



Islamabad POST

Saturday, June 28, 2025

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

Field Marshal calls for inter-institution harmony, cohesion

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Iran FM says IAEA visit means nothing

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CDA achieves major revenue from auction

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Ruling alliance to get two-thirds majority

Big blow to PTI as SC declares it ineligible for reserved seats

SC constitutional bench accepts review petitions by majority of 7 to 5 judges, upholds PHC verdict

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: In a major setback for the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, the Supreme Court's Constitutional Bench has accepted review petitions and ruled that the Imran Khan-founded party is not entitled to seats reserved for women and minorities in the national and provincial assemblies. The verdict was announced by a 10-member bench headed by Justice Aminuddin Khan on Friday. Announcing the short ruling, Justice Aminuddin Khan said, "Justice Aminuddin Khan, Justice Mussarat Hilali, Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan, Justice Shahid Bilal Hassan, Justice Hashim Khan Kakar, Justice Aamir Farooq and Justice Ali Baqar Najafi all review petitions are allowed and impugn majority judgement dated July 12, 2024 is set aside as a consequence thereof civil appeals ... filed by SIC are dismissed and judgement rendered by the PHC is restored." Earlier, in a major development, Supreme Court's (SC) Justice Sala-uddin Panhwar has recused himself from being a part of the Constitutional

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'Dark day': PTI rejects SC's reserved seats verdict, announces protest

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD, JUN 27: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Friday rejected the Supreme Court's verdict on reserved seats, calling the decision "unjust and a misinterpretation of the Constitution." In a major setback to the PTI, the SC's Constitutional Bench accepted review petitions and ruled that the Imran Khan-founded party was not entitled to seats reserved for women and minorities in the national and provincial assemblies. The verdict was announced by a 10-member bench headed by Justice Aminuddin Khan. Speaking to Geo News following the ruling, PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan expressed disappointment over the top court's ruling and said: "We are deeply disappointed... the decision is

unfair, and the Constitution has been wrongly interpreted," Barrister Gohar said. "The reserved seats rightfully belonged to PTI," said the PTI chairman. Barrister Gohar maintained that after today's SC review decision on reserved seats, the party has no further legal recourse. "We cannot take this matter to any other court after this review judgment," he added. However, the PTI's top leader said that his party will raise the issue in and outside the parliament. Meanwhile, in an official statement following the apex court's verdict, PTI termed the verdict as the "darkest day in the country's constitutional history." The party recalled that the apex court had previously recognised PTI's constitutional right to the reserved seats for women and minorities.

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India accused of illegal deportations Muslims

"Muslims, particularly from eastern part of the country, are terrified," says veteran Indian rights activist

DNA

NEW DELHI: India has deported without trial to Bangladesh hundreds of people, officials from both sides said, drawing condemnation from activists and lawyers who call the recent expulsions illegal and based on ethnic profiling. New Delhi says the people deported are undocumented migrants. The Hindu nationalist government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has long taken a hardline stance on immigration - particularly those from neighbouring Muslim-majority Bangladesh - with top officials referring to them as "termites" and "infiltrators".

Continued on Page 06

Urban flooding forecast in Sindh until Sunday

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The Pakistan Meteorological Department has forecast another spell of rain in Karachi, Hyderabad and other parts of Sindh on Friday. Several parts of Sindh received moderate to heavy rainfall on Thursday, ending the prolonged dry spell across the province and bringing relief from the scorching summer heat. The authorities had earlier released an urban flooding warning for several cities. In its latest weather advisory issued today, the Met Office said "strong monsoon currents are penetrating over the province." Under its influence, rain thunderstorm/ rain with few moderate to

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Lauds role of armed forces

PM urges unity, collective efforts for development

Coming to recent Israel's aggression against Iran, Prime Minister Shehbaz said that Pakistan expressed solidarity with the Iranian government and its people at every level

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday appreciating the economic team and the coalition parties for their hard work and support in the passage of annual budget 2025-26 through the parliament, called for replicating a similar exemplary unity and efforts to achieve national economic development. "Now, we must all work together day and night for Pakistan's economic progress. I firmly believe that this exemplary unity will ensure Pakistan's economic uplift," he said in a meeting with members of the Senate and National Assembly after the approval of budget 2025-26, according to a PM Office press release.

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'Army not interested in talks with political parties'

DG ISPR Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry says military should not be dragged into political matters

NEWS DESK

RAWALPINDI: Director General of the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, on Friday said that the Pakistan Army has no interest in holding talks with political parties, stressing

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Briefs

To empower Trump

US apex court curbs powers of lower judges

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: The United States Supreme Court handed President Donald Trump a major victory on Friday by curbing the power of lone federal judges to block executive actions. In a 6-3 ruling stemming from Trump's bid to end birthright citizenship, the court said nationwide injunctions issued by district court judges "likely exceed the equitable authority that Congress has granted to federal courts". The top court did not immediately rule on the constitutionality of Trump's executive order seeking to end automatic citizenship for children born on American soil.

Iran FM says IAEA visit means nothing

DNA

TEHRAN: Iran's Araghchi says UN nuclear watchdog head's insistence to visit Iran sites is 'meaningless, even malign' Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has indicated that Tehran may reject any request by the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency for visits to Iranian nuclear sites, Reuters reports. "The IAEA and its Director-General are fully responsible for this sordid state of affairs," Araghchi wrote on X.

Holiday Notice

The offices of daily Islamabad POST shall remain closed on Saturday on account of weekly off therefore there will be no newspaper on Sunday. - Editor

Swat River tragedy

Nine dead, several missing after family of 18 swept away

Family was having breakfast by riverbank when heavy rains upstream caused unexpected increase in water flow

SHAMIM SHAHID

SWAT/PESHAWAR/ISLAMABAD: At least nine people died after 18 members of the same family were swept away by a sudden surge of high water in the Swat River on Friday morning, drawing condolences from the country's top leadership. Rescue 1122, in its statement, said that three individuals had been recovered and a rescue operation was underway for the remaining people. According to rescue officials, the affected family hailing from Sialkot was on a leisure trip, having breakfast by the riverbank at around 8am when heavy rains upstream caused an unexpected and rapid increase in water flow. "We received information about the drowning of these people around 8am. There were guests on the bypass who were sitting on the bank of the river. These people were not aware of the water relay," a rescue official said. While three individuals have been successfully pulled to safety and the bodies of five recovered, the search for the re-

maining missing family members continues amidst challenging conditions. While speaking to Geo News, Deputy Commissioner Swat Shahzad Mehboob reiterated that Section 144, which prohibits bathing in and approaching the river, is in force. He expressed concern that despite these restrictions, tourists continue to venture into dangerous areas. A distraught tourist, who identified himself as a family member, recounted the harrowing ordeal, saying that 10 members of his immediate family were swept away, with the body of one woman found and the search for nine children still underway. "We were having breakfast and drinking tea, and the children went to take a selfie near the river. At that time, there was not much water in the river," he told Geo News. He further explained that rescue officials arrived to the scene hours after the incident was reported and failed to rescue the children who were still struggling in the river when rescuers reached the location.

Continued on Page 06

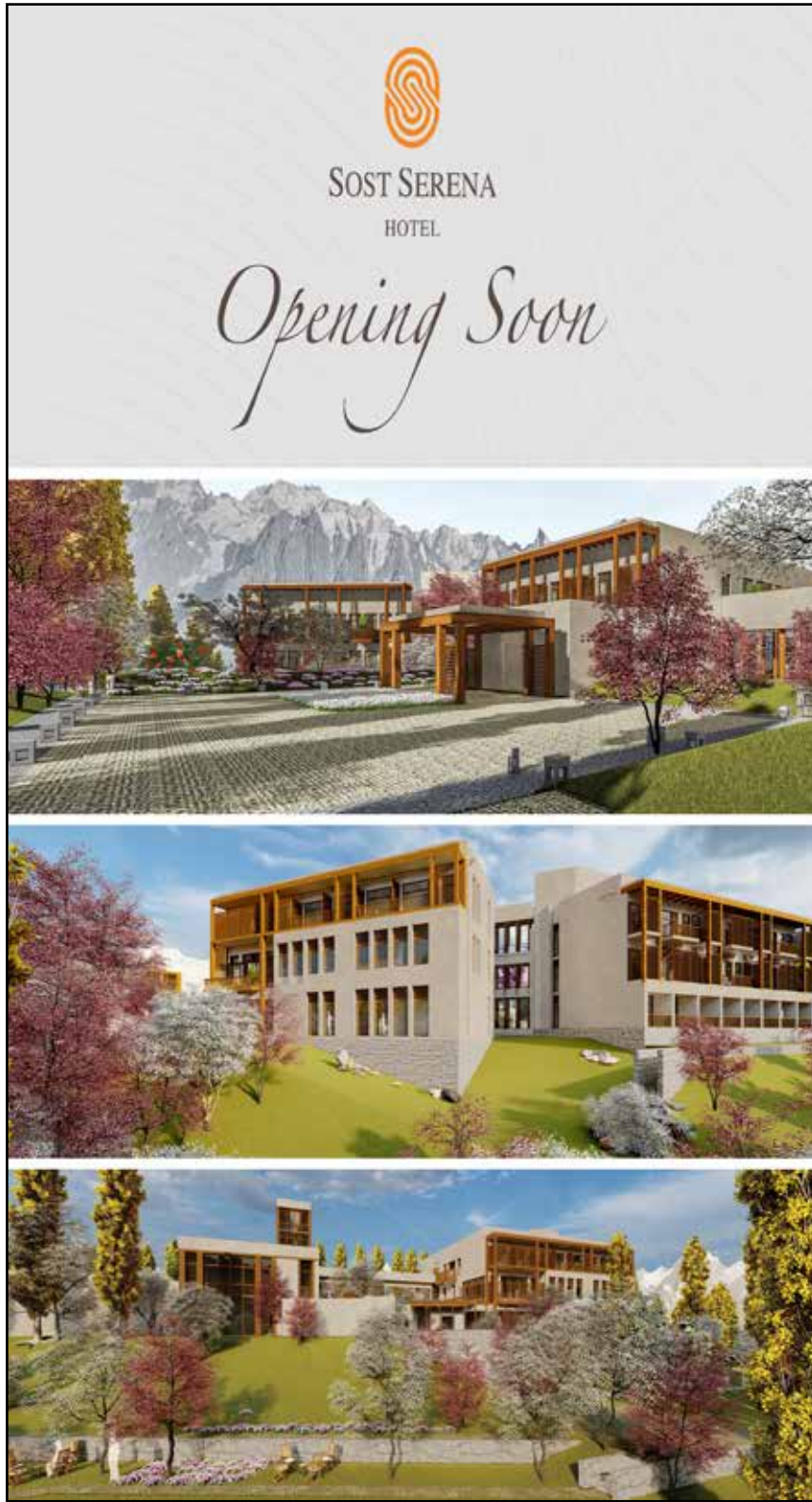
Major reshuffle takes place in Pakistan's diplomatic corps

Mustafa Rabbani being posted as consul general to Jeddah while Khokhar will be posted as CG to Montreal

CENTRELINE REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will replace ambassadors in eight capitals, including Russia, Australia, Romania, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Niger, Kyrgyzstan, and Ireland, as part of a major diplomatic shakeup. Additionally, there are two consul generals assigned to two significant consulates. Aisha Farooqui, Pakistan's ambassador to Ireland, will take Dr Khalid Jamali's post as Russia's ambassador in Moscow. The current additional foreign secretary for the Americas, Maryam Aftab, will be sent to Ireland as ambassador. Altamash Wazir Khan, director general Middle East at the Foreign Office, will be sent to Kyrgyzstan. In order to succeed Zahid Hafeez Chaudhary as high commissioner for Australia, Irfan Shaukat is travelling to Canberra. Ilyas Nizamani would be posted as ambassador to Ro-

mania replacing Muhammad Arshad Jan Pathan. Tariq Kareem is being considered for Myanmar as ambassador replacing Imran Haider. Haider has been designated as high commissioner for Bangladesh vice Syed Ahmad Maroof. Shah Faisal Kakkhar will be appointed ambassador in Niamey, Niger, replacing Ahmad Ali Sarohiee. Mustafa Rabbani is being posted as consul general to Jeddah while Shahbaz Hussain Khokhar will be posted as consul general to Montreal (Canada). Khokhar is currently serving as the director general Europe at the Foreign Office. The incumbent envoy to Russia, Ambassador Khalid Jamali, who is one of the senior-most officers of the Foreign Service in Grade 22 is likely to hang his gloves after return to the headquarters. Zahid Hafeez Chaudhary is being posted as Additional Foreign Secretary whereas Syed Ahmad Maroof will be assigned an important responsibility in the Foreign Office upon his return to the headquarters, the sources said.



