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Hunger must not be weapon of war, says UN Secy General

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Asian Bank names New Director for Pak operations

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Cricket should continue says Sourav Ganguly

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Briefs

KP govt says CM award of Tirah shooting

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government on Monday said Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur was "in contact" with the relevant administration over the incident of protesters being shot in Khyber district's Tirah Valley. Seven people were shot on Sunday after a demonstration outside the Brigade Headquarters in Bagh-Maidan Markaz against the death of a minor girl in a mortar strike in Tirah's Zakhakhel. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif condemned the "firing on peaceful citizens by khawarij" – a term the state uses to refer to the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). However, according to sources and protesters, security personnel guarding the installation reportedly had opened fire to control the crowd. Besides the seven killed, at least 16 others also received

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Indian former minister slams Modi govt on Pahalgam

CENTRELINE REPORT

ISLAMABAD: India's senior Congress leader and former Home Minister P Chidambaram has criticised the Modi government for its lack of transparency in handling the Pahalgam attack and the follow-up Operation Sindoor. In an interview with The Quint, Chidambaram questioned the Modi-led BJP's government's silence on crucial aspects such as the identity of the attackers and the status of the NIA's investigation. He suggested that the government might be hiding tactical mistakes and casualties, accusing it of withholding important information from the public. "Where are the terrorist attackers? Why have you not apprehended them, or even identified them? A news item had emerged about the arrest of a few people who gave the attackers shelter. What happened to them?" he asked, referring to the April 22 Pahalgam attack that killed 26 people.

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Hunger must never be 'weapon of war': UN

NEWS DESK

NEW YORK: United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday made a powerful appeal to the international community, calling for collective action to ensure hunger is never used as a weapon of war. Speaking via video link to a high-level UN conference in Ethiopia, Guterres highlighted the growing threat of food insecurity across conflict-ridden regions. He pointed to the devastating impact of climate change and ongoing conflicts in exacerbating hunger around the world. "Climate change is disrupting harvests, damaging supply chains, and impeding the delivery of humanitarian aid," Guterres said. "From Gaza to Sudan and beyond, conflict is not only destroying lives—it is also spreading hunger and deepening human suffering."

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To cover up failure

India's new covert mily campaign

Sources indicate that the new operation involves fake encounters using illegally detained and forcibly disappeared Pakistani nationals, portraying them as cross-border terrorists in staged attacks

CENTRELINE REPORT

ISLAMABAD: ISLAMABAD: In a disturbing development, Indian security forces have launched a new covert military campaign named "Operation Mahadev" to mask the failure of their previous plan, "Operation Sandur", according to reliable security sources. Sources indicate that the new operation involves fake encounters using illegally detained and forcibly disappeared Pakistani nationals, portraying them as cross-border terrorists in staged attacks. The strategy aims to crush the ongoing freedom movement in Indian-occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) and regain lost political credibility within India, the sources claimed. "After the embarrassment of Operation Sandur and the failed false flag operation in Pahalgam, Indian forces have resumed fake encounters under a new guise," the sources added. These staged operations

aim to fabricate military success and deceive the domestic audience into believing in India's counter-terrorism credentials. A glaring example was the April 24 killing of two civilians, Muhammad Farooq and Muhammad Deen, from Azad Jammu & Kashmir, who had mistakenly crossed the Line of Control. They were brutally martyred in a staged encounter by Indian troops, according to security officials. As part of the plan, individuals held in Indian jails could be killed and posthumously labelled as infiltrators or terrorists sent by Pakistan. The Director General of ISPR had already revealed in his press briefings on April 29 and 30 that 723 Pakistani nationals are being held illegally in Indian jails. In addition, 56 other Pakistani citizens are reportedly under secret and unlawful detention by Indian intelligence agencies. "After killing them, Indian forces provide pre-recorded videos and photos—often

Continued on Page 06

Major breakthrough

Karachi CTD guns down high-value TTP terrorists

Suicide bomber, Rs20m bounty target among slain Fitna Al-Khawarij militants; explosives, vests, grenades, hit list found

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Three suspected terrorists were killed in a police shootout during a raid in Karachi's Manghopir area early Monday, according to officials from the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD). The operation was launched after intelligence suggested that members of the banned militant outfit, Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) – Fitna Al-Khawarij – were hiding in a house in the neighbourhood. As the police surrounded their hideout, the suspects engaged the raiding officers in an intense exchange of fire, resulting in the deaths of all three. Speaking to reporters outside Civil Hospital, CTD DSP Raja Umar Khattab confirmed that two of the dead suspects had been identified as Zafraan and Qudratullah. "Zafraan had a bounty of Rs20 million placed on his head by the government,

while the third suspect has yet to be identified," Khattab added. According to the CTD, one of the slain militants was a suicide bomber. Officials believe he was involved in last year's attack on Chinese nationals in Karachi. Explosives, suicide vests, hand grenades, and a diary listing potential targets were recovered from the house. The bomb disposal squad completed a search of the premises after the operation. DSP Khattab confirmed that all the militants inside the house were killed and that the authorities were now gathering information about the owner of the property where the TTP terror suspects had been hiding for a while. Pakistan saw a slight uptick in militant attacks in May 2025, even as heightened military tensions with neighbouring India failed to trigger a significant escalation in violence from extremist groups.

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Pakistan, Turkiye call for Gaza ceasefire

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Turkiye on Monday underscored the urgency of unimpeded humanitarian aid for Gaza, an immediate ceasefire, and united international efforts for a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace. The matter was discussed during a telephonic discussion between Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan. The two leaders strongly condemned Israel's ongoing atrocities in Gaza and expressed grave concern over the deepening humanitarian catastrophe, including starvation, forced displacement, and loss of innocent lives. Expressing unwavering support for the Palestinian people and their just cause, they hoped for meaningful outcomes from the international conference on the implementation of the two-state solution, being held on Monday at the United Nations.

Ishaq Dar meets Egpptian Foreign Minister

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar met with the Foreign Minister of Egypt, Dr. Badr Abdelatty, on the sidelines of the International Conference on the Two-State Solution today. Reaffirming the deep-rooted and historic bilateral ties, the two leaders emphasized the importance of enhancing broad-based co-operation across various sectors, including medical, minerals, defense, trade, and investment. They agreed on the need to strengthen connectivity between Pakistan and Egypt to promote economic integration and facilitate greater trade. Both sides also agreed to undertake high-level exchanges in the near future. Appreciating the continued collaboration at multilateral fora, FM Abdelatty congratulated Pakistan on assuming the Presidency of the UNSC this month.

Reiterating their unwavering support for the Palestinian people and their just cause, the two ministers underscored the urgent need for unimpaired humanitarian access, an immediate cessation of Israeli hostilities, and expressed hope for a meaningful and constructive outcome of the International Conference on the Two-State Solution.



ISLAMABAD: : Ms. Elizabeth Horst, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires in Pakistan, called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, at the Finance Division.=DNA

Relations strengthened

Pak indebted to US for all-out support: Aurangzeb

U.S. Chargé d'Affaires calls on Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Ms. Elizabeth Horst, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires in Pakistan, called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, at the Finance Division today. The meeting served as an opportunity to exchange views on matters of mutual interest and to reaffirm the positive trajectory of bilateral relations between Pakistan and the United States. The Finance Minister expressed appreciation for the longstanding support extended by the United States towards Pakistan's economic development. He particularly lauded the continued U.S. support for macroeconomic stability achieved over the past year and a half, and welcomed the healthy momentum in bilateral engagement across various sectors. Recalling his recent visit to the United States, the Minister shared

insights from his productive meetings with U.S. Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick and United States Trade Representative Ambassador Jamieson Greer in Washington, D.C. He noted the encouraging progress in deepening trade and economic ties between the two countries. Senator Aurangzeb underscored the importance of the U.S. as Pakistan's largest trading partner and highlighted Pakistan's keen interest in broadening bilateral cooperation beyond traditional sectors. He specifically pointed to the promising potential in information technology, minerals, and agriculture, as avenues for mutually beneficial collaboration. The Minister also briefed Ms. Horst on Pakistan's recent macroeconomic indicators, including sovereign rating upgrades and renewed

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Thailand, Cambodia agree to 'unconditional' ceasefire

Truce will come into effect at midnight, says Malaysian PM Anwar Ibrahim

DNA

PUTRAJAYA: Thailand and Cambodia will enter into an unconditional ceasefire starting at midnight Malaysia's Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim announced on Monday. "Both Cambodia and Thailand reached a common understanding as follows: One, an immediate and unconditional ceasefire with effect from 24 hours local time, midnight on 28th July 2025, tonight," PM Ibrahim said after mediation talks in Malaysia. The development comes as the two Southeast Asian neighbours had been engaged in ceasefire talks on the fifth day of the deadly skirmishes over

their festering border dispute. "The solutions that PM [Anwar] Ibrahim just announced will set a condition for moving forward for our bilateral discussion to return to normalcy of the relationship," Cambodian PM Hun Manet announced after peace talks brokered by the Malaysian premier. More than 200,000 people have fled the frontier as the two exchanged artillery, rockets and gun fire in the long-disputed area, which is home to a collection of ancient temples. A series of motorcades, including some sporting US and Chinese flags, arrived at Seri Perdana, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's official residence, on Monday afternoon. Today's meeting comes after US Presi-

dent Donald Trump intervened, making a late-night weekend call to both Southeast Asian leaders, who he said agreed to "quickly work out" a truce. Ibrahim, whose country currently chairs the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), is mediating, while US State Department officials and a Chinese delegation were also present. Ahead of the talks, Thailand and Cambodia traded fresh fire and accusations. Phumtham said Bangkok did not believe Phnom Penh "is acting in good faith." Meanwhile, Cambodia's defence ministry spokeswoman Maly Socheata said Monday was "the fifth day that Thailand has invaded Cambodia's territory with heavy weapons and with the deployment of a lot of troops".

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Poultry, Livestock Expo will boost KP's image: Kundi

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Monday said that the Poultry and Livestock Expo will play a vital role in building a positive image of the province. Appreciating the initiative, he announced his participation in the upcoming event and emphasized the importance of such exhibitions in showcasing KP's potential. The Governor said this in a meeting with Poultry and Livestock delegation led by Haji Rajwali Mohmand, President of the Poultry Cooperative Society KP, Muhammad Asif Awan, President of the Livestock Cooperative Society KP and Khalid Waqar Chamkani to extend invitation to Governor to attend the 3rd edition of the International Livestock, Poultry, and Fisheries Expo 2025 as the Chief Guest. The event is scheduled to take place on September 18, at Gul Makai Palace, Northern Bypass, Peshawar. The Governor said that KP has huge potential in every sector, including

poultry and livestock, adding that he would raise related issues with federal and concerned officials to ensure proper support and development. He also offered institutional support, saying, "Red Crescent and NAVT-TC can play a key role in supporting your efforts." The two-day expo aims to bring together key stakeholders from across the livestock, poultry, and fisheries sectors. They informed the Governor that the Expo will serve as a dynamic platform for farmers, breeders, researchers, investors, and policymakers from across Pakistan and abroad to exchange ideas and showcase the latest advancements in these industries. The event is designed to foster collaboration, facilitate trade, and promote sustainable practices that enhance food security and economic development in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and beyond. The organizers emphasized that the Governor's participation as Chief Guest would be a source of encouragement and add significant prestige to the event. His

address is expected to underline the provincial government's commitment to the growth of these crucial sectors. The organizers of the Poultry Expo highlighted several key challenges facing the industry and urged the government to take practical steps for its growth. They called for greater flexibility in visa policies to facilitate international participation, reforms in the medicine policy and tax structure, issuance of root permits for trade with Afghanistan, and adjustments in electricity tariffs to reduce production costs. They emphasized that resolving these issues is essential to unlock the full potential of the poultry and livestock sectors in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The Governor assured to take the issues with concerned officials and asked to submit proper application in this regard. Reaffirming his commitment to collaboration, Governor Kundi concluded, "The doors of the Governor House are open let's work together—APP



ISLAMABAD: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi, Chief Justice of Pakistan, presenting a bouquet to Hon'ble Mr. Justice Tariq Masood who laid down the robes of office as Additional Judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

Steps to take entertainment industry to global markets discussed

KARACHI: The Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal, directors and producers of Pakistan film and drama industry on Monday huddled around to find ways for taking Pakistani entertainment industry to global markets. In a roundtable discussion with the film and drama directors and producers including Nadeem Baig, Satish Anand and Hina Khawaja Bayat, who is also famous Pakistani actress, at a local hotel, the Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal said that Pakistan had a rich culture and heritage and she had developed in the fields of music, art and dramas. He said that historically Pakistani film industry was strong and developing in the past and Lahore and Karachi were its center. Iqbal said that the film industry had left behind and merely three to four films were released in a year.—APP

PUC welcomes historic conference on Palestine issue at UN

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) not only welcomes but also fully supports the historic conference on Palestine issue at UN under the chairmanship of Saudi Arabia and France for the establishment of an independent and sovereign Palestinian state. Chairman Pakistan Ulema Council and Secretary General International Tahzeem-e-Harmain Al-Sharifain Council Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, Maulana Hafiz Maqbool Ahmed, Maulana Muhammad Shafi Qasmi, Allama Tahir-ul-Hassan, Maulana Asadullah Farooq, Maulana Tahir Aqeel Awan, Maulana Aziz Akbar Qasmi, Maulana Muhammad Ashfaq Pitafi, Maulana Muhammad Aslam Siddiqui, Qari Mubashar Rahimi, Maulana Anwar-ul-Haq Mujahid and others have said that we hope that our Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar will represent the feelings and emotions of the people of Pakistan in accordance with the vision and thinking of Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Hafiz Syed Asim Munir and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. This conference is part of the struggle and efforts made by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for Palestine. France has announced its recognition of Palestine as a state and we hope that Britain and European countries will also take a step forward in this regard in this conference, and we also hope that the United States will do the same. The leadership of Pakistan Ulema Council said, "We appeal to US President Donald Trump to move forward and support the vision and thinking of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, which he has put before the world under the patronage Khadim-e-Harmain Al-Sharifain Shah Salman bin Abdulaziz, to support the Palestinians in their efforts to establish an independent and sovereign Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital." The Ulemas noted that the Palestinians are victims of Israeli aggression and are being martyred due to scarcity of water and food. We hope that God willing, this conference will be successful. Just as Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is trying to make this conference a success, Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan, Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Shehbaz Sharif, Emir of Qatar and other leaders of the Islamic world will play their full role and contributions in it.—APP

NHA confirms reopening northern routes

ISLAMABAD: The National Highway Authority (NHA) has successfully reopened the Kaghan, Naran, Babusar Top, and Chilas highways after a massive landslide clearance operation, restoring full access to the 242-kilometer-long N-15 route from Mansehra to Jalkhand. The operation was launched on the special instructions of Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan, following severe weather disruptions across northern Pakistan.

