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Mushahid Hussain for enhancing ties with Somalia

Detailed News On Page-08

Workers want release of Imran Khan

Detailed News On Page-01



Pak bowler Sadia Iqbal grabs top spot

Detailed News On Page-06



After SC verdict

JCP 'approves' new chief justices for high courts

Judicial Commission notifies PM's Office regarding names of high court chief justices



MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) on Tuesday approved the appointments of permanent chief justices for four high courts on Tuesday. The JCP meeting, headed by Chief Justice Yahya Afridi, convened to consider the nominations for high court appointments. The top judicial body approved Justice Atiq Shah as the new chief justice of the Peshawar High Court (PHC), while Justice Rozi Khan has been endorsed for the top post at the Balochistan High Court (BHC). Justice Junaid Ghaffar, the senior-most judge of the Sindh High Court (SHC), has been elevated as its new chief justice. In addition, Justice Sarfraz Dogar

has been approved as the permanent chief justice of the Islamabad High Court (IHC), sources said. Justice Atiq Shah's nomination was endorsed by 11 of the 16 members of the commission. He is currently the second most senior judge at the PHC. However, Supreme Court judges Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Muneeb Akhtar opposed his nomination. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's law minister and two members affiliated with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) also expressed their dissent.

The JCP has formally notified the Prime Minister's Office of its approval for the appointment of permanent chief justices for four high courts. In February, five IHC judges had moved the apex court against the appointment of Justice Dogar as the acting chief justice of IHC, as well as the transfer of three high court judges to their court. The plea was filed by Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kiyani, Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri, Justice Babar Sattar, Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan and Justice Saman Riffat Imtiaz. However, the top court, on June 19, dismissed pleas filed against the transfer of judges and ruled that Justice Dogar could continue to work as IHC's acting chief justice. Following this, the judges filed a review petition, which is pending.

Barrister Gohar says

Workers putting pressure on PTI for Khan's release

PTI chairman says party pushing incarcerated former PM's case at all forums

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan has said the party was facing intense pressure from its workers to secure the release of former prime minister and party founder Imran Khan. Appearing on Geo News' programme "Capital Talk", Gohar stated that PTI was voicing its demand for Imran's release at every available forum. The 71-year-old cricketer-turned-politician has been behind bars since August 2023 after he was booked in multiple cases ranging from corruption to terrorism since his ouster from power via the opposition's no-trust motion in April 2022. Commenting on a recent ruling by the Constitutional Bench of the Supreme Court, he expressed disappointment, stating that seats won by PTI were unjustly allocated to other parties. Speaking on the situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he said the legislators will not join any party adding that the no-confidence motion against Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur will not succeed. "They will fight bravely; whoever is in-

terested can bring a no-confidence motion," he threw up a challenge to the rivals. About the intra-party differences, Gohar said differences arise in the party but these should not come out. He made it clear that Ali Amin was as credible to them as was Junaid Akbar (provincial president of the party). He regretted the denial of permission to meet Imran and the budget approval conditionally. It may be noted that amid calls for reconciliation, there have been multiple reports and claims regarding former ruling party's alleged efforts to secure Imran's release under a "deal". The incarcerated former PM had recently given a go-ahead to the party for initiation of a dialogue with the government, following an offer extended by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in May. A report published in The News later in that month suggested that no deal or concession had been extended to Imran or his party despite rumours making the rounds in political circles. Far from being recipients of an offer, it was the PTI leadership that was quietly working behind

Continued on Page 06

RAINS PM directs NDMA to be extra vigilant

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed the National Disaster Management Authority to develop a coordinated programme with the provincial disaster management authorities to help prevent incidents like the recent Swat tragedy. He was addressing a ceremony during his visit to the National Emergency Operations Centre of the NDMA in Islamabad on Tuesday. The Prime Minister also instructed for compiling a comprehensive reporting regarding such incidents. He said around forty-nine people have been died and several others injured across Pakistan. Commending the state of the art NEOC facility, he also assured to provide all possible assistance to strengthen the institute and its capacity building. Shehbaz Sharif also shared that he has already tasked Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal

Continued on Page 06

Pak, India exchange lists of prisoners

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and India on Tuesday in pursuance of the Agreement on Consular Access, 2008 exchanged the lists of 246 Indian and 463 Pakistani prisoners in each other's custody through diplomatic channels. According to a statement issued by the Foreign Office, the Agreement on Consular Access, 2008 requires both sides to share the lists of prisoners in each other's custody on 1st January and 1st July, every year. The Government of Pakistan handed over a list of 246 Indian or believed-to-be-Indian prisoners (53 civilian prisoners and 193 fishermen)

Continued on Page 06

Gaza accord next week, says Trump

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: Trump says hopes for Gaza ceasefire 'sometime next week'. The United States is pushing for a truce in Gaza by "sometime next week," US President Donald Trump said, AFP reports. "We hope it's going to happen, and we're looking for it to happen sometime next week," Trump responded as he departed Washington for Florida.

Pakistan wants end to Israeli atrocities in Gaza

Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad said Israel must halt all military operations in Gaza and the West Bank. A permanent ceasefire must be established without delay

CENTRELINE REPORT

NEW YORK: Pakistan has called upon the United Nations Security Council to take urgent and decisive action to halt the ongoing Israeli atrocities in Gaza and the West Bank, emphasizing the need for an immediate and permanent ceasefire to prevent further humanitarian catastrophe in the occupied Palestinian territories. Speaking during the UN Security Council's briefing on the Middle East, including the Question of Palestine, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, delivered a strongly worded statement condemning the escalating violence and devastation caused by Israeli military operations. He stressed that the indiscriminate use of force against Palestinian civilians, including women and children, constitutes a flagrant violation of international law, human rights, and the UN Charter. Ambassador Ahmad demanded that Israel immediately halt all military actions in both Gaza and the occupied West Bank, where entire communities have been displaced and

Continued on Page 06

Over 14 million people could die from US foreign aid cuts

APP

PARIS: More than 14 million of the world's most vulnerable people, a third of them small children, could die by 2030 because of the Trump administration's dismantling of US foreign aid, research projected on Tuesday. The study in the prestigious Lancet journal was published as world and business leaders gather for a United Nations conference in Spain this week hoping to bolster the reeling aid sector. The US Agency for International Development (USAID) had provided over 40 percent of global humanitarian funding until Donald Trump returned to the White House in January. Two weeks later, Trump's then-close

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visits the Embassy of Iran to offer his condolences over the deaths resulting from Israeli aggression against Iran, in Islamabad. – DNA

In govt office attack

Teenager dead, two terrorists killed in Mastung

"Fitna al Hindustan attacked the tehsil office, government offices and a bank. A 16-year-old boy died while seven individuals were injured by the terrorists' firing," the statement read

BUREAU REPORT

QUETTA: A teenager was killed while seven others were wounded after government offices came under attack by "India-backed" terrorists in Balochistan's Mastung district on Tuesday, the provincial government said. The military has said India was using its "assets" to intensify terrorist attacks in Pakistan, with ISPR Director General Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry detailing "irrefutable evidence" of an Indian military personnel's involvement. "Two terrorists were killed while another three were injured in an intense fire exchange between the security forces and the terrorists," Balochistan spokesperson Shahid Rind said in a statement. "Fitna al Hindustan attacked the tehsil office, government offices and a bank. A 16-year-old boy died while seven individuals were injured by the terrorists' firing," the statement read. The term "Fitna al Hindustan" is a new phrase coined by Pakistan's military, aimed at framing India's alleged role in terrorism

as a deliberate destabilisation strategy, potentially to galvanise domestic support. "The Frontier Constabulary, Counter-Terrorism Department and Levies immediately cordoned off the area, crushing the terrorists," Rind asserted. An intense fire exchange occurred after the security forces "encircled" the terrorists, the government spokesperson added. Action against the perpetrators was ongoing while a clearance operation was also underway, according to the statement. Militant groups were unable to significantly escalate their activities in the country last month, according to data released by the Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies, which recorded 85 attacks in May compared to 81 in April. Pakistan has witnessed an uptick in terror activities, especially in KP and Balochistan, after the TTP ended its ceasefire with the government in November 2022. The country ranked second in the Global Terrorism Index 2025, with the number of deaths in terrorist attacks rising by 45 per cent over the past year to 1,081.

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Briefs

June inflation rises 3.2% year-on-year

On a month-on-month basis, prices increase 0.2% in June, reversing a 0.2% decline in May

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's consumer price inflation (CPI) rose 3.2% year-on-year in June, the statistics bureau said on Tuesday, broadly in line with the finance ministry's projection of 3% to 4% issued a day earlier. On a month-on-month basis, prices increased 0.2% in June, reversing a 0.2% decline in May. In a note, Tipline Securities said that the full year inflation of 4.49% is also well within our expected range of FY25. The pace of inflation, it said, has come down from an average of 23.41% in FY24 primarily on the back of deflation in housing, water, electricity, gas and fuels of 3.28% – thanks to the fall in electricity prices by 30% (Jun 2025 vs Jun 2024).

Aurangzeb calls for reforms

DNA

MADRID: Aurangzeb Calls for Equitable Global Financial Reforms and Scaled-Up Development Support at FFD4 Conference in Spain. Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, represented Pakistan at the plenary session of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4) held in Seville, Spain. The conference, convened to address the widening gap in financing for sustainable development, served as a global platform for countries to present national perspectives and outline their contributions and expectations regarding sustainable development financing.

KPRA surpasses collection target by Rs 4.56b

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority (KPRA) has successfully collected Rs 51.56 billion against the target of Rs. 47 billion assigned to it by the provincial government for the financial year 2024-25. Despite the overall economic situation, the Authority has shown a growth of 37 percent in the fiscal year 2024-25 as compared to the collection of the financial year 2023-24. As per the details shared by the KPRA media wing, the Authority has collected Rs 40.3 billion from the sales tax on services, and Rs11.26 billion from the Infrastructure Development Cess (IDC). The Authority worked on broadening its tax net and took its registered taxpayers' count to more than 25,100 by the end of this year, which also played a key role in the revenue collection growth. Director General KPRA, Fouzia Iqbal has appreciated the efforts and dedication of the KPRA staff in achieving the revenue targets set for the financial year 2024-25. She expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur and Advisor to CM on Finance, Muzzamil Aslam, for their continued guidance and support which played a vital role in KPRA's success.—APP

WASA still on high alert

RAWALPINDI: After a cloud burst late Monday night, the water level, which reached 15 feet at Katarian and 15.5 feet at Gawalmandi bridges in Nallah Leh, had receded, but all operational wings of the local administration were still on high alert on Tuesday as the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) forecast more rain during next week. According to a Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) Rawalpindi spokesman, 30 mm rainfall was recorded at Saidpur, 39 mm at Golra, 25 mm at Bokra, 78 mm at PMD, 70 mm at Shamsabad, 38 mm at Katcheri and 54 mm at Pir Wadhai. He said that with the start of rain, WASA Managing Director Muhammad Saleem Ashraf immediately rushed to supervise the staff draining water from highways and low-lying areas.—APP

Uchhali Lake Ecotourism project reviewed

SARGODHA: Commissioner Jahanzeb Awan on Tuesday chaired a meeting to review the Uchhali Lake Eco-tourism project and beautification plan of Khushab. According to Commissioner office spokesperson, the project aims to develop Uchhali Lake in Soon Valley into an attractive tourist destination while ensuring environmental sustainability. During the meeting, the officer of Wildlife Project Management Unit briefed the commissioner on the project, highlighting its eco-friendly features and facilities. "The project is part of the Punjab government's initiative to promote nature-based tourism while preserving sensitive habitats", he added.—APP

Ethiopia, Pakistan agree to forge stronger cultural ties

Ambassador Dr. Jemal emphasized the importance of fostering robust people-to-people connections through cultural exchange

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on Tuesday agreed to further strengthen the bilateral relations by enhancing cultural ties of the two nations. To this end, Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula, Special Envoy and Ambassador Extraordinary of the FDR Ethiopia held a productive discussion with Muhammad Aurangzeb Khichi, Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture. Asad Rehman Gilani, Federal Secretary of Pakistan for the National Heritage and Culture Division, was also present on the occasion. Ambassador Dr. Jemal emphasized the importance of fostering robust people-to-people connections through cultural exchange. He highlighted the recent launch of Ethiopian Airlines operations in Karachi, which now connects Pakistan to Africa and the broader global network. During the discussion, the Ambassador briefed the Minister about "Medemer" philosophy of Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed, which is focused on nation-building through practical inter-generational connectivity, unity, and togetherness. He said Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed is a prolific writer and wrote three books on "Medemer" philosophy. The Ambassador presented Minister Khichi with a copy of "Generation Medemer" which was unveiled in Pakistan in 2023, and added to the collection of the National Library of Pakistan this year. Minister



ISLAMABAD: Dr. Jemal Beker Abdula, Special Envoy and Ambassador Extraordinary of the FDR Ethiopia exchanging views with Muhammad Aurangzeb Khichi, Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture.

Khichi expressed keen interest in the "Medemer Philosophy" and announced to translate "Generation

Medemer" into Pakistan's national language. He affirmed Pakistan's readiness to pursue all necessary

formal processes to deepen cultural collaboration with Ethiopia, commending the Ambassador's

practical and valuable proposals for mutual engagement in heritage and culture.

