to strengthen educational cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, held a meeting on Wednesday with Fuad Pashayev, Chief of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

In a meeting, Secretary of Education, Nadeem Mehbub and Joint Secretary of the Ministry were also present. Mr. Pashayev extended condolences over the devastation caused by recent floods in Pakistan and assured full cooperation and support from UNESCO.

The meeting focused on reviewing UNESCO's ongoing initiatives in Pakistan, particularly in the areas of education, culture and social development. Discussions also covered

pressing challenges including the issue of out-of-school children, especially girls, as well as concerns in agriculture and social sciences, said a press release on Wednesday.

Dr. Khalid Maqbool expressed gratitude to UNESCO for its close collaboration with the ministry, especially on the agenda of girls' education.

He reaffirmed that the government of Pakistan was working with UNESCO to enhance the quality of education and improve teachers' capacity. "Millions of children in Pakistan remain out of school and addressing their future is a national priority," minister said. He further emphasized that providing quality education and strengthening teacher training remain the govern-

ment's foremost priorities.

UNESCO Chief highlighted that Pakistan's close partnership with UNESCO and other friendly nations to strengthen the education sector. Secretary of Education, Mr. Nadeem Mehbub, termed Pakistan's partnership with UNESCO as "fruitful and productive."

He informed that a draft plan has already been prepared to address the challenge of out-of-school children. He further added that alongside formal education, the ministry was also focusing on non-formal education, for which it has also finalized the Zero Out-of-School Children Plan 2030.

The meeting concluded with Pakistan's announcement to actively participate in the upcoming UNESCO General Council session to be held in Uzbekistan.

Seven news dengue cases added in Rwp, Murree

RAWALPINDI (APP): District Health Authority of (DHA), Rawalpindi has issued updated data on dengue prevention and control efforts in the region, covering both Rawalpindi district and the Murree area.

The report underscores the proactive measures being taken to monitor, contain, and mitigate the spread of dengue through surveillance, vector control, and enforcement actions, with no reported deaths in either area.

According to the update, 159 confirmed cases have been reported to date, of which 25 confirmed cases have required hospital

admission. Another 7 new cases were reported in the last 24 hours. In Murree, 695 patients were screened confirming 91 cases overall, with 7 admissions. Four new cases were reported during the last 24 hours in Murree.

In Rawalpindi, 1300 teams have been deployed. As many as 457,981 houses have been inspected since January, of which 101,768 houses were detected positive for potential breeding. The monitoring teams also checked 934,646 spots across the district, finding 5,149 positive spots, and destroyed a total of 116,740 larvae.

In Murree 167 teams have been deployed, who

jave examined 4780 houses with 1,030 declared positive, and 9,464 spots were examined of which 388 spots were declared positive. DHA eliminated 1176 larvae in total. To enforce compliance with dengue SOPs for dengue prevention, massive punitive actions have been taken against violations.

In Rawalpindi, authorities registered 309 FIRs, sealed 157 premises, issued 3,134 challans and imposed fines totalling Rs. 8903000.0. In Murree 78 FIRs were registered against the violators, 220 sealings, 1,030 challans were issued, and fines of Rs. 885500.0 was imposed.

Misbah Khar briefs Thai envoy on ISC



ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador and Advisor to the Chairman Senate, Misbah Khar, on Wednesday briefed the Ambassador of Thailand to Pakistan, Rongvudhi Virabutr, on the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC).

During the meeting, Ms. Khar said that the ISC currently comprised on 45 Speakers of national parliaments and that, in the recent elections held in Malaysia, Senate Chairman Yousuf Raza Gillani was unanimously elected as its first President.

She also extended a formal invitation to the Speaker of the Thai Parliament to attend the upcoming ISC session, scheduled for November 11

and 12, 2025, in Islamabad, under the theme Peace, Security and Development.

The discussion also touched on women's leadership and empowerment.

Ms. Khar underlined Pakistan's commitment to promoting women in decision-making roles, stressing that global platforms like the ISC can amplify women's voices in parliamentary diplomacy. She emphasised the need to encourage women to enter the workforce and contribute actively to society.

The Thai envoy welcomed the initiative and expressed support for efforts that enable women to assume leadership roles.

In response, Ms. Khar assured him of Pakistan's full support in this shared

objective, adding that the ISC must be used to highlight the voices of women—particularly those facing suppression—and to create sustainable opportunities for their livelihoods.

She further noted that the Senate of Pakistan has introduced legislation to strengthen women's empowerment and ensure their meaningful participation in national development.