KP CM establishes emergency flood cell

PESHAWAR: On the directives of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur, an emergency flood cell has been established to ensure swift coordination and timely response during the monsoon season, according to the CM's spokesperson Faraz Ahmed Mughal. The public is advised to report any flood-related emergencies or request assistance by contacting the dedicated helpline numbers: +92 340 9418852 and 1177. In anticipation of potential flooding due to heavy monsoon rains, the spokesperson urged citizens to stay away from riverbanks, streams, and low-lying areas, and to follow all instructions issued by local authorities. Travelers were strongly advised to check the regional weather conditions before planning any trips during the monsoon season. The spokesperson emphasized that strict adherence to precautionary measures was essential to ensure public safety in case of severe rainfall or flooding threats. Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur on Friday expressed deep sorrow over the loss of precious lives and destruction caused by torrential rains and flash floods in the upper regions of the province, particularly in Swat. According to a statement issued here multiple individuals have been swept away by powerful flood waters in the Swat River. Rescue operations led by Rescue 1122 and local district administrations are currently underway at various locations.—APP

CNS Admiral Naveed Ashraf addresses 54th PN staff course

LAHORE: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf visited Pakistan Navy War College, Lahore, and addressed the participants of 54th PN Staff Course. While appreciating their efforts, he underscored the importance of understanding the evolving nature of modern warfare and emerging maritime security threats. He emphasized that traditional military strategies must adapt to effectively address the complexities of contemporary security challenges, both traditional and non-traditional. The Naval Chief, while elaborating on the maritime challenges facing Pakistan and available response options, remarked that the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) remains fluid and contested. He highlighted that new geopolitical realignments and ongoing power rivalries in the region continue to affect security environment in the IOR. The recent crises between Pakistan and India, as well as the 12-day conflict between Iran and Israel, serve as testimony to this dynamic environment. He stated that the conventional, one-dimensional study of warfare is now outdated. Winning future wars demands not only a re-evaluation of legacy warfighting strategies, but also the development and maintenance of a future-ready workforce that is intellectually astute and technologically proficient. In conclusion, Chief of the Naval Staff congratulated graduating officers on successful completion of the PN Staff Course and encouraged them to be meticulous, analytical, and innovative in their forthcoming appointments.—APP

Read Japan Project

Nippon Foundation donates a collection of 92 books to NUTECH

The Ambassador appreciated the services rendered by NUTECH for offering not only the degree programs but also vocational training and language courses and has cultivated talented students, contributing to Pakistan's human capital DNA

DNA

ISLAMABAD | The Embassy of Japan in Pakistan, in collaboration with the Nippon Foundation, has donated a collection of 92 books to Japan to the National University of Technology (NUTECH) Islamabad as a part of the "Read Japan Project" aimed at fostering a deeper understanding of Japan's rich culture, politics and economics through books. AKAMATSU Shuichi, the Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, on behalf of the Nippon Foundation, presented the books to Rector NUTECH, Lt. General (Retd) Mr. Moazzam Ejaz at a ceremony held on Friday June 27 at the university premises. The 92 carefully selected books in English language cover a range of topics related to Japan such as history, politics, economy, security, philosophy, literature, art and culture. Speaking on the occasion, H.E. Ambassador AKAMATSU congratulated the students and teachers for receiving this valuable gift from the Nippon Foundation and expressed the hope that with these books, students, faculty members, and intellectuals will have more fascinating information on Japan as these books are windows into Japan's rich history, vibrant culture, ad-



vanced technology, and unique values.

The Ambassador appreciated the services rendered by NUTECH for offering not only the degree programs but also vocational training and language courses and has cultivated talented students, contributing to

Pakistan's human capital. He said that NUTECH's relationship with Japan is noteworthy as it's a registered organization which is sending interns for Japan's Technical Intern Training Program (TITP). "I believe that NUTECH is playing a pivotal role in people-to-people exchange between Japan and

Pakistan," said the Ambassador. In his remarks, the Rector NUTECH Lt. General (Retd) Moazzam Ejaz thanked the Nippon Foundation and the Embassy of Japan for their generous gift of knowledge, expressing hope that the students will use this opportunity to learn about Japan and

strengthen future Japan-Pakistan bilateral relations. The "READ JAPAN PROJECT" was initiated by the Nippon Foundation in 2008 to promote the understanding of Japan through the donation of Japan related books in English to universities and libraries around the world.

Sherry expresses profound sorrow over tragic incident in Swat

ISLAMABAD: Senator Sherry Rehman, Chairperson of Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, has expressed deep sorrow at the tragic loss of lives in the Swat River floods, where several people drowned after being swept away by surging waters. In a statement on Friday, she extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and prayers for those still missing, while reminding the country that these events are no longer random or "natural" in origin. "The tragic drowning of several people in the River Swat is not the result of a random 'natural disaster'. This is the deadly impact of super heavy monsoons in Swat, all triggered by climate stress. It is not just one area—Gilgit-Baltistan is struggling with snow melt blockages and GLOF events, and the rest of Pakistan, including Sindh, is grappling with sub-human temperatures like 50°C," she stated. Senator Rehman noted that more than 70 people were trapped at several different locations. So far, six dead bodies have been recovered and 52 people have been rescued. "Many such hazards will occur for which we will not be prepared because we don't pay attention to climate stress as a systemic challenge.—APP

Iranian envoy thanks Pakistani journalists for support during war

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: Consul General of Iran in Peshawar, Ali Banafahkehah, expressed his gratitude to Pakistan's prominent journalists and columnists for their writings in support of Iran. He commended their acknowledgment of Iran's resilience and steadfast spirit in confronting imperialistic powers. He expressed these views while talking to a five-member delegation of the Abasin Columnists Association (ACWA) which called on him on Thursday under the leadership of its President, Ziaul-Haq Sarhadi. The delegation members included General Secretary Abid Akhtar Hassan, Finance Secretary Waaseem Shahid, Legal Advisor Sahibzada Talha Saeed Ad-

vocate and Member of the Executive Committee Aurangzeb Ahmed. The delegation extended heartfelt congratulations to the Supreme Leader of Iran, Ayatollah Khamenei, the people and the government of Iran on the recent victory against the economic forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. On this occasion, Ziaul-Haq Sarhadi said that the hearts of the people of Pakistan and Iran beat together, and Iran's victory is actually the victory of the Muslim Ummah. Iran's courage, independence, spirit of martyrdom and services for the exaltation of the religion of Islam are commendable. The Consul General of the Islamic Republic of Iran said that the way Pakistani writers and penmen have encouraged Iran in recent days, we are deeply grateful to them. Iran and Pakistan

are connected to each other in terms of civilization, values, history and culture. We both have the same goal and that is the exaltation of the clear religion of Islam. He called the unity, solidarity, brotherhood and sincerity of the Muslim Ummah indispensable and said that the most important requirement of the time is that we unite and organize ourselves to stand firm against imperialistic powers and become an invincible force and make it clear to the world that we are one and will not hesitate to make any sacrifice for our survival and the exaltation of Islam. The Consul General thanked the delegation and said that this success is the success of the entire Muslim Ummah and especially of this region. "This war has brought both countries and nations of Pakistan and Iran closer.

UN Women & HRs ministry inaugurate renovated shelter home

ISLAMABAD: UN Women, in partnership with the Ministry of Human Rights, has completed the refurbishment of the Family protection and rehabilitation center in Islamabad. This initiative marks a substantial upgrade in the center's capacity to deliver high-quality, survivor-centered services in a safe, confidential, and dignified environment. The refurbishment was undertaken under the Essential Services Package (ESP) initiative, with support from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Australia. The ESP aims to provide a coordinated set of essential, multisectoral services to survivors of violence, aligned with international human rights standards and global best practices.—APP

Kaira highlights PPP's commitment to consensus-driven politics

LAHORE: Former federal minister for Information and Broadcasting Qamar Zaman Kaira on Thursday reiterated the Pakistan Peoples Party's (PPP) commitment to consensus-driven politics rather than majoritarianism, stating that rulers fade from memory, but true leaders remain in the hearts of the people. Pakistan food delivery service Addressing a seminar organized by the People's Lawyers Forum (PLF) Lahore Division at the Lahore High Court's Conference Hall, Kaira lauded PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's efforts in uniting political forces, particularly during the debate on the 26th Constitutional Amendment. "Bilawal managed to bring all parties on board regarding the formation of a constitutional bench, though we initially advocated for constitutional courts," he added. The

seminar was presided over by PLF Lahore Division President Shahid Abbas Advocate, and attended by prominent lawyers, politicians, and civil society members. A cake-cutting ceremony was also held in celebration of Benazir Bhutto's birth anniversary, honouring her legacy as the "daughter of the East." Kaira paid rich tribute to Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Benazir Bhutto, saying, "It was Bhutto Sahib who gave hope to a shattered nation during a time of deep political and national crisis." He credited Benazir Bhutto for Pakistan's missile advancements and recalled her role in forging the Charter of Democracy with political opponents, including Mian Nawaz Sharif. Speaking on national politics, he said, "When political parties are weakened, the country suffers. True leaders offer direction

in such times." Referring to PPP's continued support for the democratic process, he added, "We have reservations on the federal budget, but we will not destabilize the government. National unity demands rising above political differences." Former Supreme Court Bar Association President Ahsan Bhoon also addressed the gathering, praising the legacy of Shaheed Bhutto. "Pakistan's defence and democratic systems are tied to the Bhutto vision. Chairman Bilawal has outshone adversaries diplomatically, while President Asif Ali Zardari strengthened parliament by devolving presidential powers," he added. Pakistan food delivery services Other speakers including Chaudhry Aslam Gul, Usman Malik, and Arshad Ansari echoed similar sentiments.

Education deptt plans 96 projects in ADP

PESHAWAR: A review meeting of the Annual Development Programme (ADP) for the Education Department was held under the chairmanship of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Minister for Education, Faisal Khan Tarakai. The meeting discussed the progress and new initiatives under the ADP for the current fiscal year. It was informed that a total of 96 projects have been included in the ADP, comprising 37 ongoing and 20 new projects in settled districts, 14 ongoing and 5 new projects under the Accelerated Implementation Programme (AIP), and 16 ongoing and 4 new projects in the merged districts. Among the new projects, Rs. 300 million has been allocated for land acquisition for schools, Rs. 855 million for the restoration of 10 historic schools, Rs. 100 million for tele-education, Rs. 1.2 billion for the Education Emergency School Support Programme, Rs. 100 million for teacher training, and Rs. 200 million for teacher licensing. Other major initiatives include the establishment of Centres of Excellence (Rs. 150 million), 200 schools under the Education Foundation (Rs. 100 million), construction of 500 additional classrooms (Rs. 407 million), 50 new primary schools (Rs. 375 million), girls' community schools and ALP centres (Rs. 220 million), Early Childhood Education (ECE) rooms (Rs. 5 million), smart classrooms (Rs. 500 million), model schools in southern districts (Rs. 826 million), and construction of 50 schools in merged districts (Rs. 1.5 billion). This year will also see the establishment of 41 new primary schools, 12 new secondary schools, upgradation of 31 primary schools to middle level, and 23 middle schools to high level. In merged districts, 71 examination halls, 64 science labs, and 67 schools will be completed, along with 2 cadet colleges in settled districts and 3 model schools in merged districts. The minister highlighted key mega projects, including the establishment of a Girls Cadet College in Dera Ismail Khan, completion of Girls Cadet College Mardan, a Cadet College in Lakki Marwat, monthly stipends for students in merged districts, solarization of schools, and reconstruction of damaged schools in Bara, Khyber District. The total ADP budget for 2025-26 stands at Rs. 328.865 billion, with Rs. 303.583 billion for current expenditures and Rs. 23.28 billion for development, marking a 13% increase from last year. The minister noted that 91% of work on 24 schemes has been completed and will be finalized this year. Additionally, Rs. 5 billion has been allocated to bring out-of-school children back to schools, and new projects like the Education Card and Tele-Education will be launched.—DNA

Country's uplift directly linked with uplifting of railways system: Abbasi

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A high-level trade delegation from Uzbekistan, headed by Mr. Bakhrom Yusupov, Commercial Attaché, Tukhtaev Akobirjon Khakimovich, Deputy Chairman of the Uzbekistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, visited the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) to explore trade and investment opportunities in key sectors including textiles, leather, agriculture, fisheries, fertilizers, and commerce. He invited Pakistani businesses to tap into Uzbekistan's emerging markets and investment-friendly climate. The delegation included



representatives from major organizations such as the Uzbek Chamber of Commerce, the Uzbek Textile and Leather Associations, as well as prominent private enterprises. Tukhtaev Akobirjon Khakimovich gave a comprehensive overview of

Uzbekistan's economy, highlighting investment prospects in the energy and chemical industries, and emphasizing the country's improved global connectivity through air, road, and rail logistics. RCCI President Usman Shaukat warmly welcomed the delegation

and underscored the strong potential for enhancing trade relations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan. He emphasized collaboration in sectors such as energy, pharmaceuticals, textiles, agriculture, chemicals, and tourism, and stressed the need to facilitate joint

ventures and investments through practical steps like direct flights, streamlined visa processes, and sector-specific data exchange. He also acknowledged the support of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme and the RCCI Ease of Doing Business Committee in facilitating this impactful visit. RCCI Senior Vice President Khalid Farooq Qazi, Vice President Fahad Barlas, former presidents, executive committee members, and a large number of RCCI members. The visit concluded with productive B2B sessions, aimed at strengthening economic cooperation and opening new avenues of partnership between Pakistan and Uzbekistan.




CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
ISLAMABAD WATER


INVITATION FOR BIDS

- The **Capital Development Authority** invites bids on percentage basis against NIT cost from the Contractors/firms duly enlisted with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in appropriate category & code & having valid PEC licenses 2024-2025 and also registered with Income Tax/Sales Tax Departments who can prove their eligibility and qualification as mentioned in the Bidding Document for the following work.

S/N	Name of work	Earnest Money	NIT Cost	Remarks
01	Providing/laying of 8", 6" 4" dia HDPE line due to Contamination issue in st, 159, 160, 170, & 2, Sector, G-11/1, Islamabad.	356,378/-	Rs.11,879,259/-	Quantity and detail of items are mentioned in the bidding documents.
02	Replacement of Chlorinators of different capacities at Simly filtration plan and other water works.	265,846/-	Rs.8,861,535/-	

- Bidding documents are available on PPRA E-PADS.
- Only firms/Contractor registered with PPRA on E-PADS as vendors are eligible.
- Tender should be accompanied Bid Security /Earnest Money for the work S/No 1 in the form of CDRs in favour of Deputy Director (Distribution Division (North)CDA & S/No 2 Deputy Director Production Div-I CDA generated from company account.The prospective bidders shall upload scanned copy of Bid Security on E-PADS and original CDR along with the application must reached to the office of the Deputy Director (Distribution Division (North)CDA & Deputy Director Production Div-I before dated on 17-07-2025 for scrutiny.
- The prospective bidders are also required to submit their Bids online through E-PADS at <http://eprocure.gov.pk> before opening date Original bids in accordance with the provision of Rule 36(a) of Public Procurement Rules-2004 in terms & conditions on or before dated 21-07-2025 & 11:30 AM
- The Bids will be opened publicly on the same day at 12:00 Noon in the presence of the procurement committee & Bidders authorized Representatives who choose to attend the opening session in the office of the Director (Islamabad Water) Room No.16, CDA Old Naval Headquarter Building, G-6, Islamabad.
- The Firm providing un substantiated and /or incorrect information are liable to legal action and disqualification from the bidding.
- The Authority reserves the right to reject all the applications as per PPRA Rules
- Advertisement is also available on CDA web site. www.cda.gov.pk and PPRA website www.ppra.org.pk

Director | **Islamabad Water (IW) CDA** | **PID(I)9048/24**
Ph.9202207

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



Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115

PIA Flight Info.....114


PIA Cargo.....9280979

Railway Inquiry.....117

Railway Exchange.....9270831-5

WASA Rawalpindi.....5555489

CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

CMH.....5611111

MH.....5611116

Canth 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

PODA, its partners join hands to spread health, hygiene awareness

During the session, she presented an oral testimony of a Grade 8 student suffering from severe health complications due to early marriage, with her kidneys now on the verge of failure

DNA

RAWALPINDI: To support a youth-led campaign titled "Her Health, Her Rights," PODA, in collaboration with the District Population Office Rawalpindi, organized an awareness session for more than 60 male and female students, focusing on female hygiene—particularly menstrual, sexual, and reproductive health. The session was held at the KIOCA Seminar Hall of PMAS Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi. Representing PODA, Nabeela Aslam briefed the participants about PODA's work for the protection and promotion of the rights of women, youth, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and other marginalized segments of society, with a special focus on the rights of rural women in Pakistan. She highlighted PODA's flagship Annual Rural Women Leadership Training Conference, which will mark its 18th year of celebration this year. She also shared observations from the ongoing three-year project "Reduce Early Marriages to Enhance Gender Equality," supported by the Norwegian Embassy in Islamabad. Through this project, a wide range of awareness activities on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) are being conducted at various levels—from schools to key district government



departments, including health, education, population, social welfare, and local government institutions. During the session, she presented an oral testimony of a Grade 8 student suffering from severe health complications due to early marriage, with her kidneys now on the verge of failure. The girl faced immense physical strain as a result of being married at a young age. Nabeela Aslam also highlighted critical issues related to menstrual hygiene, including the inappropriate use of sanitary pads and unhygienic practices that lead to infections. She pointed out that many girls stop drinking water and avoid bathing during their periods, which further contributes to health problems. She emphasized the increasing cases of urinary tract infections (UTIs) caused by poor menstrual hygiene. Representing the District Population Office, Dr. Anaam Mushtaq, Women's Health Officer at the Family Health Clinic, Benazir Bhutto Hospital, Rawalpindi, gave a detailed presentation on urinary tract infections (UTIs) and sexually transmitted infections (STIs). She emphasized the importance of improved hygiene practices, describing them as the foundation of women's health. In response to a question about how one can identify reproductive health issues, she explained that it is important to understand your body and be aware of its normal conditions. This self-awareness helps in detecting abnormalities related to reproductive tract infections (RTIs) and breast health.

AIOU empowers girls from remote areas thru distance education

ISLAMABAD: Under the distance learning system of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), dozens of girls from the underprivileged and remote district of Torghar have successfully completed their matriculation. A prestigious ceremony was held to celebrate this significant achievement, organized in collaboration with the Alternative Learning Pathways (ALP), the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and UNICEF. The Vice Chancellor of AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, was the chief guest at the event. While addressing the audience, he emphasized AIOU's commitment to promoting female education, especially in the most marginalized areas of the country. "Providing quality education to girls in remote and underserved regions is our mission, and we are determined to continue this journey with dedication," he said. The ceremony was attended by Dr. Tauqeer Ahmad Khan, Director General Regional Services, Deputy Commissioner Torghar, representatives from UNICEF, ALP, and JICA, teachers, parents, and the successful students. Certificates were distributed, and the dedication and efforts of the students were highly appreciated.—DNA

Fatima Jinnah Women Varsity's 22nd convocation held

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan urged the women graduates to play their important role in driving national development. He underlined the need to foster youth participation in the country's mainstream. Sardar Salim said that sufficient finance has been fixed for the universities to further strengthen research and development in diverse academic domains. The Governor, also the university's Chancellor remarked this while addressing the 22nd Convocation of Fatima Jinnah Women University (FJWU), Rawalpindi, which was held at the Jinnah Convention Center, Islamabad on Friday. Governor Punjab congratulated the successful graduates, their parents and teachers terming the graduation memorable moment of acknowledgment and appreciation to all those who played their part for students' success. Governor emphasized that FJWU holds the distinction of being Pakistan's first women's university and encouraged the university's graduates to start their actual journey in practically materialising their talent in country's progress. He reiterated his support for the betterment of the higher education in the province by enhancing the budgetary assistance. "A substantial budget has been allocated for research at FJWU, enabling its students to demonstrate outstanding performance", he added. He affirmed that Pakistan is a divine blessing, and with honest intentions



ISLAMABAD: Degree holder students posing for photo at 22nd Convocation of Fatima Jinnah Women University.

and hard work, its youth can lead it to greater heights. Highlighting Pakistan's recent successful retaliatory combat against India aggression, the governor appreciated the leadership of Field Marshal General Syed Asim Munir. "Under his leadership, we have defeated our enemies decisively", he said adding that by overcoming India, Pakistan's global prestige has further increased, the four-day war has enhanced the value of the green passport. He maintained that Pakistan's commitment to peace is being globally appreciated, marking a significant diplomatic achievement, while India faces isolation. Chairman HEC Prof Dr Mukhtar Ahmed on the occasion said that transformative changes are being intro-

duced in higher education. Despite limited resources, students have brought pride to Pakistan. "With sincere intentions, everything falls into place. The future holds even greater success", he said while boosting the morale of the students. He urged students to take responsibility for advancing the nation, citing Fatima Jinnah and Benazir Bhutto as role models for female students. Earlier in her welcoming address, Dr Bushra Mirza, VC FJWU briefed the audience on the university's ongoing academic activities and the major achievements. She also highlighted the key initiatives taken by the university to enhance leadership skills in the students. A total of 1,450 graduates, including 1,203 undergraduate students, 214

MPhil scholars, 32 PhD recipients, and one Master's graduate were honoured with degrees and medals during the convocation. In recognition of academic distinction, 44 gold and 23 silver medals were awarded. A touching moment was shared as a mother-daughter duo—Dr. Hina Gul and Nimra Yasmeen received their PhD and BS degrees together, symbolizing FJWU's enduring mission of intergenerational empowerment through education. Governor Punjab distributed medals and certificates among the students who have shown outstanding performance in their respective departments during the study at FJWU. The impressive convocation was attended by a large number of students, parents and the faculty.

Ethiopia, Italy discuss cooperation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) and the Republic of Italy have discussed cooperation to engage the leadership of Pakistan for the 2nd United Nations Food Systems Summit Stocktake (UNFSS+4). The UNFSS+4, co-chaired by Ethiopia and Italy, will take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from July 27-29, 2025. To this end, H.E. Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula, Special Envoy and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ethiopia, met with H.E. Marilina Armellini, Ambassador of Italy in Pakistan, at the Italian Embassy Islamabad. They discussed matters of mutual interests, including bilateral and multilateral cooperation in trade, investment, food security, energy,

and connectivity. Both Ambassadors emphasized their shared commitment to transforming food systems for enhanced food security worldwide and in their respective countries as well. Ambassador Dr. Jemal briefed the Italian Ambassador on the Ethiopian Embassy's efforts to engage the Government of Pakistan for participation of its leadership in UNFSS+4. He highlighted that preparations for hosting the summit in Addis Ababa are well underway. "The summit will provide a crucial platform to reflect on past efforts and foster increased collaboration to build robust and transformed food systems," he remarked. He also informed the Ambassador about Ethiopia's commitment to green economic development and food self-sufficiency, citing initiatives like the Green Legacy Initiative, the Grand



NUML introduces Romanian language courses in Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD :The National University of Modern Languages (NUML) in Islamabad has introduced Romanian language courses for the first time in Pakistan, marking a significant milestone in academic engagement between Romania and Pakistan. This development aims to enhance cross-cultural understanding and cooperation. The initiative is the result of an agreement signed between the Romanian Language Institute (RLI) and NUML. Under this partnership, the Romanian Language Institute will appoint a

qualified Romanian lecturer to teach courses on Romanian language, literature, culture, and civilization within NUML's Faculty of Languages. These courses will be offered as elective options, enriching the university's academic and cultural diversity. The Romanian lecturer will also participate in cultural promotion activities and contribute to strengthening academic ties between Romania and Pakistan. Romanian Ambassador to Pakistan, Dr. Dan Stoescu, welcomed this initiative, stating that it will enhance educational diplomacy, build people-to-people connections, and promote mutual understanding. He expressed hope for

introducing Urdu language classes in Romania in the future. The Romanian language program will cater to students from diverse academic and professional backgrounds, offering courses in multiple formats, including short-term certifications and long-term diplomas. The program aligns with global standards, such as the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). This development reflects the growing interest in building institutional linkages between Romania and Pakistan, following recent joint initiatives in higher education, research, and innovation.

