



# Islamabad POST

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**India trying to offset its defeat, says Field Marshal Asim**

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## Briefs

**PM orders revamp of National Tariff Commission**

NTC Appellate Tribunal to be activated; third-party review also ordered

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday directed the relevant authorities to carry out an urgent restructuring of the National Tariff Commission's legal, administrative, and other institutional powers and responsibilities to enhance its effectiveness. The prime minister, chairing a review meeting on the performance of the National Tariff Commission, instructed for third-party review of the NTC's recent performance and remodelling the organisation on modern lines to meet the requirements of the new tariff regime effectively. He said that the NTC should be cognisant of all ground realities related to domestic business, imports, exports, and markets. The automated and efficient research capabilities of the NTC can play a key role in resolving issues faced by domestic businesses, he added.

**Indian teachers arrested for stripping girls**

NEWS DESK

NEW DELHI: The principal and attendant of a school in India were arrested, while four teachers and two trustees were taken into custody for allegedly stripping around 10 girls to check if they were menstruating. In a statement released on Wednesday, police said that school staff informed the teachers and principal of bloodstains in the toilets. To find who was responsible, girls of classes 5-10 were called into the convention hall, where they were shown photos of bloodstains in the toilet and on the tiles. The students were then asked to reveal who was on their periods. The teachers took down details, including thumb impressions, of the girls who raised their hands, and took the rest of the girls to washrooms where they were stripped and checked by attendants, the statement added.

**Road accident kills five in DI Khan**

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: At least five people were killed in a collision between a car and a truck on Chashma Road in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Dera Ismail Khan district on Thursday morning, Rescue 1122 said. Rescue 1122 Spokesperson for DI Khan Aizaz Mehmood told Dawn.com, "The collision took place near the Jholy Hotel within the limits of the Khari Khaisoor police station. "A family was heading towards DI Khan when their car collided with a truck that was on its way to Punjab." He said the Rescue 1122 team had "reached the scene soon after the incident, where it found all five people in the car dead". "The bodies have been taken to the Paharpur Tehsil Headquarters Hospital, while the heirs of the deceased are being contacted to claim the bodies," Mehmood said.

**Zardari not resigning**

## Army Chief not eyeing Presidency

**Mohsin Naqvi says those behind this narrative are collaborating with "hostile foreign agencies"**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Thursday categorically rebuked speculations related to President Asif Ali Zardari's resignation and that the army chief "aspiring to assume the presidency". "We are fully aware of who is behind the malicious campaign targeting President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and the Chief of Army Staff," Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said in a statement on his X handle on Thursday. "I have categorically stated that there has been no discussion, nor does any such idea exist, about the President being asked to resign or the COAS aspiring to assume the presidency," he added. Naqvi said President Zardari enjoys a strong and respectful relationship with the leadership of the armed forces. He quoted the president as saying: "I know who is spreading these falsehoods, why they are doing so, and who stands to benefit from this propaganda". "To those involved in this narrative, do whatever you wish in collaboration with hostile foreign agencies. As for us, we will do whatever is necessary to make Pakistan stronger again, InshAllah," the minister

added, stressing that the sole focus of the COAS was on the strength and stability of Pakistan and nothing else.

The security czar's clarification comes amid rumours which began circulating after the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) obtained a simple majority in the National Assembly after the reinstatement of reserved seats by the Election Commission of Pakistan following the top court's Constitutional Bench verdict.

It also handed the ruling alliance a two-thirds majority in the lower house, as its strength rose from 218 to 235 members. Earlier, Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Secretary General Nayyar Hussain Bukhari had also rebuked such speculations while noting that the federal government could not function without the party's support. The ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has also echoed this stance with Senator Irfan Siddiqui firmly denying reports suggesting any proposal to replace the president. "No such suggestion is under consideration at any level," Senator Siddiqui said while speaking on a private television channel. Stressing that President Zardari was playing his constitutional

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**Corps Commanders conference held**

## India trying to offset its defeat, says COAS

**The COAS shared details of Pakistan's proactive and successful diplomatic manoeuvre, including recent visits to Iran, Türkiye, Azerbaijan, KSA and UAE**

CENTRELINE REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), chaired the 271st Corps Commanders' Conference (CCC) at the General Headquarters (GHQ). Forum offered Fateha for the martyrs of recent terrorist attacks by Indian sponsored proxies. Taking stock of recent successes against terrorist proxies, Forum resolved that blood of our Shuhada will not go waste and the safety and security of people of Pakistan remain top most priority for the Armed Forces of Pakistan. Forum strongly asserted that it is imperative to take decisive and holistic actions at all levels against the Indian backed and sponsored proxies. Following its manifest defeat in direct aggression against Pakistan, post Pahalgam incident, India is now doubling down to further its nefarious agenda through its proxies of Fitna Al Khawarij and Fitna Al Hindustan. The COAS shared details of Pakistan's proactive and successful diplomatic manoeuvre, including recent visits to Iran, Türkiye,

Azerbaijan, KSA and UAE, where the COAS accompanied the honorable Prime Minister. Forum was also briefed on the historic and unique visit of the COAS to US, where meetings with top-tier leadership, afforded an opportunity to share, first hand, Pakistan's objective perspective on bilateral, regional and extra-regional developments. The Forum conducted a holistic review of the prevailing internal and external security dynamics, with particular emphasis on the recent developments in Middle East and Iran and growing propensity for 'use of force' as a preferred policy tool, which warrants persistent development of self-reliant capabilities as well as national unity and resolve.

Taking note of Indian Army's baseless insinuations to offset its comprehensive defeat, COAS stated, "Invoking third parties in what is unmistakably a bilateral military confrontation reflects a disingenuous attempt at bloc politics aimed at falsely projecting India's self-assigned role as a

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ISLAMABAD: H.E. Sheikhha Asma Al Thani calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad. Ambassador of Qatar to Pakistan is also present on the occasion. – DNA

**Pakistan 'eyes \$1bn Roosevelt valuation plan**

Senior govt official says Islamabad will retain ownership in the project through equity partnership

CENTRELINE REPORT

NEW YORK: Pakistan is seeking a valuation of at least \$1 billion for the Roosevelt Hotel it owns in New York and is ready to part with a minority stake in the prime Manhattan property as it scouts for a redevelopment partner, a senior government official said. Named after former US president Theodore Roosevelt, the century-old property in midtown Manhattan is seen as one of Pakistan's most valuable foreign assets, which it acquired in 2000. Faced with mounting

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**Woman set on fire by in-laws in Capital**

CRIME REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: A woman in Islamabad succumbed to her burn injuries after she was allegedly tortured and set on fire by her husband and father-in-law last month, her lawyer said on Thursday. According to Advocate Munir Ahmed, the incident occurred on June 8 when the suspects poured petrol on the victim after having a fight. Speaking to reporters in Islamabad, he said: "Today, she passed away. Her husband and father-in-law are responsible for her death," urging that both suspects be charged with the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) and the death penalty.

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**Qatari mountaineer meets Shehbaz**

## Pak will continue to support Int'l mountaineers: PM

**During the meeting, the Prime Minister lauded Sheikhha Asma's remarkable courage, resilience, and determination in achieving this significant milestone**

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Meets Sheikhha Asma Al Thani, First Qatari Woman to Summit Nanga Parbat Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif welcomed Sheikhha Asma Al Thani, the pioneering Qatari mountaineer, in Islamabad today and congratulated her on becoming the first woman in Gulf and Qatar to successfully summit Nanga Parbat, the formidable "Killer Mountain" of Pakistan. During the meeting, the Prime Minister lauded Sheikhha Asma's remarkable courage, resilience, and determination in achieving this significant milestone. He commended her for being a source of inspiration for women and young girls across the world,

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**Ishaq Dar holds important meetings in Kuala Lumpur**

DNA

KUALA LUMPUR: Deputy Prime Minister/ Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, held a bilateral meeting with Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka, Hon. Vijitha Herath, on the sidelines of 32nd ASEAN Regional Forum Ministerial Meeting in Kuala Lumpur. The two Ministers expressed satisfaction over the robustness of Pakistan-Sri Lanka relations. They discussed bilateral

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## Jemima slams govt over threat to arrest Imran Khan's sons

**"This doesn't happen in a democracy or functioning state," says Khan's ex-wife, Jemima Goldsmith**



DNA

LONDON: Jemima Goldsmith has strongly criticised the Pakistani government for threatening to deny her sons any contact with their father, former prime minister Imran Khan, who remains in prison for nearly two years. 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

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**No objection to Imran's sons joining PTI's protest**

Siddiqui says PTI founder wants to bring his children into politics "but their presence will not cause any political upheaval"

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: The ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senator Irfan Siddiqui has downplayed the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)'s announcement that party's founding chairman Imran Khan's sons would join the anti-government movement in Pakistan. Speaking on Geo News' morning programme "Geo Pakistan," PML-N senator Irfan Siddiqui said no one would object to their [Imran's sons] return if they abide by legal boundaries.

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## NAB recovers Rs 455b amount from corrupt elements: Masood

KARACHI: The Additional Director National Accountability Bureau Sindh Masood Ahmed has claimed that the NAB has recovered Rs 455 billion cash amount from corrupt individuals while several serving officers involved in misuse of authority were arrested.

He expressed these views in the meeting of Hamdard Shura held here at Hamdard Corporate Head office the other day. He said NAB's internal accountability system is proactive as acting on complaints from citizens. He said Tax evasion has become a widespread practice that must be discouraged at all costs.

Hamdard Shura meeting was chaired by its Speaker Gen (R) Moinuddin Haider and also attended by president of Hamdard Foundation Pakistan Ms. Sadia Rashid (Hilal-e-Imtiaz).

Pakistan travel guide

The Additional Director NAB said that during the fiscal year 2023-24, NAB took major action and retrieved 2.29 million acres of land of the Sindh Forest Department that was under illegal occupation. The land is worth over Rs. 2 trillion. The occupying groups had severely damaged the forests on this land.—APP

## Vehicle emissions drive to curb air pollution

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Transport Authority (ITA), in collaboration with the Punjab Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), has launched a city-wide campaign to inspect and test vehicle emissions. The initiative aims to reduce carbon monoxide levels from vehicle smoke and ensure cleaner air across the capital. According to the spokesman of ICT administration, the campaign formally began with the inspection of ITA Chairman Irfan Memon's vehicle. After passing the test, a clearance sticker was issued and placed on the official car, setting the tone for the rest of the drive. According to officials, the campaign includes joint inspections by the Islamabad administration and EPA Punjab. Advanced emission testing equipment is being used to measure carbon monoxide levels in vehicle smoke, with a limit set at six percent.—APP

## WASA clears rainwater within hours after 8 hours rain

LAHORE :Lahore witnessed a historic rainfall of 136mm in a continuous eight-hour downpour, yet the city saw swift drainage efforts by WASA and relevant departments on the special directive of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

According to local government sources on Thursday, the chief minister closely monitored the drainage operations throughout the city, with field teams from WASA, PDMA, and district administration remaining actively engaged during the heavy rains. Within a few hours, major roads and underpasses — including Dharmapura, Ferozepur Road, Iqbal Town, Samanabad, Mughalpur, Beijing, and Shadman underpasses — were cleared of accumulated rainwater. Key areas like Model Town, FC College, Nishtar Town, Zahoor Elahi Road underpass, Girja Chowk, and Shalamar Link Road were also promptly reopened for traffic.—APP

# Pakistan, Egypt explore deeper agricultural coop

Speaking at the event, the minister declared the resolution of the cotton cess issue a historic breakthrough and reaffirmed that cotton remains the backbone of Pakistan's textile exports and rural livelihood