Efforts afoot for interfaith harmony

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Minister for Communication and Works (C&W) Malik Sohaib Ahmed Bherth, while commending the efforts of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif for interfaith harmony, on Tuesday said that she was ensuring practical steps to promote mutual respect, peace and unity. Video Player The minister was chairing a meeting of the Divisional Peace Committee here to review law and order situation in the Rawalpindi Division during Muharram-ul-Haram. Pakistani Ulema Council Chairman Maulana Tahir Ashrafi specially attended the meeting. Besides the committee members, Commissioner Rawalpindi Aamir Khattak, Regional Police Officer Babar Sarfraz Alpa and deputy commissioners of Rawalpindi, Jhelum and Chakwal, along with senior district and

police officers also attended the meeting. The chief minister, he said, had formed a cabinet committee to maintain an atmosphere of peace and order in the province. Stressing the need for unity and consensus, he said the government was ensuring implementation of the code of conduct in that regard. The minister said that the Divisional Peace Committee and the peace committees established at the district and tehsil levels were active to maintain peace and order. The Committee was working together with the administration for the purpose, he added. Bherth said the holy month of Muharram "teaches all Muslims a lesson of self-sacrifice". Maulana Ashrafi on the occasion said that the Rawalpindi administration had made excellent arrangements for peaceful

observance of Muharram. "The way the government and administration in Punjab are in touch with the Ulema and Mashaikh is remarkable," he added. Ashrafi said that the implementation of code of conduct, which had already evolved in the form of the 'Paigham-e-Pakistan' (Message of Pakistan) with consensus, was being ensured. He said Imam Hussain (AS) was an example of peace, brotherhood and tolerance not only for Muslims but also for all human beings. "Love for the Ehl e Bayt (AS) is part of our faith. We are proud that we are all Hussainis," he affirmed. Maulana Ashrafi noted that the Caravan of Peace and Unity among Muslims was playing a constructive role in maintaining brotherhood, and peace and order in the beloved homeland.—DNA

Balochistan govt releases uplift funds

QUETTA: The Balochistan government has kicked off the development projects with the start of new fiscal year with the release of Rs. 50 billion in development funds, marking what it described as a new era of fast-paced and practical governance in the province. According to officials from the Balochistan Finance Department, the funds were released on the very first day of the fiscal year, highlighting the provincial government's commitment to timely implementation of public projects and effective financial management. An official of the Balochistan government said that the immediate release of development funds is "a reflection of the provincial government's preparedness, administrative discipline, and seriousness." The funds will be directed toward key sectors including health, education, irrigation, road infrastructure, and energy.—APP

TDAP to represent Pakistan at Heimtextil Frankfurt

KARACHI: Heimtextil is the largest international trade fair for home and contract textiles, taking place in Frankfurt, Germany, from January 13-16, 2026. The fair will showcase the widest variety of home textiles and a broad range of products for interior design, making it the leading platform for the latest innovations and trends in the textile industry. Heimtextil 2026 will showcase new trends and a global range of textiles and carpets for bedrooms, bathrooms, living spaces, and flooring. With the addition of Flooring & Equipment, the fair now covers the entire textile and non-textile interior design sector, offering greater business opportunities and

international connections across residential and hospitality markets. Featured products include fitted carpets, handmade and machine-made carpets and rugs, custom and unique pieces, mats, runners, fibers and yarns, machinery, accessories, and furs. The Trade Development Authority of Pakistan will participate with the Pakistan pavilion in Heimtextil Frankfurt 2026. 275 exhibitors from Pakistan showcased their products at Heimtextil 2025 in which 64 exhibitors participated under the pavilion of Trade Development Authority of Pakistan and 211 participated independently. Pakistan holds a strong position in the global textile industry, and its continued presence

at Heimtextil strengthens opportunities to connect with international buyers. The fair offers valuable exposure to key markets, especially in Europe, and helps Pakistani exporters better understand global trends, build relationships, and attract new customers from across the world. There were 3,000 exhibitors and 50,000 buyers and trade visitors from across the world in 2025. A number of well-known large exhibitors will return, along with several very promising newcomers in 2026. The stand is available for 12sqm PKR. 1,640,000/- for Home textile. And the stand is for 12sqm PKR. 650,000/- is available for Carpets.

Traffickers, visa fraudsters, corrupt officials held

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has arrested multiple suspects involved in human trafficking, visa fraud, and large-scale corruption. The operations resulted in the apprehension of a key suspect in the 2025 Morocco boat tragedy, 11 individuals involved in human smuggling, and two LESCO officials accused of embezzling millions of rupees. The FIA Composite Circle Faisalabad arrested Ghulam Mustafa, a notorious land route agent declared a fugitive in the Morocco boat incident case. He was linked to the infamous African human smuggler Abubakar and was part of a network along with previously arrested suspects Abdul Ghaffar and Muhammad Sarfraz. These traffickers sent dozens of Pakistanis via sea from Mauritania to Europe, but the boat tragically capsized, resulting in multiple fatalities. In a separate operation, the FIA Gujranwala Zone arrested 11 individuals — including a woman — for visa fraud and human trafficking. The arrested include Arsalan, Muhammad Shehbaz Ghuman, Asif Nazir Bajwa, Qasim Nadeem, Muhammad Suleman, Sikandar Adil, Shoaib Iqbal, Arsalan Abdullah, Muhammad Adnan, Asad alias Mitha, and Faiza Waqas. They are accused of defrauding citizens of millions of rupees under the pretext of overseas employment. Some victims went missing or faced life-threatening incidents due to fake visas or illegal travel routes. Meanwhile, the FIA Anti-Corruption Circle Lahore arrested two LESCO employees, Muhammad Shehbaz and Muhammad Muneeb Tahir, for embezzling government property. The suspects allegedly misappropriated 90,000 kilograms of used conductors from the 132 KVA grid station, causing a loss of over 10 million rupees to the national exchequer. According to an FIA spokesperson, the agency is strictly enforcing its zero-tolerance policy against human trafficking, visa fraud, and corruption, and all arrested individuals will face legal consequences. —DNA

Concern expressed over governance, corruption in KP

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit Baltistan and State and Frontier Regions (SA-FRON) and Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Provincial President Engineer Amir Muqam and Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi here on Tuesday discussed the prevailing political situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. During the meeting, both leaders expressed deep concern over the lack of good governance, worsening law and order, and what they termed as record-breaking corruption under the current provincial administration. They described the present provincial government as highly detrimental to the interests of the province. The two leaders also consulted on the Supreme Court's recent verdict on reserved

seats and its implications for the political landscape in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Issues related to Kashmir, the situation in the merged tribal districts, and the misuse of federal funds allocated for these areas by the provincial government were also

discussed. The leaders condemned what they called the provincial administration's misappropriation of these funds and emphasized the need to address the growing concerns of the people in the merged districts. Earlier, Federal Minister

Engr Amir Muqam here Tuesday said that targeting legal properties was an attempt to cover PTI Govt failure after Swat tragedy. In a press statement here, Federal Minister and President of PML-N Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Engineer Amir

Muqam, strongly criticized the retaliatory actions by the provincial government targeting people's legal and owned properties following the Swat tragedy, calling it an attempt to cover up its own incompetence. "The operation in Swat under the pretext of encroachments, which has damaged people's legal and rightful properties, is condemnable," he said. He said the provincial government was creating a crisis of 'tourism destruction' to hide its failures, which is deeply regrettable and shameful. "Demolishing the boundary wall of my legally owned hotel is an act of political revenge and a failed attempt to divert attention from the real issue," said Amir Muqam. The Minister reiterated that all legal documents, ownership papers, NOC, and the approved map of his hotel were available.—APP



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PAKISTAN

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TAEKWONDO

JUDO
KARATE
KUNG-FU
JU-JITSU
TAEKWONDO
UNIFORMS AND
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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

Serena Hotel.....111 133 133

Marriott.....051- 2826121

Monal.....0334-5421812



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

Rescue (Police).....15

Bomb Disposal.....15

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

Emergency Ambulance.1122

& Rescue Services.4451122

Motorway Police.....9266044

Motorway Police.9270601-20

Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596

Rawalpindi.....9270601-20



Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115

PIA Flight Info.....114

PIA Cargo.....9280979

Railway Inquiry.....117

Railway 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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Islamabad Police trace out blind murder cases

State Minister for Interior Talal Chaudhry noted that Islamabad Police are also improving their capacity, punishing internal wrongdoers, and setting an example for other law enforcement agencies in Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD, Islamabad Police have successfully traced out several blind murder cases, including the high-profile killing of Sardar Fahim, using modern investigative techniques and swift action, State Minister for Interior Talal Chaudhry said on Tuesday. In a press briefing along with senior police officials, the minister praised the police for solving multiple complex cases that had left the city gripped by fear. "The professional handling of these cases deserves appreciation," he said. Among the cases solved were the murder of Islamic University student Iman, Sana Yusuf's case, the rape of a foreign woman, the kidnapping of a 3-year-old, and multiple robbery-related killings. The minister emphasized that real culprits—not just suspects—have been arrested and their identities publicly confirmed. He noted that Islamabad Police are also improving their capacity, punishing internal wrongdoers, and setting an example for other law enforcement agencies in Pakistan. While declining to comment on personnel controversies, Chaudhry reaffirmed that competent officers would be protected from political pressure. The Inspector General of Islamabad Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi sharing details, unveiled the successful resolution of the high-profile murder of Sardar Fahim a chilling crime that initially offered no clues, suspects, or digital traces.



The IG, joined by senior police officials, stated firmly, "It is our duty to protect the lives and property of the people. These blind murders were deeply saddening, but thanks to the professionalism and sense of responsibility shown by our officers, every single case has been solved. The results are 100 percent." Among the cases cited were the killings of Sardar Fahim, 22-year-old university student Iman, 17-year-old social media influencer Sana Yusuf, the abduction of three-year-old Muhammad Azlan, the rape and murder of a foreign woman, the double homicide of two women near Loi Behr Police Station, and the targeted killings of Hamza Khan and social worker Ishfaq Ahmed Abbasi. Each was initially a blind

case, devoid of any clear direction, and many were concluded in under 24 hours. The Fahim murder, in particular, presented a complex and confounding challenge. On the night of June 25, Fahim was found dead inside his home. The scene was chaotic, the evidence scattered, and the motive unclear. CCTV footage yielded nothing conclusive, and forensic tools failed to provide adequate leads. As one officer remarked, "Even our most scientific approaches fell short. It was then that we returned to basics human intelligence and traditional investigative methods." DIG Jawad Qamar led a massive operation involving 11 dedicated teams, split between investigation and operations units. SSP Investigation

Usman took charge of six teams, while SSP Operations Shoaib led five. The teams included homicide experts, seasoned investigators, intelligence officers, even traffic constables with strong local knowledge. A CIA unit led by DSP Salman Shah was also mobilized. The first step was preserving the crime scene to avoid contamination. Then came an exhaustive investigation that spanned Islamabad and beyond Rawalpindi, Attock, Peshawar. Investigators examined under-construction buildings near the crime site, questioned domestic staff, and reviewed criminal records of laborers and employees in the vicinity. They worked methodically, using a mix of shoe-leather police work and cutting-edge digital tools. In total, 271 CCTV feeds were reviewed, and geofencing was carried out in 29 locations. More than 4,100 phone call records were analyzed. Fifty-seven suspects were interrogated directly, and over 200 known offenders were cross-checked across different jails in Punjab, including Adiala, Kot Lakhpat, and Camp Jail. Nine targeted raids were conducted based on data gathered through intelligence software like Extreme Edge and the efforts of IT experts like Abbas, whose contributions were critical. It took six days of relentless work before investigators developed a credible lead. They launched simultaneous operations in Gujranwala, Sargodha, and Chiniot nearly 350 kilometers from the capital and arrested the two suspects.

Photojournalist body chief meets minister Khichi

DNA

ISLAMABAD : Federal Minister for Culture and National Heritage, Aurangzeb Khan Khichi, met with Sajjad Haider, President of the Rawalpindi-Islamabad Photojournalist Association. Vice President Mudassir Raja was also present during the meeting. The discussion

focused on organizing a photo exhibition on the theme of Pakistan's civilization, culture, and national heritage. The Federal Minister stated that photojournalists are the vanguard of the journalist community. With the support of his ministry, members of the association will be able to include their artwork in this exhibition. He highlighted that Pakistan is a beautiful blend of

various ethnicities and cultures, where each community has a unique identity in music, arts, crafts, and cuisine. He emphasized that Pakistani artisans, especially women, are still keeping this cultural heritage vibrantly alive. The exhibition will be held at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) in the last week of this month and will feature photographs from Rawalpindi and Islamabad .



