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UN chief renews call for release of detained staff

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Pakistan keen to expand ties with Baku

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Sports to be promoted at all levels: Sana

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Jirga in KP

Provinces issues to be resolved on priority: PM

CM Gandapur demands federal govt fulfill all promises made to people of merged tribal districts

SHAMIM SHAHID / DNA

PESHAWAR: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday vowed to form a special committee to review and address the issues raised by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, saying that the federal government was committed to resolve the province's challenges with seriousness and urgency. Addressing tribal jirga in Peshawar, the premier said that the committee would hold consultations with the KP chief minister, governor, and local elders to work through key provincial matters. "We will sit together and seriously assess the concerns of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa," he said, adding that the committee may also seek recommendations on whether some of these issues should be taken to the parliament. The KP government, being led by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, had been at odds with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz-led (PML-N) federal government over multiple issues, including terrorism. Pakistan has witnessed surge in terror incidents since Taliban rulers returned to Afghanistan in 2021, particularly in the bordering provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. However, the first quarter of 2025 saw some promising trends in the security landscape of Pakistan, with the fatalities of militants and insurgents outnumbering the cumulative losses of civilians and security forces personnel. Its key findings, issued by the Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS) revealed notably fewer fatal losses among civilians and security forces personnel compared to the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2024 and a nearly 13% reduction in overall violence, The News reported. Despite progress, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan remain epicentres of violence, accounting for 98% of all fatalities, with attacks growing bolder and militant tactics evolving, including

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Pakistan urges US to promote dialogue between India, Pak

CENTRELINE REPORT

UNITED NATIONS: The PPP Chairman and former Foreign Minister, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Monday urged the United States to play its role in ensuring comprehensive dialogue between India and Pakistan to address all outstanding issues when the acting US Ambassador to the UN, Dorothy Shea, called on him to discuss recent developments in South Asia. In this regard, Bilawal, who is leading a nine-member high-level parliamentary delegation, also underscored the need for dealing with India's move to hold in abeyance the 1960 Indus Water Treaty, saying it amounted to the weaponization of water, according to a press release of the Pakistan Mission to the UN. The delegation—consisting of three former foreign ministers, two former foreign secretaries, two former ambassadors to the US, and a serving federal minister—arrived in New York over the weekend for consultations at the United Nations. During the meeting with the US envoy, Bilawal expressed gratitude to the U.S. Administration, in particular President Donald Trump for facilitating the ceasefire between Pakistan and India.

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Briefs

Over 58 killed in Israeli attacks

DNA

GAZA: At least 58 Palestinians have been killed in Israeli attacks across Gaza, according to medical sources speaking to Al Jazeera. Nasser Hospital in southern Gaza's Khan Younis received 35 of those killed today, including 27 aid seekers who were shot dead at an aid distribution site in Rafah governorate. Six others were received by Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in central Gaza's Deir el-Balah. In Gaza City, al-Shifa Hospital received 14 bodies, and three more were delivered to al-Ahli Arab Hospital.

Four cops injured in Attacks in KP

DNA

PESHAWAR: Terrorist attacks on two police stations were thwarted in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Bajaur and Bannu districts, injuring four police personnel, police said on Tuesday. According to a statement by KP Inspector General of Police (IG) Zulfiqar Hameed, "Two police stations came under attack in Bajaur and Bannu on Monday night, but police forces bravely thwarted both attacks." He said that four police personnel, including a station house officer and three other constables, were slightly injured while responding to the terrorists. "The police's quick response saved the police station from a major loss and casualties," he said, adding that those police officers will be rewarded for their courage and bravery. The statement further said that the terrorists used rocket launchers, hand grenades, SMGs and RPGs in the attack.

DG ISPR says

Balochistan is Pak part, can never be separated

India provides full financial support to BLA, military spokesperson tells Hilal Talks attendees

NEWS DESK

RAWALPINDI: Director General Inter-Services Public Relations (DG ISPR) Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry has made it unequivocally clear that Balochistan is a part of Pakistan and can never be separated from it. Speaking during a special conversation with teachers at the Hilal Talks event, attended by over 1,950 senior faculty members from across Pakistan, the DG ISPR made a series of strong remarks exposing Indian involvement in fuelling unrest in Balochistan. DG ISPR reiterated that India provides full financial support to Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), branding the group as "Fitna-e-Hindustan". He revealed that the leadership of the BLA is currently based in India. "Fitna al-Khawarij says, 'India should help us'," he noted, referring to statements by militants seeking



ing Indian assistance. "These are India's bought-and-paid-for slaves," the military spokesperson added. He said India and its proxies pose a grave threat not only to Pakistan but to the stability of the entire region. The DG ISPR reaffirmed Pakistan's stance that Balochistan is an integral part of the country and can never be separated. "Balochistan is deeply embedded in Pakistan's economy and society," he said, expressing confidence that the province would one day become "Pakistan's richest province." He further remarked that he people come from the armed forces, and the armed forces come from the people and that this eternal bond of love will always remain. On Saturday, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif emphasised the need to win back those influenced by extremist elements in Balochistan, calling their reintegration vital for national cohesion and future progress. Addressing a grand Jirga in Quetta, the premier remarked that grievances should be resolved by sitting together as brothers. Terrorists were against the progress of

Continued on Page 06

ASEAN meet: Aurangzeb reaffirms Pak commitment to regional cooperation

The minister also extended gratitude to the Chinese government for hosting the high-level gathering. He emphasized the significance of Pakistan's membership in the SCO, describing the organization as a vital platform for fostering regional cooperation and strengthening economic ties among member countries

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Tuesday reiterated Pakistan's commitment and readiness to enhance cooperation under the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) umbrella to foster economic prosperity, stability and sustainable development across the region. He reaffirmed Pakistan's strong engagement with the SCO in a virtual address at the meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states, held in Beijing, China. The minister also extended gratitude to the Chinese government for hosting the high-level gathering. He emphasized the significance of Pakistan's membership in the SCO, describing the organization as a vital platform for fostering regional cooperation and strengthening economic ties among member countries. He reiterated Pakistan's firm commitment to the SCO Charter and the principles of the "Shanghai Spirit" as guiding tenets for advancing collaboration in the region and praised SCO's growing role in exploring new avenues for regional development and reiterated

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ADB approves \$800m programme

"This programme backs the government's commitment to further policy and institutional reforms," says ADB Country Director for Pakistan

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved an \$800 million financing package to support Pakistan's push for fiscal sustainability and stronger public financial management, amid mounting debt and reform pressures. The package includes a \$300 million policy-based loan and ADB's first-ever policy-based guarantee of up to \$500 million, aimed at mobilising as much as \$1 billion from commercial lenders, the Philippines-based lender said on Tuesday. The funding comes under the Improved Resource Mobilisation and Utilisation Reform Program,

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'TREASURES OF BULGARIA'

DNA



ISLAMABAD: To celebrate the Day of Bulgarian Alphabet and Culture and the 60th anniversary of Bulgaria Pakistan diplomatic relations, Ambassador of Bulgaria Irena Gancheva hosted reception 'THE ANCIENT TREASURES OF BULGARIA'. Additional Foreign Secretary Europe Mohammad Ayub was the chief guest. — DNA

Teenage female TikToker murdered

Suspected murderer of Sana Yousaf arrested 20 hours after the crime



DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a tragic incident that has once again raised concerns over the safety of social media influencers, a 17-year-old TikToker, Sana Yousaf, was shot dead inside her home in Islamabad's Sector G-13/1 on Monday evening. The murder occurred within the jurisdiction of the Sumbal police station and has shocked netizens and rights advocates alike.

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Mohsin Naqvi visits NCCIA headquarters

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the headquarters of the National Cyber Crimes Investigation Agency (NCCIA). He inaugurated the agency's Helpline Center and met with the staff, appreciating their innovation and modern approach. The Interior Minister visited various sections of the agency, including the Helpline Center, Forensic Lab, and Network Security Department. He announced

Continued on Page 06

Post-Indo-Pak tensions

Seven Indian proxy terrorists gunned down in Balochistan

Terrorists neutralised in two separate operations in Mach and Kalat district

CENTRELINE REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Seven terrorists belonging to Indian proxy, Fitna al-Hindustan, were killed in two separate operations in Balochistan on Monday, the military's media wing said. In a press release issued on Tuesday, the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said an intelligence-based operation (IBO) was conducted in Mach area of Kachhi district on reported presence of Fitna al-Hindustan terrorists. "During the conduct of operation, own troops effectively engaged the Fitna al-Hindustan terrorists' location, and after an intense fire exchange, five Indian sponsored terrorists were sent to hell," the ISPR said.

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President, PM laud security forces

DNA

IN their separate statements, the president and the prime minister lauded the professional capabilities of the security forces. President Asif Ali Zardari also commended the security forces for eliminating nine terrorists of Indian proxy during intelligence-based actions. "India, through its proxies, is spreading terrorism in Pakistan," the president said, and resolved to continue actions against terrorists till

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WHO, BISP to expand support for malnourished children

ISLAMABAD: The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) will expand their joint efforts to treat children suffering from severe acute malnutrition in Pakistan. This was stated by BISP Chairperson Senator Rubina Khalid and WHO Representative in Pakistan Dr Dapeng Luo during visit to nutrition stabilization centre (NSC) at the Federal Government Polyclinic hospital. They said each year, the partnership helps around 43,000 children under the age of two who have medical complications caused by malnutrition. They added these children are treated at 169 nutrition stabilization centres (NSCs) across the country. Senator Rubina Khalid said, "We want to make sure no mother or child is left behind. Healthy mothers and children are the foundation of a strong Pakistan." She said that under the Benazir Nashonuma programme, WHO-supported centres funded by BISP have treated 46,000 children since 2022 and given counselling to more than 64,000 mothers and caregivers. —APP

Minister opens 300 KW Solar Project at Abbasi Hospital

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry has inaugurated the 300 kW solarization project at KPT Izhari Abbasi Hospital in Karachi on Tuesday. The initiative, implemented at a cost of Rs 31.83 million, aims to reduce the hospital's dependence on fossil fuels and address the worsening issue of climate change. The inauguration ceremony was attended by senior officials including members of the KPT Trustees (Transition Committee), General Manager Engineering, Rear Admiral Habib Ur Rehman, Rear Admiral Atiqur-Rehman (GM Operations), Brigadier Muhammad Younis (GM Administration), and other key leadership from the Ministry and Karachi Port Trust (KPT). Addressing the event as a chief guest, Federal Minister Junaid Anwar said KPT hospital solarization is milestone in national sustainability efforts. He emphasised the urgent need to transition to clean energy, especially in essential public service institutions like hospitals. —APP

Naqvi commends KP police for repelling terrorist attack

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has praised the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police for repelling a terrorist attack by Khawarij militants on the Miryan Police Station in Bannu. He stated that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police bravely confronted the Khawarij terrorists and successfully foiled the attack. "I pay tribute to the police team for thwarting the attack," he said. Mohsin Naqvi appreciated that the courageous personnel of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police have previously also repelled such attacks with great valor. —DNA



Islamabad: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi being briefed about Forensic Lab, and Network Security Department during his visit to headquarters of the National Cyber Crimes Investigation Agency.

Murad opens Rehabilitation Centre for Kids with disabilities

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Monday inaugurated a state-of-the-art rehabilitation centre dedicated to children with physical and neurodevelopmental disabilities, calling it a "beacon of hope" for families across the province. The new facility — The Centre for Rehabilitation of Children with Physical and Neurodevelopmental Disabilities — is a joint initiative between the Marie Adelaide Leprosy Centre (MALC) and the Sindh government's Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPD).

"This centre stands as a bea-

con of hope and a testament to our collective commitment to support children facing physical and neurodevelopmental challenges, including conditions such as autism and Down syndrome," said the chief minister during the inauguration. "Our vision is clear — to provide these children with the care, therapies, and opportunities they need to thrive and lead fulfilling lives." The newly opened facility offers a wide range of integrated services delivered by a multidisciplinary team of professionals. These include, Physiotherapy to enhance mobility and physical development, Speech Therapy

to improve communication and language skill, Remedial Therapy for academic and cognitive growth, Behavioural Therapy to support adaptive functioning, Occupational Therapy focusing on daily living skills and sensory integration, A Sensory Room for sensory regulation and exploration, Paediatric services for medical assessments and developmental care, Special Play Area with adaptive equipment for inclusive play and Audiometry Services for early detection and intervention of hearing impairments. Shah toured the centre's facilities, interacted with children, and

noted that 50 children had already been admitted on the first day. The chief minister also announced plans to expand similar rehabilitation centres to various districts across Sindh. "We have already established such centres in Karachi, Gambat, Larkana, Tando Muhammad Khan, and Nawabshah. More are on the way," he said. In a major development, Shah revealed that the Sindh government has allocated 100 acres of reclaimed land near the Malir Expressway in Karachi to develop an Inclusive City — a comprehensive environment for persons with disabilities. —DNA

NUML signs MoUs with TFP, PILL to strengthen academic collaboration

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The National University of Modern Languages (NUML) hosted a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony with Teach for Pakistan (TFP) and the Pakistan Institute of Living and Learning (PILL) to foster meaningful collaboration between academia and industry, and to promote research, career development, and public health initiatives. The first MoU was signed between NUML and Teach for Pakistan (TFP) to create strong linkages in areas of mutual interest. Under the agreement, TFP will offer fellowship, internship, and employment opportunities to NUML graduates. In addition, TFP will organize information sessions, career development events, and professional skill-building workshops for NUML students. NUML will facilitate collaboration between student societies and TFP to maximize student engagement and mutual benefit. The university will also extend logistical support to TFP for the

smooth execution of its programs and initiatives on campus. The MoU was signed by Director General NUML, Brigadier Shahzad Munir, and Head of development and partnerships (TFP) Mr. Muhammad Uzair. The ceremony was graced by Rector NUML, Major General (Retd.) Shahid Mahmood Kayani, who emphasized the need for practical implementation of the agreement to ensure tangible outcomes and lasting benefits for both institutions. He expressed gratitude to TFP for their partnership and voiced op-

timism about the positive impact of this collaboration. In another development, NUML also signed an MoU with the Pakistan Institute of Living and Learning (PILL) to jointly advance research in mental and public health, aiming to create a transformative impact through interdisciplinary collaboration. The agreement, signed by DG NUML Brig. Shahzad Munir and Focal Person for PILL, Assistant Director Research and Development, Dr. Tayyeba Kiran, envisions the establishment of a ded-

icated research center that will focus on promoting evidence-based solutions to regional and global health challenges. The center will emphasize capacity building, resource sharing, and community impact. As part of the collaboration, NUML and PILL will jointly conduct mental health awareness initiatives, structured academic sessions, and community health engagement programs, including school-based mental health sessions. These efforts aim to enhance mental health literacy.