ISLAMABAD: Minister for National Food Security & Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain on Thursday emphasized Pakistan's keen interest in learning from Egypt's successful experiences to promote and develop agriculture sector in the country. Talking to Ambassador of Egypt to Pakistan, Dr Ihab Mohamed Abdelhamid Hassan, the minister called for enhanced collaboration in the areas of seed development, agricultural science, drip irrigation, capacity building, and climate-smart technologies. The meeting focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation in agriculture, food security, and climate-resilient farming systems, says a press release. Rana Tanveer praised Egypt's remarkable progress in the agricultural sector, especially in water resource management, arid-zone farming, and the adoption of modern technologies. Rana Tanveer Hussain also highlighted the challenges Pakistan faces in post-harvest losses, especially in wheat storage. He appreciated Egypt's successful efforts in improving wheat storage through better silo systems and logistics, and both countries agreed to share experiences and technical solutions to reduce such losses in Pakistan, which currently range between 20-30 percent. Reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to deepening the historical and brotherly ties with Egypt, Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain expressed hope that enhanced cooperation in agriculture and food security would yield tangible benefits for both nations. During the meeting, both sides discussed Egypt's effective strategies in dealing with water scarcity and acknowledged the country's notable advancements in drip and high-efficiency irrigation. The two countries



agreed to collaborate on transferring knowledge and best practices in this domain to support Pakistan's water-stressed regions. One of the major outcomes of the meeting was the mutual agreement to formalize cooperation between Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) and Egypt's Agricultural Research Centre (ARC), as well as the Egyptian International Centre for Agriculture (EICA). Pakistan travel guide A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the respective research institutions is expected to be signed soon to strengthen research exchange, training, and innovation in agriculture. In addition, the two sides reviewed the progress of an MoU in the livestock sector, which is in the final stages of approval. The

agreement will focus on key areas such as animal health, dairy development, halal meat production, and livestock genetics. Meanwhile, Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, led a landmark agreement between the Ministry of National Food Security & Research, the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA), and the Pakistan Central Cotton Committee (PCCC) to resolve the long-standing cotton cess issue and set a clear direction for the revival of Pakistan's cotton economy. The signing ceremony was held at the Ministry of National Food Security and Research. The ceremony marks a pivotal step in the government's broader efforts to restore cotton's central role in the national textile value chain, said a press

release issued here Thursday. Under the leadership of Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain, this agreement is a demonstration of the Ministry's commitment to institutional reform, public-private collaboration, and long-term agricultural sustainability. Speaking at the event, the minister declared the resolution of the cotton cess issue a historic breakthrough and reaffirmed that cotton remains the backbone of Pakistan's textile exports and rural livelihood. He underscored the need for a strategic revival of the cotton crop through modern research, seed reform, improved inputs, and strengthened regulatory institutions. Rana Tanveer Hussain emphasized that, under his stewardship, the Ministry has taken decisive measures to

support cotton research, facilitate seed import processes, and build stakeholder consensus. He stated that the government is focused on making the Pakistan Central Cotton Committee (PCCC) a progressive, research-driven institution that can spearhead innovation and productivity in cotton cultivation. The minister further highlighted his plans for continued engagement with the textile industry and growers, including a forthcoming visit to APTMA House in Lahore to advance dialogue and policy alignment. Concluding his address, Rana Tanveer Hussain stated that the revival of Pakistan's cotton sector is not just a matter of agricultural policy but a national economic imperative.—DNA

## CM Bugti paying special attention on improvement of education: Raheela

QUETTA: Balochistan Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani on Thursday said that Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti was paying special attention to improve quality of education as knowledge was key source of the progress of any nation. She said this while visiting various education institutions in district Pishin. Special Secretary Schools, Director Schools, Director Colleges and other officials accompanied her during visit. The Education Minister met with the teachers and students where they informed the Minister about their issues and other related education problems.

Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani assured them that she would take possible measures to address issues related to the education for betterment of education. She also directed to immediately activate non functional computer laboratories, science laboratories and libraries in the area. She stressed the students to focus their education because the education is the only way of the development saying that government is taking steps to provide all facilities to the students in educational insinuation to improve standard of education in the area. She said that it was responsibility of the teachers to play their role to educate the students in modern way with the aim to use their abilities for betterment of the country and the province in future. The Education Minister urged the teachers to ensure their attendance in the educational institutions saying that no compromise would be made on absence of teachers.—APP

# Chairman presides over 13th CDA board meeting



## DNA

ISLAMABAD: The 13th meeting of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) Board was held at CDA Headquarters, Islamabad, which was chaired by Chairman CDA and Chief Commissioner Islamabad, Muhammad Ali Randhawa. The meeting was attended by Member Administration & Estate Talat Mehmood, Member Finance Tahir Naem, Member Environment Esfandiyar Baloch, Member Planning Dr. Khalid Hafiz and Member Engineering Syed Nafasat

Raza, while Professor Dr. Muhammad Ali, Vice Chancellor of Punjab University, joined via Zoom link. Various agenda items were discussed in the 13th CDA Board meeting, the details of which are as follows:

In light of the Islamabad High Court's decision, the CDA Board approved conditional restoration of Plot No. 6, Blue Area, Sector G-8/F-8, Islamabad, till the final decision on CDA's appeal in the Supreme Court of Pakistan in this case.

The Board approved the restructuring of the CDA Security Directorate in order to further enhance its efficiency,

improve the monitoring system, as well as ensure internal accountability on merit. The 13th CDA Board meeting also decided to reorganize the Enforcement Directorate CDA in order to remove illegal encroachments and illegal constructions in Islamabad as well as sealing of unauthorised buildings thus contributing to making the city developed, clean, green and beautiful. The Board approved amendments to the existing criteria for the promotion of CDA's non-gazetted employees. A committee was formed to review and recommend the extension of employment

for project employees of CDA Hospital, examining all legal aspects before a final decision is made. A briefing was given on improving the operations of metro and air-conditioned electric buses. The Board decided to further enhance the efficiency of electric bus operations by introducing third-party evaluations, e-ticketing, and an AI-based integrated system for passengers. Chairman CDA and Chief Commissioner Islamabad, Muhammad Ali Randhawa, said that the development and prosperity of Islamabad are CDA's top priorities. While CDA is executing development projects across various sectors, it is also taking measures to address the housing needs of the citizens of Islamabad with best of its abilities. Additionally, efforts are also underway to improve the city's environment by planting eco-friendly trees and upgrading parks and grounds. Furthermore, CDA is utilizing its resources generated through different sources by CDA itself in order to fund development projects, ensuring Islamabad becomes a Model Capital.

# RCCI urges PM, DPM for addressing budget anomalies

## DNA

RAWALPINDI: A post-budget session was held at the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), where chamber officials and economic experts voiced serious concerns over the recently passed federal budget, terming it anti-business and flawed. Addressing the session, RCCI office-bearers and key speakers demanded the immediate removal of controversial clauses from the Finance Act 2025-26, stating that the budget was passed without addressing its major deficiencies. They warned that the situation has become critical, with growing talks of nationwide strikes within the business community. "This is our

SOS call to Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar," said acting RCCI President Khalid Farooq Qazi. "We urge them to take immediate notice and hold a meeting with the business community. The budget, in its current form, is anti-investment and poses a serious threat to local businesses and industries."

Former RCCI President and Vice Chairman of Think Tank Economy, Raja Amer Iqbal, Group Leader Sohail Altaf, Vice President Fahad Barlas, Executive Committee members, former RCCI presidents, FPCCI Vice President Tariq Jadoon, and representatives from trader associations including Shahid Ghafoor Pracha, Sharjeel Mir, and Sheikh Hafeez also participated in

the session. Economists and tax experts including Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Zubair (Former Chief Economist, Planning Commission), Shehzad Malik (President, ICMA International), Faraz Fazal (President, Rawalpindi-Islamabad Tax Bar Association), and Syed Tanzeer Bukhari (Advocate, Supreme Court of Pakistan) gave detailed presentations on Sales Tax, Income Tax, Federal and Provincial Levies, Federal Excise Duty, and Digital Payments. According to press release, Strong objections were raised against Sections 37-A, 37-B, and Section 21(S) of the Finance Act 2025-26, along with concerns regarding mandatory digital invoicing, e-bilty, and e-invoicing systems.

# Plan for provision of agri inputs

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has sought a plan for provision of agriculture inputs to wheat farmers on support price. She presided over a meeting on Thursday which discussed green tractor, model agriculture, tube-well solarization, agri educate, wheat programme, super seeder, citrus, pothohar and agri transformation. Formal approval of agriculture projects phase two had been given. The CM said that wheat growers would not be left alone and new project would be given before the crop cultivation. A proposal regarding advance subsidy to reduce input expenses on wheat was being considered. It was decided to give Rs 100 billion interest-free loan to farmers under Kisan card phase 2. Registration of 4,200 agricultural suppliers had been done for Kisan card phase 2. Two thousand agri interns would be trained in September besides starting field service in October. As many as 7,988 applications had been received under the CM solarization of agriculture tube-wells while 500 applications had been found fake in physical inspection. As many as 652 solarization of tube-wells had been completed while Punjab CM directed to complete solarization till September. Wheat farmers had received 700 free tractors under wheat support programme. Maryam Nawaz ordered for completing provision of 5,000 super seeders till October. Measures had been launched to manufacture agricultural machinery with support of China in Punjab. Twenty types of high-tech machinery would be provided to farmers as per the direction of Punjab CM. Formal approval of water courses lining project had been given for conserving water for farmers. —APP



ISLAMABAD: July 10- Federal Minister for Health, Syed Mustafa Kamal, posing for a group photograph along with participants during a ceremony on the eve of World Population Day, at a local hotel.

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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/Argentina 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

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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

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Motorway Police.9270601-20

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WASA Rawalpindi.5555489

CAA.....9281092

Hospitals

CMH.....5611111

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Cantt Hospital.....9270907-11

DHQ.....5556311-4

RGH.....9290301-7

Holy Family.....9290322-7

PIMS.....9261170-79

Polyclinic.....9218300-09

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Stable media vital for business growth and investment, Says Senator Sarmad Ali

FPCCI seeks media support against current taxation: Atif

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Senator Sarmad Ali, Chairman of the All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS), along with APNS Islamabad Chairman Faisal Zahid Malik, Khushnood Ali Khan, Ansar Mahmood Bhatti, and other executive members, met with Atif Ikram Sheikh, President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI). They congratulated Sheikh on his one-year extension as president. Also present were S.M Tanveer Patron in chief UB-G,FPCCI Vice President Tariq Jadon,Vice President Zaki Ijaz, Capital Office Chairman Karim Aziz Malik, and Coordination Chairman Malik Sohail. The meeting focused on in-depth discussions about Pakistan's economy, the challenges facing the media industry, and particularly the issues confronting the business community. Senator Sarmad Ali emphasized that a stable media plays a pivotal role in providing accurate information to the business sector, highlighting market trends, and enhancing the investment climate. He stated that resolving the media's challenges would ultimately benefit the business community. FPCCI President Atif Ikram Sheikh described media as the "bright face of society", playing a significant role in its development. He acknowledged the current issues faced by the business community, such as rising inflation, the energy crisis, and the tax burden, and agreed that the media's role is crucial in resolving these problems. Recognizing the media's importance, he expressed his desire to foster strong relations between the media and the business community. He assured that the FPCCI would work with the government to address the challenges faced by the media industry. Faisal Zahid Malik, Chairman APNS Federal Committee, expressed gratitude to Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, for inviting the APNS Executive Committee. He emphasized the importance of fostering strong relations between the media and the Federation, and assured support in highlighting the key issues and concerns of the business community through responsible journalism. Both FPCCI President Atif Ikram and Senator Sarmad Ali urged the government to take immediate action to provide relief to the business community and promote business activities. They stressed that such measures are essential for achieving economic stability and creating employment opportunities in the country. They also agreed to further strengthen cooperation between the business community and the media, committing to continue such constructive engagements in the future.

Pak's cement industry explores net-zero pathways

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's cement sector demonstrated strong commitment to decarbonization during a high-level regional dialogue on Thursday that brought together 80 industry leaders, policymakers and technical experts from Pakistan, Germany and Azerbaijan. The forum revealed significant progress in adopting clean technologies while identifying critical policy and financing gaps that require urgent attention. The speakers said cement that built our cities now threatens our climate future. But the solutions to transform this industry from problem to solution are not decades away – they exist today, they're proven, and they're ready to scale, said a press release issued here on Thursday. Organized by the Pak-German Climate and Energy Partnership in collaboration with the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), this regional dialogue provided a platform for knowledge exchange between the German Cement Works Association (VDZ), the Azerbaijan Cement Producers Association (ASIA), and the All Pakistan Cement Manufacturer's Association (APCMA) to discuss the sector's dual challenge: meeting growing infrastructure demand while reducing emissions in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement. Pakistani cement manufacturers showcased substantial progress in decarbonization efforts. Syed Noman Hasan, Executive Director of Lucky Cement, said that 80-90 percent of manufacturers have adopted efficient, lower-emission energy systems over the past five years, with Lucky Cement now deriving 70% of its energy from solar and wind sources. Dr. Aarif Bashir of DG Cement highlighted successful deployment of alternative fuels and waste-to-energy systems, achieving 40-50 percent carbon footprint reduction through waste-derived fuels and municipal solid waste utilization, while implementing CO2 capture and reuse technologies. However, structural challenges remain significant. Ahsan Anis, Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Power Cement, emphasized that while Pakistan generates 126 million tonnes of agricultural waste annually, inadequate value chains prevent full utilization. "A complete shift to biomass could eliminate coal use, create 30,000 jobs, and save \$930 million in imports," he stated, noting that coal still represents 50 percent of production costs. Saleha Qureshi, SDPI's Head of Decarbonization, presented findings from Pakistan's first comprehensive scoping study on cement sector decarbonization. The research revealed that Pakistan's Nationally Determined Contributions currently lack specific decarbonization targets for the industrial sector, despite cement contributing 44.5 percent of the country's industrial emissions. The study identified five critical decarbonization levers: energy efficiency, alternative fuels, clinker substitution, novel cement technologies, and carbon capture and storage. While clinker substitution offers the most cost-effective pathway, implementation faces significant policy and financing barriers. "There's an urgent need for green transition finance, regulatory reform, and consumer-driven demand for low-carbon cement," Qureshi emphasized. Martin Schneider from VDZ Germany shared Germany's systematic approach to cement decarbonization through voluntary yet structured mechanisms. Germany has launched a comprehensive Cement Carbon Class system ranging from Net Zero to Class E, with third-party certification and CO2 labeling requirements. "Germany's approach demonstrates how linking public procurement with low-carbon cement availability drives market transformation," Schneider noted. "Climate-friendly labels are becoming mandatory in public tenders, while carbon criteria integration into building codes accelerates innovation." Henning Sasse, representing the Azerbaijan Cement Producers Association, outlined Azerbaijan's post-COP29 initiatives, including a CO2 Accelerator Program developed with VDZ and GCCA. Azerbaijan leverages its natural gas resources and geological potential for carbon capture, while implementing polluter-pays regulations and green procurement systems.—DNA

Mohtasib team holds Khuli Katchery in Kahuta

ISLAMABAD: A Wafaqi Mohtasib's team headed by Advisor, Haroon Sikandar Pasha, heard complaints against the Federal Government agencies and departments including Sui Gas, Electricity, BISP and NADRA and passed on the spot instructions for their speedy redressal during a Khuli Katchery at Kahuta on Thursday. A large number of people turned up at the

Khuli Katchery wherein they aired grievances against the federal and provincial departments. The complainants informed the team that the road network in Kahuta was in a deplorable state, broken at many places and the fallen electricity polls have created further problems for the commuters. They said that the department concerned is not willing to initiate re-

medial action despite several requests. They also informed that the officials of the electricity department would not initiate the repair work unless their palms are greased. A lot many complaints pertained to delay in provision of electricity connections, non-installation of transformers, excessive billing, delay in issuance of CNIC etc. alongwith discontinuation of financial support from BISP. The Wafaqi Mohtasib's team issued instructions to the representatives of the federal agencies present there and forwarded the complaints relating to the provincial departments to organization concerned.