JUNE 2025

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Briefs

Women graduates to drive national progress: Governor

ISLAMABAD: Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan urged the women graduates to play their important role in driving national development. He underlined the need to foster youth participation in the country's mainstream. Sardar Salim said that sufficient finance has been fixed for the universities to further strengthen research and development in diverse academic domains. The Governor, also the university's Chancellor remarked this while addressing the 22nd Convocation of Fatima Jinnah Women University (FJWU), Rawalpindi, which was held at the Jinnah Convention Center, Islamabad on Friday. Governor Punjab congratulated the successful graduates, their parents and teachers terming the graduation memorable moment of acknowledgment and appreciation to all those who played their part for students' success. Governor emphasized that FJWU holds the distinction of being Pakistan's first women's university and encouraged the university's graduates to start their actual journey in practically materialising their talent in country's progress. He reiterated his support for the betterment of the higher education in the province by enhancing the budgetary assistance. "A substantial budget has been allocated for research at FJWU, enabling its students to demonstrate outstanding performance", he added. He affirmed that Pakistan is a divine blessing, and with honest intentions and hard work, its youth can lead it to greater heights. Highlighting Pakistan's recent successful retaliatory combat against India aggression, the governor appreciated the leadership of Field Marshal General Syed Asim Munir.—APP

Muharram teaches brotherhood & unity: Aleem Khan

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan has extended his heartfelt best wishes to the nation on the commencement of the new Hijri year. In his message, he prayed for blessings upon the entire Muslim Ummah and every Pakistani as the lunar year begins. Abdul Aleem Khan emphasized that Muharram-ul-Haram symbolizes unwavering unity and mutual brotherhood. He said that this sacred month teaches us the values of compassion, harmony and raising our voice for truth, said a press release issued here on Friday. In a message shared on X (formerly Twitter), the Federal Minister stated that the grandson of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) along with his companions, nurtured the religion of Islam with their blood during Muharram. The "Hussaini Ideology" is a timeless lesson in standing firm against falsehood for the sake of truth. By following their noble example, Muslims can attain the pleasure of Almighty Allah, Abdul Aleem Khan added. He concluded by praying for the protection of Pakistan.—APP

RCCI delegation meets chairman of PM Youth Programme

Discussions covered key areas including employment generation, youth entrepreneurship, and the creation of a sustainable ecosystem to nurture innovation and startup culture among young Pakistanis

DNA

RAWALPINDI: A delegation from the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), led by President Mr. Usman Shaukat and Senior Vice President Mr. Khalid Farooq Qazi, met with Mr. Rana Mashood Ahmad Khan, Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP), at his office in Islamabad to discuss collaborative strategies for youth empowerment. The meeting focused on strengthening public-private partnerships aimed at supporting the next generation of entrepreneurs and job creators. Discussions covered key areas including employment generation, youth entrepreneurship, and the creation of a sustainable ecosystem to nurture innovation and startup culture among young Pakistanis. Chairman Rana Mashood Ahmad Khan lauded RCCI's proactive efforts in promoting entrepreneurship and facilitating business development, especially for the youth. He briefed the delegation on PMYP's ongoing initiatives, notably the upcoming launch of the Digital Youth Hub—a centralized platform offering information on schol-



arships, employment, and skills development opportunities. Both parties expressed a strong

commitment to work together in advancing economic growth through youth-focused pro-

grams. The meeting concluded with a shared vision to foster innovation, create job opportu-

nities, and empower youth to take a leading role in Pakistan's economic development.

India seeks to weaken, divide SCO

ISLAMABAD: India is undermining the growing sense of unity, togetherness and trans-Eurasian bonding emerging within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). New Delhi is attempting to weaken the strengthening consensus on key global issues at the platform of SCO. These views were expressed by Islamabad-based think-tank Eurasian Century Institute (ECI), in a statement issued to media on Friday. Modi government in India is leaving no stone unturned to stay relevant and useful for QUAD and so-called, obsolete G7", said Irfan Shahzad Takalvi, founding president of ECI. Indian posture at the recent SCO defense ministers' moot held in China indicates that "India is not comfortable with rising clout, and more importantly consensus-building role of the China- and Russia-backed Eurasian grouping", notes the think-tank. Mr. Takalvi noted that it was clear since Pakistan and India became full members of SCO that their bilateral issues will ensue some frictions for SCO meetings and interactions. "However, it was rather astonishing that New Delhi would use such a high-level multilateral forum for furthering baseless, narrow-minded agenda" resultantly creating an atmosphere of negativity at this forum that is being watched globally. ECI underlined that it was not for the first time that India tried to undermine the growing significance of SCO. In July 2023, India opted to hold the SCO Summit online – mainly to avoid hosting Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz – while just two months later New Delhi hosted G20 Summit in the physical format. "That was a design to undermine the spirit that SCO sought to promote", stresses the think-tank dedicated to studying emerging developments in the Eurasian supercontinent. However, SCO will keep growing in strength, consensus built and promoted at its platform would continue to encompass more issues, and that will continue to lead towards the goal of greater Eurasian togetherness – hopes the think-tank.

Two bio-breeding labs launched to boost agriculture cooperation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Two new international bio-breeding laboratories were officially launched in Aksu, Xinjiang, marking a significant step in strengthening Belt and Road cooperation in agricultural science and technology. The labs aim to foster cross-border research collaboration and promote innovation in crop breeding along the Silk Road, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Friday. The launch took place during a cotton-focused academic forum held in southern Xinjiang on June 16, which brought together over 280 experts, scholars, entrepreneurs,

and industry professionals from BRI countries. Discussions centered on the latest advancements in cotton bio-breeding and the development of the seed industry, with a shared goal of enhancing international exchange and industrial upgrading. One of the newly inaugurated labs is an international joint research platform. Anchored at Xinjiang Agricultural University, it collaborates with six universities – including the Russian State Agrarian University and the University of Agriculture Faisalabad in Pakistan – as well as two Chinese seed companies. The lab covers multiple disciplines such as crop science, grassland

science, and plant protection. It follows a model of "Chinese technology output with foreign resource integration," providing unique advantages in germplasm sharing and cross-border breeding innovation. The second lab, co-established by Xinjiang Agricultural University and a leading seed company, focusing on integrating academic research with industrial application. Backed by facilities like a supercomputing research center and a crop genetic improvement base, the lab is set to become a key innovation hub for bio-breeding in arid regions of North-west China and a driver of high-quality agricultural development under the Belt and Road Initiative.

Sustainable solutions to child marriage lie beyond punitive laws

ISLAMABAD: Sustainable solutions to child marriage require more than the enforcement of punitive laws. They demand a holistic approach to nurtures moral development, encourage inclusive discourse, and fosters societal responsibility. A comprehensive strategy, grounded in public awareness, education, family support, and community dialogue, is crucial to addressing the root causes of early marriage. Only through collective efforts that combine legal safeguards with cultural sensitivity and ethical upbringing can meaningful and long-term social progress be achieved. This was discussed during a session titled, "ICT Child Marriage Restraint Act 2025 – Legal, Social, and Religious Perspectives," held at the Institute of Policy Studies, Islamabad.—APP

Conspiracies to reverse tribal tax draw criticism

ISLAMABAD: The misuse of trade platforms by a group of influential industrialists for personal and economic advantages has become a significant concern for Pakistan's business and industrial community. According to Mirza Abdul Rehman, former Vice President of FPCCI, some individuals holding key positions within major business organizations are leveraging their influence to promote self-serving interests under the guise of regional development. This approach poses a serious threat to the spirit of collective progress and fairness that should define Pakistan's economic policies. Mirza Abdul Rehman expressed concern that pressure is being exerted on the federal government to reverse its recent decision regarding the taxation of industries located in previously exempt regions of FATA and PATA. The move, aimed at establishing fiscal parity and expanding the national tax base, is said to be facing resistance from vested interests who have long benefited from the absence of proper regulatory oversight. These individuals are allegedly operating in tax-free zones. They are now selling raw materials and products in major cities, including Karachi, Lahore, and Peshawar, at prices below the market rate. Such practices not only undermine competition but also destabilize the pricing structures of the formal industry across settled areas. Mirza Abdul Rehman questioned the continued justification for subsidies in regions where market rates for goods, such as ghee and steel, already mirror those in metropolitan areas. They emphasized that any intended relief for underdeveloped regions must directly benefit local populations rather than being captured by a band of opportunistic entrepreneurs.—DNA

'Pakistan's regional diplomacy gains praise'

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Commerce Rana Ishaan Afzal Khan on Friday stated that Pakistan played a central role in fostering regional stability, leaving India isolated and unsupported at the SCO Defence Ministers' forum and earning widespread international praise for its constructive and balanced approach. In an exclusive interview with a local news channel, Rana Ishaan Afzal Khan highlighted Pakistan's diplomatic achievements on the global stage. He remarked, not a single country supported India's stance; they failed to present a consensus or credible evidence against Pakistan. Pakistan has earned recognition from both the U.S and Iran for its constructive role in regional diplomacy, he added. Speaking on this, Rana Ishaan emphasized that Pakistan has played an important part and expressed confidence that Pakistan will continue to play an even greater role in improving U.S.-Iran relations in the future. Responding to a query, he said Pakistan desires stability and peace in the region, while India has been avoiding bilateral talks with neighboring countries, which is quite embarrassing. India's refusal to engage diplomatically has left it isolated and standing alone.—DNA

40kg single-use plastic seized in F-7 sector

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) on Friday seized 40 kilograms of single-use plastic items in a targeted operation conducted in a posh sector F-7. The enforcement team confiscated prohibited plastic products, including plates, spoons, forks, boxes, and glasses, during inspections at multiple restaurants and cafes, said its spokesperson. The operation, carried out under the Single-Use Plastic (Prohibition) Regulations 2023, aimed to curb the illegal use of environmentally harmful plastics within the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT). The Pak-EPA team visited various food establishments in F-7 Markaz, issuing warnings to violators and seizing non-compliant items. Authorities also distributed public notices detailing the prohibition regulations, instructing businesses to display them prominently to inform customers. The crackdown is part of Pak-EPA's broader campaign to phase out single-use plastics.—APP

Experts urge implementation of Global Security Initiative

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) launched a dialogue series titled "South-South Network of Policy Experts on China's Global Security Initiative (GSI)" here in Islamabad on June 25, 2025. The session featured senior diplomats, academics, and policy experts from across the Global South. The inaugural session opened with welcome remarks by Ambassador Jauhar Saleem, who underscored the ongoing overlap of global crises and the failure of traditional zero-sum security structures. He emphasized that China's Global Security Initiative (GSI) and Global Development Initiative (GDI) offer a compelling and coordinated alternative based on common, compre-

hensive, cooperative, and sustainable security, with Pakistan well-positioned to benefit through regional policy coordination and shared innovation. Ambassador Masood Khalid, Pakistan's former ambassador to China outlined China's three key global initiatives, the Global Development Initiative (GDI), Global Security Initiative (GSI) and Civilization Initiative (GCI) emphasizing their roots in China's 5,000-year-old civilizational values of peace, mutual respect, and inclusive development. He viewed GSI as a Chinese quest for rejuvenation to reclaim its identity from the past. He elaborated on the six foundational principles of the GSI: respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, adherence to the UN Charter, peaceful resolution of

disputes, security through dialogue and cooperation, commitment to indivisible security, and opposition to unilateral sanctions or bloc confrontations. He stressed that China's peaceful rise and commitment to multilateralism reflect a shift toward a multipolar world, where no single power can dictate the global order. Building on this, Mahdi Mohammed Gulaid, a former Deputy Prime Minister of Somalia emphasized that South-South cooperation is not just relevant, it is imperative and timely framework driven by inclusive approach. He underscored that the South-South Network of Policy Experts is not only strategic but essential, enabling co-develop solutions grounded in shared experiences and collective insight. To guide the platform's future, Mr. Gulaid proposed three priorities: bridging

security and development, sharing policy innovations, and investing in institutional connectivity. He concluded by urging that the Global South must move from declarations to implementation of GSI through collaborative mechanisms. Mr. Hussein Askari, who Iraqi-Swedish scholar and Vice-Chairman of the Belt and Road Institute in Sweden highlighted the crises in Gaza and Iran to stress that the world is at a crossroads between war and peace. He warned of a return to the law of the jungle if tensions go unmanaged. Citing GSI he highlighted symbiosis between security and development contrasting with the Western view that security must come first. He criticized the zero-sum nature of Western security models and praised China's win-win approach.