PCFA KP hosts celebration of 74th anniversary of Pakistan-China ties

ISLAMABAD: In a vibrant commemoration of the 74th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the People's Republic of China, a distinguished ceremony was held at KP House, Islamabad. The event, steeped in symbolism and camaraderie, was graced by the Honorable Speaker of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, Mr. Babar Saleem Swati, and was also graced by the presence of Mr. Shi Yuanqiang, Deputy Head of Mission at the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, along with a constellation of esteemed dignitaries and stakeholders.

Mr. Yousaf Ayub Khan President PCFA-KP in his welcome address mentioned about activities & achievements of the association since its establishment in 1970 as Pak China Student Friendship Association in Peshawar and continued exploring more avenues to further enhance & strengthen these exemplary relationship. He also commanded the great friendly role of China in recent times.

Organized under the auspices of the Pakistan-China Friendship Association (PCFA), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chapter, the gathering

served as a potent testament to the time-tested, resilient, and multidimensional relationship that has endured and flourished across nearly three-quarters of a century. Among the luminaries in attendance were Mr. Yousaf Ayub Khan President PCFA-KP provincial ministers Mr. Arshad Ayub Khan and Mr. Nazir Abbasi; PTT KP President Mr. Junaid Akbar; as well as Mr. Ali Asghar Khan and Mr. Arif Ahmadzai. Each underlined, in their respective capacities, the foundational strength and strategic vitality of the Sino-Pakistani friendship. In his keynote address, Speaker Swati eloquently traced the historical arc of the bilateral relationship, recalling Pakistan's pioneering recognition of the People's Republic of China in 1950. He celebrated the enduring 40-year sister-city relationship between Peshawar and Urumqi and looked ahead to the 30th anniversary of the Abbottabad-Kashgar partnership in 2027. He proposed that Mansehra—by virtue of its rich heritage along the ancient Silk Road—be considered for a sister-city affiliation with a Chinese counterpart. —DNA

WHO, BISP to expand support for malnourished children

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Senator Rubina Khalid said, "We want to make sure no mother or child is left behind. Healthy mothers and children are the foundation of a strong Pakistan." She said that under the Benazir Nashonuma programme, WHO-supported centres funded by BISP have treated 46,000 children since 2022 and given counselling to more than 64,000 mothers and caregivers. She said that in 2025, the number of centres will increase to 199, aiming to treat 80,000 children and counsel 120,000 mothers each year. —APP

13 killed, 1,582 injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE: At least 13 people were killed and 1,582 others injured in 1,357 accidents across Punjab during the last 24 hours. As many as 661 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 921 victims with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by rescue medical teams. The analysis showed that 923 drivers, 65 underage drivers, 179 pedestrians, and 493 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes. The statistics showed that 263 accidents were reported in Lahore which affected 316 persons placing the provincial capital at top of the list followed by Faisalabad 87 with 99 victims and at third Gujranwala with 73 accidents and 79 victims. According to the data, 1,334 motorcycles, 65 autorickshaws, 130 motorcars, 26 vans, 12 passenger buses, 45 truck and 123 other types of auto vehicles and slow-moving carts were involved in aforesaid road traffic accidents. —APP

HEC revises business administration curriculum

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has revised the curriculum for Business Administration degree programs in a comprehensive two-day meeting held at the Institute of Management Sciences (IMSciences), Peshawar meeting of the National Curriculum Revision Committee (NCRC) brought together leading academic experts, senior faculty members, representatives from the Business Council through NBEAC, and industry professionals. The collaborative review aimed to align academic standards with the HEC's Undergraduate and Graduate Education Policy 2023, ensuring relevance to both local needs and global market demands. Director IMSciences, Professor Dr. Usman Ghani, welcomed the participants on behalf of the host institution. Mr. Nasir Shah, Director General of HEC's Regional Center in Peshawar, expressed full support for the smooth execution of the meetings. Dr. Farida Anjum, Director Curriculum HEC, emphasized the national importance of the curriculum revision process. The committee unanimously elected Professor Dr. Naukhez Sarwar of NUST Business School as Convener, while Professor Dr. Farooq-e-Azam Cheema of Karachi School of Business and Leadership (KSBL) was chosen as Co-Convener. Mr. Hidayatullah Kasi, Deputy Director (Curriculum), facilitated the sessions as Secretary. —APP

On the Verge of World War III

DR. HAMID KHAN ALMASHRIQI



AS a student of geopolitics and history, I can say with firm conviction: the world has never stood closer to the brink of a global conflict—potentially World War III—than it does today. The ongoing war in Europe, ignited by the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022, has escalated in both scale and complexity, threatening not just regional stability, but global peace. For a time, many believed that a shift in U.S. leadership—especially the potential return of

Donald J. Trump to the presidency—might bring an end to this devastating war. It was widely speculated that Trump's personal rapport with Russian President Vladimir Putin could help broker peace where others had failed. Yet, despite this hope and multiple diplomatic initiatives held in global cities like Riyadh and Istanbul, efforts to secure a lasting ceasefire between Ukraine and Russia have faltered. Ukraine's "Operation Spider Web" and the Siberian Airbase Strikes The fragile peace efforts took a catastrophic hit just yesterday when Ukraine launched its boldest operation to date—Operation Spider Web. In a stunning and highly strategic move, Ukrainian drones targeted five major Russian airbases deep within Siberia, approximately 1,800 to 2,000 kilometers from the Ukrainian border. The attack reportedly destroyed at least forty aircraft, including the strategic TU-95 and TU-22 bombers—planes known for their long-range missile capabilities. The scale, precision, and reach of this attack have raised serious questions. Military analysts

are baffled: how did drones reach such deep targets undetected? Speculation is rife that Ukraine may have received covert assistance from insiders within the Russian military. There are even unconfirmed reports of unrest or dissent among Russian armed forces stationed in Siberia. However, due to media blackouts and restricted access, international outlets have been unable to verify these developments independently. "I still believe I can bring President Putin and President Zelenskyy to the same table. I hope Mr. Trump will join us in this effort as well." But hope is rapidly waning. Russia has rejected any immediate ceasefire demands. Putin remains defiant, stating emphatically, "No one can dictate terms to us." In response, Trump remarked, "I know Putin—he used to be reasonable, but now he's lost his grip." As the war continues to spiral out of control, one key player has emerged with a unique opportunity to mediate: Saudi Arabia. Riyadh, historically known for its strategic diplomacy and leadership in the Arab world, has become an increasingly important hub for in-

ternational negotiations. The Saudi government has maintained neutral diplomatic ties with both Russia and Ukraine, giving it a rare position of influence. In recent weeks, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has initiated behind-the-scenes discussions with both Russian and Ukrainian officials. As part of these efforts, a potential summit is being organized in Riyadh, where key figures like Turkish President Erdoğan and former U.S. President Trump are expected to participate. The hope is that Saudi Arabia's leadership—coupled with Turkey's mediation efforts and Trump's rapport with Putin—can break the current deadlock. This war of words reflects not only the growing personal hostility but also the breakdown of trust among world leaders who once engaged in dialogue. As the situation worsens, NATO has placed its forces on heightened alert, though it remains reluctant to directly intervene. Most European nations are already grappling with soaring energy costs, economic slowdowns, and social unrest caused by the prolonged war. There is little appetite for di-

rect confrontation with Russia. Analysts widely agree that while NATO may support Ukraine indirectly, a direct military intervention remains unlikely—unless provoked by an attack on a NATO member state. Yet, this very hesitation leaves Ukraine vulnerable. With each passing day, more of its cities and civilian infrastructure fall under bombardment. In a tragic irony, the longer Ukraine waits for help, the more destruction it endures—while the West watches with growing caution. The implications of a wider war in Europe cannot be overstated. Should NATO become directly involved, or should Russia expand its aggression beyond Ukraine's borders, the conflict could spiral into a global war. The economic consequences would be catastrophic. A major war in Europe involving superpowers would not only trigger a global recession—it could dismantle the delicate economic fabric of the world. Developing nations, especially those like ours that rely heavily on imports (with up to 70% dependency), would face the most severe impacts. Commodity prices would skyrocket, inflation would spi-

ral, and food insecurity could reach unprecedented levels. Millions would face poverty, starvation, and displacement. We must understand that modern war is no longer confined to battlefields. Its fallout is economic, social, and humanitarian—and it touches every continent, every market, every household. In times of such grave uncertainty, the international community must act with wisdom and restraint. Global peace is not a slogan—it is a necessity for the survival of our shared civilization. This is not just a regional dispute; it is a humanitarian crisis in the making, one that threatens to destroy millions of lives and disrupt billions more. Diplomatic channels must be preserved at all costs. Dialogue—no matter how fragile or frustrating—remains the only path forward. Global leaders, influencers, and mediators must rise above politics and ego to save humanity from the abyss. If World War III begins, it will not be fought for land or ideology—it will be a war of annihilation. We must not let it come to that. Let us hope that sanity prevails before it is too late.

National Days and Armed Forces Days

JUNE

June 02/Itlay National/ Independence Day

June 04/Finland Armed Forces Day

June 06/Sweden National Day

June 10/Portugal Portugal Day (National Day)

June 10/Jordan Arab Revolution& Army Day

June 11/United kingdom Birthday of Her Majesty The Queen Elizabeth

June 12/Philippines Independence Day

June 12/Russian Federation Day of Sovereignty of the Russian Federation (National Day)

June 13/Zambia Armed Forces day


June 17/Iceland National Day

June 18/Seychells National Day


June 25/Croatia National Day

June 25/Mozambique National Day

June 26/Azerbaijan Army Day




Turkish Airlines.....8494949




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Water Tank

Islamabad.....	0321-5744480
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Call for enhancing Pakistan, Myanmar ties in various fields

UBG Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari highlighted the strong foundation of defense cooperation between Pakistan and Myanmar, further strengthened by the sale of JF-17 Thunder aircraft

DNA

ISLAMABAD : A high-level delegation of the Pakistan-ASEAN Friendship Association met with the Ambassador of Myanmar Htun Htun, at the Myanmar Embassy. The delegation was led by Secretary General of the United Business Group (UBG), Zafar Bakhtawari, and included UBG Central Core Committee member Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, former Executive Member of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce Adnan Mukhtar, and President of G7 Center Altaf Hussain Shah. During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on the prospects of enhancing trade, economic, cultural, and tourism relations between Pakistan and Myanmar. The Ambassador stated that Pakistan and Myanmar share deep-rooted historical and cultural ties and emphasized the need to establish direct air links to further promote trade and tourism cooperation. He stressed the importance of launching joint business ventures, promoting medical tourism, and facilitating cultural exchange delegations to transform bilateral relations into practical collaboration. UBG Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari



highlighted the strong foundation of defense cooperation between Pakistan and Myanmar, further strengthened by the sale of JF-17 Thunder aircraft. He expressed Pakistan's desire to become a full dialogue partner of ASEAN and urged Myanmar to support this cause. He also expressed concern over the low volume of bilateral trade and stressed the urgent need to take practical steps to ex-

pand it. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari underscored the need for cooperation in the fields of education and tourism. He proposed that both countries introduce mutual scholarships for students and affordable tourism packages. He further suggested that practical steps such as easing visa policies and establishing direct flights between the two countries are necessary to strengthen

people-to-people contacts. Former Executive Member of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce, Adnan Mukhtar, noted that in the current global economic landscape, the role of the private sector has become more crucial than ever. He emphasized that business communities of Pakistan and Myanmar should foster practical partnerships through B2B meetings, trade

exhibitions, and joint ventures, which would help strengthen the economic foundations of both nations. Altaf Hussain Shah stated that for sustainable bilateral relations, it is essential to promote public-level engagement. He added that youth, entrepreneurs, students, and social leaders from both countries can come closer through cultural delegations and joint events.

23 outlaws including 05 absconders held

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police, Aabara, Secretariat, Shalimar, Sangiani, Khanna, Kirpa, Humak, Bhara Kahu and Phulgran police station teams arrested 18 accused involved in different criminal activities and recovered 6443 gram heroin, 21 bottles liquor and 10 pistols from their possession on Tuesday. A public relations officer told media that Cases have been registered against the arrested accused and further investigations are ongoing. Additionally, during a special campaign launched for the arrest of proclaimed offenders and absconders, various police teams arrested 05 criminals. Following the special directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi the Islamabad Police continues its effective crackdown against crime and criminal elements to ensure the peace and tranquility in the federal capital. The Islamabad Police is committed to protecting the lives and property of the residents and no elements will be allowed to disturb public peace. Ensuring peace and protecting citizens remains the top priority of Islamabad Police.—APP

Devcom kicks off celebrations with Pakistan environmental Awards,moot

ISLAMABAD: To kick off the World Environment Day celebrations, Devcom-Pakistan hosted the Pakistan Environmental Awards and Conference of Best Practices 2025 under the theme "Beyond Plastic Waste – Navigating Climate and Environmental Risks." The event, a passion-driven, non-commercial initiative led by Devcom-Pakistan and DTN gathered leading voices in environmental policy, science, conservation, and sustainable development. World Environment Day, observed annually on June 5 since 1973 under the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), is the largest global platform for environmental awareness. This year, the global celebration is being hosted by the Republic of Korea with a focus on ending plastic pollution – a major threat to climate goals, ocean health, biodiversity, and human wellbeing. The Devcom-Pakistan and partners' event set the tone for an inspiring and action-oriented day. Among the dignitaries that showed up included Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman Pak-China Institute and former Federal Minister for Information and Culture, who graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Also present were Dr. Sebastian Paust, Counsellor & Head of Development Cooperation at the German Embassy in Islamabad; Vice Admiral (Retd.) Ahmed Saeed, President of the National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA); Dr. Zaigham Abbas, Director of the Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA); Abu Zafar Sadiq, President Alpine Club of Pakistan, Dr. Mehar Nigar, and Munir Ahmed, Founder & Executive Director of Devcom-Pakistan and the driving force behind this unique initiative. Federal Minister for Board of Investment (BOI) delivered an impactful speech and praised the awards initiative as a step toward recognizing and motivating sustainability efforts in the country. He said: "Beating plastic pollution is not just an environmental necessity – it is a national imperative. We must adopt a zero-tolerance approach toward single-use plastics, promote sustainable alternatives, and strengthen policy enforcement. Our future generations deserve a cleaner, greener Pakistan, and that future starts with the choices we make today." Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh said: "To truly attract future-forward investment, Pakistan must integrate sustainability into its economic framework. Tackling plastic pollution is not just an environmental imperative – it's a strategic opportunity to promote green industries, circular economy models, and responsible business practices that appeal to global investors seeking climate-conscious partners.—DNA