Ahsan terms population surge, stunting a national emergency

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal here on Thursday declared the dual threat of unchecked population growth and widespread child stunting as a national emergency, warning that these challenges severely undermine Pakistan's future economic competitiveness, governance capacity, and human development prospects. Speaking at a function held to mark World Population Day, the Minister said that Pakistan faces an alarming situation where 40 percent of its population suffers from stunting—a condition that not only affects physical growth but also impairs cognitive development, limiting individuals' ability to learn and compete in a global economy. "Stunting is

not just a health issue. It's a reflection of failures in clean water access, sanitation, nutrition, education, and health care. The fact that we have sustained a 40% stunting rate over the past 40 years while our peer countries have progressed is a national failure," he said. Iqbal stressed that addressing stunting requires a coordinated, multi-sectoral approach involving the entire government and society. He pointed out the rapid population growth as an equally pressing concern, asking whether Pakistan was prepared to raise an ever-expanding population without the ability to provide quality education, health services, or employment. He called on provinces to take responsibility by launching population planning programs and aligning resource distribution

with demographic realities. Highlighting long-term solutions, Iqbal emphasized that the most effective strategy for population control is educating girls, citing global evidence of a direct link between female education and smaller, healthier families. He also called for a significant increase in women's participation in the workforce, which currently stands at only 23 percent, compared to over 50 percent in most developed countries. Turning to governance, the Minister reflected on the aftermath of the 18th Constitutional Amendment. He said that while power was devolved to provinces, the expected improvements in service delivery never materialized because provinces failed to further devolve authority to district.—APP

Amid challenges, macroeconomic performance shows resilience: Report

ISLAMABAD: Amid a challenging global environment marked by slower growth, trade restrictions and policy uncertainty, Pakistan's macroeconomic performance continues to demonstrate resilience, Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives said in a report released here Thursday . "Pakistan's macroeconomic performance in FY2025 demonstrated resilience despite global headwinds, with GDP growth rising to 2.7% and inflation dropping sharply to an average of 4.5%, the lowest since FY2016," according to Monthly Development Update for July 2025. The report says, strong fiscal consolidation reduced the deficit to 3.7% of GDP, supported by record tax revenues of Rs. 11,740 billion, while the external sector posted a \$1.8 billion current account surplus, driven by record remittances (\$34.9 billion) and higher exports (\$32.1 billion). These improvements strengthened reserves, stabilized the exchange rate, and reinforced market confidence, reflecting effective economic management and resilience amid global challenges. The effective fiscal consolidation and external sector stability underscore Pakistan's stronger-than-expected recovery trajectory. "This performance reflects prudent economic management and signals growing confidence in Pakistan's ability to navigate external shocks and sustain a path towards stability and inclusive growth," it adds. On the development front, in June 2025, 33 projects worth Rs. 90.4 billion were approved, and 19 projects totaling Rs. 1,422.8 billion were recommended to Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC). Major investments targeted energy (over Rs. 500 billion), transport (Hyderabad-Sukkur Motorway at Rs. 395 billion, Eastbay Expressway at Rs. 301 billion), education (Rs. 43 billion for 17 projects), health (Rs. 25.5 billion), and water (Ghand Dam at Rs. 6.4 billion).—DNA

Sherry pays tribute to veteran Journalist Zubeida

ISLAMABAD: Vice President of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Senator Sherry Rehman, has expressed profound sorrow over the passing of renowned senior journalist Zubeida Mustafa, calling her death a significant loss to journalism in Pakistan. In her statement, Senator Rehman said, "Zubeida Mustafa's passing is a great loss for the field of journalism. She was a fearless voice for human rights, education, and democracy." Highlighting her bravery during a repressive political climate, the senator said, "During General Zia's era of dictatorship, Zubeida Mustafa bravely resisted and stood firm in her principles." Sherry Rehman praised Zubeida Mustafa as a trailblazer for women in media, stating, "She was a guiding light for women journalists and always stood at the forefront among courageous women in the profession." "She continued to write for the rights of the underprivileged till her last breath.—APP

ٹریڈوڈیپلمنٹ اتھارٹی آف پاکستان کیساتھ کاروبار کے مواقع سے فائدہ اٹھائیں

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مائیل فیئر میلان اٹلی

فیر میلان رو، اٹلی

7 تا 9 ستمبر، 2025

زیر غور مصنوعات

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## Briefs

IRSA  
releases  
438,078  
cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Thursday released 438,078 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 495,116 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1523.06 feet which was 121.06 feet higher than the dead level of 1402.00 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 326,300 cusecs and 300,000 cusecs, respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1182.60 feet, which was 132.60 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 38,738 cusecs and 8,000 cusecs, respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 355,013, 348,486, 214,291 and 85,205 cusecs, respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 56,900 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 46,155 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.—APP

11 drivers  
handed over  
to police  
for traffic  
violations

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration took action against traffic rule violations in a busy commercial area and several motorists were stopped during a surprise inspection and handed over to traffic police for legal proceedings. According to the spokesman of ICT administration, Assistant Commissioner City, Maheen Hassan, carried out an inspection in Jinnah Super Market as part of a campaign to monitor traffic violations. The drive focused on one-way rule violations, use of unofficial number plates, and failure to present vehicle documents. During the operation, officials found multiple cases of rule-breaking. A total of 11 drivers were stopped for either driving against the designated one-way traffic, using number plates that did not match official standards, or being unable to provide valid documents for their vehicles. The drivers were handed over to the Islamabad Traffic Police on the spot for further legal action. The inspection aimed to maintain order in the commercial hub, where traffic congestion and violations often cause public inconvenience. According to officials, the inspection was conducted without prior notice to ensure an accurate assessment of the situation. The administration emphasized the importance of traffic discipline, especially in areas with high footfall and business activity. The Assistant Commissioner said that such inspections will continue regularly in commercial zones to ensure compliance with traffic rules. She added that cooperation with the traffic police is crucial to streamline urban mobility and enforce regulations. The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Administration has already launched several enforcement campaigns this year targeting both illegal parking and traffic law violations.—APP

Eruo 27m German grant  
for Gharo Wind Corridor

In addition to its environmental impact, the initiative is expected to create numerous jobs, stimulate local economic growth, and contribute to a more stable and sustainable power supply across the country

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: The German government, through KfW Development Bank, has announced a significant investment of 27 million for the construction of a new substation at the Gharo Wind Corridor in Pakistan. Yesterday, Siemens Energy, in partnership with the National Grid Company of Pakistan (NGCP), officially signed a contract to commence construction work on the substation. The 27 million funding, provided by KfW will play a crucial role in evacuating power generated from the Gharo Wind Corridor, supporting the transition towards a more resilient and sustainable energy system. Under the umbrella of the Pakistan-German Climate Energy Partnership (PGCEP) the project aims to enhance Pakistan's energy transmission network and facilitate the integration of clean, sustainable energy into the national grid, overcoming existing system constraints. In addition to its en-



vironmental impact, the initiative is expected to create numerous jobs, stimulate local economic growth, and contribute to a more stable and sustainable power supply across the country. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Se-

bastian Jacobi, Country Director KfW reaffirmed the support to the Government of Pakistan for achieving its goal to mitigate the impacts of climate change and increase the provision of the clean and renewable energy for the so-

cio-economic development of the country.

Janine Rohwer, Counsellor at the German Embassy emphasized the relevance of this projects for the IMF-supported economic reforms: Improvement of the trans-

mission network is part of the cost-side reforms to which Pakistan has committed under the Extended Fund Facility of the IMF, a programme which Germany is looking forward to seeing Pakistan complete successfully.

UBG Secy General visits  
Al-Mustafa Welfare Trust Head

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Secretary General of the United Business Group (UBG), Zafar Bakhtawari, has said that individuals and organizations who actively engage in humanitarian and welfare efforts are the real heroes of society. He stated that such people are symbols of greatness and pride for the community. He expressed these views during his visit to the Head Office of Al-Mustafa Welfare Trust in London, where he was warmly welcomed by the Trust's Chairman, Abdul Razzaq Sajid. On this occasion, Zafar Bakhtawari was

given a detailed briefing on the Trust's various ongoing welfare projects in Pakistan. He appreciated the trust's humanitarian work, stating that Al-Mustafa Trust has become a beacon of hope in deprived and remote areas of Pakistan and stands as a shining example of service to humanity.\* He praised the Trust's contributions in sensitive sectors such as education, healthcare, food security, clean drinking water, rehabilitation of disaster-affected communities, and the care of orphaned children. Chairman Abdul Razzaq Sajid welcomed the visit and said that meeting a compassionate and visionary leader like Zafar Bakhtawari was an honor for the organization. He noted that

such visits inspire and encourage their mission, and that leaders like Bakhtawari can play a vital role in further strengthening the Trust's outreach. He added that Al-Mustafa Welfare Trust is actively working across Pakistan in various sectors including medical treatment for disabled individuals, care for orphans, mobile medical units, clean water initiatives, healthcare access in remote areas like Tharparkar, Balochistan, and Azad Kashmir, and emergency relief during natural disasters. The Trust also distributes food and meat during Ramadan and Eid-ul-Adha. He shared that the Trust operates over 100 free medical centers and mobile dis-

pensaries across Pakistan, benefiting more than 1.4 million people annually. Additionally, over 70 water filtration plants and dozens of educational projects are underway. Sajid also mentioned the Make Pakistan Greener campaign, which aims to plant millions of trees, and the successful ongoing project "Aashiyana" that provides safe and dignified housing for elderly citizens. Zafar Bakhtawari expressed his commitment to connecting Pakistan's private sector, chambers of commerce, and the business community with Al-Mustafa Trust to help transform the vision of a prosperous and welfare-oriented Pakistan into reality.

Yousaf reaffirms  
Pak's unwavering  
support for Palestine

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Sardar Muhammad Yousaf on Thursday reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering support for the Palestinian cause during a meeting with Palestinian Ambassador Dr. Zuhair Mohammad Hamdallah Zaid here. The minister reiterated Pakistan's principled stance on Palestine, declaring, "Israel is an illegitimate state, Pakistan has never recognized it and never will." He said Pakistan has consistently condemned Israeli atrocities against the oppressed people of Palestine. Expressing deep sorrow over the ongoing Israeli aggression in Gaza, particularly the bombing of civilians including women and children, the minister said, "Our hearts bleed for the innocent lives lost." He emphasized that Pakistan will continue to raise its voice to awaken the conscience of the international community. Calling for a united response, Sardar Yousaf said the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) must prioritize the issue of Palestine on its agenda, adding that the liberation of Masjid Al-Aqsa remains a matter of collective concern for the Muslim Ummah. "Like every Pakistani, I too long to offer prayers at Masjid Al-Aqsa. Just as we visit Makkah and Madinah freely, we yearn for unimpeded access to the first Qibla," he said. Ambassador Zaid, in response, expressed deep appreciation for Pakistan's steadfast and selfless support for the Palestinian cause. "The people of Palestine hold Pakistan's unwavering solidarity in the highest regard," he said. He added that many graduates from Pakistani universities are now serving in key positions across Palestine, further strengthening the bilateral relationship. The ambassador emphasized that Masjid Al-Aqsa remains under illegal Israeli occupation, but the Palestinian people remain determined to sacrifice their lives, wealth, and families for its freedom. Ambassador Zaid also announced that Dr. Mahmoud Al-Habbash, Adviser to the Palestinian President, along with the Imam of Masjid Al-Aqsa, will soon undertake an official visit to Pakistan. The meeting concluded with both sides reaffirming the importance of strong religious, cultural, and political ties, and pledging continued cooperation in support of the Palestinian struggle.—DNA

19th death  
anniversary of  
Nadeem Qasmi  
observed

ISLAMABAD: The 19th death anniversary of renowned poet, writer, and literary figure Ahmad Nadeem Qasmi observed on Thursday with respect and admiration across the country. He was born on November 20, 1916, in Anga village of Khushab, Qasmi was a prominent voice in Urdu literature. He wrote over 50 books, including poetry collections, short stories, literary criticism, and essays. His notable works include Jalal-o-Jamal, Shola-i-Gul, Kishti-i-Wafa, and short story anthologies like Chopal, Sannata, and Kapaas ka Phool. Ahmad Nadeem Qasmi's writing often focused on humanism, social justice, and rural life. He is regarded as one of the most influential Urdu short story writers, known for his deep insight and emotional expression. He was also an active member of the Progressive Writers' Movement and edited several literary journals, including his long-running publication Funoon. In recognition of his contributions, he was honored with national awards such as the Pride of Performance and Sitara-i-Imtiaz. Ahmad Nadeem Qasmi passed away on July 10, 2006, in Lahore at the age of 89.—APP

Ambassador-designate  
to Ukraine visits ICCI

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador-designate to Ukraine, Maj. Gen. (R) Kanwar Adnan Ahmed Khan, visited the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and held a productive meeting with ICCI President Nasir Mansoor Qureshi and members of the business community to explore avenues for enhancing bilateral trade and economic cooperation between Pakistan and Ukraine. During the interaction, Ambassador Kanwar Adnan emphasized that despite prevailing global challenges, Ukraine still offers significant potential for Pakistani exporters, especially in textiles, pharmaceuticals, information technology, and agriculture. He expressed his firm commitment to act as a bridge between the private sectors of both countries and to facilitate impactful trade partnerships.