Ambassador Virabutr affirmed his commitment to encouraging greater efforts toward advancing women's leadership, while Ms. Khar reiterated her readiness to collaborate closely on initiatives that enhance parliamentary cooperation and gender equality.

Clean environment top priority of Govt: Raja Hanif

RAWALPINDI (APP): Punjab Chief Minister's Inspection Team Chairman Raja Muhammad Hanif said that providing a clean and healthy environment to the people is among the top priorities of the provincial government.

"As cleanliness is half of the Muslims' faith, it is the special directive of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz to make every city and every street of the province clean and the 'Suthra Punjab' (Clean Punjab) programme reflects her vision," he said during a visit to different areas of the Rawalpindi city on Wednesday to have a detailed look at the cleanliness situation.

Raja Muhammad Hanif

met the citizens around the Commercial Market, Asghar Mall Scheme and Satellite Town B Block to know about their views on the ongoing cleanliness operation under the Clean Punjab programme.

He said that the citizens' trust was the real success and expressed satisfaction over their positive feedback about the Clean Punjab programme. On complaints about lack of cleanliness at some places, Raja Hanif issued instructions to the Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (RWMC) to take immediate action, and warned that negligence in the matter of cleanliness would not be tolerated.

RWMC's Manager

Operations Urban Amir Naik briefed Raja Hanif on the ongoing cleanliness operation and the special cleanliness arrangements made for the main procession of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (Peace Be Upon Him) to be brought out in the city on 12 Rabi-ul-Awal. He said that the RWMC staff was busy round the clock to provide a clean, healthy and pleasant environment to the citizens.

Raja Hanif said the Clean Punjab programme was a gift from CM Maryam Nawaz for the coming generations, and hoped that with the mutual cooperation of the people and the government, Punjab would become the cleanest and most beautiful province of Pakistan.



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

1 killed in traffic accident

BAMIYAN (Amu TV): Separate traffic accidents in central Bamiyan province left one person dead and another injured, Taliban officials said Wednesday. Taliban police command in Bamiyan said one crash occurred in the Dehn-e-Ahangaran area of Bamiyan city when a truck collided with a motorcycle. The second accident took place in the Shibar district, where a Toyota Saracha car crashed into another motorcycle in the Doabi and Shish Pul area.

The Frontier Post

AFGHANISTAN

Rabi-ul-Awal 10, 1447 — Thursday, September 04, 2025

Earthquake victims treated

KABUL (TOLNews): The Ministry of Public Health has reported that more than 2,000 people injured in the recent earthquake in eastern provinces of the country have been treated at health centers. Medical services were also provided on-site to a number of other wounded individuals. The rescue operation has been ongoing since yesterday. So far, nearly 2,300 injured people have been transferred to our health centers.

Earthquake victims await urgent aid

KUNAR (TOLNews): A 6.0-magnitude earthquake struck the eastern provinces of Afghanistan, particularly Kunar, on Monday, causing heavy casualties and widespread destruction of residential homes. The disaster has left hundreds of families homeless.

Survivors report losing both family members and all their belongings, and are now desperately awaiting urgent assistance from the government and international organizations.

Amir Mohammad, a survivor from Kunar, said: "Not a single house remains intact. In every household, at least one woman has become widowed. Our lives and possessions have been reduced to dust."

Nematullah, another affected resident, said: "Two members of our family were martyred. We are

poor people. Our homes have been destroyed. We haven't slept since the night of the earthquake—we've just been sitting awake."

Survivors are calling for comprehensive assistance from the Islamic Emirate and the international community.

Sayed Jalal, another survivor from Kunar, said: "Not a single spot in our village is untouched. The entire village has been destroyed. Even now, our dead and wounded are trapped under the rubble. We need support in every area."

Nasir Ahmad, a resident of Kunar, said: "In the village of Shomas, people are still buried under the debris, and residents are trying to pull them out."

The National Disaster Management Authority stated that a delegation from Kabul has arrived at the affected areas and

assessment teams have begun their evaluations. Aid distribution is expected to begin soon.

Mohammad Yousof Hamad, spokesperson for the National Disaster Management Authority, said: "Committees have been formed on-site, including health, martyr recovery, injured evacuation, and body transportation teams. The heads of these committees are present and actively working. Initial aid has been distributed, and more assistance is on the way. All government and supporting agencies are conducting surveys in the area and will distribute aid accordingly."

Meanwhile, a special Disaster Response Committee has been formed by the Prime Minister's Office, and AFN 100 million has been allocated to assist earthquake victims in the eastern region.