Heavy monsoon rains and cloudbursts had caused widespread damage to road infrastructure, triggering landslides, mudslides, and the collapse of temporary bridges. The affected roads, popular among tourists and vital for regional connectivity, were swiftly cleared in a round-the-clock operation supervised by Federal Secretary Communications Ali Sher Mehsud and NHA Chairman Shehryar Sultan. "All routes are now open for public and tourist traffic," the NHA confirmed to APP on Monday, adding that the Jaglot-Skardu road had already been restored earlier in the week.—APP

Chairman CDA directs for expediting work on sector uplift



DNA

ISLAMABAD: An important meeting was held at CDA Headquarters under the chairmanship of Chairman CDA and Chief Commissioner Islamabad Muhammad Ali Randhawa. The meeting was attended by CDA Member Administration and Estate Talat Mahmood, Member Engineering Syed Nafasat Raza, Member Planning Dr. Khalid Hafiz, DG Works, DC CDA and other senior officers. The meeting reviewed in detail the progress made so far in the development works of Sectors like sector C-14, sector C-15, sector C-16, sector E-12 and sector I-12.

Chairman CDA directed that development work in all the sectors should not only be expedited but also that no compromise should be made on quality and standards. He directed that relevant CDA directorates, especially DC CDA, along with offices of relevant wings should set up their offices along with their staff in the sectors where development

work is ongoing so that public issues can be resolved at their doorstep. Additionally, all public concerns at camp offices should be addressed transparently and in accordance with the principles of law and justice. He further instructed that measures be taken to install modern and aesthetically pleasing lighting and improve road infrastructure in all new sectors. Chairman CDA also directed the widening of main entry points in various new sectors and the removal of all encroachments and illegal constructions as per law. He instructed speeding up development work in all sectors especially installation of lights at all sectors places have been ensured. Chairman CDA stressed that all obstacles hindering in the development work in CDA sectors should be removed on a priority basis. Applauding the historic success of CDA's commercial plots auction, Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa commended the performance of all concerned wings. He directed the Finance Wing to ensure adequate funds are allocated for development projects so that they should complete as soon as possible.

Afghanistan's peace, economic uplift shared regional responsibility, not charity

DNA

TASHKENT/ISLAMABAD: Afghanistan's stability is a regional imperative that demands a coordinated, principled, and inclusive response. At a multistakeholder dialogue hosted by the Center for Research and Security Studies (CRSS), Islamabad in collaboration with the Institute for Advanced International Studies (IAIS), Tashkent, on July 23-24, 2025, participants emphasized that peace and economic recovery in Afghanistan must not be treated as charity or a political burden, but as a shared moral and strategic responsibility. They underscored that regional stability hinges on inclusive education, collective security, and cross-border cooperation rooted in mutual interest, not exceptionalism. The two-day dialogue held in Tashkent, "Building Bridges: Regional Dialogue for Peace and Develop-

ment", brought together scholars and policy experts from Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, and Egypt. Discussions focused on inclusive education, addressing the misinterpretation of religion, and developing practical frameworks for sustained regional cooperation rooted in mutual benefit and long-term peacebuilding. Participants emphasized the need for greater regional synergy to promote trade, inclusive economic development, and coordinated responses to shared challenges such as refugee displacement, drug trafficking, and terrorism. They unanimously reaffirmed that education is both a sacred Islamic right and a regional necessity, especially in the light of the ban on girls' education in Afghanistan. "Women's education is an absolutely essential element for socio-economic development. Universities must serve not just as centres of knowledge, but as

bridges between communities and countries, and scholars hold the sacred responsibility of opening minds and gatekeeping societies against negative influence", said Dr. Qibla Ayaz, former Chairperson of Pakistan's Council of Islamic Ideology. Speakers also warned that the instrumentalization of religion by non-state actors continues to erode state legitimacy and fracture regional cohesion. Participants called for closer cooperation among Islamic scholars and institutions to challenge the misuse of religious authority and to reaffirm shared values of pluralism, justice, and peaceful coexistence. "Scholars have a vital responsibility to champion narratives that promote peace, rule of law, and inclusivity. Reclaiming the space for inclusive education and resisting exclusionary ideologies is not only a moral obligation, it is

essential to the region's collective future", noted Imtiaz Gul, Executive Director of CRSS. The participants emphasized regional economic cooperation as a peacebuilding tool, and highlighted the potential of transit corridors, trade zones, and visa-free regimes. "Visa-free economic zones, such as the one in Termez, can help not only in boosting cross-border trade, but also in assisting the Afghan people," said Hamza Boltaev, Senior Research Fellow at IAIS. The scholars also commended the momentum in government-to-government (G2G) engagement between Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Uzbekistan, calling it a long-overdue shift toward structured dialogue, and acknowledged CRSS's sustained advocacy for trilateral coordination, noting that recent developments suggest such frameworks are finally gaining meaningful traction.

Law enforcement reform, public welfare top priority

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Monday outlined a comprehensive vision for law enforcement reform, public welfare, and post-flood recovery during a meeting with Civil Service Academy probationary officers and senior officials at the CM House. His address reflected a blend of security modernisation and development aimed at addressing both persistent and emerging challenges across the province. The CM Murad Shah revealed a substantial development budget, including Rs. 366.75 billion for foreign-funded projects, with the Sindh government investing heavily in expanding Karachi's Road network,

building new flyovers, underpasses, and implementing landmark projects such as the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system and the People's Bus Service. New sewage, water supply, and solid waste management upgrades are ongoing, further enhancing urban infrastructure. Highlighting the devastation caused by the 2022 floods, Shah noted that 12.4 million residents were impacted, with 5 million pushed below the poverty line and 2.1 million homes damaged. In response, the province has mobilised extensive rehabilitation resources, including \$1.497 billion for Sindh Flood Emergency Housing Reconstruction, targeting the reconstruction of 1.14 million

homes. \$530 million for the Sindh Flood Emergency Rehabilitation Project (SFERP), rejuvenating rural roads, water supply, and irrigation infrastructure. Additional investments include \$200 million for Emergency Flood Assistance (rehabilitation of inter-district roads), \$230 million for the Sindh Water & Agriculture Transformation Project, and \$275 million to rebuild 1,600 secondary schools. These efforts are reinforced by the establishment of a unified social protection registry and programmes focused on healthcare, family planning, and agriculture, demonstrating the government's commitment to public welfare and recovery.—APP

Pak's furniture industry has potential to shine globally: Arora

LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Minorities Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora has said that Pakistan's furniture industry possesses the talent and potential to make a mark in international markets. He made these remarks while addressing the closing ceremony of the 115th Pakistan Lifestyle Furniture Expo (PLFE), held at Pine Avenue, Lahore. On the occasion, the minister distributed certificates of appreciation among the participating exhibitors, commending their creativity, craftsmanship, and commitment to excellence.

The minister said that the expo provided an ideal platform to showcase the skill and innovation of local manufacturers. He underscored the need for sustained collaboration between the government and the private sector to enhance furniture exports and create meaningful employment opportunities. Later, talking to media representatives, the Minister further highlighted the untapped potential of Pakistan's furniture sector. "The craftsmanship, design innovation, and technical skill demonstrated by our local manufacturers are truly commendable,"

he noted. "This expo has showcased Pakistani talent at its finest. With continued support and strategic partnerships, this industry can significantly boost exports and generate economic growth." He encouraged exhibitors to remain focused on innovation, adherence to international quality standards, and alignment with evolving global design trends. "Such exhibitions not only provide visibility to local talent but also connect them with new markets and customer bases," he added. During the ceremony, the minister visited multiple stalls and engaged with furniture makers, entrepreneurs, and young designers. He appreciated the wide range of products on display, from traditional handcrafted woodwork to contemporary modular designs, and acknowledged the dynamic role of young talent in transforming the industry's outlook.—APP

CDA

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTS AGREEMENT-II

TENDER NOTICE

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Sealed tenders are hereby invited for the following work from contractors / firms / JV duly enlisted with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in appropriate category & codes having validity / renewal of PEC license and NTN & GST registration with FBR.

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1.	Maintenance of Tube Wells (96 Nos.) of Water Supply Directorate, CDA Located in Different Sectors of Islamabad for Three Years (Package-I).	Rs. 3,850,148/-	Rs. 128,338,272/-	August 18, 2025 at 11:00AM	August 18, 2025 at 11:30AM.

1. The bidding shall be conducted in line with the Rule 36 (b) Single Stage- Two Envelope Procedure prescribed under Public Procurement Rules 2004, E-PAK Procurement Regulations, 2023 and is open to all potential Bidders Registered in the "E-PAK Acquisition & Disposal System (EPADS)".

2. Technical Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security duly generated from Firm's own account should be in the form of Pay Order / CDRs in Favor of DDO (P&C), CDA. The prospective Bidders shall upload scanned copy of Bid Security on E-PADS.

3. The prospective Bidders are also required to submit their bids online through E-PADS at <http://eprocure.gov.pk> and as per instructions contained in IB Clause 18.1 of Bidding Document.

4. The Technical Bids will be opened by using E-PADS Publicly in the presence of the Procurement Committee and Bidders Authorized representatives who choose to attend the opening session to be held at the office of Director (P&C-II), Room No. 30, Block III, P&C Wing, CDA Secretariat, Sector G-7/4, Islamabad.

5. Interested firms / JV consortium can download the Bidding documents from E-PADS at www.eprocure.gov.pk.

6. Notification of GRC constituted in term of Rule 48 of Public Procurement Rule 2004 is provided on E-PADS at <http://eprocure.gov.pk>.

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

JULY

July 01/Japan Self Defence Day

July 01/Singapore Armed Forces Day

July 01 / Canada National Day

July 01/Somalia Independence Day

July 04/USA Independence Day

July 05/Algeria Independence Day

July 09/Argentine Independence Day

July 09/Mongolia Revolution Day

July 14/France National Day

July 15/Brunei Sultan's Birthday

July 21/Belgium National Day

July 20/TRNC Independence Day

July 23/Egypt National Day

July 26/Cuba National Day

July 26/Liberia National Day

July 30/Morocco National Day

Airlines

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

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Railway Exchange9270831-5

WASA Rawalpindi..5555489

CAA.....9281092

Hospitals

CMH.....5611111

MH.....561116

Cantt Hospital...9270907-11

DHQ.....5556311-4

RGH.....9290301-7

Holy Family.....9290322-7

PIMS.....9261170-79

Polyclinic.....9218300-09

Shifa International 4603666

Departments

CDA.....9221334-43

CDA.....9208301-04

Met Office.....9250360-6

RDA.....5555864

TMA.....5770886

Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation.....9209224

Potohar Town.....9209224

Rawal Town.....5773343

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480



ISLAMABAD: Garbage dump in front of Shrine of Bari Imam raises a stink,needs attention of authorities concerned.

