



Islamabad POST

Thursday, June 26, 2025

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

Mamdani 'set to take over' New York City as first Muslim mayor

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US keen to expand coop with Pakistan

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Government to promote sports: Rana Sanaullah

Detailed News On Page-06



Post war development

Iran suspends cooperation with IAEA

The International Atomic Energy Agency, which refused to even marginally condemn the attack on Iran's nuclear facilities, put its international credibility up for auction," Iran's parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said

AGENCIES

TEHRAN: Iranian lawmakers voted Wednesday in favour of suspending cooperation with the United Nations' nuclear watchdog, state TV said, after a 12-day war that saw Israeli and US strikes on nuclear facilities. "The International Atomic Energy Agency, which refused to even marginally condemn the attack on Iran's nuclear facilities, put its international credibility up for auction," Iran's parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said, according to state TV. Ghalibaf said "the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran will suspend its cooperation with the IAEA until the security of the nuclear facilities is guaranteed." The decision still requires the approval of the Guardian Council, a body empowered to vet legislation. In parliament, 221 lawmakers voted in favour and one abstained, with no votes against from those present in the 290-seat legislature, according to state TV. Israel on June 13 launched a major bombardment campaign that targeted Iranian nuclear facilities and killed top military commanders and nuclear scientists. On Sunday, Israel's ally the United States launched unprecedented strikes of its own on Iranian nuclear facilities at Fordo, Isfahan and Natanz, before a ceasefire was agreed on Tuesday. Lawmakers chanted "Death to America" and "Death to Israel" after the vote on

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Trump survives impeachment vote

Vote data reveals that 128 Democrats sided with all 216 House Republicans to block Al Green's resolution

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: United States President Donald Trump survived an impeachment attempt in the House of Representatives on Tuesday, as a resolution brought forth by Representative Al Green to impeach him over recent strikes on Iran was overwhelmingly tabled. The 344-79 vote saw a significant number of Democrats join with Republicans to quash the measure. The vote breakdown revealed that 128 Democrats sided with all 216 House Republicans to block Green's resolution, Politico reported. This group included much of the Democratic leadership, such as House Minority Leader Hakeem

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NSA attends 20th meeting of SCO in Beijing

DNA

ISLAMABAD: National Security Advisor (NSA) attended the 20th meeting of the secretaries of the Security Council of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Member States, being held on 24 June 2025 at Beijing, China. According to a news release, during the visit, in addition to interacting with Chinese leadership, NSA delivered an important speech reiterating Pakistan's stance on the global, regional situation and contributions to peace and security, besides meetings with key leadership of SCO countries to enhance bilateral and security cooperation.

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No chance of Asif, Rajnath meeting at SCO

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Settling dust on media speculation, the Foreign Office has clarified no meeting is scheduled between Defence Minister Khawaja Asif and his Indian counterpart Rajnath Singh during Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' Meeting. The Foreign Office said this in a statement confirming that Asif will participate in the SCO meeting in Qingdao, China, which begins on Wednesday (today). On the other hand, Turkish media reports have suggested the possibility of the first face-to-face meeting between the defence ministers of two South Asian countries

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Four killed in landmine blast in Kurram district

APP

PESHAWAR: Four people died and four others were seriously injured when a landmine exploded in the Peshawar Sharamkhel area of Upper Kurram district on Wednesday. According to police, the victims were collecting firewood in the mountains when they accidentally stepped on a landmine planted along their path. The injured were rushed to a nearby hospital and were currently receiving treatment. One of the survivors said, "We were gathering wood as usual when suddenly there was a loud blast.

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ABU DHABI: Deputy Prime Minister/Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, received by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the UAE, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan. – DNA

Cementing ties

JMC reviews full scope of Pak-UAE bilateral relations

12th session of Pakistan-UAE Joint Ministerial Commission held in Abu Dhabi

DNA

ABU DHABI: The 12th session of Pakistan-UAE Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) was held in Abu Dhabi on 24 June 2025. It was co-chaired by Deputy Prime Minister/Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the UAE, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Prior to the formal proceedings, a working group meeting of the JMC was held under the leadership of Special Assistant to the Prime Minister of Pakistan Tariq Bajwa and Minister of State of the United Arab Emirates Ahmed Ali Al Sayegh. The JMC reviewed the full scope of bilateral relations and agreed on concrete measures to strengthen cooperation in trade, banking, culture, investment, aviation,

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Pakistan and UAE hold political consultations

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: The Second Round of Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) between Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) was held in Abu Dhabi on 25 June 2025. Pakistan delegation was led by His Excellency Sherryar Akbar Khan, Additional Foreign Secretary (Middle East), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while the UAE side was headed by Her Excellency Reem Ketait, Deputy Assistant Minister for Political Affairs. During the consultations, both sides

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Briefs

Astronauts from India, Poland, Hungary launched

DNA

WASHINGTON: NASA retiree turned private astronaut Peggy Whitson was launched on the fifth flight to orbit of her career early on Wednesday, joined by crewmates from India, Poland and Hungary heading for their countries' first visit to ISS. The astronaut team lifted off from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida, at about 2:30am EDT (11:30am PKT), beginning the latest mission organized by Texas-based startup Axiom Space in partnership with Elon Musk's rocket venture SpaceX. The four-member crew was carried aloft on a towering SpaceX launch vehicle consisting of a Crew Dragon capsule perched atop a two-stage Falcon 9 rocket.

Punjab predicted to receive 25pc more rains

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Punjab is predicted to receive 25 per cent more monsoon rains this year, Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Director General Irfan Ali Kathia said on Wednesday. Separately, Karachi is expected to receive rainfall on June 27 (Friday), the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) said – potentially ending an ongoing wave of extreme heat and humid weather. The PMD has already forecast monsoon rain across the country from Wednesday, June 25. Monsoon rains fall across the region from June to September, offering respite from the summer heat and are crucial to replenishing water supplies.

Fears war may start again

Trump says US will hold talks with Iran 'next week'

US President admits Iran losses; allow China to buy oil from Tehran

CENTRELINE REPORT

THE HAGUE: Former U.S. President Donald Trump announced Wednesday that the United States will hold talks with Iran next week, hinting at a potential agreement on Tehran's nuclear program. "We're going to talk to them next week with Iran, we may sign an agreement, I don't know," Trump said during a press briefing. His remarks suggest a possible shift in U.S. policy toward Iran, despite years of tensions under his previous administration. In a surprising admission, Trump acknowledged Iran's economic struggles following years of U.S. sanctions and regional conflicts. "Iran has faced losses after war, and we must consider realistic solutions," he stated. In a move that could ease pressure on Tehran, Trump revealed that the U.S. would allow China to purchase Iranian oil, providing Iran with much-needed economic relief. "Letting China buy oil from Iran helps stabilize their economy, which is better for global security," he argued. Trump also claimed that the world is

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US 'totally committed' to collective defence pledge

APP

THE HAGUE: NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte said on Wednesday that the United States was "totally committed" to the alliance's mutual defence clause, after President Donald Trump appeared to cast doubt on it. "For me, there is absolute clarity that the United States is totally committed to NATO, totally committed to Article Five," Rutte told reporters ahead of a summit meeting of alliance leaders. On his way to the summit, Trump refused to commit to NATO's Article Five clause, the basic agreement that says an attack on

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Pakistan and United States to conclude tariff talks next week

Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, US commerce secretary discuss strengthening economic ties

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the United States have agreed to finalise their ongoing trade negotiations on reciprocal tariffs by next week, according to a statement released by the Ministry of Finance on Wednesday. The development comes following a virtual meeting between Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb and US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick. Pakistan faces a potential 29% tariff on exports to the United States due to a \$3 billion trade surplus with the world's biggest economy, under tariffs announced by Washington last month on countries around the world. Tariffs were subsequently suspended for 90 days so negotiations could take place. Islamabad last month sent a high-level delegation to the US for negotiations aimed at enhancing bilateral trade relations and addressing concerns related to newly imposed US tariffs on Pakistani imports. Earlier in May, Pakistan proposed a zero-tariff bilateral trade agreement to the United States, offering wide-ranging economic concessions. Additionally, Pakistan has offered to increase imports from the United States, particularly cotton and edible oils, which are in short domestic supply.

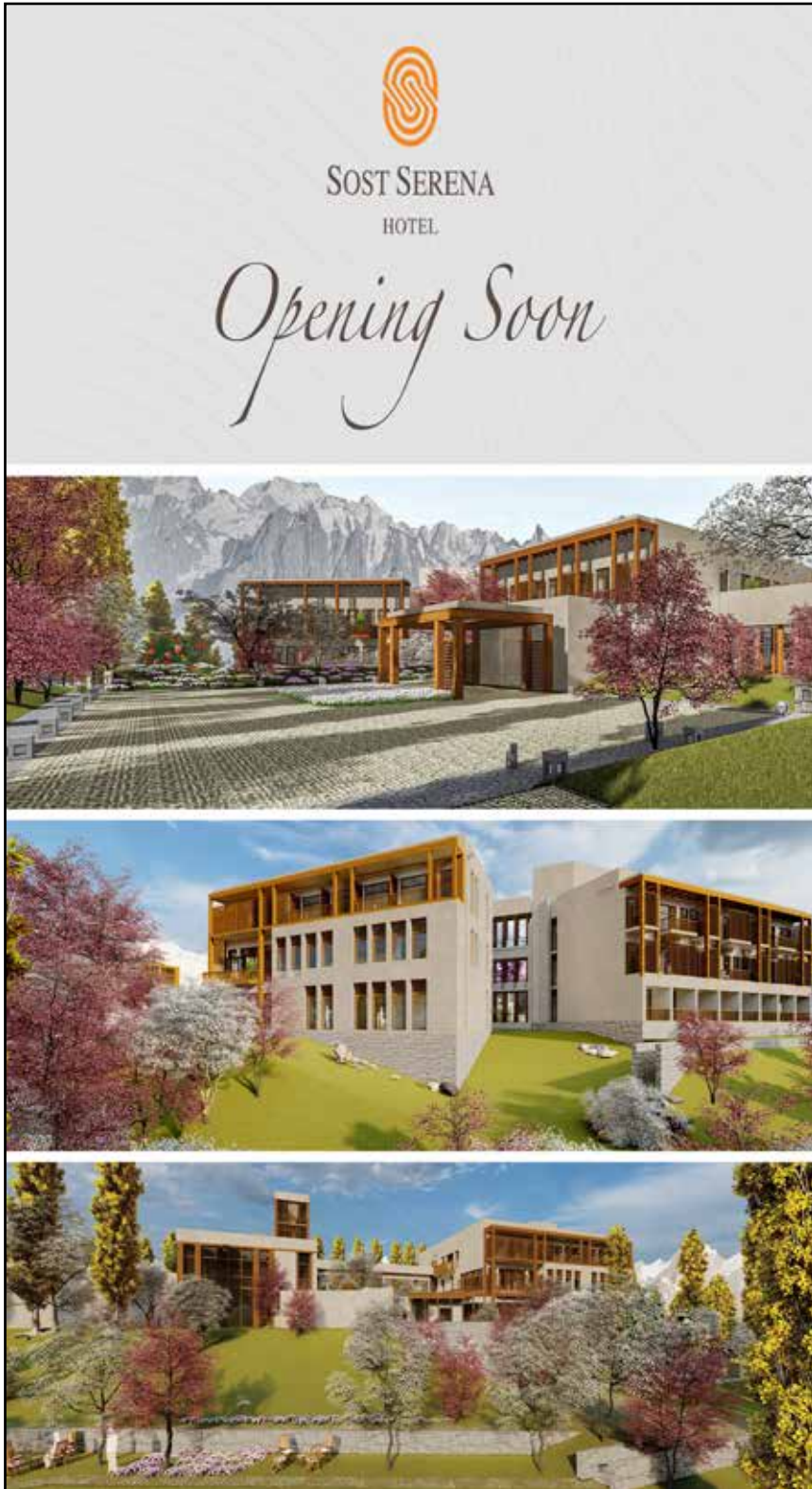
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Sindh Assembly passes budget

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The Sindh Assembly on Wednesday approved the provincial budget for the fiscal year 2025-26 with a total outlay of Rs3.45 trillion – a 12.9% increase from the previous year. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, who also holds the portfolio of finance, presented the Sindh Finance Bill 2025 in the house. All 2,000 cut motions of the opposition were rejected with a majority vote. While presenting the Sindh Finance Bill, the chief minister said the budget aims to strengthen social protection, infrastructure, and economic reform. The finance bill introduced key tax reliefs and amendments to streamline levies. Among the major relief measures is the withdrawal of six levies, notably the professional tax, providing a Rs5 billion benefit to salaried individuals and small businesses.