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A Ray of hope for Gaza – but the road ahead demands justice

THE announcement that the Gaza war may finally end in two weeks, following an agreement brokered between U.S. President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, brings a much-needed sigh of relief. If this holds, it could mark the beginning of the end of one of the most brutal chapters in recent Middle Eastern history. All's well that ends well, as they say—but only if this ceasefire translates into lasting peace, justice, and dignity for the Palestinian people. The reported deal, which includes a full cessation of hostilities and a humanitarian pause, is a welcome step. However, past ceasefires have collapsed, and the devil will be in the details. Israel's insistence on the removal of Hamas from Gaza raises critical questions—how will this be enforced without further bloodshed? Will ordinary Gazans, already displaced and traumatized, face collective punishment under the guise of rooting out militants? The international community, particularly the U.S., must ensure that no Palestinian is forcibly expelled under false pretexts. Gaza's civilians must not pay the price for political vendettas. Reports suggest that the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Egypt may take temporary control of Gaza's administration. While this could prevent an immediate Israeli reoccupation, it must not become a disguised form of occupation by proxy. Any transitional authority must prioritize Palestinian self-determination, not merely serve as a security arrangement for Israel. The people of Gaza deserve a leadership that represents their aspirations, not another foreign-imposed structure that perpetuates their subjugation. If Trump truly wants to leave a legacy of peace, the next logical step should be U.S. recognition of Palestine as an independent state. Such a move would not only restore America's credibility in the Muslim world but also pressure Israel to engage in meaningful negotiations. If achieved, Trump would indeed deserve serious consideration for the Nobel Peace Prize—a recognition that has eluded him despite his earlier Middle East diplomatic efforts. Interestingly, Trump has previously expressed willingness to mediate on Kashmir, much to India's discomfort. While internal U.S. political pressures may have deterred him, a successful Gaza deal could embolden him to play a similar role in South Asia. The parallels are striking—both conflicts demand impartial mediation, humanitarian relief, and a commitment to justice. If Trump can break the Gaza deadlock, why not Kashmir? The coming days will reveal whether this agreement is genuine or merely another temporary lull. The world must ensure that Gaza's reconstruction begins immediately, that Palestinian rights are upheld, and that no more families are torn apart by war. Trump has a historic opportunity—if he ensures Palestinian freedom, not just a ceasefire, his place in history will be secured.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 06 Issue: 47

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Climate Change and the crisis facing Pakistan

CLIMATE change is no longer a distant threat—it is a present and intensifying reality, especially for third world countries like Pakistan. While the global community is grappling with the consequences of rising temperatures, it is the economically weaker nations that bear the heaviest burden. These countries, despite contributing the least to global greenhouse gas emissions, are the most vulnerable to the climate crisis due to inadequate infrastructure, limited resources, and socio-political challenges. Pakistan exemplifies this disparity. Ranked among the top ten countries most affected by climate change, Pakistan experiences frequent and severe natural disasters, such as floods, droughts, and heatwaves. The catastrophic floods of 2022 submerged one-third of the country, affecting over 33 million people and causing damages worth billions of dollars. Crops were destroyed, homes were swept away, and essential infrastructure was crippled. The agricultural sector, which employs a large portion of Pakistan's population, is increasingly unpredictable due to changing rainfall patterns and extreme weather, threatening food security and rural livelihoods. Moreover, rising temperatures and glacial melt in the northern regions are endangering Pakistan's water supply. The country depends heavily on glacier-fed rivers, and as glaciers retreat, the risk of both floods and future water shortages grows. Urban areas also suffer as prolonged heatwaves, combined with power shortages, impact public health and productivity. The impacts of climate change are not limited to environmental degradation; they exacerbate existing socio-economic inequalities. The poor, who often live in vulnerable areas and lack the means to recover from climate-related disasters, are pushed deeper into poverty. Children miss school during floods, families are displaced, and healthcare systems are overwhelmed. Climate change, in this context, is not just an environmental issue—it is a humanitarian crisis. So, how can Pakistan and other third world countries cope with this mounting challenge? First, there must be a renewed focus on climate-resilient infrastructure and disaster preparedness. Building flood defenses, improving drainage systems, and constructing climate-resilient homes can save lives and reduce economic losses. Investment in early warning systems is essential to give communities time to prepare and evacuate if needed. Second, international support is critical. Wealthier nations have a moral and historical responsibility to assist the Global South through climate finance, technology transfer, and capacity-building. Initiatives like the Loss and Damage Fund established at COP27 must be implemented swiftly and transparently, with developing countries having a seat at the decision-making table. Third, at the national level, Pakistan must prioritize sustainable development and environmental protection. Transitioning to renewable energy, reforestation, and public awareness campaigns can play significant roles in reducing vulnerability. Strengthening institutions and enforcing environmental regulations is equally crucial.

Trump at NATO: A Doctrine of Control

Qamar Bashir



Perhaps most striking was his admission that Israel had planned a second wave of attacks after the ceasefire using 52 jets. Trump claimed he personally called off the strike, saying: “The United States is no longer taking dictation from Israel. We are setting the terms now.” This repositioned Trump not just as a peacemaker, but as a regional referee—capable of restraining even America’s closest allies if it meant avoiding wider war. In a brief but significant disclosure, Trump confirmed that he held a closed-door meeting with Pakistan’s Army Chief, General Asim Munir, in the Oval Office just days prior to the NATO summit

AT the NATO summit held in The Hague, Netherlands, on June 25, 2025, President Donald Trump redefined the contours of American leadership—not through war, but through dominance, negotiation, and fiscal pressure. In one sweeping press conference after the summit’s conclusion, Trump laid out what can only be described as a bold new American doctrine: intervention without entanglement, alliance with accountability, and diplomacy from a position of absolute military superiority. This was no longer the Trump of 2017, who had shoved his way to the front of the NATO family photo. This time, the alliance bent to his will, with leaders praising his demands, echoing his slogans, and adjusting their policies to match his vision. From British Prime Minister Keir Starmer’s hand-delivered invitation from King Charles III, to NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte’s comparison of Trump to a “daddy” figure quelling global tensions, the tone was reverent and deferential. Trump, for his part, reciprocated with selective praise. He acknowledged NATO’s new commitments as a “historic shift,” especially the summit’s final declaration that all 32 member states would invest 5% of GDP on defense and security-related expenditures by 2035—a monumental increase from the previous 2% threshold. “I’ve been asking them to go up to 5% for a number of years,” Trump said. “And now they’ve agreed.” Trump’s message to NATO was transactional: pay more, and buy American. “All that money you’ll be spending—spend it on American weaponry.” He promoted U.S. arms exports with the flair of a salesman-in-chief, boasting of B-2 bomber missions over Iran, submarine-launched strikes from 600 miles away, and the near-perfect performance of Patriot missile systems. “Only one missile got through in Qatar—and it missed its target,” he bragged. On Ukraine, Trump appeared resolute. He announced the deployment of Patriot missile systems to Kyiv, affirming U.S. support despite the summit’s broader downplaying of Ukraine’s war with Russia. “Patriots will shield Kyiv,” he said bluntly. This contradicted speculation that Trump was seeking to dial down U.S. involvement in Ukraine. Instead, his statement suggested a prolonged commitment, possibly to gain leverage in future peace talks. Yet Trump’s doctrine was about more than de-

fense budgets. It was about control. In the clearest terms yet, Trump emphasized that America will now set the terms for global security—not Israel, not NATO, not even long-standing doctrine like Article 5 of NATO treaty. Although he had earlier cast doubt by saying America’s commitment to NATO “depends on your definition” of Article 5, he reassured allies during the press conference, saying: “I stand with it. That’s why I’m here. If I didn’t stand with it, I wouldn’t be here.” Trump’s address took a dramatic turn as he recounted his decision-making during the recent Israel-Iran conflict. He surprised many by calling Iran a “great country” and acknowledging its fierce resistance. Trump insisted that U.S.-led strikes had “set back Iran’s nuclear program by many years,” dismissing media reports citing intelligence assessments that the delay was only “a few months.” “Those are low-confidence leaks. Deep state sabotage,” he said. “The Fordow facility is gone. Inoperable. Ask the Israelis.” He then revealed that the U.S. had entered direct talks with Iran, signaling a major shift in strategy. Trump hinted at sanctions relief and oil export permissions as part of a “golden opportunity” for Iran to rebuild. “This is a golden opportunity for Iran,” he said. “Its people deserve peace, prosperity, and progress.” Perhaps most striking was his admission that Israel had planned a second wave of attacks after the ceasefire using 52 jets. Trump claimed he personally called off the strike, saying: “The United States is no longer taking dictation from Israel. We are setting the terms now.” This repositioned Trump not just as a peacemaker, but as a regional referee—capable of restraining even America’s closest allies if it meant avoiding wider war. In a brief but significant disclosure, Trump confirmed that he held a closed-door meeting with Pakistan’s Army Chief, General Asim Munir, in the Oval Office just days prior to the NATO summit. “He is a great, great man,” Trump said, lauding the Pakistani general’s demeanor, leadership, and role in promoting regional stability. While Trump did not publicly discuss the content of the meeting, media outlets and strategic analysts have speculated that the conversation may have touched upon Middle Eastern security dynamics, including Iran. Given General Munir’s

deep familiarity with the region, particularly Pakistan’s shared border and strategic ties with Iran, some observers believe he may have been consulted—informally or tactically—regarding America’s military and diplomatic posture. However, these conclusions remain speculative. Trump himself made no direct mention of any discussion on the Israel-Iran war or broader U.S. Middle East policy during his public remarks about General Munir. Nonetheless, the timing of the meeting—paired with Trump’s newfound tone on Iran—has stirred considerable interest among regional watchers. The most controversial part of the press conference was Trump’s attack on the U.S. intelligence community. He accused anonymous officials of leaking classified assessments that undermined his narrative on Iran. “These are professional stabbers,” Trump thundered. “They want to embarrass our pilots, our military, our mission. We won’t let them.” Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth supported the president, announcing an investigation into the leaks and confirming the military’s high-confidence assessment that Iran’s capabilities had been significantly degraded. Congressional briefings are now expected to clarify the situation further, but for Trump, the issue was political as much as it was military. “You either stand with America—or with the leakers,” he warned. President Trump left The Hague not as a supplicant nor as a participant in a multilateral alliance—but as a domineering architect of a new world order. He rewrote the NATO playbook, reset U.S.-Iran relations, restrained Israel, and reasserted America’s centrality to every major global conflict. For some, it was alarming. For others, it was long overdue. But for all, it was clear: Trump had come to The Hague not to join, but to command. And if his ambition to end the Ukraine war materializes, Pakistan’s Nobel Peace Prize nomination may not just be symbolism—it may become global recognition of a controversial yet undeniably consequential leader.