UN allocates \$5m for victims

KABUL (Pajhwok): UNAMA has announced that the United Nations has allocated five million dollars to assist the earthquake victims in eastern Afghanistan.

The powerful Sunday night earthquake killed more than 1,400 people and injured thousands more in eastern provinces.

UNAMA emphasized that the United Nations in Afghanistan is making every effort to assist the victims of the recent earthquake, but current financial resources are insufficient to fully address the needs of those affected.

The statement reads: "To date, five million dollars have been allocated by the UN for earthquake victims in Afghanistan. However, given that over 1,400 people have lost their lives, there is an immediate need for more assistance."

The statement also quotes UN Secretary-General António Guterres as calling for increased humanitarian aid to provide an immediate and effective response to this humanitarian crisis.

He added: "The United Nations and its partners in Afghanistan are ready to provide emergency assistance, and an initial five million dollars from the United Nations Emergency Fund has been allocated."

It is important to note that countries such as China, Iran, India, Turkey, and the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have provided cash, food, and non-food aid to the earthquake victims in eastern Afghanistan. Additionally, the Refugee Council has announced emergency aid, while the EU has pledged one million euros in emergency assistance along with 130 tons of relief supplies for the affected areas.

According to Hamdullah Fetrat, deputy spokesperson for the Islamic Emirate, the number of casualties in the districts of Norgul, Chuki, Chap Dara, Pich Dara, Vatepur, and Asadabad, the capital of Kunar province, has reached 1,411. The number of injured has surpassed 3,124, and 5,412 houses have been destroyed.

Hanif, UN officials discuss expediting aid to victims



KABUL (Pajhwok): The Ministry of Economy (MoE) has urged the international community to continue its humanitarian cooperation and expedite the delivery of emergency aid to victims of the recent earthquake in eastern Afghanistan.

In a meeting with the heads of UN offices in Afghanistan, Minister of Economy Qari Din Mohammad Hanif and the Chief of the Aid Mobilisation and Coordination Committee

discussed ways to accelerate and coordinate humanitarian assistance from international partners and relief agencies, according to a MoE statement.

Hanif expressed appreciation for the support provided by the United Nations in the past and emphasized the urgent need for sustained collaboration.

He noted that the death toll has sharply risen in several districts of Kunar, Nangarhar, Laghman, Nuristan and Panjsher

provinces, while significant financial losses have been recorded.

The minister stressed the necessity for increased support and active participation from UN agencies and relief organizations.

He called on all United Nations (UN) offices, as well as both domestic and foreign non-Emirate institutions, to provide immediate assistance in coordination with the Aid Mobilisation and Coordination Committee.

He urged that priority be given to the most affected areas and emphasized the importance of a swift and coordinated response.

On Tuesday, Zabihullah Mujahid, the chief spokesman for the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA), reported that the recent earthquake had caused significant devastation, with 1,411 lives lost, 3,124 people injured and 5,412 houses destroyed across the capital and five districts of Kunar.

Mining at Balkhab Coal Mine launched



KABUL (BNA): The Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund officially inaugurated the professional mining project at the Balkhab coal mine. The ceremony also marked the opening of connecting roads between the various mines in the Balkhab district.

During the inauguration, Deputy PM Mullah Baradar emphasized the strategic importance of Afghanistan's natural resources, highlighting their potential to finance long-term infrastructure projects, spur industrial development, and increase national revenue.

The National Develop-

ment Company has undertaken extensive work at the Balkhab site, having excavated approximately 100 shafts for professional mining operations. Currently, the mine provides direct employment to over 2,000 individuals and boasts an annual production capacity of 500,000 tons of coal.

Three-day calligraphy exhibition opens in Ghazni province

GHAZNI CITY (Pajhwok): A three-day calligraphy exhibition has opened in the capital of Ghazni province, showcasing dozens of artistic works.

The exhibition has been organized by the Department of Information and Culture in collaboration with the Ghazni Calligraphers' Association and is being held in the department's courtyard under the theme "Art."

At the opening ceremony,

Mullah Hamidullah Nisar, head of the Department of Information and Culture in Ghazni, said that the exhibition aims to draw young people's attention to art and culture. He added that the artworks are displayed in a variety of styles and hold significant value for the public.

According to Nisar, art carries special meaning in human life and through art, messages can be effectively conveyed to people.

Nisar emphasized that Ghazni is historically rich with poets, writers and other artists, which is why they support artists and plan to organize more exhibitions in the future.

Qari Shukrullah, head of the Ghazni Calligraphers' Association, also spoke at the event, highlighting the importance of such exhibitions for promoting beautiful writing and the development of art.