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Sindh Assembly passes Rs 3.45t budget

The government is introducing blockchain-based land record digitisation, online mobile-based birth registrations, and credit access for farmers via the Sindh Cooperative Bank. A one-step land ownership transfer system is also being launched

DNA

KARACHI:The Sindh Assembly on Wednesday approved the provincial budget for the fiscal year 2025-26, presented by Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, with a total outlay of Rs3,450 billion which marks a 12.9 per cent increase compared to the previous financial year. The removal or withdrawal of six levies, especially the Professional Tax, will benefit the people, with the latter providing a Rs5 billion relief. The budget emphasises social protection, infrastructure development, economic reforms, and comprehensive relief measures for the underprivileged. Assembly members discussed expenditures charged to the provincial consolidation fund and reviewed and voted on demands for grants on supplementary statements for the year 2024-25. There were a total of 188 demands, against which the opposition moved 2002 cut motions, which were rejected by a majority vote; most of the cut motions were grouped together and rejected. The assembly passed demands for grants for the year 2025-26 after discussion and voting. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presented the Sindh Finance Bill in the house to rationalise levies and certain taxes and duties and to amend relevant laws. The government is introducing blockchain-based land record digitisation, online mobile-based birth registrations, and credit access for farmers via the Sindh Cooperative Bank. A one-step land ownership transfer system is also being launched. The

budget provides Rs43 billion for a new Ad-hoc Relief Allowance and Rs16 billion for a 15 per cent increase in pensions. The chief minister announced to remove six levies from the upcoming financial year 2025-26. They include: The Professional Tax, which affects salaried people and small businesses, has been withdrawn. This alone is a Rs5 billion relief to the salaried people and businessmen, particularly the small ones. The Entertainment Duty, which will help encourage cultural and entertainment activities across the province, has also been withdrawn/removed. He said Govt has reduced 50per cent in fees for mutation, sales certificates, certified copies, solvency and heirship certificates. Yearly commercial vehicle tax capped at Rs1,000. Rationalisation of entertainment duty, drainage cess, and cotton fee. Significant grants have been earmarked for critical institutions such as Rs42.2 billion for public universities, Rs 10.4 billion for medical education, Rs5 billion for an Inclusive City for PWDs, Rs6.6 billion for the Sindh Institute of Child Health and Neonatology and Rs5.2 billion for ambulance services under SIEHS. The chief minister, who also holds the finance portfolio, highlighted key macroeconomic indicators while unveiling the budget. Pakistan's national GDP growth target for 2025-26 has been set at 4.2pc, up from the actual 2.68% recorded in 2024-25. Inflation is targeted at 7.5pc, compared to 4.7pc this year. The Federal Board of Revenue's (FBR) target for 2025-26 has been set at Rs14,131 billion. The total expenditure includes Rs 2,150 billion under Current Revenue Expenditure

(CRE), constituting 62pc of the total outlay. This covers salaries, pensions, grants, operations, and maintenance. Development expenditure, which accounts for 30pc of the budget, stands at Rs1,018.3 billion and includes the Annual Development Programme (ADP), foreign-assisted projects, and district development allocations. Capital expenditure amounts to Rs281.7 billion, covering loan repayments, viability gap funding, and investments. Within the CRE, 39 pc is earmarked for salaries, 29 pc for grants (including local bodies and autonomous institutions), 19 pc for non-salary operating costs and maintenance, and 13 pc for pensions. Despite previous fiscal challenges and revenue shortfalls, with a -3.6 pc shortfall against budgeted estimates in FY 2024-25, the provincial government expects a significant recovery. For FY 2025-26, total receipts are projected at Rs3,111.5 billion, marking a 21.4pc increase from the revised estimate of Rs2,562.7 billion. Over the next three years, Sindh anticipates an annual average revenue growth rate of 12.5pc. If the FBR achieves its revised target of Rs11.7 trillion by June 2025, Sindh expects a share of around Rs269 billion in the federal divisible pool taxes. The provincial ADP is a key highlight within the Rs1.018 trillion development spending. Major development themes include: Agriculture & Rural Support: Rs8 billion allocated for the Benazir Hari Card scheme and Rs1.8 billion for livestock breeding, Farm Mechanisation: Introduction of solar tubewells, drip irrigation systems, and super seeders at subsidised rates.



ISLAMABAD: Syed Tauqeer Hussain Shah Advisor to the Prime Minister called on Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Nawaf Saeed Al Maliki. DNA

Khabeer discusses peace, harmony with ulema

MULTAN: Chairman Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Maulana Muhammad Abdul Khabeer Azad said on Wednesday that peace was essential for national progress and it could only be ensured by setting aside differences. He was addressing an ul-ea meeting, held at the Deputy Commissioner's office here. Religious scholars stressed the need for harmony and promotion of moral values ahead of the holy month of Muharram-ul-Haram. Maulana Azad urged religious scholars to cooperate with the district administration in fostering unity and establishing peace in line with the teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). He called on ulema to deliver messages of unity from their respective platforms and to remain vigilant in their surroundings, ensuring that no suspicious individuals entered their gatherings. Earlier, Maulana Azad met local ulema and officials of the district administration as part of his special visit to the area. Later, he presided over a meeting of religious scholars along with Deputy Commissioner Quarat-ul-Aam Memon and District Police Officer Rizwan Ahmed. Those present at the meeting included Chairman Ulema and Mashaikh Peace Committee Maulana Abdul Mabud Azad, Abdul Ghani Saqib, Mufti Yaar Muhammad Saeedi, Syed Abdul Sabir, Mian Ajmal, and others.

Heavy rains trigger landslides in Galiyat

ABBOTTABAD: Continuous rainfall in the scenic region of Galiyat has led to multiple incidents of landslides and falling rocks from the surrounding mountains, causing disruptions to traffic flow at various points along key roads here on Wednesday. Traffic police have urged both tourists and local residents to exercise extreme caution.—APP

Punjab CM okays 189 cities uplift

LAHORE:Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif presided over a high-level meeting to review the progress and planning of the Punjab Development Programme, here on Wednesday. During the meeting, the CM granted formal approval for the construction and development of 189 cities across the province under the Punjab Development Programme. To ensure timely and effective execution, the formation of a Project Management Unit (PMU) was agreed upon. The Punjab Development Programme will be implemented in collaboration

with international financial institutions, including the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Under the World Bank-funded Punjab Inclusive Cities Programme (PICP), uplift and development projects will be launched in 15 cities, while the ADB's DREAMS-II project will cover development in four cities. Additionally, 11 cities will undergo prioritized development under the Annual Development Program (ADP). Furthermore, a total of 144 cities have been included in the ADP for infrastructure development and urban improvement

initiatives. Development works in these cities will be aligned with modern urban planning standards to enhance quality of life. The CM directed all relevant departments to work in close coordination with stakeholders and expedite the execution of approved projects. She also called for the introduction of standardized bye-laws for shopfront designs to ensure architectural uniformity and urban aesthetics. "After the completion of this program, every city in Punjab should reflect beauty, order, and modernity," she added.—APP

Awareness session on National Electric Vehicle Policy held

PESHAWAR:The provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa organized an awareness session on National Electric Vehicle Policy (2025-30) here at Civil Secretariat on Wednesday. The session was jointly presided over by Special Assistants to the Chief Minister for Industries, Abdul Karim Tordher, and for Transport, Rangez Khan, along with Federal Secretary for Industries and Production, Saif Anjum. Federal Secretary Industries and Production, Saif Anjum gave a detailed presentation to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government five-year National Electric Vehicle Policy (2025-30) aimed at promotion of electric mobility and eco-friendly transport across the country. The workshop was attended by Additional Chief Secretary Planning & Development Department Ikramullah, Secretary Planning and Development Department Adeel Shah, Secretary Transport Masood Younas, along with other senior officials, representatives from federal and provincial departments, industrialists, business leaders, President of Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industries

(SCCI), Fazal Muqem, representatives from traders' associations and other key stakeholders. The workshop was organized to raise awareness about the new national policy and to strengthen coordination between federal and provincial governments. Participants actively contributed suggestions for further improving the policy. Under the new five-year policy, a target has been set to convert 30% of the country's vehicles to electric by 2030. To support this transition, 3,000 electric vehicle charging stations will be established nationwide. The federal secretary gave a detailed briefing on the new policy, covering its framework, strategic objectives, expected benefits, institutional mechanisms and the roadmap for implementation. Addressing the participants of the workshop, the Special Assistant to KP CM on Industries, Abdul Karim Tordher has said that the world is moving towards environmentally friendly transport solutions and the promotion of electric vehicles (EVs) is a significant step in this direction. He said that sincere policy-making efforts in Pakistan is a positive step in this regard, but emphasized the urgent need for a

clear and comprehensive regulatory framework to ensure effective implementation. On this occasion, the Special Assistant, Abdul Karim Tordher noted that although the new policy was brought for consultation process in a short time, it still represents a positive step toward environmental protection. He stressed the importance of developing local manufacturing capabilities for electric vehicles, particularly in the production of lithium batteries. He called for the introduction of investor-friendly models and transparent leasing mechanisms to promote local industry for battery manufacturing. He further stressed the need for a robust regulatory system to address issues such as battery lifespan, safe disposal after use and potential environmental impacts. He also highlighted the importance of a transparent policy on the location, accessibility and operational protocols of charging stations. Karim Tordher assured that the Industries Department, through the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment and Trade, would maintain close liaison with federal agencies in case of any coordination at the provincial level.—APP

Hina assures justice, full support for Christian rape victim

LAHORE: Chairperson Punjab Women Protection Authority (PWPA) Hina Pervaiz Butt visited the house of a young Christian girl, who was raped in Manga Mandi area of Lahore, here on Tuesday. According to the FIR, the girl was not only repeatedly sexually abused by her paternal uncle, but was also later handed over to other individuals. Hina Pervaiz Butt described the tragic incident as a grave attack on human values and the sanctity of familial bonds. She said the incident was enough to shake the collective con-

science of society. "When a girl is subjected to such cruelty by a close relative and treated as a toy in the hands of others, the silence of the state becomes a crime," she added. The chairperson paid tribute to the police for the prompt arrest of all the main accused and said that the case is not just about the girl or her family, it is a case of conscience of the entire minority community and society. Hina Pervaiz announced that the PWPA will provide complete legal, medical, psychological and social protection

to the victim girl, and the case will remain under their direct supervision. "We will try our best to get the culprits punished as a party in the court," she added. The chairperson PWPA conveyed a message to the minority community, stating that Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's vision is to make Punjab a safe place for women and minorities. "We will not back down even an inch from this mission. Whoever commits a crime will not escape the clutches of the law," she concluded.—APP

UAJK promotes national unity, youth development

ISLAMABAD: The University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) on Wednesday successfully organized a thought-provoking seminar and a two-day "Training of Trainers" workshop aimed at addressing national challenges, promoting social harmony and fostering the positive development of youth. The events, held at UAJK's Chehla Campus, witnessed enthusiastic participation from faculty members, students, and representatives of civil society, said a press release. These significant activities were organized under the auspices of the Paigham-e-Pakistan Centre for Peace and Reconciliation Studies, Islamic Research Institute, International Islamic University Islamabad, in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA), European Union, and the Prime Minister's Youth Programme. The three-day series concluded with a seminar where renowned academics and policymakers held in-depth discussions on the challenges facing young people, the causes of social polarization, and practical solutions for building a more tolerant and united society. Addressing the seminar, Vice Chancellor of UAJK, Professor Dr. Nadeem Haider Bukhari, congratulated the organizers and participants on the successful conduct of the workshop and seminar. He emphasized that youth are the true asset of any nation, and their intellectual and moral development is of utmost importance. "Our responsibility is not merely to educate our youth but to shape them into individuals of strong character, self-respect, and custodians of national unity," he stated. Dr. Bukhari urged young people to focus on personal development and self-awareness, as the journey to real progress begins within. —DNA

Varsities lag behind in teaching high demand modern subjects

"When Pakistan was formed, we had only one major university, Punjab University. With the creation of the Higher Education Commission (HEC), we've seen an increase in research culture and academic expansion

MULTAN :As the world moves swiftly toward advanced technologies and sustainable solutions, the global job market is undergoing a fast transformation. Fields such as robotics, artificial intelligence, data science, electric vehicle engineering, geospatial mapping, circular economy, fintech, free energy, game development, augmented and virtual reality (AR/VR), cybersecurity, neurotechnology, smart textiles, fashion tech, bioinformatics, nanotechnology and smart city planning are shaping the future. While these subjects are gaining ground internationally, universities in the country are still in the early stages of integrating them into mainstream academic programs. Pakistan's youth is known for its

intelligence and creativity and the country has made notable progress in expanding access to higher education. However, experts believe that academic offerings must now evolve to include emerging disciplines like machine learning, ethical hacking, brain-computer interfaces (BCI), remote sensing, agri-tech, and precision farming. These areas are rapidly becoming essential skills in the global workforce. Yet in Pakistan, they are still emerging concepts, taught mostly through pilot programs, research projects or external certifications. "Pakistani youth are full of potential, but there's a growing need to align education with future trends," says a senior academic from a public sector university. "We are moving

forward, but more focus is needed on curriculum upgrades and industry relevance." Some modern subjects are already being introduced in some institutions, but often on a limited scale. For instance, robotics and automation are offered mostly through workshops or as elective courses. Electric vehicle (EV) engineering, though crucial for the future of transportation, has yet to find a formal space in engineering departments. Similarly, geospatial science and remote sensing are treated more as specializations rather than core components of geography or environmental programs. Artificial intelligence and data science are making their way into a few universities, especially private ones, but govern-

ment institutions are still catching up. Cybersecurity and ethical hacking, critical in today's digital world, are taught in isolated modules, while comprehensive programs and certifications remain scarce. Fields like bioinformatics, space technology, and nanotechnology hold great promise for medicine, defense, and innovation. However, these remain confined to limited research departments, lacking broad access or industry exposure. Likewise, smart city planning and urban tech, crucial for addressing urban challenges in Pakistan, are still not part of most city planning or civil engineering curricula. The country's agricultural universities also have room to grow in areas like agri-tech and precision

farming. Despite agriculture being the backbone of Pakistan's economy, the integration of AI, drones, and IoT tools in farming education is still limited. Similarly, Pakistan's large textile sector can benefit significantly from fashion tech and smart textiles, but the academic side of this innovation remains untapped. Former Vice Chancellor (VC) BZU Dr Tariq Ansari acknowledges the progress made so far. "When Pakistan was formed, we had only one major university, Punjab University. With the creation of the Higher Education Commission (HEC), we've seen an increase in research culture and academic expansion. We now have over 200 universities and more than 10,000 PhDs.—APP

INVITATION TO BIDS

Sealed Tenders on Single Stage TWO SEALED ENVELOPE Basis invited for the ANNUAL procurement of followings;

S#	Item Description	Tender No	Closing / Opening	Important
01	Cloth Navy Blue for Male Jr.Cabin Crew	UFM-24011379	09-07-2025 10:30 Hrs [Closing Time]	Tender Bid must be offered through PPRA E-PADS and also submit Sealed Envelopes.
02	Cloth Plump Female Jr.Cabin Crew	UFM-24011368	11:00 Hrs [Opening Time]	

Pakistan International Airlines [PIA] the National Flag Carrier invites sealed bids from manufacturers / authorized distributor of manufacturer's / Vendor eligibility [As per Tender documents] for supply of above items at PIA Supply Chain Management.