– Press Secretary to the President (Rtd)
Former Press Minister,
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AI Companionship in the Age of Loneliness

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



These AI systems operate around the clock, offering support when human counselors are unavailable. For individuals reluctant to seek traditional therapy due to stigma or cost, AI provides a low-barrier entry point to mental health care. This functionality is particularly valuable in societies where mental health resources are scarce or culturally taboo

IN an age marked by hyperconnectivity and digital interdependence, it is paradoxical that loneliness has become one of the most pressing psychological issues of the 21st century. According to research by the World Health Organization (WHO), loneliness is a growing global concern, particularly affecting the elderly, young adults, and individuals living in urban environments. While traditional social support systems such as family, friends, and community networks continue to play an important role in combating isolation, emerging technologies—most notably Artificial Intelligence (AI)—have begun to offer alternative forms of social engagement and emotional support. This essay explores how AI technologies are being used to help individuals cope with loneliness by fostering connection, companionship, and mental well-being. Loneliness is not merely the absence of social interaction but rather the subjective experience of social isolation or inadequate interpersonal connections. It can have profound effects on both physical and mental health, increasing the risks of depression, anxiety, cognitive decline, and even mortality. The rise of digital life—while enabling broader communication—has also contributed to the erosion of deep, meaningful relationships. Many people now rely on short, transactional interactions via social media rather than nurturing long-term bonds. In this context, AI emerges as a potential solution to fill the emotional gaps left by modern lifestyles. AI-powered chatbots and virtual assistants such as Replika, Woebot, and ChatGPT have gained traction as tools for emotional companionship. These systems use Natural Language Processing (NLP) and Machine Learning (ML) algorithms to engage users in realistic, often empathetic conversations. For individuals facing chronic loneliness—such as the elderly living alone or young people dealing with social anxiety these AI companions provide a non-judgmental space for interaction. For instance, Replika is designed to simulate emotional dialogue and “learn” from user inputs to offer increasingly personalized support. Users report forming meaningful attachments with

their AI companions, often describing them as friends or confidants. Although these interactions do not replace human relationships, they offer immediate emotional relief and a sense of presence during times of solitude. Beyond casual companionship, AI is also revolutionizing access to mental health services. AI-driven mental health applications can detect signs of depression, anxiety, and other emotional distress by analyzing speech patterns, word choices, or physiological data (like facial expressions and voice tone). Chatbots such as Woebot, trained in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), guide users through evidence-based exercises that help manage negative thoughts and improve mood. These AI systems operate around the clock, offering support when human counselors are unavailable. For individuals reluctant to seek traditional therapy due to stigma or cost, AI provides a low-barrier entry point to mental health care. This functionality is particularly valuable in societies where mental health resources are scarce or culturally taboo. Elderly populations are particularly vulnerable to loneliness, especially those who are widowed, physically impaired, or residing in nursing homes. AI-based robots like Paro, a robotic baby seal, and ElliQ, an interactive care companion, are designed to provide emotional stimulation and cognitive engagement. These AI-driven devices not only offer verbal communication but can also play music, remind users to take medications, or initiate games and light physical activities. Moreover, some AI tools can connect older adults with their families through voice and video calls, serving as intermediaries that simplify the use of complex technologies. This accessibility contributes to social inclusion and psychological well-being among older individuals who might otherwise remain isolated. Social robots equipped with emotional recognition technologies can detect and respond to human emotions, enhancing the quality of human-machine interaction. These AI systems analyze voice tone, facial expressions, and behavioral cues to assess a user’s emotional state and respond appropriately. This creates a more dynamic

and comforting interaction that mimics human empathy. For example, robots such as Pepper and Nao are being deployed in schools, hospitals, and homes to provide companionship and emotional support. They can initiate conversations, express sympathy, and even adapt their behavior to suit the user’s mood. These innovations demonstrate how AI can simulate emotional intelligence, thereby offering a nuanced form of companionship. Despite the numerous advantages, AI companionship is not without limitations. The emotional connections formed with AI are, by nature, artificial. There is a risk of users becoming overly dependent on machines, potentially further distancing themselves from real human relationships. Critics argue that such interactions may lead to emotional dissonance or unrealistic expectations from technology. Moreover, there are privacy and data security concerns. Conversations with AI companions are often recorded and analyzed, raising questions about the ownership and ethical use of personal data. Developers and policymakers must ensure transparency, informed consent, and robust data protection measures. Furthermore, AI should be seen as a supplement—not a replacement—for human relationships. Societies must be cautious not to substitute technological convenience for the emotional depth and unpredictability of genuine human connection. Artificial Intelligence is redefining how individuals navigate the experience of loneliness in the modern world. From conversational chatbots to socially intelligent robots, AI offers diverse avenues for emotional support, companionship, and mental health care. While it cannot fully replicate the richness of human relationships, it provides a valuable buffer against isolation—especially for those with limited access to social networks or professional help. As technology continues to evolve, it is crucial to maintain a balanced approach that combines the benefits of AI with efforts to foster authentic, human-centered communities. Ultimately, the goal should not be to replace human interaction with machines, but to use AI as a tool to enhance emotional well-being and societal connection in an increasingly fragmented world.

Briefs

Big blow to PTI as SC declares it ineligible...

FROM PAGE 01
Bench hearing review plea in the reserved seats case. The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), and the Election Commission of Pakistan have filed review petitions against last year's Supreme Court July 12 ruling that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was entitled to reserved seats for women and minorities in the national and provincial assemblies. However, implementation had been stalled, with the National Assembly yet to act and the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) raising objections. If enforced, this ruling would significantly bolster PTI's parliamentary strength. The justice said in his note that PTI-backed SIC lawyer Hamid Khan had expressed objection over the inclusion of some judges in the bench under the 26th Constitutional Amendment and he is one of them. "The judiciary must have the people's trust. It is necessary that none of the parties have any objection regarding the bench," he wrote, citing it as the reason for his recusal from the hearing the plea. "Your objection was only regarding my inclusion in the bench, otherwise, we have been associated on a personal level since 2010," Justice Panhwar said in his conversation with Khan. He said that he was personally "hurt" by Khan's arguments, but this was not a matter of his "personal feelings." He added that the allegation of bias against judges was painful. It's not right for the public to get the impression that a judge is partial, he added. At this, Hamid welcomed Justice Panhwar's decision, drawing objection from Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan.

Nine dead, several missing after family of 18..

FROM PAGE 01
Multiple flood-related incidents in Swat has prompted the deployment of the Pakistan Army for rescue and relief operations. Troops, fully equipped with necessary gear, have reached Swat and are actively participating in rescue and relief missions alongside Rescue 1122 personnel. Leaders express deep sorrow following the incident, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed grief over the deaths of tourists in flood-hit relay in the Swat River and offered his condolences to the bereaved families. The premier ordered an immediate search operation for the missing persons in the incident. Additionally, he directed the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the local administration to issue precautionary measures near rivers and streams amid extreme weather conditions across the country. President Asif Ali Zardari also expressed deep sorrow and regret over the loss of precious lives due to the flood in Swat

PM urges unity, collective...

FROM PAGE 01
He said the economic team worked tirelessly to prepare a people-friendly budget and also thanked the allied parties whose consultations helped shape a budget as per the public aspirations. Discussing the regional situation, he said Allah Almighty had granted Pakistan a splendid victory in response to India's recent unprovoked aggression against Pakistan. The Pakistan armed forces, the entire political leadership, the public, civil society, and the media unitedly thwarted the enemy's evil designs. Pakistan's victory has elevated its stature among the comity of nations, he added. He told the parliamentarians that under the leadership of Chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the diplomatic delegation effectively highlighted Pakistan's stance and exposed India's malicious intentions toward Pakistan on the global stage.

UN Women & HR ministry inaugurate shelter home

The refurbishment was undertaken under the Essential Services Package (ESP) initiative, with support from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Australia

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: UN Women, in partnership with the Ministry of Human Rights, has completed the refurbishment of the Family protection and rehabilitation center in Islamabad. This initiative marks a substantial upgrade in the center's capacity to deliver high-quality, survivor-centered services in a safe, confidential, and dignified environment. The refurbishment was undertaken under the Essential Services Package (ESP) initiative, with support from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Australia. The ESP aims to provide a coordinated set of essential, multi-sectoral services to survivors of violence, aligned with international human rights standards and global best practices. Speaking at the occasion, Mr. Jamshed Kazi, UN Women Country Representative, emphasized the importance of the initiative, "The refurbishment of the Family protection and rehabilitation center is not just about infrastructure, it represents a crucial link in a wider ecosystem of support for survivors of gender-based violence. When combined with legal reforms, institutional capacity building, and community engagement, initiatives like this can catalyze systemic change. Our aim is to ensure that every survivor, regardless of where they are in Pakistan, has access to quality, coordinated services that uphold their dignity and rights." The upgraded facility now features im-



proved infrastructure, private consultation rooms, and integrated service delivery including medical care, psychological counseling, legal assistance, and safe referrals—all under one roof. The enhancements aim to ensure survivors are not only supported but also empowered through every stage of recovery and justice-seeking. Mr. Azam Nazir Tarrar, Federal Minister for Human Rights, underscored the value of

strong partnerships in addressing GBV. "We are grateful to UN Women for its continued partnership in strengthening Pakistan's response to gender-based violence. This initiative reflects our shared commitment to improving essential services for survivors, particularly the most vulnerable. The upgraded Family protection and rehabilitation center will allow us to respond more effectively, ensuring dignity, safety, and support

for every woman and child who seeks help. This joint effort is part of a broader strategy to strengthen Pakistan's national response to GBV, focusing on survivor-sensitive case management, improved coordination among service providers, and building institutional capacity. UN Women continues to work with federal and provincial authorities to scale up access to essential services across the country. Through this initiative, UN Women and the Ministry of Human Rights reaffirm their commitment to a Pakistan where survivors of GBV are supported, protected, and empowered—with access to justice, healing, and a future free from violence. Gender-based violence (GBV) remains a critical human rights issue in Pakistan and globally, with nearly one in three women worldwide affected, according to UN Women. In Pakistan, over 63,000 cases were reported between 2020 and 2023, the majority involving domestic violence. These figures likely underrepresent the true scale, as many survivors face stigma, fear of retaliation, and limited access to support. GBV not only endangers lives but also restricts women's participation in education, employment, and public life. Addressing it requires both legal reform and practical support services. Facilities like the Family protection and rehabilitation Center play a vital role by offering integrated, survivor-focused care—providing safety, dignity, and critical services under one roof to help women and children rebuild their lives.

Non-local students struggle with rising hostel costs, safety concerns

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad, home to several top-ranking educational institutions, attracts thousands of students from the country's remote areas each year. While they arrive full of dreams for academic success and personal growth, many soon face a harsh and ignored reality, the severe crisis of student accommodation in the city. The core issue lies in the serious shortage of on-campus hostel facilities. Even prestigious universities often fail to provide sufficient internal accommodations, pushing students to seek housing in private hostels or rented apartments. With Islamabad's high living costs, many are left with no option but to settle in private hostels, places that, for many, become centers of exploitation and neglect. Back in 2019, Senator Rehman Malik, then Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Interior, officially took notice of the growing number of unregulated private hostels in Islamabad. The committee requested

detailed reports from the Chief Commissioner, the Capital Development Authority (CDA), and the Higher Education Commission (HEC) on the registration, operations, and safety standards of these hostels. They questioned the lack of legal frameworks, the shortage of university-affiliated hostels, and the absence of standard operating procedures (SOPs), especially concerning the safety of female students. Yet five years later, little has changed. One such student is Hadia Emaan, enrolled at a leading Islamabad university, requested not to name her institution. Her story reflects the struggle of thousands. After securing admission in 2022, she thought the toughest part was behind her, until she discovered her university had no internal hostel. "I thought once I got in, I could focus on my studies," she recalled. "I didn't realize finding safe, decent housing would be the real nightmare" she remarked talking to

APP. Her first stay was in a cramped seven-seater room in E-11, costing Rs. 18,000 a month. The conditions were appalling. "The food was inedible, there was no security, and the owner treated us like we had no rights," she said. When she complained, he bluntly replied, "Aap ko nahin pasand to kahin aur shift kar len" (If you don't like it, go find another place). After moving between several other hostels, Hadia now pays Rs. 30,000 for a single-seater in E-11, yet the problems continue. "As a female student, it's tough managing alone. Food, water, and living conditions are worse than back home. Despite everything, the charges are unreasonably high." Hadia's case isn't rare. Umme Ruman, another university student said, "Complaints are ignored; there's no security, and it's not worth Rs. 25,000 for a five-seater room." "The quality of life is far worse than at home, yet the charges are outrageous." — Agencies

Pak secures first win in Asian Youth Girls Netball C'ship

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan got off to a flying start at the Asian Youth Girls Netball Championship 2025, thrashing Saudi Arabia 71-15 in their opening match in South Korea on Friday. The national side, featuring standout performances by Lia Raza Shah, Alisha Naveed, Samia Safdar, Halima, Sareena Hussain, Jasmine Farooq, Farah Rashied and Pareesa, displayed dominance throughout the match, according to information made available here by Pakistan Netball Federation (PNF). Following the impressive victory, Chairman of the PNF Mudassar Arain, President Sameen Malik and Secretary General Muhammad Riaz extended their congratulations to the team. Pakistan will play its second league match against Chinese Taipei on Saturday (June 28). The Green Shirts are scheduled to face hosts South Korea on June 29, Japan on June 30 and Maldives on July 1 in their remaining group fixtures. — APP

PMYP – Lahore Qalandars Cricket Talent hunt trials Kick Off from Today

OUR CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) is launching its highly anticipated cricket talent hunt trials from today (Friday), marking a significant step in identifying and nurturing young cricketing talent across the country. According to Director Sports of the Higher Education Commission (HEC), Javed Ali Memon, in the first phase the three-day trials will be held at the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering, and Management Sciences (BUIEMS) cricket ground in Quetta. This initiative, aimed at providing a remarkable opportunity for the youth of Balochistan, is being organized through the joint efforts of the HEC, the PMYP, and Pakistan Super League (PSL) champions, Lahore Qalandars. Memon stated that aspiring players from various districts of Balochistan will participate in the trials. The goal is to uncover hidden cricketing talent, provide professional training, and prepare them for national and international platforms. This talent hunt is a major milestone in the government's broader vision of youth empowerment through sports—aligned with opportunities in education, employment, and digital innovation. In a message, Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, reiterated PMYP's commitment to creating groundbreaking opportunities for youth across all sectors—including IT, sports, aerospace, and agriculture. He expressed hope that the young athletes of Balochistan would excel and play a pivotal role in building a bright future for Pakistan. Chairman of the Higher Education Commission, Professor Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, also voiced optimism that the talented youth of Balochistan would rise with their abilities and bring pride to the nation. He noted that the HEC and Pakistani universities are working closely with the government to promote sports.