The Ambassador-designate appreciated ICCI's proactive role in advancing Pakistan's economic diplomacy and assured his full support in removing trade barriers for entrepreneurs. He welcomed proposals for organizing trade delegations, virtual B2B engagements, and establishing institutional linkages between ICCI and Ukrainian chambers of commerce. He also point-

ed to the construction and medical sectors as promising areas for Pakistani investors, highlighting the vast scope for skilled Pakistani labor in Ukraine. Welcoming the Ambassador-designate, ICCI President Nasir Mansoor Qureshi stated that while Pakistan and Ukraine enjoy cordial diplomatic ties, the current level of bilateral trade is far below its true

potential. He underscored the importance of diversifying trade into non-traditional sectors such as information technology, renewable energy, engineering goods, and higher education services. President Qureshi proposed fostering joint ventures, knowledge sharing, and technology transfer as key strategies to deepen commercial ties.

Pak closes fiscal year with  
record development spending

Ahsan Iqbal explained that this accomplishment came despite substantial budgetary pressures. The Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP), initially set at Rs 1,400 billion, was reduced to Rs 1,100 billion due to macroeconomic constraints. Even so, over 95% of the revised allocation was efficiently utilized

## SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal said here on Thursday that Pakistan had achieved a historic milestone in development spending, crossing Rs1 trillion, despite tight fiscal constraints. Speaking at the launch of the Monthly Development Report, the minister said the government had successfully utilized approximately Rs 1,146 billion in development expenditure — the highest in Pakistan's history. This is a moment of immense pride and a significant achieve-

ment, he said, adding for the first time ever, Pakistan has closed its development budget with such high utilization, reflecting our unwavering commitment to development as a national priority. The minister explained that this accomplishment came despite substantial budgetary pressures. The Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP), initially set at Rs 1,400 billion, was reduced to Rs 1,100 billion due to macroeconomic constraints. Even so, over 95% of the revised allocation was efficiently utilized. This efficiency sends a strong message that this was a pro-development government, he said, adding in a challenging fiscal environment, achieving such a high utilization

rate was a testament to the dedication of all ministries and the Planning & Development team, who worked with exceptional commitment. He cautioned that any underutilization this year would have shifted financial burdens to the next fiscal year, where the PSDP has already been further reduced to Rs 1,000 billion. We had no fiscal space to leave Rs 200-300 billion unutilized, Iqbal noted. "That would have created a backlog and severely impacted our development portfolio. Thankfully, we avoided that scenario through discipline and coordination," he said. Ahsan Iqbal emphasized that public sector development is the primary engine for economic momentum in Paki-

stan. When the government invests in infrastructure—universities, roads, power, and water projects—it triggers growth across key sectors like construction, logistics, cement, and materials. It creates jobs and drives private sector investment. He also linked the achievement to broader economic stabilization under the government's flagship "Uraan Pakistan" initiative, launched by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. "Under Uraan Pakistan, we are witnessing a positive turnaround in economy," he said. "One of the biggest indicators is inflation, which dropped to 4.5%, the lowest in nine years. That's a 23.4% decrease from last year — a rare feat globally."

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## Arrest threat to Imran Khan sons is unjust

THE recent announcement by the Pakistani government to arrest Imran Khan's sons—Qasim Khan and Sulaiman Khan—upon their arrival in Pakistan is a deeply troubling move that reeks of political vendetta rather than justice. The brothers, who are British nationals, have expressed their intention to return to Pakistan to advocate for their father's release and participate in political activities. Instead of upholding their legal and moral right to stand by their father, the government has chosen intimidation, further exposing its authoritarian tendencies. For years, the ruling coalition has criticized Imran Khan and his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, alleging that his family members were avoiding Pakistan while the former prime minister faced legal battles. Now that his sons have decided to return, the government's threat to arrest them reveals its hypocrisy. If the authorities were genuinely concerned about accountability, they would allow them to enter the country and face any legitimate legal proceedings—not preemptively declare them guilty. The government's move suggests fear rather than fairness. Imran Khan remains the most popular political leader in Pakistan, and his sons' return could galvanize public support for his release. By attempting to silence them before they even step foot in the country, the state is undermining the very principles of democracy and justice it claims to uphold. Imran Khan's ex-wife, Jemima Khan, has rightly condemned the government's stance, stating that her sons have every right to protest for their father's freedom. As British citizens, Qasim and Sulaiman's arrest could also strain Pakistan's relations with the United Kingdom. The UK government takes the welfare of its nationals seriously, and any mistreatment could lead to diplomatic complications. Pakistan, already grappling with economic and political instability, cannot afford further isolation. Moreover, the optics of arresting young men who simply wish to stand by their father would be disastrous. It would reinforce the perception that Pakistan's current administration is more interested in crushing dissent than upholding human rights. Such actions deepen societal divisions and erode trust in state institutions. Every citizen—or in this case, every individual with familial and emotional ties to Pakistan—has the right to engage in peaceful political activities. If the government has credible evidence of wrongdoing, it should present it in a court of law rather than resorting to threats. A transparent legal process would lend credibility to the state's actions, whereas arbitrary arrests only fuel public anger and reinforce narratives of political persecution. The PTI has long argued that Imran Khan's incarceration is politically motivated. By blocking his sons from even entering the country, the government is inadvertently validating those claims. If the authorities are confident in their cases against Imran Khan, they should have no reason to fear his family's activism. The government must reconsider its decision to arrest Imran Khan's sons. Allowing them to return and participate in legal and political processes would demonstrate Pakistan's commitment to democratic norms.

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## Pakistan takes a major step towards a Crypto revolution

IN a historic and unprecedented move, Pakistan has officially entered the global digital economy with the announcement of its first state-backed Bitcoin Reserve, a bold step that signifies the country's serious commitment to integrating blockchain and cryptocurrency into its financial future. The groundbreaking announcement was made by Bilal Bin Saqib, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Blockchain and Cryptocurrency and CEO of the Pakistan Crypto Council (PCC), during the prestigious Bitcoin Vegas 2025 conference. According to sources, this moment marks a transformative shift in Pakistan's approach to digital assets and financial innovation. In a surprising diplomatic highlight, Bin Saqib extended special thanks to U.S. President Donald Trump, acknowledging his contributions to global crypto adoption and his behind-the-scenes efforts to help ease recent tensions between India and Pakistan. The event was also attended by U.S. Vice President JD Vance, Eric Trump, and Donald Trump Jr., underscoring the high-level international interest in Pakistan's digital finance ambitions. Bin Saqib highlighted Pakistan's strong foundation in the digital economy, revealing that the country now hosts over 40 million cryptocurrency wallets. This positions Pakistan among the world's most active digital finance participants, thanks largely to its massive freelance economy, rising digital literacy, and growing youth population. These factors, he noted, create the ideal conditions for the country to embrace a blockchain-driven future. One of the central initiatives unveiled during the event was the creation of a National Bitcoin Wallet—a digital infrastructure designed to store state-held crypto assets securely. This step reflects Pakistan's ambition to integrate digital currencies into its sovereign financial framework, making it one of the few countries in the region to take such a forward-looking measure. To support the technical backbone of this initiative, the Pakistani government has allocated 2,000 megawatts of surplus electricity for use in Bitcoin mining and AI-powered data centers. These facilities will not only cater to local tech enterprises but also invite foreign blockchain companies and independent miners to establish operations within Pakistan. This massive infrastructure move is expected to create thousands of jobs, boost foreign investment, and position Pakistan as a regional leader in blockchain computing. In line with these developments, Pakistan also announced the establishment of the Pakistan Digital Assets Authority—a regulatory institution responsible for overseeing all blockchain-based financial systems. The Authority will enforce transparency, provide legal protections, and offer clear regulatory guidelines to both local and international stakeholders. These sweeping reforms signal a paradigm shift in Pakistan's digital economic strategy. No longer content to remain on the sidelines, the country is now actively pursuing a leadership role in the global crypto landscape. With a clear vision, strong policy direction, and infrastructure investment, Pakistan's crypto revolution has officially begun.

# Trump and Netanyahu's Bloody Path to “Peace”

Qamar Bashir



The Trump-Netanyahu meeting, though billed as a peace coordination summit, was something altogether different. It was a show of strategic triumphalism built on the ashes of diplomacy. It revealed a dual policy of war and negotiation—bombing one day, talking the next. It praised military supremacy while denying humanitarian suffering. It treated displacement as peace, and coercion as choice. It silenced Gaza while discussing Ukraine. It admitted the centrality of Hamas while vowing its extinction. It was a performance of contradictions, wrapped in ceremony, delivered with pride, and protected...

THESE are momentous times, not only for the region but for the shifting power dynamics of the world. On July 7 and 8, 2025, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and U.S. President Donald Trump convened in Washington, D.C., amid a rapidly evolving crisis. At the White House, flanked by their cabinets, both leaders addressed the media following back-to-back meetings where they discussed the ongoing war in Gaza, indirect ceasefire talks with Hamas, and their joint military action against Iran. The press conference that followed was revealing—not just for what was said, but for what was admitted, evaded, and conspicuously ignored. The Israeli Prime Minister, emboldened by U.S. backing, described recent joint military actions in strikingly clinical language, declaring that Israel and the United States had “removed two tumors”—Iran and Hamas. These were not metaphors of diplomacy or deterrence; they were declarations of conquest, affirmations of a doctrine Netanyahu proudly called “peace through strength.” He praised the B-2 American pilots who dropped massive ordnance on Iran’s underground nuclear facility, and the Israeli soldiers who, in his words, “fought like lions” and “struck like lightning.” President Trump echoed these sentiments, confirming that the Atomic Energy Commission had verified the destruction of Iran’s nuclear infrastructure. “It is obliterated,” he stated, while adding, “They flew for 37 hours with zero problems... carrying the biggest bombs we’ve ever dropped on anybody—non-nuclear, and we want to keep it non-nuclear.” What was presented as victory, however, was also a sobering admission of escalation. But while both leaders stood united in the language of military strength, they diverged sharply when the conversation turned to Iran’s future. Netanyahu maintained an aggressive stance, affirming that Israel would never tolerate the re-emergence of Iranian power in Syria or the region at large. Trump, however, struck a noticeably different chord. He praised the Iranian people as “very smart, energetic people” and reiterated his desire to lift sanctions “at the right time,” suggesting a path of economic reintegration rather than perpetual war. He spoke of Iran’s “great oil power” and its “potential for peace,” offering a glimpse of a strategy built on diplomacy rather than annihilation. This contrast revealed a fundamental divide between the two leaders: one seeking permanent suppression, the other seeking calculated engagement.