Memon confirms recovery of donkey meat in ICT

Memon concluded by saying that ensuring safe food for the public remains the top priority for the authority, and more joint operations with law enforcement agencies are planned in the coming days

ISLAMABAD: The Director of the Islamabad Food Authority (IFA), Irfan Nawaz Memon on Monday confirmed that a major operation led to the recovery of donkey meat in the federal capital and launched a citywide inspection to trace the source and potential buyers. According to Memon, IFA teams had received intelligence over a week ago about the possible sale and distribution of donkey meat in Islamabad. The information was kept confidential while teams conducted discreet monitoring to catch those involved. He said that the IFA officials carried out surveillance for several days and eventually raided a location where they found one thousand kilograms of processed meat and 40 live donkeys. A foreign national working as a butcher and a guard present on the spot were detained by authorities. The case is now under de-

tailed investigation. According to Memon, preliminary findings indicate that the slaughter of donkeys and processing of their meat had been going on for at least two weeks. However, the exact number of donkeys previously slaughtered and the destinations of the distributed meat are still being investigated. He said there are unconfirmed reports that the meat may have been supplied to foreign nationals living in the city. There are also suspicions that some of the meat was sent outside Islamabad. "No conclusive evidence has been found so far regarding where exactly the meat was supplied," Memon stated. "We are working in coordination with the police, who are looking into every possible aspect of the case." The IFA Director added that surprise inspections of food outlets and restaurants are regularly conduct-

ed in the capital to check food quality. "In the last two years, we did not receive any similar complaint in Islamabad," he said. "We even conduct visits during the night without prior notice to ensure food safety standards are met." The recent discovery has raised concerns among residents and authorities alike about the safety of the meat supply chain in the city. Officials have said that all restaurants and vendors will face increased inspections following this case. Police and food authority teams are now trying to determine whether the meat was being sold openly or supplied to specific clients. Samples have been collected for laboratory testing to confirm the type and condition of the meat. Law enforcement agencies are also verifying the identities and networks of those arrested. Investigators are looking into whether the operation was being run locally or

had any outside connections. The possibility of involvement of other individuals or groups is also being considered. The Food Authority has urged the public to report any suspicious activities related to meat supply or food hygiene. Authorities said they aim to track and dismantle the entire chain involved in the slaughter, processing, and distribution of donkey meat. The case has not only alarmed health authorities but also raised public awareness about food safety and hygiene practices. Authorities have emphasized the need for regular checks and public cooperation in identifying unsafe food practices. Memon concluded by saying that ensuring safe food for the public remains the top priority for the authority, and more joint operations with law enforcement agencies are planned in the coming days.—DNA

AIOU awards scholarships, research grants to 478 high-achieving students

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) awarded merit scholarships and research grants to 478 outstanding students during a special ceremony held on campus, reaffirming its commitment to inclusive and high-quality education. Speaking at the event, Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood praised the academic performance of the recipients and highlighted AIOU's achievement in securing the second position among over 2,000 Pakistani universities in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2025 under Sustainable Development Goal 4: Quality Education. "This

global recognition reflects the university's dedication to academic excellence," Dr. Mahmood said, emphasizing the importance of improving educational standards across the country. A total of 439 students received Merit Scholarships, while 39 were awarded Research Grants during the ceremony organized by the university's Directorate of Student Advisory and Counseling Services. The Vice Chancellor noted that the scholarship recipients had all secured over 80% marks and were selected purely on a merit basis. AIOU currently offers scholarships under nine different categories, including for chil-

dren of martyrs, transgender individuals, prisoners, persons with disabilities, and students from low-income backgrounds. Dr. Mahmood shared that the university has allocated Rs. 140 million for scholarships this year to expand educational access and support students in financial need. "These scholarships are not just a reward for talent—they are a lifeline for many students who might otherwise not be able to continue their education," he said, congratulating the recipients and acknowledging the efforts of faculty and parents. Also addressing the ceremony, Professor Dr. Irshad

Ahmad Arshad called the scholarship recipients a "national asset" and highlighted AIOU's efforts to promote inclusive education. "To ensure that no student is deprived of education due to financial constraints, AIOU has launched a Student Support Fund," he said. "We are currently offering free matric education in Balochistan, Gilgit-Baltistan, and the merged tribal districts." The event was attended by university faculty, principal officers, and students, who welcomed the university's continued efforts to provide equitable educational opportunities across Pakistan.

Musadik orders urgent review of GMO soybean imports

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Dr. Musadik Malik has directed an urgent overhaul of Pakistan's regulatory framework for genetically modified (GMO) soybean meal imports, stressing the need for science-led decisions to strengthen national food security and agricultural sustainability. Chairing a high-level committee meeting in Islamabad, Dr. Malik emphasized that all future decisions must be grounded in rigorous scientific analysis. He highlighted Pakistan's lagging soybean yields compared to other countries and questioned why locally produced soybean seed and meal remain significantly more expensive than imported alternatives. "We cannot afford to make uninformed choices. Our agriculture policy must be guided by facts, not assumptions," Dr. Malik stated, directing relevant departments to conduct a comparative analysis of domestic versus international yield and production costs. The Minister also flagged biosafety concerns, including the risk of gene escape—where genetic traits from GMO crops may unintentionally spread to native or non-GMO varieties. He called for the urgent development of clear safety protocols to safeguard ecosystems and crop integrity. To guide future policy, Dr. Malik appointed Prof. Kosar Abdullah Malik to lead a national conference within ten days, bringing together scientific experts and researchers to advise on seed and biotechnology policies. In a bold policy directive, the Minister ordered the finalization and implementation of a comprehensive biosafety and biotechnology regulatory framework within 90 days. "This is critical to ensure sustainable agricultural development, protect biodiversity, and secure our food systems," he said. Pakistan has increasingly relied on imported soybean meal—mainly for poultry and livestock feed—due to underdeveloped domestic production.—APP

CJP bids farewell to Justice Tariq, Justice Miankhel

ISLAMABAD: In an impressive ceremony, the Supreme Court of Pakistan Monday bid farewell to Justice Tariq Masood and Justice Mazahar Alam Khan Miankhel, who laid down the robes of office as Additional Judges of the Supreme Court. The farewell luncheon was hosted by Justice Yahya Afriqi, Chief Justice of Pakistan, and was attended by all Judges of the Supreme Court. While speaking on the occasion, the Chief Justice paid glowing tribute to the judicial legacy and professional integrity of both outgoing judges. He commended their exceptional service, unwavering commitment to justice, and substantial contribution to improving the Court's performance, especially in the criminal docket. He further added that during the past year alone, the Supreme Court decided a total of 7,196 criminal cases. Of these, 2,220 cases were decided by the bench comprising Justice Tariq Masood and Justice Mazahar Alam Khan Miankhel, accounting for more than 30% of the total disposals in this category. This singular achievement underscores their tireless efforts and extraordinary work ethic, which have directly contributed to reducing the pendency of criminal cases and enhancing access to speedy justice. The Chief Justice highlighted that both judges brought to the Bench a rare combination of legal acumen, principled judgment, and deep understanding of criminal jurisprudence.—APP

Advisory issued for new monsoon spell in Murree

RAWALPINDI: In view of potential risks during the current monsoon spell, an advisory has been issued for the citizens to adopt precautionary measures while traveling to Murree. The advisory, issued by the DC Murree, Zaheer Abbass Shirazi urges the public to avoid unnecessary travel, particularly to hilly areas risked to landslides. "Residents are advised to keep drainage systems around their homes clear to prevent water accumulation and to cooperate fully with the district administration to ensure their safety and that of others", reads the advisory. Citizens are also advised to immediately contact the district control room or local authorities in case of any emergency. Safety instructions are also being disseminated through announcements in local mosques, and the public is urged to comply with them. Citizens have also been urged to stay updated with guidelines and alerts issued by the Meteorological Department and district administration. "The Murree district administration is utilizing all available resources to ensure the safety of lives and property", said the deputy commissioner asking public to take precautionary measures and report any emergency promptly.—APP

ITP facilitation vans serves citizens

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) facilitation vans will be visiting various locations across the federal capital throughout the week to provide driving license and traffic-related services to citizens from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM. A public relations officer told APP on Monday that the vans will operate from Monday to Friday during regular hours, while on Saturday, the service will conclude at 2:30 PM. He said facilitation van GAC-656 will be stationed at Bari Imam House on Monday, Tar-nol (Benazir Chowk) on Tuesday, Golra Sharif on Wednesday, G-10 Markaz on Thursday, G-11 DC Office on Friday, and Rawat (Gulzar e Madina Masjid) on Saturday. He said van GAG-709 will cover E-11 Markaz on Monday, DHA Phase-5 on Tuesday, F-10 Markaz on Wednesday, CDA Chairman Office on Thursday, I-10 Markaz on Friday, and E-9 Markaz on Saturday. He said citizens may contact Yasir Idrees (GAC-656) at 0313-8324087 and Abdul Qadeer (GAG-709) at 0300-2322883 or call the ITP helpline 1915 for further information. He said the initiative is being supervised by ASI Muhammad Younas and aims to ensure citizen convenience under ITP's public facilitation drive.

KP govt 80 missing vehicles highlights governance lapse: Ikhtiar

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Coordinator on Information and Broadcasting on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Affairs, Ikhtiar Wali Khan expressed concern over eighty missing vehicles from the province's livestock department, highlighting weak administrative oversight. In a post on X on Monday, Ikhtiar Wali remarked, "80 vehicles of the livestock department have disappeared in KP. Where are the vehicles, who took them away. No one knows – Audit Report. Chief Minister, tell me who should be punished?" It is pertinent to mention here that at least 80 official vehicles are missing from the KP Livestock and Dairy Development Department, revealed an auditor report conducted for the Financial Year 2023-24. _APP

Silent struggle of women battling addiction

ISLAMABAD: Despite growing awareness of women's rights and health issues such as honour killings, mental health, and family planning, one rising crisis remains largely hidden, female drug addiction. Shrouded in stigma and shame, many women suffer in silence, while families avoid seeking help for fear of judgment. As secrecy replaces support and phone consultations take the place of real care, this worsening issue is quietly costing lives. Many women fear seeking help due to the potential backlash from their families and communities. The possibility of being judged, isolated, or losing the support of a spouse, children, or parents keeps them locked in silence. Unlike male addicts, who may find more open pathways to treatment, addicted women are often met with secrecy and shame. This results in an alarming lack of support systems tailored to their specific needs. Dr. Shamsheer Hayat, a PhD, clinical psychologist and CEO of Hayat Rehab Clinic, told APP that, "addiction among

women is rising, yet most cases are reported anonymously. Families avoid bringing daughters or wives for treatment out of fear of judgment," he said, noting a growing number of school and university girls falling into addiction due to peer pressure, neglect, or academic stress. He described that addiction is often linked to deeper mental health issues like depression, anxiety, or bipolar disorder, and requires holistic care, detox, therapy, and emotional healing. At Hayat Rehab, treatment includes medical detox and regular counseling, typically lasting four months. Many patients come from other cities to seek help discreetly, underlining the stigma that still surrounds this crisis. Dr. Shamsheer Hayat explained that whether women are using cannabis, heroin, methamphetamine, amphetamines, prescription painkillers, or alcohol, substance abuse takes a serious toll, not just physically, but also on their emotional stability, mental health, behavior, and personal relationships. The ripple effects of

female addiction extend far beyond the individual, impacting children who may suffer emotional neglect, mental health struggles, and an increased risk of substance abuse, while families face emotional, social, and financial strain, and society bears the burden through overwhelmed healthcare systems and lost potential, all rooted in deep-seated issues like social stigma equating addiction with moral failure and the lack of gender-sensitive healthcare policies. This is further compounded by the overprescription of medications and media portrayals that either glamorize substance use or ignore the issue in women altogether. To understand this issue more deeply, Zunaira Hamid, a psychologist based in Bahria Town, talking to APP said that women are more vulnerable to addiction due to underlying psychological conditions, including emotional distress, hormonal imbalances, and trauma, which often lead them to use substances as a coping mechanism.—APP

Briefs

Road restoration underway in Northern Areas

ISLAMABAD: The National Highway Authority (NHA) has initiated swift road restoration operations in the Northern Areas following severe weather disruptions, acting on special directives from Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan here on Monday. In his statement the Minister said that the Key highways, including the Mansehra-Naran-Jalkhad (N-15) and Skardu-Jaglot Road, were blocked due to landslides and cloudbursts. NHA teams have cleared multiple obstruction points, ensuring partial restoration of traffic and improved accessibility for travelers. The 242-kilometer-long N-15, a critical route for tourism and regional connectivity, was blocked at various locations. According to officials, landslides along the route have been successfully cleared and restoration work is progressing on the stretch from Naran to Babusar Top and Chilas, he added. Federal Secretary Communications Ali Sher Mehsud and Chairman NHA are present on-site, personally overseeing the restoration activities. "We are committed to restoring all major highways at the earliest," said the Secretary, confirming that travel towards Kaghan and Naran has now resumed. On the Skardu-Jaglot Road, NHA has managed to clear 20 out of 25 landslide-affected points. The remaining blockages are expected to be removed soon, with continuous efforts underway. A comprehensive progress report has been submitted to the Federal Minister. To maintain pace, NHA has placed all field officers on 24-hour alert, cancelled staff leave and activated its emergency response plan across Gilgit-Baltistan. Heavy machinery remains operational across the region to tackle any further disruptions. APP

Mohsin Naqvi visits home of martyr Major Zeeyad

The Interior Minister cimmended the high morale of Major Zeeyad Salim's mother, sister, and brothers, saying, "Mothers like you are the pride of the nation." He saluted the greatness, bravery, and resilience of the martyr's mother

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the residence of Major Zeeyad Salim, who was martyred in Balochistan. The Interior Minister met with the martyr's mother, brothers, sister, and family members. He expressed condolences, offered Fatiha, and prayed for the elevation of the martyr's ranks and patience for the bereaved family. The Interior Minister cimmended the high morale of Major Zeeyad Salim's mother, sister, and brothers, saying, "Mothers like you are the pride of the nation." He saluted the greatness, bravery, and resilience of the martyr's mother. "The sacrifices of martyr families are beyond repayment," he said, "Major Zeeyad Salim's extraordinary sacrifice will always be remembered. We will ensure your family is looked after in every way possible." The martyr's brother shared the last audio message of Major Zeeyad Salim with the Interior Minister. The mother recalled, "My son had married shortly before his martyrdom and his love for the homeland was extreme. She added despite being injured, Zeeyad kept rescuing his comrades and did not care about his wounds. She stated that after my husband, now my son too has sacrificed his life for the nation." She added, "I have



always stood by the country and the Pakistan Army and will continue to do so." It is worth noting that Major Zeeyad Salim's

father, Brigadier Muhammad Saleem, was also martyred in 2005 while defending the motherland. Chief Commissioner Islama-

bad Muhammad Ali Randhawa and Inspector General of Islamabad Police Ali Nasir Rizvi were also present on the occasion.