New-look Wimbledon prepares for life without line judges

LONDON: Wimbledon is guaranteed to be picture-perfect when it gets under way next week but the courts will never look the same again after the demise of line judges. For the first time in the tournament's storied 148-year history, the men and women stationed at the back of the courts, calling "out" and "fault", will be missing. The Grand Slam announced in October that it was scrapping its smartly dressed officials in favour of electronic line-calling (ELC) from 2025, following the general trend in tennis. The Australian Open and the US Open have already gone down this route, leaving the French Open as the only one of the four Grand Slams still to use humans in the role. Wimbledon is cherished for its traditions, from the white kit worn by players to the strawberries and cream served to fans and the sumptuous flowers that colour the grounds. But the All England Club must balance that unique heritage with innovation. Tournament director Jamie Baker emphasised the point in an interview with AFP this week. "We are very much plugged into the wider tennis ecosystem, the wider tennis industry, on everything that we do," said the former professional player. "And this was something that we've been talking about for many years, because we could see the way that it was going. "And as you would imagine, for us, balancing the tradition with innovation is really a thing that we look at in pretty much every single decision we make." — Agencies

PHF announces hockey squad for junior Asia Cup 2025

The Pakistan Hockey Federation conducted open trials from June 11 to June 13, 2025, at the Nasir Bunda Hockey Stadium for team selection, in which young players from across the country participated. The final team was selected based on merit

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Hockey Federation has officially announced the officials and players for the Under-18 Asia Cup 2025.

The officials include Team Manager Olympian Malik Shafqat, coaches Mukhtar Ahmed, Tauqeer Ahmed, Masood-ur-Rehman, video analyst Abu Zar Amrao, and physio Adeel Akhtar.

The selected players are:

- Muhammad Usman
- Atif Ali
- Usama Haider

- Muhammad Abdullah Farooq
- Abdullah Awann
- Zubair Latif
- Muhammad Yasin
- Muhammad Ali Taj
- Ghulam Mustafa
- Ali Hamza
- Ali Hamzada
- Aamir Sohail
- Adeel Afzal
- Muhammad Zaman
- Muhammad Hussain
- Muhammad Shahir
- Hassan Shahbaz
- Yasin Jamshed

The President of the Pakistan Hockey Federation, Mir Tariq Hus-

sain Bugti, and Secretary General Olympian Rana Mujahid Ali Khan extended their best wishes to all the selected officials and players for their performance. The team will depart for China on June 30, where they will participate in the Under-18 Asia Hockey Cup 2025, to be held in Dazhou, China, from July 3 to July 13. The Pakistan Hockey Federation conducted open trials from June 11 to June 13, 2025, at the Nasir Bunda Hockey Stadium for team selection, in which young players from across the country participated. The final team was selected based on merit.

'Dark day': PTI rejects SC's reserved...

FROM PAGE 01

"That was a time when the court announced a decision by the Constitution," PTI said. Commenting on the review process, the party noted that the case had remained under judicial consideration for several months. "PTI knocked on every legal door, presented every argument, and raised every constitutional point," read the statement.

Urban flooding forecast...

FROM PAGE 01

isolated heavy falls is likely in Karachi, Hyderabad, Umerkot, Mirpurkhas, Badin, Thatta, Sujawal, Dadu, Sukkur, Larkana, Qamber Shahdadkot, Shikarpur, Khairpur, Naushahro Feroze, Shaheed Benazirabad, Mitari, Sanghar, Jamshoro, Tando Allahyar, Tando Muhammad Khan, Jacobabad, Ghotki, Kashmore and Tharparker districts till June 29.

India accused of illegal...

FROM PAGE 01

It has also sparked fear among India's estimated 200 million Muslims, especially among speakers of Bengali, a widely spoken language in both eastern India and Bangladesh. "Muslims, particularly from the eastern part of the country, are terrified," said veteran Indian rights activist Harsh Mander. "You have thrown millions into this existential fear." Bangladesh, largely encircled by land by India, has seen relations with New Delhi turn icy since a mass uprising in 2024 toppled Dhaka's government, a former friend of India. But India also ramped up operations against migrants after a wider security crackdown in the wake of an attack in the west — the April 22 killing of 26 people, mainly Hindu tourists, in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). New Delhi blamed that attack on Pakistan, claims Islamabad rejected, with arguments culminating in a four-day conflict that left more than 70 dead.

'Army not interested in talks...

FROM PAGE 01

that the military should not be dragged into political affairs. Speaking to BBC Urdu, the DG ISPR clarified that the armed forces engage only with the state — a state that is constituted under the Constitution of Pakistan and formed in cooperation with political parties. "We speak to the state of Pakistan — the state formed under the Constitution with political parties," he said. "Whatever government is in place at any given time, that is the state. And the Pakistan Army operates under that state." He reiterated that the Pakistan Armed Forces perform their duties within the framework of the Constitution and serve the state, regardless of which political party is in power. He appealed to all quarters to avoid involving the armed forces in political matters, reaffirming the institution's apolitical stance. Furthermore, DG ISPR Chaudhry said that numerous rumours and assumptions are deliberately spread against the armed forces for political purposes.

CDA achieves major revenue with auction of Padel Tennis sites

Chairman CDA, Muhammad Ali Randhawa, Acting Chairman Talat Mahmood expressed immense satisfaction over the very successful auction with the outcome, stating that the successful auction is a testament to the unwavering commitment of the CDA team under the vision of Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi, supervision and guidance of Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhwa

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In line with the visionary directions of Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and the leadership of Chairman CDA, Chief Commissioner Islamabad and DG Civil Defense Muhammad Ali Randhawa, and supervision of Talat Mahmood, Acting Chairman CDA, the Directorate of Sports and Culture CDA, has successfully auctioned 5 premium Padel Tennis sites across Islamabad at a substantial monthly revenue of PKR 7.6 million. The auction process followed the strict ad-

herence to principles of transparency and fair competition, which attracted enhanced interest from the investors and business community. The monthly lease rates achieved for each site are as follows:

1. Sector F-8: PKR 21 Lacs per month
2. Sector G-5: PKR 21 Lacs per month
3. Sector F-9: PKR 14.5 Lacs per month
4. Sector G-11: PKR 11 Lacs per month
5. Sector G-8: PKR 9 Lacs per month

Chairman CDA, Muhammad Ali Randhawa, Acting Chairman Talat Mahmood expressed immense satisfaction over the very successful

auction with the outcome, stating that the successful auction is a testament to the unwavering commitment of the CDA team under the vision of Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi, supervision and guidance of Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa. CDA achieved optimal market value for these prime sports facilities through a process that was completely transparent and competitive, fulfilling our core objective of maximizing public resource utilization for the benefits of the citizens of Islamabad. The significant monthly revenue of PKR 7.6 million will be reinvested into further developing sports in-

rastructure and recreational facilities across the city. Acting Chairman CDA said that this initiative aligns perfectly with the broader vision of promoting a healthy, active lifestyle among residents by facilitating private sector investment in high-quality sports amenities like Padel Tennis, which is rapidly gaining popularity in Pakistan. The successful monetization of these sites underscores the CDA's commitment to efficient asset management and generating sustainable revenue streams for public welfare projects, while simultaneously expanding the range of modern sporting facilities available to the community.

Briefs

UK car production in May to lowest since 1949

ISTANBUL: The UK's car production plunged for the fifth consecutive month to the lowest level since 1949 in May due to the impact of the US tariffs, according to data by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) on Friday. The new car and commercial vehicle production volumes fell by 32.8% year-on-year to 49,810 units in May. "Excluding 2020, when Covid lockdowns saw factories shuttered or running at greatly reduced capacity, it was the lowest performance for the month since 1949," a statement from the SMMT said. The decline was due to ongoing model changeovers, restructuring, and the impact of US tariffs. Last month, shipments to the US and the EU, the UK's two biggest markets, decreased 55.4% and 22.5% year-on-year, respectively. "Confirmed trade deals with crucial markets, especially the US and a more positive relationship with the EU, as well as government strategies on industry and trade that recognize the critical role the sector plays in driving economic growth, should help recovery," said SMMT CEO Mike Hawes.s.—APP

Gold price decreases by Rs 5,000 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold decreased by Rs.5,000 and was traded at Rs.351,000 on Friday as compared to its sale at Rs. 356,000 on the last trading day. All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewelers Association reported. The prices of 10 grams of 24 karat also decreased by Rs4,287 to Rs.300,925 from Rs. 305,212 and for 10 grams of 22 Karat it came down by Rs.3,930 to Rs.275,857 from Rs. 279,787. The rates of per tola and ten gram silver decreased by Rs.68 and Rs.58 to Rs.3,782 and Rs.3,242 respectively. The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$53 to \$3,290 from \$3,343, whereas that of silver dipped by \$0.68 to \$35.98, the Association reported.—APP

Rupee sheds 6 paisa against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD: The Rupee on Friday depreciated by 06 paisa against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 283.72 against the previous day's closing of Rs 283.66. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 285.1 and Rs 286.1 respectively. Pakistan tourism packages. The price of the Euro decreased by 08 paisa to close at Rs 332.59 against the last day's closing of Rs 332.67, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen came down by 01 paisa and closed at Rs1.96, whereas a decrease of Rs0.11 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs 389.93 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs 390.04. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal went up by 02 and 01 paisa to close at Rs 77.25 and Rs 75.64.—APP

Kitchen items' prices decrease by 0.18pc

ISLAMABAD: The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), decreased by 0.18 percent for the combined consumption groups during the week ended on June 26, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday. According to the PBS data, the SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 309.80 points as compared to 310.35 points during the past week. As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed a decrease of 1.52 per cent.—APP

ISSI-PAIDAR commemorate Rwanda's Liberation Day

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, in his remarks, emphasized the significance of commemorating Rwanda's Liberation Day, not only as a moment of national pride, but as a tribute to the resilience and strength of the Rwandan people

DNA

ISLAMABA: The Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East & Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), in collaboration with Pakistan Africa Institute for Development and Research (PAIDAR), organized an event to commemorate Rwanda's Liberation Day. The proceedings, which began with the national anthems of Pakistan and Rwanda, were moderated by Ms. Amina Khan, Director CAMEA. Speakers included Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General ISSI; Ms. Harerimana Fatou, High Commissioner of Rwanda to Pakistan; Mr. Muhammad Naeem Khan, High Commissioner of Pakistan to Rwanda; Lt Col Shyaka Kajugiro Ismail, Defence Attache, High Commission of Rwanda to Pakistan; Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BOG ISSI. The Chief Guest on the occasion was Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, President PAIDAR, and the Keynote Speaker was Ambassador Hamid Asghar Khan, Additional Secretary (Africa), Ministry of Foreign Affairs Pakistan (MOFA). Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, in his remarks, emphasized the significance of commemorating Rwanda's



Liberation Day, not only as a moment of national pride, but as a tribute to the resilience and strength of the Rwandan people. He praised President Paul Kagame and Rwanda's leadership for their critical role in unifying the country and steering it toward progress after the 1994 genocide, which the Rwandan nation courageously ended through its own efforts. Reflecting on global injustices, he noted that the world has witnessed three major genocides in the last three decades—Rwanda, Bosnia, and the ongoing one in Gaza and highlighted the double-standards of the international system. He commended the growing Pakistan-Rwanda relationship in diverse areas

from political to economic to defence, and called for deeper South-South cooperation, underscoring the potential for enhanced engagement between Pakistan, Rwanda, and the broader African continent. Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General ISSI, recalled the tragic events of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi community and noted that Rwanda's Liberation Day stands as a solemn reminder of that painful chapter, as well as a powerful symbol of the country's journey towards healing, reconciliation, and national transformation. Ambassador Sohail Mahmood commended Rwanda's success in fostering inclusive governance,

digital advancement, social cohesion, and sustainable development, highlighting its reputation as a model of post-conflict recovery and institutional reform. He underlined Pakistan's admiration for Rwanda's progress and reaffirmed the significance of Pakistan's diplomatic outreach to Africa within the framework of "Engage Africa" policy. He noted that the milestones like mutual establishment of each other's resident missions mark a shared commitment to expanding bilateral ties in sectors such as trade, agriculture, higher education, healthcare, technology, and professional training. Referring to the recent visit of Honourable Foreign Minister Olivier J. P.