Syria also emerged as a critical part of the broader plan. Netanyahu was clear that prior to their operations, “Iran was essentially running Syria.” Now, he claimed, “Iran is out of the picture.” President Trump reinforced this position, explaining that sanctions were lifted to give the post-Iranian Syrian government a chance to rebuild. “I met the new leader... I was very impressed,” he said, signaling American willingness to reconfigure the region—so long as Iran remained on the sidelines. This transformation of Syria from Iranian stronghold to Western-aligned state was offered as both a strategic victory and a sign of shifting alliances. But amid the triumphalism, the most conspicuous silence surrounded Gaza. President Trump spoke passionately about the tragedy unfolding in Ukraine, lamenting, “These are souls... it’s appalling, it’s unforgivable.” Yet when it came to the civilian deaths in Gaza—where tens of thousands have been killed, injured, or displaced—he said nothing. No mention of the humanitarian catastrophe, the flattened hospitals, the water crisis, or the lost children. Not even a token expression of sorrow. This absence revealed a dangerous truth: that even amid international condemnation of Israel’s actions as collective punishment, ethnic cleansing, or genocide, the President of the United States dared not speak a word of dissent. This wasn’t just political—it was systemic. The silence was deafening. The contradictions deepened further when the issue of Hamas entered the discussion. On one hand, Netanyahu framed Hamas as a terrorist entity that must be eradicated completely. “We still have to finish the job in Gaza... eliminate and destroy Hamas’s military and governance capabilities,” he declared. And yet, in the same breath, he revealed that negotiations were ongoing. “We accepted a proposal that came from the mediators... I think that we’ve gotten closer to it.” This paradox defies logic. If Hamas has been militarily decapitated, why is Israel still negotiating with it? Why does Hamas still hold hostages? Why is it still dictating terms at the table? The answer lies in a reality neither leader wanted to fully admit: that despite two years of siege and destruction, despite the combined might of Israeli and American forces, Hamas still remains a central political and military actor. Netanyahu acknowledged that “on the way over here and on the way from here” discussions with Hamas and intermediaries continued. This was not a sign of weakness from Hamas—it was proof of endurance. That even after half of Gaza was reduced to rubble, Hamas

still holds hostages, still retains command, and still holds diplomatic leverage, exposes the failure of Israel’s total war doctrine. Far from being eradicated, Hamas has become the de facto representative of the Gazan people in any future settlement. What’s more telling is that the negotiations themselves are being shaped by the United States, Qatar, and other regional players, all of whom recognize Hamas as a negotiating partner. This tacit legitimacy undermines Netanyahu’s claims of destroying Hamas’s governance capacity. It affirms that any future framework for Gaza and the West Bank will, by necessity, involve Hamas—not just as a spoiler, but as a stakeholder. And if Hamas holds that space now, after facing the wrath of both Israel and the United States, it only underscores its strategic depth and societal roots in the Palestinian landscape. In the final moments of the press conference, Netanyahu was asked about declining U.S. public support for Israel, especially among Democrats. He blamed it on “vilification and demonization on social media,” insisting, “Nothing defeats lies like the truth.” But the truth remains painfully visible. It is in the refugee camps, in the aerial footage of destroyed neighborhoods, in the buried children and grieving mothers. It is in the contradictions between rhetoric and reality, between the promise of peace and the daily grind of occupation, siege, and military dominance. The Trump-Netanyahu meeting, though billed as a peace coordination summit, was something altogether different. It was a show of strategic triumphalism built on the ashes of diplomacy. It revealed a dual policy of war and negotiation—bombing one day, talking the next. It praised military supremacy while denying humanitarian suffering. It treated displacement as peace, and coercion as choice. It silenced Gaza while discussing Ukraine. It admitted the centrality of Hamas while vowing its extinction. It was a performance of contradictions, wrapped in ceremony, delivered with pride, and protected by silence. If there is one thing the summit achieved, it is clarity. The clarity that this is not a war to destroy Hamas. It is a war to redefine Palestine. And in doing so, the United States and Israel have made one thing clear to the world: power is the process, peace is the packaging. And the people—their pain, their dignity, their future—remain secondary to strategic calculus. — Press Secretary to the President (Rtd) Former Press Minister, Embassy of Pakistan to France Former MD, SRBC Macomb, Michigan, USA

# How Russia established deterrence with its neighbors

Dr. Dania Koleilat Khatib

The Russians claim that one of the conditions for dismantling the Soviet Union was to stop the expansion of NATO. However, NATO has its open-door policy and it has kept on expanding to the east. NATO has deployed missile defense systems in Poland and Romania. When Russian President Vladimir Putin asked George W. Bush about this, the US president insisted that they were to prevent Iranian missiles from reaching Europe. Putin did not buy it. There is deep mistrust of the West. Hence, even though the Soviet Union collapsed, Russia still wants to be sure that all its...

DURING a recent vacation in Georgia, it was interesting to see how people perceived the war in Ukraine. It was also interesting to see the war’s impact on their own understanding of how their country should deal with Russia in order to avoid suffering the same fate as Ukraine. Georgia is a small country next to a strong neighbor and every Georgian I met told me a wise policy would be to be on good terms with Russia and not to rely on the West. Russia controls almost 20 percent of Georgian territory. It rules Abkhazia on the Black Sea and South Ossetia in the north of the country. The border between Russia and Georgia is studded with mountains. Russia wants to keep an eye on its smaller neighbor, especially as it is a candidate country for both the EU and NATO. Moscow wants to make sure that, behind that mountainous area, the West will not push for a government that is antagonistic to the Kremlin. Last month, the Georgian parliament’s speaker criticized NATO’s response to Georgia’s membership request, which was made in 2008, saying that the country needs more than words, it needs real protection. The impression is that the West uses countries like Ukraine as fodder to undermine Russia, while having no real interest in their well-being. More than three years on from Russia’s full-scale invasion, Ukraine is destroyed. It has lost parts of its territory. It will probably become a rump state and there is no real support for stopping Russia. On the contrary, facing Russian determination, the US is pressuring the weaker party, which is Ukraine, to compromise. My tour guide told me that this goes back centuries. Whenever Georgians have had problems with their neighbors, they have asked for help from European countries but have never received any assistance. I am not sure if this is true or not, but it is certainly the prevailing perception. The lesson is very clear: it is better for the neighbors

of Russia to toe the line with Moscow rather than to butt heads with the Russian president. The West is unreliable — it will offer empty words of support but will never confront Russia to save a democracy. If Russia’s neighbors are now convinced of that, then Moscow has already won. It has established deterrence. It is important to understand the Russian psyche, which extends beyond the current president. It goes back to the Second World War. Russians believe that the West is arrogant and treacherous. They believe the US left Russia to bear the brunt of fighting the Nazis. They believe the Americans adopted a strategy of buck-passing. They let the Soviet army do the bulk of the fighting and the US intervention was deliberately delayed. The Normandy landings only happened once victory was a done deal. Countries like Georgia understand that. They will not settle for promises from the West. Late former President Mikhail Gorbachev complained about the West’s arrogance. The Soviet Union was a superpower, which the US did its best to fight economically during the Cold War. Gorbachev accepted the dismantling of the Soviet Union in return for promises from the West that it would help lift Russia economically. However, according to a well-known Russian professor colleague of mine, those promises were nothing but lies. Once the communist threat was gone, the West did not lift a finger to prevent the economic collapse of Russia and the independent states that were part of the Soviet Union. The Russians claim that one of the conditions for dismantling the Soviet Union was to stop the expansion of NATO. However, NATO has its open-door policy and it has kept on expanding to the east. NATO has deployed missile defense systems in Poland and Romania. When Russian President Vladimir Putin asked George W. Bush about this, the US pres-

ident insisted that they were to prevent Iranian missiles from reaching Europe. Putin did not buy it. There is deep mistrust of the West. Hence, even though the Soviet Union collapsed, Russia still wants to be sure that all its neighbors are in its orbit. Even if this means it has to cross mountains and subdue a piece of land to make sure it can keep a close eye on a neighboring government, as it did with Georgia. Russia is also playing the minorities and ethnicities card. In Ukraine, it is using the ethnic Russian population in the Donbas to justify its invasion. However, regardless of whether the president really cares about these people, the Russians do not want NATO troops on their doorstep. NATO’s raison d’être is to counter Russia. During the Cold War, there was a kind of military balance. The Warsaw Pact was an Eastern alliance to counter NATO. The fall of the Soviet Union led to the demise of the Warsaw Pact. Nevertheless, Russia still feels it needs to keep the states in its vicinity in its orbit to fend off any threats emanating from the Western camp. This is why it sees the war in Ukraine as an existential matter. Western countries do not see the war in Ukraine as an existential matter. This is why Russia is ready to sacrifice far more than they are. Countries like Georgia understand that. They will not settle for promises from the West. They need a firm commitment, which the West is unable or unwilling to provide. Until it does so, Russia’s neighbors know that their security is better guaranteed by being on good terms with Moscow. The fact that Russia was able to impose this attitude on its neighbors means it has won. Moscow has established deterrence. That is the purpose of war: to deter any current or future threats. No neighbor of Moscow wants to develop a relationship with the West that will fuel the ire of the Russian bear.



## Briefs

Army Chief  
not eying  
Presidency

FROM PAGE 01  
role effectively as the head of state, the senior politician criticised certain media narratives. Commenting on the coalition setup, Siddiqui said the PPP remains an ally of the PML-N-led government. "Being in government together does not imply agreement on every issue," he noted.

India trying  
to offset  
its defeat...

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net security provider to accrue benefits in a region that is visibly growing disillusioned with Indian hegemonic ambitions and Hindutva driven extremism". The Forum was briefed on Pakistan's Army's ongoing drive with quick adaptation towards evolving threat spectrum and changing character of war. The COAS also appreciated the leadership of Pakistan Navy and Pakistan Air Force for further strengthening tri-services synergy. In his concluding remarks, the Army Chief expressed full confidence in the operational readiness of Pakistan Army against complete threat spectrum.

Jemima  
slams govt  
over threat...

FROM PAGE 01  
power via the opposition's no-trust motion in April 2022. Jemima and Khan married in 1994 and divorced nearly a decade later in 2004. Her statement follows remarks by senior government officials suggesting that Khan's sons could be arrested if they enter Pakistan and participate in the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protest, scheduled for later this month or the next. "My children aren't allowed to speak on the phone to their father Imran Khan. He has been in solitary confinement in prison for nearly 2 years," Jemima posted on X.

No objection  
to Imran's  
sons...

FROM PAGE 01  
Siddiqui's remarks come just days after Imran's sister Aleema Khan had said that the PTI founder's UK-based sons, Qasim and Suleiman, plan to join an upcoming PTI protest movement. Speaking to reporters outside Adiala Jail, Aleema said the two brothers would first go to the US to raise awareness about their father's legal situation and they would then come to Pakistan to take part in the party's political campaign. Speaking about the matter in today's show, Siddiqui said: "He [Imran Khan] wants to bring his children into politics, but their presence will not cause any political upheaval...there will be no storm if his children come to Pakistan," he said.

Pakistan will  
continue  
to support...

FROM PAGE 01  
especially in promoting gender empowerment through adventure and high-altitude sports. In recognition of her achievement and commitment to showcasing Pakistan's natural beauty, the Prime Minister formally appointed Sheikhha Asma Al Thani as a Brand Ambassador for Pakistan's Mountains & Tourism. The Prime Minister highlighted Pakistan's immense pride in being home to five of the world's fourteen highest peaks, making it a premier destination for mountaineers and adventure seekers. He thanked Sheikhha Asma for choosing Pakistan's majestic mountains and for playing a valuable role in bringing international attention to their challenges and scenic grandeur. He also acknowledged the vital contributions of Pakistani high-altitude porters and guides who assist climbers from around the world in their expeditions, noting that their skill and dedication are integral to such extraordinary accomplishments.



ISLAMABAD: Dr. Kazim Niaz, Secretary Economic Affairs, and EU Ambassador, Dr. Riina Kionka, shaking hands after signing grant agreement between Pakistan and European Union. – DNA

Filmmaker Jami granted  
bail in defamation case

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Thursday granted bail to filmmaker Jamshed Mehmood Raza, famously known as Jami, in a defamation case involving fellow director Sohail Javed. SHC approved the bail plea against surety bonds worth Rs50,000 and ordered the authorities to release Jamshed Mehmood. A session court in Karachi had sentenced Jami to two years in prison on charges of defaming fellow director Sohail Javed. Additional Sessions Judge (South) Syed Waqar Hyder also imposed a fine of Rs10,000 on the convict. Jami challenged his conviction before the SHC in the defamation case on Wednesday. In his petition, the film director argued that the charges for which he was convicted are bailable offences and that the trial court did not fulfil the required legal procedures before announcing the verdict. He maintained that the allegations against him are "false and baseless". The petitioner urged the SHC to set aside his conviction and declare

the lower court's order null and void.

In 2019, Javed filed a private complaint against Jami, a celebrated music video and film director and producer, for disseminating defamatory content, The News reported. The complainant claimed that the accused published a letter authored by an anonymous girl recounting an incident of sexual assault on his Facebook page, Jami Moor, on February 14, 2019. On February 18, 2019, the complainant said he served a legal notice to the accused, demanding an unconditional public apology and immediate removal of the publication, but the notice was ignored by the accused who further disseminated the publication. In his statement under the Section 342 of the Code of Criminal Procedure before a court, Jami denied all the allegations against him. He claimed that he had read a letter that was given by the organisers of the Lahooti Melo, and that he had no knowledge of what was in that letter at that time. He said he had posted a video on Facebook, on which viewers mentioned the name of the complainant. Thereafter, he added that he deleted the post as well as his Facebook account. He said that he was an activist, director and producer,

however, the complainant had given a false statement against him on oath, adding that he had no intention of defaming the complainant or any other person. In his written order, the judge noted: "In conclusion, it stands proved that the accused, with knowledge and recklessness, defamed the complainant by means of public communication, thereby harming his reputation." "The publication of the letter, which was shared more than 200 times on available record, and the subsequent commentaries of the accused, and the accused's failure to deny or disassociate himself from the defamatory content, all combine to constitute the offense of defamation under Section 500 PPC." The judge observed, "the accused has neither presented any credible evidence substantiating the allegations in the letter nor has he shown that his publication served a lawful public purpose. The victim of the alleged incident was not produced, no complaint was filed with relevant legal authorities; and no protective mechanism for the victim was invoked. This failure indicates that the act of publication was not in furtherance of any lawful or public interest but was rather, reckless and malicious."