GDA activates 1-million-gallon tank, begins water supply in Gwadar

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Gwadar Development Authority on Sunday activated a 1-million-gallon underground water storage tank at Central Park to provide water supply to several residential areas in the city, according to an official statement. The project was inaugurated with special directives of GDA Director General Moin ur Rehman Khan, which includes a fully functional pumping station and electrical system to ensure uninterrupted distribution. With the tank now operational, regular water supply has begun in Faqir Colony South, GDA Colony, Kalanchi Para, Naya Abad, and Shambay Ismail Ward. Testing and transmission for new pipelines in Faqir Colony North and Dhoor Ghati are expected to begin soon, according to GDA officials. "This marks a significant step toward solving the persistent issue of water shortage in Gwadar," a GDA statement reads and added, "GDA is committed to ensuring reliable and sustained water access to our citizens." Residents have been urged to submit applications for household water connections promptly to ensure timely access as distribution expands. APP

NA Speaker calls for unified action against Hepatitis B & C

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly (NA) Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Monday urged the implementation of coordinated strategies and unified public health initiatives to address the growing spread in Hepatitis B and C cases across Pakistan. In his message on World Hepatitis Day, Sadiq emphasized that fragmented efforts must give way to cohesive national plans to effectively stem the spread of the viral infections impacting millions across the country. Speaker said that hepatitis is a deadly but treatable disease, stressing that timely diagnosis, effective preventive measures and raising public awareness are essential to combat the disease and protect people from this potentially fatal illness. Speaker pointed out that the primary causes behind the spread of hepatitis include lack of public awareness, unsafe medical practices and the use of unsterilized syringes. Speaker stated that the National Assembly is advancing legislation to protect public health, enforce strict actions against quacks and approve substantial funding for medical facilities. These measures reflect a firm institutional resolve to uphold citizens' health and improve access to quality care across Pakistan. Sadiq urged parliamentarians to proactively promote awareness campaigns within their constituencies, emphasizing the need to convey the importance of preventive measures and timely screening to the public. He stressed that grassroots engagement by elected representatives is crucial to enhancing public understanding and curbing the spread of hepatitis across Pakistan. Speaker stated that the Government is taking tangible steps to eliminate hepatitis across Pakistan through nationwide screening, vaccination drives and provision of free treatment. He paid tribute to the institutions, doctors, nurses and medical staff associated with the health sector, acknowledging their tireless efforts around the clock to eradicate the disease and safeguard public health. He urged citizens to undergo timely screening, adopt preventive measures and actively support government initiatives aimed at promoting public health. He emphasized that the vision of a hepatitis-free Pakistan depends on collective awareness, public engagement and the implementation of effective, nationwide strategies.—DNA

Expert recommends hygienic food to prevent Hepatitis spread

ISLAMABAD: A medical specialist on Monday advised a healthy lifestyle, hygienic food, clean water and proper sterilisation of all medical instruments, including blades and syringes, to prevent the spread of Hepatitis in humans. Talking to a private news channel on the occasion of World Hepatitis Awareness Day, renowned Gastroenterology Prof Dr Zahid Azam shed light on the causes of Hepatitis B, C, D and E pandemic—a silent killer and its cure and preventive measures from its spread. He said that most patients in Pakistan are suffering from the Hepatitis B virus and that is directly related to the liver's malfunctioning and in Children, it is present in the form of jaundice and Hepatitis A, adding he said Hepatitis B, C, and D can even cause patients' death. He said the most common causes of hepatitis are found in cases of negligence in daily diet, use of already unsterilized syringes and instruments, blood transfusion without prior screening, adding that he said infected tools can transmit hepatitis in other patients easily. He recommended that the patients should demand from the Chemists to use the new blades whenever they visit them in the medical shops. Replying to a question relating to external factors of Hepatitis spread and its slow cure, he said medical doctors, nurses, and surgeons should take extra care while using medical instruments such as blades and syringes to give medical help to the patients. So far as the internal factors of Hepatitis virus spread are concerned, he said the major cause of Hepatitis E is due to unhygienic food, polluted water, while Hepatitis B, C, and D are due to blood issues. He informed about Autoimmune Hepatitis, which is another kind, and it is caused by a patient's cell that works against their own body, and thus they get infected, but its spread is mostly in European and Western countries and not in Pakistan. He said that luckily there is available the cure, medicines, and vaccination for Hepatitis B while there are now available medicines for hepatitis C, and we are expecting that the spread of Hepatitis C or D would be eliminated.—DNA

PM for implementation of Digital Transformation Plan

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday directed the federal government to hold meaningful consultations with provincial governments for effective and comprehensive implementation of the Digital Transformation Plan. Chairing a weekly review meeting on Cashless and Digital Economy here, the prime minister said digitalization of the economy will help promote transparency. The core objective of the Federal Government's Digital Transformation Plan is to provide ease and convenience to the public without any additional cost, he said adding that the government was encouraging digital payments and digital transfer of funds through policy measures. All provincial governments, including Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir, should fully cooperate with the federal government regarding the digitalization of the economy and cashless economy, the prime minister stressed adding that with the cooperation of provincial governments.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Youngsters enjoying waterfall at trail 4 in federal capital.

A Worsening health and environmental crisis

FAIZA RIASAT



AIR pollution in Pakistan has reached crisis levels, posing severe threats to public health, economic productivity, and environmental sustainability. According to the World Air Quality Report 2024, Pakistan ranks as the third most polluted country in the world, with a national average PM2.5 concentration of 73.7 micrograms per cubic metre (µg/m³), over 14 times higher than the World Health Organization's (WHO) recommended safe level of 5 µg/m³. This ranking places Pakistan behind only Chad and Bangladesh,

with India and the Democratic Republic of Congo completing the top five most polluted nations globally. In 2024, several major Pakistani cities, including Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Faisalabad, Lahore, and Peshawar, witnessed rising pollution levels. Twelve cities in the country recorded annual PM2.5 levels more than ten times the WHO guideline. Various factors are responsible for the worsening air quality in the country. Key contributors include vehicular emissions, industrial activity, brick kilns, biomass and crop residue burning, open waste incineration, construction dust, and widespread deforestation. In Lahore alone, vehicular emissions account for up to 83% of total pollution.

During winter months, the pollution rises to a dangerous level due to agricultural stubble burning and temperature inversions that trap particulate matter close to the ground. During this period, PM2.5 concentrations often exceed 100 µg/m³, more than 20 times the safe threshold, resulting in a thick, hazardous smog enveloping urban centres. Lahore surpassed this benchmark in 2024 for the first time since 2018. The Air Quality Life Index (AQLI)

report by the University of Chicago's Energy Policy Institute estimates that air pollution reduces life expectancy in Pakistan by over four years on average. It identifies particulate pollution as the second-most serious threat to public health, after cardiovascular diseases. The report links rising pollution to increased cases of mental health disorders, including anxiety, seasonal depression, and mood-related illnesses.

The State of Global Air 2024 report further reveals that air pollution was responsible for 256,000 deaths in Pakistan in 2021.

To address the air pollution crisis, the federal and provincial governments have launched various initiatives. However, experts argue that policy implementation lacks urgency and coordination. Moreover, with climate change intensifying extreme weather events like heatwaves, flash floods, and water scarcity, the nexus between air pollution and environmental degradation is growing clearer. Smog, a dangerous by-product of urban pollution, has become a recurring nightmare in cities like Lahore. It forms when nitrogen oxides (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) react with sun-

light, creating ground-level ozone and fine particulates. This thick haze severely affects people with respiratory illnesses and poses significant risks to children and the elderly.

To address this most urgent crisis, a coordinated national and regional response is needed. South Asia, with shared geography and air corridors, must cooperate on data sharing, research, and policy alignment. Within Pakistan, addressing air pollution will require localised action to reduce traffic congestion, eliminate open garbage burning, improve industrial emissions controls, and strengthen urban planning.

The private sector must also be engaged. Businesses can contribute by adopting clean technologies, investing in green infrastructure, and collaborating on emission-reducing innovations. Financing mechanisms, both domestic and international, are critical to support air quality monitoring systems, emission scrubbers, and clean transport. Tackling Pakistan's air pollution crisis demands a collective and sustained response.

—The Author is student of Environmental Engineering, IESE NUST, Islamabad.

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Gaza Aid Flotilla attacked: A dark day for humanity

THE recent Israeli attack on a humanitarian aid flotilla headed to Gaza is yet another brutal reminder of the ongoing genocide and the world's complicit silence. This flotilla, carrying essential supplies for starving Palestinians, was violently intercepted by Israeli forces, with activists reportedly captured or injured. This is not just an attack on a ship—it is an attack on basic human decency, on the right to live, and on the very principles of justice.

While the world watches, Israel continues its relentless assault on Gaza's civilian population. In recent days, Palestinians gathering for food aid have been bombed, massacred in cold blood. This is not war—this is extermination. Israel has turned Gaza into a wasteland, where children die from hunger and families are obliterated in seconds. The blockade has ensured that food, water, and medicine are weapons of mass destruction. How much longer will the world allow this barbarity to continue?

The U.S. President, Donald Trump, recently stated that Israel will decide Gaza's future—effectively giving the green light for a full-scale occupation. This means more ethnic cleansing, more settlements, and the complete erasure of Palestinian rights. The so-called "rules-based international order" is exposed as a farce when Western powers openly endorse war crimes. The Muslim world, particularly the Arab League and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), must act now—not with empty statements, but with sanctions, boycotts, and real pressure. History will not forgive those who stayed silent while Gaza was wiped out. The Muslim world, with all its resources and influence, has failed Palestine miserably. Where are the oil embargoes? Where are the severed diplomatic ties? Where is the unity? Meanwhile, Western governments continue to fund and arm Israel, making them direct accomplices in this genocide. The people of Gaza are being slaughtered daily. The attack on the aid flotilla is a clear message: Israel will not even allow humanitarian help to reach the starving. The global community must impose immediate sanctions, demand a permanent ceasefire, and prosecute Israeli leaders for war crimes. If the Muslim world does not rise now, it will forever bear the shame of abandoning its brothers and sisters. Gaza is the moral test of our time. Will we pass, or will we be remembered as the generation that allowed a genocide to happen in broad daylight?

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Phone: 051-8488394 / 051-2261960

Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad



Trump's Trade Triumph, Europe's Strategic Liberation

Qamar Bashir

This shift is not symbolic—it is structural. By agreeing to one-sided economic terms, Europe has secured the room to walk its own path in diplomacy, human rights, and foreign policy. That freedom has already begun to manifest. Several EU states have either recognized or pledged to recognize the State of Palestine. France's President Emmanuel Macron announced that his government will formally support Palestinian statehood at the United Nations General Assembly, directly contradicting

DONALD Trump may have returned from Scotland declaring a sweeping economic triumph, but it is Europe that came away with something far more valuable: the right to think and act freely. Beneath the glittering headlines of tariff eliminations and multi-billion-dollar commitments, the summit at Turnberry marked the quiet collapse of U.S. geopolitical dominance over its allies. While Trump boasted of \$750 billion in energy exports, \$600 billion in European investment, and unspecified billions in future military hardware sales, the European Union and the United Kingdom handed him economic satisfaction in exchange for something they had long been denied—independence from American-Israeli coercion.

This shift is not symbolic—it is structural. By agreeing to one-sided economic terms, Europe has secured the room to walk its own path in diplomacy, human rights, and foreign policy. That freedom has already begun to manifest. Several EU states have either recognized or pledged to recognize the State of Palestine. France's President Emmanuel Macron announced that his government will formally support Palestinian statehood at the United Nations General Assembly, directly contradicting Washington's position. Europe's newfound voice is no longer an accident. It is the result of a deliberate decision to exchange financial concessions for moral autonomy.

But to understand this pivot, one must also confront a darker, deeper truth about the state of U.S. leadership. The unwavering support that American presidents, congressmen, and cabinet officials give to Israel—despite its brutal military operations in Gaza and the West Bank—is not merely ideological. It is, increasingly, understood by European circles as coerced compliance. According to well-placed intelligence disclosures and political whispers, Israeli intelligence agencies, including Mossad, have accumulated irrefutable evidence—videos, photographs, and documentation—of sexual misconduct involving underage girls by senior U.S. officials, including Donald Trump himself. These materials, long held in classified archives, serve as a tool of total control.