ISLAMABAD : Parliamentary Party leader of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Senate Senator Irfan Siddiqui called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Ahsan for unified approach to check diabetes

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal here on Tuesday emphasized the urgency of a unified and comprehensive national approach to tackle the alarming rise in diabetes cases across the country. Chairing the second meeting of the Steering Committee for the Prime Minister's Diabetes Prevention and Control Program, the minister said, the program was aimed at raising awareness and providing preventive care to 33 million Pakistanis, adding the five-year initiative, with a total estimated cost of \$6.8 million, was scheduled for completion by 2029. Senior officials from the Ministry of Health, provincial representatives, and relevant institutions participated in the meeting, according to press release issued by the ministry. The minister stressed that diabetes was not just a health issue but a national development challenge as it was silently eating away at country's population's

health like termites. It is the root of many severe illnesses, and unless we act decisively, the burden will cripple the healthcare system. The five-year national program aims to educate, screen, and treat millions across the country, through a coordinated effort involving both federal and provincial stakeholders. He also stressed the importance of collaboration adding each province has been working independently, but now we must unite under a national action plan. Only then can we deliver results that match the scale of the crisis, he added. Pakistan is currently among the three countries where diabetes is spreading most rapidly. It also ranks among the five countries most affected by tuberculosis and one of only three where polio remains a threat—facts that the minister said should serve as a wake-up call, he added. He lamented that Pakistan made tremendous achievements in nuclear science, yet the country's health out-

comes remain dismal. This contradiction must end, he emphasized. On the occasion, the Ministry of Health briefed the committee on a newly launched nationwide media campaign focusing on awareness, prevention, control, and treatment. The campaign includes training for frontline health workers, the development of a national diabetes registry, and partnerships with universities for research and outreach. The government has allocated Rs 3,000 million for the program in the current fiscal year, with an additional Rs 800 million planned for next year. Implementation agencies are currently being shortlisted to roll out program components efficiently. A national consultative meeting is scheduled for July 2, where federal and provincial representatives will finalize cost-sharing mechanisms and streamline efforts for greater impact.—APP

ICCI-Bahria Town ink MoU

ISLAMABAD: In a significant move aimed at fostering mutual cooperation and supporting the business community, the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and Bahria Town Rawalpindi have entered into a formal collaboration by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the ICCI premises on Tuesday. The MoU was signed by Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, President ICCI, and Sajid Ilyas, Deputy Chief Executive of Bahria Town Rawalpindi. Under the agreement, ICCI members will be entitled to exclusive discounts on selected services offered by Bahria Town. In return, ICCI will promote Bahria Town's various projects through its official social media platforms. Speaking on the occasion, ICCI President Nasir Mansoor Qureshi highlighted the Chamber's continued efforts for the ease of doing business and providing a level playing field for the entrepreneurial community, especially ICCI members. He said the partnership reflects ICCI's commitment to bringing value-driven collaborations for the benefit of the business fraternity Sajid Ilyas shed light on Bahria Town's diverse projects, including housing schemes, equestrian activities, and golf facilities, emphasizing the group's vision to uplift living standards and contribute to community development. Senior Vice President Abdul Rehman Siddiqui and Vice President Nasir Mehmood Chaudhry also addressed the gathering, reiterating ICCI's mission to advocate for and facilitate the business community. The ceremony was attended by several notable figures from both sides. From Bahria Town, Ahmed Ali (Director), Tahir Hanif (Senior GM Finance), Kaleem Ullah (GM HR), and M. Awais (Deputy GM Marketing) were present. From ICCI, Executive Member Waseem Chaudhry, members Ehtesham Chaudhry business leaders Shakeel Ahmed, Sammar Abbas, and Atif Hussain participated. This collaboration marks a step forward in ICCI's ongoing efforts to create meaningful partnerships aimed at business growth, community service, and economic development.

Rana highlights reform driven agricultural strategy

ISLAMABAD: Minister for National Food Security and Research, Mr. Rana Tanveer Hussain, on Tuesday reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to developing sustainable, climate-resilient and inclusive agri-food systems that not only ensure national food security but also contribute to global efforts in eradicating hunger, malnutrition and poverty. Addressing the 44th Session of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Conference held in Rome, the minister that Pakistan is undergoing wide-ranging national reforms aimed at modernizing its agricultural sector, said a press release issued by the Ministry of National Food Security and Research. These reforms focus on enhancing food safety standards, promoting innovation, encouraging crop diversification, and empowering smallholder farmers. The Minister highlighted that these measures are designed to create a more equitable and robust food system that improves nutrition, supports livelihoods, and ensures long-term food security for all. While reflecting on the broader global context, the Minister emphasized that food security and environmental sustainability are universal challenges that require collective responses. He noted that Pakistan values international cooperation as a key pillar in its agricultural development strategy. By sharing knowledge, aligning with global best practices, and learning from other nations, Pakistan aims to contribute meaningfully to global food governance and resilience-building efforts, he added. Rana Tanveer Hussain also acknowledged Pakistan's active participation in the election of the new Chairperson and Vice Chairs of the FAO Council during the session. He congratulated the newly elected leadership and expressed confidence that the new Chairperson will play a vital role in facilitating consensus among member countries, strengthening coordination with governing bodies, and ensuring that the Council remains responsive to the evolving needs of its members. He assured that Pakistan would continue to support FAO's governance processes and contribute constructively to its agenda. Underscoring the importance of continued collaboration with FAO and other international development partners, the minister reiterated Pakistan's dedication to improving food systems through policy innovation, institutional capacity building, and adaptive farming approaches. He also recognized the valuable support of FAO, WFP, and IFAD in implementing programs aimed at reducing food insecurity, enhancing nutrition, and addressing the vulnerabilities caused by climate change and environmental stress. In conclusion, the Federal Minister called upon the global community to deepen cooperation and solidarity in the face of escalating food system challenges. He emphasized that by working together, countries can build agri-food systems that are not only efficient and productive but also fair, sustainable, and resilient for future generations.—APP

Six-member Executive Council formed at H-8 College

ISLAMABAD: A six-member Executive Council has been constituted at Islamabad Model Postgraduate College H-8 by Principal Professor Athar ul Islam to ensure inclusive and well-informed decision-making. The formation took place during a meeting of the senior teaching faculty held on Tuesday. The council comprises senior associate professors Dr. Habibullah Chishti, Muhammad Azam, Sagheer Ahmed Mirani, Shujaat Hussain, Abdul Rauf, and Tahir Mahmood. The council will play a key advisory and consultative role in decisions related to academic planning, administration, and student welfare.

AIOU announces admissions for Four B.Ed Programs

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) renowned nationwide for its excellence in teacher training has announced admissions for the Autumn 2025 semester, offering four B.Ed programs of varying durations. Over the years, AIOU has played a pivotal role in shaping the future of education in Pakistan, with millions of trained teachers now serving in schools, colleges, and universities across the country, said a press release on Tuesday. Thousands of new students join the university every year, which stands as a testament to its commitment to quality, trust, and national service. The newly announced B.Ed programs are tailored to meet the educational backgrounds of diverse student groups. The university is offering 1.5-year, 2-year, 2.5-year, and 4-year B.Ed programs. The 1.5-year program is designed for students who have completed a BS, MA, or MSc. The 2-year B.Ed is suitable for those holding an Associate Degree in Education. The 2.5-year program is open to students with a BA, BSc, or an Associate Degree, while the 4-year B.Ed program has been specially crafted for candidates who have passed Intermediate (12th grade). Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood emphasized that AIOU's core mission is to provide quality education and to prepare professional teachers.—DNA

Pindi witnesses significant reduction in traffic accidents: CTO

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi city has witnessed significant reduction in traffic accidents during the last six months of 2025 due to the best strategy adopted by the City Traffic Police under the Punjab chief minister's vision of a Safe Punjab. Chief Traffic Officer Beenish Fatima, in a statement on Tuesday, said some 66 fatal accidents occurred in the first half of current year as compared to 82 during the same period last. Similarly, 71 citizens lost their precious lives in traffic accidents in first six months of 2025 against 93 in 2024. The reduction in the number of accidents, the CTO said, was the result of the City Traffic Police's strategy and public awareness campaigns, and training sessions and workshops for drivers of both common and commercial vehicles organized throughout the year.—APP

Briefs

PM extends gratitude to businessmen

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday extended his gratitude to the business community and investors who are fully supporting the government in the country's development and prosperity as the Pakistan Stock Exchange 100 Index crossing the highest level of 127,000 for the first time on the first day of the new fiscal year. In a statement issued here, the prime minister expressed his satisfaction on the rising trend in the Stock Exchange, adding, "The new fiscal year has begun with good news and a significant development in the economic field, which is very propitious." The Stock Market 100 Index, he said reaching its highest level was a manifestation of the fact that the confidence of the business community and investors in the country's economy and government policies was strengthening and stabilizing with each passing day. Prime Minister Shehbaz added that the country's economy showed consistent, gradual recovery due to the government's promising economic policies in the last fiscal year. "The new fiscal year will prove to be a milestone in the journey towards improving the country's economy. The government is making efforts to promote the best business environment and provide more facilities to investors. I pay tribute to the government's economic team for this success," the prime minister said.—APP

Railways open luxury saloon coaches to public

ISLAMABAD: In a landmark move to modernize its services and optimize asset utilization, Pakistan Railways has opened its luxury saloon coaches-once reserved exclusively for top government officials and senior railway executives-for public booking on major intercity routes. "Five premium saloon coaches are now available for booking on key routes, including Karachi-Lahore, Lahore-Islamabad and Islamabad-Lahore," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP. "This initiative follows a special directive from Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, emphasizing public access to state-owned assets and the importance of innovative revenue generation," the official added. He said each luxury saloon offers a hotel-like experience on wheels, complete with a master bedroom, lounge area, dining space, fully equipped kitchen, and a bathroom with both shower and bathtub. "Designed primarily for families or groups, these coaches provide a private and comfortable alternative for premium rail travel," he added. The official said the Prime Minister's saloon is available for Rs. 600,000 on the Karachi-Lahore route and Rs. 150,000 on the Islamabad-Lahore route. The Railways Minister's saloon is priced at Rs. 400,000 and Rs. 100,000 for the same respective routes. "These rates have been structured to make premium rail travel accessible for special occasions.—APP

NADRA says family registration certificate a legal document

Previously, the FRC was used merely as a reference for family composition and was not enforceable in legal terms. Now, under new rules, providing false or misleading information on an FRC can lead to criminal charges. This accountability measure is aimed at preventing fraudulent claims and reinforcing the integrity of identity data in the national registry

ISLAMABAD: In a landmark shift in Pakistan's identity system, NADRA has, for the first time, declared the Family Registration Certificate (FRC) a legal document following Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi's recommendation and Federal Cabinet approval. This change brings the FRC into the same legal category as other core identity documents such as the Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) and the Child Registration Certificate (B-Form), NADRA's Spokesperson and Director Public Engagement, Syed Shabhat Ali told media. Previously, the FRC was used merely as a reference for family composition and was not enforceable in legal terms. Now, under new rules, providing false or misleading information on an FRC can lead to criminal charges. This accountability measure is aimed at preventing fraudulent claims and reinforcing the integrity of identity data in the national registry. Another major change introduced is the requirement for applicants to verify their entire family tree when applying for an FRC. Individuals will now be shown a complete list of their family members as recorded in NADRA's database. If the information is correct, they will verify it through a signed declaration, known as affidavit "Bayan-e-Halqi". This process ensures that all individuals named in the certificate are validated by the applicant themselves. Moreover, the reforms allow family members to be added to the FRC even if they are

not physically present. This means that if a family member is abroad or otherwise unavailable, they can still be included based on the applicant's information, provided that necessary identification details are submitted. NADRA officials will then process the request and determine its validity through internal checks. A notable provision has been made to address the realities of polygamous marriages. Under the new framework, if a person has more than one wife, all spouses and their children must appear in the FRC. This ensures that no woman's rights are sidelined and that every child is properly linked to their biological mother, thereby maintaining the integrity of family data. In another development, NADRA has made it possible for individuals to obtain a certificate that includes both their birth family and married family referred to in internal terms as Alpha and Beta compositions, on a single document. This is particularly useful for legal matters, travel documentation, and inheritance claims. Despite the sweeping reforms, NADRA has announced that there will be no increase in the application fee. The cost remains Rs. 1,000 for either the Alpha or Beta version, and Rs. 2,000 for the combined certificate. Married women stand to benefit significantly from these changes. Under the new rules, women who wish to retain their father's name on their CNIC after marriage can now do so without facing administrative hurdles. Previously, such women were often required to update their records to re-

flect their husband's name before applying for official documents like passports. This reform reinforces a woman's autonomy in choosing how her identity is recorded. In addition to reforms in family registration, NADRA has also upgraded its Tesla card—the non-chip version of the CNIC. These cards will now include English spellings of names alongside Urdu, making them valid for passport applications and other services that require English documentation. A QR code has been added to the card, enabling users to link it to the digital wallet on the Pak Identity mobile application. The card's delivery time has also been shortened to 5–15 days, and the fee structure remains unchanged. Importantly, first-time applicants will continue to receive this card free of cost. To make the process even more accessible, citizens can now view their family composition online through NADRA's Pak Identity app. After biometric verification through fingerprint submission, users can check their registered family details without visiting a NADRA center. If a citizen finds an error, such as an incorrect addition to the family, they can report it via NADRA's complaint portal (complaints.nadra.gov.pk) or by calling the helpline at 1777. NADRA officials have also confirmed that agents on the helpline are authorized to lodge complaints on behalf of users who are unable to access online services. Citizens who previously obtained identification documents through false declarations have been given a unique opportunity under these reforms. NADRA

has opened a one-time amnesty window where individuals can voluntarily surrender fraudulently obtained documents, be it CNICs, Child Registration Certificates, or juvenile cards without facing any legal consequences. Officials emphasized that those who come forward voluntarily will not be prosecuted, but this offer may not last indefinitely. To reduce delays in identity verification processes, NADRA has also introduced a new timeline for decisions. Once an individual has submitted all required documents, the relevant NADRA officer must issue a decision within 30 days. This time-bound approach aims to curb bureaucratic inefficiency and ensure quicker resolutions for applicants. Furthermore, NADRA has standardized the definition of "biometric" information. Biometric data is now officially defined as any personal information based on physical or behavioral characteristics such as fingerprints, iris scans, or facial photos that can be used to identify a person. This definition is expected to be adopted by other regulatory bodies, including the State Bank of Pakistan, the Federal Board of Revenue, and the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority. These sweeping reforms, guided by the Ministry of Interior under Mohsin Naqvi, reflect NADRA's commitment to closing loopholes, empowering citizens—especially women—and increasing the accuracy and accessibility of identity data in Pakistan.—Agencies

IRSA releases 291,840 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 291,840 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 449,989 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1504.65 feet which was 102.65 feet higher than the dead level of 1402.00 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 294,000 cusecs and 150,000 cusecs, respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1176.55 feet, which was 126.55 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 24,149 cusecs and 10,000 cusecs, respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 210,988, 173,248, 103,609 and 52,650 cusecs, respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 51,300 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 48,090 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.—APP

USF okays Rs 5.65b OFC projects for Sanghar, Jhang

ISLAMABAD: The Universal Service Fund (USF) has approved two major Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) projects worth over Rs5.65 billion, aimed at strengthening digital connectivity in Sanghar and Jhang districts. According to an official, the two OFC projects will cover a total of 940 kilometers in Sanghar and Jhang districts. Once completed, they are expected to benefit around 2.8 million people, delivering high-speed internet to 113 towns and union councils. The Universal Service Fund (USF) has also approved seven major projects worth Rs7.49 billion to expand digital connectivity and high-speed internet access across 12 districts of Pakistan. The Sanghar project will lay 415 km of fiber optic cable, while the Jhang project will span 525 km. These initiatives aim to significantly enhance digital infrastructure and bring modern digital services to remote and underserved communities. In a separate decision, the USF Board also approved five broadband service projects worth Rs1.83 billion to extend 4G mobile services to over 0.965 million residents in 347 mauzas across 10 districts. These include Attock, Khushab, Sargodha, Bahawalpur, Faisalabad, Hafizabad, Sheikhupura, Chiniot, Badin, and Abbottabad.—APP



ISLAMABAD: A street vendor displays colorful fish attraction for costumers.