Actor Humaira Asghar's body  
likely six months old: DIG

South DIG Asad Raza says actor's family will be receiving the body today



KARACHI: In the latest development related to the mystery surrounding actor Humaira Asghar's death, Sindh Police's Deputy Inspector General (DIG) South Asad Raza has said that the model's body is probably six months old. "The expiry date of food and drinks found in the flat is 2024. The last messages in the actor's phone records are also from October 2024," DIG Raza said.

Asghar was found dead in a flat — where she was living alone for seven years — in Defence Phase 6's Ittehad Commercial area on Tuesday when a court-appointed bailiff arrived to execute the eviction order in relation to a case filed by the flat's owner over unpaid rent. A day earlier, police surgeon Dr Summaiya Syed said that the cause of actor's death remains unknown as her body, which was discovered in her flat, was in an "advanced stage of decomposition". The police surgeon highlighted that while an initial post-mortem examination has been conducted, it would be premature to say anything about the cause of death as the advanced state of decomposition has rendered the body incapable of revealing the cause of death at this stage. She further revealed that DNA and chemical samples have been collected, and facts will be revealed after the examination of the samples. Meanwhile, expanding on the matter, the DIG South revealed that the last message in the actor's mobile phone was from an online taxi driver and that actor's apartment electricity was also disconnected for a long time. "The actress's last contact with the owner of the flat was also in 2024," Raza said. Noting that they were waiting for the post-mortem report for further investigation, which may take a couple of days. – DNA

Rayyan Imran wins  
gold medal at Dutch  
International Youth  
Regatta 2025

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani rower Rayyan Imran has made waves on the international rowing scene, clinching the gold medal in the Open Men's Double Sculls and a silver medal in Quads at the Dutch International Youth Regatta 2025. This significant victory marks a major milestone not only for Imran's burgeoning career but also for the sport of rowing in Pakistan. "This is not only a big milestone for me in my rowing career but also a big milestone for rowing in Pakistan," Imran said while reflecting on his remarkable win. Competing against some of the best young rowers internationally, Rayyan's performance stands as an excellent achievement for Pakistan's growing sports community. A seasoned rower, Imran has competed globally in locations such as Vienna, Lithuania, and the Maldives. He believes rowing holds significant potential for Pakistani youth. "I've been rowing for many years, and I've participated in many regattas all over the world," he explained. I feel that rowing is a sport that many kids can do, and it's good for them. It's a very big sport on an international scale, which we don't have in our country."

Ishaq  
Dar holds  
important  
meetings..

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relations in diverse fields, especially high-level exchanges, deepening economic ties, religious tourism and educational collaboration. They also discussed a range of regional and global issues, including the recent developments in the region. Earlier, Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar met with Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, H.E Thongsavanh Phomvihane, on the side-lines of the 32nd ASEAN Regional Forum Ministerial Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, today. The two leaders reviewed the progress of ongoing bilateral engagements, and expressed their commitment to further enhancing cooperation particularly in trade and investment, education, tourism, and people-to-people exchanges.

Pakistan  
'eyes \$1bn  
Roosevelt...

FROM PAGE 01  
losses, the over 1,000 room hotel was shut in 2020, and has also operated briefly as a migrant shelter. As part of the government's \$7 billion IMF-backed privatisation push, Pakistan's government approved a "transaction structure for the Roosevelt Hotel" on Tuesday, saying it won't do an outright sale but has decided to adopt a joint venture model to maximise long-term value. It gave no further details. The senior Pakistani official said the government will retain ownership in the project through an equity partnership, but declined to disclose the size of the stake being offered to any potential JV partner. The official declined to be named since the process is confidential. JLL, or Jones Lang LaSalle, will run the process and the government is eyeing a valuation of over \$1 billion for the 42,000 square feet property it hopes could be redeveloped for residential-cum-office use, the official said.

Woman set  
on fire by  
in-laws in...

FROM PAGE 01  
"A society without justice cannot be sustainable. They should be punished so that Sanya (victim) gets justice," he said. Ahmed detailed the incident, saying: "They kept her at home and tortured her while forcing her to remain quiet. But the noise could not be contained, and they ultimately brought her to the PIMS hospital."

Revolution in Capital police unfolding  
under the stewardship of IGP Rizvi

*In an era where public trust in institutions is both fragile and paramount, IG Rizvi's transformative approach has not only reshaped the Islamabad Police but also set a national benchmark for law enforcement excellence*



MUMTAZ AHMED BHATTI

IN the heart of Pakistan's vibrant capital, Islamabad, a quiet revolution in law enforcement has been unfolding under the stewardship of Inspector General (IG) Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi. His tenure as the head of the Islamabad Police has been marked by a dynamic blend of hands-on leadership, unwavering commitment to public service, and a resolute dedication to ethical policing. In an era where public trust in institutions is both fragile and paramount, IG Rizvi's transformative approach has not only reshaped the Islamabad Police but also set a national benchmark for law enforcement excellence. Unlike many traditional figures in law enforcement, who often remain confined to administrative roles, IG Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi has distinguished himself through his visible, hands-on approach. His leadership philosophy is rooted in the belief that a leader must be present where the action is, engaging directly with both officers and citizens. This approach has had a profound impact on the morale of the Islamabad Police, fostering a sense of unity, purpose, and pride among its ranks. Rizvi's presence in the field is not a mere symbolic gesture; it is a deliberate strategy to inspire and motivate. Junior officers, who often face the brunt of operational challenges, have found in him a leader who understands their realities. By standing shoulder-to-shoulder with his team during high-pressure situations, Rizvi has cultivated an environment where officers feel valued and empowered. This has translated into improved performance, greater accountability, and a renewed sense of duty among the force. One of the most significant examples of his on-the-ground leadership came during Muharram-ul-Haram, a period of religious

significance that places immense demands on law enforcement to ensure peace and security. During this time, Rizvi was not content to oversee operations from a distance. Instead, he was actively present at key locations, issuing real-time instructions and coordinating efforts to maintain order. His tireless engagement during Muharram underscored his commitment to public safety and demonstrated a leadership style that prioritizes action over rhetoric. This hands-on approach not only ensured seamless operations but also set a high standard for what leadership in law enforcement should look like during critical times. Beyond religious events, Rizvi's ability to address everyday challenges with the same vigor has further solidified his reputation. A notable incident occurred on Park Road, one of Islamabad's busiest thoroughfares, where a severe traffic jam threatened to disrupt the daily lives of countless citizens. While such situations might typically be delegated to lower-ranking officers, Rizvi personally arrived at the scene, taking charge with remarkable composure and efficiency. His swift intervention restored traffic flow, alleviated public frustration, and earned him widespread praise. This incident, though seemingly mundane, exemplifies his belief that no issue is too small when it comes to serving the public. Rizvi's hands-on leadership has had a ripple effect, inspiring officers at all levels to emulate his dedication. By leading from the front, he has fostered a culture of proactive problem-solving and accountability within the Islamabad Police. His approach serves as a reminder that effective leadership is not about issuing directives from an office but about being present, engaged, and responsive to the needs of both the force and the community. While Rizvi's operational leadership has been transformative, his commitment to ethical policing has arguably been his most enduring legacy. In a profession often marred by allegations of misconduct, Rizvi has taken a firm stand against any behavior that undermines the integrity of the

police force. His zero-tolerance policy toward officers who misbehave or act inappropriately with the public has sent a clear message: professionalism and accountability are non-negotiable. This approach has not only addressed internal challenges but also rebuilt public trust in the Islamabad Police. By holding officers accountable for their actions, Rizvi has demonstrated that the police force is not above the law but rather a servant of it. His disciplinary measures are both strict and fair, ensuring that justice is served without undermining the morale of the force. Officers who adhere to high standards are recognized and rewarded, while those who fall short face consequences, creating a balanced system that promotes excellence. Rizvi's emphasis on ethical conduct extends beyond punitive measures. He has actively worked to instill a culture of respect and professionalism within the force. The impact of this ethical overhaul cannot be overstated. In a country where law enforcement agencies often face criticism for corruption or heavy-handedness, Rizvi's leadership has posi-

tioned the Islamabad Police as a beacon of hope. Citizens now see the police not as an oppressive force but as a partner in maintaining safety and order. This shift in perception is a testament to Rizvi's ability to align the values of the police force with the expectations of the community it serves. The impact of IG Rizvi's leadership extends far beyond the borders of Islamabad. His tenure has set a new standard for law enforcement in Pakistan, with the Islamabad Police becoming a model for other agencies to emulate. In a country grappling with complex security and governance challenges, Rizvi's leadership offers a blueprint for what is possible when integrity and vision are prioritized. Rizvi's vision for the Islamabad Police includes further strengthening community ties, integrating advanced technologies, and continuing to uphold the highest standards of professionalism. His goal is to create a police force that is not only effective but also deeply trusted by the people it serves. As he continues to lead with integrity and purpose, there is little doubt that Rizvi will leave an indelible mark on the landscape of Pakistani law enforcement.





## Briefs

## Rupee loses 10 paisa against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD: The Rupee on Thursday depreciated by 10 paisa against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 284.56 against the previous day's closing of Rs 284.46.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 286.5 and Rs 287.5 respectively. The price of the Euro increased by Rs 0.76 to close at Rs 333.87 against the last day's closing of Rs 333.11, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese yen appreciated by 01 paisa and was traded at Rs1.94 against Rs1.93, whereas an increase of Rs 0.69 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs 387.30 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs 386.61. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal increased by 03 paisa and 02 paisa to close at Rs 77.47 and Rs 75.86 respectively. – Agencies

## Gold price up by Rs 3,200 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold increased by Rs.3,200 and was traded at Rs.354,700 on Thursday as compared to its sale at Rs.351,500 on the last trading day. All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewelers Association reported. The prices of 10 grams of 24 karat also increased by Rs2,744 to Rs.304,098 from Rs. 301,354 and for 10 grams of 22 Karat it went up by Rs.2,515 to Rs.278,766 from Rs. 276,251.

The rates of per tola and ten gram silver increased by Rs10 and Rs 8 to Rs.3,851 and Rs.3,301 respectively. The price of gold in the international market increased by \$32 to \$3,324 from \$3,292, whereas that of silver increased by \$0.1 to \$36.67 from \$36.57, the Association reported. – APP

## PSX turns bullish, gains 1,205 points

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) benchmark KSE-100 Index turned around to bullish trend on Thursday, gaining 1,205.36 points, a positive change of 0.91 per cent, closing at 133,782.35 points against 132,576.99 points last trading day. A total of 941,719,946 shares were traded during the day as compared to 905,743,882 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 36.060 billion against Rs 30.530 billion on the last trading day. As many as 479 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 260 of them recorded gains and 195 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 24 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were Bank of Punjab with 155,383,258 shares at Rs 13.00 per share, Kohinoor Spinning with 55,106,065 shares at Rs6.89 per share and Hascol Petrol with 33,301,219 shares at Rs 11.81 per share. PIA Holding Company Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 2,161.40 per share price, closing at Rs 23,775.40, whereas the runner-up was Khyber Textile Mills Limited with Rs 95.18 rise in its per share price to Rs 1,463.46. – APP

## Realme partners with PMYP for eSports

ISLAMABAD: realme, the fastest-growing smartphone brand among youth, partners with the Prime Minister Youth Program to launch the National PUBG Tournament, a groundbreaking esports competition offering A 1 million prize pool and exclusive realme 14 Series gifts. It comes off as a powerful move to accelerate the growth of Pakistan's gaming ecosystem and empower youth. This landmark collaboration between realme and the Prime Minister's Youth Programme reflects a shared commitment to empowering Pakistan's youth by investing in the future of mobile gaming and esports. – APP

## Aurangzeb urges national focus on climate, population for growth

Aurangzeb emphasized that addressing stunted growth and other population-related challenges required an integrated, multi-sectoral approach. “There is no single intervention that can fix this,” he said. “It requires a full-spectrum strategy—nutrition, health, education, awareness—end to end”



## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Thursday called for national focus on climate change and population management, describing them as the two most critical challenges facing Pakistan's path to sustainable development. Pakistan travel guide Speaking at a function on World Population Day, the minister said, “Our government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, is undertaking structural reforms across taxation, energy, state-owned

enterprises (SOEs), and privatization.”

“But if we are serious about putting Pakistan on a sustainable growth path and aiming to become a \$3 trillion economy by 2047, we must confront two existential issues head-on: climate change and population growth,” he added. Aurangzeb stressed that while macroeconomic reforms are important, the demographic challenge requires immediate and coordinated intervention. He highlighted that Pakistan's current population growth rate of 2.55% was unsustainable, warning of its impact on daily life and growth trajectory.