In this light, the blind repetition of Israeli talking points by American leaders is no longer confusing—it is revealing. When Netanyahu claims that Hamas is responsible for civilian deaths, or that Israel is feeding Palestinians while Hamas steals and starves them, U.S. officials recite the narrative without question, despite overwhelming global evidence to the contrary. Trump's own

declaration that "we're going to finish the job in Gaza and the West Bank" was not a defense of policy—it was a scripted line passed down from Tel Aviv. The absurdity of the narrative—where a heavily bombed, blockaded civilian population continues to "fool the world" while under total Israeli surveillance—is so farcical it can only persist through fear and blackmail.

European leaders now understand this. And they have drawn a line. Their populations, increasingly educated, conscious, and defiant, no longer tolerate their governments being accomplices to genocide. Informed by alternative media, global witness reports, and humanitarian voices, European societies are demanding truth and accountability. The recognition of Palestine is not just a political gesture—it is a moral revolt against the rotting credibility of American leadership, compromised at its core.

This is why Europe no longer aligns blindly with U.S. foreign policy. The old days—when Washington led and Brussels followed—are over. From Iraq to Libya to Lebanon, Europe has seen what blind obedience to U.S. militarism leads to: collapsed states, radicalized populations, and endless suffering. Now, even as they feed American economic interests through trade and investment, European governments are decoupling from Washington's destructive geopolitical agenda.

Trump's trade agreement has made this detachment possible. By eliminating tariffs on key U.S. products and offering a guaranteed market for American energy and weapons, Europe has bought the right to dissent. They gave Trump what he wanted—money, markets, and a photo op—in order to free themselves from decades of ideological and military subjugation. This is the essence of the new transatlantic dynamic: pay to walk away.

And it could not come at a more urgent time. Over 70,000 Palestinians—mostly civilians, including women and children—have died in Gaza. The West Bank is being annexed inch by inch under the fog of war. Snipers, starvation tactics, and displacement policies have become the Israeli tools of ethnic cleansing, while the United States stands not as an observer, but as a partner. Aid convoys are blocked, journalists are silenced, and the world's conscience is shaken. Yet Trump and the Washington elite cling to the claim that it is Hamas stealing the aid, killing

their own people, and using children as human shields. This grotesque inversion of reality is not a miscalculation. It is the price of silence paid by those whose secrets are buried in Israeli vaults.

For Europe, this recognition has become a turning point. The realization that the most powerful nation on Earth is being manipulated by a foreign government through political blackmail has shattered the myth of American moral leadership. The EU and UK now see that siding with the United States means inheriting its shame. Instead, they have chosen to distance themselves—not in anger, but in survival.

Even Britain, once Washington's closest ally, is showing signs of divergence. Parliamentarians across the spectrum are calling for investigations into Israeli war crimes and for halting arms shipments. What was once unthinkable is now politically inevitable. Across Europe, the tide is turning—from Stockholm to Madrid, from Berlin to Dublin.

This is not just political evolution. It is moral resurrection. Europe has realized that being allied with the United States no longer means standing with freedom, justice, or truth. It means endorsing genocide, shielding war criminals, and being complicit in the slow, deliberate erasure of a people. The trade agreement, as one-sided as it may appear on paper, has become Europe's ticket to redemption.

Trump will parade the deal as a win for American exporters, energy giants, and defense contractors. And indeed, U.S. goods will now flood European markets. American military hardware will find new buyers in EU defense ministries. Liquefied natural gas will power European homes. But what America has lost in the process—its ability to command respect, to dictate values, to lead with integrity—is far greater than any tariff gain. Europe has not just exited America's economic orbit—it has escaped its moral vacuum. And in doing so, it has emerged not weaker, but stronger, not as a junior partner, but as a sovereign collective. This is not the end of the alliance. It is the beginning of a new, equal relationship—one where truth is not blackmailed, where justice is not bartered, and where freedom is no longer for sale.

—The writer is Press Secretary to the President (Rtd) Former Press Minister, Embassy of Pakistan to France Former MD, SRBC / Macomb, Michigan, USA

A Life Devoted to Humanity

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal

Among those who follow in the footsteps of Edhi—though oceans away from Pakistan—is a man whose story demands to be told. Haroon Noor Muhammad, born in 1948 in Pretoria, South Africa, is a living example of how love for humanity and one's roots can transcend time and geography. Despite being born on African soil, his heart

In a world increasingly divided by lines of race, religion, and nationality, there are still souls who rise above these walls and remind us that humanity is the highest calling of all. Compassion knows no passport, no border, no creed—it is the universal language of the heart. There are individuals whose lives become living testimonies to this truth. The late Abdul Sattar Edhi, a name revered across the globe, chose not only to live for others but to breathe for their sake. His legacy is not just remembered; it continues to inspire countless others who dedicate themselves to serving suffering humanity.

Among those who follow in the footsteps of Edhi—though oceans away from Pakistan—is a man whose story demands to be told. Haroon Noor Muhammad, born in 1948 in Pretoria, South Africa, is a living example of how love for humanity and one's roots can transcend time and geography. Despite being born on African soil, his heart has always beat in harmony with the people of Pakistan, a land where he spent his formative years. Forced by the cruel tides of apartheid—South Africa's legalized racial discrimination—Haroon came to Pakistan in 1963 for his education. There, not only did he acquire academic knowledge, but also developed a deep and lasting connection with the country and its people.

Two of his brothers, now deceased, studied at the famed Dow Medical College. Haroon himself enrolled at Karachi Grammar School and later at St. Patrick's College, where he pursued a Bachelor of Commerce degree. It was at St. Pat's that history was made—he became the first foreign

student to be elected President of the College Students' Union in 1971–72, a feat not just of political participation but also of inclusion and acceptance. This milestone speaks volumes of the bridge he built between cultures, races, and communities even in his youth.

From 1973 to 1976, Haroon attended the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) in Karachi, earning an honours degree in Business and an MBA. With his education complete, he returned to South Africa, only to find the doors of opportunity closed in his face—shut tight by the oppressive force of apartheid. Despite his qualifications, the colour of his skin dictated his fate. He was not permitted to work in the professional spaces his education had earned him access to. Yet this disappointment did not wither his spirit. Rather, it planted within him a greater resolve to serve. Haroon restarted his connection with Pakistan in numerous ways. In 2001, during her exile, Benazir Bhutto was received at his residence in Pretoria. That day, spent in the warmth of family and friendship, remains etched in his memory—a memory he holds close to his heart.

In 2005 and again in 2010, when Pakistan was struck by devastating earthquakes and floods, Haroon did not merely offer words of sympathy; he mobilized resources from South Africa and conducted relief work in collaboration with none other than Abdul Sattar Edhi. He considers Edhi a divine gift to mankind and is honoured to have worked beside him.

His efforts have not gone unnoticed. In April 2025, Haroon was invited to Pakistan and honoured with the Governor's Award in Peshawar

for his lifelong commitment to humanitarian work and for being a bridge between Pakistan and South Africa. In a world hungry for such examples, his life offers a shining beacon of hope. He has hosted every Pakistani ambassador to South Africa at his residence since 1994, turning his home into a sanctuary of diplomacy, hospitality, and connection. Among his many memories is his acquaintance with Junaid Jamshed during the latter's visit to South Africa—a friendship that, like many others, lives on in his heart and stories. What makes Haroon Noor Muhammad's story even more poignant is that his affection for Pakistan is not rooted in political opportunism or identity politics. His family had migrated from India to South Africa before the Partition of 1947. Yet the land of Pakistan, its people, and the days he spent on its soil left an indelible mark on his soul. He did not just study in Pakistan; he absorbed its culture, made lifelong friendships, and internalized its values. Pakistan, to him, is not merely a country on the map—it is a part of his being.

His life story is a blend of resilience, love, and unyielding faith in the goodness of people. His efforts are now being considered for recognition through the prestigious Presidential Award of Pakistan—an honour richly deserved for a man who never stopped serving, never stopped loving, and never ceased believing in the boundless power of humanity. In an age when the world feels increasingly fragmented, Haroon Noor Muhammad reminds us that the best of us are those who live not for themselves, but for others—across oceans, across barriers, and across time.

Briefs

India's new
covert mily
campaign

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featuring planted weapons and fabricated confessions—to Indian media outlets to support their narrative,” the sources said. “These detainees might also be coerced into making anti-Pakistan statements before being eliminated,” they warned.

Indian forces, notorious for fake encounters in Kashmir, continue to draw criticism from international human rights organizations. The sources described “Operation Mahadev” as a continuation of India’s long-standing policy of fabricating security threats and using unlawful killings to advance political and military agendas.

India, they added, appears increasingly desperate and disoriented following multiple setbacks, including the failure of its recent false flag operations.

Pak indebted
to US for all

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investor confidence. He outlined the government’s reform agenda focused on critical areas such as taxation and energy, aimed at unlocking sustainable, long-term economic growth. Further, he shared updates on Pakistan’s successful entry into Middle Eastern capital markets, its upcoming plans for issuing the inaugural Panda bond, and future access to Euro and USD markets. Ms. Horst welcomed the economic progress and the government’s reform-driven approach, emphasizing the U.S. commitment to strengthening economic and trade ties with Pakistan. She reiterated U.S. support for continued economic and political stability in Pakistan, and expressed optimism for an enduring and robust business partnership between the two nations. The meeting concluded with a mutual commitment to building on the momentum of current engagements to further deepen bilateral cooperation.

KP govt says
CM award

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bullet injuries, sources said. There has been no official statement from the local administration or the military about the mortar strike or Sunday’s killings. “The chief minister is in constant contact with the relevant administration,” CM Gandapur’s public relations adviser, Barrister Mohammad Ali Saif, said in a statement today. He said the KP chief minister was “monitoring” the Tirah incident himself. “The KP government is extremely saddened over the incident,” Saif added.

“The provincial government is standing side by side with the affected families in this moment of sorrow and grief,” the official asserted. let injuries, sources said. There has been no official statement from the local administration or the military about the mortar strike or Sunday’s killings. “The chief minister is in constant contact with the relevant administration,” CM Gandapur’s public relations adviser, Barrister Mohammad Ali Saif, said in a statement today. He said the KP chief minister was “monitoring” the Tirah incident himself.

Indian former
minister

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Chidambaram also highlighted what he described as the absence of clear and official communication. “We get snatches and bits of information from different officers. The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) goes to Singapore and makes a statement that give you bits of information. The deputy army chief makes a statement in Mumbai. In Indonesia, a junior officer of the Navy makes a statement. But why is the PM or the defence minister, or the foreign minister not making a comprehensive statement?” he said.

Sport must go on, says
Ganguly on Asia CupPakistan and
India will
lock horns on
September
14 in UAE

DNA

NEW DELHI: Former Indian cricket captain Sourav Ganguly has said he has no objection to India being grouped with Pakistan in the upcoming Asia Cup, adding that while terrorism must be condemned, sport must continue.

The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) recently unveiled the highly anticipated schedule for the Men’s Asia Cup 2025, confirming that arch-rivals Pakistan and India will lock horns on September 14 in the UAE. Speaking to Indian news outlet ANI, Ganguly said: “I’m okay with the schedule. Sport must continue. What happened in Pahalgaon should never happen, but we can’t let that stop the game. Terrorism must end. It’s in the past now. Sport must go on.” Accord-

Fernandez dominates
Kalinskaya to win DC Open

WASHINGTON: Canada’s Leylah Fernandez produced a dominant performance to defeat Russia’s Anna Kalinskaya in straight sets and win the WTA Tour’s DC Open in Washington on Sunday. The 22-year-old bagged the first WTA 500 victory of her career and her first title since 2023 to win 6-1, 6-2 in just over an hour. The win completed a fairytale week for Fernandez, the 2021 US Open finalist who had beaten top seed Jessica Pegula and former Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina on her way to the fourth title of her career. Fernandez said she had grown in belief throughout her campaign. “In the beginning of the tournament (there) was still a lot of doubt, but as the tournament progressed, I was starting to play better,” Fernandez said. “I have gone through so many

different challenges this week. I think it has just made me stronger in a way, that if I can get through this week – through the cramps, through the long matches, through the heat and humidity – I can get through anything.” Fernandez got off to a blistering start, dominating Kalinskaya’s serve to take the opening set in just 30 minutes. After three holds left Fernandez 2-1 up, the breakthrough came in the fourth game with Kalinskaya’s serve looking increasingly vulnerable. The Russian was soon in trouble at 15-40 down, and then double-faulted to hand Fernandez the break and a 3-1 lead. Fernandez was having no such difficulty on serve and held comfortably for a 4-1 lead before going on to attack Kalinskaya’s serve in the sixth game. The Canadian held

two break points at 15-40 and duly converted the second for a 5-1 lead, lasering a backhand return to leave Kalinskaya rooted to the spot. A delicate drop shot at the net gave Fernandez the set in the next game. The second set mirrored the first, with Fernandez grabbing an early break to seize the initiative at 2-1 before breaking again soon afterwards for a 4-1 lead. The next two games went with serve but Fernandez made no mistake when serving for the match, converting the second of two match points. Fernandez will head to Canada for this week’s WTA 1000 Canadian Open in Montreal, where she is anticipating a tougher test. “Montreal is a whole different monster,” she said. “It’s a bigger draw, longer tournament. It’s going to be start from zero.”—APP