Pak's AGECO inks MoU on EV, green energy, precision agriculture

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A Tripartite landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS), IBI International Group Co. Ltd., China, and COMSATS Technology Partner AGECO Pvt. Ltd. The signatories agreed to collaborate in four critical areas: Electric Vehicle (EV), Green Energy, Precision Agriculture, Training & Capacity Building with exchange of expertise and transfer of technology. Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday. These areas of cooperation are of vital importance in today's global context to address key challenges such as climate change, energy insecurity, food sustainability, and

the need for technology-driven solutions. The agreement aligns with and advances the objectives of several UN Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), and SDG 13 (Climate Action). The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Ambassador of Turkmenistan, along with Ambassadors of Jordan, Syria, Morocco, Yemen, Ethiopia, and Diplomats of Iran and Azerbaijan graced the occasion. Among the dignitaries were Chairman IPO Pakistan, Ambassador Amil and IBI's Adviser Ambassador Moin ul Haque. Executive Director COMSATS, Ambassador Dr. Nafees Zakaria, paid tribute to Professor Abdus Salam for

his vision of COMSATS. The Executive Director underlined COMSATS' commitment to translating scientific knowledge into practical solutions that address real-world challenges. Ambassador Zakaria commended the CEO of AGECO, Engr. Aslam Azad for his indigenously developed EV technology to tackle transport sector emissions. He took pride to mention establishment of Nano Tech Lab and Telehealth Clinics as technology solutions for the member states, as COMSATS achievements. Mr. Ibrahim Munir, Chairman of IBI International Group, highlighted the Group's multi-sectoral expertise, including energy, trade, health, EPC, defense, and smart technology.

Pakistan's urban divide Growing cities, shrinking justice

ISLAMABAD:As Pakistan's cities grow, so does the stark divide between the elite and the urban poor. Behind the façade of development lies deepening inequality, where privilege thrives in gated enclaves and millions endure crumbling settlements, battling daily for basic rights, dignity, and survival. According to a 2024 study by Zara Husnain, a Pakistani sociologist, urbanization has deepened social stratification in mega cities. "Urban growth has created new economic opportunities," the author writes, "but has simultaneously intensified disparities in access to essential services, further cementing class divisions." The divide stems from both historical and systemic issues. Cities have expanded without inclusive planning, while profit-driven real estate has pushed the poor to the margins, socially and spatially. At the same time, the relevant authorities' failure to provide affordable housing has left a gap that private developers have rushed to fill. Government policies often reflect elite priorities, with projects like Lahore's Orange Line displacing poor communities and Islamabad's zoning laws favoring the regularization of upscale housing societies while evicting low-income settlements.

The key stakeholders in Pakistan's urban inequality include the elite, who benefit from exclusive access to high-quality infrastructure, private education, and healthcare, and whose real estate investments drive up property values, further marginalizing the poor. The urban poor, comprising daily-wage laborers, street vendors, and domestic workers contribute significantly to the economy but remain excluded from its benefits, often confined to underserved informal settlements. State and city planners, while central to shaping urban development.—APP

Work accelerates on Islamabad's long-delayed model jail

ISLAMABAD:After remaining stalled for over a decade, construction on the long-delayed Model Jail project in Islamabad has finally gained momentum. Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the under-construction facility in Sector H-16 on Tuesday and issued a clear directive to complete the first phase of the project within the current year. Accompanied by Minister of State Talal Chaudhry, Naqvi inspected various parts of the site and reviewed the pace of development work. During the visit, he stressed that construction activities must continue day and night to meet the deadline. According to officials, two barracks have already been completed, while security check posts and the central watchtower are nearing completion. In the first phase, the jail will be able to accommodate 1,500 prisoners. Naqvi further instructed that two additional barracks be constructed within the next 90 days. The minister also ordered the rapid completion of a 34-bed hospital and the jail's main kitchen, emphasizing the importance of fully functional facilities before operations begin. He directed the DIG Islamabad Police to present a comprehensive staffing plan for the jail. The Model Jail project was originally launched in 2011 but has seen repeated delays due to administrative and logistical hurdles. Officials present at the site briefing included the Federal Secretary for Interior, DIG Islamabad Police, Deputy Commissioner, Additional Deputy Commissioner General, CDA representatives, contractors, and project consultants. With the government now pushing for swift progress, authorities hope to deliver a modern correctional facility that meets international standards and helps decongest existing prisons in the capital.—DNA

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Knitwear exports to China rise 11%

Experts believe that with winter approaching, Pakistan's knitwear sector is likely to maintain its momentum in the second half of the year

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's exports of knitted and crocheted apparel, including jerseys, pullovers, cardigans, and waistcoats, to China have grown steadily by 11% during the first five months of 2025, reaching \$4.30 million, up from \$3.87 million in the same period last year, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Tuesday quoting the latest data from China Customs. This growth highlights Pakistan's increasing presence in China's competitive apparel market, especially in mid-range and winterwear segments. Industry insid-

ers attribute the growth to Pakistan's expanding capacity in cotton-blended knitwear production and improved compliance with Chinese quality and certification standards. "Pakistani exporters have upgraded their production lines with better dyeing and finishing techniques, which has helped meet Chinese consumers' preference for comfort and durability in winter clothing," said Mohammad Azhar, a Lahore-based trade expert. Market observers note that most of these exports are routed through China's eastern coastal provinces, with Zhejiang and Jiangsu leading in import volume.

Jiangsu Province imported more than \$2.79 million worth of products during the first five months of 2025, followed by Zhejiang and Henan. The demand is largely driven by private-label and e-commerce apparel sectors seeking cost-effective alternatives to domestic production. Ghulam Qadir, Trade and Investment Counsellor, stated that Pakistan benefits from zero-tariff access under the second phase of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA-II), which gives it a competitive edge over other regional suppliers. However, stakeholders emphasize the need for

further diversification of product lines and greater focus on design innovation to sustain and expand this growth. Mohammad Azhar also highlighted the rising trend of environmentally friendly and sustainable knitwear in China, adding that if Pakistani exporters can follow China's green textile standards and invest in recycled yarn technology, the country is expected to open up new export opportunities in the high-end market. Experts believe that with winter approaching, Pakistan's knitwear sector is likely to maintain its momentum in the second half of the year.

Anti-people petrol price hike: a betrayal of public trust

IN a shocking move, the government has once again increased petrol prices abnormally, further burdening the already struggling masses. This decision has sparked widespread anger and protests across the country, as citizens grapple with skyrocketing inflation, unemployment, and declining purchasing power. The recent petrol price hike is not just an economic blow but also a stark reminder of the government's anti-people policies, where the rulers seem indifferent to the suffering of ordinary citizens.

The common man is already reeling under the worst inflation in decades. Prices of essential commodities—food, electricity, gas, and transportation—have surged beyond affordability. Wages remain stagnant, jobs are scarce, and businesses are struggling to survive. In such dire circumstances, increasing petrol prices is nothing short of economic cruelty. Petrol is a key commodity that affects the entire supply chain; its price hike leads to a domino effect, pushing up the cost of everything from vegetables to public transport.

One of the most glaring injustices is the government's selective approach to global oil prices. When international crude oil prices drop, the benefit is never passed on to the people. Instead, oil companies and the government pocket the difference. However, even the slightest increase in global rates becomes an excuse to jack up domestic petrol prices abnormally. This double standard exposes the exploitative nature of the ruling elite, who prioritize profits over public welfare.

While the common man struggles to afford fuel, government officials, bureaucrats, and parliamentarians enjoy unlimited free petrol at taxpayers' expense. Luxury vehicles, lavish fuel allowances, and VIP culture are rampant, with no accountability. Nowhere in the world do civil servants receive such extravagant perks, yet in this country, the ruling class treats public resources as their personal wealth.

Moreover, top bureaucrats are often allotted expensive plots

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and lands at throwaway prices, another privilege unheard of in most democracies. Meanwhile, parliamentarians have increased their own salaries manifold, while the poor face relentless taxation and inflation. This blatant inequality highlights the deep-rooted corruption and elitism in the system.

In a true democracy, the government is supposed to serve the people, not exploit them. However, the current system functions as a tool for the elite to enrich themselves while the masses suffer. The recent petrol price hike is yet another example of how policies are designed to benefit the powerful at the expense of the poor.

People feel isolated, unheard, and betrayed. Protests and public outcry are met with indifference, and corruption continues unchecked. The government's refusal to reduce petrol prices when global rates fall, while swiftly increasing them at the slightest opportunity, proves that this is not just poor governance—it is a deliberate anti-masses strategy.

The people demand answers. Why are they forced to bear the brunt of every economic crisis while the ruling class enjoys unlimited privileges? Why is there no transparency in petrol pricing? Why are corrupt practices like free fuel for officials and illegal land allotments not investigated? If this is democracy, then it is a democracy only for the powerful.

The common citizen has been reduced to a mere spectator, struggling to survive while the elite loot the nation's resources. The government must reverse this unjust petrol price hike, eliminate elite perks, and ensure that global oil price reductions are passed on to the public. Until then, the people's anger will only grow, and their trust in the system will continue to erode.

The rulers must remember: a government that works against its people cannot survive forever. As reported by this newspaper, the Punjab government has decided to discontinue the health card in the government hospitals. However, the card can still be used in the private hospitals. This is ridiculous because there may be only 10 per cent private hospitals accepting health card. And those hospitals do not have required facilities. The governments should ideally be siding with the people as they are the ones who brought these governments to power. Unfortunately, people remain relevant only till the time election drill is completed. As soon the so-called publish representatives reach the assemblies, they abandon their electorates. This practice has to be discontinued for the greater sake of the country and populace.

Trump's "Big, Beautiful Bill": A Legislative Breakdown

Qamar Bashir



Trump labeled Mamdani a “communist lunatic,” but the new mayor’s confident, smiling response reflected something deeper: a generational shift that even presidential authority cannot reverse. Mamdani has pledged to arrest Netanyahu if he ever visits New York—citing the International Criminal Court’s genocide charges—and has blasted Modi’s Gujarat massacre record. These bold declarations indicate just how much the grassroots of American politics is diverging from the executive narrative. Back in Washington, Trump’s bill...

IT is one of the greatest ironies of the American political system that the President of the United States wields near-unchecked power on the international stage—able to bomb foreign nations, greenlight wars, broker ceasefires, and tip the global balance of power without even consulting Congress. Yet, when it comes to domestic policymaking—specifically, delivering on economic promises like tax reform or welfare restructuring—the same president often appears as powerless as a ceremonial figurehead. President Donald J. Trump now faces this paradox head-on as his much-hyped “Big Beautiful Bill” stalls in US Senate. This sprawling legislative package—central to his campaign and populist economic vision—was supposed to be signed into law on July 4, 2025. But despite controlling the White House and a slim Senate majority, Trump faces intense resistance not from Democrats alone, but from inside his own party.

The bill, estimated at nearly \$4 trillion, was introduced as a sweeping effort to reduce taxes, boost consumer income, strengthen border security, and overhaul federal entitlement spending. It includes generous income tax exemptions for military, veterans, police, and firefighters, as well as deductions on tips (\$25,000) and overtime pay (\$12,500) through 2028, part of Trump's promise to “put more money in the hands of working Americans.” But where would this money come from? Trump's answer: tariffs. By taxing foreign imports, the bill aims to fund domestic tax cuts and infrastructure investments. In theory, it's a bold nationalist formula: tax the world, enrich America. But critics—many of them conservative—say this strategy is deeply flawed. One of the most vocal critics is Elon Musk, once Trump's trusted ally and now his most formidable tech-world adversary. In a firestorm of posts on X, Musk slammed the bill as “insane,” “destructive,” and “political suicide,” arguing that it favors outdated industries at the cost of clean energy and future innovation. “It puts America in the fast lane to debt slavery,” Musk warned, pointing to projections that the bill will inflate the national deficit by \$2.8 trillion by 2034, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

Musk's criticism cuts deep because it reflects growing unease within Trump's own base. A re-

cent NBC News poll shows that 40% of Republican voters now view reducing the national debt as their top priority, while a majority believe existing spending on programs like Medicaid must be preserved. These concerns have led GOP Senators like Rand Paul, Thom Tillis, Lisa Murkowski, and Susan Collins to express opposition to various provisions of the bill—ranging from Medicaid cuts and the debt ceiling hike to restrictions on Planned Parenthood funding.

And therein lies Trump's domestic dilemma: while the international stage presents him as a unilateral powerhouse—stopping wars in Pakistan and India, halting Iranian retaliation after the bombing of the Fordow nuclear facility, or reshaping global alliances—he finds himself cornered and constrained in the democratic trenches of Capitol Hill.