Govt to intensify polio eradication efforts: Mustafa

ISLAMABAD Federal Minister for Health Mustafa Kamal on Tuesday reaffirmed government commitment to intensifying polio eradication efforts to ensure a polio-free Pakistan in the near future. The minister was chairing a review meeting on polio eradication which was attended by key stakeholders, including the Prime Minister's Focal Person for Polio Eradication, Ms. Ayesha Raza Farooq, the Special Secretary Health, Additional Secretary Health, the National Polio Coordinator, as well

as representatives from WHO, UNICEF, and provincial health authorities. During the meeting, a comprehensive review of the recent nationwide polio vaccination drive was presented. The meeting was informed that over 45 million children were successfully administered the polio vaccine drops. National and provincial coordinators shared detailed updates on the ongoing polio eradication efforts, highlighting progress as well as obstacles. Minister Mustafa Kamal em-

phasized that protecting children from polio is a collective national responsibility that requires urgent and sustained efforts from all segments of society. He urged parents to proactively seek out polio workers and ensure the immunization of their children, reminding that safeguarding children's health is a matter of accountability both in this life and the hereafter. The minister highlighted that while cancer treatment is possible, polio remains an incurable disease, reinforcing the critical need to eliminate

the virus through effective vaccination campaigns. He called for a significant policy shift to enhance campaign effectiveness and stressed the importance of unity and societal participation in this national mission. "Only two countries in the world still face the threat of polio," Mustafa Kamal stated, noting ongoing extensive campaigns in Afghanistan, effectively supported by the Afghan government. He expressed his hope for simultaneous polio-free status for both Pakistan and Afghanistan.—DNA

Hanif, Uzbek envoy discuss Railway transit corridor project

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi and Uzbekistan's Ambassador to Pakistan, Ali Shir Takhtae held detailed discussions on Tuesday regarding the Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan Railway Transit Corridor project. The meeting was focused to further strengthen cooperation in the railway sector and to devise a joint strategy for the completion of this historic project, said a news release. During the meeting, the leaders described the project as a milestone for regional economic growth and the consolidation of trade ties. Consensus was reached to finalize cooperation on this approximately 850-kilometer long railway connectivity project, which included the construction of a new 647-kilometer railway line through Afghanistan. This corridor will become the first direct railway link between Central Asia and South Asia, opening new avenues for trade and economic collaboration in the region. Hanif Abbasi said, "Upon completion of

this project, Pakistan will gain the shortest and most efficient route to Central Asia, which will not only increase trade volumes but also strengthen the region's economy on a solid footing." further added, "This railway corridor will significantly reduce transit time and transportation costs, benefiting all stakeholders." He mentioned that the corridor is expected to handle an annual freight capacity of 15 million tons, which will tremendously boost export and import volumes in the region. The Minister termed this project a historic milestone that will provide Central Asia direct access to Pakistan's ports, facilitating easier access to global trading markets. Hanif Abbasi emphasized the strategic importance of the project as a key component of China's Belt and Road Initiative, stating, "This project will not only reinforce economic ties but will also play a pivotal role in promoting regional peace and stability." Ambassador Ali Shir Takhtae highlighted the vast investment

opportunities in Pakistan's railway sector and the potential to enhance bilateral trade relations. He stressed that collaborative efforts could foster economic prosperity and create new employment opportunities for the people of both countries. Both leaders appreciated the potential positive impacts of this project in promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan, describing it as a beacon of development and harmony for the region. They reiterated their commitment to deepening cooperation in the railway sector and continuing work on joint development projects. Hanif Abbasi pledged to leverage Uzbekistan's expertise to modernize Pakistan's railway system and enhance its operational efficiency through robust reforms. The meeting, both parties reaffirmed their dedication to promoting regional cooperation, activating economic corridors, and advancing mutual development through sustained joint initiatives.—APP

Christian community reaffirms support for nation and armed forces: Senator

Father Azam Sadiq highlighted that the Pakistani army has proven to be unbreakable wall in front of the enemy commending the Christian community members for their unwavering support for their army

ISLAMABA: Senator Khalil Tahir Sandhu, a prominent leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and a representative of the Christian community, on Monday reaffirmed that Pakistan is a peace-loving country but it will not compromise on security and defense. He emphasized that the Christian community always stood firm in support of their country and army. Speaking at a press conference at the National Press Club in Islamabad, alongside Bishop Samuel Robert and Father Azam Sadiq, Sandhu praised the patriotism and sacrifices of Christian youth during recent conflicts with India. He stated that their contributions sent a strong message beyond the boarder, reflecting the Christian community's unwavering commitment to the defense of Pakistan. He also paid tribute to Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and the soldiers for the resolute response to India, also expressed confidence that Kashmir issue would be resolved under his leadership. On this occasion, Bishop Samuel Robert noted that when the entire nation stands with its military, victories become inevitable. "This war was not won by the army alone, but by the entire nation as one," he said. Father Azam Sadiq highlighted that the Pakistani army has proven to be unbreakable wall in front of the enemy commending the Christian community members for their unwavering support for their army.—DNA

CDA CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY ELECTRICAL DIVISION-II

INVITATION FOR BIDS #IumCDA

Sealed tenders are hereby invited on Percentage basis for the following works from contractors / firms duly enlisted with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in appropriate category & Codes having validity / renewal of PEC license, Electrical License issued by Electrical Inspector Islamabad for execution of Electrical & Mechanical Works in Rawalpindi/ Islamabad and NTN & GST registration with FBR.

S.#	Name of Works	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Date & Time of Opening of Tender	Date & Time of Opening of Tender
1.	Electrification/Renovation Of Servant Room And Gas Work Of House No. 8-G Street No. 07 G-6/3 Islamabad.	Rs. 692,045/-	Rs. 20761/-	20-06-2025 11:30AM	20-06-2025 12:00 PM
2.	Electrification/Renovation Work Of CDA Employees House No. 02 (CAT-II) Street No. 35 F-6/1 Islamabad	Rs. 769,278/-	Rs. 23078/-	20-06-2025 11:30AM	20-06-2025 12:00 PM
3.	Electrification/Renovation of Govt. House No. 4-E Street 77 G-6/4 Islamabad	Rs. 667,872/-	Rs. 20036/-	20-06-2025 11:30AM	20-06-2025 12:00 PM
4.	Electrification/Renovation work Of Govt. House No. 668-E G-6/2 And House No. 78/1-D Street No. 32 F-6/1 Islamabad	Rs. 984,000/-	Rs. 29520/-	20-06-2025 11:30AM	20-06-2025 12:00 PM
5.	Rewiring / Electrification Of House No. 441-A G-7/3-4 House No. 305-A G-7/3-4 House No. 2/5-B Street 30 G-7/2 House No. 12/3-B G-7/4 House No. 8/4-C Street 05 G-7/2 Islamabad	Rs. 909,237/-	Rs. 27277/-	20-06-2025 11:30AM	20-06-2025 12:00 PM
6.	Electrification/Renovation Work Of CDA Employees House No. 481-B Street 52 And House No. 482-B Street 52 G-6/1-2 Block 84-A Flat 10 G-10/3 And Block 61/3-B G-10/3 Islamabad.	Rs. 998,622/-	Rs. 29959/-	20-06-2025 11:30AM	20-06-2025 12:00 PM
7.	Electrification/Renovation Work Of CDA Employees Accommodations Flat No. 68/14-B Flat No. 02 Block No. 25-A G-9/2 Flat No. 14/3-B G-9/2 Flat No. 14 Block No. 42-B G-9/2 And Flat No. 4-A Block No. 15-D In Sector I-8/1 Islamabad	Rs. 917,411/-	Rs. 27522/-	20-06-2025 11:30AM	20-06-2025 12:00 PM
8.	Electrification/Renovation Work Of Flat No. 05 Block No. 43-E G-11/3 And Flat No. 06 Block No. A-5-A Sector G-9/2 CDA Employees Accommodations Islamabad.	Rs. 769,707/-	Rs. 23091/-	20-06-2025 11:30AM	20-06-2025 12:00 PM
9.	Electrification/Renovation Work Of Govt. House No. 21-H Street No. 11 Sector F-6/4 Islamabad	Rs. 949,596/-	Rs. 28488/-	20-06-2025 11:30AM	20-06-2025 12:00 PM
10.	Electrification/Renovation Work Of Govt. House No. 27-G Agha Khan Road F-6/4 Islamabad	Rs. 981,906/-	Rs. 29457/-	20-06-2025 11:30AM	20-06-2025 12:00 PM

1. Bid Security / Earnest Money shall also be accompanied with the request in the shape of Deposit at Call (CDR) clearly indicating the Name of Firm issued by local scheduled bank in favor of Deputy Director, Electrical Division-II, CDA and should be generated only from firm's account. Cash / Cheque or open CDR without indicating name of firm will not be accepted and original CDR/relevant document must be submitted in the office of Deputy Director Electrical Division-II, Shop No.07, Bazar No.08, Street No.57, Sector G-6/4, Islamabad. Before three days for opening tender without Bid Security / Earnest Money tender will be not opened for E-PADS. The prospective bidders shall also upload scanned copy of Bid Security on E-PADS.

2. Tenders will be opened in the office of Deputy Director Electrical Division-II, Shop No.07, Bazar No.08, Street No.57, Sector G-6/4, Islamabad on scheduled date and time.

3. The prospective bidders are also required to submit their Bids online through E-PADS at <https://eprocure.gov.pk> before opening date & time.

4. In case the total bid amount is less than 10% below the NIT amount, the bidder shall enclosed call deposit (CDR) in original with bidding documents as Performance Security equal to the difference between NIT amount and total quoted amount less 10% of NIT amount. That is, required Performance Security = NIT Amount (-) total bid amount (-) 10% of NIT amount. This call deposit shall be in addition to the bid security / earnest money for the work. Bids having rates below the 10% of NIT cost not carrying the call deposit (CDR) shall be rejected and Performance Security of the successful bidder shall be released after completion of the project.

5. The prospective bidders are also required to submit an undertaking on Stamp Paper duly attested by notary public worth not less than Rs.50/-, that the firm / contractor are neither involved in any litigation nor blacklisted by any government, semi government or autonomous body in Pakistan and also undertakes that if any information or document provided by firm for issuance of tender document is found incorrect or fictitious the firm is liable for disqualification and legal action under the law. Without the undertaking tender will not be issued to firm.

6. CDA may reject all bids or proposals at any time prior to the acceptance of a bid or proposal and conditional bids will also be rejected at the spot without as per PPRA Rules.

7. The Bid Security / Earnest money of unsuccessful bidders will be retained / deposited in CDA bank account and released in the favor of firm's account only after acceptance of bid.

8. Tender Notice can be seen & downloaded on both CDA website www.cda.gov.pk and PPRA website www.ppra.org.pk, whereas, tender Notice can be downloaded from CDA's website www.cda.gov.pk.

Deputy Director, Electrical Division-II, CDA, Contact No. 0519244736

PID 01/544824

Briefs

Pakistani
Flavors shine
at dragon
boat fest
celebration

ISLAMABAD: In a vibrant display of cultural exchange, Pakistani students showcased their rich culinary traditions at a Dragon Boat Festival event organized by a local community in Nanjing. The celebration brought together international students from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Singapore, Cameroon and Nigeria alongside Chinese students and residents to foster friendship through food, crafts and festive activities. Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday. Seven talented Pakistani students participated in the event and three of them took the lead in preparing the beloved dishes. Haider Alam, a student of Nanjing University of Technology, cooked a fragrant Chicken Masala Curry while Khan Kashif and Zaid from Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology, served a crisp, golden samosas—both were appreciated by the attendees. “Both are delicious packages holding special meanings - samosas contain spiced potatoes, zongzi contain sweet rice, but both contain cultural pride,” said Kashif. “It was amazing to see people from different countries enjoying our food and asking about Pakistani culture. Through our dishes, we wanted to give everyone a taste of Pakistan’s warmth and hospitality.”—APP

Chinese enter-
prise brightens
kids’s Day for
orphans

ISLAMABAD: In a touching display of goodwill, a leading Chinese company brought joy and hope to underprivileged children in Pakistan by donating essential supplies to an Islamabad orphanage, marking a special celebration of International Children’s Day on June 1st. The China State Construction Engineering Corporation Limited (CSCEC) Pakistan branch extended a helping hand to the Islamabad China-Pakistan One Heart Sphere Charity Foundation and the China-Pakistan Youth Exchange Community (CPYEC), ICOSH initially focused on assisting critically ill Pakistani patients seeking medical treatment in the capital. Over time, it has expanded into a safe haven for disabled and seriously ill children, while also providing full-time care for 21 orphans, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday. Since its inception on May 28, 2023, ICOSH has supported over 130 orphans and children suffering from severe illnesses. The latest contribution from the Chinese company underscores the deepening friendship between China and Pakistan, reflecting the spirit of shared compassion and mutual support. The donation ceremony was attended by Yang Guangyuan, Minister Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, who extended warm Children’s Day greetings to the young residents.—APP

Two Pakistani inspire at China Huaneng English speech contest

Their speeches added a meaningful and inspiring dimension to the 40th anniversary celebrations, leaving a lasting impression not only on the audience in China but also on all who continue to work for a future powered by cooperation and mutual growth

ISLAMABAD: At the grand celebration of China Huaneng Group’s 40th anniversary, a landmark moment that commemorated four decades of innovation and global energy leadership, two compelling voices from Pakistan captured the hearts of audiences; Faran Tahir and Nouman Ali. Both speakers, who have dedicated significant years of their careers to China Huaneng, delivered their speeches virtually from the Sahiwal Coal Fired Power Plant in Pakistan, and their words echoed powerfully across the large auditorium in China. The speeches, presented during the English-Speaking Contest celebrating the company’s 40-year milestone, were not just performances, they were deeply personal journeys framed with gratitude, vision, and commitment. Through the use of a live online link, Faran and Nouman’s addresses were broadcasted on large screens to an engaged audience, including executives, employees, and fellow contestants from across various branches of the company. Their physical absence was more than compensated by the sincerity and strength of their stories, which transcended borders and created a memorable connection with everyone present. Faran Tahir, Manager Planning at the 1320 MW

Sahiwal Coal Fired Power Plant, shared a decade-long story that reflected not only professional growth but also a profound alignment with the values and mission of China Huaneng. Dressed in a formal suit, Faran stood against the backdrop of the Sahiwal power plant and painted a vivid picture of his journey from the day he first joined to the present day, where he now stands as a key part of a landmark energy project in Pakistan. His speech was structured with elegance, weaving personal anecdotes with strategic insights, and highlighting the powerful collaboration between China and Pakistan under the Belt and Road Initiative. Audience members were visibly moved as Faran spoke about how the culture of excellence at Huaneng shaped his work ethic and how witnessing China’s dedication to sustainability and innovation inspired him to strive for greater heights. His speech closed with a powerful statement of appreciation and vision: “This is not just a story of energy; it is a story of light, connection, and a shared future.” Ali, with six years of experience at China Huaneng, followed with a speech that complemented Faran’s narrative beautifully.