He stated that these

events are essential for motivating young people and nurturing new talent.

Shukrullah also called on the department to create better opportunities for organizing artistic exhibitions, such as calligraphy and painting. One of the exhibition participants, Muhammad Ajmal,

expressed his admiration for the artworks and viewed the exhibition as a valuable opportunity to promote art and culture.

Aid yet to reach some areas of Kunar

KUNAR (Amu TV): Local residents in Afghanistan's Kunar province say emergency relief has yet to reach some of the areas hardest hit by Sunday night's powerful earthquake, leaving survivors without food or basic supplies two days after the disaster.

Residents of Nurgul and Mazar Dara districts told Amu they face severe shortages of food and warned that people could die if aid is not delivered soon.

"There is still no food here. People are desperately chasing a piece of bread and may die of hunger," said a staff member at a local health center.

Sources warned that unless roads are cleared and supplies are delivered quickly, survivors could face a second humanitarian disaster brought on by hunger and lack of resources.

The 6.1-magnitude quake struck near Asadabad in Kunar province just after midnight Monday. Taliban authorities said more than 1,400 people were killed, over 3,100 injured, and at least 5,400 homes destroyed. Most of the casualties were reported in Kunar, particularly in hard-to-reach districts such as Nurgul and Sawkay. Smaller numbers of casualties were reported in Nangarhar, Laghman and Nuristan, while Panjsher sustained property damage.

Hospitals in Kunar remain overwhelmed, with survivors describing mass burials and children forced to sleep in the open after their homes were destroyed.

Taliban officials said helicopters have been deployed to evacuate the wounded from remote areas, though many districts remain cut off.

UAE team deployed to aid earthquake survivors



KABUL (Ariana News): A team has left the UAE to help with rescue operations in Afghanistan after the earthquake that has killed more than 1,400 people.

The team will conduct field assessments in coordination with local authorities in the east of the country to enhance the effectiveness of search and rescue operations, state news agency Wam reported.

It comes after President of the United Arab Emirates directed teams from Abu Dhabi Civil

Defence, the National Guard and the Joint Operations Command to assist the response to the earthquake.

"[They will help] broaden the scope of response, provide logistical and relief support to affected areas, and work to save as many lives as possible by rescuing survivors from under the rubble," Wam said.

The presence of the search and rescue team will coincide with efforts by Emirates Red Crescent to provide medical aid, sup-

plies and shelter to those affected.

The 6.0-magnitude earthquake, followed by at least five aftershocks, hit remote areas in mountainous provinces near the border with Pakistan on Sunday night.

The earthquake's epicentre was about 27km north-east of the city of Jalalabad, according to the US Geological Survey, which said it struck 8km below the Earth's surface. Shallow quakes can inflict greater damage.

Man dies while donating blood for quake victims

NANGARHAR (Amu TV): A young man died Wednesday morning while donating blood for victims of the recent earthquake in eastern Afghanistan, local sources said.

The man, a resident of Nangarhar province, died around 8 a.m. in the provincial hospital in Jalalabad, the sources said.

Doctors have not confirmed the cause of death, but the sources said he may have died from low blood pressure after giving too much blood.

The powerful 6.1-magnitude earthquake struck late Sunday near Asadabad, the capital of Kunar province, at a depth of about 27 kilometers (17 miles). Taliban officials said the death toll has climbed to 1,411, with 3,124 injured and more than 5,400 homes destroyed.

While Kunar has borne the brunt of casualties, smaller numbers were reported in Nangarhar, Laghman and Nuristan provinces.

Officials said Panjsher province sustained financial losses but no deaths.

Hospitals in Kunar remain overwhelmed, and some of the wounded have been transferred to Jalalabad.

Witnesses reported mass burials, while families said children left homeless by the disaster were forced to spend the night outdoors.

Taliban officials said helicopters were being used to evacuate survivors from remote areas.



KABUL (Pajhwok): China, Iran, Turkey and Pakistan have provided cash, food and non-food assistance to earthquake victims in eastern Afghanistan.

The European Union has also announced 1 million in emergency aid and 130 tonnes of relief supplies.

The quake struck around midnight on Sunday and was recorded at a magnitude of 6.0 by the US Geological Survey.

provinces were also affected by the disaster.

Hamdullah Fitrat, deputy spokesman for the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA), said at least 1,411 people have been killed so far, 3,124 injured and 5,412 residential houses destroyed in Nurgul, Chawky, Chapa Dara, Pech Dara and Watapur districts and Asadabad, the provincial capital.