Bidding documents, for each lot, containing detailed terms and conditions, etc. are available and can be downloaded from PIA Website <https://www.piac.com.pk/corporate/sales-procurement/tender> as well as from E-PADS PPRA web site www.eprocure.gov.pk free of cost. Bidders need to get registered at E-web portal of E-PADS PPRA to access the tender document and other relevant information including electronic bid submission. In case of any help regarding EPADS online submission please contact Incharge Uniform or DGMPM email Uniform@piac.aero or dgmpm@piac.aero may be contacted.

Bids should be submitted electronically ONLY through EPADSPRA web portal. Manual submission of bid, without EPADS electronic bid, is NOT allowed. For registration and training on EPADS or in case of any technical difficulty in using EPADS, prospective bidder/s may contact Mr. RIZWAN MEHMOOD, Director, MIS Room No.109, 1st Floor, FBC Building Sector G-5/2, Islamabad or Helpline Contact No. 051-111-137-237

The bids prepared in accordance with the instructions in the bidding documents must be submitted through EPADS web portal by closing time & date mentioned in the tender document. Bids will be opened on the same day at 11:00 AM through EPADS. All interested bidders must register themselves at EPADS by using link <https://eprocure.gov.pk/#/supplier/registration>.

Note:-Original Bid Security / Earnest Money instrument MUST BE attached with the Technical Proposal and the reference / Pay Order copy must be submitted through EPADS online submission as well, before Tender Closing Date & Time.

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PID-K-3994/24

National Days and Armed Forces Days

JUNE

June 02/Italy 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



Emergency

Rescue (Police).....15

Bomb Disposal.....15

Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16

Emergency Ambulance.....1122

& Rescue Services.....4451122

Motorway Police.....9266044

Motorway Police.....9270601-20

Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596

Rawalpindi.....9270601-20



Hospitals

CMH.....5611111

MH.....5611116

Cantt Hospital.....9270907-11

DHQ.....5556311-4


RGH.....9290301-7

Holy Family.....9290322-7

PIMS.....9261170-79

Polyclinic.....9218300-09

Shifa International 4603666



Departments

CDA.....9221334-43

CDA.....9208301-04

Met Office.....9250360-6

RDA.....5555864

TMA.....5770886

Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

181 processions, 965 majalis planned in Islamabad during Muharram

Interior Minister Naqvi directed authorities to enforce strict checking at all entry and exit points of processions and religious gatherings

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A total of 181 religious processions and 965 Majalis are scheduled to take place in Islamabad during the holy month of Muharram, as Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control Mohsin Naqvi was briefed during a high-level security meeting on Wednesday. In preparation, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi chaired a high-level meeting to review security and administrative arrangements, emphasizing the government's commitment to ensuring peace, sectarian harmony, and the safety of citizens during this sensitive period. The meeting, held at the Ministry of Interior, brought together senior officials including Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry, the Additional Secretary Interior, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, ADCG, DIGs, all SPs, and Assistant Commissioners. The Deputy Commissioner and DIG

room has been set up at Islamabad Safe City to monitor events in real time through advanced surveillance systems. In addition, a multi-layered security plan has been finalized, covering all venues and procession routes. Officials confirmed that geo-tagging of Imambargahs, Majalis locations, and routes has already been completed to facilitate coordinated security efforts. The minister underscored the need for close monitoring of social media, declaring zero tolerance for any provocative content or hate speech that could disturb public order.

Digital surveillance teams have been tasked with actively tracking online platforms to prevent the spread of inflammatory material. Acknowledging the extended hours and challenges faced by security personnel, Naqvi ordered that duty rosters be arranged in shifts to ensure proper rest for staff, along with provisions for food and refreshments during their deployment. He instructed all agencies to maintain high levels of coordination and vigilance, warning that any lapse could be exploited by anti-state elements. Naqvi reiterated that foolproof security is non-negotiable and urged full implementation of the code of conduct. He called for continued engagement with religious scholars from all sects to foster unity and prevent misunderstandings during Muharram. Appealing to the public, he asked citizens to uphold mutual respect and religious tolerance throughout the month. Officials confirmed that a detailed security audit has already been completed.

NEV charging network along motorway expanded

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan State Oil (PSO), BYD Pakistan – Mega Motor Company (MMC) and HUBCO Green (HGL) jointly unveiled their first New Energy Vehicle (NEV) fast-charging station along the M 2 motorway—a vital artery connecting Lahore and Islamabad. This launch marks the beginning of a major rollout: 128 DC fast chargers, spaced every 150–200 km from Karachi to Peshawar, with 50 stations due online by December 2025, aimed at reducing range anxiety and accelerating Pakistan's clean mobility revolution. PSO is elevating the travel experience by combining clean-energy charging with hospitality through our Experience Hubs—transforming roadside service into a modern, traveler-friendly environment. The Magic River Rest Stop PSO Experience Hub combines advanced charging technology with traveler-focused amenities, featuring Two 60 kW DC fast chargers capable of delivering a 50% charge—160–200 km for a BYD Atto 3—in under 30 minutes as well as a modern VIBE Café & Store, providing comfort and convenience while vehicles recharge. Mohsin Ali Mangi, Chief Strategy & Technology Officer at Pakistan State Oil (PSO), said “At PSO, we're driving Pakistan's energy transformation. Our partnership with HUBCO Green is a major milestone toward sustainable mobility. By turning our widespread retail network into clean-energy hubs, we're preparing the foundation for a smarter, more environmentally friendly Pakistan. The launch of this EV charging station isn't just about technology—it reflects our commitment to protecting the environment and serving today's traveler. Speaking at the launch event, Kamran Kamal, CEO, The Hub Power Company (HUBCO), Group Company of Hubco Green, stated “HUBCO Green is a strategic extension of our long-term view on where the country's mobility landscape is headed. At the heart of our mandate is a commitment to promote sustainability and an environmentally responsible automobile sector.—APP

SSDO for urgent enactment of whistleblower protection laws

ISLAMABAD: The Sustainable Social Development Organization (SSDO) on Tuesday urged the federal and provincial governments to enact comprehensive whistleblower protection laws, warning that the absence of legal safeguards continues to deter citizens and public servants from reporting corruption. In a statement, Syed Kausar Abbas, Executive Director of SSDO said there is an urgent need to establish a Whistleblower Protection and Vigilance Commission through effective legislation to ensure transparency and accountability across public institutions. He noted that while Pakistan faces persistent allegations of corruption in public offices those who seek to expose wrongdoing remain unprotected and vulnerable to retaliation. He added that A democratic state like Pakistan must uphold transparency and accountability as central pillars of governance. Without legal protection, whistleblowers remain at risk and the fight against corruption is severely undermined. He lamented the lack of progress on the Whistleblower Protection and Vigilance Commission Act, 2019, which was tabled in the National Assembly six years ago but has since remained stalled in the Standing Committee on Law and Justice. The ordinance introduced by the previous government in November 2019 lapsed due to the absence of parliamentary approval. Abbas also pointed out that a similar bill introduced in the Punjab Assembly in 2018 has yet to be passed. He said No serious initiatives have been undertaken in other provinces either, despite the devolved governance framework established under the 18th Amendment. Highlighting the case of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he said the PTI led provincial government enacted a whistleblower protection law in 2016, but failed to implement it or establish the mandated commission throughout its nine-year tenure. He emphasized that Pakistan as a signatory to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), is obligated to adopt legal measures to protect whistleblowers and strengthen integrity in public service. Abbas said to that Failure to meet these commitments not only violates international obligations but also erodes public confidence in the governance system. SSDO called for inclusive and transparent consultations involving civil society, legal experts, and independent institutions to finalize and enact whistleblower legislation without further delay. The organization stressed that a functional whistleblower framework is not only a legal necessity but a moral and democratic imperative. —DNA

Rs12b approved to transform Gadani

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry has announced the approval of Rs12 billion for the transformation of Gadani Ship-Breaking Yard into a model green facility, aligning maritime sector with international climate and environmental standards. Chairing a high-level meeting on the Gadani redevelopment, the minister underscored the ship-breaking industry's contribution to economy and its potential role in the country's climate resilience strategy, said a press release. “Ship recycling must evolve to meet global sustainability standards. This transformation is essential to reduce pollution, manage hazardous waste responsibly, and contribute to a greener maritime future,” he said. The minister said this major initiative focuses not only on modernizing infrastructure and safety mechanisms but also on addressing the climate crisis through green shipping and environmentally responsible ship recycling. Secretary Maritime Affairs, Syed Zafar Ali Shah informed the minister that a 30-bed hospital, residential blocks for medical staff and labor colonies would be constructed as part of the social uplift component of the project. Additionally, 32 kilometers of road, a school, a public park, and modern water supply and treatment systems will be installed to support the workforce and local community, he added. The minister instructed relevant authorities to put in place a robust monitoring mechanism to ensure transparency and timely implementation of the project, stressing that the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships (HKC) must be strictly observed. He noted that Gadani produces over 1.2 million tonnes of steel annually, making it a critical part of scrap and steel supply chain. However, due to years of stagnation, the industry is now facing serious challenges in keeping pace with regional competitors. “Gadani was once among the world's largest ship-breaking hubs.—APP

Korean ambassador leaving Pakistan

The Foreign Secretary appreciated Ambassador Park's efforts in strengthening bilateral ties and expressed hope for continued progress in Pakistan-Korea relations

ISLAMABAD: Outgoing Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, H.E. Park Kijun, paid a farewell call on the Foreign Secretary. A farewell lunch was also hosted in his honour by Additional Secretary (Asia & Pacific), Mr. Imran Ahmad Siddique. The Foreign Secretary appreciated Ambassador Park's efforts in strengthening bilateral ties and expressed hope for continued progress in Pakistan-Korea relations. Additional Secretary Siddiqui also commended the Ambassador's contribution, expressing confidence that his successor will build on this positive momentum. The outgoing Korean ambassador spent less than three years in Pakistan. He has been called back after recent changes in Korea, especially after imposition of Martial Law and then situation arising out thereof.

Ninth space summer school to start at IST

ISLAMABAD: As summer draws near, the Institute of Space Technology (IST) is once again preparing to welcome young science enthusiasts for the 9th edition of the Space Summer School (SSS 2025). The initiative, organized annually since 2017, has become a cornerstone in Pakistan's efforts to foster STEM education among school students. Held under the umbrella of the Space Education Research Lab (SERL) at the National Center for GIS and Space Applications (NCGSA), the week-long program brings together students from across the country for immersive learning in space science and technology. This year's school will run from July 21 to 25, with sessions held daily from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at IST's Islamabad campus.

Over the years, SSS has gained recognition for its experiential learning model, combining interactive lectures, hands-on activities, software simulations, STEAM-based space projects, lab visits, and even astronomy night sessions. These activities aim to spark scientific curiosity and build foundational skills in disciplines such as rocketry, satellite engineering, aviation, astronomy, and climate science. The program is structured around two distinct academic streams: Abecedarian for students of grades 6–8, and Virtuoso for grades 9–12, allowing age-appropriate content delivery and project assignments. Students are also encouraged to work on group projects, selecting specific domains for focused mentorship and collaborative exploration. With each passing year, the Space Summer School has grown in reach and reputation, often drawing participants from dozens of educational institutions nationwide. The program continues to evolve, and this year's edition includes enhanced digital engagement, with updates being regularly shared via Facebook (@SpaceOutreach) and Instagram (@serl.ncgsa). The registration for SSS 2025 is currently open through the dedicated portals bit.ly/ssnncgsa and www.ncgsa.org.pk/ss25. While seats are limited, organizers have advised students and parents to ensure early registration and confirmation to secure participation. Beyond the classrooms and labs, the Space Summer School is seen as more than just a seasonal activity.—APP

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Briefs

Efforts afoot to ensure Muharram security steps

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Muhammad Jawad Tariq chaired a high-level meeting late at night to review and finalize security and law and order arrangements during Muharram-ul-Haram. A public relations officer told APP on Wednesday that the meeting was attended by SSP Investigations, SSP Operations, Zonal SPs, SDPOs, and SHOs. The DIG Tariq issued clear instructions to ensure foolproof security, emphasizing strict action against aerial firing. He warned that any SHO found negligent in preventing such incidents would face departmental action under a zero-tolerance policy. DIG Tariq said that the Command and Control Room has been made fully operational to maintain effective communication throughout the holy month. Enhanced checking will be carried out at all entry and exit points of the city, as well as at religious places and Imambarghahs. DIG said that patrolling in sensitive areas would be intensified and regular search and combing operations would be conducted. Surveillance and monitoring systems across the capital will also be strengthened. DIG Tariq said that participants of processions and Majalis will be thoroughly checked using metal detectors to ensure safety. To maintain smooth traffic flow, Islamabad Traffic Police officers will perform their duties round the clock. He said that the top priority of Islamabad Police is to protect the lives and property of citizens and to provide them with all possible facilities during the holy month.—APP

Pakistani Scholar sets a new record

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Yasir Sohail, a Pakistani doctoral candidate at X'ian Jiaotong University (XJTU), has made a groundbreaking achievement in material science by developing an innovative FeNiCoAlTa alloy that combines ultrahigh strength with exceptional ductility, setting a record in mechanical property combinations. The research, published as a first-author paper in the journal Nature, one of the world's top three multidisciplinary scientific journals, under the title "Machine-learning design of ductile FeNiCoAlTa alloys with high strength", addresses one of material science's most persistent challenges: creating alloys that simultaneously achieve high yield strength and uniform elongation substantially exceeding 10%. Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday. Under the guidance of Prof Zhang Jinyu at XJTU's School of Materials Science and Engineering, Sohail's work demonstrates how machine learning can accelerate the design of next-generation structural materials. The 2022 PhD candidate, who is academically ranked first among international students in his doctoral program and has three high-impact publications to his name, credits China's robust scientific infrastructure and supportive academic environment for enabling this breakthrough. "This success stems from XJTU's world-class facilities and my supervisors' visionary guidance," said Sohail, whose work received support from China's National Natural Science Foundation and other key scientific innovation initiatives.—APP

Funeral payers of Major Moiz offered at Chaklala

"We owe an eternal debt to our martyrs. The blood of our Shuhada is the foundation of our nation's strength," COAS said

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Funeral prayer of Major Syed Moiz Abbas Shah Shaheed (age: 37 years, resident of District Chakwal) who embraced martyrdom in an operation while bravely fighting against Indian sponsored Fitna al Khawarij in Sararogha, South Waziristan District, was offered at Chaklala Garrison, Rawalpindi. Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M) Chief of Army Staff, Federal Minister for Interior, Senior serving Military and Civil Officials, officers and soldiers attended the funeral. "Major Syed Moiz Abbas fought bravely in the face of resistance and ultimately laid down his life in the line of duty, upholding the highest traditions of bravery, sacrifice, and patriotism. The entire nation stands united in grief and pride, saluting his ultimate sacrifice for the defence of the country. We owe an eternal debt to our martyrs. The blood of our Shuhada is the foundation of our nation's strength". COAS said. The body of Shaheed has been taken to his native home town where he will be laid to rest with full military honours.