Speaking with poise and passion, Nouman offered insights into the challenges and triumphs he encountered on his journey. Wearing a sharp dark suit and speaking confidently, Nouman took the audience through his early experiences as a young professional adapting to a multinational environment, and how the supportive atmosphere of Huaneng enabled him to grow both technically and personally. His speech resonated particularly with younger members of the audience, as he spoke about resilience, continuous learning, and building bridges between nations through shared work. Nouman’s speech was deeply appreciated for its sincerity and the clarity with which he outlined how China Huaneng’s approach to talent development and cross-cultural cooperation gave him the opportunity to become a better engineer and leader. His closing remarks emphasized gratitude, but also hope: “As we move forward, let us remember energy is not only about power, but also about empowering people.” The audience responded to both speeches with enthusiasm and admiration. Judges, staff members, and fellow participants expressed apprecia-

tion for the clarity, depth, and emotional power of Faran and Nouman’s storytelling. Their speeches were noted for bringing an international flavor to the contest while also reinforcing the core values that China Huaneng upholds globally: collaboration, innovation, and a shared vision for sustainable development. The significance of their participation lies not only in the content of their speeches but in what they represented: the unity of nations working together toward a brighter future. The Sahiwal project, a flagship example of Sino-Pak cooperation, became the unifying backdrop of both speeches and a reminder of the tangible outcomes that result from global partnerships rooted in mutual respect and purpose. In a world often divided by borders, Faran Tahir and Nouman Ali’s presence virtually delivered but deeply felt demonstrated that when stories are sincere and partnerships are strong, the impact knows no boundaries.

Their speeches added a meaningful and inspiring dimension to the 40th anniversary celebrations, leaving a lasting impression not only on the audience in China but also on all who continue to work for a future powered by cooperation and mutual growth.

IRSA releases
242,921
cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 242,921 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 187,416 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1472.92 feet which was 70.92 feet higher than dead level of 1402.00 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 91,700 cusecs and 156,600 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1163.40 feet, which was 113.40 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 34,395 cusecs and 25,000 cusecs, respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 189,178, 153,583, 121,281 and 66,827 cusecs, respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 25,400 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 7438 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.—APP

EC’s month
long initiative
for capacity
building
concluded

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC’s) month-long capacity building initiative for the academic leaders and university management on university governance and leadership concluded. Registrars, Deans, Controller of Examinations and Treasurers of as many as 47 universities from across the country took part in the programme. It was organised in collaboration with the British Council Pakistan, and Edinburgh Napier University (ENU), UK under the umbrella of Pakistan-UK Education Gateway, a programme. The programme aims to enhance partnership between the higher education sectors of Pakistan and the UK. IMSciences Peshawar was the partner of ENU for this training programme. Adviser Global Engagement Division HEC Mr Awais Ahmad was the chief guest of the closing ceremony, attended by Deputy Director British Council Ms Marya Rehman, Head of Global Online Edinburgh Napier University Dr Fawad Khaleel, Joint Director IMSciences Dr Atta ur Rahman and other notables. Colleagues from HEC and the British Council were also present on the occasion. The certification programme spanned three weeks of online and one week of in-person sessions.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research Rana Tanveer Hussain discussing key initiatives to boost tobacco exports and enhance farmer welfare.

Railways beefed-up security
in trains during Eid

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways Police has issued instructions to all Superintendent of Police (SP) Railways to tighten security in trains as well as at stations to avoid any untoward incident during Eid-ul-Azha days. On the direction of Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi, the department had directed all SPs Railways to depute sufficient force at exit and entry points of all railway stations and strict watch

to be carried out of suspicious persons, an official in the Ministry told media. Pakistan Railways Police Commando Force would be deputed at vulnerable installations and in trains, while bomb disposal staff would also be kept on alert for search of luggage and passengers at railway stations. “The SPs Railways directed to conduct complete check and search of empty rakes before trains reach the platforms for departure for their destinations,” the official added. All the SPs Railways would also be directed to

remain present on Eid holidays and randomly check trains, stations and escorting staff, the official added. The official said the number of passengers was increasing day by day at railway stations and trains ahead of Eid and the Railway administration had arranged special trains across the country to facilitate the extra passengers. It is pertinent to mention here that Pakistan Railways has decided to operate five Eid Special Trains from various cities to facilitate passengers during the Eid-ul-Azha. According

to the details, the first special train had departed from Karachi Cantonment Railway Station for Lahore at 1:00 pm on June 2. The second special train had left Quetta for Peshawar at 10:00 am on June 3. On the same day, the third special train will depart from Lahore for Karachi at 5:00 pm while fourth special train will leave Karachi Cantonment for Rawalpindi at 7:30 pm. The fifth and final Eid Special Train will depart from Karachi Cantonment for Lahore at 7:30 pm on June 4.

Court awards death penalty
in blind murder case

ISLAMABAD: A local court has awarded the death penalty to a suspect involved in a blind murder case, while two co-accused were sentenced to two years in prison and fined for tampering with evidence, following the effective investigation and prosecution efforts by Islamabad Police. An official told APP on Tuesday that the case was registered at Koral Police Station under FIR No. 1673/22 pertaining to the blind murder of citizen Faisal Ilyas. The investigation team employed all available technical and human resources to trace and apprehend the accused. He said the police arrested three suspects—Arbab Khaleel, Farooq Azam, and Moazzam—and collected concrete evidence against them. A complete challan was submitted to the competent court, which conducted a full trial. He said the court found all three suspects guilty. Arbab Khaleel was sentenced to death along with a fine, while Farooq Azam and Moazzam were each sentenced to two years in prison and fined for attempting to destroy evidence. DIG Muhammad Jawad Tariq commended the investigation team for their outstanding performance and announced cash rewards in recognition of their efforts.—APP-rzr-mkz.—APP

AIOU hosts special event on higher
education opportunities in Russia

The event concluded with a question-and-answer session during which students asked various questions regarding the Russian education system, course structures, scholarship application procedures, and the relevance of these opportunities in their professional lives. This event marked a significant and impactful step toward enhancing educational and cultural ties between Pakistan and Russia

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) held a special event here on Tuesday in collaboration with the Russian Embassy, aimed at highlighting higher education opportunities for Pakistani students in Russian universities. The event featured detailed briefings on admissions, scholarships, academic programs, and support services, reflecting the growing educational and cultural cooperation between the two countries. The chief guest of the event, Ms Alina Kolesnikova, Secretary for Education and Culture at the Rus-

sian Embassy, delivered a detailed presentation on the educational opportunities available to Pakistani students in Russian universities. She highlighted admission policies, various faculties, scholarship options, and the facilities offered to international students. She emphasized that Russian educational institutions welcome Pakistani students and appreciate their academic achievements. As part of the cultural segment, an engaging and skill-based competition of “Russian Tongue Twisters” was held. Students participated with fluency, proper pronunciation, and confidence. In this contest, Rahat Ali secured first place, Saad Ahmed Khan

second, and Shehryar Khan third. Russian Language Center teacher Ms. Ekaterina Andriets explained the purpose and objectives of the activity, stating that such competitions make the language learning process effective and enjoyable. Dr Zahid Majid, Director of International Collaboration and Exchange, spoke at the event and noted that exemplary educational cooperation has been ongoing for the past four years between Allama Iqbal Open University and the Russian Ministry of Education, resulting in the establishment of the “Russian Language Center.” The center’s second batch is currently undergoing training and is set to complete its

course on July 31. He added that under the leadership of Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Nasir Mahmood, the university is committed to promoting international partnerships, with collaboration with Russia being a key part of those efforts. The event concluded with a question-and-answer session during which students asked various questions regarding the Russian education system, course structures, scholarship application procedures, and the relevance of these opportunities in their professional lives. This event marked a significant and impactful step toward enhancing educational and cultural ties between Pakistan and Russia.

Jazz, Qvantel
expand strategic
partnership

ISLAMABAD :Jazz, Pakistan’s leading digital operator, has deepened its long-standing partnership with global Digital BSS provider Qvantel through the launch of new operations, services, and support centers in Islamabad and Lahore. This expansion strengthens Jazz’s digital infrastructure and enables Jazz to deliver the best customer experience to its base of over 73 million mobile subscribers, said a news release. Staffed by over 100 skilled BSS professionals, the new centers will enhance Qvantel’s ability to provide localized expertise and managed services tailored to Jazz’s evolving digital ecosystem. As part of this strategic expansion, Qvantel will also leverage Garaj, Jazz’s state-of-the-art Cloud platform, for co-location and hosting services—ensuring scalable, secure, and locally hosted infrastructure for critical operations. Khalid Shehzad, Chief Technology Officer at Jazz, said, “Our evolution from a connectivity provider to a digital-first ServiceCo is underpinned by strong technology partnerships. Qvantel’s agile Digital BSS platform has enabled us to simplify our backend systems, improve efficiency, and unlock new digital revenue streams. With Qvantel’s expanded footprint in Pakistan, we are now even better positioned to scale innovation and improve customer experience in real time.” Tero Kivisaari, President of Qvantel, said: “Jazz is a textbook example of how to turn a digital operator strategy into a day-to-day reality that empowers people. By investing in Pakistan’s tech talent and working side by side with Jazz, we are strengthening our partnership to deliver solutions that truly matter. This is not just about systems—it’s about building the digital future of a country.” As Pakistan’s digital ambitions accelerate, the Jazz–Qvantel partnership is geared to deliver scalable innovation with strong local relevance. Qvantel’s enhanced presence and backend expertise support Jazz’s need for agile, future-ready infrastructure, enabling hyper-personalized digital services and advancing a shared vision of inclusive, tech-driven growth. This collaboration aligns with Jazz’s broader ServiceCo vision—its transformation from a telecom operator to a platform-based digital services company serving over 100 million users through fintech (JazzCash), entertainment (Tamasha), digital self-care (SIMOSA), InsurTech (FikrFree), enterprise cloud (Garaj), and gaming (GameNow)—DNA

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2025 APRIL

2025 AUGUST

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LOW RATIO

STUDENT TO TEACHER

MORE ATTENTION TO EACH STUDENT

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NO BULLYING, ONLY TEAMWORK. WE BUILD COMMUNITIES.

WE DON'T JUST EDUCATE, WE BUILD PERSONALITIES.

Glacier Conference in Dushanbe — a wake-up call

THE recently concluded International Glacier Conference in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, brought much-needed global attention to one of the most pressing environmental issues of our time — the rapid melting of glaciers. With Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif representing Pakistan at the event, the conference rightly highlighted the significance of regional and international cooperation in addressing climate change, particularly its devastating impact on the mountainous and glacier-rich regions of Central and South Asia. The initiative taken by Tajik President Emomali Rahmon to host this critical conference deserves sincere appreciation. It reflects his forward-looking vision and deep commitment to sustainable development and environmental preservation. Under his leadership, Tajikistan has made commendable progress in economic growth, infrastructure development, and regional diplomacy. His emphasis on climate action, especially glacier preservation, shows a genuine concern not only for his own nation but for the broader region dependent on glacier-fed rivers and agriculture. However, while the initiative is timely and essential, it must go beyond symbolic gatherings and produce tangible outcomes. The melting of glaciers is not just a theoretical issue; it is already disrupting ecosystems, threatening water security, and increasing the risk of floods in countries like Pakistan, India, Nepal, and of course, Tajikistan itself. What is needed now are action-oriented strategies, such as joint research initiatives, early warning systems, sustainable water management, and regional policy frameworks to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change. Unfortunately, an otherwise promising conference was marred by poor execution in some key areas — particularly in terms of international media engagement. From Pakistan, for instance, the media delegation selected to cover the event was reportedly of disappointing quality. It included individuals who lacked the necessary journalistic background and expertise to meaningfully engage with the subject matter or convey the gravity of the discussions to a wider audience. Such decisions reflect poorly not just on the organizing authorities but also undermine the vision of President Rahmon, whose global outreach efforts depend heavily on effective communication. This lapse points to a broader problem within diplomatic and bureaucratic structures, where well-intentioned leadership initiatives are often diluted by poor execution at the mid and lower levels. If Tajikistan wants its environmental and developmental efforts to resonate internationally, its embassies and consulates must play a more proactive and professional role in coordinating with credible institutions, including media organizations, civil society, and academia. The selection of relevant and competent media personnel is critical to ensuring the seriousness of such international initiatives is not lost. In sum, the Glacier Conference was an important step in the right direction, bringing together leaders and experts to discuss a shared threat. President Rahmon must be applauded for his vision.