Even elements of Trump's own “America First” coalition are rebelling. Farmers and agribusinesses recently forced the administration to roll back immigration-related work restrictions on undocumented workers in agriculture. Without these migrants, they warned, the entire U.S. food supply chain would collapse, bringing economic shockwaves across rural America and driving food prices through the roof. This public pressure forced Trump to carve out exceptions—a rare reversal that underscores how little space even the President has when facing economic realities and political mobilization.

Simultaneously, America's political diversity is rising in ways Trump did not anticipate. The election of Zohran Mamdani—a young, South Asian, progressive voice—as Mayor of New York City marks a cultural and political counterpoint to Trumpism. A vocal critic of Israeli aggression in Gaza and a staunch advocate for Palestinian rights, Mamdani represents a rising class of elected officials who openly oppose Trump's policies—from tax cuts for the rich to full-throated support for Netanyahu's war machine.

Trump labeled Mamdani a “communist lunatic,” but the new mayor's confident, smiling response reflected something deeper: a generational shift that even presidential authority cannot reverse. Mamdani has pledged to arrest Netanyahu if he ever visits New York—citing the International Criminal Court's genocide charges—and has blasted Modi's

Gujarat massacre record. These bold declarations indicate just how much the grassroots of American politics is diverging from the executive narrative.

Back in Washington, Trump's bill faces another challenge: the gutting of essential safety nets. Proposed Medicaid cuts, totaling hundreds of billions, would strike at the very heart of American welfare—affecting the elderly, disabled, veterans, and low-income families. The Senate Parliamentarian has already ruled against parts of the bill that tried to remove funding for gender-affirming care and limit coverage for undocumented immigrants. But the damage to public perception has been done.

And what about Social Security? While Trump promised to make its payouts tax-free, the bill also tightens eligibility and introduces new scrutiny provisions, leaving many fearing future erosion of benefits. This comes at a time when 67 million Americans—across class, race, and party lines—depend on Social Security as their financial lifeline. Ironically, Trump's economic record gives him some legitimacy. Inflation, which soared to nearly 8% under President Biden, has now stabilized at 2.4%–2.6% under Trump's second term. That's no small feat. However, if the price for that stabilization is a massive increase in the deficit, reduced healthcare access, and shrinking consumer protections, the political costs could outweigh the economic gains.

This complex reality is what Trump now faces: he campaigned on a promise to “raise incomes, cut taxes, and build America.” But the mechanisms to fulfill that promise—tariffs, spending cuts, and partisan loyalty—are faltering. He is now encountering what every president eventually faces: domestic politics is far messier than foreign policy.

The President may yet pull off a miracle and get the bill passed—perhaps with revisions, compromises, or brute-force pressure. But the real question is: what kind of America will emerge from this legislative gamble? One that is economically revitalized? Or one that is politically fractured, strategically weakened, and fiscally unbalanced? Only time—and the Senate—will tell.

– Press Secretary to the President (Rtd)
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Iran-US-Israel Conflict

Muhammad Asif



Wars have some advantages and some disadvantages. The short but intense conflict between Iran and Israel in June 2025 resulted in significant human and economic losses for both nations. Preliminary estimates suggest: Human life, which is a huge loss for any country. Iran, 1,200–1,800 military and civilian deaths, 3,500–5,000 wounded...

THE Iran-U.S.-Israel conflict remains one of the most volatile geopolitical rivalries of our time, marked by decades of ideological hostility, nuclear brinkmanship, and proxy warfare. The June 2025 direct military confrontation escalated tensions dangerously when Israel launched “Operation Fallen Lion” to cripple Iran's nuclear program, only to face a fierce retaliatory barrage in “Operation True Promise III.” Though a fragile ceasefire followed, the conflict exposed the limits of military solutions and the catastrophic consequences of unchecked aggression.

Before the 1979 Islamic Revolution, Iran and Israel maintained covert ties. However, post-revolution, Iran's theocratic regime adopted a hostile stance, vowing to eliminate Israel, which it deemed an “illegal occupier of Muslim land.” Israel, in turn, viewed Iran's nuclear ambitions as an existential threat. Proxy conflicts persisted for years, but 2024 saw direct clashes: April 2024, Israel's airstrike on Iran's consulate in Damascus killed Iranian officers, prompting direct retaliation. In July 2024, Israel assassinated Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran. October 2024, another round of direct strikes occurred. By June 2025, Israel escalated with “Operation Fallen Lion,” targeting Iran's nuclear and military sites. Iran's “Operation True Promise III” retaliated with missile and drone strikes on Israeli military and civilian areas.

Global reaction and the alignment of countries, which country was supporting whom. This time, compared to the past, America did not receive as much support from Europe as it used to. And the Arab countries were also silent. The following countries condemned this Israeli aggression. The Islamic world, China, Russia, and the EU criticized Israel's aggression. While the supporting countries were Some Western factions, including Donald Trump, backed Israel, urging Iran to return to nuclear talks.

Wars have some advantages and some disadvantages. The short but intense conflict between Iran and Israel in June 2025 resulted in significant human and economic losses for both nations. Preliminary estimates suggest: Human life, which is a huge loss for any country. Iran, 1,200–1,800 military and civilian deaths, 3,500–5,000 wounded Key nuclear scientists and military commanders targeted and Israel,

800–1,200 deaths (mostly civilians), 2,000–3,500 wounded, Environmental damage from attacks on oil pipelines and ports. And if we consider the economic loss, the situation is something like this. Iran, \$15–20 billion in estimated damages, 40% decline in oil exports, Partial destruction of nuclear research facilities. Severe damage to civilian infrastructure. Israel, \$25–30 billion in estimated damages. Tel Aviv Stock Exchange closed for two weeks. Temporary withdrawal of multinational companies. Major damage to airports and military bases.

It is not possible for there to be a war and no military losses. Both countries also suffered military losses. Iran, 60% of land-based missile systems destroyed. 3 nuclear research centers damaged, 40–50% of drone fleet eliminated. And Israel, 35% reduction in Iron Dome effectiveness, 5 military bases completely disabled, 12 fighter jets destroyed. Long-Term Consequences for Iran, 2–3-year delay in nuclear program, Risk of tougher economic sanctions, Temporary decline in regional influence. For Israel, Tourism industry severely impacted, 25% drop in foreign investment Pressure to increase defense spending. Global Economy, 15–20% spike in oil prices, Disruptions in Gulf trade routes, Increased global arms demand.

Why Did the U.S. and Israel Agree to a Ceasefire? The answer is very simple that Israel did not expect Iran to resist so much. They too were misjudging it like India. Just like Pakistan attacked India like a wounded lion and India screamed and asked America to save it, the same thing happened with Israel as well. In fact, the people of Israel were seen apologizing to Iran on social media. Now America had to save its reputation. Otherwise, its very survival was at risk. Because this war was not going to end soon. Iran was expecting it to continue for at least six months. Israel and the United States failed to achieve their following objectives. Failed Nuclear Objectives, Israel's claims of destroying Iran's nuclear program proved false. Underground facilities like Fordow remained intact, and Iran had already relocated key assets. Regime Change Backfired, attempts to destabilize Iran's government united the Iranian people against external threats. Israeli Defense Failures, Iran's missiles

penetrated Israel's famed six-layered defense, damaging critical infrastructure. Economic Collapse, Israel's stock market crashed, businesses fled, and war costs soared. Global Pressure, rising oil prices due to Hormuz Strait threats forced Gulf states, China, and Russia to push for peace. Domestic Unrest, Protests in Israel and the U.S. over casualties and economic strain pressured leaders to de-escalate. Now the question arises, why did Iran agree to a ceasefire so quickly? Although Iran was resisting Israel brick by brick and was also on the side of a peaceful world, it was also successful on the diplomatic level. Iran has only fought the war in self-defense. Therefore, Iran did not want any more loss of life, property, and infrastructure. I wish someone would also think about the Muslims of Gaza who have killed 70,000 since October 2023. Who will enforce a ceasefire here? If Iran could force a ceasefire by standing firm, why can't 56 Muslim nations unite for Palestine? The lesson is clear: power respects only power. Until the Muslim world abandons passivity and the West ends its double standards, Palestine's children will keep paying the price. The world must choose diplomacy over destruction—before another war erupts with no winners.

Though the war lasted only 12 days, it proved that modern conflicts can inflict massive destruction in a short time. Both nations will need 5–7 years to fully recover economically. The war serves as a stark reminder that diplomatic solutions must prevail over military escalation to prevent such devastation in the future. Now is the time if the Muslim Ummah unites and raises its voice, the oppression on the Muslims of Gaza can be reduced. In fact, the issue of Palestine can even be resolved. But the misfortune is that no one speaks up for them. If the Arab world comes together and applies pressure, the Muslims of Gaza can live their lives with dignity. Israel is a brutal, savage beast that only understands the language of force. Unlike the Arabs who chose to bow down, Iran refused to submit. Instead, like a lion and true followers of Imam Hussain (AS), they stood firm and fought back with all their strength. The recent war has taught another lesson: The Arab world must focus on advanced technology and military capabilities otherwise; their survival will remain at risk.

Briefs

Workers putting...

FROM PAGE 01
the scenes, seeking to open a back-channel dialogue with both the government and the establishment. Later in June, Gohar expressed the party's readiness for establishing serious and result-oriented contacts for the country's sake.

Pakistan wants end...

FROM PAGE 01
vital infrastructure, including hospitals, schools, and refugee shelters, has been destroyed. He reiterated Pakistan's long-standing support for the Palestinian people and their legitimate struggle for self-determination. The Pakistani envoy urged the Security Council to act in accordance with its mandate to maintain international peace and security by taking concrete steps to stop the bloodshed and to hold Israel accountable for its actions. He also stressed the importance of lifting the blockade imposed on Gaza, which has severely restricted the flow of humanitarian assistance and medical supplies to the besieged population. Ambassador Ahmad emphasized that humanitarian aid must be allowed to enter Gaza without obstruction. He called for the UN and international humanitarian organizations to be granted full, safe, and unimpeded access to all affected areas in order to provide critical relief and medical assistance to the victims of the conflict. He concluded by reaffirming Pakistan's unwavering support for a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian question, based on the relevant UN resolutions, international law, and the establishment of a viable, independent, and contiguous Palestinian state with pre-1967 borders and Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital. Pakistan's appeal echoes the growing international outcry over the deepening crisis in Gaza, as calls for a permanent ceasefire and accountability continue to mount within the United Nations and beyond.

PM directs NDMA to...

FROM PAGE 01
and Minister for Climate Change Musadik Masood Malik to secure not loans, but grants and investments through public-private partnerships aimed at building resilient infrastructure in Pakistan. On the subject of water security, and in light of India's provocative and hostile intentions regarding the Indus Water Treaty, the Prime Minister announced the government's decision to construct non-controversial water storage facilities using Pakistan's own resources. The Prime Minister said Pakistan, unfortunately, is now on the map of countries, which can be hit by cloudbursts, despite having any contribution towards greenhouse emissions. He added that recent devastation in sudden glacial melting because of unprecedented heat wave demands the highest level of preparedness

Pak, India exchange...

FROM PAGE 01
to a representative of the Indian High Commission, Islamabad. Simultaneously, the Government of India shared a list of 463 Pakistani or believed-to-be-Pakistani prisoners (382 civilian prisoners and 81 fishermen) to a diplomat from the High Commission for Pakistan, New Delhi. The Government of Pakistan has called for immediate release and repatriation of all those Pakistani prisoners and fishermen, who have completed their respective sentence and whose national status stands confirmed. A request for special consular access has also been made for all believed-to-be-Pakistani prisoners, including the physically and mentally-challenged prisoners for expeditious confirmation of their national status. The Government of India has been urged to provide consular access to all those prisoners to whom consular access is still awaited. The Indian side has also been urged to ensure safety, security, and well-being of all Pakistani prisoners in Indian custody.

Pak bowler Sadia clinches top spot in Women T20i Rankings

Mandhana reaches new career-best rating of 771 points in latest T20I batters rankings

SPORTS DESK

KARACHI: Two Pakistani bowlers – Sadia Iqbal and Nashra Sandhu – made it to the top 10 in Women T20i Bowling Rankings released by the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Tuesday. Spinner Sadia reached the top spot of the list for T20I bowlers, with 746 rating. It's tight at the top with just 44 rating point separating the top 10 players, as the one sitting at 10th spot, Afy Fletcher, has 702 rating. England pacer Lauren Bell claimed three wickets in that Nottingham clash and the tall right-armers rises two spots to a career-best place of fourth on the latest rankings for T20I bowlers, ICC reported. 8th ranked Nashra and 9th ranked Australia's Georgia Wareham have the same rating – 704. Whereas, star India left-hander closes in on the top ranking for T20I batters as a pair of South African players make gains following the completion of their series against the West Indies. India opener Smriti Mandhana has been rewarded for her recent century against



England by reaching a new career-high rating on the updated ICC Women's T20I Batter Rankings. Mandhana, who is the

No1 ranked ODI batter, took England to the sword with a superb innings of 112 in Nottingham recently and that helped the

left-hander gain one place and move to third on the latest rankings for T20I batters. It also sees Mandhana reach a new career-best rating of 771 points and close to within 23 points of No1 ranked player Beth Mooney at the top of the charts for T20I batters. Fellow Indian opener Shafali Verma gains one place to move to 13th on the same rankings list following her innings of 20 in the same match against England, while teammate Harleen Deol re-enters the batter rankings in equal 86th after a quick-fire knock of 43. The final match of the T20I series between the West Indies and South Africa also sees a host of their players make some ground on the latest rankings, with Proteas young gun Miane Smit jumping from well outside the top 100 to 76th on the list for T20I batters following her half-century in that clash. There are also gains for former South Africa skipper Sune Luus, who jumps nine spots to 31st on the list for T20I all-rounders following decent efforts with both bat and ball in that Cave Hill match. Unluckily, there's no Pakistani batter in top 35 players.