Super market suffers due to CDA's negligence

ISLAMABAD: President of the Super Market Traders Association and noted business leader, Shehzad Abbasi, has expressed grave concern over the continued negligence of the Capital Development Authority (CDA), warning that the declining state of Islamabad's prominent commercial centres is damaging both the city's reputation and its economy. Abbasi said that the Super Market, once considered a symbol of Islamabad's organized layout and a favorite destination for diplomats and foreign visitors, is now sinking into chaos and decay. What was once a clean and orderly space has now become overrun with filth, unregulated encroachments, and complete administrative failure. He said the situation reflects a larger pattern of indifference on the part of CDA towards the city's key commercial zones. He noted that the sanitation system in the market has collapsed entirely. Garbage remains uncollected, littering walkways and public areas. The foul stench is so pervasive that customers are often forced to cut their visits short. Most of the manhole covers are missing, posing a serious safety hazard to both pedestrians and vehicles. In many places, open manholes have already caused accidents. Meanwhile, gutters and drains remain choked, resulting in continuous overflow of sewage water across streets and footpaths, turning what should be a shopping destination into a health hazard. Abbasi highlighted that illegal structures and makeshift stalls have mushroomed across public spaces, especially on footpaths and state-owned land. These encroachments not only create visual pollution but also hinder pedestrian flow and vehicle access, adding to traffic congestion and overall discomfort for shoppers. Furthermore, he stated that several residential units in the area are being used for commercial purposes without proper authorization, thereby violating the law. He lamented that despite all of this happening in plain sight, CDA has failed to take any enforcement action. He said this level of urban mismanagement directly undermines Islamabad's image as a planned and disciplined capital city. Foreign diplomats, officials, and other international visitors frequently shop in the Super Market, but the current state of the area reflects poorly on national governance and urban upkeep. Abbasi warned that if this continues, Islamabad's already fragile commercial climate will suffer further decline. He called for urgent measures, including a comprehensive overhaul of sanitation, the immediate replacement of missing manhole covers, the cleaning of drains, and regular garbage disposal. He also demanded the resolution of parking shortages that routinely create bottlenecks and inconvenience both customers and shopkeepers. A targeted operation should also be launched against illegal stalls and encroachments, with firm timelines and visible results. Abbasi stated that the CDA has been repeatedly informed about these issues through official correspondence and in-person meetings, but there has been no response. He described the authority's silence and inaction as criminal negligence. He warned that traders will be left with no choice but to launch protests if meaningful action is not taken soon. Government claims of turning Islamabad into a model city will never be realized unless the systematic neglect of its commercial zones is urgently addressed.—DNA



ISLAMABAD: Deputy head of mission embassy of France in Pakistan Jean-Charles Allard, cutting the ribbon during inauguration ceremony o painting exhibition title" The Gravity of Grace" of different artists at Gallery-6, in the Federal Capital.

Over 2,000 company taxis registered so far as

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Director General (DG) Safe City, Islamabad Shakir Hussain Dawar Wednesday stressed the importance of public awareness about the newly introduced 'Verification App' for taxi drivers in promoting safe travel and com-

muter trust, reporting that over 2,000 company taxis have been registered so far and the process remains in progress. Talking to a private news channel, he said that, with mutual understanding between company owners and the police, they launched this app, which is now available on the Islamabad police website and

will soon be accessible on Play Store. The app aims to build trust and ensure safe travel, particularly focusing on the safety of women and students, he added. Replying to a question, DG mentioned that they were receiving complaints about harassment of women and students, as well as criminal activities.

Maintaining Iran-Israel ceasefire crucial

ISLAMABAD: Former Ambassador to the United States & PPP Senator Sherry Rehman Wednesday said that Pakistan desires peace in the region and supports the ceasefire between Iran and Israel but warns of grave repercussions if the terms are violated. Talking to a private news channel, She emphasized the critical importance of upholding the ceasefire between Iran and Israel to ensure lasting peace and stability in the region. She highlighted that fostering balanced and mutually respectful relations with all neighboring countries is a top priority for Pakistan, as achieving regional peace and stability. Responding to a query, she said that any Israeli violation could lead to severe regional turmoil, urging Israel to show responsibility and reconsider its approach. She further stated that Pakistan has consistently demonstrated a mature and responsible approach in addressing regional challenges. Pakistan's foreign policy reflects a deep understanding of the complexities in the region.—APP

AIOU opens alumni corner to strengthen its network

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has taken a significant step toward fostering long-term engagement with its former students by inaugurating a dedicated "Alumni Corner" on campus. The inauguration was formally carried out by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood. The newly established section aims to recognize the academic, social, and professional contributions of distinguished alumni serving in key positions both nationally and internationally. The ceremony was attended by faculty members from various departments along with principal officers of the university. During the event, the Vice Chancellor also recorded his remarks in the Alumni Visitors' Book. In his address, Dr. Nasir Mahmood shared that more than five million students have graduated from AIOU so far, with around 100,000 being added annually. He noted that these graduates are making valuable contributions across Pakistan and in institutions around the world. He emphasized the importance of building a dynamic, well-coordinated, and sustainable alumni network, which can play a key role in student welfare, fundraising, scholarship initiatives, career guidance, and enhancing the university's global reputation. Dr. Mahmood urged alumni to actively participate in networking, information exchange, community service, and initiatives aimed at promoting the university's image. During the event, Director Student Affairs Syed Ghulam Kazim Ali presented future plans for strengthening the alumni network. Other speakers included Director General of Regional Services Dr. Malik Tauqir Ahmad Khan, Dean of the Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies Prof. Dr. Moeenuddin Hashmi, and Director of Coordination and Administration Prof. Dr. Syed Aamir Shah. They all welcomed the initiative, calling it a visionary and impactful step toward enhancing alumni-university ties. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the Vice Chancellor congratulated Syed Ghulam Kazim Ali and his team on this commendable initiative. He also directed the preparation of detailed working papers for the Alumni Corner to facilitate further planning and implementation in upcoming phases.—DNA

Pakistan stands for peace, unity in region

ISLAMABAD: Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs Chairman Irfan Siddiqui on Wednesday said Pakistan remains committed to fostering peace in the region, expressing his confidence in the country's foreign policy approach, which is being executed effectively with full support from parliamentarians, the armed forces and the public. While speaking in a conversation with a local news channel, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs Irfan Siddiqui praised Pakistan's strong foreign policy strategy and reaffirmed that Pakistan stands firmly for peace in the region. Pakistan has acted responsibly on the international stage, demonstrating unity in its foreign policy and a steadfast desire for peace, he added. He said Pakistan, along with other countries, welcomes the ceasefire efforts, emphasizing that continued aggression could further destabilize the region. He said Pakistan appreciated President Donald Trump's efforts for peace and acknowledged that he did not seek war, expressing hope that Israel would act responsibly. He stated that in moments of heightened sensitivity, when fellow Islamic nations faced serious challenges, Pakistan acted with restraint, wisdom and a strong sense of responsibility to uphold regional stability. Responding to a query, he emphasized that no nation's sovereignty should be paralyzed or violated, adding that it is high time for Israel to understand this reality.—APP

US, China and UK top 3 destinations of Pakistani exports

ISLAMABAD: The United States (US) remained the top export destination of Pakistani products during the first eleven months of the current fiscal year 2024-25, followed by China and the United Kingdom (UK). Total exports to the US during July-May 2024-25 were recorded at US \$5552.615 million against the exports of US \$4999.608 million during July-May 2023-24, showing an increase of 11.06 percent, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). This was followed by China, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth US \$2270.032 million against the exports of US \$2556.126 million last year, showing a decrease of 11.19 percent. UK was the third top export destination.—APP

Pak secures six-year extension in IPEA membership

The extension not only enhances the global standing of Pakistani Engineers but also reflects Pakistan's growing role in the global Engineering fraternity

ISLAMABAD: In a major boost to the international mobility and recognition of Pakistani engineers, the Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) has secured a six-year extension in its full membership of the International Professional Engineers Agreement (IPEA), under the umbrella of the International Engineering Alliance (IEA). According to the PEC, the announcement was made during the IEAM 2025, held from in Mexico. PEC was represented at the meeting by Senior Vice Chairman, Engr. Dr Sarosh Lodhi. The IPEA is a mul-

tilateral agreement that facilitates the cross-border recognition of experienced professional engineers among member economies. With this extension, engineers registered with PEC as International Professional Engineers (IntPE-PAK) will continue to enjoy professional recognition in all IPEA member countries without the need for further assessment. This development marks Pakistan's sustained compliance with global benchmarks in engineering standards, regulation, and practice. Pakistan first attained full IPEA membership in June 2018 after a rigorous

peer-review process by the IEA. Since then, PEC has implemented a robust system to award the IntPE title to qualified engineers, enhancing their credibility and employment prospects abroad. The six-year renewal acknowledges PEC's commitment to upholding international best practices in engineering education, professional development, and ethics. Chairman PEC, Engr Waseem Nazir, termed the extension a landmark achievement for Pakistan's engineering sector. "This renewal reaffirms the international community's trust in PEC's regulatory framework and

the professional competence of our Engineers. It opens greater opportunities for Pakistani Engineers to contribute towards global projects and strengthens Pakistan's footprint in the international Engineering landscape," he said. With this renewed mandate, PEC aims to further simplify the registration process for IntPE applicants, expand outreach to engineering professionals, and promote international collaboration. The extension not only enhances the global standing of Pakistani Engineers but also reflects Pakistan's growing role in the global Engineering fraternity.—DNA

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Israel-Iran truce – will it hold?

THE recent truce between Israel and Iran, brokered by President Donald Trump, has brought temporary relief to a region on the brink of a devastating conflict. However, accusations of violations from both sides have emerged almost immediately after the ceasefire announcement, casting doubts on its sustainability. While the truce is undoubtedly in the interest of both nations and regional stability, its longevity remains uncertain given the deep-seated hostilities and mutual distrust. The ceasefire came after a dangerous escalation, with Iran launching a direct attack on Israel and Israel retaliating with strikes on Iranian soil. Both nations claimed victory, but the reality appears more complex. Israel's targeted strikes on Iranian nuclear sites were downplayed by US media reports, which suggested the facilities were inactive and suffered minimal damage. President Trump dismissed these reports as "fake news," while Iran itself admitted that its nuclear sites were not completely destroyed, implying that work could resume within months.

This raises questions: Was Israel's retaliation merely a face-saving move after feeling the heat of Iran's attacks? Did both sides realize that further escalation would lead to unbearable losses, pushing them toward a truce despite their public posturing? Whatever the truth, the cessation of hostilities is a welcome development—but maintaining it will require more than just temporary restraint. President Trump played a crucial role in de-escalating tensions, but his administration must now push for a more comprehensive peace effort, particularly in Gaza. Israel's ongoing military operations have resulted in the deaths of countless innocent Palestinians, further fueling regional anger. If the US is serious about stability, it cannot ignore the Gaza crisis while focusing solely on Israel-Iran tensions. A sustainable peace requires addressing the root causes of conflict—including Palestinian rights, Iran's nuclear ambitions, and Israel's security concerns. The Biden administration, if it returns to power, or a continued Trump presidency must ensure that this truce is not just a pause but a step toward lasting dialogue.

Despite claims of minimal damage, Iran's nuclear program remains a significant concern. If Tehran can reactivate its facilities within months, the world may soon face the same crisis again. The international community, particularly the US and European powers, must enforce stricter monitoring and push for a verifiable freeze on Iran's nuclear activities.

At the same time, Washington should avoid provocative rhetoric that could derail diplomacy. Trump's aggressive stance may have forced Iran to the negotiating table, but only sustained engagement—not threats—will ensure compliance. The Israel-Iran ceasefire is a fragile but necessary reprieve. Both nations must avoid further violations, and the US must expand its diplomatic efforts to include Gaza and broader regional stability. Another war would be catastrophic—not just for the Middle East, but for global security. For now, the guns have fallen silent. The challenge is to ensure they stay that way.

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NATO Summit in The Hague – can it bring peace to Ukraine?

THE NATO summit in The Hague comes at a critical juncture, with the alliance facing its most significant challenges since the Cold War. The war in Ukraine remains the most pressing issue, and while NATO has stood firm in its support for Kyiv, the question remains: Can this summit provide a real solution, or will it merely reinforce existing divisions? Nearly two and a half years into Russia's invasion, Ukraine remains locked in a brutal war of attrition. Despite Western military aid, Kyiv's counteroffensive has not delivered a decisive victory, and Moscow shows no signs of backing down. The NATO summit is expected to discuss long-term security guarantees for Ukraine, but will it go beyond rhetoric and propose a viable path to peace?

U.S. President Donald Trump, attending the summit, claimed credit for brokering the recent Israel-Iran ceasefire and suggested that a similar deal could be possible between Russia and Ukraine. However, the two conflicts are vastly different. While Israel and Iran had no territorial disputes, Russia is deeply entrenched in occupied Ukrainian land. Would Putin accept a truce without major concessions? Would Ukraine agree to any deal that compromises its sovereignty? Trump's assertion that he helped mediate the Israel-Iran truce has raised eyebrows, especially since both sides downplayed U.S. involvement. Still, his presence at the NATO summit adds an unpredictable element. Known for his unconventional diplomacy, Trump has previously claimed he could end the Ukraine war "in 24 hours." If he re-enters the White House, will he push for a negotiated settlement—even if it means pressuring Ukraine to cede territory? Some European leaders fear such an approach could reward Russian aggression. Yet, with Western support for Ukraine wavering and U.S. elections looming, NATO must consider all possible avenues—including backchannel diplomacy—to prevent a prolonged and unwinnable war.