Nduhungirehe to Islamabad, during which he also visited ISSI and delivered a talk on Rwanda's role in Africa's transformation, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood welcomed the growing momentum in bilateral relations and stressed the importance of sustained dialogue and cooperation. He also highlighted Pakistan's longstanding contribution to UN peacekeeping in Africa, including in Rwanda, as part of its commitment to peace, stability, and progress on the continent. Ambassador Hamid Asghar called the Rwandan genocide a failure of the UN system, with its legacy echoed in Gaza today. He praised Rwanda's resilience and development under President Kagame and

expressed Pakistan's interest in deeper ties. He welcomed recent diplomatic steps and highlighted opportunities for cooperation in education, IT, tourism, and industry. Ms. Amina Khan, Director CAMEA, highlighted Rwanda's Liberation Day as a symbol of resilience and transformation, drawing parallels with Gaza's humanitarian crisis. She reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to Africa through the 'Engage Africa' policy and CAMEA's ongoing efforts to foster inclusive dialogue and cooperation. Ms. Harerimana Fatou highlighted Rwanda's transformation since the 1994 Genocide into a peaceful, resilient, and progressive nation. She emphasized the deepening

Rwanda-Pakistan relationship, marked by diplomatic missions and MoUs in key sectors. She thanked Pakistan for its hospitality and expressed commitment to expanding cooperation in trade, education, and tourism. Mr. Naeem Khan noted the growing strength of Pakistan-Rwanda relations, marked by a rise in trade from \$34 million to \$127 million and a growing Pakistani community in Rwanda. He highlighted high-level visits, business delegations, and scholarships for Rwandan students as key drivers of deeper economic, cultural, and educational ties, reflecting the strong mutual commitment to enhanced cooperation.

Pakistani lauds AIIB's governance model for developing nations

BEIJING Pakistan praises the Beijing-headquartered Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) as a new model of multilateralism, citing its critical support after the country's 2022 floods, and called for developing nations to have a greater voice, and even veto power, at global financial institutions, Gwadar Pro reported on Friday. Speaking at a roundtable for the AIIB's 10th anniversary held here, Kazim Niaz, Secretary at the Ministry of Economic Affairs, positioned Pakistan as a key partner of the bank and a strong advocate for its governance model, which he said gives emerging economies more influence. "We have always viewed AIIB as a development partner of strategic importance and great potential," Niaz said. "Its inclusive governance framework and consensus-oriented decision-making approach are core characteristics that we highly appreciate." As a founding member, Pakistan has worked with AIIB on projects ranging from clean energy and urban metro systems to digital infrastructure, Niaz noted. He praised the bank's "Lean, Clean, and Green" identity and its "fast and flexible" financing channels, which are critical for a country facing significant infrastructure deficits. Niaz singled out the bank's performance following Pakistan's historic 2022 floods for special mention, highlighting its collaboration with the World Bank and Asian Development Bank. "The innovative support provided by AIIB in its financing instruments had a huge positive impact on our post-flood reconstruction work," he said. Looking forward, Niaz said Pakistan seeks to deepen its partnership with AIIB to build smart infrastructure to withstand severe climate shocks like heatwaves, floods, and water stress. In a broader appeal, Niaz argued that the world's interconnected crises, from debt to climate change, demand a unified front from developing countries. Developing countries need to unite and ensure they have a substantive voice on the boards of directors and governors of multilateral development banks (MDBs), he urged. The countries, previously underrepresented in these institutions, need to gain greater influence on key issues, even a veto power, he added. He called for MDBs to evolve from simple financiers into "treasure troves of knowledge," helping nations build project implementation capacity, ensure debt sustainability, and use their platforms to "de-risk" private sector investment. Niaz noted that AIIB is a leader in this shift. "AIIB represents a new type of multilateralism... a new development paradigm," he said. It is built on mutual trust and shared priorities, which gives developing countries great confidence that they are capable of working together to solve their own problems, he added.—DNA

Aurangzeb stresses focused reforms, to strengthen governance in public sector enterprises

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb has reaffirmed the government's commitment to strengthening the governance, operational efficiency, and financial sustainability of key public sector entities. Chairing a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on State-Owned Enterprises (CoSOEs) today, the Finance Minister stressed the importance of aligning business plans with national priorities and addressing operational challenges in a timely and coordinated manner. Federal Minister for Power Sardar Awaish Ahmed Khan Leghari, Minister for Maritime Affairs, Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry, Minister for Science and Technology Khalid Hussain Maggi and senior officials from relevant Ministries and Divisions attended the meeting. The Committee heard a detailed briefing from the Central Monitoring Unit of the Finance Division on a biannual report on the Federal SOE Performance covering the period from July 2024 to December 2024. The report included a detailed overview of the state of affairs and key challenges confronting State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs), including cumulative losses amounting to Rs 5.8 trillion, with Rs 342 billion incurred in just six months. The Committee was told that the circular debt in the oil, gas, and power sectors had crossed Rs 4.9 trillion, severely affecting cash flows and asset valuations.—APP

UAE-funded maternity clinics bringing hope to Afghan families

JALALABAD: The UAE-funded maternity clinics are bringing hope to Afghan families. In Jalalabad, Nangarhar province, Afghanistan, Shazia Mohammadi cradles her newborn daughter, Fatima, her seventh child, but the first to be born in a medical clinic. For the first time, Shazia experienced childbirth with access to doctors, medicines, and professional care. Her daughter was also the first baby delivered at one of ten new maternity clinics built by the UAE across Afghanistan, marking the start of a new chapter for maternal health in rural areas. "Our economic condition was pretty bad all through. Now, thanks to the help we have received, we are much better off. We thank the UAE for this transformation in our lives," Shazia said. Her husband, Ramadan Mohammadi, recalled their struggles to access care in the past. "Six of our children were born at home because we couldn't afford transportation to distant hospitals. This is the first time a clinic has been built near our house, and it has been a blessing for us." These UAE-funded clinics have brought much needed medical care to communities that have long lacked access to even the most basic health services. Located in seven provinces – Nangarhar, Balkh, Herat, Pakhtia, Pakhtika, Helmand, and Kandahar – the facilities offer maternity and paediatric care, counselling, contraceptive services, emergency care, medicines and referrals for high-risk cases. They also serve as hubs for community outreach, offering health education, awareness programmes, and life-saving vaccinations, including for COVID-19 and BCG to protect against tuberculosis, to more than 20 people each day. Dr. Ikrumullah, a doctor at one of the clinics described the change underway, "Previously, childbirth happened at home, without any medical support, in unsafe, unhygienic conditions. It is changing now, and the people here are so delighted. We not only ensure safe deliveries, but also provide vaccinations, nutritional assistance, and continuous medical care for mothers and newborns." He pointed to a young child named Ayesha Qamari as an example of the progress being made, "The impact of these maternity centres is already being felt. This baby is just one of hundreds of children receiving crucial health checks and vaccinations. This will help bring down the high infant mortality rate in Afghanistan, one of the highest in the world." According to UNICEF, more than 57 children out of 1,000 in Afghanistan die before reaching the age of five. Ayesha's mother shared her experience, "We have come to the clinic three or four times. Earlier, we could not afford the cost of transport to the city hospital. Many times, the sick children would not survive the long journey. We are deeply indebted to the UAE for building this clinic in our vicinity.—APP

ICCI-Uzbek business delegation hold B2B talks to boost bilateral trade

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a significant step towards deepening economic cooperation between Pakistan and Uzbekistan, an 18-member high-level delegation of Uzbek businessmen led by Mr. Bakhtom Yusupov, Commercial Attaché, visited the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) on Friday. The visit was organized in collaboration with the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) and featured focused B2B meetings aimed at boosting trade and industrial linkages between the two countries. The Uzbek delegation included notable figures such as Tukhtayev Akobirjon Khakimovich, Deputy Chairman of the Uzbekistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Djumaniyazov Mukhammadjon Bakhtomovich, Deputy Chairman of the Uzbek Textile Association; Latipov Aliyor Shahkriyovich and Islombekov Davronbek Shuratbek

Ugli from the Uzbek Leather Association; and representatives from sectors including textile, leather goods, surgical instruments, and fisheries. Welcoming the delegation, ICCI President Nasir Mansoor Qureshi emphasized the strong commitment of both nations to expand their trade, enhance connectivity, and promote people-to-people linkages.

He appreciated Uzbekistan's rapidly growing economy and underscored the need to elevate bilateral trade to the \$2 billion mark. He also stressed the importance of launching direct flights to facilitate business, tourism, and educational exchange. Bakhtom Yusupov highlighted the deep cultural, religious, and historical bonds between Pakistan

and Uzbekistan, urging both sides to expand cooperation in agriculture, energy, pharmaceuticals, leather, textiles, food processing, and the digital economy. He invited Pakistani businesses to tap into Uzbekistan's emerging markets and investment-friendly climate. Tukhtayev Akobirjon Khakimovich, Deputy Chairman, Uzbekistan Chamber of

Commerce and Industry, introduced the delegation members and expressed optimism that the close emotional and cultural affinity between the two peoples would translate into tangible economic partnerships through such engagements. Representing the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, Focal Persons Malik Rauf Awan and Dr. Rana Khalid Mehmood pledged full support from the government of Pakistan to foster industrial and entrepreneurial collaboration, particularly among youth in both countries. Both sides reaffirmed their resolve to transform the long-standing diplomatic relationship into concrete economic cooperation, especially in housing, construction, and urban development. Former ICCI President Mian Akram Farid moderated the session by highlighting the historic ties between Pakistan and Uzbekistan. In his vote of thanks, ICCI Senior Vice President Abdul Rehman Siddiqui reiterated the Chamber's commitment to strengthening business.



Air Arabia launches its new route to Sochi in Russia

(SHARJAH: Air Arabia, the Middle East and North Africa's first and largest low-cost carrier (LCC) operator, inaugurated its new route to the Russian city of Sochi with a frequency six weekly flights. The new service marks the sixth Russian city to be served directly from Sharjah, alongside Moscow, Kazan, Samara, Ufa, and Yekaterinburg, further expanding Air Arabia's network in the country. Commenting on the launch, Adel Al Ali, Group Chief Executive Officer of Air Arabia, said, "We are glad to inaugurate our non-stop flights to Sochi, further strengthening our connectivity with Russia. This expansion not only provides our customers with a convenient and affordable air travel option between the UAE and Russia but also further strengthening tourism and trade ties between both nations. Sochi complements our growing network in the country and reflects our ongoing commitment to offering more travel opportunities to our customers." "Today, Sochi is actively developing as an international hub, attracting more and more foreign tourists and offering extensive travel opportunities for Russian citizens. The United Arab Emirates ranks among the top destinations served by the airport. The Emirate of Sharjah will become the third city in the UAE connected to Sochi Airport's route network, once again confirming the growth and strengthening of ties between our countries.—APP

Vietnam to waive tuition fees for all public school students

HANOI: Vietnam's National Assembly on Thursday passed a resolution to waive tuition fees for all public school students nationwide from September this year, Vietnam News Agency reported. The policy will cover preschool children aged from three months to six years as well as students from grades 1 to 12. Tuition support will also be provided to students attending private schools. Vietnam currently has around 23 million preschoolers and general education students. According to Minister of Education and Training Nguyen Kim Son, the government is expected to allocate approximately 30.6 trillion Vietnamese dong (around 1.2 billion U.S. dollars) for the 2025-2026 academic year to implement the tuition waiver.—APP