Alcaraz survives, Sabalenka cruises on Wimbledon's hottest opening day

LONDON: Carlos Alcaraz survived a major scare in his Wimbledon opener on Monday while Aryna Sabalenka kept her cool to progress on the hottest opening day in the tournament's history. Temperatures at the All England Club on Monday topped 32 degrees Celsius (89.6 Fahrenheit), surpassing the previous record for the start of the tournament of 29.3 Celsius set in 2001. Alcaraz dug dip for a 7-5, 6-7 (5/7), 7-5, 2-6, 6-1 win over 38-year-old Fabio Fognini in a grueling clash lasting four hours and 37 minutes on Centre Court. It was first time since Roger Federer narrowly beat Alejandro Falla in 2010 that a defending champion had been taken to a fifth set in the Wimbledon first round.

Alcaraz shrugged off an inconsistent display including 62 unforced errors as the world number two refused to wilt in the heat. "I don't know why it is probably Fabio's last Wimbledon because the level he has shown shows he can still play for three or four more years," said the Spaniard. "Playing on Centre Court for the first match of any tournament is never easy. Wimbledon is special and different. I just tried to play my best but I would say that I could play better." During the match the 22-year-old rushed to help a spectator who had collapsed in the stands, handing over a bottle of water as medics came to the woman's aid. Alcaraz, who has never lost

in a Grand Slam first round in 18 appearances, faces British qualifier Oliver Tarvet in the second round. The five-time Grand Slam champion is bidding to become the fifth man in the Open Era to win at least three consecutive Wimbledon titles after Bjorn Borg, Pete Sampras, Roger Federer and seven-time champion Novak Djokovic. With players and fans searching for shade from the London heatwave, former England captain David Beckham watched the action from the royal box, alongside ex-England manager Gareth Southgate. Top women's seed Sabalenka used ice packs to beat the heat during her 6-1, 7-5 victory over Canadian qualifier Carson Branstine on Court One. – Agencies

Pak defeat Maldives to reach semifinal of Asian Youth Girls Netball C'ship

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan secured their place in the semifinal stage of the Asian Youth Girls Netball Championship 2025 after defeating Maldives 49-39 in their fifth and final group match at the Jeonju Hwasan Gymnasium, Jeonju-si, South Korea on Tuesday. According to information made available here by PNF. In a tightly contested match, Pakistan came from behind to seal the victory with strong performances from Leya Raza Shah, Alisha Naveed, Sumayya Kouser, Haleema, Jasmine Farooq, and Farah Rasheed. The match progressed with the following quarter-wise results: 1st Quarter: Pakistan 14 – Maldives 12, 2nd Quarter: Pakistan 24 – Maldives 26. – APP

Man City, Inter Milan crash out of Club World Cup in last 16

ORLANDO: Manchester City crashed out of the Club World Cup with a 4-3 defeat in extra-time by Saudi Arabian side Al Hilal on Monday in the last 16, hours after Inter Milan were eliminated by Fluminense on a day of shock results. Champions League runners-up Inter were dumped out 2-0 by the Brazilian side in Charlotte and Pep Guardiola's City joined them after Marcos Leonardo's brace left the Premier League giants on the wrong end of a seven-goal thriller. Al Hilal, who recorded one of the greatest results in Middle Eastern football history, will face Fluminense in Orlando on Friday in the quarter-finals. City were the only side to win all three group matches, including a thrashing of Juventus, but came undone in Florida against an Al Hilal side filled with players who once starred for European teams. Guardiola's team were the defending champions, having won the trophy in 2024 in its previous format, but were matched blow-for-blow by Al Hilal at the Camping World Stadium. Former Inter coach Simone Inzaghi's side showed their quality in the group stage as they held Spanish giants Real Madrid to a draw, but few expected they could derail City's charge towards the trophy. "We knew that it was a difficult game against one of the best teams in the world – we wanted to show our ideas, our talents, our power," Al Hilal's Kalidou Koulibaly told DAZN. Bernardo Silva turned home from close range to put City ahead after nine minutes on a muggy night on the east coast, but Leonardo levelled early in the second half. Former Barcelona winger Malcom fired the Saudi side ahead after Joao Cancelo threaded him through on goal. – APP

Over 14 million people could die...

FROM PAGE 01
advisor – and world's richest man – Elon Musk boasted of having put the agency "through the woodchipper". The funding cuts "risk abruptly halting – and even reversing – two decades of progress in health among vulnerable populations", warned study co-author Davide Kasella, a researcher at the Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal). "For many low- and middle-income countries, the resulting shock would be comparable in scale to a global pandemic or a major armed conflict," he said in a statement. Looking back over data from 133 nations, the international team of researchers estimated that USAID funding had prevented 91.8 million deaths in developing countries between 2001 and 2021. That is more than the estimated number of deaths during World War II, history's deadliest conflict.

Fluminense stun Inter Milan to reach Club World Cup quarters

CHARLOTTE: Fluminense sent Inter Milan packing from the Club World Cup on Monday with a 2-0 win in Charlotte that took the Brazilian side through to the quarter-finals. German Cano's header from close range gave Fluminense an early lead in their last-16 tie and they then withstood an onslaught from the Italian side in the second half before substitute Hercules sealed their victory late on. The Rio de Janeiro outfit, who qualified for the Club World Cup thanks to their Copa Libertadores triumph in 2023, become the second Brazilian side to make the last eight after Palmeiras had already sealed their quarter-final spot. Captained by 40-year-old former Paris Saint-Germain and Chelsea centre-back Thiago Silva, 'Flu' will now go to Orlando for a tie on Friday against either Manchester City or Al-Hilal.

"We knew they were not going to be easy opponents. Less than a month ago they were playing the Champions League final, but we played really well," Silva told broadcaster DAZN. It is the latest victory for a Brazilian team against prestigious European opposition at the tournament in the United States, after Botafogo defeated PSG and Flamengo got the better of Chelsea in the group stage. "This is a very important victory for our fans, for all of Brazil, for my country, for South America," said Jhon Arias, the lively Colombian winger who was named man of the match. "We are not only representing Fluminense but a whole continent and we are really pleased with what we are doing in this World Cup."

Inter came to the US off the back of their 5-0 defeat by PSG in the UEFA Champions League final at the end of May and with a new coach in Cristian Chivu. They did not fully convince during the group stage despite topping their section and they found themselves trailing inside three minutes before only just over 20,000 fans at the Bank of America Stadium on another hot afternoon.

A cross from the Fluminense right by Arias took a deflection off Inter defender Alessandro Bastoni and the ball then bounced awkwardly before veteran Argentine striker Cano arrived to head in through the legs of goalkeeper Yann Sommer from close range. Ignacio thought he had made it 2-0 before the interval, only for his effort to be ruled out for offside. Sommer then tipped a fine curling strike by Arias around the post just after the hour mark, before Inter began to turn up the pressure in an attempt to avoid exiting the competition. Stefan de Vrij prodded wide from close range after captain Lautaro Martinez had headed down a cross, and the latter then saw a fine shot on the turn from the edge of the box come back off an upright. Martinez had also been denied by Fluminense goalkeeper Fabio moments earlier, and confirmation that it would not be Inter's day arrived in stoppage time. – APP

Bonmati illness adds to questions around Spain Euros bid

BARCELONA: Spain are the favourites to win the women's European Championship this summer but star player Aitana Bonmati's illness ahead of the tournament raises another question mark around a side which, despite their obvious quality, are not unstoppable. Having claimed the last two Ballon d'Or awards, Barcelona midfielder Bonmati is the game's biggest star at present, so her absence in the final days before the start of Euro 2025 is a major setback. The 27-year-old came down with a fever in training last week and was subsequently hospitalised and diagnosed with viral meningitis. Bonmati was discharged on Sunday and joined up with the squad on Monday but is unlikely to be ready to feature in Spain's first game, against Portugal on July 3. "She is so important for us and we will wait for her, whatever happens, until the end," said Spain coach Montse Tome. It brings to mind Alexia Putellas' severe knee injury just before Euro 2022, where Spain lost against eventual winners England in the quarter-finals, although Bonmati could yet play a key role for La Roja in Switzerland. Two-time Ballon d'Or winner Putellas has never quite been the same since, although she insists the injury actually helped her. "I am a better Alexia now," she told reporters last week. "I know myself much better now. I know what my qualities are and also what I have to work on. At the end of the day, I believe all suffering helps you evolve as a person and as an athlete. "I know how to manage tough moments better now and how to enjoy the good ones as well." With Patri Guijarro

– who sat out Spain's 2023 World Cup triumph in protest as part of a long-running feud between several players and the Spanish football federation – at the base of midfield and Putellas and Bonmati ahead of her, the central trio are a pillar of strength for the team. With Barcelona this season they triumphed in Liga F and the Copa de la Reina, but were generally below their best and also fell to a shock defeat against Arsenal in the Champions League final. Renee Slegers' team gave Spain's opposition this summer the blueprint to shutting down the trio, but whether any of them can manage it is another matter entirely. "They are the conductors, the engine," explained Arsenal's Dutch coach, who flooded the midfield to stop Bonmati, Putellas and Guijarro from finding their rhythm. Arsenal also recreated the movements of the trio in training and worked on how to frustrate them. After the recent disappointment of the Champions League final and her untimely injury in 2022, Putellas is determined to right those wrongs. "I won't lie to you, I've had this tournament on my mind after getting injured the day before the last Euros," Putellas said. "I'm really looking forward to it. I have been preparing for this moment for a long time, but above all I want to enjoy it and compete to win every game." In a friendly against Japan, Barca youngster Vicky Lopez, 18, took Bonmati's place and scored in a 3-1 victory. Spain dominated the ball and the game but still conceded, something of a recurring theme for them in recent months and another question mark for Tome to answer. Lopez's display, however, offered a potential solution to Bonmati's short-term absence. – Agencies

12th Meeting of the CDA Board

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The 12th meeting of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) Board was held at CDA Headquarters, Islamabad, under the chairmanship of Chairman CDA, Chief Commissioner Islamabad and DG Civil Defense, Muhammad Ali Randhawa. The meeting was attended by CDA Board members, the Deputy Commissioner of Islamabad and other senior officers of CDA. Several agenda items were discussed during the 12th CDA Board meeting, the details of which are as follows: The Board reviewed the current transfer fees, registration fees and stamp duties on urban properties within CDA's jurisdiction, rural properties in the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), housing societies and other real estate assets. It was decided that appropriate recommendations should be made after due diligence in accordance with law. The Board decided to seek guidance from the Establishment Division and Cabinet Division regarding the adjustment of maintenance staff of PWD to CDA, so that future course of action regarding PWD maintenance staff will be considered as per law. The Board approved a comprehensive feasibility plan to operationalize the Gandhara Heritage and Cultural Center



in F-9 Park at the earliest. Chairman CDA stated that the revenue generated from this project would be utilized for the welfare of Islamabad's citizens, this providing them with better facilities as well as for the city's development and beautification. In order to implement the decision of the Honourable Islamabad High Court, the Board approved the issuance of an NOC for Plot No. 676D-12/2, as per Writ Petition No. 2214/2022 titled "Hus-

san Bano vs. FGEHA, etc." The Board also approved the request for return of the money deposited in lieu of plot allotted to Motamar Al-Alam Al-Islami some years ago. It is worth mentioning that the amount to be refunded to Motamar Al-Alam Al-Islami is less than the current value of plot. Additionally, the Board approved the allocation of an alternative plot in lieu of Plot No. 39, I-10/3,

Islamabad, in compliance with the Islamabad High Court's decision. Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa said that the top priority of CDA is development, prosperity and beautification of Islamabad in order to transform it into a model capital of the world. Therefore all resources are being utilised to meet the residential, transportation, and recreational needs of the public at their doorstep.