The summit also highlights tensions within NATO itself. While Eastern European nations demand stronger commitments to Ukraine, others, like Hungary and Slovakia, oppose further escalation. The alliance must balance military support for Kyiv with the risk of direct confrontation with Russia.

A lasting solution will require more than just weapons—it needs a coherent diplomatic strategy. If NATO can leverage its collective strength to push for credible negotiations, this summit could mark a turning point. If not, the war will drag on, with devastating consequences for Ukraine and global security.

The Hague summit is a test of whether NATO can adapt to today's geopolitical realities. The alliance must decide whether it is merely a military bulwark or a force for conflict resolution. While a breakthrough on Ukraine seems unlikely now, the groundwork for future talks must begin here. Otherwise, the world may face years more of war—with no end in sight.

Trump's Stunning Condemnation of Israel's War Conduct

Qamar Bashir



Trump's repositioning also thwarted Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's broader agenda of regime change in Iran. Netanyahu had hoped to repeat the past models used in Iraq and Libya—toppling adversarial governments and installing pro-Western regimes. He had even begun promoting remnants of the deposed Shah's family as potential successors. Trump firmly rejected this path, stating that regime change only breeds chaos, civil unrest, and prolonged instability. "I don't want chaos. I want peace," Trump said. While Trump did not directly mention Gaza or the Israeli-Palestinian conflict...

IN a striking turn of global diplomacy, President Donald J. Trump has emerged as a singular force capable of diffusing one of the most dangerous confrontations in recent history: the Israel-Iran conflict. In a candid and widely viewed social media post, Trump not only declared the end of Iran's nuclear threat following a limited U.S. airstrike but also, for the first time in modern American history, openly rebuked Israel's military conduct, questioned its expansionist ambitions, and expressed fury over its violation of the ceasefire agreement mediated by the U.S. itself. This bold diplomatic shift shattered decades of unquestioned American alignment with Israeli strategic narratives. Trump, a leader previously considered unshakably pro-Israel, surprised the world when he declared that Israel's bombing campaign on Iran—triggered by an inconsequential rocket—was "unjustified, unprovoked, and unacceptable." He condemned Israel's use of force as disproportionate and excessive, noting that "they dropped bombs I've never seen before."

Unlike his predecessors, who consistently offered Israel uncritical political, military, and financial support, Trump demonstrated both the courage and credibility to confront Tel Aviv. He made it unequivocally clear that he would not allow Israel to jeopardize a fragile regional peace, no matter the history or political cost. "I'm really mad at Israel," he said bluntly, promising to use all necessary means to ensure Israel respects the ceasefire and refrains from further escalation. In the same interview, Trump also launched a blistering attack on mainstream media outlets like CNN and other international broadcasters, accusing them of spreading misinformation and undermining the facts of the U.S. strike on Iranian nuclear sites. He described their reporting as full of "negativity, rumors, and distortions," particularly those suggesting the airstrikes were ineffective. He clarified that the nuclear facilities targeted—Fordow, Isfahan, and Natanz—were completely destroyed. "Those sites are gone. They're finished. They're not coming back," he emphasized, thereby putting to rest widespread media speculation that Iran's program remained intact.

Trump's decisive messaging addressed two critical audiences: the American public, who demand transparency in foreign military engagements, and global analysts, who doubted the effectiveness of limited strikes. His words were both assertive and reassuring, highlighting his unique ability to project strength while pursuing de-escalation. Beyond military strategy, Trump introduced a compelling rationale against Iran's nuclear ambitions. He argued that Iran, rich in oil and natural gas reserves, has no legitimate energy-based need to pursue nuclear power. Unlike nations such as Pakistan or the United Kingdom, which developed nuclear reactors due to severe energy deficits, Iran enjoys energy self-sufficiency for generations to come. In Trump's view, Iran's insistence on uranium enrichment lacks urgency and raises suspicions about its true motives.

This reasoning was echoed by Senator Marco Rubio, who questioned why a peaceful nuclear program would require deep underground bunkers protected by layers of reinforced earth. "If there's nothing to hide, why bury it?" he asked. The implication, supported by Trump, is that Iran's secrecy signals a military dimension—one

that justifies limited but precise preemptive action. Iran, however, holds a different view. Its leadership maintains that its nuclear program is purely for peaceful scientific and medical research. Iranian officials argue that heavy metals and radioactive materials are essential for cutting-edge work in medicine, energy innovation, and space exploration. Moreover, they claim the bunkered architecture of their facilities is a defensive measure—a safeguard against historical sabotage by Israel and other actors determined to halt Iran's technological advancement. While both sides present arguments with merit, Trump's position, grounded in geopolitical realism and economic logic, currently holds greater global sway. His administration's strike—targeted, limited, and non-escalatory—was perceived by many as a calibrated message rather than an act of war. The world saw a leader who could punish violations while maintaining peace, and who sought to contain conflict rather than expand it. Importantly, this confrontation revealed a deeper strategic truth. Despite its technological sophistication and military capability, Israel alone could not dismantle Iran's hardened nuclear infrastructure. The Israeli strikes, though symbolically potent, required the direct intervention of the United States to achieve meaningful results. This reveals a critical geopolitical reality: Iran is no ordinary adversary. It is not like other Middle Eastern states that were toppled with ease—such as Iraq or Libya. Iran has emerged as a formidable regional power with significant political resolve, diplomatic reach, economic resilience, and military capability.

Even more revealing was the exposure of India's clandestine alignment with U.S. and Israeli objectives during the operation. Long viewed as a close partner by Tehran, India's alleged role in supporting covert drone bases, aiding target identification, and assisting surveillance against Iranian nuclear and military sites has caused deep offense in Iranian circles. These revelations, widely discussed in diplomatic backchannels, have been viewed as a betrayal of trust. For Iran, such interference by a country that invested in Chabahar port and projected itself as a regional partner now amounts to strategic backstabbing. This episode is likely to strain India-Iran relations significantly, forcing India to retract its covert footprint and reassess its role in the Persian Gulf, lest it permanently damage bilateral trust and Iranian sovereignty.

Trump's repositioning also thwarted Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's broader agenda of regime change in Iran. Netanyahu had hoped to repeat the past models used in Iraq and Libya—toppling adversarial governments and installing pro-Western regimes. He had even begun promoting remnants of the deposed Shah's family as potential successors. Trump firmly rejected this path, stating that regime change only breeds chaos, civil unrest, and prolonged instability. "I don't want chaos. I want peace," Trump said. While Trump did not directly mention Gaza or the Israeli-Palestinian conflict during his latest interview, many analysts believe that the resolution of the Palestinian issue—particularly the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza—should be the next logical step in reducing tension across the region. Given

the central role that unresolved Palestinian grievances play in regional instability, it is widely hoped that Trump, having successfully mediated the Israel-Iran ceasefire, may eventually turn his attention to Gaza and the broader peace process.

This is not a confirmed policy statement by Trump, but a strategic inference based on the direction of his recent actions. Should he choose to engage, the potential exists for a transformative moment in Middle Eastern diplomacy. Significantly, this ceasefire may also serve as a precursor to the normalization of relations between the United States and Iran. If sustained, it could open the door to lifting long-standing economic sanctions that have crippled the Iranian economy for years. It may also lead to Iran reestablishing full diplomatic ties with a broad spectrum of countries—except Israel—and reintegrating into the global economic system. This new chapter could unleash long-overdue prosperity and development for the Iranian people, allowing them to benefit from international trade, innovation, and financial systems previously closed off.

In many ways, the outcomes of this war—unexpected as they are—have proven more beneficial for Iran, for the Palestinian cause, and for regional peace than for Israel. Iran has withstood the pressure, preserved its sovereignty, and emerged with greater diplomatic standing. Palestinians have seen Israel's unchecked power finally challenged. And the region has witnessed—for the first time in decades—clear limitations placed on Israel's religiously driven expansionist policies and dangerous political agenda.

In the clearest terms yet, Trump committed to personally overseeing the enforcement of the Iran-Israel ceasefire. He warned that any further violations by Israel would have diplomatic repercussions, including a reassessment of U.S. support. This new doctrine—fueled by pragmatism, realism, and a vision for sustainable peace—places America once again at the center of Middle Eastern diplomacy, but with a markedly different tone.

Donald Trump has—whether through instinct or strategy—reshaped the regional calculus. He halted a potentially devastating war, imposed limits on Iran's nuclear program, reined in Israeli ambitions, exposed covert regional players, and challenged both domestic and international narratives. His clear disapproval of Israel's recent bombing, his condemnation of misleading media, and his bold new posture on balance and restraint present a sharp departure from past U.S. policies. If Trump eventually directs his energy toward resolving the Palestinian question and advancing Middle Eastern integration, he may do what no modern leader has achieved: a reset in the region. His actions reflect more than political calculation—they suggest a profound realization that peace cannot be sustained through favoritism, but through fairness and courage. Should he succeed, history may well remember him not just as a dealmaker—but as a peacemaker. Perhaps even a Nobel-worthy one.

– Press Secretary to the President (Rtd)
Former Press Minister,
Embassy of Pakistan to France
Former MD, SRBC
Macomb, Michigan, USA

Iran and India-Israel Nexus

Dr M Ali Hamza



Both India and Israel view Iran-backed proxies; e.g., Hamas, Hezbollah, as security threats. India's concerns about Iran's influence in Afghanistan via the Taliban and Pakistan via Shia groups align with Israel's broader regional confrontations with Tehran. India's reliance on Iranian oil has diminished due to US sanctions...

THE assassination of Iranian nuclear scientists and military leaders, widely attributed to Israel, suggests deep intelligence leaks within Iran's security apparatus. Iran's recent executions of alleged spies confirm internal breaches. While no direct evidence links India to these leaks, Iran's growing distrust of foreign allies—including those having strong ties with Israel, suggests vulnerabilities exploited by Israel. Let's establish the case.

India has been using Iranian territory to conduct espionage and sabotage operations against Pakistan, particularly in the restive province of Balochistan. One of the most high-profile cases involves Kulbhushan Jadhav, a former Indian Navy officer arrested in Balochistan in 2016 after illegally entering from Iran. Jadhav confessed to running an Indian spy network from Chabahar, Iran, tasked with destabilizing Pakistan through sabotage, funding separatists, and gathering intelligence on military installations. Jadhav admitted to operating under India's Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) from Iran, where he established a business as cover. His activities included recruiting Baloch insurgents and planning attacks on Pakistani infrastructure. In 2025, Pakistan detained another alleged Indian spy, Chakarwedi, near the Iran border. Like Jadhav, he reportedly used Iranian soil to orchestrate covert operations against Pakistan. While India denies these claims, the pattern of arrests and intelligence reports suggests a sustained covert campaign aimed at undermining Pakistan's security.

It can be reasonably inferred that RAW has established an intelligence network in Iran apparently targeting Pakistan, but likely also gathering sensitive information about Iran and its strategic facilities. Over the past two decades, India's foreign policy in West Asia has shifted considerably, with a marked deepening of ties with Israel and a more cautious transactional approach toward Iran. Historically, India managed a careful balance be-

tween the two, but its growing strategic, military, and technological alignment with Israel combined with Iran's increasing isolation under US sanctions and its pivot toward China has fuelled speculation that New Delhi may be sharing intelligence about Tehran with Tel Aviv. What fuels this speculation is the convergence of geopolitical interests and the visible tilt in India's alliances, raising legitimate concerns about the scope and targets of its intelligence operations in the region.

India and Israel have developed a defence partnership, with Israel emerging as India's second-largest arms supplier after Russia and India is Israel's largest weapons buyer. Moreover, Al Jazeera's investigative report revealed that Indian weapons firms also sold Israel rockets and explosives during the war in Gaza. The relationship extends beyond hardware sales to include joint operations, cyber-security collaboration, and intelligence-sharing. Reports suggest that India's RAW and Israel's Mossad have a history of intelligence exchanges. Given Mossad's extensive operations inside Iran, including assassinations of nuclear scientists and sabotage of facilities, it is plausible that India, with its diplomatic presence in Tehran, could provide supplementary intelligence. There are additional reasons that make this case more probable.

Both India and Israel view Iran-backed proxies; e.g., Hamas, Hezbollah, as security threats. India's concerns about Iran's influence in Afghanistan via the Taliban and Pakistan via Shia groups align with Israel's broader regional confrontations with Tehran. India's reliance on Iranian oil has diminished due to US sanctions, while its investments in Iran's Chabahar Port have faced delays. Meanwhile, Israel has become indispensable for India's defence modernization, supplying drones, missile systems, and surveillance technology used in conflicts like the 2019 Balakot airstrike as well as post Pahlgam war with Pakistan, this year. While Iran was once a critical oil supplier, India has diversified its energy imports. In contrast, Israel provides cutting-edge

military tech that India cannot easily replace, incentivizing closer alignment. Iran's growing partnership with China: including a 25-year strategic pact, and Russia has reduced its strategic value for India, which increasingly sees Israel and the US as more reliable partners. Moreover, India has distanced itself from a statement issued by the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) condemning Israeli airstrikes on Iranian territory. Indian Ministry of External Affairs saying it did not take part in the discussions that led to the joint remarks.

India's large diaspora and trade ties with Iran could inadvertently facilitate intelligence gathering. Israel operates may leverage Indian businesses or contacts for information even without New Delhi's explicit approval. Israel has a history of recruiting local assets in Iran, including through cyber-espionage and smuggling networks. If Indian nationals; e.g., traders, diplomats, were unknowingly used as sources, it could explain leaks without official complicity. Iran has executed alleged Mossad spies and cracked down on suspected infiltrators, reflecting paranoia about foreign intelligence penetration. While Tehran has not publicly accused India, its state media has framed the 2025 Delhi embassy blast as linked to Israeli-Iranian tensions, hinting at possible distrust of India's neutrality. Further more, why Iran targeted Haisa in Israel?