Cash assistance from the Chinese Embassy and traders was handed over to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)

at a press conference.

Bao Xuhui, charge d'affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Afghanistan, expressed solidarity with the Afghan people and announced a donation of \$40,810 from embassy diplomats and Chinese companies operating in Afghanistan.

Chinese companies also pledged food and non-food supplies, with two truckloads already dispatched to Kunar province and more in preparation.

The Iranian Embassy in Kabul wrote on X that, coinciding with a visit to

quake-hit Kunar by acting ambassador Alireza Bigdeli, the first tranche of Iranian aid—including 80 tonnes of flour and oil—had been delivered.

Bigdeli stressed that Iran had always stood by Afghanistan in difficult times.

Reports said the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provincial government had dispatched 35 truckloads of relief goods through Torkham, including 500 winter tents, 500 family tents, 1,500 mattresses, 3,000 pillows, 1,500 blankets and two truckloads of medicines.

The Turkish Embassy in Kabul announced on X that aid packages for 1,000 quake-affected families had arrived last evening, vowing continued support: "We will continue our assistance to support our Afghan brothers in these difficult days."

The EU office in Afghanistan also wrote on X that it stood by the Afghan people, pledging 1 million in emergency funding, 130 tonnes of relief supplies and Copernicus satellite maps to support the response effort.

Putin tells Ukraine: End war via talks or I will end it by force

MOSCOW (Reuters): Russian President Vladimir Putin told Kyiv on Wednesday there was a chance to end the war in Ukraine via negotiations "if common sense prevails", an option he said he preferred, but that he was ready to end it by force if that was the only way.

Speaking in Beijing at the end of a visit that resulted in an agreement on a new gas pipeline to China, Putin said he perceived "a certain light at the end of the tunnel", given what he said were sincere efforts by the United States to find a settlement to Europe's biggest land war since World War Two. "It seems to me that if common sense prevails, it will be possible to agree on an acceptable solution to end this conflict. That is my assumption," Putin told reporters.

"Especially since we can see the mood of the current

US administration under President (Donald) Trump, and we see not just their statements, but their sincere desire to find this solution... And I think there is a certain light at the end of the tunnel. Let's see how the situation develops," he said. "If not, then we will have to resolve all the tasks before us by force of arms."

However, Putin indicated no willingness to soften his long-standing demands, including that Kyiv abandon any idea of joining NATO and that it end what Moscow says is discrimination against Russian speakers.

He said he was ready to hold talks with Volodymyr Zelenskyy if the Ukrainian president came to Moscow, but that any such meeting had to be well prepared and lead to tangible results. Ukraine's foreign minister dismissed as "unacceptable" the suggestion of

Moscow as a venue for such a meeting. Zelenskyy has been pressing to meet Putin to discuss the terms of a possible deal even though the two sides remain far apart. He has urged Washington to impose further sanctions on Russia if Putin does not agree.

Trump - who has been trying to broker a peace settlement - has also said he wants the two leaders to meet and has threatened, but not yet imposed, secondary sanctions on Russia. Putin, whose economy is showing signs of strain after being hit with sweeping Western sanctions, said he would prefer to end the war diplomatically, "by peaceful means", if possible. Russia claims to have annexed four Ukrainian regions, a claim Kyiv and most Western countries reject as an illegal land grab backed by a colonial-style war of conquest.

President reviews flood situation in Punjab

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: President of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari, held a detailed discussion with Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider on Wednesday regarding the devastating flood situation across the province.

During the call, Governor Haider briefed the President on the challenges faced by flood-affected communities, particularly in remote and cut-off areas. He underscored the relief efforts underway, noting that the Pakistan Red Crescent Society has expanded its services to almost every part of Punjab, including Lahore, Hafizabad, Kasur, Muzaffargarh, Rajanpur, Narowal, and Mandi Bahauddin. Relief camps have already been set up, and a water treatment plant is being established in Kartarpur to provide safe drinking water to local residents.

The Governor emphasized that officials and volunteers are reaching out directly to affected families, assuring them that the state stands beside them in this difficult hour. President Zardari praised these efforts and reiterated that the people of Pakistan would not be left alone during this crisis. "This is a human tragedy that demands solidarity and urgent response," the President said.

He further stressed that Pakistan is facing unprecedented challenges due to climate change. "Swollen rivers and unseasonal rains have created a looming threat of food insecurity across the region," President Zardari noted. He pointed out that while Pakistan has played no role in creating the global climate catastrophe, "our nation continues to pay a heavy price for it." Calling for international solidarity, the President urged the global community to stand with Pakistan in combating the destructive impact of climate change.