Briefs

UAE reaffirms
Abu Dhabi's
support for
IAEA

LONDON: Sheikh Abdul-lah bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, minister of foreign affairs, discussed cooperation between the UAE and the International Atomic Energy Agency during a call on Tuesday with IAEA Director-General Rafael Grossi. The Emirati minister discussed the regional situation with the IAEA chief and exchanged views on current developments in the Middle East, according to the Emirates News Agency. Sheikh Abdullah highlighted the UAE's support for the IAEA's role in promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy for sustainable development, in line with international safety and non-proliferation standards. The UAE values its partnership with the IAEA, he said, which has been essential in advancing Abu Dhabi's peaceful nuclear program to provide clean electricity while upholding international standards for safety, security and non-proliferation.—APP

Israeli army
kills two in
West Bank

RAMALLAH: The Palestinian health ministry said Tuesday that the Israeli army killed two people including a 15-year-old boy in separate incidents in the occupied West Bank. "At dawn today, Tuesday, 15-year-old child Amjad Nasar Abu Awad was martyred by Israeli gunfire in the city of Ramallah," the ministry said in a statement. "Also at dawn today, 24-year-old young man Samer Bassam Zagharneh was martyred by Israeli gunfire near the town of Dhahiriya" in the southern West Bank, the ministry added. The Israeli military told AFP it was "looking into" the two reported incidents. Around 20 people, mostly young boys and teenagers, had gathered at a Ramallah hospital to mourn Abu Awad, an AFP journalist at the scene reported. In tears, the boys touched Abu Awad's face in the white light of the hospital morgue. Two Palestinian teenagers, aged 13 and 15, were killed last week in the West Bank towns of Al-Yamoun and Kafr Malik respectively. Israel has occupied the West Bank since 1967.—APP

Turkiye
detains 120
opposition
officials
including
former mayor

ANKARA: Turkish authorities on Tuesday detained a former mayor and dozens of municipality officials in the western city of Izmir over alleged corruption, extending a crackdown against the country's main opposition party. Police detained 120 officials from the opposition Republican People's Party, or CHP, including former Izmir Mayor Tunc Soyer and the party's provincial leader Senol Aslanoglu, state-run Anadolu Agency said. In total, the Izmir Public Prosecutor's Office issued arrest warrants against 157 officials as part of an investigation into alleged rigging of municipality tenders and fraud, it added. Officials from CHP-controlled municipalities in Istanbul and elsewhere have faced waves of arrests this year, including Istanbul's Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu who was arrested in March over allegations of corruption. His arrest triggered the largest street protests Turkiye has seen in more than a decade. Imamoglu is regarded as the main challenger to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's 22-year rule and was officially nominated as his party's presidential candidate following his imprisonment. Turkiye's next election is due in 2028 but could come sooner. Many people in Turkiye consider the cases to be politically driven, according to opinion polls. But Erdogan's government insists the courts are impartial and free from political involvement. The crackdown comes a year after the CHP made significant gains in local elections.—APP

Imminent Pak-India escalation
Call for strategic prudence,
economic security

The President of IRS, Ambassador Jauhar Saleem noted that India's adoption of a new offensive doctrine, combined with inspiration from US and Israeli pre-emptive strike models, signals a doctrinal shift. Ajit Doval's "offensive capability" statements and India's actions post-Pulwama indicate a deliberate effort to test thresholds and shape battlefield narratives

DNA

ISLAMABAD: "The 2025 crisis was a reminder that while full-scale war may be avoided due to nuclear deterrence, the threat of limited conflict persists under the stability-instability paradox," Dr. Adil Sultan, an expert on nuclear studies, remarked. A high-level roundtable recently held at the Institute of Regional Studies featured prominent national security and strategic experts. The experts discussed growing concerns over the recurring confrontational pattern between Pakistan and

India. The dialogue emphasized the critical need for robust deterrence, regional diplomacy, and a calibrated response to emerging security threats. Dr. Adil Sultan critically examined the notion of a 'new normal' in India-Pakistan conflict dynamics, arguing that acknowledging such a concept would only legitimize future unilateral actions by India. He credited Pakistan's measured yet firm response in 2019 for preserving regional stability and reaffirmed that nuclear deterrence remains the cornerstone of peace

Major General (Retd.) Samraiz Salik observed that confrontations between the two nuclear-armed neighbors tend to follow a pattern of recurrence every 5–10 years, fueled by India's aggressive regional posture and 'perceived' strategic advantage. 'Pakistan's superior cyber capabilities and expanding diplomatic outreach have been a decisive factor in the recent Indo-Pakistan escalation' noted Major General Samraiz Salik. He warned that disruptions within Pakistan, particularly attempts to derail the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), often coincide

with these escalations. The President of IRS, Ambassador Jauhar Saleem noted that India's adoption of a new offensive doctrine, combined with inspiration from US and Israeli pre-emptive strike models, signals a doctrinal shift. Ajit Doval's "offensive capability" statements and India's actions post-Pulwama indicate a deliberate effort to test thresholds and shape battlefield narratives. Dr. Zia Ul Haque Shamsi highlighted the ideological transformation within India, characterizing the Modi administration's policies as shifting the

country from a secular republic to an extremist Hindu state. He cautioned that such transformations not only polarize India internally but also contribute to erratic and irresponsible behavior on the regional stage. "India's belligerence, masked by its projected role as a counterweight to China, has gained it unchecked Western support—both diplomatically and militarily," he stated. Referring to past confrontations in 1999, 2005, 2008, 2016, and 2019, Dr. Shamsi pointed out that the current trajectory is dangerously similar,

underlining that peace hinges on the success of either diplomacy or deterrence. When both fail, conflict becomes inevitable. The roundtable concluded with a unanimous call for sustained bilateral dialogue between Pakistan and India. Drawing parallels with Cold War diplomacy, the participants stressed that continuous engagement is indispensable for de-escalation and long-term conflict resolution. However, experts highlighted pertinence of economic security for the country to counter any impending challenge.

CEO DRAP visits RCCI to strengthen
pharmaceutical industry collaboration

RAWALPINDI: Dr. Obaidullah, Chief Executive Officer of the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP), paid an official visit to the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) to discuss avenues for deepening collaboration with the pharmaceutical industry. Dr. Obaidullah was warmly received by RCCI President Usman Shaukat, Group Leader Sohail Altaf, Senior Vice President Khalid Farooq Qazi, Vice President Fahad Barlas, former presidents, executive committee members, and a significant number of stakeholders from the pharmaceutical sector. During the meeting, President Usman Shaukat emphasized RCCI's commitment to promoting export-led economic growth, highlighting the pharmaceutical sector as a key pillar for regional development. He called for stronger regulatory support to enhance the industry's global competitiveness. Dr. Obaidullah reaffirmed DRAP's commitment to building a modern and efficient regulatory environment. "We must move beyond a stagnant mindset and make our domestic regulatory environment more conducive to growth," he stated. He also reiterated that DRAP is undergoing a major transformation to align with the Prime Minister's vision of regulatory reform and ease of doing business. Key updates shared by Dr. Obaidullah include: 50% completion of DRAP's digital transformation, Automation of medical device licensing expected by July 20 and Import/export processing time reduced from 10 days to just 3 days. He also spoke about DRAP's ongoing Medical Devices Roadshow, aimed at enhancing regional competitiveness, lowering business costs, and building industry capacity. Furthermore, he announced that DRAP is actively pursuing international accreditation, including alignment with World Health Organization (WHO) standards. As part of the visit, an orientation session on DRAP's Medical Devices Online Software Application was held. This session aims to streamline the registration process and reinforce regulatory compliance. Dr. Fakhruddin Aamir, Director MEMC in coordination with Ata ur Rehman, Director MIS, DRAP conducted detailed presentation. This high-level engagement underscores the shared vision of DRAP and RCCI to drive innovation, facilitate exports, and strengthen Pakistan's pharmaceutical and medical devices sectors.—DNA

Man, 92, jailed
in UK for 1967
murder and rape

LONDON: A 92-year-old man was on Tuesday told he would die in prison after he was jailed for a 1967 rape and murder, in what is thought to be the UK's oldest solved cold case. Ryland Headley, who was convicted of raping and killing 75-year-old Louisa Dunne after breaking into her house nearly 60 years ago, was sentenced to life with a minimum term of 20 years. After passing sentence at Bristol Crown Court in southwest England, judge Derek Sweeting told Headley: "You will never be released, you will die in prison." He said that Headley, who was 34 at the time of the crime, had "violated the sanctity and safety of Mrs. Dunne's home where she had every right to feel secure. "She must have experienced considerable pain and fear before her death." The judge mentioned Headley's previous convictions for breaking into the homes of two elderly widows in 1977 and raping them. He was initially sentenced to life in jail for those convictions, which was later reduced to seven years on appeal. They showed "chilling pattern of behavior," the judge added. Police reopened Dunne's case in 2023 and matched DNA from the victim's skirt and other items from the original probe to Headley. Doughty Street Chambers, the legal team representing Headley, said it was Britain's oldest cold case murder — an unsolved case for which new information emerges. During the initial investigation, police had found a left-hand palm print from Dunne's home, where she was found dead from strangulation.—APP

Poland to start controls
on borders with Germany,
Lithuania over migration

WARSAW: Poland will introduce temporary controls along borders with Germany and Lithuania on July 7, Prime Minister Donald Tusk said on Tuesday, echoing several other European Union countries in reimposing frontier checks to stem illegal migration. Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany itself have also brought back border controls, underlining a public backlash against undocumented migration that has strained the EU's Schengen passport-free travel zone. "We consider the temporary reintroduction of controls necessary to reduce the uncontrolled flows of migrants across the Polish-German border to a minimum," Tusk told a meeting of his cabinet. Tusk's liberal government has been accused by nationalist and far-right opposition parties of accepting numerous illegal migrants being sent back from Germany. The government had argued that the numbers were limited. Debate over migration in Poland has turned increasingly heated in recent weeks, with far-right activists starting to organize patrols along the border with Germany. Germany said in February that it was extending its own temporary border controls for six months. Tusk, who has previously called on Berlin to do more to help its neighbors protect the EU's external border, criticized Germany's approach to migrants at its own frontier, saying it placed excessive pressure on Poland. "Poland's patient position after Germany formally introduced unilateral border controls is wearing out," Tusk said. He added that it had become difficult to determine whether migrants being sent from Germany to Poland should really be returned there under EU rules stating that migrants should apply for asylum in the first member state they enter. Chancellor Friedrich Merz said on Tuesday Germany wants to preserve the Schengen system, which allows passport-free movement, but this could only work if it was not abused by criminals who smuggle migrants. "We know that the Polish government also wants to impose border controls with Lithuania in order to limit illegal border crossings from Lithuania to Poland," Merz told a news conference. "So, we have a common problem here that we want to solve together." Knut Abraham, the German government's commissioner for Poland, was critical of the tilt toward border restrictions. "The solution cannot lie in pushing migrants back and forth between Poland and Germany or in cementing border controls on both sides," he was quoted by Die Welt newspaper as saying. Lithuanian Foreign Minister Kestutis Budrys told a news conference that the Polish government had informed him about its decision, BNS news agency reported.—APP

Bakhtawari hails Yasir appointment
as PM's Advisor on Tourism

When he was given a presentation on the National Tourism Policy, he called it the "best presentation" and noted that it offered practical solutions to the problems

DNA

ISLAMABAD : Secretary General of United Business Group (UBG ,FPCCI) Zafar Bakhtawari has said that Sardar Yasir Ilyas decision to join Pakistan Muslim League (N) is a wise one, and his appointment as the Prime Minister's Advisor on Tourism is a matter of pride for the business community. He expressed these views while congratulating Sardar Yasir Ilyas along with a delegation of business community members. Zafar Bakhtawari said it is encouraging that a former President of the Islamabad Chamber is climbing the ladder of success and now advancing to serve the nation at

the national level. He added that figures like Ishaq Dar and Mian Shahbaz Sharif have also been affiliated with the business community and have served as Presidents of the Lahore Chamber, which shows that business leaders can play a positive role in the national economy. Business leaders have grassroots-level experience and know very well how to bring investment into the country. As the CEO of a major project in the federal capital, no one knows better than Sardar Yasir Ilyas how to gain the confidence of foreign investors. He brought investment into Pakistan, faced many challenges, and successfully overcame them. Zafar Bakhtawari said that now a major national responsibility

rests on his shoulders, and it is the duty of all of us to fully support him for his success. His success is in fact the success of the entire business community. On this occasion, Sardar Yasir Ilyas said that people like Zafar Bakhtawari are those who unite others, whereas division only benefits outsiders. He said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is serious and sincere about improving every sector. When he was given a presentation on the National Tourism Policy, he called it the "best presentation" and noted that it offered practical solutions to the problems. He stated that countries earn billions of dollars from tourism, while Pakistan is blessed with all

four seasons, mountains, rivers, deserts, and other natural beauties. Our only weakness is the lack of infrastructure—for example, in the beautiful Kumrat Valley, there is not even a single road or hotel. His goal is to introduce a comprehensive National Tourism Policy to showcase Pakistan's true beauty to the world. He emphasized the need to promote medical tourism in Pakistan, as treatment abroad is extremely expensive, while countries like India earn billions from medical tourism. Pakistan is home to eight of the world's highest peaks, and we must turn "Brand Pakistan" into a global identity. He said tourism is a sector that alone can support the national economy.

His vision is to implement a National Tourism Plan in all provinces, which will bring prosperity. He stressed that the private sector will be taken along and that the world will be shown the many opportunities Pakistan has to offer. The Prime Minister wants to see Pakistan as developed as Europe and Dubai, and together we will make Vision 2030 a reality. The delegation also included ICCI Executive Members: Roohail Anwar Butt, Malik Abdul Aziz, Malik Mohsin Khalid, Umar Khayyam Abbasi, Zulqarnain Abbasi, Ishaq Sial, Chaudhry Nadeem, former ICCI Senior Vice President Khalid Chaudhry, Nisar Ahmed Mirza, Imtiaz Abbasi, Babar Chaudhry, and others.

Kunming
expo deepens
China- S. Asia
coop

BEIJING: The ninth China-South Asia Expo in Kunming, Yunnan province in southwest China, concluded on June 24 with over 150 business contracts worth more than 8.4 billion RMB signed. The expo received more than 500,000 visits, making it a landmark platform for deepening cooperation between China and South Asian countries.

According to official statistics released at a press conference on the last day, 31 investment cooperation projects were signed, totaling over 13.6 billion RMB — a year-on-year increase of 33 percent.

Guests from 73 countries, regions and international organizations attended the expo, and more than 2,500 enterprises took part in the exhibition, 942 of which were from overseas. This was a 20.9 percent increase over last time. Over 3,000 buyers from more than 30 countries and regions participated in the procurement, including from South Asian countries and members of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.

High-quality consumer goods such as carpets, furniture, cashmere products and black tea from Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka were very popular. More than 500 high-quality products from 66 domestic foreign trade enterprises were displayed in a newly established area.

For the first time, the forum set up a launch hall where over 40 enterprises debuted their new products. It covered AI, new materials, new energy vehicles and biomedicine, providing opportunities for both first-time and repeat customers.

The Tengchong Scientists Forum, which has been held three times in Tengchong in Yunnan, also made its debut at the expo.—APP

Construction
begins on
China-Laos
500-kV project

KUNMING: Construction on the Chinese section of the China-Laos 500-kV power interconnection project officially commenced on Monday. This is another major project in bilateral cooperation following the construction and operations of the China-Laos Railway.