India maintains an embassy in Tehran, giving it insights into Iranian activities. If Mossad sought logistical or human intelligence on high-value targets; e.g., nuclear scientists, IRGC movements, India's diplomatic channels could be an indirect source. While no smoking gun confirms intelligence sharing, the depth of India-Israel collaboration combined with Mossad's infiltration capabilities and Iran's isolation makes the scenario plausible. Whether deliberate or incidental, India's strategic choices may have indirectly aided Israel's anti-Iran operations, even if official denials persist. This all indicates a possibility that India-Israel nexus has played a role in attacking Iran.

Briefs

Trump survives impeachment vote

FROM PAGE 01
Jeffries and House Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi, who have expressed caution regarding further impeachment efforts after Trump's two previous impeachments failed during his first term. Conversely, 79 House Democrats, predominantly progressives from electorally safe districts, voted to keep Green's resolution alive. This contingent included prominent figures like Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who has been vocal in her calls for impeachment following the Iran strikes. This development comes closely on the heels of Israel's surprise air war which was launched on June 13, hitting Iranian nuclear sites where it said Tehran was trying to develop an atomic bomb and killing top military commanders in the worst blow to the Islamic Republic since the 1980s war with Iraq.

Pakistan and United States to...

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"The discussion focused on meaningful engagement in trade, investment and deepening economic ties mutually beneficial to both sides," the finance ministry said in a statement on Wednesday, adding that technical-level trade-related discussions will conclude next week. Both sides also agreed to pursue a broader strategic and investment-based partnership, with the ministry stating this framework would be developed in due course.

Sindh Assembly passes...

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The entertainment duty has also been scrapped to promote cultural activities. Additionally, fees for land-related documentation have been reduced by 50%, while the annual commercial vehicle tax has been capped at Rs 1,000. Development spending stands at Rs1,018.3 billion (30%), with Rs281.7bn allocated to capital expenditure. Other significant allocations in the FY2025-26 Sindh budget include Rs43 billion for an Ad-hoc relief allowance and Rs16 billion for a 15% pension increase. According to the Sindh Finance Bill, public universities will receive Rs42.2 billion, while Rs10.4 billion has been earmarked for medical education in the budget.

Trump says US will hold talks with...

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now safer due to his administration's policies, despite past escalations with Iran. "Our tough stance brought them to the table, and now we can negotiate from strength," he said. Additionally, he criticized the U.S. media for spreading what he called "fake news" about Iran and his foreign policy. "The media always distorts the truth, but the facts show we've made progress," he asserted. Analysts remain cautious, noting that any potential deal would mark a significant reversal from Trump's earlier "maximum pressure" campaign. If negotiations succeed, it could lead to eased sanctions and a new framework for Iran's nuclear activities.

US 'totally committed'..

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one member is an attack on all. "Depends on your definition. There's numerous definitions of Article Five," Trump told journalists in comments sure to rattle America's European allies. "I'm committed to being their friend," he said. Rutte said that there was, however, an "expectation" that the Canadians and the Europeans would ramp up their spending, with the US long complaining that it paid too much to defend countries in Europe.



ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Tanveer Ilyas, in a group photograph with President of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari, and President of PPP Women's Wing, MPA Faryal Talpur, at Zardari House, Karachi, on June 25, 2025. – DNA

FIH invites Pakistan hockey team to take part in Pro League

New Zealand Withdraws Due to Financial Constraints; Pakistan Gets Opportunity After Impressive Nations Cup Performance; A Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) official confirmed receiving the invitation and stated that the team is likely to accept the offer. "Participating in the Pro League will provide our players with high-level competition and help revive Pakistan's standing in international hockey," the official said

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has extended an invitation to the Pakistan men's hockey team to participate in the prestigious FIH Pro League scheduled for February 2026. Pakistan has been offered the spot

after New Zealand, originally invited, declined due to financial constraints. Pakistan secured this opportunity following their strong performance in the recently concluded FIH Nations Cup, where they finished as runners-up. Their impressive showing has earned them a chance to compete against the world's top hockey nations in the Pro League,

a tournament known for elevating team skills and global rankings. A Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) official confirmed receiving the invitation and stated that the team is likely to accept the offer. "Participating in the Pro League will provide our players with high-level competition and help revive Pakistan's standing in international hockey," the official said.

The FIH Pro League features elite teams such as Australia, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, and India. Pakistan's inclusion is seen as a significant step in their efforts to return to the top tier of world hockey. Further details regarding Pakistan's participation, including fixtures and preparations, will be announced in the coming months.

Extreme heat, storms take toll at Club World Cup

LOS ANGELES: Furnace-like heat and the threat of thunder and lightning are wreaking havoc at the Club World Cup – and more of the same is likely at the 2026 World Cup. With a brutal heatwave blanketing swathes of the eastern United States, adapting to the weather has become a key focus for coaches and players. Borussia Dortmund took the unusual step of leaving their substitutes in the dressing room for the first half of their game against Mamelodi Sundowns in Cincinnati, rather than have them sitting on the bench in blazing sunshine.

Chelsea coach Enzo Maresca meanwhile cut short his team's training session in Philadelphia on Monday as the City of Brotherly Love baked in temperatures of 99 degrees Fahrenheit (37.2 degrees Celsius). Dortmund coach Niko Kovac, meanwhile, said the weather could ultimately shape the destiny of the tournament. "I think that this tournament will be decided not by the best team, but the team that can adapt

to these weather conditions the best. They will probably win this tournament," Kovac said. While cooling breaks midway through each half have become standard during the tournament, Dortmund, like other teams, are taking extra steps to mitigate the heat and humidity. "Our boys are very well taken care of by our doctors and the medical staff," Kovac said. "We have very cold towels. We put them in ice baths. The boys also need to cool down their legs and their feet in cold water and ice baths." – APP

Chelsea through to Club World Cup knockouts, Benfica beat Bayern

PHILADELPHIA: Chelsea beat Esperance of Tunisia 3-0 on Tuesday to set up a Club World Cup last-16 tie against Benfica, who defeated Bayern Munich 1-0 earlier in searing heat. Elsewhere minnows Auckland City claimed a memorable draw against Boca Juniors while Los Angeles FC bowed out of the tournament with a stalemate against Flamengo. In Charlotte, Andreas Schjelderup scored the only goal for Benfica in their Group C clash with Bayern in front of 33,287 fans, finishing first-time from a cutback by his fellow Norwegian Fredrik Aursnes in the 13th minute. The German champions, who left the likes of Harry Kane and Michael Olise on the bench at kick-off, were unable to come back in sweltering afternoon conditions in heatwave-hit North Carolina. Kane and Olise came on at half-time and Bayern did then look more dangerous, but Leroy Sane was denied when clean through by Benfica's Ukrainian goalkeeper Anatoliy Trubin. A draw would have allowed Bayern to top the section but a Kimmich effort that found the net was ruled out for offside. – APP

Pakistan storms into final of 2nd Asian Doubles Squash C'ships 2025

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's dynamic squash duo, Noor Zaman and Nasir Iqbal delivered a thrilling performance to secure a place in the final of the 2nd Asian Doubles Squash Championships 2025 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Wednesday. According to information made available here by Pakistan Squash Federation (PSF), Pakistani pair edged past hosts Malaysia in a fiercely contested semifinal. – APP

Prominent AJK political figures join PPP

ISLAMABAD: A delegation from Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), led by former AJK Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas on Wednesday officially joined the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) in a meeting with President Asif Ali Zardari at Zardari House, Karachi. The delegation included Advisor to the AJK Government on Prisons Sardar Ahmad Saghir, MLA Ali Shan Soni, and Sardar Umar Tanveer. During the meeting, the delegation announced their decision to join the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP). President Asif Ali Zardari welcomed the delegation and congratulated them on joining the party. President of the PPP Women's Wing, MPA, and sister of President Zardari Faryal Talpur was also present on the occasion. The meeting was also attended by Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider, senior PPP leader Saleem Mandviwalla, former AJK President Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Khan, Faisal Muntaz Rathore, Chaudhry Muhammad Riaz, and Sardar Zia Qamar. In addition, Sindh Home Minister Zia-ul-Hasan Lanjar, Provincial Minister Haji Ali Hassan Zardari, and MPA Sohail Anwar Syal were also present. – Agencies

Pakistan's salt exports to China rise by 38% Jan-May 2025

BEIJING: Pakistan's salt exports to China witnessed a significant growth of 38% year-on-year during the first five months of 2025, signaling strengthening bilateral trade ties in mineral commodities. According to official data, Pakistan exported salt worth \$3.44 million to China from January to May 2025, compared to \$2.50 million during the same period last year, said Ghulam Qadir, Trade and Investment Counsellor at Pakistan's Embassy in China, according to Gwadar Pro. Ghulam Qadir said that this growth is primarily attributed to the rising Chinese demand for high-purity salt used in enteral and parenteral solutions and medications, under the commodity code 25010019. Pakistan exported 22.5 million kilograms of this grade to China, with a total trade value of \$3.29 million. The average unit price stood at \$0.146 per kilogram, making it competitive in the international market. "Pakistan is among the few countries with abundant reserves

of rock salt, particularly the pink Himalayan variety, which has gained recognition globally for its quality and purity. Although Pakistan's salt exports to China remain modest compared to other suppliers, they show strong upward potential," he added. Apart from medical-grade salt, Pakistan also exported edible salt and industrial salt, though in smaller volumes. Experts believe that Pakistan can leverage its cost-effective production and growing processing capacity to increase its share in China's multi-billion-dollar salt market. Analysts suggest that improved processing infrastructure, compliance with Chinese pharmaceutical-grade salt standards, and robust logistics partnerships through China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) could further enhance Pakistan's salt trade with China. Stakeholders from both sides are exploring ways to enhance trade facilitation and quality assurance mechanisms, which may help Pakistan expand from bulk exports to high-margin processed salt segments. – DNA

PSB's step for Promotion of Sports; Cash Awards of 8.2 million distributed

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: A grand ceremony was held under the auspices of the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) on Wednesday to honor national heroes who showcased outstanding performances in international competitions, raising Pakistan's flag high. Advisor to the Prime Minister on Inter-Provincial Coordination, Rana Sanaullah Khan, attended the ceremony along with Federal Secretary Mohyuddin Wani and DG PSB Muhammad Yasir Pirzada. Cash awards totaling 8.2 million rupees were distributed among 36 athletes who brought glory to Pakistan in various countries. **Prominent athletes included:**

- Arshad Nadeem (Javelin Throw Gold Medalist) – 2 million rupees
- Salman Iqbal Butt (Arshad Nadeem's coach) – 600,000 rupees
- Ahsan Ramzan (Under-21 Snooker Championship Bronze Medalist) – 500,000 rupees
- Muhammad Asif (SAARC Snooker Gold Medalist) – 500,000 rupees
- Muhammad Naseem Akhtar (Bronze Medalist) – 100,000 rupees

Other awardees:

- Abdul Mohammad Khan (U-15 Singles) – 250,000 rupees
- Abdul Mohammad Khan & Zuneira Khan (U-15 Mixed Doubles) – 187,500 rupees each
- Abdul Mohammad Khan & others (U-15 Boys Doubles) – 75,000 rupees each
- Noor Khan, Taha Bilal, Abu Huraira, Atal Manan, Musa Asif, and others (U-15 Team) – 75,000 rupees each
- Taha Bilal & Abdul Mohammad Khan (U-19 Team) – 75,000 rupees each
- Winter Sports Awardees:**
- Abdul Saboor Ahmed (Snowshoeing 400m) – 250,000 rupees
- Abdul Saboor Ahmed (Snowshoeing 200m) – 100,000 rupees
- Muhammad Afaq Khan (Snowshoeing 100m) – 250,000 rupees
- Muhammad Muzammil Iqbal (Snowshoeing 800m) – 250,000 rupees
- Muneeb ur Rehman (Cross-Country Skiing 50m & 100m) – 250,000 rupees per event
- Abdul Saboor, Afaq, Muzammil, Ali Raza (Relay) – 150,000 rupees each
- Ali Raza – 150,000 rupees
- Manahil (Snowshoeing 400m) – 250,000 rupees

- Manahil (Relay) – 150,000 rupees
- Raveena Qurban (Cross-Country Skiing) – 150,000 rupees
- Iqra Akhtar, Shah Guloon Hayat, Tabsam (Relay) – 150,000 rupees each
- Federation Grants:**
- Athletics Federation of Pakistan – 10 million rupees (special grant)
- Alpine Club of Pakistan – 2.1 million rupees (annual grant)
- Pakistan Badminton Federation – 1.1 million rupees (annual grant)
- Pakistan Bodybuilding Federation – 2.5 million rupees (annual grant)
- Pakistan Handball Federation – 5 million rupees (special grant)
- Pakistan Judo Federation – 1 million rupees (special grant)
- Pakistan Jiu-Jitsu Federation – 2 million rupees (special grant)
- Pakistan Karate Federation – 3 million rupees (special grant)
- Pakistan Kabaddi Federation – 3 million rupees (annual grant)
- National Rifle Association – 2 million (annual), 5 million (special grant)
- Pakistan Rugby Union – 1.1 million rupees (annual grant)

- Winter Sports Federation Pakistan – 2 million rupees (annual grant)
- Pakistan Sailing Federation – 1 million rupees (annual grant)
- Pakistan Squash Federation – 5 million rupees (annual grant)
- Pakistan Swimming Federation – 2.25 million rupees (annual grant)
- Pakistan Table Tennis Federation – 2.25 million rupees (annual grant)
- Pakistan Taekwondo Federation – 1.1 million rupees (annual grant)
- Pakistan Tennis Federation – 1 million rupees (annual grant)
- Pakistan Tenpin Bowling Federation – 2.5 million rupees (annual grant)
- Pakistan Volleyball Federation – 5 million rupees (annual grant)
- Pakistan Wrestling Federation – 3 million rupees (annual grant)
- Pakistan Wushu Federation – 1 million rupees (annual grant)
- Total Grants:**
- Annual Grants: 32.9 million rupees
- Special Grants: 31 million rupees

The Pakistan Sports Board has taken a significant step in promoting national sports by rewarding athletes and supporting federations financially.