Heavy rain lashes India

NEW DELHI (Reuters): Flooding across northern India killed at least five people on Wednesday, officials said, with more thunderstorms expected and local media reporting that 10,000 people have been evacuated from the river banks in capital Delhi.

The monsoon season in India has been particularly intense this year, killing at least 130 people in August alone in north India, wiping out villages and destroying infrastructure. The latest round of flooding has hit northern Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Punjab, where the Chenab and Tawi rivers have risen above the danger mark at several spots.

The swollen rivers have triggered landslides and damaged many roads, disconnecting parts of the mountainous regions of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and Himachal from the rest of India. At least five people were killed on Wednesday after landslides battered Rajouri and Mandi districts in IIOJK and Himachal Pradesh respectively, officials said.

The India Meteorological Department warned of heavy to very heavy rain in the region on Wednesday, with more downpours expected in Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh. The Central Water Commission said the swollen Yamuna had breached its danger mark on Tuesday in Delhi.

Local media reported that nearly 10,000 people had been evacuated to relief camps set up by the government along the main highways as a precautionary measure for those living in low-lying areas. Residents living along the Yamuna in Delhi were evacuated in 2023 as well after floodwaters entered their homes and the river hit its highest level in 45 years. Many tourist spots in Himachal Pradesh have been hit by landslides in recent weeks, as raging rivers damaged infrastructure.

Educational institutions were ordered shut, authorities said, asking people to remain indoors due to flood warnings. In neighbouring Punjab, the government said 30 people have been killed and nearly 20,000 evacuated since August 1. Water gushing through the plains in India's breadbasket Punjab state has destroyed 150,000 hectares of crops, the government said on Tuesday.



ISLAMABAD: Commander Turkish Air Force General Ziya Cemal Kadioglu, called on Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu.

High level Turkish team calls on Air Chief

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: A high level delegation headed by Commander Turkish Air Force General Ziya Cemal Kadioglu, called on Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu here Wednesday.

The delegation was accorded a very warm and cordial welcome upon arrival at Air Headquarters, said a press release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR). The meeting featured in-depth discussion on the evolving regional security environment, progress in ongoing defence collaboration and prospects of joint engagement in new domains of modern warfare.

Upon his arrival, a smartly turned-out contingent of Pakistan Air Force presented Guard of Honour to Commander Turkish Air Force. During the meeting, the Chief of the Air Staff highlighted the deep-rooted brotherly ties between Pakistan and Türkiye, based on shared religious beliefs, aspirations and strategic alignment that continue to bring both the nations closer.

He underscored that the arrival of the first batch of Turkish cadets at PAF Academy Asghar Khan for training marks a significant milestone in the enduring fraternal ties between the two Air Forces. The development marks a new chapter in the existing defence partnership between the two countries, underscoring mutual trust and the shared vision of building the next generation of air warriors.

Both Commanders reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing cooperation across multiple spheres, with particular emphasis on joint training, mutual exercises and multi domain operations. General Ziya Cemal Kadioglu commended PAF's outstanding operational performance under the visionary leadership of the Air Chief during the recent conflict with India, lauding its state of operational readiness and resolute defence of national sovereignty.

He expressed keen interest in gaining comprehensive insight into the methodology of multi-domain warfare, drawing on the Pakistan Air Force's tested operational strategies

and success in the conflict. The Turkish Air Force leadership also expressed its earnest desire in studying the operational lessons derived from the military standoff between Pakistan and India, with the aim to further strengthening its own doctrine and enhancing overall preparedness.

The visiting dignitary showed profound appreciation for the National Aerospace Science & Technology Park and lauded the indigenous capabilities developed by PAF in the realm of aerospace innovation, technological advancement and operational self-reliance. Both sides reiterated their resolve to learn from each other's experiences and move forward as a cohesive team, building on shared knowledge and operational expertise.

The visit of Commander Turkish Air Force to Air Headquarters, Islamabad symbolizes the mutual resolve of both brotherly nations to enhance strategic cooperation, reinforce bilateral defence relations and promote enduring institutional ties between the Armed Forces of Pakistan and Türkiye.

PHC directs 29 Afghan refugees to apply for POC

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court (PHC) has directed 29 Afghan citizens to apply for Pakistan Origin Card (POC) at National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) who had filed petitions seeking the cards. The court also sought relevant documents from 23 other petitioners, on Wednesday.