Citing alarming statistics from a recently presented documentary, the minister revealed that 40% of Pakistani children under the age of five are stunted—a condition with lifelong consequences on learning, earning potential, and health. “These children represent Pakistan's future leadership. If we don't act now, we're mortgaging our country's future,” he said. Aurangzeb emphasized that addressing stunted growth and other population-related challenges required an integrated, multi-sectoral approach. “There is no single intervention that can fix this,” he said. “It requires a

full-spectrum strategy—nutrition, health, education, awareness—end to end.” On fiscal priorities, the minister pointed out that while the federal government had allocated Rs 1 trillion in development spending this year, the total public development outlay across provinces amounts to Rs 4.2 trillion. “This shows there is no shortage of funds,” Aurangzeb remarked. “What we lack is targeted allocation and the right prioritization at both federal and provincial levels.” He also called for revisiting the National Finance Commission (NFC) award, stating that the existing

resource-sharing formula needed to evolve to reflect new realities, especially those concerning population and climate-related pressures. Highlighting global cooperation, Aurangzeb shared that Pakistan's new 10-year Country Partnership Framework, with the World Bank allocating a significant portion of the expected \$20 billion including funding to population and climate initiatives. “Four of the six priority pillars in this plan are directly focused on these two areas,” he noted. That means an annual stream of \$600 to \$700 million dedicated to population and climate related

measures, he added. He urged policymakers and development partners to go beyond traditional infrastructure investments and prioritize human capital development. “We have built roads and power projects, but it's time to invest in people,” he said. “This is the only way to ensure real, inclusive, and sustainable progress.” Aurangzeb concluded by emphasizing the need for responsible spending and high-impact execution. “As Finance Minister, I cannot afford to be complacent. It's not just about securing funds—it's about making sure they are deployed where they will have the greatest effect.”

## Rs 191b loss reduction through power sector reforms: Awais

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Energy (Power Division) Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari Thursday said that government's ongoing efforts to reform the energy sector are yielding significant positive results, leading to reduce losses and improve performance across power distribution companies (DISCOs). Addressing a press conference, he said that the government has achieved an unprecedented reduction of Rs191 billion in power sector losses within just the first year of its reform agenda. The minister said this success was made possible through strict reforms, improved transparency, and a clear focus on merit-based governance across the power sector. This achievement marks the first time in Pakistan's history that such a significant reduction in the power sector's financial burden has been realized in such a short period. Awais said the ten government-run power distribution companies (DISCOs) had imposed a staggering Rs591 billion in losses on the national exchequer and taxpayers during the fiscal year 2023–24. These losses were primarily due to non-recoveries and electricity theft. He noted that through targeted interventions, the government reduced losses by Rs 191 billion, bringing total losses down to Rs 399 billion. Had these losses not occurred, he added, the same funds could have been utilized

for debt servicing, national development projects, and improving the quality of life for citizens. Leghari said that the root causes of inefficiency were systematically addressed over the past year, including politicized appointments and board member selections based on connections rather than merit. For the first time, he said, board members and senior officials in DISCOs were appointed strictly on merit, free from political or personal influence. He stressed that the era of politically motivated postings had ended and the Power Division no longer accepts recommendations for appointments. “These reforms reflect Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's commitment to transparent governance and strengthening public institutions,” he added. The minister shared that recovery losses amounted to Rs. 315 billion last year, but recovery performance improved to 96.6%, up from 92.4%—a record in Pakistan's power sector. Leghari further disclosed that electricity theft, which amounted to Rs276 billion last year, had been partially curbed, resulting in a Rs11 billion reduction in theft-related losses due to effective enforcement and reduced line losses by several companies. He said a major success story was Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO), which alone contributed to Rs. 60 billion in reduced losses and lauded the company for exposing a major electricity theft scandal involving industrial entities. – Agencies

## Gaza civil defense says 52 killed by Israeli forces

GAZA CITY: Gaza's civil defense agency on Thursday said at least 52 people, including eight children, were killed by Israeli forces in the Palestinian territory battered by more than 21 months of war. The latest deadly strikes and gunfire came just hours after Hamas, which runs Gaza, announced it was willing to release 10 hostages as part of indirect ceasefire talks with Israel. Israel has recently expanded its military operations in the Gaza Strip, where the war has created dire humanitarian conditions for the population of more than two million people. Civil defense official Mohammad Al-Mughair told AFP that 17 people were killed in a strike in front of a medical point in Deir Al-Balah in central Gaza. The Israeli military told AFP that it had struck a Hamas militant in Deir Al-Balah who had infiltrated Israel during the group's October 7, 2023 attack. It said it “regrets any harm to uninvolved individuals and operates to minimize harm as much as possible,” adding the incident was under review. Mughair said eight children and two women were killed in the strike. Yousef Al-Aydi, 30, said he was among dozens of people, mostly women and children, waiting for nutritional supplements in front of the medical point.

“Suddenly, we heard the sound of a drone approaching, and then the explosion happened,” he told AFP by phone. “The ground shook beneath our feet, and everything around us turned into blood and deafening screams.” “What was our fault? What was the fault of the children?” asked Mohammed Abu Ouda, 35, who had also been waiting for supplies. “I saw a mother hugging her child on the ground, both motionless — they were killed instantly.” AFP is unable to independently verify the tolls and details due to media restrictions in Gaza.

Four people were killed and several injured in a pre-dawn air strike on a family home in Al-Bureij camp in central Gaza, Mughair added. AFP footage from Al-Bureij showed a family including three young children sitting among rubble outside their tattered tent after an air strike hit a house next door. Mughair reported 27 more people killed in bombardments across the territory, including 15 people in five separate strikes in the area of Gaza City. One person was killed southwest of the southern city of Khan Yunis by “Israeli military fire,” Mughair said. Three more, including a woman, were killed by Israeli gunfire on civilians near an aid center in the northwest of nearby Rafah, he added. More than 600 people have been killed around aid distributions and convoys in Gaza since late May, when Israel began allowing in a trickle of supplies, the United Nations said in early July. The war began after Hamas militants attacked Israel on October 7, 2023, leading to the deaths of 1,219 people, most of them civilians. Israel's retaliatory strikes have killed at least 57,680 Palestinians in Gaza, most of them civilians, according to the Hamas-run territory's health ministry. The United Nations deems the figures reliable. – Agencies

## UN calls for ‘immediate deescalation’ in Libyan capital

TRIPOLI: The UN mission in Libya called for “immediate deescalation,” citing reports of armed forces being mobilized in the capital and its surroundings that have raised fears of renewed violence. In mid-May, there were clashes in Tripoli between forces loyal to the government and powerful armed groups wanting to dismantle it. In a statement published late on Wednesday on X, the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) said there were “increased reports of continued military build-up in and around Tripoli.” It said it “strongly urges all parties to refrain from using force, particularly in densely populated areas, and to avoid any actions or political rhetoric that could trigger escalation or lead to renewed clashes.” It called for all parties to “engage in good faith” in deescalation and for the “swift implementation of security arrangements” set out during efforts to end the May violence. Those clashes left six people dead, the United Nations said. “Forces recently deployed in Tripoli must withdraw without delay,” UNSMIL said. Libya has been gripped by conflict since the 2011 overthrow and killing of longtime ruler Muammar Qaddafi in a NATO-backed uprising. The country remains split between Prime Minister Abdelhamid Dbeibah's UN-recognized government based in Tripoli and a rival administration based in the east. – Agencies

## Japan, UK, Italy open to Saudi joining fighter-jet program

DUBAI: Japan, the UK and Italy are open to having Saudi Arabia join their next-generation fighter-jet initiative, but only once the project has reached a more advanced stage and key issues have been resolved, according to The Japan Times. The Global Combat Air Program is a joint effort to develop a sixth-generation fighter. It will likely remain a trilateral initiative until after the GCAP International Government Organization, or GIGO, and the industry-led joint venture Edgewise sign their first international contract, likely by the end of 2025, the newspaper reported recently. The GIGO, officially inaugurated on Monday in Reading, England, was established last year to oversee government-level coordination for the program. Edgewise, launched last month, brings together the UK's BAE Systems, Italy's Leonardo, and the Japan Aircraft Industrial Enhancement Co., and is responsible for designing and developing the aircraft. “There is no preclusion in having Saudi Arabia join the program, but we first have to define certain criteria and clarify all the points,” one source told The Japan Times, speaking after a virtual meeting between the GCAP nations' defense ministers on Monday. – Agencies

## European stocks end midweek with gains

ISTANBUL: European stocks closed higher Wednesday as investors are waiting for updates on a potential trade deal with the US. The pan-European Stoxx 600 index rose 0.78%, or 4.25 points, to close at 549.96. Germany's DAX 40 index was up 1.42% to end at 24,549.56 and Britain's FTSE 100 added 0.15% to 8,867.02 points. France's CAC 40 rose 1.44% to 7,878.46 and Italy's FTSE MIB index climbed 1.59% to close at 40,821.31.

Investors are awaiting an announcement of a trade deal between the US and the EU as US President Donald Trump extended a tariff deadline Monday to Aug. 1. The US president also sent tariff letters to 21 countries in two days, imposing tariffs from between 20% to 40%. Trump said Tuesday that the EU has changed its tone. “They treated us very badly until recently. Now they're treating us very nicely. It's like a different world.”

“We're probably two days off from sending them a letter. We are talking to them. I just want you to (know) a letter means a (tariff) deal,” he said. EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, meanwhile, made a broad statement on trade talks with the US.

“We stick to our principles, we defend our interests, we continue to work in good faith, and we get ready for all scenarios,” she told the European Parliament on Wednesday. – Agencies

## Beijing issues blue alert for rainstorms

BEIJING: Beijing issued a blue alert for rainstorms early Thursday morning and initiated a Level-IV flood control emergency response citywide. Heavy rainfall had already hit Beijing by the night of Wednesday. According to data released by the municipal meteorological department, most areas of the city are expected to witness heavy rainfall on Thursday morning, with hourly precipitation exceeding 30 millimetres and six-hour accumulations surpassing 50 millimetres. Mountainous and hilly regions face the risk of secondary disasters, including flash floods, mudslides and landslides triggered by the downpour, while low-lying areas may experience waterlogging. Local authorities advised all relevant departments to implement flood prevention measures and urged the public to stay updated on forecasts, carry rain gear, and avoid sheltering near high-rise buildings or billboards. Drivers were advised to exercise caution on slippery roads and steer clear of flooded sections. China has a four-tier weather warning system, with red representing the most severe warning, followed by orange, yellow and blue. – APP

## US resumes sending some weapons to Ukraine

WASHINGTON: The Trump administration has resumed sending some weapons to Ukraine, a week after the Pentagon had directed that some deliveries be paused, US officials said Wednesday. The weapons heading into Ukraine include 155 mm munitions and precision-guided rockets known as GMLRS, two officials told The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity to provide details that had not been announced publicly. It's unclear exactly when the weapons started moving. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth directed the pause on some shipments last week to allow the Pentagon to assess its weapons stockpiles, in a move that caught the White House by surprise. Affected was Patriot missiles, the precision-guided GMLRS, Hellfire missiles, Howitzer rounds and more, taking not only Ukrainian officials and other allies by surprise but also US lawmakers and other parts of the Trump administration, including the State Department. It was not clear if a pause on Patriot missiles would hold. The \$4 million munition is in high demand and was key to defending a major US air base in Qatar last month as Iran launched a ballistic missile attack in response to the US targeting its nuclear facilities. – APP

## More than 17m people in Yemen going hungry, including 1m kids: United Nations

The Houthis have vowed to keep targeting vessels in the key waterway until the war in Gaza ends. Grundberg said freedom of navigation in the Red Sea must be safeguarded and stressed that “Yemen must not be drawn deeper into regional crises that threaten to unravel the already extremely fragile situation in the country”

UNITED NATIONS: More than 17 million people in conflict-torn Yemen are going hungry, including over a million children under the age of 5 who are suffering from “life-threatening acute malnutrition,” the United Nations humanitarian chief said Wednesday. Tom Fletcher told the UN Security Council that the food security crisis in the Arab world's poorest country, which is beset by civil war, has been accelerating since late 2023. The number of people going hungry could climb to over 18 million by September, he warned, and the number of children with acute malnutrition could surge to 1.2 million early next year, “leaving many at risk of permanent physical and cognitive damage.” According to experts who produce the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, a leading international authority that ranks the severity of hunger, more than 17,000 Yemenis are in the three worst categories of food insecurity — crisis stage or worse. Fletcher said the UN hasn't seen the current level of deprivation since before a UN-brokered truce in early 2022. He noted that it is unfolding as global funding for humanitarian

aid is plummeting, which means reductions or cuts in food. According to the UN, as of mid-May, the UN's \$2.5 billion humanitarian appeal for Yemen this year had received just \$222 million, just 9 percent. Yemen has been embroiled in civil war since 2014, when Iranian-backed Houthi rebels seized the capital of Sanaa, forcing the internationally recognized government into exile in Saudi Arabia. A Saudi-led coalition intervened months later and has been battling the rebels since 2015 to try and restore the government. The war has devastated Yemen, created one of the world's worst humanitarian disasters, and turned into a stalemated proxy conflict. More than 150,000 people, including fighters and civilians, have been killed. Hans Grundberg, the UN special envoy for Yemen, told the council in a video briefing that two Houthi attacks on commercial vessels in the Red Sea this week — the first in over seven months — and Israeli airstrikes on the capital and key ports are escalating the conflict. The Houthis have vowed to keep targeting vessels in

the key waterway until the war in Gaza ends. Grundberg said freedom of navigation in the Red Sea must be safeguarded and stressed that “Yemen must not be drawn deeper into regional crises that threaten to unravel the already extremely fragile situation in the country.” “The stakes for Yemen are simply too high,” he said. “Yemen's future depends on our collective resolve to shield it from further suffering and to give its people the hope and dignity they so deeply deserve.” Grundberg warned that a military solution to the civil war “remains a dangerous illusion that risks deepening Yemen's suffering.” Negotiations offer the best hope to address the complex conflict, he said, and the longer it is drawn out “there is a risk that divisions could deepen further.” Grundberg said both sides must signal a willingness to explore peaceful avenues — and an important signal would be the release of all conflict-related detainees. The parties have agreed to an all-for-all release, he said, but the process has stagnated for over a year. – Agencies



## Briefs

Tariq Fatemi  
meets  
Russian  
first deputy  
minister  
energy

## DNA

MOSCOW: As part of his two-day official visit to the Russian Federation, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Syed Tariq Fatemi, met with Russian First Deputy Minister of Energy, Pavel Sorokin, in Moscow today.