Iran suspends cooperation with IAEA

FROM PAGE 01
Wednesday, state TV reported. Since the start of the war, Iranian officials have sharply criticised the IAEA for failing to condemn the Israeli attacks.

NSA attends 20th meeting of SCO in...

FROM PAGE 01
As part of his engagements, NSA emphasized on Pakistan's desire for a stable and peaceful neighborhood and its role as a Net Regional Stabilizer.

No chance of Asif, Rajnath...

FROM PAGE 01
since the recent military standoff between Islamabad and New Delhi. The Turkish media stated that Asif will lead the Pakistani delegation at the two-day SCO meeting. Whereas, the Indian defence minister will also attend the forum with a high-level delegation. It further reported that Singh is scheduled to hold meetings with the defence ministers of China, Russia, and other nations.

Four killed in landmine blast in...

FROM PAGE 01
Everything turned chaotic, people were screaming and running for help." District Police Officer (DPO) Habibullah confirmed that initial investigations point to a landmine explosion. Police, bomb disposal experts and district officials have inspected the site and are gathering evidence. Local authorities called the incident "a plot to disrupt peace" in the region, while tribal leaders strongly condemned the attack and demanded justice. A search operation has been launched, and further investigations are ongoing.

JMC reviews...

FROM PAGE 01
railways, energy, food security, climate change, defence, healthcare, manpower, higher education and information technology. Both sides emphasized enhancing institutional mechanisms and promoting inter-ministerial coordination. Held in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and brotherhood, the session included exchanges on regional and global developments. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to peace and stability in the region. A protocol, outlining procedural frameworks for follow-up actions, coordination through sectoral working groups and facilitation for reciprocal visits, was also signed. In addition to the protocol of the session, Memoranda of Understanding on "Mutual Exemption of Entry Visa Requirements" and "Establishment of a Joint Task Force to Promote Investments" as well as an Agreement on "Artificial Intelligence and Digital Economy" were signed. Both parties expressed satisfaction with the outcomes and agreed to hold the 13th Session of the JMC in Pakistan on mutually agreed dates.

Pakistan and UAE...

FROM PAGE 01
reviewed entire spectrum of bilateral relations and reaffirmed their resolve to further strengthen cooperation across multiple sectors. The two sides discussed regional and global developments of mutual interest and reiterated their commitment to enhanced coordination and dialogue at multilateral forums. The Additional Foreign Secretary underscored the importance of further deepening the strong fraternal ties between Pakistan and the UAE, built on shared values, mutual respect, and common interests. Both sides appreciated the positive trajectory of bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction on the progress made under existing institutional mechanisms, including the JMC and regular leadership-level exchanges.

Briefs

UK will buy F-35 jets capable of carrying nuclear bombs

THE HAGUE: The United Kingdom will buy 12 US-made F-35 fighter jets capable of carrying nuclear bombs and will join NATO's shared airborne nuclear mission, in a major expansion of its nuclear deterrent, Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced Wednesday. The government called it "the biggest strengthening of the UK's nuclear posture in a generation." Starmer made the announcement while attending a NATO summit in the Netherlands. NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte welcomed the decision, calling it "yet another robust British contribution to NATO." The UK phased out air-dropped atomic weapons in the 1990s after the end of the Cold War. Its nuclear arsenal now consists of submarine-based missiles. Only three NATO members – the US, Britain and France – are nuclear powers, while seven nations contribute to the alliance's nuclear mission by contributing jets that can carry either conventional or weapons or American B61 bombs stockpiled in Europe. The use of nuclear weapons by the UK as part of the mission would require the authorization of the alliance's nuclear planning group as well as the US president and British prime minister. Starmer also announced that the UK will provide 350 air defense missiles to Ukraine, funded by 70 million pounds (\$95 million) raised from interest on seized Russian assets. The announcements come as the UK and other NATO members pledge to increase spending on security to 5 percent of gross domestic product by 2035. The total includes 3.5 percent on defense and another 1.5 percent on broader security and resilience efforts.—APP

Whooping cough cases in Japan exceed 31,000

TOKYO: More than 31,000 people have caught whooping cough this year in Japan, a nearly eight-fold rise from last year that has already surpassed the annual record-high number logged in 2019, data by a national health research institute showed Tuesday. The country's health authorities are calling on the public to be aware of the highly contagious bacterial infection that causes severe coughing spells that experts say are most dangerous in infants and could result in death in the age group. According to a preliminary data released by the Japan Institute for Health Security, a total of 31,966 cases have been detected nationwide from the start of the year, with 2,970 patients reported in the week ending June 15. In the week before, weekly cases surpassed 3,000 for the first time since 2018 when comparable data became available. By comparison, the total number of cases last year was around 4,000, and the 16,845 cases registered in 2019 was the record high for a year. Many of the patients have been 19 and under and concerns remain that infants may contract the disease from their older siblings at home.—APP

Belarus, Cuba identify points of growth in trade, economy

MINSK: Belarus and Cuba have identified promising points of growth in trade and economy, Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko said as he was meeting with Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel Bermudez on 25 June, BELTA has learned. It was noted during the talks that Belarus-Cuba commission on trade and economic cooperation had established a schedule of regular, annual meetings. This shows mutual interest in deepening bilateral interaction. "Taking into consideration the complementarity of the economies of Belarus and Cuba, our experts have identified a number of promising points of growth in trade and economy.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding reforms in the Agricultural sector . —DNA

Indonesia continues evacuation despite Iran-Israel ceasefire

On Tuesday, 11 Indonesians from the first group of evacuees arrived in Jakarta, to be followed by the arrival of 48 Indonesian nationals and one foreign national married to an Indonesian on Wednesday evening

DNA

JAKARTA: Indonesia is continuing to evacuate its nationals from Iran, the foreign ministry said on Wednesday amid fears of further Israeli bombardments despite ceasefire claims. The Indonesian Embassy in Tehran has been on its highest alert since June 19, following a week of Israeli attacks on Iranian cities that Tel Aviv claimed were aimed at preventing Iran from developing nuclear weapons. Along with countries which evacuated their citizens from

Iran amid growing destruction from Israeli attacks, the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has moved 96 Indonesian citizens to Baku, Azerbaijan in its first phase of evacuation. "There will be a second phase of evacuation, the Indonesian Embassy in Tehran is currently taking registration from other Indonesian citizens who wish to be evacuated," Andy Rachmianto, director-general for protocol and consular affairs, told Arab News on Wednesday. After Iran retaliated to Israel's initial attacks with ballistic missile strikes,

the two countries have been trading missiles, with the Israeli military increasingly targeting civilian infrastructure. According to the Iranian Ministry of Health and Medical Education, Israeli military attacks have killed more than 600 people and wounded over 5,300 others. Over the weekend, the US joined Israel in attacking Iran by striking Iranian nuclear facilities. In retaliation, Tehran launched a missile attack on the Al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar, the largest US military base in the Middle East. Hours later, on Monday, US

President Donald Trump announced that Israel and Iran had agreed to a ceasefire. The Indonesian foreign affairs ministry said that its missions throughout the Middle East are "closely monitoring" the escalating situation between Israel, Iran and the US. "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs encourages Indonesian citizens who are now in the Middle East to increase vigilance and to continue monitoring the security situation as well as instructions issued by local authorities, and to avoid locations of assets belonging to countries

in the conflict," it said in a statement on Tuesday. Judha Nugraha, the director of citizen protection, told Arab News that the ministry is "ready to facilitate" the next evacuation. There are nearly 400 Indonesian nationals living in Iran, most of whom are students, the ministry's latest data showed. On Tuesday, 11 Indonesians from the first group of evacuees arrived in Jakarta, to be followed by the arrival of 48 Indonesian nationals and one foreign national married to an Indonesian on Wednesday evening. The rest of the group is scheduled to land in Jakarta on Thursday.

Jordanian FM affirms Jordan's security priority, two-state solution key to peace

AMMAN: Jordan's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and Expatriates Affairs, affirmed that safeguarding Jordan's national interests, security, and citizens remains the government's top priority. In a statement carried by Jordan News Agency (Petra), Safadi underscored that Jordan "will not serve as a battleground for any external conflict", reiterating that Jordan's sovereignty is non-negotiable. "We've told both Israel and Iran, 'Do not breach our airspace.'" Safadi called for an immediate halt to the war on Gaza and an end to the humanitarian catastrophe. He warned against illegal Israeli escalations in the West Bank, saying they risk triggering an explosion in the occupied territory and undermining all prospects for a just and lasting peace. He also stressed the need for a genuine political horizon leading to a two-state solution, which he described as the only viable path to peace. Safadi also confirmed ongoing coordination with France and Saudi Arabia to convene an international conference on the two-state solution. He pointed to the Arab Peace Initiative as a viable offer for a comprehensive peace that includes a sovereign Palestinian state. On Syria, he said, "Stability in Syria is essential for the stability of the region." He voiced full support for Syria's reconstruction, saying the Syrian people deserve peace and dignity after years of war. Regarding the Jordan-US relations, Safadi described them as "strategic and historic," noting strong bilateral cooperation in counterterrorism and economic support. On Iran, he stated that although Jordan supports de-escalation efforts in the region, it will continue to address direct concerns with Iran, including weapons.—APP



BEIJING, China: Lt. Gen Muhammad Asim Malik, National Security Advisor of Pakistan addressing the 20th meeting of the secretaries of the Security Council of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

FPCCI dismay over anomaly committee's neglect, demands budgetary changes

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) has voiced serious concerns over the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) members' disregard for the Anomaly Committee's recommendations and proposals. The FPCCI stated that the committee was not allocated sufficient time for its meetings, and a meeting that was convened lacked the agenda items crucial to its members. Consequently, the members of the Anomaly Committee resigned and transferred all their powers to FPCCI President Atif Ikram Sheikh. The FPCCI is also demanding the repeal of the controversial 37 Double A provision, which was reinstated based on an old notification. They insist this be scrapped in light of the recent Supreme Court decision.

During an emergency meeting at the FPCCI Capital Office,

members of the Anomaly Committee, including FPCCI President Atif Ikram Sheikh, Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Javed Balwani, Islamabad Chamber President Nasir Qureshi, Sohail Pasha, Abdul Haleem, Sarhad Chamber President Fazal Muqeem Khan, Quetta Chamber President Ayub Mariyani, Faisalabad Chamber President Rehan Naseem Brara, Sialkot Chamber President Ikram-ul-Haq, FPCCI Vice President Tariq Jadon, Capital Office Chairman Karim Aziz Malik, and Coordination Chairman Malik Sohail, among others, expressed their alarm. They highlighted that the government is set to approve the budget on June 27, yet the Anomaly Committee, established to address the business community's budget-related issues, has not held a single meaningful meeting. This situation is a cause for concern for the entire business community across the country. The

FPCCI put forth several key demands: * The tax regime for exporters, which was changed last year, should be reverted to the old system. * The one percent advance tax should be abolished. * The government's decision to end tax exemptions for economic zones by 2035 should be withdrawn, as new factories will take four to five years to become operational. * The five percent withholding tax on exporters should be removed. * The eighteen percent tax on solar panels should be eliminated. * The final tax regime should be reinstated. * Policies should not be formulated without consultation with the FPCCI. The meeting's participants also emphasized that after winning the war against India, the business community now seeks to win the economic war. To achieve this, they stressed the importance of mutual cooperation between the government and the business community to propel the country's economic direction forward.

Iraq arrests commentator over online post on Iran-Israel war

BAGHDAD: Iraqi authorities said they arrested a political commentator on Wednesday over a post alleging that a military radar system struck by a drone had been used to help Israel in its war against Iran. After a court issued a warrant, the defense ministry said that Iraqi forces arrested Abbas Al-Ardawi for sharing content online that included "incitement intended to insult and defame the security institution." In a post on X, which was later deleted but has circulated on social media as a screenshot, Ardawi told his more than 90,000 followers that "a French radar in the Taji base served the Israeli aggression" and was eliminated. Early Tuesday, hours before a ceasefire ended the 12-day Iran-Israel war, unidentified drones struck radar systems at two military bases in Taji, north of Baghdad, and in southern Iraq, officials have said. The Taji base hosted US troops several years ago and was a frequent target of rocket attacks. There has been no claim of responsibility for the latest drone attacks, which also struck radar systems at the Imam Ali air base in Dhi Qar province. A source close to Iran-backed groups in Iraq told AFP that the armed factions have nothing to do with the attacks. Ardawi is seen as a supporter of Iran-aligned armed groups who had launched attack US forces in the region in the past, and of the pro-Tehran Coordination Framework, a powerful political coalition that holds a parliamentary majority. The Iraqi defense ministry said that Ardawi's arrest was made on the instructions of the prime minister, who also serves as the commander-in-chief of the armed forces, "not to show leniency toward anyone who endangers the security and stability of the country." It added that while "the freedom of expression is a guaranteed right... it is restricted based on national security and the country's top interests.—APP

Libya, Turkiye sign geological, geophysical MoU on four offshore areas

TRIPOLI: Libya's National Oil Company (NOC) had signed a memorandum of understanding with Turkish state oil company TPAO to conduct a geological and geophysical study of four offshore areas, NOC said on Wednesday. "Discussions were also held regarding conducting a two-dimensional seismic survey (10,000 km long), and processing the data resulting from these surveys within a period not exceeding 9 months," Libya's state oil firm said in a statement. NOC said the agreement was signed in Istanbul by the two companies' executives., It provided no further details.—APP