The petitioners, who have been living in Pakistan for several decades, claimed that they were eligible for POC cards under the law, which allows foreigners married to Pakistani citizens to apply for the cards. However, NADRA had not processed their applications.

PHC two-member bench comprising Justice Waqar Ahmed and Justice Muhammad Ijaz Khan, heard the petitions and directed NADRA to process the POC card applications of 29 petitioners. The court also sought relevant documents from 23 other petitioners and adjourned the hearing until October 8.

The lawyers argued that the petitioners had been living in Pakistan for several decades and had children born in the country. They claimed that the petitioners were eligible for POC cards under the law, which requires one spouse to be a Pakistani citizen. NADRA's lawyer informed the court that the authority had a one-window operation in place to streamline the process of issuing POC cards. However, the petitioners needed to submit relevant documents to support their applications.

ATC grants bail to Imran's nephew

F.P. Report

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Lahore on Wednesday granted post-arrest bail to Shahrez Khan, nephew of incarcerated former prime minister Imran Khan, in a case related to his alleged involvement in May 9, 2023, riots.

At the outset of hearing, Shahrez's counsel argued that allegations of inciting PTI workers had been leveled against his client, but the prosecution failed to produce any evidence to support the claims. At this, the public prosecutor, while opposing the bail plea, told the court that the suspect's affidavit had not been verified. The court reserved its verdict after hearing arguments from both sides and announced it later in the night.

US Consul General calls on KP CM

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The newly appointed US Consul General in Peshawar, Thomas Eckert, paid a courtesy call on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur at the Chief Minister's Secretariat in Peshawar on Wednesday.

The meeting focused on matters of mutual interest, particularly the ongoing projects in various social sectors being supported by the US government. Both sides also discussed in detail the prospects of investment and partnership in different fields, and agreed to further broaden the scope of cooperation in social sectors. Senior officials of the provincial government and the US Consulate were also present at the meeting.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief minister said that the provincial government valued the decades-long cooperation extended by American institutions in multiple social sectors. He



added that the KP government was making substantial investments in its potential sectors to ensure sustainable economic growth and that the province required foreign investment in these areas. "We want not only aid but also trade and investment," the chief minister remarked.

Ali Amin Gandapur highlighted that the province offered immense opportunities for investment in hydropower, tourism, minerals, water resources, agriculture, and several other sectors. He assured the US consul general that the provincial government would not only welcome American investment in these fields but would also extend every

possible facility to investors.

The chief minister further pointed out that the province faced major challenges such as terrorism and climate change, adding that the government was undertaking long-term planning to address the adverse impacts of climate change. He also underlined the problem of drug smuggling, saying that the government was procuring modern scanners to curb the menace. Referring to the mineral sector, the chief minister said there were significant opportunities for joint ventures, particularly encouraging those investors who were willing to undertake value addition of mineral resources within the province.

IHC full court approves Practice & Procedure rules

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday approved the Practice and Procedure and Establishment Rules by majority vote in the full court meeting.

The full court approved the rules with a 6-5 majority votes, without any debate. Chief Justice Sarfraz Dogar, Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir, Justice Khadim Hussain Soomro, Justice Azam Khan, Justice Muhammad Asif, and Justice Inam Amin Minhas voted in favour of the approval.

In contrast, Justice Mohsin Akhtar, Tariq Jahangiri, Babar Sattar, Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan, and Saman Rafat Imtiaz opposed the approval. A demand for amendments to the full court meeting agen-

da, made in letters by two judges, was also rejected. Sources revealed that a request by one judge to postpone the full court meeting was also dismissed.

Chief Justice Sarfraz Dogar rejected the judges' request to postpone the rules' approval. The agenda item concerning the powers of Family Court judges was unanimously approved. The first agenda item related to Family Court judges' powers, while the second agenda concerning issues with the Islamabad High Court building was also approved with consensus.

According to sources, the approval was granted to forward the Islamabad High Court building issues to the federal government for further consideration. The full court meeting lasted approximately 35 min-

utes, the sources said. Earlier, Justice Babar Sattar and Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan circulated a letter sharply criticising Chief Justice Mohammad Sarfraz Dogar, accusing him of undermining judicial independence and turning the court's administration into a "monocracy."

The letter was shared ahead of a full court meeting convened to mark the start of the new judicial year. In his letter, judges welcomed the meeting as "long overdue" but argued that it must confront "the illegalities that have seeped into the administration of Islamabad High Court." They accused Justice Dogar of sidelining senior judges, misusing administrative powers, and eroding the court's role as a guardian of fundamental rights.