During the meeting, the SAPM expressed satisfaction at the ongoing energy cooperation between the two countries, while confident of further expansion of ties in this vital sector. Additionally, he thanked First Deputy Minister of Energy for Russia's cooperation in ensuring energy security of Pakistan. Noting the active engagement of governments and private sectors in the field of energy from both sides, the SAPM underlined that energy was one of the key priority areas of cooperation between Pakistan and Russia.

Recalling his successful visit to Pakistan in February this year, during which he had also called on the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Pavel Sorokin acknowledged the good cooperation in energy sector between the two countries. He also pointed out potential areas, such as hydropower, LPG and modernization of oil refineries, as suitable for future collaboration.

Torrential  
rains kill  
five across  
Punjab

182mm of rain recorded in Nishtar Town, homes and streets flooded; LESCO says 142 power feeders tripped

## ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Heavy rain-fall that began at 5am on Thursday lashed Lahore for over six hours, submerging low-lying areas, paralysing traffic, and causing structural damage in several districts across Punjab. The rain stopped around 11:30am, but drainage work by WASA teams is still ongoing. Nishtar Town received the heaviest downpour, recording 182mm, while rainwater entered homes in Dharampura, Shah Jamal, Choburji, and surrounding localities. Vehicles and motorcycles were stranded in deep water, especially in underpasses and along major roads.

A house and mosque in Shah Jamal were also flooded. Wall and roof collapse incidents were reported in Lahore, Okara, Sheikhupura, and Pattoki, leaving five people dead, including a woman and two children, and injuring several others.

## Information Minister in China

Pakistan and China resolve to  
broaden media collaboration

*Attaullah Tarar stated that under the agreement, both institutions will enhance cooperation in news coverage, documentary production, training resources, and technical support*

## DNA

BEIJING: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar met with Cao Shumin, Deputy Head of the CPC Publicity Department and Minister of National Radio and Television Administration of China (NRTA) China, to explore broadening cooperation through joint productions, combating disinformation, launching training initiatives, and fostering cultural exchange.

Both leaders characterized the media partnership as a testament to mutual trust and a deep-rooted friendship. Speaking on the occasion, Attaullah Tarar stated that Pakistan has much to learn from China's experience in media and communication. He praised China's expertise in digital media, public service broadcasting, and cultural content promotion as truly commendable.

Pakistan and China have agreed to expand cooperation and joint broadcasting projects between their state media organizations. This initiative aims to more effectively counter fake news and disinformation. Both leaders also endorsed a unified stance against fake news, along with plans for technical training and institutional collaboration.

The meeting further featured discussions on a proposed agreement between China Central Television (CCTV) and Pakistan Television (PTV) to promote information exchange and strengthen media cooperation.

Discussions during the meeting also touched on facilitating exchange visits of digital influencers from Pakistan and China to strengthen cultural ties and mutual engagement.

Attaullah Tarar stated that under the agreement, both institutions will enhance cooperation in news coverage, documentary production, training resources, and technical support. Attaullah Tarar noted that during the recent ten-

sions between Pakistan and India, youth from China and Pakistan demonstrated strong solidarity, a sentiment that gained widespread attention across social media platforms. Attaullah Tarar remarked that in today's digital age, the exchange of influencers and social media representatives from both countries can bring renewed vitality to bilateral relations. He affirmed Pakistan's commitment to turning mutual media cooperation into concrete actions.

Tarar emphasized that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) serves as a cornerstone for a promising future between the two nations. Attaullah Tarar said that Pakistan Television, Radio Pakistan, and the national news agency APP are instrumental in highlighting China's development, the Belt and Road Initiative, CPEC, cultural ties, and mutual cooperation to the people of both Pakistan and China. He noted that Pakistan Television (PTV) is fostering intellectual and cultural ties between the two nations by broadcasting Chinese programs, documentaries, and news reports in Urdu. Likewise, APP's China News Service has made notable strides in delivering Pakistan's narrative to Chinese readers effectively.

Federal Minister for Information stated that media organizations in both countries are playing a key role in fostering closer ties between the people of China and Pakistan, promoting social understanding, and enhancing mutual harmony. He added that further opportunities for collaboration in media and culture exist and can be pursued through active institutional frameworks. Ms Cao Shumin highlighted China's recognition of Pakistan as a trusted partner, noting that media organizations from both nations can deepen their collaboration by sharing experiences. She further emphasized that greater cooperation in media and technology will be mutually advantageous.

Discussions during the meeting also focused on shaping



a joint narrative around civilizational exchange and innovation between Pakistan and China. Both sides agreed that media, culture, and public relations hold the potential to deepen the bilateral relationship, with future efforts to be advanced through a coordinated strategy.

'Convergence interests  
between Pak, China  
worrying India: Anil

Gen Chauhan says it was "challenging to determine extent of China's support to Pakistan" during conflict

## MONITORING DESK

NEW DELHI: India's Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan has warned about a possible convergence of interests between China, Pakistan and Bangladesh, which as per him, could pose significant challenges to India's internal stability. The News reported on Thursday. "There is a possible convergence of interest we can talk about between China, Pakistan and Bangladesh that may have implications for India's stability and security dynamics", General Chauhan said while speaking at an event organised by the New Delhi-based think tank "Observer Research Foundation".

The top Indian general's remarks come against the backdrop of a diplomatic downturn in India-Bangladesh relations following the ouster of former Bangladeshi prime minister Sheikh Hasina last year, who later sought refuge in India. Raising concerns on shifting geopolitical alignments in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), Gen Chauhan claimed that the region's economic vulnerabilities have enabled external actors to deepen their influence. "IOR has allowed outside powers to leverage their influence through debt diplomacy, creating vulnerabilities for India. Similarly, frequent shifts in government in South Asia, with changing geopolitical equations and ideological views, pose another major challenge", he said.

While he acknowledged speculation around China's involvement, he noted: "It is challenging to determine the extent of state support provided by China to Pakistan during Operation Sindoor", and added that no unusual activity was observed along India's northern borders during the conflict. The Indian chief of the defence staff, previously, while commenting on the recent Pakistan-India conflict, had become the first Indian official to admit that New Delhi lost an "unspecified number of fighter jets" in the May clashes. His statement referred to the conflict that saw both countries using missiles, drones, and artillery fire during the four-day fighting in May – their worst in decades – triggered by an attack in April on Hindu tourists in IIOJK that New Delhi blamed on Pakistan, an allegation denied by Islamabad.

Fears grow that  
Texas floods death  
toll could surge

Kerr County suffered the most damage with at least 95 fatalities including 36 children; death toll rises to 119

## NEWS DESK

HUNT: The Texas flash floods death toll rose to 119 on Wednesday, as worries grew that the figure could more than double with over 160 people still reported missing. Workers in central Texas continued to comb through

piles of muddy debris from the July 4 floods as Governor Greg Abbott ordered flags to be lowered to half-staff over the tragedy. Officials in Kerr County, the epicentre of the flooding, on Wednesday confirmed 161 people were known to be missing in the county. Part of a Hill Country region in central Texas known as "Flash Flood Alley," Kerr County suffered the most damage, with at least 95 fatalities including 36 children, Sheriff Larry Leitha told reporters. Among them, counselors and 27 girls at a summer camp who went missing early Friday when the Guadalupe River burst its banks. Five campers and one counselor from Camp Mystic were still missing as of Wednesday, along with another child not associated with the camp, Leitha said. Two dozen other people have been confirmed dead elsewhere in the state, according to an AFP tally of official reports. More than 2,000 rescue personnel, police and experts have descended on the flood zone in what Leitha described as an "all hands on deck" operation.

Pak urges  
peace in  
Yemen

## DNA

UNITED NATIONS: Voicing deep concern over Yemen's protracted crisis, Pakistan has called for reinvigorating inclusive negotiations and addressing the interconnected political, humanitarian, and socio-economic challenges facing the impoverished country.

"Years of conflict have inflicted immense suffering on the Yemeni people – Political fragmentation, economic collapse, and environmental degradation have further exacerbated their plight," Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, permanent representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, told the UN Security Council on Wednesday. "What began as an internal crisis has since assumed broader regional dimensions, with serious implications for international peace and security," he said in a debate on the situation in Yemen.

The crisis in Yemen, which worsened in 2014 after Houthi rebels (known officially as Ansar-Allah) seized the capital, Sanaa, has been marked by complex political and military tensions. More than 17 million people – half the country's population – remain dependent on humanitarian assistance and protection.

Sindh govt  
arrests six  
SBCA officers

Karachi police register case of multi-storey building collapse that claimed 27 lives

## NAZIR SIAYL

KARACHI: Nine buildings declared unsafe in Lyari have been vacated by the Sindh government, senior provincial minister Sharjeel Memon said on Thursday.

This development came after a multi-storey residential building collapsed in the overcrowded inner-city Lyari district last week, where many working-class and poor families live in ageing apartment blocks.

Memon said that the authorities have also started demolishing one of the dilapidated buildings in Lyari. He also said that three-month rents would be given to the affected families.

The minister said that the new director general of the SBCA ordered all officers to submit their asset details within 15 days. He also announced that strict action will be taken against those officials who were involved in approving the illegal construction of buildings.



BEIJING: The Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister, Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar met with the Canadian FM Anita Anand on the sidelines of 32nd ARF Ministerial Meeting at KL. The two sides acknowledged the positive trajectory of the Pak-Canada bilateral relations. They discussed and agreed to upscale and strengthen economic & trade relations. – DNA

ANP leader  
among two killed  
in Bajaur firing

*Maulana Zaib was shot dead while campaigning for July 13 peace march*



## DNA

BAJAUR: Two people, including Awami National Party (ANP) leader Maulana Khan Zaib, were killed on Thursday in a shooting near the Khar Tehsil headquarters in Bajaur. The ANP leader was shot dead while campaigning for the July 13 peace movement, according to the Bajaur District Police Officer (DPO) Waqas Rafiq.

Furthermore, the senior police official added that the firing also injured three of Maulana's associates who were shifted to the hospital. Maulana Zaib was the head of ANP's Ulama Council and a former National Assembly candidate.

Following the killing, ANP workers and citizens staged a protest, which ended moments later.

In a post on X, ANP President Senator Aimal Wali Khan expressed grief over the attack. In the post, he uploaded a picture with the slain politician, writing: "Devastated".

Pakistan accuses India  
of weaponizing water

*"Despite recent attempts by one country in our region to weaponize water, Pakistan remains resolute in its commitment to ensuring that the 2026 Water Conference accelerates the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 6) and fosters an international law based approach to the governance and sustainable management of transboundary rivers and aquifers"*

UNITED NATIONS: At a preparatory meeting for the key 2026 UN Water Conference, Pakistan has denounced India's attempts to "weaponize water" by suspending the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) and thereby endangering the lives of over 225 million people. "Water should serve as a unifying force, not a source of division," Ambassador Usman Jadoon, deputy permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, told the meeting.

"Despite recent attempts by one country in our region to weaponize water, Pakistan remains resolute in its commitment to ensuring that the 2026 Water Conference accelerates the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 6) and fosters an international law based approach to the governance and sustainable management of transboundary rivers and aquifers," he said without naming India. (SDG 6) calls for the world to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. The Conference, co-hosted by Senegal and United Arab Emirates, takes place on 2 to 4 December 2026 in UAE.

Ambassador Jadoon called for the upcoming conference to prioritize advancing practical transboundary cooperation, including through reinforcing legal frameworks and promoting conflict prevention and peaceful dispute resolution, emphasizing that it should also elevate the voices of those countries that depend on shared water resources for their sustainable development and survival.

"Above all," he said, "the conference offers a crucial opportunity for all delegations to reaffirm their commitment to fundamental principles of international water law—specifically, the equitable and reasonable utilization of shared water resources, the obligation to prevent significant harm to other riparian states, and the duty to cooperate." Accordingly, Ambassador Jadoon welcomed the inclusion of Transboundary Water Cooperation as one of the themes for the interactive dialogues. Pakistan, he said, stands ready to contribute constructively to discussions under this theme by sharing insights from its decades-long treaty based water-sharing arrangement. – DNA

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