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Gaza crisis needs immediate response

THE ongoing humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza demands more than solemn declarations and symbolic gestures. As the world watches in horror, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Arab League—two of the most prominent political bodies representing Muslim and Arab nations—must reckon with the inadequacy of their response. While both organizations have issued condemnations and called for ceasefires, the time has long passed for mere rhetoric. The suffering in Gaza demands decisive, coordinated, and sustained action. Since the escalation of violence began, thousands of Palestinians have been killed, tens of thousands injured, and entire neighborhoods reduced to rubble. Civilian infrastructure—hospitals, schools, places of worship—has been systematically destroyed. Israel's military operations, which it claims are targeted against Hamas, have inflicted disproportionate harm on the civilian population. Human rights organizations across the globe have raised alarm bells, yet the bombardment continues. The OIC and Arab League have convened multiple emergency summits and issued strong-worded statements decrying the violence and calling for the protection of Palestinian civilians. While these statements are important, they fall drastically short of the urgent diplomatic and political action needed. Many in the Arab and Muslim world are beginning to question the relevance and effectiveness of these institutions in moments of profound crisis. What is urgently needed is a shift from passive diplomacy to active engagement. First, the OIC and Arab League must leverage their collective political and economic influence on the global stage. This includes coordinated diplomatic pressure on Western allies of Israel, particularly the United States and European Union, to demand an immediate ceasefire and an end to the blockade of Gaza. Regional powers with direct channels to both Israel and Hamas must act as credible mediators, pushing toward negotiations that include guarantees for humanitarian aid, reconstruction, and long-term political solutions. Second, there must be tangible support for Gaza's beleaguered population. Financial pledges for reconstruction are necessary but insufficient if not followed through with effective delivery. The Arab League and OIC members should urgently organize humanitarian corridors, supply essential medical aid, and provide support to international NGOs working on the ground. It is time for these institutions to lead not just in condemnation but in relief. Finally, the crisis in Gaza cannot be divorced from the broader failure to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Arab League's 2002 peace initiative, which offered normalization in return for a two-state solution, remains on the table but has been sidelined in recent years. The OIC and Arab League must reignite serious efforts toward a just and lasting solution—one that guarantees the rights, dignity, and sovereignty of the Palestinian people. The people of Gaza are not only victims of bombs and blockades but also of global indifference and political inertia. The OIC and Arab League have a moral obligation and a historic responsibility to act—not tomorrow, not in the next summit, but now.

Russia's Pearl Harbor: Escalating the Horrors of War

Qamar Bashir



The countries directly or indirectly involved in this conflict are draining their national wealth in a futile pursuit of land, power, and hegemony, while other nations, uninvolved in the war, are conserving their resources and channeling them into productive investments: building modern infrastructure, advancing research and development, exploring space, and fostering innovation. As a result, the economies of the United States, Russia, Europe, and their allies will bear the long-term costs of this war, while their adversaries—particularly China, which has been labeled a strategic

IN a dramatic escalation of the ongoing conflict, Ukraine launched a highly sophisticated drone strike on Russian airbases, reportedly damaging and destroying a substantial portion of Moscow's strategic bomber fleet. This operation, codenamed "Spiderweb," involved the deployment of 117 AI-guided drones, which targeted five key Russian airbases across regions including Murmansk, Irkutsk, Ivanovo, Ryazan, and Amur. The attack resulted in the destruction and severe damage of over 40 aircraft, including Tu-95, Tu-22M3, Tu-160 bombers, and A-50 airborne early warning and control aircraft. The damage to Russia has been estimated to be around \$7 billion, marking a significant blow to Russia's long-range aerial capabilities. The timing of this strike coincided with peace talks in Istanbul, mediated by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. The peace talks highlighted the fundamentally opposing objectives of Russia and Ukraine. Russia demands recognition of its control over annexed territories, including Crimea and four other regions, the withdrawal of Ukrainian forces, and a commitment from Ukraine to remain neutral and non-aligned, effectively preventing NATO membership. Conversely, Ukraine insists on the complete withdrawal of Russian troops, the restoration of its territorial integrity, and security guarantees from Western countries to prevent further aggression. Ukraine also seeks the prosecution of Russian leaders for war crimes and the return of abducted Ukrainian children. The latest attack—an advanced, high-tech, and professionally maneuvered drone strike—has dealt a severe blow to Russia. If such attacks continue and Russia finds itself unable to respond with conventional forces in kind, there is a growing possibility that Moscow may seriously consider the use of tactical nuclear weapons. Russia may seek not only to counterbalance the damage inflicted but also to punish those directly involved in planning, executing, and supporting the operation. This could mean that Russia may expand the scope of the war, targeting European capitals that have been providing aid and resources to Ukraine—actions which have now become a significant concern for the United

States and its allies, as the war risks spiraling beyond its current boundaries. By striking deep into the heart of Russia with such precision and devastation, Ukraine has gained a position of relative strength compared to Moscow, a factor that will provide Kyiv with greater bargaining leverage in any potential future negotiations—if such talks materialize at all. However, Russia is even more astute. It is unlikely to enter into any meaningful negotiation from a position of weakness. Instead, Russia will likely seek to counterbalance the damage inflicted upon it, and may even surpass Ukraine's gains with its own retaliatory strikes, in order to restore its strategic advantage before considering any talks. This tit-for-tat escalation is a profoundly dangerous dynamic, one that risks undermining any prospects for peace and threatens to prolong and intensify the conflict between the two nations. As the war drags into its fourth year, both Russia and Ukraine—along with their allies in Europe and the United States—are beginning to grasp the immense toll this war has taken. Russia has sustained military losses exceeding \$94 billion as of May 2025, with inflation and a weakened ruble further straining its economy. Ukraine's economy has been crippled, with a cumulative GDP loss of \$120 billion, infrastructure damages topping \$1 trillion, and reconstruction needs projected at a staggering \$524 billion—nearly triple its pre-war GDP. Meanwhile, European allies have not been spared: German companies alone faced losses of at least €200 billion in 2022, particularly in the automotive, energy, and chemical sectors, as the sanctions and war-driven economic disruptions ripple across the continent. The war is bleeding resources, depleting tax bases, and pushing all involved nations toward economic strain. The countries directly or indirectly involved in this conflict are draining their national wealth in a futile pursuit of land, power, and hegemony, while other nations, uninvolved in the war, are conserving their resources and channeling them into productive investments: building modern infrastructure, advancing research and development, exploring space, and fostering innovation. As a result, the economies of the United States, Russia, Europe, and their allies will bear the long-term costs of this

war, while their adversaries—particularly China, which has been labeled a strategic competitor—will continue to grow stronger. China stands to benefit the most from this prolonged conflict, as the Western powers exhaust themselves financially, militarily, and diplomatically, effectively handing Beijing the advantage on the global stage. Ukraine, heavily reliant on Western support, faces the risk of donor fatigue. Ukrainian officials have expressed concerns about growing donor fatigue, noting a \$43 billion budget shortfall for 2024. Conversely, Russia, with its larger economy and resources, may continue to absorb the war's costs, albeit at the expense of its own economic stability. The recent talks in Istanbul, while limited in progress, have set the stage for potential future negotiations involving Presidents Putin, Zelenskyy, and Trump. For meaningful dialogue to occur, both sides must address the core issues: territorial integrity, security guarantees, and the future of Ukraine's alignment with Western institutions. This is perhaps a shorter and more intense replica of the First and Second World Wars, where alliances were drawn, and massive resources were expended. Now, allies are on one side, and Russia is on the other, both depleting their resources and indirectly enabling their adversaries to gain strength. The solution to this quagmire lies in recognizing the mutual losses and the unintended empowerment of non-involved nations. It would be naive to think that European leaders and the USA have not calculated these aspects—their own losses and the strengthening of their adversaries—while they continue to fund and fuel the war. Sanity should prevail among all parties. The conflict results in losses for Russia, Ukraine, and their allies, while those outside the conflict stand to gain. The entire geopolitical landscape is undergoing a profound shift due to this war, with a heightened possibility of shrinking the economic, trade, investment, business, and military influence of the warring nations—primarily European powers this time—while simultaneously creating space for their adversaries to expand. Let us hope that sanity will prevail sooner rather than later, bringing an end to the erosion of the geopolitical space of the warring parties and, conversely, halting the encroachment of their adversaries into their traditional spheres of influence.

Trump to Tehran: Pressure vs. Diplomacy

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



The Trump administration's "maximum pressure" strategy involved re-imposing stringent economic sanctions on Iran after withdrawing from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in 2018. These sanctions aimed to curtail Iran's nuclear program and diminish its regional influence. While the sanctions inflicted significant economic hardship on Iran

THE US-Iran relationship has been marked by decades of tension, punctuated by moments of tentative engagement. President Trump's administration introduced a distinctive approach, characterized by stringent economic sanctions coupled with overtures for direct negotiations. This strategy aimed to compel Iran to curtail its nuclear ambitions while opening avenues for diplomatic resolution. Central to Trump's strategy was the reimplementation of the "maximum pressure" campaign, which involved reinstating and intensifying economic sanctions on Iran. These sanctions targeted vital sectors of the Iranian economy, aiming to cripple its financial capabilities and force compliance with U.S. demands regarding nuclear activities and regional behavior. In addition to economic measures, the Trump administration did not shy away from military actions. Notably, airstrikes were launched against Iranian-backed Houthi forces in Yemen, signaling a willingness to use force to counter Iran's regional influence. Furthermore, President Trump set a tight two-month deadline for Iran to reach an agreement on its nuclear program, accompanied by explicit threats of military action should negotiations fail. Contrasting the hardline economic and military stance, President Trump exhibited an inclination towards personal diplomacy. In early March, he sent a letter to Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei proposing negotiations, reflecting his belief in deal-making as a tool for conflict resolution. Trump's assertion that he wanted to make Iran "prosperous again" underscored his approach of coupling pressure with the promise of economic relief and normalized relations. This dual strategy aimed to bring Iran to the negotiating table under duress while offering incentives for compliance. The administration's hope was that the economic strain, combined with the threat of military action, would make the prospect of a deal more appealing to Iranian leadership.

While the strategy had its rationale, it was not without significant risks and criticisms. The aggressive posture raised concerns about the potential for miscalculations leading to open conflict. Military strikes on Iran's nuclear facilities, while potentially delaying its nuclear program, could provoke retaliatory attacks across the region, exacerbating instability in the Middle East. Moreover, the economic sanctions, though aimed at the regime, had profound impacts on the Iranian populace, leading to humanitarian concerns. Critics argued that such measures could entrench anti-American sentiments and empower hardline factions within Iran, thereby undermining the prospects for diplomatic engagement. The "Trump to Tehran" strategy highlighted the complexities of employing a dual approach in international diplomacy. By combining coercive measures with offers of negotiation, the administration sought to leverage pressure into tangible policy changes. However, the success of such a strategy depended on precise calibration and a deep understanding of the adversary's thresholds and motivations. The strategy also had broader implications for U.S. foreign policy, signaling a shift towards more transactional and unilateral approaches. It challenged traditional diplomatic norms and raised questions about the efficacy and ethics of coupling punitive measures with overtures for peace. The evolving dynamics of U.S.-Iran relations have been marked by a complex interplay of confrontation and negotiation. In her article, "The Case for a 'Trump to Tehran' Strategy," Comfort Ero explores the potential of combining President Donald Trump's "maximum pressure" campaign with personal diplomacy to address the challenges posed by Iran's nuclear ambitions and regional activities. The Trump administration's "maximum pressure" strategy involved re-imposing stringent economic sanctions on Iran after withdrawing from the Joint

Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in 2018. These sanctions aimed to curtail Iran's nuclear program and diminish its regional influence. While the sanctions inflicted significant economic hardship on Iran, leading to a sharp depreciation of its currency and political instability, they also had unintended consequences. The economic strain bolstered hardline elements within Iran, fostering a narrative of resistance against foreign aggression and complicating internal reform efforts. Recognizing the limitations of unilateral pressure, President Trump initiated a direct diplomatic overture by sending a letter to Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei in early 2025, proposing negotiations. This move signaled a willingness to engage Iran through dialogue, offering the prospect of sanctions relief and normalized relations in exchange for concessions on its nuclear program and regional activities. The approach aimed to leverage Trump's deal-making persona to achieve a breakthrough in longstanding impasse. Despite the overture, significant challenges persist. Iran's leadership, particularly Supreme Leader Khamenei, remains skeptical of U.S. intentions, especially given the history of abrupt policy shifts, such as the withdrawal from the JCPOA. Internally, Iran's political landscape is fraught with tensions between reformists and hardliners, making consensus on engaging with the U.S. difficult. Moreover, the U.S. domestic political environment, characterized by bipartisan skepticism toward Iran, limits the flexibility of the administration to offer concessions. The strategy's reliance on the threat of military action as authority carries inherent risks. While targeted strikes, such as those against Iranian-backed Houthis in Yemen, may yield short-term tactical advantages, they risk provoking broader regional conflicts and undermining diplomatic efforts. A miscalculation could escalate into a full-scale confrontation, with devastating consequences for regional stability and global security.

Briefs

Provinces issues to be resolved on priority: PM

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the unprecedented hijacking of the Jaffar Express. Speaking at the jirga today, PM Shehbaz acknowledged the historic sacrifices of the people of KP and praised their unwavering patriotism, saying, "The people of KP have always raised the flag of Pakistan with pride." He called KP "a beautiful and great province," adding that "its people's sacrifices will be remembered in golden words in the country's history." Referring to the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award, the premier stressed that a review was overdue after 15 years and announced that the first NFC-related meeting would be convened in August. "The 2010 NFC Award included terrorism-related financial support for KP," he said. He stated that various governments had provided KP with Rs700 billion over the years, emphasising the need to enhance police training and equipment. "Funds allocated for the police are still being released," he added.

Pakistan urges US to promote dialogue...

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He briefed Ambassador Shea on the developments following the Pahalgam attack of 22 April 2025, expressing deep concern over India's immediate attribution of blame to Pakistan without any credible investigation or verifiable evidence. The delegation leader emphasized that such premature and baseless allegations exacerbate tensions and undermine prospects for constructive dialogue and peace. Pakistan, he said, had been at the forefront in the fight against terrorism and has made big sacrifices in this fight.

Balochistan is Pak part, can never...

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Pakistan, he said and urged the people to foil their evil intentions. Karachi-Quetta highway had become a "bloody highway", he said, adding that funds were being issued for its construction. The premier announced that 25% of the next PSDP development budget would be allocated to Balochistan. Laptops would be given to the students of the province, he said further. He maintained that efforts should be made to bring the misguided individuals back into the national mainstream.

ASEAN meet: Aurangzeb...

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Pakistan's resolve to bolster economic cooperation under the SCO's framework. Senator Aurangzeb acknowledged the organization's contribution to promoting trade, investment and financial cooperation, while reinforcing regional stability and prosperity. Supporting proposals to increase joint projects, technology transfer and capacity-building programs, he highlighted the need for deeper collaboration among member states. He also underlined the critical role of the digital economy and financial inclusion in driving equitable development, pointing to Pakistan's active use of digital technologies in fostering economic growth and prosperity.