UN nuclear chief presses Iran to strike deal on inspections soon

VIENNA (Reuters): The UN nuclear watchdog's talks with Iran on how to resume inspections at sites including those Israel and the United States bombed cannot go on for months on end, its chief told Reuters on Wednesday, pushing for a deal as early as this week.

The International Atomic Energy Agency has had no information from Iran on the status or whereabouts of its stock of highly enriched uranium since Israel launched the first attacks on its enrichment sites on June 13. IAEA chief Rafael Grossi confirmed in an interview. Tehran has now passed a law suspending cooperation with the IAEA and stipulating any future inspections will need a green light from Iran's Supreme National Security Council. Tehran and the IAEA are now in talks on how inspections can go ahead.

"It's not something that can go on for months on end," Grossi said in an interview at IAEA headquarters

in Vienna. "I certainly hope that we can conclude this process soon. We are trying to have another meeting, perhaps within a few days now, here in Vienna, to conclude this and to start the inspections," he said. "It would be really good if we could have this agreed before next week."

Technically, inspections in Iran have resumed since IAEA inspectors recently carried out a mission at Bushehr, Iran's only operating nuclear power plant, but it is of so little concern from a proliferation perspective that it does not generally feature in quarterly IAEA reports on Iran. While Iran's three enrichment sites were badly damaged or destroyed in the Israeli and US bombing campaigns, it is less clear what has happened to Iran's stock of highly enriched uranium - the most sensitive material having been enriched to up to 60%, a short step from the roughly 19% of weapons grade.

A confidential IAEA report sent to member states

on Wednesday and seen by Reuters said that on the day Israel launched its attacks Iran had slightly more material enriched to that level, 440.9 kg, than previously reported. That is enough in principle, if enriched further, for 10 nuclear bombs, according to an IAEA yardstick. Before it was known to have nine bombs' worth at that level.

"I believe there is a general understanding that by and large, the material is still there. But, of course, it needs to be verified. Some could have been lost," Grossi said when asked about the status of Iran's highly enriched uranium stock. "We don't have indications that would lead us to believe that there has been major movement of material," he said. Iran has not updated the IAEA on the status of the stockpile. In the event of an agreement with the IAEA, it would have a matter of weeks to send the agency a report accounting for it, a senior diplomat said.

Constitutional bench reflects structural development in court's functioning: SC

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court's Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan has said that constitutional bench, established under the 26th Amendment to the Constitution, reflected the will of Parliament and marked a structural development in the Court's functioning.

On the invitation of the International Lawyers Association (ILA), Mr. Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan attended the Annual ILA Seminar and Dinner at Gray's Inn, London, where he was the Guest of Honor, according to a press release. The event was attended by distinguished group of the global legal fraternity, with notable participation from South Asia — particularly Pakistan, Bangladesh, and India — alongside senior practitioners and a former member of the judiciary from the United Kingdom.

The Seminar provided a vital platform for dialogue on contemporary legal issues, challenges confronting judicial systems, and the shared commitment of the international legal community to justice and the rule of

law. In his address, Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan spoke on two central themes: the importance of the Constitutional Bench of the Supreme Court of Pakistan and the need to address case pendency.

He explained that the Constitutional Bench, established under the 26th Amendment to the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973, reflects the will of Parliament and marks a structural development in the Court's functioning. The Bench, he noted, ensures dedicated focus on constitutional interpretation and adjudication, with the judiciary faithfully discharging its role as guardian of the Constitution within the framework, prescribed by law. He emphasized that the judiciary cannot extend its mandate beyond the limits set by the Constitution and must consistently adhere to its constitutional role.

On the issue of backlog, Justice Bilal acknowledged the heavy pendency of cases before the Supreme Court, stressing that access to justice requires timely and efficient disposal of disputes. He reaffirmed that the

judges are deeply conscious of their constitutional duty and remain fully devoted to discharging it with diligence, impartiality, and efficiency. He underlined the importance of systematic measures such as improved case management, technology-driven solutions for hearings and tracking, and better rationalization of judicial time to prioritize matters of significant constitutional consequence.

Reducing pendency, he stressed, is not only an administrative necessity but also a constitutional imperative essential to public confidence in the judiciary and the rule of law. Justice Shahid Bilal's remarks were warmly received by participants and reflected the Supreme Court of Pakistan's resolve to address contemporary challenges with foresight while remaining anchored in constitutionalism, fairness, and the rule of law. His participation at this prestigious forum also contributed to strengthening professional bonds, enhancing mutual understanding, and fostering meaningful exchange among jurists and lawyers from diverse jurisdictions.