S Korea court rejects arrest warrant for ex-President Yoon

SEOUL: A South Korean court has rejected a request to issue an arrest warrant for former President Yoon Suk Yeol related to a probe into his short-lived attempt to impose martial law, the Yonhap News Agency said on Wednesday, citing a special prosecutor. A spokesperson for the Seoul Central District Court and the prosecution office could not immediately be reached for comment. South Korea's special prosecutor had asked the court on Tuesday to issue an arrest warrant for Yoon as an investigation intensified over the ousted leader's botched bid to declare martial law in December. Yoon, who is already facing a criminal trial on insurrection charges for issuing the martial law declaration, was arrested in January after resisting authorities trying to take him into custody, but was released after 52 days on technical grounds. The new warrant was on a charge of obstruction, a senior member of the special prosecutor's team of investigators said on Tuesday.—APP

Muslim apparent winner in New York City Democratic primary race for mayor

CHICAGO: Zohran Mamdani, 33, a Uganda-born Indian Muslim who served in the New York State Assembly in Queens, appears to have defeated former Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo in Tuesday's Democratic primary race for mayor. The two bitterly debated on opposite sides of the Gaza war. Last year, Cuomo joined the legal team to defend Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is charged with war crimes and faces an arrest warrant from the International Criminal Court. Cuomo, 67, conceded the election, even though New York has a special provision that kicks in when no one receives more than 50 percent of the vote. The Ranked Choice Voting law allows votes cast for other candidates with lower totals to be assigned to their second ballot choice. New Yorkers vote to rank candidates from "most preferred" to "least preferred." If their first preferred candidate does poorly, their next preferred choice receives their vote. Mamdani received 43.5 percent of the votes while Cuomo received 36.4 percent, with 95 percent of nearly 1 million votes cast. Nine other candidates received between 11 percent and 0.1 percent. Mail-in ballots postmarked by Tuesday that have yet to arrive by mail can still be counted for one week after the election. The shifting of votes under the Ranked Choice Voting system is not likely to be released until July 1, leaving a slim chance of uncertainty. Cuomo told the New York Times that he may run as an independent in the November mayoral election. If the preliminary victory holds for Mamdani, he is expected to face incumbent Mayor Eric Adams, an independent who did not face a primary contest.—APP

Briefs

Erdogan, Trump discuss regional, bilateral issues

THE HAGUE: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan met with US President Donald Trump at the NATO Summit in The Hague, where they discussed regional and global issues as well as bilateral ties. President Erdogan welcomed an Israel-Iran ceasefire "achieved through US President Trump's efforts" and called for lasting peace, an end to the Gaza crisis and dialogue on Ukraine, according to a statement by Türkiye's Communications Directorate. During their meeting, President Erdogan highlighted the strong potential for cooperation with the US in energy, investment and defence in particular, noting that advancing ties could help achieve a US\$100 billion trade target. Both President Erdogan and Trump underlined the importance of strengthening NATO's deterrence as leading allies in the Alliance, reported Türkiye's Anadolu Agency. — **Agencies**

Aurangzeb holds virtual meeting with Lutnick

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb Holds Virtual Meeting with US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick A virtual meeting took place between Mr. Muhammad Aurangzeb, Pakistan's Finance Minister and Howard Lutnick, United States' Commerce Secretary on US Reciprocal tariffs on 24th June, 2025 at 2030 Hours (PST). Both sides showed satisfaction on the on-going negotiations and resolved to conclude the trade negotiations next week. It was also resolved that further to the trade agreement, a partnership, based on strategic and investment interests, would be concluded in due course covering areas of mutual interest. The discussion focused on meaningful engagement in trade, investment and deepening economic ties mutually beneficial to both sides with technical level trade related discussions to be concluded next week. Both sides expressed confidence in concluding trade negotiations at the earliest.

Pak urges diplomacy for peacefully resolving Iran nuclear issue

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan reaffirmed its support for resolving Iran nuclear issue through peaceful means when the UN Security Council on Tuesday discussed the latest developments related to the implementation of its 2015 resolution endorsing the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which limits the Iranian atomic programme. "Diplomatic engagement and the resumption of dialogue are the best means to resolve all outstanding issues," Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, permanent representative of Pakistan to UN, told the 15-member Council on Tuesday. "Diplomacy has delivered previously and with the necessary political will, it can certainly deliver again," he said, referring to JCPOA, which was signed in 2015 after extensive negotiations between Iran and several world powers, including the United States. The US, however, withdrew from the agreement in 2018 under the Trump administration, and the deal is now considered "essentially defunct". Tuesday's Security Council session followed a brokered ceasefire that brought a pause to recent hostilities — air strikes by Israel and the United States on Iranian nuclear sites, and Tehran's subsequent missile attacks on a United States base in Qatar. — **Agencies**

USA is keen to solidify economic cooperation with Pakistan: Baker

Federal Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik highlighted the vast potential of Pakistan's mining sector. "Pakistan is richly endowed with mineral resources, including gold, copper, coal, rare earth elements and other critical minerals essential for renewable energy transition"

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Government of Pakistan in collaboration with the USA Embassy in Pakistan, hosted a high-level webinar "Opportunities in Pakistan's Mining Sector – Unlocking Mineral Potential" aimed at promoting investment opportunities in Pakistan's minerals and mining sector to American investors and companies. This direct line virtual event was hosted together by Federal Minister of Energy (Petroleum Division) Ali Pervaiz Malik and U.S. Chargé d'Affaires to Pakistan H.E Natalie Baker at Oil & Gas Development Company (OGDCL) Head Office in Islamabad. The webinar brought together senior officials from Pakistan's Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division), leading Pakistani mineral and energy companies, representatives of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), and top USA diplomats and energy sector stakeholders. Secretary Petroleum Mr. Momin Agha, MD OGDCL Mr. Ahmed Hayat Lak, Managing Directors of GHPL and Mari Énergies, DG Mines, MD PMDC, and senior representatives from Ark Metals, BMEC, BMRL, and PPL, US Embassy's Economic Counsellor, and Energy Officer participated, along with various American business representatives who virtually attended the event. In his keynote remarks, Federal Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik highlighted the vast potential of Pakistan's mining sector. "Pakistan is richly endowed with mineral resources, including gold, copper, coal, rare earth elements and other critical minerals essential for renewable energy transition," he said. The Minister noted the international significance



of the Reko Diq copper-gold project and pointed to recent discoveries in Balochistan's Chaghi district and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Waziristan region. He emphasized Pakistan's role in global transition towards clean energy, citing the country's abundant reserves of critical minerals as a foundation for its green transition. "Renewable energy development is central to our climate goals and economic future. We are facilitating this shift by supporting the mining of essential minerals and improving ease of doing business," he stated. The Minister also acknowledged the success of the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2025 (PMIF25), held earlier this year, which attracted

over 5,000 participants and brought global attention to Pakistan's mineral wealth. "PMIF25 marked a turning point, showcasing Pakistan as a serious player in the global minerals economy," he said, while inviting USA companies to explore public-private partnerships and joint ventures. He stressed how Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif & COAS Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir are personally leading the development of mining sector in Pakistan. The Minister emphasised that Government of Pakistan and SIFC are fully committed to provide all kind of facilitation to international companies in building partnership aimed at unlocking Pakistan's vast mineral reserves.

USA Chargé d'Affaires Ms. Natalie Baker reaffirmed the long-standing economic partnership between the United States of America and Pakistan. "Pakistan offers immense opportunities in the minerals sector. With one of the world's largest undeveloped copper and gold deposits at Reko Diq, and a strong commitment to economic reforms, this is the right time for USA investors to explore and engage," she said. Ms. Baker commended Pakistan's recent policy efforts to unlock the mining sector's potential and underscored the USA Embassy's commitment to supporting American businesses looking to invest in Pakistan. "We are here to facilitate connections and create win-win partnerships. USA investors have long contributed to Pakistan's development, and we see great promise in this sector," she added. Participants were briefed on ongoing regulatory reforms, including the development of a National Minerals Harmonisation Framework aimed at streamlining investment procedures and aligning federal and provincial regulations. The digitalization of geological data and the upgrading of the Geological Survey of Pakistan are also underway to improve transparency and data access for investors. Pakistani side also hosted a Q&A session with the American investors to clear any ambiguities / queries. In her closing remarks, Ms. Baker reiterated the USA government's commitment to supporting Pakistan's economic development and deepening bilateral economic ties. "We believe in Pakistan's potential, and we see shared opportunity in its journey toward inclusive, sustainable growth," she concluded. The webinar reinforced Pakistan's strategic positioning within the Tethyan Metallogenic Belt, known for its rich mineral endowments, and outlined attractive investment opportunities across the mining value chain.

Iranian N sites: Trump flays US media over 'fake news'

Sources claim Tehran's enriched uranium stocks were not eliminated in US strikes

DNA

WASHINGTON: US airstrikes did not destroy Iran's nuclear capability and only set it back by a few months, according to one initial US intelligence assessment, as a shaky ceasefire brokered by President Donald Trump took hold between Iran and Israel. Three sources familiar with the matter, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told Reuters of the preliminary assessment. According to two of the sources, the assessment was prepared by the US Defence Intelligence Agency.

UK to reintroduce nuclear weapon-capable aircraft under NATO

LONDON: Britain will reintroduce fighter jets capable of carrying atomic weapons to support NATO's nuclear mission, Prime Minister Keir Starmer's office said, as he prepares for a Nato summit Wednesday. The country will purchase 12 nuclear weapon-capable F-35A fighters, expanding the country's deterrence arsenal, which is currently limited to submarine-launched missiles. "These F35 dual capable aircraft will herald a new era for our world-leading Royal Air Force and deter hostile threats that threaten the UK and our Allies," Starmer said in a statement on Tuesday. NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte was quoted in the statement as saying: "I strongly welcome today's announcement," calling it "yet another robust British contribution to NATO". Downing Street described it as the "biggest strengthening of the UK's nuclear posture in a generation", adding that Starmer would announce the plan at summit on Wednesday. Since the end of the Cold War, British nuclear deterrence within the Atlantic alliance was provided solely by missiles aboard Royal Navy submarines. Heloise Fayet, a nuclear specialist at the French Institute of International Relations (Ifri), told AFP the announcement illustrates "the continued re-nuclearization of Europe, the renewed need for nuclear weapons, and the strengthening of NATO's deterrence, in the face of an adversary, Russia". — **Agencies**

WB approves \$194 mln to support water projects

"The GRADES-Balochistan project aims to reduce learning poverty in the province, while the Balochistan Water Security and Productivity Improvement Project will help address the province's water security challenges and enhance climate resilience"

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The World Bank Board (WB) has approved \$194 million for two projects to enhance educational opportunities for children and boost water security in Balochistan. Tourist attractions "The GRADES-Balochistan project aims to reduce learning poverty in the province, while the Balochistan Water Security and Productivity Improvement Project will help address the province's water security challenges and enhance climate resilience," said Najy Benhassine World Bank Country Director for Pakistan in a press release issued here on Wednesday. "The WB remains committed to support Balochistan through strategic investments in infrastructure and human development to build the foundations for more job creation, poverty reduction, and stronger resilience," he added.

Mamdani all 'set to take over' New York City as first Muslim mayor

33-year-old state lawmaker's victory in Democratic primary will likely lead to him being favourite in November polls

CENTRELINE REPORT

NEW YORK: Zohran Mamdani, a 33-year-old state lawmaker and self-described democratic socialist, was poised on Tuesday to win New York City's Democratic mayoral primary in a surprising upset over former New York governor Andrew Cuomo. In brief remarks to supporters, Cuomo, 67, who had been seeking a political comeback four years after resigning amid sexual harassment allegations, said he had called Mamdani to congratulate him. "Tonight is his night," Cuomo said while conceding the race to Mamdani. Mamdani, who entered the campaign as a virtual unknown, was ahead of Cuomo 43.5% to 36.4% with nearly 95% of ballot scanners reporting, according to the city's elections board. Nine other Democratic candidates trailed far behind. The outcome will not be final until next week, due to New York's ranked-

choice system to five candidates. But Mamdani's results appear any other candidate, particularly on Tuesday, since the third-place finisher, City Comptroller Brad Lander, encouraged his supporters to list Mamdani second.

The race was seen as an early read on the direction Democrats believe the party should take five months into Republican President Donald Trump's tumultuous second term. Their differences were clear: Cuomo, a moderate backed by the establishment who served a decade as governor, or Mamdani, a progressive newcomer who promised a break with the past. Mamdani will likely be the favourite in November's general election in a city where Democrats dominate.

The current mayor, Democrat Eric Adams, will also appear on the November ballot as an independent, but a series of corruption scandals and his perceived ties to Trump have weakened his standing.

Nepra cuts FY26 base power tariff by Rs1.49 after govt-IPP deal

Power regulator lowers FY26 tariff to Rs34.01/unit, down 4.2% from current year's level

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Offering significant relief to electricity consumers and businesses, the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) has reduced the base power tariff by Rs1.49 per unit for the fiscal year 2025-26, bringing it down to Rs34.01/unit — a 4.2% cut from the current rate of Rs35.50/unit. The downward revision follows lower capacity payments secured through fresh government agreements with Independent Power Producers (IPPs), falling energy prices, and a projected 2.8% rise in demand. Nepra has forwarded its rebasing decision to the federal government for final approval and implementation of a uniform tariff. For FY26, the regulator has authorised a total revenue requirement of Rs3.52 trillion for ex-Wapda distribution companies (XWDiscos), comprising Rs3.07 trillion in power purchase price (PPP) and Rs454 billion in distribution margins and system losses. Notably, the government had hiked the base tariff by Rs5.72 per unit (19.2%) to Rs35.50/unit in FY25 — making the current reduction a potential breather for businesses and households. Nepra credits the easing prices with improved macroeconomic indicators and a noticeable shift of captive industrial users back to the national grid.

Morocco: Tourism Sector Revenues reach \$3.7 billion in 5 months

DNA

RABAT: The Moroccan Ministry of Tourism announced that the tourism sector generated revenues estimated at 34 billion dirhams (about \$3.7 billion) during the first five months of this year, an 8 percent increase compared to the same period last year. Fatima Zahra Ammor, Moroccan Minister of Tourism, Industry, Handicrafts, Social and Solidarity Economy, said that the number of overnight stays during the same period reached 11.8 million, a 13 percent increase, while the number of tourists who visited Morocco during the same period reached 7.2 million, a 22 percent increase compared to last year.

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