President, PM laud security forces

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complete elimination. PM Shehbaz Sharif said the entire nation stood shoulder to shoulder with the Pakistan armed forces to foil the nefarious designs of Fitna al Hindustan, which was involved in spreading terrorism in Balochistan under the patronage of India.

Pakistani Hockey stars shine in Poland, lead Club to League win



DNA

WARSAW: Murtaza Yaqoob, Ehtesham Aslam, and Abdul Rehman, have made the nation proud by delivering an outstanding performance on foreign soil. Representing Siemianowice Śląskie Hockey Club, the trio played a key role in leading their team to victory in the final of the First Super League Hockey Cup held in Poland. The final match of the prestigious Super League First Championship saw Siemianowice Śląskie Hockey Club emerge as champions, thanks in large part to the stellar per-

formances of the three former international players from Pakistan. Their exceptional skills and teamwork captivated hockey fans in Europe and won hearts across the board. Ehtesham Aslam was declared the Best Player of the Semi-Final, Best Player of the Final, and ultimately Best Player of the Tournament, reflecting his all-around brilliance throughout the league. Abdul Rehman earned the honor of Top Goal Scorer of the Tournament, while Murtaza Yaqoob was named the Best Defender of the Tournament, solidifying his status as a defensive powerhouse. The club's coach praised the performance of the Pakistani players, stating,

"It is a matter of great pride to have Pakistani heroes playing with us and leading the club to championship glory. Their experience and game skills are not only enhancing the performance of our senior players but also greatly benefiting our juniors." Speaking on the occasion, Murtaza Yaqoob expressed his pride: "Our team remained undefeated throughout the Super League – we didn't lose a single match. This is the result of our hard work and planning, and we are proud to have raised our country's flag high." Ehtesham Aslam credited his success to his loved ones and supporters:

"It is due to the prayers of my parents, well-wishers, and friends that we performed so well. Being named the Best Player of the Tournament is a huge honor for me." Top scorer Abdul Rehman also shared his thoughts, saying: "Being the top scorer of the tournament is a great personal achievement. Unfortunately, I had to miss a few matches due to injury, but we all worked hard for our club, and today, by the grace of Allah, we are reaping the reward." The performance of these Pakistani players not only led their team to championship victory but also showcased Pakistan's hockey talent on an international stage, bringing honor and pride to the country.

Opportunities in every field for youth Under PM's Leadership, says Sanaullah

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister, Rana Sanaullah Khan, on Tuesday said that students of Islamabad's educational institutions are being provided with extensive facilities at the Sports Complex to engage in sporting activities. He said that under Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's leadership, the government will utilize all available resources to steer youth towards constructive and positive pursuits. He was addressing a special ceremony held here at the Pakistan Sports Complex on Tues-

day, where sports kits and tracksuits were distributed among students of public educational institutions. The event was attended by Federal Parliamentary Secretary Farah Naz Akbar, Federal Secretary for Education Mohyuddin Wani, Director General of Pakistan Sports Board Yasir Pirzada, and Member of National Assembly Anjum Aqeel Khan. Sanaullah, who also holds the portfolio of the Ministry of Inter Provincial Coordination remarked that previously, only students from private institutions were benefiting from these facilities. "Now, children from federal public schools will also have the

opportunity to take part in sporting activities at the Sports Complex," he said. "When our youth utilize such facilities, it will help cultivate a healthy sports culture in the country. Early participation in sports instills habits that lay the foundation for a balanced and healthy life." The Adviser appreciated the efforts of Secretary Mohyuddin Wani and DG Sports Board Yasir Pirzada for launching this inclusive initiative. He emphasized that these opportunities should reach every student in Islamabad's public schools and assured that the Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination will extend its full support.



PTCL integrates software driven storage platforms

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's leading telecom and ICT services provider, Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) has teamed up with renowned technology solutions provider, DWP Technologies to integrate software driven Enterprise and Mid-tier storage platforms from Dell Technologies to modernize its data center infrastructure. A signing ceremony was held in Islamabad to formalize the partnership, attended by Jafar Khalid, Group Chief Technology and Information Officer, PTCL & Ufone, 4G, and Rohail Bashir, Chief Operating Officer, DWP Technologies (Pvt.) Ltd., along with senior management from PTCL Group, DWP and Dell Technologies said a news release. As part of its ongoing digital transformation journey, PTCL is focused on upgrading its storage infrastructure to boost operational efficiency, enhance performance, and ensure scalability to meet the growing data demands of its network. This modernization effort will streamline PTCL's operations and solidify its position as a leader in the telecommunications sector. The current mission-critical platform and ecosystem supporting PTCL and Ufone4G, which spans three sites using enterprise replication services (SRDF), will remain fully supported and maintained throughout this initiative, ensuring uninterrupted operations and business continuity. – Agencies

Boxing trials of men, women concluded at AJK University

ISLAMABAD: Boxing Trials of Men & Women under Prime Minister Youth Programme (PMYP) were concluded yesterday at the Azad Jammu & Kashmir University, Muzaffarabad. Chief Guest of the event, VC Azad Jammu & Kashmir University Muzaffarabad, Dr. Nadeem Haider Bukhari, while talking on the occasion, shared with the participants the importance of sports initiatives and announced plans to establish a multipurpose sports gymnasium. Dr. Ali Malik, Dep. Sect. PMYP informed the participants about PMYP and its initiatives. He also talked about the ongoing Boxing Talent Hunt and upcoming Cricket Talent Hunt. – Agencies

S. Korea on cusp, Uzbeks eye historic WC spot

HONG KONG: European club trophy winners Son Heung-min and Lee Kang-in will hope to fire South Korea to the World Cup in the coming days with four remaining automatic spots from Asia up for grabs. Japan and Iran have already sealed their berths at the tournament next year in the United States, Canada and Mexico. South Korea are guaranteed to join them on Thursday if they avoid defeat against Iraq in Basra. Even if they lose, they will have another opportunity at home to Kuwait next Tuesday in Group B. South Korea and Spurs captain Son did not have his best club season but the 32-year-old attacker finished off by lifting the Europa League trophy. Attacking midfielder Lee on Saturday collected a Champions League winner's medal with Paris Saint-Germain after they thrashed Inter Milan 5-0 in Munich, although he remained on the bench for the final. South Korea coach Hong Myung-bo suggested he could use Son sparingly at the end of a long campaign in which the country's talisman has struggled for form and fitness. – APP

Ohtani leads tributes as Japan's 'Mr. Pro Baseball' dies at 89

"May your soul rest in peace," Ohtani wrote on Instagram to his 9.5 million followers, along with a picture of himself with Nagashima. Oh also paid tribute, telling reporters that he was "really shocked" to learn of his former team-mate's death. TOKYO: Los Angeles Dodgers superstar Shohei Ohtani led the tributes to Japanese baseball legend Shigeo Nagashima following his death on Tuesday aged 89. Known as "Mr. Pro Baseball", Nagashima starred for Japan's most popular team, the Yomiuri Giants, winning nine straight Japan Series titles from 1965 to 1973. He formed a lethal partnership with Sadaharu Oh, who holds the world record for hitting the most home runs, and the pair are credited with cementing baseball's status as Japan's favourite sport. Their batting exploits captivated a Japanese public enjoying new economic prosperity out of the ruins of World War II, with families tuning in to watch games on black and white televisions. Nagashima's outsized personality and easy charisma made him a popular public figure and symbol of a confident new Japan. He hit a dramatic walk-off home run to seal a win for the Giants in the first professional game ever attended by Japan's emperor in 1959. "May your soul rest in peace," Ohtani wrote on Instagram to his 9.5 million followers, along with a picture of himself with Nagashima. Oh also paid tribute, telling reporters that he was "really shocked" to learn of his former team-mate's death. "I'm really disappointed that Mr. Nagashima, who shines brightly in the history of Japanese baseball, has departed after a long bout with illness," the 85-year-old Oh was quoted as saying by the Kyodo news agency. "He taught me a lot of things. I'm grateful to have been able to play with him." Nagashima retired in 1974 after a 17-year playing career during which he won the Central League batting title six times and was home run king twice. He played in 2,186 games and hit 444 home runs. He also had two stints as the Giants' manager, winning two Japan Series titles over 15 seasons. Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary said Nagashima was "a sunny person". – Agencies

PCB makes major decision on Islamabad Cricket Association

Shakeel Sheikh, Nasir Iqbal, Arif Qureshi Removed from Office; Islamabad Regional Elections Nullified

ANSAR BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has taken a significant decision regarding the Islamabad Cricket Association by removing former Regional and Zonal Cricket Associations. In addition to Shakeel Sheikh, officials including Nasir Iqbal, Arif Qureshi, and Irfan Manzoor have also been dismissed from their positions with immediate effect. Furthermore, the PCB has ordered all affected officials to immediately vacate their offices and step down from their roles, emphasizing the implementation of its decision without delay. This move is seen as a major step in PCB's ongoing efforts to reform domestic cricket governance and ensure transparency and fairness in the administration of the sport across the country.



the March 2023 elections for both the regional and zonal associations in Islamabad. The PCB has directed an immediate cessation of all activities of the Islamabad Regional and Zonal Cricket Associations. In addition to Shakeel Sheikh, officials including Nasir Iqbal, Arif Qureshi, and Irfan Manzoor have also been dismissed from their positions with immediate effect. Furthermore, the PCB has ordered all affected officials to immediately vacate their offices and step down from their roles, emphasizing the implementation of its decision without delay. This move is seen as a major step in PCB's ongoing efforts to reform domestic cricket governance and ensure transparency and fairness in the administration of the sport across the country.

ADB approves \$800m...

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Subprogram 2, which supports wide-ranging fiscal and governance reforms. These include overhauls in tax policy and administration, public expenditure management and digital governance – all part of Islamabad's efforts to contain the fiscal deficit and reduce public debt. "Pakistan has made significant progress in improving macroeconomic conditions," said ADB Country Director Emma Fan. "This programme backs the government's commitment to further policy and institutional reforms that will strengthen public finances and promote sustainable growth." The programme also seeks to improve private sector participation by facilitating investment and modernising regulatory frameworks. It is backed by technical assistance and close collaboration with other development partners to enhance long-term fiscal resilience. The country faces persistent structural imbalances, with tax revenue among the lowest in emerging markets and public debt nearing 75% of GDP.

Seven Indian proxy terrorists...

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In another IBO in Marginal general of Kalat district, a Fitna al-Hindustan terrorist hideout was busted and two terrorists were successfully neutralised, the ISPR said. Weapons, ammunition, and explosives were also recovered from the killed Fitna al-Hindustan terrorists, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities, it added. "Security forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace Indian sponsored terrorism from the country, and reaffirm the nation's unwavering resolve to bring the perpetrators of Indian sponsored terrorism and their facilitators to justice," the media wing of armed forces said. The government has blamed Indian-backed Fitna al-Hindustan terrorists for perpetrating a number of terror incidents in Balochistan on behalf of India. Particularly, following the Khuzdar attack on schoolchildren last month, the ties between the nuclear armed neighbouring countries further took a nosedive amid already tense relations.

Teenage female TikToker...

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However, in a major development, Islamabad Police arrested the suspect, identified as Umar Hayat – also known by his nickname "Kaka" – in Faisalabad just 20 hours after the crime. Yousaf, who had over 740,000 followers on TikTok, was reportedly with her aunt at home at the time of the incident. Her father, a government officer, was out for work, while her mother had stepped out to the market. Her 15-year-old brother is currently visiting their hometown of Chitral after completing his school exams. The family lived in the upper portion of the house where the murder took place. According to the aunt, the suspect had come to meet Yousaf and the two had a brief exchange before the shooting.

Mohsin Naqvi visits NCCIA...

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that the NCCIA Helpline is now fully operational, and citizens can report cybercrime complaints by calling 1799. He instructed relevant officers to ensure prompt redressal of complaints related to cybercrimes. Interior Minister said that in the era of Artificial Intelligence, institutions like NCCIA are more essential than ever before and NCCIA was established in line with the demands of the modern digital age. He emphasized that effective prevention of cybercrimes requires the use of advanced technologies, software, and hardware. "Undoubtedly, this is a newly-formed agency, and we must work day and night to make it one of the most effective institutions," said Mohsin Naqvi.

Ultra-processed foods to early signs of Parkinson's disease

The results showed that people who consumed the most ultra-processed foods were about 2.5 times more likely to have three or more early signs of Parkinson's

DNA

ASTANA: A new study published in Neurology has found that people who eat large amounts of ultra-processed foods are more likely to show early signs of Parkinson's disease than those who eat less, reports a Kazinform News Agency correspondent. These early symptoms, known as prodromal features, can appear years before the disease is officially diagnosed. Parkinson's disease is a slow-developing brain disorder. It often begins with non-motor symptoms like sleep issues, constipation, and depression, long before movement problems begin. Researchers

are interested in these early signs because catching them may help delay or slow the disease's progress. The new research, led by Xiang Gao from the Institute of Nutrition at Fudan University, focused on whether ultra-processed food might be linked to such early warning signs. "We previously showed that people with poor diet quality had a high future risk of Parkinson's disease, suggesting the important role of diet in the development of the condition," said Gao. "Recently, ultra-processed food, which are strongly associated with poor diet quality, have been shown to be associated with dementia, another major neurodegenerative disease. However the relation between ultra-processed food and

Parkinson's disease remained unknown." To investigate, the researchers studied health and diet data from 42,853 adults in the U.S., collected over several decades. They used detailed food questionnaires and tracked how often participants consumed ultra-processed items such as sugary snacks, soft drinks, and processed meats. The results showed that people who consumed the most ultra-processed foods were about 2.5 times more likely to have three or more early signs of Parkinson's. These included sleep behavior disorder, constipation, body pain, and depression. The link stayed strong even after researchers adjusted for other lifestyle factors like exercise, smoking, and total calorie intake.

To ensure that symptoms didn't influence eating habits, the team used diet data from at least six years before symptom assessments. They also found consistent results using older diet records from the 1980s. "Healthy dietary patterns, high in fruits and vegetables and low in ultra-processed foods, could be beneficial against risk of Parkinson's disease, an incurable neurodegenerative disease," said Gao. Still, researchers caution that this study doesn't prove cause and effect. Diet and symptoms were self-reported, and other factors like genetics or environment could play a role. But the study adds to growing evidence that eating fewer processed foods may help protect long-term brain health.