Armed
attackers kill
14 civilians in
Ecuador

QUITO: Armed attackers killed at least 14 civilians, including a child, in two separate attacks on Sunday in coastal Ecuador, authorities said, as drug trafficking gangs battle for control. Since President Daniel Noboa declared war on organized crime early last year, the nation has become one of the most violent in the region, with a homicide rate of 38 per 100,000 people in 2024. After the initial attack, police chief of the southwestern town of El Empalme, Major Oscar Valencia, told reporters: “We have approximately 12 people dead and three wounded.” The same attackers fired at a second group, killing two more people, he added. Valencia said attackers travelling in two pickup trucks shot at the victims with “pistols and rifles.”—APP

Jamie Overton added
to England squad

LONDON: England have added fast-bowling all-rounder Jamie Overton to their squad for this week’s decisive fifth Test against India at the Oval. The return of the Surrey paceman is the only change to the group from Old Trafford, where India on Sunday escaped with a draw after batting for five sessions and 143 overs. Ben Stokes’ men had been in pole position to move into an unassailable 3-1 lead in the five-match series after taking a first-innings lead of 311. But they were only able to take four wickets in India’s second innings, even though Chris Woakes struck twice in the first over. Stokes hinted “fresh legs” might be needed among the bowlers for the fifth Test, which starts on Thursday. Woakes and Brydon Carse have both played all four matches so far while Jofra Archer has featured in back-to-back Tests following a four-year absence. Stokes considers himself “very unlikely” to miss out despite struggling with various injuries at Old Trafford but the tight turnaround means changes seem likely. Overton, who won his only Test cap in 2022, joins fellow seamers Gus Atkinson and Josh Tongue in a 15-man squad pushing for a spot in the starting eleven. Tongue featured in the first two Tests of the series and took 11 wickets but was expensive, while Atkinson has not played a first-class match since England’s win against Zimbabwe in May. Liam Dawson looks set to be retained as England’s frontline spinner despite taking just one wicket in Manchester across two innings.—Agencies

Pakistan’s Saad
finishes runner-up
at Golf bout 2025
Tournament leader Akshay
Mandapapu secures
championship title

KARACHI: Pakistan’s National Junior Amateur Golf Champion, Saad Habib Malik, delivered an outstanding performance at the Dallas Amateur Golf Championship 2025, finishing as runner-up in a competitive international field. The three-round championship, held at Cedar Crest Golf Course in Dallas from July 25 to 27, featured 60 skilled golfers with handicaps of +2 and above. Despite challenging course conditions – rated 73.2 with a slope of 131 – and hot, humid weather, only four players managed to finish under par, highlighting the difficulty of the event. Saad, who received a special exemption to participate due to his World Amateur Golf Ranking (WAGR), overcame a difficult start. He opened the tournament with a four-over-par 74 but staged a remarkable recovery. In the second round, he shot four under par with four birdies and no bogeys, followed by an even stronger final round of five under par. His last round included six birdies, with three coming consecutively on holes 13, 14, and 15. His total score of five under par (5) tied him with Sam Braver. However, Saad secured second place on the countback rule. Tournament leader Akshay Mandapapu finished at -8, claiming the title. Saad’s runner-up finish against a strong field on US soil marks a significant milestone in his career.—DNA

30th death
anniversary
of hockey
legend

ISLAMABAD: The 30th death anniversary of legendary field hockey player Munawwar uz Zaman was observed on Monday. He was born on July 2, 1951 in Lahore, a private news channel reported. Zaman was part of Pakistan’s golden era of hockey. He represented the country in two Olympics, helping the national team win a silver medal in 1972 and a bronze in 1976. He also played a vital role in Pakistan’s victories in multiple Asian Games and Champions Trophy tournaments. He scored 44 goals in 119 international appearances, a rare feat for a defender. After retirement, he served as coach of the national side, including during the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.—APP

‘Draw that feels like
a win’: India hails
great Test escape

NEW DELHI: India on Monday lauded their cricketers for pulling off a “draw that feels like a win” in the fourth Test against England to keep the series alive. India, 2-1 down in the five-match series and a daunting 311 runs behind on first innings, batted out Sunday’s final day to take it to a decider at the Oval, starting Thursday. Captain Shubman Gill struck his fourth century of the series before unbeaten hundreds from Ravindra Jadeja and Washington Sundar denied England victory. KL Rahul also scored 90. It was a remarkable fightback after India had lost their first two second-innings without a run on the board on Saturday. “When it comes to India-England, Old Trafford is known for keeping the series alive,” India great Sachin Tendulkar posted on X. It was a “fantastic comeback” said Tendulkar who added that Rahul, Gill, Jadeja and Sundar had shown

“great character and fighting spirit”. The Times of India headlined with “The draw that feels like a win”, while espnricinfo.com said it had been a “great escape”. Gill had come into his first series as captain with question marks over his overseas batting record. But he has laid all doubts to rest with a record-breaking run, joining Don Bradman and Sunil Gavaskar as the only Test captains to score four centuries in a series. His 722 runs are the most scored by an Indian batsman in a series against England, surpassing team-mate Yashasvi Jaiswal’s 712 in 2023/24. “Nobody ever doubted Shubman Gill’s talent,” said head coach Gautam Gambhir. “Those who did, they just know to talk cricket but lack understanding of the game. Some people take time to blossom in international cricket. And no one in the dressing room is surprised by what he has done. Agencies

England’s remarkable Euro 2025 success

Assuming they qualify, England will hope to be among the leading contenders along with Spain and Olympic champions the United States, coached by England’s Emma Hayes

BASEL, SWITZERLAND: England’s Euro 2025 triumph felt improbable for much of the tournament but underlined the winning mentality instilled in the team by Sarina Wiegman. The Dutch coach has now firmly established herself as one of the greatest in the women’s game. The Lionesses came from behind against Spain to draw 1-1 after extra time before winning Sunday’s final 3-1 on penalties in Basel, exacting revenge for their defeat in the World Cup decider in 2023. England cannot claim to have been the most accomplished tournament winners, having started by losing 2-1 to France. That was followed by a quarter-final against Sweden in which they were 2-0 down with 12 minutes to go before roaring back to equalise and eventually win on penalties. Then came the semi-final against Italy, when Wiegman’s team required a 96th-minute Michelle Agyemang equaliser to force extra time and Chloe Kelly scored the winner as a shoot-out loomed. England won the trophy despite being ahead for a grand total of one minute across three knockout ties, and Wiegman admitted: “This is the most chaotic and ridiculous tournament we have

played. “Of course we have players who have talent, and the togetherness of this team is really, really incredible,” she added. “The players think they can win by any means, and we just never, ever give up.” Regardless of how they did it, Wiegman’s Lionesses are the first England senior team, men’s or women’s, to lift a major trophy on foreign soil. They were hit in the run-up to the tournament by the retirements of goalkeeper Mary Earps and Fran Kirby, along with Chelsea captain Millie Bright’s decision to make herself unavailable. But England’s success was achieved in large part thanks to their strength in depth, with the quality available to Wiegman on the bench helping them change the course of numerous games. If England do not have the same clearly defined way of playing as Aitana Bonmati’s Spain, they do have a brilliant manager. The Lionesses had never won any major tournament before Wiegman arrived in 2021, and now they have won back-to-back Euros while also reaching a first Women’s World Cup final. They have rarely done it easily, with just three wins

out of nine in major tournament knockout matches under the Dutchwoman coming inside 90 minutes. But her influence is obvious, given the way England’s players speak about her, and Wiegman’s record is remarkable. She has been to five consecutive finals between European Championships and World Cups, and has won three straight Euros having led her native Netherlands to victory in 2017 before taking charge of England. “She is bloody amazing. She is an incredible woman,” said Kelly, who scored the winning penalty against Spain. “We should all be so grateful for what she has done for this country. She has taken the women’s game, not just in England but the whole women’s game, to another level.” Thoughts will soon turn to what the future might hold for the winners and England will switch their attentions to the 2027 World Cup in Brazil, with qualifying starting early next year. English FA chief Mark Bullingham said last week that they were determined to retain Wiegman, whose contract runs through to the World Cup. Assuming they qualify, England will hope to be

among the leading contenders along with Spain and Olympic champions the United States, coached by England’s Emma Hayes. On the whole, the tournament in Switzerland confirmed the growing popularity of women’s football, with the total attendance of 657,291 the highest ever at a European Championship – even more than in England in 2022, despite over 87,000 attending that year’s final at Wembley. It also confirmed England and Spain as the leading forces, off the back of Arsenal defeating Barcelona in the Women’s Champions League final. But there was plenty of drama throughout the competition, and impressive performances elsewhere, notably from Italy in reaching their first semi-final since 1997. Wiegman is optimistic the competition will have a lasting impact in helping the women’s game grow across the continent. “How I have experienced this tournament is that the level went up again, the intensity of the games went through the roof,” said the 55-year-old. “I hope it will boost the women’s game even more, not only in England but beyond.”—DNA

Hunger must
never be
‘weapon of
war’: UN

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The UN chief warned that hunger is increasingly being used as a tool of war and oppression, and urged world leaders to take a firm stand against this inhumane tactic. “Hunger fuels instability and undermines prospects for lasting peace. We must never accept hunger as a weapon of war,” he emphasized. Guterres also reiterated the urgent need for greater international solidarity, particularly in supporting vulnerable populations caught in the crossfire of armed conflicts. He called on governments, humanitarian organizations, and donors to step up efforts to ensure access to food for those most in need. The conference in Ethiopia focused on global strategies to address rising hunger and food insecurity, particularly in conflict zones. Experts and delegates from around the world gathered to discuss sustainable solutions and reinforce the principle that access to food is a fundamental human right, even in times of war. Guterres’s remarks serve as a stark reminder of the moral responsibility facing the international community: to protect civilians, uphold humanitarian law, and reject any strategy that weaponizes starvation.

Karachi CTD
guns down
high-value
TTP terrorists

FROM PAGE 01

Data released by the Islamabad-based Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS) indicates a 5% increase in attacks compared to April, though the overall picture suggests militant groups largely remained contained despite the regional geopolitical climate. According to the PICSS monthly security assessment, May recorded 85 militant attacks, a marginal rise from 81 in April. These incidents resulted in 113 fatalities, including 52 security forces personnel, 46 civilians, 11 militants, and four members of peace committees. The month also saw 182 individuals injured, comprising 130 civilians, 47 security personnel, four militants, and one peace committee member. While the overall number of attacks saw only a modest increase, a deeper dive into the figures reveals some concerning trends. Deaths among security personnel surged by a significant 73%, underscoring the persistent threat faced by Pakistan’s armed forces. Civilian injuries also witnessed a dramatic 145% increase, jumping from 53 in April to 130 in May, highlighting the growing impact of militant activities on the general populace. Conversely, injuries among security personnel decreased by 20%, falling from 59 to 47. In operations initiated by security forces during the month, at least 59 militants were killed, while five security personnel lost their lives.

UN to use
Israel’s pause
to try to
reach Gaza

GENEVA: The United Nations said it would try to reach as many starving people as possible in Gaza after Israel announced it would establish secure land routes for humanitarian convoys. The UN’s World Food Programme (WFP) said it had enough food in, or on its way to, the region to feed the 2.1 million people in the Gaza Strip for almost three months. UN emergency relief coordinator Tom Fletcher said the United Nations would try to reach “as many starving people as we can” in the time window. Israel on Sunday began a limited “tactical pause” in military operations to allow the UN and aid agencies to tackle the deepening hunger crisis. “We welcome Israel’s decision to support a one-week scale-up of aid, including lifting customs barriers on food, medicine and fuel from Egypt and the reported designation of secure routes for UN humanitarian convoys,” Fletcher said in a statement.—APP

Briefs

ICCI business delegation departs for Bangladesh

ISLAMABAD: A business delegation of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), led by its President Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, has departed for Bangladesh to promote bi-lateral trade and economic cooperation. The delegation includes ICCI Vice President Nasir Mehmood Chaudhry and prominent business leaders and representatives from various sectors of Pakistan's economy, said a press release.