The Chinese section of the new project consists of a 145-km, 500-kV transmission line stretching from the Dai Autonomous Prefecture of Xishuangbanna in Yunnan Province to Laos, as well as the expansion of a 500-kV transformer substation in the prefecture, according to the Yunnan Power Grid Co., Ltd., which is a subsidiary of the China Southern Power Grid Co., Ltd. (CSG). The project is a key initiative outlined in an action plan to build a China-Laos community with a shared future, with completion and the launch of operations scheduled for 2026. Once operational, the project is expected to enable a two-way mutual assistance power capacity of 1.5 million kW and to facilitate the transmission of approximately 3 billion kWh of clean electricity.—APP

Brest,
Kyrgyzstan's
Karakol
become sister
cities

BREST: Brest and Kyrgyzstan's Karakol have become sister cities. This decision was formalized at a ceremony on 1 July, BelTA learned from the Brest City Executive Committee.

A delegation led by Brest Mayor Sergei Lobodinsky is in Kyrgyzstan to take part in the celebration of Karakol City Day. During the visit, a sister-city agreement between Brest and Karakol was signed by Sergei Lobodinsky and Karakol Mayor Kanybek Adiev. The document formalized the cities' plans to build relations, mutually beneficial cooperation in economy, science, technology and culture and to strengthen friendship between the peoples of Belarus and Kyrgyzstan.

"Brest and Karakol, despite the distance, have a shared goal of promoting cultural exchange, mutual understanding and human contacts. Our cities have long-standing traditions and are proud of their kind-hearted people. We are confident that this partnership will act like a strong bridge between Belarus and Kyrgyzstan," said Sergei Lobodinsky.—APP

Briefs

PSX growth reflects policy continuity and investor's confidence

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Finance Minister Khuram Shahzad on Tuesday said that investor confidence is continuously growing, and the new fiscal year 2025-26 has started on a strong and positive note. Speaking to a private news channel, he welcomed the PSX's historic surge beyond 128,000 points and termed it a reflection of economic optimism and policy continuity. He highlighted that the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) has shown record performance. "Last fiscal year, PSX delivered a return of up to 60%, making it one of the best-performing markets globally," he said. He said that he is hopeful for further improvements in the coming months. Regarding tax policy, Shahzad emphasized that becoming a tax filer is now essential for every citizen. He added that the government's reform agenda is focused on compliance and broadening the tax base. He said that defaulters would receive three notices before legal action is initiated under the new policy mechanism. In response to a question about inflation and fuel prices, Shahzad said, "Gradual improvements are underway, but starting somewhere is essential. Even in countries like the UAE, petrol prices have increased." - APP

Water level sharply rises in Tarbela Dam

PESHAWAR: Due to continuous monsoon rains, the water level in Tarbela Dam has started to rise significantly. According to the Dam Spokesman on Tuesday, the water level has now reached 1,402 feet above the dead level. In response, the district administration has imposed Section 144 on water channels near Khanpur Dam to ensure public safety. The Haripur district authorities have begun strict monitoring of all nearby waterways, leading to multiple arrests for violations of the restrictions. The dam spokesman informed that Tarbela Dam is currently receiving an inflow of 294,000 cusecs of water, while the outflow is 150,000 cusecs. The spokesperson added that the dead level of the dam is 1,402 feet, while its maximum storage capacity is 1,550 feet. All 17 power generation units of the dam's powerhouse are operational and have a combined electricity production capacity of 4,888 megawatts. - APP

Pakistan assumes UNSC presidency for July

Reiterates commitment to UN Charter, multilateralism

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Tuesday assumed the Presidency of the United Nations Security Council for the month of July 2025, with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar reiterating the country's commitment to UN Charter, international law, and multilateralism during the tenure. "Our presidency comes at a time of escalating conflicts and humanitarian crises across the world. We will strive to steer the Security Council towards responsive and effective action grounded in dialogue, diplomacy and peaceful dispute resolution," DPM Dar wrote on X after Pakistan assumed the Presidency of the UNSC for July 2025, during its 8th term (2025-26) as an elected member of the 15-member UN body. "Pakistan takes on this responsibility with humility, conviction and profound commitment to the UN Charter, international law, and multilateralism," he said. The deputy prime minister said that during the month he would chair two high-level signature events on: Maintenance of International Peace and Security through Multilateralism & Peaceful Settlement of Disputes on July 22; and Cooperation Between the UN and the OIC on July 24. Moreover, he would also preside over the quarterly open debate on Palestine on July 23. The deputy prime minister said that Pakistan looked forward to working with all UN members to pursue inclusive, balanced, and action-oriented outcomes.

Meanwhile, Foreign Office spokesperson Shafqat Ali Khan, in a statement, said that Pakistan's approach during the presidency would continue to remain anchored in the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, respect for international law, and a steadfast commitment to multilateralism. "As a country that has consistently advocated dialogue and diplomacy, Pakistan brings to the Security Council an objective, principled and balanced perspective shaped by its foreign policy, past experience at the Council and its long-standing contributions to the maintenance of international peace and security including through UN peace-keeping and peace-building efforts." He said that in preparing the Council's Programme of Work for July, Pakistan had pursued a transparent, balanced and consultative approach. We are mindful of the multiple, interlocking challenges to international peace and security across the Middle East, South Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America and other regions. The immense human cost of these crises demands a Security Council that is responsive, credible and effective, he added. During its Presidency, the spokesperson said that Pakistan would promote substantive and action-oriented deliberations while ensuring inclusive engagement and fostering constructive dialogue across all agenda items. "Pakistan remains committed to serving as a bridge between the Security Council and the broader UN membership, guided by the belief that maintenance of international peace and security is a shared responsibility," the spokesperson reiterated.

Speakers call for enhanced relations with Somalia

ISSI hosts event to celebrate the National Day of Somalia; Mushahid attends as the chief guest



ISLAMABAD: Chief Guest Mushahid Hussain, Dean of the African Group Mohamed Karmoune Ambassador of Morocco, Additional Foreign Secretary Hamid Asghar Khan and others posing for a picture on the occasion of the Somali national day celebrations. - DNA

Govt set new price of Petrol

ISLAMABAD: The government has set the new price of petrol at Rs 272.98 and high-speed diesel at Rs 266.79 and these Petroleum products prices will be implemented from July 1st, 2025. The price of high-speed diesel has been increased by Rs 10.39 and the price of MS (Petrol) by Rs 8.36, according to release issued by the Ministry of Finance and Revenue here on Tuesday. The government has decided to revise the price of petroleum products for the fortnight starting from July 1st, 2025, based on the recommendation of OGRA and the relevant Ministries. - DNA

PM Shehbaz, DPM Dar express solidarity with Turkiye

"Pakistan stands in full solidarity with our brave and resilient Turkish brothers and sisters, and remains ready to offer any assistance needed in this hour of need," he added

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar on Tuesday expressed deep sorrow and offered support to Turkiye as wildfires rage Izmir province. Both the prime minister and deputy prime minister took to X to convey their solidarity with the Turkish people during this challenging time. "Deeply saddened by the devastating wildfires spreading across Izmir province. I extend my heartfelt sympathies to my dear brother President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and the people of Turkiye during this difficult time," Prime Minister Shehbaz wrote. He further prayed for the swift containment of the fires with minimal loss to lives and property, assuring Pakistan's readiness to provide assistance. "Pakistan stands in full solidarity with our brave and resilient Turkish brothers and sisters, and remains ready to offer any assistance needed in this hour of need," he added. Deputy Prime Minister Dar said that he was "deeply concerned" by the disturbing news of the wildfire in Izmir, Turkiye, which had disrupted flight operations and affected the lives of thousands of people. He expressed hope the fire would be brought under control sooner without any more damage. "Pakistan stands in solidarity with our Turkish brothers and sisters and remains ready to extend any support needed during this challenging time," Dar assured. - DNA

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East & Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), in collaboration with Pakistan Africa Institute for Development and Research (PAIDAR), organized an event to celebrate Somalia's Independence Day. The proceedings, which began with the national anthems of Pakistan and Somalia, were moderated by Ms. Amina Khan, Director CAMEA. Speakers included Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General ISSI; Mr. Yasin Mire Mohamud, Deputy Head of Mission of Somalia to Pakistan; Mr. Shahid Ali Seehar, Ambassador of Pakistan to Djibouti (accredited to Somalia); and Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BOG ISSI. The Chief Guest on the occasion was Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, President PAIDAR, and the Keynote Speaker was Ambassador Hamid Asghar Khan, Additional Secretary (Africa), Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed praised the "blood-cemented solidarity" between Pakistan and Somalia, recalling Pakistan's peacekeepers martyred in Mogadishu and military aid during the 1978 Ogaden conflict as proof that "Islamabad has always stood by Mogadishu in its hour of need." He urged the Foreign Office to reopen Pakistan's embassy in Mogadishu and pledged to lead a think tank delegation there. With both Pakistan and Somalia on the UN Security Council, he called for deeper cooperation in security, trade, and education, noting Pakistan hosts the largest cohort of Somali students worldwide. "Together we will build a better tomorrow," he concluded. Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General ISSI, recalled the historic significance of July 1, 1960, when the

union of British and Italian Somaliland gave birth to the Somali Republic, a landmark in Africa's decolonisation and a symbol of the Somali people's aspirations for freedom, dignity and sovereignty. Ambassador Sohail noted the longstanding Pakistan-Somalia ties rooted in mutual respect, shared faith, and people-to-people links, recalling that Pakistan was among the first to recognise Somalia's independence. He also highlighted the invaluable services rendered by Pakistani peacekeepers in Somalia as part of Pakistan's commitment to international peace and security, as well as Somalia's security and stability. Ambassador Sohail Mahmood further highlighted strong educational ties, with a number of Somali students studying in Pakistan and now contributing significantly to efforts for national development in their homeland. Stressing the importance of trade and economic ties, he underscored the need to enhance the interface between business communities and chambers of commerce. He also noted shared positions at forums like the UN and OIC and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to deepen collaboration with Somalia under the 'Engage Africa' policy. Given Somalia's strategic location, he said it plays a key role in regional peace and maritime security. He expressed ISSI's readiness to expand academic and policy collaboration with Somali institutions and appreciated the support of the Africa Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and PAIDAR. Ambassador Hamid Asghar emphasized Africa's vast untapped potential in trade, investment, and cooperation, urging Pakistan to deepen its engagement with the continent. He highlighted Somalia's strategic location and stressed that peace and governance are key to its progress. Citing Pakistan's

support through NADRA's ID project and peacekeeping efforts, he called for a Preferential Trade Agreement and joint ventures in sectors like pharmaceuticals, ports, and agriculture. He also appreciated the vibrant Somali community in Pakistan and proposed expanding scholarships and cooperation rooted in shared values and faith. Ms. Amina Khan, Director CAMEA, marked Somalia's Independence Day as a tribute to the resilience and pride of its people. She reaffirmed Africa's central place in Pakistan's 'Engage Africa' policy and CAMEA's commitment to deepening ties with Somalia. Highlighting Pakistan's historic support and shared positions at multilateral forums, she also acknowledged the vibrant Somali diaspora in Pakistan. She called for greater collaboration in trade, investment, training, and institutional development based on mutual respect and shared goals. Mr. Yasin Mire Mohamud, Deputy Head of Mission of Somalia to Pakistan, described the occasion as a tribute to Somalia's progress, built on the sacrifices of its forefathers. He highlighted recent advancements in governance, infrastructure, education, and healthcare, as well as growing business and investment. He called the joint election of Somalia and Pakistan to the UN Security Council a shared milestone. Expressing gratitude, he recalled Pakistan's vital support during Somalia's civil war and its role in peacekeeping and diplomacy, including backing the lifting of the arms embargo in 2023. He affirmed Somalia's resolve to build a secure and prosperous future. Ambassador Shahid Ali Seehar extended warm greetings to the Somali nation and highlighted the historic and growing ties since Somalia's independence in 1960.

American woman embraces Islam

DIR LOWER: An American woman who had come to Pakistan to marry his Facebook friend in Ushera Darra here, has embraced Islam and married Sajid Khan, son of Anwar Zaib, a resident of Sadiqa Banda in the jurisdiction of the Gandigar Police Station. The woman, originally from the U.S. state of Chicago, traveled to Pakistan to marry Sajid Khan, a young man from the Upper Dir district. Their relationship began through Facebook, and eventually led to marriage. After converting to Islam, the woman adopted the Islamic name Zulekha. She is currently in Pakistan on a 90-day visa and will remain in the country for the duration of her visa stay. Authorities have confirmed that further monitoring of the case is ongoing. - APP

Mild earthquake jolts Lahore

ISLAMABAD: A mild earthquake struck Lahore and several parts of Punjab early Tuesday, causing brief panic among residents. According to NSMC, Islamabad, the 4.4-magnitude quake had its epicenter located 25 kilometers south-southwest of Lahore at a depth of 14 kilometers, reported a private news channel. Tremors were felt in Sheikhupura, Okara, Kasur, and other nearby cities. Many citizens rushed outdoors fearing possible aftershocks, though the tremors lasted only a few seconds. The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) confirmed the seismic activity. No casualties or damage were reported, while rescue and emergency services remained on high alert as a precautionary measure. - APP

2 suspected terrorists killed in Bannu

ISLAMABAD: Two suspected terrorists were killed in a joint operation by police and CTD in the Domel area of Bannu district on Tuesday. According to police sources, the operation was launched based on intelligence inputs, reported a private news channel. The suspects were allegedly involved in attacks on law enforcement and IED blasts. Security forces recovered two AK-47 rifles, four hand grenades, six magazines, 150 bullets, and two mobile phones from the possession of the deceased militants. - APP

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Offer is valid from 26 June - 25 July, 2025

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