Briefs

**Gold prices
up Rs.1,000
to Rs.354,100
per tola**

ISLAMABAD, Jun 3 (AP-P): The price of 24 karat per tola gold witnessed an increase of Rs.1,000 on Tuesday and was sold at Rs.354,100 against its sale at Rs. 353,100 on the previous trading day, All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewelers Association reported. The prices of 10 grams of 24 karat also increased by Rs.857 to Rs.303,583 from Rs. 302,726 whereas the price of 10 grams of 22 Karat went up by Rs.786 to Rs.278,294 from Rs.277,508. The rates of per tola and ten gram silver went up by Rs130 and 112 to Rs.3,586 and Rs.3,074 respectively. The price of gold in the international market increased by \$10 to \$3,357 from \$3,347 whereas that of silver went up by \$1.3 to \$34.28, the Association reported.—APP

**Rupee sheds
14 paisa
against US
Dollar**

ISLAMABAD, Jun 3 (APP): The Rupee on Tuesday depreciated by 14 paisa against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 282.11 against the previous day's closing of Rs 281.97. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 283.5 and Rs 284.4, respectively. The price of the Euro increased by 06 paisa to close at Rs 322.12 against the last day's closing of Rs 322.06, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs1.97, whereas a decrease of Rs 0.60 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs 381.42 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs 382.02. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal increased by 04 and 06 paisa to close at Rs 76.81 and Rs 75.20, respectively.—APP

**KSA economic
growth to out-
strip US, UK,
France in 2026:
OECD**

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's real gross domestic product is projected to grow by 2.5 percent in 2026, a rate that surpasses forecasts for the US, Germany, the UK, and France, according to an analysis. In its latest report, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development said that the Kingdom's economy is projected to grow by 1.8 percent this year, also higher than several of its G20 peers. In April, the International Monetary Fund projected that the Kingdom's economy would witness a growth of 3 percent in 2025 and would further accelerate to 3.7 percent the following year. In its latest report, the OECD also downgraded its global economic growth prospects from 3 percent to 2.9 percent for both 2025 and 2026. "The global outlook is becoming increasingly challenging. Substantial increases in trade barriers, tighter financial conditions, weakened business and consumer confidence, and elevated policy uncertainty all pose significant risks to growth," said the OECD. It added: "Global GDP growth is projected to slow from 3.3 percent in 2024 to 2.9 percent this year and next year based on the assumption that tariff rates as of mid-May are sustained." Collectively, G20 nations are expected to witness an economic growth of 2.9 percent in both 2025 and 2026, with India bucking the trend amid economic volatility. According to the report, India's GDP is expected to expand by 6.3 percent in 2025 and 6.4 percent in 2026. The OECD added that China's economic growth will grow by 4.7 percent and 4.3 percent in 2025 and 2026, respectively, while the US is expected to witness an economic growth of 1.6 percent in 2025 and 1.5 percent in 2026.—APP

Subah appoints Niaz support as exclusive implementation partner

While Subah Sehar will provide global oversight, fundraising, and strategic direction from its U.S. base, Niaz Support will oversee all field implementation - ensuring that every Subah Sehar initiative related to mobility, education, employment, and inclusion for PWDs and their families is delivered effectively and with compassion

DNA

VANCOUVER, Canada : In a significant step toward advancing global disability inclusion, Subah Sehar Inc., a U.S.-based nonprofit organization registered under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and Niaz Support, a Pakistan-based social enterprise, have formalized a strategic partnership to deliver inclusive support services for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and their families across underserved communities. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in Vancouver, Canada, by Sehar Khemani, President of Subah Sehar Inc., and Hussain Odhwani, Founder of Niaz Support, establishing a shared commitment to accessible, impactful, and community-driven solutions for disability inclusion. Under this exclusive agreement, Niaz Support will serve as Subah Sehar's



sole on-ground implementation partner, responsible not only for the manufacturing and distribution of customized wheelchairs, but also for the full-scale implementation of all Subah Sehar programs and initiatives across mobility, inclusive education, employment, community inclusion, and family support for individuals with disabilities. "This partnership

brings together local expertise and global vision," said Sehar Khemani, President of Subah Sehar Inc. "Niaz Support's on-the-ground capabilities are unmatched, and together we aim to create sustainable, life-changing impact for people with disabilities around the world." Niaz Support, under the leadership of Hussain Odhwani, has emerged as a



trusted name in disability solutions across Pakistan, with a focus on innovation, quality, and empowerment. "We're proud to align with Subah Sehar in this mission," said Odhwani. "This collaboration allows us to scale our field operations globally, while staying deeply rooted in community needs and dignity-driven service." While Subah

Sehar will provide global oversight, fundraising, and strategic direction from its U.S. base, Niaz Support will oversee all field implementation - ensuring that every Subah Sehar initiative related to mobility, education, employment, and inclusion for PWDs and their families is delivered effectively and with compassion.

UK govt under pressure from own MPs over Israeli arms exports

LONDON: UK authorities are under pressure to halt arms exports to Israel from MPs within the governing Labour Party. Foreign Secretary David Lammy suspended around 30 arms export licenses to Israel in September, amid warnings that the weapons could be used to breach international law in Gaza, but hundreds of other licenses remain in place. During a parliamentary debate on Monday, Labour MP Steve Witherden criticized a lack of transparency on arms exports to Israel, and asked the government to explain what criteria would be needed to enact a broader ban. He highlighted the UK's role in the manufacture and export of parts for the F-35 fighter jet, which is used by the Israeli military. Palestinian rights group Al-Haq has previously said the export license for F-35 parts creates a "carve-out" that gives "rise to a significant risk of facilitating crime" by the Israeli military. Witherden said: "The foreign secretary's recent condemnation of Israel's action as 'monstrous' was welcome but incomplete, for my very same government continues to facilitate such actions. "We can't have it both ways. We can't condemn atrocity whilst simultaneously fueling the machinery that enables it. We can't claim to uphold international law while profiting from its breach." He added: "It's the government's position that the need to continue to supply F-35 components outweighs the risk of genocide and, if so, is there any circumstance that would lead to the UK stopping that supply? "The government has claimed that there are red lines that would trigger a halt to exports, but Gaza is already a slaughterhouse." Witherden continued: "Children are emaciated or dying of hunger. Hospitals have been intentionally destroyed. Israel's leaders vow to wipe out Gaza and still the weapons flow." He added: "I call on this government to suspend all arms exports to Israel to ensure that no British-made weapons are used in Israel's brutal plans to annex, starve and ethnically cleanse the Palestinian population." Trade Minister Douglas Alexander responded that UK rules prevent sales of F-35 components directly to Israel, but that as part of a global supply network, there are limits on what the UK could do to prevent parts reaching the country. "Undermining the F-35 program at this juncture would, in the view of the government, disrupt international peace and security, NATO deterrence and European defense as a whole," Alexander said, adding that he believes Israel's actions in responding to the "act of barbarism" by Hamas on Oct. 7, 2023, have been "disproportionate" and "counterproductive to any lasting peace settlement." He reminded MPs of the government's decision to suspend arms licenses shortly after taking office last year. "This measure is still in place and I'd like to reiterate that, based on our current assessment of potential breaches of international humanitarian law, we aren't licensing military equipment provided directly to the (Israeli military) that could be used for military operations in Gaza," he told the House of Commons. "It's right to acknowledge that our export licenses granted in relation to Israel cover a wider remit than simply those items that may be used in Gaza. "There are a relatively small number of licenses for the IDF (Israel Defense Forces) relating to equipment which we assess wouldn't be used in the current conflict including, for example, parts of air defense systems that defend Israel from acts such as the major aerial attack from Iran in April 2024. "We also think it's right for us to continue providing military-grade body armor used by non-governmental organizations and journalists, and to provide parts to the supply chain which are ultimately re-exported back out of Israel to support the defense of our NATO allies.—DNA

Russian farmers appeal to Putin for help against antelope invasion

MOSCOW: Farmers in Russia's Saratov region have appealed to President Vladimir Putin for help in dealing with an invasion of saiga antelopes that have migrated from Kazakhstan and devastated their fields. The appeal, posted on several popular farmers' channels on Telegram, said that the saiga population has grown uncontrollably in recent years, reaching up to one million in Russia alone. Saratov, located along the Volga River, is the country's sixth-largest grain-producing region, with an annual harvest of about 4 million metric tons, accounting for 3.5 percent of Russia's total grain harvest. Farmers reported that about 500,000 saigas crossed into Russia from Kazakhstan at the end of May. They said that thousands had drowned in local rivers, contaminating the water supply. "We hope for your understanding and assistance in resolving this situation, which threatens the very existence of agriculture in our region," the farmers said in their appeal. Culling or hunting saigas, which were nearly extinct in the 1990s, is prohibited in Russia. A separate letter to Putin, signed by heads of the region's leading farms and obtained by Reuters, said that crop losses from saigas are not covered by insurance because the animal is not yet listed as an agricultural pest. The Saratov regional Ministry of Agriculture said on Tuesday that it has set up damage assessment commissions and is developing a mechanism to support farmers. The surge in the population of saigas, easily recognized by their trunk-like nose that filters sand particles from the desert air, is considered a global conservation success story.—APP

Lebanon on bumpy road to public transport revival

BEIRUT: On Beirut's chaotic, car-choked streets, Lebanese student Fatima Fakih rides a shiny purple bus to university, one of a fleet rolled out by authorities to revive public transport in a country struggling to deliver basic services. The 19-year-old says the spacious public buses are "safer, better and more comfortable," than the informal network of private buses and minivans that have long substituted for mass transport. "I have my bus card — I don't have to have money with me," she added, a major innovation in Lebanon, where cash is king and many private buses and minivans have no tickets at all. Lebanon's public transport system never recovered from the devastating 1975-1990 civil war that left the country in ruins, and in the decades since, car culture

has flourished. Even before the economic crisis that began in 2019 — plunged much of the population into poverty and sent transport costs soaring — the country was running on empty, grappling with crumbling power, water and road infrastructure. But public buses, now equipped with GPS tracking, have been slowly returning. They operate along 11 routes — mostly in greater Beirut but also reaching north, south and east Lebanon — with a private company managing operations. Fares start at about 80 cents. Passengers told AFP the buses were not only safer and more cost-effective, but more environmentally friendly. They also offer a respite from driving on Lebanon's largely lawless, potholed roads, where mopeds hurtle in all directions and traffic lights are

scarce. The system officially launched last July, during more than a year of hostilities between Israel and militant group Hezbollah that later slammed the brakes on some services. Ali Daoud, 76, who remembers Lebanon's long-defunct trains and trams, said the public bus was "orderly and organized" during his first ride. The World Bank's Beirut office told AFP that Lebanon's "reliance on private vehicles is increasingly unsustainable," noting rising poverty rates and vehicle operation costs. Ziad Nasr, head of Lebanon's public transport authority, said passenger numbers now averaged around 4,500 a day, up from just a few hundred at launch. He said authorities hope to extend the network, including to Beirut airport, noting the need for more buses, and welcoming any in-

ternational support. France donated around half of the almost 100 buses now in circulation in 2022. Consultant and transport expert Tamam Nakhash said he hoped the buses would be "a good start" but expressed concern at issues including the competition. Private buses and minivans — many of them dilapidated and barreling down the road at breakneck speed — cost similar to the public buses. Shared taxis are also ubiquitous, with fares starting at around \$2 for short trips. Several incidents of violence targeted the new public buses around their launch last year. Student and worker Daniel Imad, 19, said he welcomed the idea of public buses but had not tried them yet. People "can go where they want for a low price" by taking shared taxis.—APP

French policeman to go on trial over 2023 killing of teen that sparked riots

Interior Minister Bruno Retailleau, who is taking an increasingly hard line on immigration issues, has faced accusations of not taking a strong enough stance against such crimes and even fueling a racist climate. But he said Monday that "every racist act is an anti-French act

PARIS: The French policeman who shot and killed a teenager at point-blank range in 2023 outside Paris, sparking days of riots, is to go on trial on a murder charge, a court and prosecutors said Tuesday. The trial of the officer, who has been charged with the murder of Nahel M., 17, could take place in the second or third quarter of 2026, the court and prosecutor in the Paris suburb of Nanterre where the killing took place said in a joint statement. The

officer, identified as Florian M., was released from custody in November 2023 after five months in detention. Mobile footage of him shooting Nahel inside a car during a traffic control on a busy street went viral. The anger sparked protests that degenerated into rioting and led to scenes of devastation nationwide. The police initially maintained that Nahel had driven his car at the officer but this was contradicted by the video, which

showed two officers standing outside a stationary car, with one pointing a weapon at its driver. "This order for a trial is both disappointing and not surprising," said Laurent-Franck Lienard, the officer's lawyer. "The investigating judge would have had to be courageous to take a different position than that of the prosecution" which pushed for the trial, the lawyer told AFP, adding that he would lodge an appeal against the order. "We maintain that

the shooting was legitimate," he said. Frank Berton, the lawyer for Nahel's mother, expressed his "satisfaction" over the move. "We are just seeing the law being applied... Now all that remains is to convince the court," he said. The move to try the officer over the death of Nahel, who was of north African origin, comes against the background of new tensions in France over racism and security. A man who had posted racist videos shot dead his

Tunisian neighbor and badly wounded a Turkish man in the south of France at the weekend, and a Malian man was stabbed to death in a mosque in April. Interior Minister Bruno Retailleau, who is taking an increasingly hard line on immigration issues, has faced accusations of not taking a strong enough stance against such crimes and even fueling a racist climate. But he said Monday that "every racist act is an anti-French act."