The primary objective of the visit is to enhance economic ties, explore emerging business opportunities, and foster mutually beneficial collaborations with key stakeholders in Bangladesh. As part of the official itinerary, the delegation will visit the Pakistan High Commission in Dhaka on Tuesday, where the High Commissioner will provide an in-depth briefing on Bangladesh's current business environment, trade potential, and avenues for collaboration between the two nations. The ICCI delegation is also scheduled to hold Business-to-Business (B2B) meetings with the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry. These meetings are expected to explore prospects for joint ventures and partnerships across diverse sectors, facilitating mutual growth and long-term cooperation. Speaking ahead of the visit, ICCI President Nasir Mansoor Qureshi termed the initiative a "significant milestone" in building stronger trade and economic linkages between Pakistan and Bangladesh. "We are confident that this engagement will offer valuable insights into the Bangladeshi market and serve as an excellent platform for networking, knowledge sharing, and forming strategic partnerships," he said.—APP

Gold prices decrease by Rs 100 at Rs 356,300

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold decreased by Rs.100 and was traded at Rs.356,300 on Monday as against its sale at Rs. 356,400 the previous day, All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewelers Association reported. The prices of 10 grams of 24 karat also decreased by Rs.85 to Rs.305,470 from Rs. 305,555 whereas that of 10 grams of 22 karat gold went down to Rs.280,014. The rates of per tola and ten gram silver remained unchanged and closed at Rs. 3,963 and Rs.3,397 respectively. The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$1 to \$3,336 from \$3,337, whereas that of silver remained stagnant and closed at \$38.14, the Association reported.—APP

PSX witnesses bullish trend, gains 172.77 points

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) benchmark KSE-100 Index witnessed bullish trend on Monday, gaining 172.77 points, a positive change of 0.12 percent, closing at 139,380.06 points against 139,207.29 points last trading day. A total of 589,306,106 shares were traded during the day as compared to 634,810,939 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 34,562 billion against Rs 34.611 billion on the last trading day. As many as 483 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 251 of them recorded gains and 205 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 27 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were Aisha Steel Mill with 51,818,828 shares at Rs 12.76 per share, Agha Steel Ind. with 46,621,631 shares at Rs9.92 per share and B.O. Punjab with 23,774,754 shares at Rs 13.49 per share. Atlas Honda Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 77.29 per share price, closing at Rs 1,237.54, whereas the runner-up was Sazgar Engineering Works Limited with Rs 62.91 rise in its per share price to Rs31,548.00. Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs627.42 per share closing at Rs 33,512.13 followed by PIA Holding Company Limited with Rs386.62 decline in its share price to close at Rs31,548.00.—APP

OGRA launches nationwide oil track & trace system

Chaired by OGRA Chairman Masroor Khan, along with Member Oil Zain Ul Abideen and Member Finance Shakeel Ahmed, the session featured a detailed presentation on the system's operational framework, implementation strategy, and expected outcomes

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) conducted an interactive session today with key stakeholders from Pakistan's oil industry to review the progress and future roadmap of the nationwide Track & Trace System for the oil supply chain. The session, held via Zoom, is part of OGRA's broader digital transformation agenda to enhance transparency, safety, and efficiency across the oil sector. Chaired by OGRA Chairman Masroor Khan, along with Member Oil Zain Ul Abideen and Member Finance Shakeel Ahmed, the session featured a detailed presentation on the system's operational framework, implementation strategy, and expected outcomes. Director General Explosives, Director General Oil, Chairman of OCAC & over 100 representatives from the industry which include all refineries, prominent Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) such as PSO, PARCO, Wafi Energy, Gas & Oil Pakistan, Be Energy, Puma Energy, Zoom, Euro Oil, Fossil Energy and PGL participated in the session. Chairman OGRA emphasized the critical need for digitalization to modernize the oil supply chain and curb inefficiencies, illegal practices, and safety hazards. He



urged industry stakeholders to work collaboratively with OGRA to ensure the success of this national initiative. Speaking on the occasion, Member Oil Zain Ul Abideen reiterated that the Track & Trace System will monitor the movement of pe-

troleum products from refineries and import terminals to depots, tank lorries, and retail outlets. The system integrates ERP platforms, GPS tracking, and centralized dashboards to enable real-time monitoring and data-driven regulation.

OGRA officials in the presentation, highlighted that 29 OMCs have already deployed ERP systems, and approximately 15,000 tank lorries are equipped with GPS tracking. This digital backbone will support OGRA's upcoming full-scale en-

forcement efforts aimed at preventing illegal decantation, fuel smuggling, and other supply chain malpractices.

The session reaffirmed OGRA's commitment to fostering a transparent and secure petroleum supply ecosystem in Pakistan.

Google admits failures over Turkiye earthquake phone warnings

LONDON: Google has admitted that its early-warning system for earthquakes failed to correctly report the severity of Türkiye's deadly 2023 earthquake to users, the BBC reported on Monday. Had the Android software reported the information accurately, at least 10 million people within 98 miles of the epicenter could have been sent a maximum-level alert, giving them up to 35 seconds to find safety. However, just 469 urgent "take action" warnings were sent ahead of the first 7.8-magnitude earthquake, with at least 500,000 people receiving a lower-level warning. The lesser message only warns recipients of "light shaking" and does not override the do-not-disturb setting on phones. The US tech giant previously told the BBC that its warning system had "performed well" during the disaster. Until its most recent investigation, the BBC had not understood the full extent of the Google software's failings, it reported. Google's software, named Android Earthquake Alerts, is described by the tech giant as a "global safety net." It operates in almost 100 countries, many of which lack an official warning system for earthquakes. AEA is operated by Google, not national governments, and it works on Android devices, which make up the majority of the global phone market over Apple devices. Similar to the global split in market share, about 70 percent of phones in Türkiye are Android devices. The February 2023 disaster, which struck southeastern Türkiye, killed more than 55,000 people and injured at least 100,000. AEA detects the severity of earthquakes by compiling data received from Android mobile phones in a given area. However, during the Türkiye earthquake, the software failed to accurately detect its severity and send out the necessary number of "take action" warnings, which set off a loud alarm on users' phones. A company spokesperson said: "We continue to improve the system based on what we learn in each earthquake. Every earthquake early warning system grapples with the same challenge — tuning algorithms for large-magnitude events." As many people were asleep when the first quake struck at 4:17 a.m., a "take action" warning, which overrides silent and do-not-disturb modes, would have been necessary. Google researchers cited "limitations to the detection algorithms" when discussing the failures in a report published by the Science journal. The AEA software estimated shaking at 4.5-4.9 on the moment magnitude scale for the first quake, when its real strength was 7.8. The second quake later in the day saw "take action" alerts sent to 8,158 phones in the area, while the lesser "be aware" message was dispatched to almost 4 million phones. In later simulations of the first quake, AEA sent 10 million urgent "take action" alerts to users most at risk.—APP

New youth-led initiative launched

SHARJAH: The Sharjah Youth Council (SYC), in collaboration with the UAE Youth Entrepreneurship Council, hosted an interactive youth session as part of the 9th edition of the Al Dhaid Date Festival. Held under the theme "At the Heart of Sharjah Central Region .. Our Youth: Leadership and Growth," the session aimed to reinforce the festival's role as a strategic platform for recognising agricultural innovation and empowering youth contributions to the future of the sector. The event was attended by Abdallah Sultan Al Owais, Chairman of SCCI; Mohammed Ahmed Amin Al Awadi, Director-General of SCCI; and Rashid Khalifa Al Mahyan, Chairman of the Parents Council for Male and Female Students in the Central Region, along with several senior representatives and members of youth councils from across the UAE. During the youth circle, officials announced the launch of an innovative youth-focused competition titled "Innovate with Dates," scheduled for the next edition of the Al Dhaid Date Festival. The competition aims to stimulate youth innovation by encouraging the development of commercially viable, value-added concepts derived from dates in fields such as food manufacturing, biotechnology, and contemporary craft production. The session also featured the announcement of the Sharjah Youth Council's plan to establish the "Central Region Youth Council," set to be officially launched during International Youth Day on 12th August. The new council will serve as a representative platform for youth in the Central Region, enabling their involvement in shaping and executing initiatives that address local priorities. It aims to ensure that regional development strategies are informed by grassroots insights and aligned with community needs. Al Owais reaffirmed the Sharjah Chamber's commitment to supporting youth empowerment by launching targeted initiatives that strengthen their contribution to economic progress.—APP

China's openness: Sharing boundless opportunities with world

BEIJING: The third China International Supply Chain Expo (CISCE), themed "Connecting the World for a Shared Future," was recently concluded in Beijing, providing a dynamic platform for win-win cooperation between the Chinese and international business communities. The five-day event attracted more than 650 companies and institutions from 75 countries and regions. They convened to identify potential partners, innovative solutions, practical application scenarios, and growth opportunities — sharing in the boundless opportunities presented by an open China. In his keynote address at the CISCE opening ceremony, NVIDIA CEO Jensen Huang acclaimed China's supply chain as a "miracle," underscoring the country's indispensable role as an open.—APP

Bangladesh proposes hosting Saudi production hub to expand partnership

DHAKA: Bangladesh's Chief Adviser Prof. Muhammad Yunus has proposed establishing Saudi Arabia's production sector in Bangladesh, his office said, following a meeting with the Kingdom's newly appointed envoy to Dhaka. Dr. Abdullah bin Abiyah presented his credentials as Saudi ambassador to Bangladesh earlier this month. He paid a visit to Yunus at the State Guest House Jamuna on Sunday. Yunus, the Nobel Prize-winning economist who heads Bangladesh's interim government, "proposed that Saudi Arabia could consider establishing its production sector in Bangladesh by utilizing Bangladesh's geostrategic location, cheap labor, and the country's resources," the Chief Adviser's Press Wing said in a statement. Azad Majumder, Yunus' deputy press secretary who was present during the meeting, told Arab News that the move would be beneficial for both countries as it would "create employment opportunities for the Bangladeshi youth and offer Saudi Arabia an opportunity to obtain essential goods at a better price." The Saudi market is already familiar with Bangladeshi workers as some 3 million of them live in the Kingdom. They are the largest expat group in the Kingdom and the biggest Bangladeshi community outside Bangladesh. Many have been employed in the construction sector but increasingly also in professions requiring high skills. In 2023, Saudi Arabia launched the Workers' Recruitment and Skill Verification Program in Bangladesh, aiming to advance the professional competence of employees in the Kingdom's labor market. Yunus discussed with the Saudi envoy the prospect of increased investment in health education to support skills development in Bangladesh's healthcare sector. "It would also benefit the Kingdom, given the growing demand for medical professionals in Saudi Arabia. In recent years, Bangladesh has sent a number of healthcare workers there," Majumder said. "A number of issues concerning the bilateral relationship between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia were discussed during the meeting. Prof. Yunus expressed his hope that the Saudi-Bangladesh relationship will reach new heights during Ambassador Abiyah's tenure and pledged full support from his government to achieve this goal." The ambassador delivered an invitation letter from Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for Yunus to attend the Future Investment Initiative Forum in Riyadh in October. Often dubbed "Davos in the Desert," the forum is an annual international investment and innovation conference that gathers global leaders, investors, entrepreneurs, and innovators.—DNA

Kuwait dispatches relief plane to help Sudanese amid conflict

LONDON: Kuwait dispatched a relief plane to Port Sudan on Monday to assist the Sudanese with essential aid, as armed conflict continues to embroil the region. The Kuwait Red Crescent Society, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Defense, loaded 40 tons of various aid onto an Kuwait Air Force plane that took off from Abdullah Al-Mubarak Air Base on Monday. Khaled Mohammed Al-Magham, the chairman of the KRCS, said that the plane will deliver food, shelter materials, and means of transport, including five tons of wheat, to the Sudanese people, among whom 13 million have been displaced, including 8.6 million internally, since April 2023. "Sending this plane demonstrates the State of Kuwait's commitment to actively participate in humanitarian efforts to support the people of Sudan due to their suffering," he told Kuwait News Agency. The KRCS is collaborating with its Sudanese counterpart to provide the aid and oversee its distribution. Al-Magham expressed gratitude to donors for their significant support of the humanitarian mission, highlighting Kuwait's dedication to assisting countries in crisis under the leadership of the emir of Kuwait and the crown prince. Al-Magham affirmed that "Kuwait will continue its relief and shelter support to our Sudanese brothers," KUNA added.—APP

New York conference to boost efforts for 2 state solution: Saudi FM

LONDON: Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan said on Monday that the conference co-organized by the Kingdom and France aims to strengthen international efforts toward achieving a two-state solution and securing recognition of a Palestinian state. Speaking to the Saudi Press Agency, Prince Faisal said the three-day meeting in New York supports the work of the Global Alliance for the Implementation of the Two-State Solution, an initiative launched by Saudi Arabia, Norway, and the EU. He added that the conference "reflects the Kingdom's firm and longstanding position on the Palestinian cause," and reaffirms its continued efforts to support "the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people." Held at the UN from July 28 to 30, the conference comes just days after French President Emmanuel Macron pledged that France would officially recognize the State of Palestine at the UN General Assembly in September — potentially making it the first G7 nation to do so. Prince Faisal said the event seeks to "establish a just peace in the region," enhance security, and "halt the cycle of violence caused by the prolonged Israeli occupation.—APP

What we know so far about the EU-US trade deal

DNA

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM: EU chief Ursula von der Leyen clinched an agreement Sunday with US President Donald Trump to avoid crippling tariffs from hitting the bloc, with both leaders hailing a "good deal". The stakes were high with a looming August 1 deadline and \$1.9 trillion transatlantic trading relationship on the line. Many European businesses will breathe a sigh of relief after the leaders agreed the 27-country bloc will face a baseline levy of 15 percent instead of a threatened 30 percent — but the deal will not satisfy everyone. Both sides confirmed there will be a 15-percent across-the-board rate on a majority of EU goods — the same level secured by Japan this month — with bilateral tariff exemptions on some products. The deal will bring relief for the bloc's auto sector, employing around 13 million people — and hit by Trump with 25-percent tariffs, on top of a pre-existing 2.5 percent. "Obviously, it is good news for the car industry. So Germany will be happy. And all the EU members with auto supply chains, they go from 27.5 to 15 percent," said Jacob Funk Kirkegaard of the Peterson

Institute For International Economics. A 15-percent levy will remain "costly" for German automakers, "but it is manageable", said trade geopolitics expert Elvire Fabry at the Jacques Delors Institute. While 15 percent is much higher than pre-existing US tariffs on European goods — averaging 4.8 percent — it mirrors the status quo, with companies currently facing an additional flat rate of 10 percent imposed by Trump since April. The EU also committed to buy \$750 billion of liquefied natural gas, oil and nuclear fuels from the United States — split equally over three years — to replace Russian energy sources. And it will pour \$600 billion more in additional investments in the United States. Trump said EU countries — which recently pledged to ramp up their defence spending within NATO — would be purchasing "hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of military equipment". Von der Leyen said the 15-percent rate applied across most sectors, including semiconductors and pharmaceuticals — a critical export for Ireland, which the bloc has sought to protect. Trump in April launched probes that could lead to significantly steeper tariffs on the two key sectors, warning this month he could slap 200-percent levies on drugs. Brussels and Washington agreed a bilateral tariff exemption for k

goods including aircraft, certain chemicals, semiconductor equipment, certain agricultural products and critical raw materials, von der Leyen said. The EU currently faces 50-percent tariffs on its steel exports to the United States, but von der Leyen said a compromise on the metal had been reached with Trump. "Between us, tariffs will be cut and a quota system will be put in place," she said. It is understood that European steel would be hit with 50-percent levies only after a certain amount of the metal arrived in the United States, but no details were initially provided on the mechanism.

The deal needs to be approved by EU member states, whose ambassadors will meet first thing Monday morning for a debrief from the European Commission. And there are still technical talks to come, since the agreement needs to be fully fleshed out. Von der Leyen described the deal as a "framework" agreement. "Details have to be sorted out, and that will happen over the next weeks," she said. In particular, she said there has yet to be a final decision on alcohol, critical since France and the Netherlands have been pushing for carve-outs for wine and beer, respectively. "This is something which has to be sorted out in the next days," von der Leyen said.

Briefs

Body of Rawalpindi 'honour killing' victim exhumed

Area magistrate supervises exhumation; forensic team obtains samples from 19-year-old victim's body

FAISAL SHEIKH

RAWALPINDI: The authorities on Monday exhumed the body of the girl, allegedly a victim of an honour killing in Rawalpindi's Pir Wadhai area, and carried out the post-mortem as part of the ongoing investigation into the gruesome murder. The exhumation was carried out under the supervision of Area Magistrate Qamar Abbas Tarar and Holy Family Hospital's Dr Misbah was also present at the site. Subsequently, the forensic team obtained samples from the body. The case involves the murder of a 19-year-old woman, reportedly killed in the name of so-called honour following a jirga verdict, and secretly buried in a local graveyard. The woman, married to Zia-ur-Rehman, had allegedly left her home on July 11 with gold jewellery, Rs150,000 in cash, and her belongings, according to the FIR registered by the husband on July 21. He later learned she had married a man named Usman, despite already being married, according to the FIR. She was believed to have been murdered on July 16 and buried the next day. Expanding on the ongoing investigation and case details, Rawalpindi's City Police Officer (CPO), said that the police had traced the woman's murder on the same night of the killing, i.e., July 17.

NDMA issues flood, landslide warning for GB, AJK

SAIFULLAH ANASR

ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Monday warned of flood and landslides in Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) due to anticipated monsoon rains from July 28 to 31. Showers are expected in Gilgit, Skardu, Hunza, and Shigar as well as in Muzaffarabad, Neelum Valley, and Bagh, which may lead to flooding, while heavy showers in hilly regions may also trigger landslides, the National Emergencies Operation Centre (NEOC) said in a statement. The body warned that in Chitral Valley, Buni, and Reshun areas, rainfall combined with melting glaciers may result in a rise in the water flow of the Chitral River, and urban flooding was also likely in Muzaffarabad and Bagh due to heavy downpours. The NDMA has further directed relevant departments, local authorities and Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs) to take proactive measures, ensure the readiness of personnel, machinery, and rescue teams and remain vigilant to deal with any emergency situation.

Man kills three family members

NEWS DESK

GUJRAT: A man allegedly shot dead his parents and wife over a domestic dispute in the Asadullahpur village of Phalia Tehsil in Punjab's Mandi Bahauddin district, police said on Monday. Mandi Bahauddin Police Sub-Inspector Zohaib Warraich confirmed the incident, stating: "A deeply tragic event took place in Asadullahpur village where a young man shot and killed his parents and wife. "Evidence has been collected, and search teams have been formed. The suspect will be arrested soon." A first information report (FIR) was registered at the Bhagat police station by the police under Section 302 (Punishment for murder) of the Pakistan Penal Code.

Pak greatly values ties with the Netherlands

Farewell call on Finance Minister by Ambassador of Netherlands

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Mrs. Henny de Vries, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, paid a farewell call on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, at the Finance Division today. The Finance Minister commended Ambassador de Vries for her efforts in furthering and strengthening the longstanding bilateral relations between Pakistan and the Netherlands. He especially acknowledged her contribution to enhancing cooperation across diverse fields, including trade and commerce. Senator Aurangzeb also appreciated the positive role and contributions of Dutch companies operating in Pakistan, recognizing their efforts in advancing the country's socio-economic development. During the meeting, both sides discussed matters of mutual interest. The Finance Minister briefed the Ambassador on recent economic developments in Pakistan, including improvements in sovereign credit ratings, a strengthened security environment, and enhanced investor confidence — all supported by stability across key sectors. He outlined the government's economic vision centered on durable, inclusive, and export-led growth. He further elaborated on the fiscal policy framework embedded in the recently announced federal budget, highlighting the careful balancing of increased social protection and defence spending with significant reductions in subsidies and debt servicing costs. This prudent approach has limited the overall budgetary expansion to just 1.9 percent this year, a marked contrast to the 9 to 10 percent annual increases seen in previous years. Ambassador de Vries expressed appreci-



ation for the progress made in achieving macroeconomic stability and welcomed the country's current direction. She expressed hope that Pakistan would continue its trajectory towards long-term economic growth and prosperity.

The meeting concluded with the Finance Minister extending best wishes to Ambassador de Vries for her future endeavours.

Govt set to cut circular debt from Rs2.3tr to Rs561bn

Central power purchase agency to repay all PHL loans, clear remaining stock of interest-bearing arrears

MONITORING DESK

ISLAMABAD: In a major financial step aimed at reviving Pakistan's troubled energy sector, the government is set to slash the power sector's circular debt from a staggering Rs2.381 trillion to around Rs561 billion by making payments of Rs1,275 billion obtained from 18 commercial banks. "We are going to disburse in the current or next week the amount of Rs1,275 billion to limit the menace of circular debt in the power sector to close to Rs561 billion as has been promised with the IMF," a senior official of the Power Division confided. "The borrowed loan of Rs1,275 billion from commercial banks will be utilised by the Central Power Purchase Agency-G (CPPA-G) to repay all PHL loans (Rs683 billion) and to clear the remaining stock of interest-bearing arrears to power producers (Rs569 billion). The Central Power Purchase Agency-G (CPPA-G) will dole out the payments and this is how the circular debt will be taken to Rs561 billion that will later be uploaded on the official Power Division website. "The credit for reducing the circular debt in a big way goes to the Task Force on Power Sector comprising Adviser to PM Muhammad Ali, Lt General Zafar Iqbal, and official experts from SECP, CPPA-G and Nepra which through

negotiations with IPPs, cleared arrears of Rs348 billion (Rs127 billion through budgeted subsidy and Rs221 billion paid by CPPA)." The Task Force, however, in a big deal, has already managed to get Late Payment Interests (LPIs) of IPPs amounting to Rs387 billion waived off. The amount of Rs254 billion has been cleared through an additional budgeted subsidy for circular debt clearance. However, Rs224 billion in the head of non-interest-bearing and Rs337 billion interest-bearing liabilities meaning that Rs561 billion will stay as circular debt. This remaining stock will be dealt with through reforms and efficiency of Discos. The electricity consumers will retire the loan of Rs1,275 billion through Debt Service Surcharge (DSS) of Rs3.23 per unit that is already in place and electricity consumers are already paying it through electricity bills, so there will be no new burden on consumers. However, consumers under the latest scenario will continue to pay it for the next 6 years to offload the loan of Rs1,275 billion. He said the surcharge of Rs3.23 per unit is not the new one as it is already in place but it will now last for 6 years to pay the loan. To a question, he said that the surcharge of Rs3.23 per unit has already reached the 10 % cap and the government does not intend to increase its cap. However, on the insistence of the IMF, the 10% cap has been removed as it was a structural benchmark.

ADB names new DG for deptt managing Pakistan

Leah Gutierrez to lead implementation of ADB's strategic priorities of Central and West Asia Department

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) announced on Monday the appointment of Leah Gutierrez as the new Director General of its Central and West Asia Department, which manages ADB's operations in Pakistan and 10 other countries. Pakistan remains one of ADB's key partners, benefiting from essential financial support, as well as assistance in digital transformation and climate policy initiatives. In her new role, Gutierrez will lead the implementation of ADB's strategic priorities across the region, which includes Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. According to an ADB statement, her appointment is effective immediately. "I am honoured to serve in this position and will continue to engage with developing member countries and stakeholders to promote inclusive growth, regional cooperation, and sustainable development across the region," Gutierrez was quoted as saying. Gutierrez has over four decades of professional experience, including 25 years at ADB, the statement noted. "Prior to her appointment, Gutierrez was the director general for ADB's Sectors Department 3, where she managed operations for finance, human and social development, and public sector management and governance. "She is also a former director general of the Pacific Department. She has held senior

positions in ADB's Strategy, Policy, and Partnerships Department; Southeast Asia Department; and Office of the Secretary," the statement said. In October last year, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) appointed Xiaojin Fan as its new Country Director for Pakistan. In June, Pakistan entered into a \$1 billion financing agreement with ADB under a five-year multi-tranche facility. That same month, the bank also approved an \$800 million programme aimed at enhancing fiscal sustainability and improving public financial management in the country. ADB is a prominent multilateral development institution committed to promoting inclusive, resilient, and sustainable development throughout Asia and the Pacific. By collaborating with member countries and partners, ADB tackles complex challenges through innovative financial solutions and strategic alliances, working to improve lives, develop quality infrastructure, and protect the environment. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) announced on Monday the appointment of Leah Gutierrez as the new Director General of its Central



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Bullet-ridden bodies found near Karachi's China Port

Investigators collect two spent bullet casings of 9mm pistol from the crime scene

BUREAU REPORT

KARACHI: The bullet-ridden bodies of a woman and man were found near the China Port area of the metropolis, said police. According to police, the victims were appeared to have been shot dead. Upon receiving information, Boat Basin police arrived at the scene and immediately summoned the Crime Scene Unit to collect evidence. Investigators collected two spent bullet casings of a 9mm pistol from the crime scene. "A mobile phone was also found with the male victim," said police. The bodies were shifted to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC) to fulfil medico-legal formalities. The latest incident comes weeks after the severely decomposed body of model and actress Humaira Asghar Ali was discovered inside her rented apartment in the Defence area of the port city. Although nearly two weeks have passed, the investigators remain clueless as to whether her death was natural or unnatural.

Europe hopes for 'no surprises'

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM: After keeping Donald Trump happy with a pledge to up defence spending at NATO's summit, Europe is now bracing for a key decision from the US president on the future of American forces on the continent. Washington is currently conducting a review of its military deployments worldwide — set to be unveiled in coming months — and the expectation is it will lead to drawdowns in Europe. That prospect is fraying the nerves of US allies, especially as fears swirl that Russia could look to attack a NATO country within the next few years if the war in Ukraine dies down. However, the alliance is basking in Trump's newfound goodwill following its June summit in The Hague, and his officials are making encouraging noises that Europe will not be left in the lurch. —Agencies

Gunman kills five in 'mass shooting' in Thai capital

BANGKOK: A gunman killed five security guards and wounded one other person in a mass shooting at a popular fresh food market in Thailand's capital on Monday, police said. The suspect opened fire with a "gun-type weapon" at the Or Tor Kor Market in Bangkok's Bang Sue district at 12.31 pm (0531 GMT), the Royal Thai Police said, before taking his own life. "Police are investigating the motive. So far it's a mass shooting," Bang Sue deputy police chief Worapat Sukthai told media. He said police were working to identify the dead perpetrator, as well as probing "for any possible link" to the current border clashes between Thailand and Cambodia. National police chief Kitirat Phanphet said an urgent investigation had been ordered, with officers combing CCTV footage of the attack. Or Tor Kor Market is a short distance from Chatuchak market which is a major tourist destination in Bangkok and throngs with visitors every weekend. Mass shootings are not uncommon in Thailand, where firearms can be obtained relatively easily due to lax gun control enforcement.—DNA

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Karachi House No. 14 & 15, 3rd Floor, Kalkaji Road, Main Tando Road, 17/1 Block-2, P.E.C.H.S. Karachi. Tel: (+92-21) 3433028, 34319479 Fax: (+92-21) 34317157 E-mail: karachi@freelinemovers.com	Lahore P-4 Gulberg Centre, Main Boulevard, Lahore. Tel: (+92-42) 3573981, 3571195. Fax: (+92-42) 3571942E E-mail: lahore@freelinemovers.com	Peshawar Office No. C-6, 2nd Floor, Zohra Plaza, Left Road, Ring Road, Peshawar. Tel: (+92-91) 2502770 Fax: (+92-91) 2502690 E-mail: peshawar@freelinemovers.com	Kabul House #4, Street #4, Chah-e-Ansari Road, Shahr-e-Nasr, Kabul - Afghanistan Tel: (+92-902) 775, 93 77595102, 93 77594833 E-mail: kabul@freelinemovers.com
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