China's Dragon Boat Festival revenue hits 400m yuan

BEIJING: As of 12:47 p.m. on Monday, China's box office revenue for the 2025 Dragon Boat Festival holiday had surpassed 400 million yuan (about 55.67 million U.S. dollars), a significant increase compared to the same period last year, according to box office tracker Maoyan. The summer blockbuster "Mission: Impossible — The Final Reckoning," the eighth installment in the long-running Hollywood action franchise, leads the holiday box office chart. As of 12:47 p.m., the film had grossed about 165.31 million yuan during the holiday period. As this year's Dragon Boat Festival coincides with the International Children's Day, the holiday lineup features a variety of family-friendly animated films that have captivated audiences nationwide. The second to fourth spots of the holiday box office chart were dominated by animated films, including Japanese animated film "Doraemon the Movie: Nobita's Art World Tales," domestic animated adventure "Endless Journey of Love," and Disney's live-action adaptation of "Lilo & Stitch." The Dragon Boat Festival — also known as the Duanwu Festival — falls on the fifth day of the fifth month on the Chinese lunar calendar. This year, it was celebrated on May 31, and the holiday continues from May 31 to June 2.—APP

Philippines sees 500% increase in HIV cases among young people

MANILA: The number of young Filipinos infected with HIV has increased by 500 percent, Health Secretary Teodoro Herbosa said on Tuesday, as he called for a national public health emergency to be declared. The Philippines has been facing the fastest-growing HIV epidemic in the Western Pacific region due to the continuous rise in infections. Health officials have been recording around 56 new cases daily since the beginning of April, a total of 5,101. The latest figure is approximately 50 percent higher than during the same period last year. "We've seen a 500 percent increase in HIV cases among those aged 15 to 25. In fact, the youngest person diagnosed was just 12 years old, in the province of Palawan," Herbosa said in a video statement. "Based on our data, we now have the highest number of new cases in the Western Pacific region. What's frightening is the high number of new cases among our youth." The Philippines saw a 543 percent increase in new infections between 2010 and 2023, according to the UNAIDS global report released in November. There are currently 148,831 active HIV cases in the country, which has a population of 117 million. While the spread of HIV has slowed drastically in many parts of the world since the epidemic's peak in 1995, infections have been rising steeply for over a decade in the Philippines. Officials recorded 48 daily cases on average last year, compared to 21 in 2014. The government has warned that if the current trend continues, the number of people living with HIV could more than double. "If we don't stop the increase in HIV cases, we could reach over 400,000 people living with HIV ... It would be better to declare a public health emergency or national emergency for HIV, so that the entire society and government can work together in this campaign to reduce new cases," said Herbosa. Though screening for the virus and treatment is free in state-run clinics, stigma surrounding HIV continues to be a major barrier for many Filipinos. Only 55 percent of those living with the virus in the Philippines have been diagnosed, according to government data, while only 66 percent of those are on lifesaving antiretroviral therapy. "Some people are afraid to get tested," Herbosa said. "We now also have HIV self-test kits in the Philippines, and I hope these self-test kits are used, especially to address the stigma.—APP

Briefs

PSX rises ahead of budget as momentum builds

KSE-100 Index climbs to intraday high of 119,990.35, gaining 1,112.55 points, or 0.94%

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Stocks rose on Tuesday as investors tracked developments related to the upcoming federal budget and national development allocations under International Monetary Fund (IMF) conditions. The Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) benchmark KSE-100 Index climbed to an intraday high of 119,990.35, gaining 1,112.55 points, or 0.94%. The index touched a low of 119,129.51, still up by 251.71 points, or 0.21%.

The previous session on Monday saw the market close lower, with the KSE-100 Index falling by 813.29 points, or 0.68%, to 118,877.81. The index had touched a high of 120,590.77 and a low of 118,672.84 during the session. "Market is being driven by sentiments related to budget, rumours related to taxation on different sectors and market," said Samiullah Tariq, Head of Research at PakKuwait Investment Company, as investors priced in implications of fiscal constraints on growth and development spending. Pakistan and the IMF are edging closer to an agreement on proposed tax relief for the salaried class in the upcoming 2025-26 federal budget, The News reported on Sunday. IMF officials have given in-principle approval to lower income tax rates across various salary slabs, with estimated relief of Rs56-60 billion.

Pakistan eyes digital finance future

This framework is expected to cover various aspects

DNA

KARACHI: Pakistan has officially commenced the drafting of a comprehensive regulatory framework for digital and virtual assets, signalling a significant move by the government to formally oversee the booming cryptocurrency ecosystem. The initiative was launched during a high-level meeting of the Pakistan Crypto Council (PCC) held in Islamabad on Monday, chaired by Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb. Key stakeholders participated in the crucial deliberations. Minister of State and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Blockchain and Crypto, Bilal Bin Saqib, who also serves as CEO of the PCC, joined the meeting virtually. The governor of SBP also attended remotely, while the chairperson of SECP and secretaries from the Law and IT ministries were present in person.

Fourth arrest made in DHA motorcyclist assault case



"No one is above the law. The matter is being taken very seriously," says DIG South Syed Asad Raza

BUREAU REPORT

KARACHI: The number of arrests in the DHA assault incident rose to four on Monday after Karachi police apprehended a second suspect seen assaulting a young motorcyclist in viral video footage. According to police, the second individual was identified using CCTV evidence and taken into custody a day after the arrest of prime suspect Salman Farooqi. "This individual can also be seen attacking the victim in the video," officials said. Farooqi's guard and driver had earlier been arrested as well, bringing the total number of arrests to four. The case, which has drawn widespread public outrage, was registered at Gizri police station on the complaint of an eyewitness named Saleem. He said that a minor collision took place on May 31 between an SUV and a motorcycle near Ittehad Commercial in DHA Phase VI. Following the accident, an apology was also offered by the motorcyclist and his sisters. Farooqi allegedly ordered his associates to forcibly detain the motorcyclist inside his vehicle, where he was beaten, threatened at gunpoint, and humiliated. The victim's sister, who was present, was also reportedly shoved despite her pleas. Several bystanders recorded the incident, and videos soon went viral online, prompting immediate notice from SSP South and the interior minister. DIG South Syed Asad Raza confirmed that Farooqi was arrested and placed in custody at Gizri police station. His vehicle has also been impounded. The DIG clarified that the suspect is not a government official, dismissing reports of initial inaction by police. "No one is above the law. The matter is being taken very seriously. The victim will receive full justice," Karachi Police Chief, Additional IG Javed Alam Odho, also directed South District SSP to ensure swift arrest and legal proceedings against all those involved.

Pakistan and Azerbaijan mull cooperation in various sectors

Ali Pervaiz Malik, Minister for Petroleum held a meeting with Ali Asadov, Azerbaijan's Prime Minister



DNA

BAKU: Ali Pervaiz Malik, Minister for Petroleum held a meeting with Ali Asadov, Azerbaijan's Prime Minister. The meeting hailed the dynamic development of friendly and fraternal relations between Azerbaijan and Pakistan across all fields. The parties highlighted the importance of the events

held as part of the Baku Energy Week in promoting international energy cooperation. During the meeting, the sides explored the opportunities for cooperation in the energy sector, and reviewed promising oil and gas projects between the two countries. Meanwhile Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik and President of the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR) on Tuesday discussed

enhancing bilateral energy cooperation and exploring new avenues for collaboration in the oil and gas sector in Baku.

According to a news release received here, the meeting focused on strengthening ties between Pakistan and Azerbaijan in the energy domain. Both sides exchanged views on mutual interests, including potential investments and joint ventures, to bolster energy security and sustainable development.

Ali Pervaiz Malik highlighted Pakistan's commitment to fostering strong partnerships with global energy leaders like SOCAR. He also informed about the government's efforts to create an investor-friendly environment to encourage more investment in the country. Rovshan Najaf commended Pakistan's progress in the energy sector and expressed SOCAR's interest in deepening engagement with Pakistani counterparts.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for early completion of dam

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday, calling the country's self-reliance linked with affordable electricity and agriculture, directed the authorities concerned to ensure early completion of Diamer Bhasha Dam by removing all impediments. The prime minister, chairing a meeting on the construction of Diamer Bhasha Dam and the other matters of water resources, said that building new dams was crucial to enhance water storage capacity, ensure water supply for agriculture, and prevent floods. He said that the country's self-dependence was linked with affordable electricity and agriculture, which required increased water storage and efficient water usage. The prime minister directed prioritizing the completion of projects like Diamer Bhasha Dam to establish an effective system for energy production and abundant water storage. The meeting was attended by federal ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Engineer Amir Muqam, Azam Nazeer Tarar, and Moeen Wattoo, Adviser to Prime Minister Rana Sanaullah, Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan Gulbar Khan, and relevant senior government officials. - DNA

TAROM Joins Global Airline Effort to Fight Human Trafficking

BUCHAREST: Romania's national airline, TAROM has joined a global initiative led by the SkyTeam airline alliance to combat human trafficking, the airline announced. According to a company press release, SkyTeam and its member airlines launched the first worldwide airline campaign against human trafficking with a joint Anti-Human Trafficking Declaration signed in Delhi. The effort aims to prevent trafficking by raising awareness and improving cooperation. Human trafficking affects millions globally, with many victims transported by air. As part of SkyTeam, TAROM will work closely with authorities and non-government groups to stop trafficking. The airline will promote a culture of vigilance, empathy, and respect for human rights among its staff. "TAROM's CEO, Costin Iordache, said, 'Joining this initiative was natural. Human trafficking has no place in the world we want. Through education, teamwork, and action, we can make a difference.'" - Agencies

Pakistan team briefs OIC members on 'grave' developments in South Asia

UNITED NATIONS: The high-level Pakistani parliamentary delegation, led by PPP Chairman and former Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, briefed members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) at the UN on the grave developments in South Asia following India's military aggression and its baseless accusations against Pakistan in the aftermath of the Pahalgam attack. Addressing the OIC Permanent Representatives, Bilawal categorically rejected India's attempt to link Pakistan to the Pahalgam incident without any credible investigation or evidence, according to a press release issued by Pakistan Mission to the UN. He also highlighted that the hasty attribution of blame was used as a pretext for unlawful military actions, including cross-border strikes, which targeted civilians and civilian infrastructure.

Bilawal expressed grave concern at the unilateral suspension of the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty - a move that Pakistan considers a blatant act of weaponizing water and a violation of international and treaty obligations. He made it clear that Pakistan cannot allow this to become a new normal. He stressed that due to India's belligerent aggression, the world had become a less safe place, with real and present implications for peace and security in South Asia. The former foreign minister thanked the OIC countries for their efforts and role aimed at de-escalation, mediation and

ceasefire. He underscored that the only path to peace is dialogue, engagement and diplomacy. Reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to peace, restraint, and diplomacy, he called for the restoration of the Indus Waters Treaty, full respect for the ceasefire, and the resumption of a comprehensive dialogue with India, with the resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute at its core. The delegation leader underlined that OIC has emerged as the moral conscience of the world in these difficult times and thanked the OIC member states for their steadfast support for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He reiterated that the Jammu and Kashmir dispute remains pivotal to the establishment of lasting peace in South Asia. He urged the OIC member states to continue their principled support for the legitimate rights of the Kashmiri people, particularly their right to self-determination as enshrined in UN Security Council resolutions. The Permanent Representatives of OIC countries expressed appreciation for Pakistan's transparent and timely briefing and reaffirmed their solidarity with Pakistan and the people of Jammu and Kashmir, according to the press release. They reiterated their concern over the worsening security situation in South Asia and stressed the importance of upholding the principles of the UN Charter and international law, and in this regard, the sanctity of treaties, including the Indus Water Treaty. - Agencies

Police continue manhunt after over 200 inmates escape Karachi prison
Around 130 prisoners remain at large as security forces intensify efforts to bring fugitives back into custody

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: A large-scale manhunt is underway after at least 213 inmates escaped from Karachi's Malir Jail during an earthquake-related evacuation, authorities confirmed early Tuesday. During the jailbreak, at least one prisoner was killed and several security personnel were injured, said rescue sources. While around 80 prisoners have been recaptured, more than 130 remain at large as security forces intensify efforts to bring the fugitives back into custody. Jail Superintendent Arshad Shah said the jailbreak occurred when inmates from Circles No 4 and 5 were taken out of their barracks as

a safety precaution during the tremors. "More than 600 prisoners were outside their cells at the time. Amid the chaos, 213 managed to flee," he explained. Sindh's Home Minister Zia-ul-Hasan Lajjar described the incident as one of the most serious jailbreaks in recent years. He noted that between 700 to 1,000 prisoners had gathered near the main gate following the evacuation, where nearly 100 inmates forced the gate open and escaped. "About 46 have been caught, and we expect the rest will be rearrested soon," he added. The minister confirmed that all escapees have been identified and that targeted raids are underway at their residences and adjoining areas. He also confirmed that the chief minister has been briefed and has instructed him to visit the prison.

UN renews call for release of detained staff in Yemen

NEW YORK: United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has once again urged the Houthi group in Yemen to immediately and unconditionally release dozens of UN, humanitarian and diplomatic personnel who have been arbitrarily detained since 2021 and 2023.

In a statement marking one year since the detention of some of the staff and coinciding with the upcoming Eid Al Adha, Guterres reiterated his strong condemnation of the death of a World Food Programme employee while in Houthi custody earlier this year. He called for a prompt and transparent investigation and accountability for those responsible, noting that the Houthis have yet to provide any explanation regarding the incident. The Secretary-General described the ongoing detentions as a "grave injustice" that hinders the organisation's ability to operate effectively and undermines peace efforts. He assured the detainees that "they are not forgotten." Guterres also urged UN member states to intensify their efforts to secure the release of the detained staff. - APP

Karachi hit by 19 minor earthquakes since Sunday

Chief meteorologist says Landhi Fault Region likely cause of ongoing seismic activity

DNA

KARACHI has now experienced 19 mild earthquakes since Sunday, the Seismic Monitoring Centre of the PMD confirmed on Tuesday. The latest tremor occurred at 9:57am, registering a magnitude of 2.8. The epicentre of the 16th quake was located northeast of Malir, approximately 15 kilometres from the area, at a depth of 40 kilometres. Previously, two back-to-back tremors were recorded late Monday night - the first at midnight with a magnitude of 2.6 and the second at 12:23am measuring 2.8. Both had a depth of 40 kilometres and were centred northeast of Malir.

The third tremor occurred at 6:42am Tuesday with a magnitude of 3.2 and a shallower depth of 11 kilometres, near Korangi. Since Sunday evening, repeated mild tremors have been felt in Karachi's Landhi, Quaidabad, Malir, and surrounding neighbourhoods, raising concerns among residents. No significant damage or injuries have been reported. Chief Meteorologist Aamir Haider attributed the ongoing seismic activity to the activation of the Landhi Fault Line, which he said is currently going through a normalisation phase. According to Haider, mild earthquakes may continue for up to another week as energy is gradually being released from the fault line.

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