



Islamabad POST

Thursday, July 17, 2025

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

Egypt, Pakistan ties from cordial to excellent: envoy

Detailed News On Page-08

CDA's 2nd day of plots auction: Chairman CDA

Detailed News On Page-04



Hockey players dissatisfied with management

Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

Social media should not be used for propaganda, says Tarar

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Federal Information Minister Attaullah Tarar on Wednesday said that social media should be used to raise awareness against the patriarchal system, rather than for spreading misinformation or political propaganda. Speaking at an event in Islamabad, Tarar addressed the PECA (Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act) amendments, stating: "The purpose of the PECA amendments and the establishment of a new national agency is to prevent crime. These new laws are not intended to suppress freedom of expression in any way." He added, "In the best democracies, there is a system of punishment and reward. The aim of this legislation is to make the digital world safer for women and other vulnerable groups." Tarar stressed that political parties must play a leading role in this process. "There is gender discrimination in our society. The patriarchal system continues to pose challenges for women," he noted. Highlighting the influence of digital platforms, he said, "Social media accounts related to fashion or entertainment attract millions of followers. Social issues must also be brought to the forefront under a new system. The need of the hour is to use social media for positive and constructive objectives."

Aleema claims Imran's life under threat

Former PM's sister alleges PTI founder in solitary confinement, denied newspapers and TV

FAISAL SHEIKH

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's sister Aleema Khan on Tuesday claimed that the life of the incarcerated former premier was in danger and announced that the matter would be taken to the Supreme Court. Speaking to media persons outside the Anti-Terrorism Court, Aleema said her brother and nephew were being held in "unlawful" detention. "Our brother and nephew are being held in unlawful detention," she told reporters, adding, "Our focus is on the release of innocent prisoners." Aleema alleged the PTI founder was being kept in solitary confinement and denied access to newspapers and television. "Newspapers and TV have been cut off and he has been placed in solitary confinement," she said, accusing the jail authorities of violating basic rights. "The jail superintendent is lying – my brother does not lie," she claimed. She also alleged that Bushra Bibi was being targeted to exert pressure on Imran Khan. "Efforts are being made to break the PTI founder by taking action against Bushra Bibi," Aleema said, while also accusing the Punjab chief minister of orchestrating the campaign. "Maryam Nawaz has sent this superintendent to inflict injustice on the PTI founder."

Good News

Pakistan removed from UK air safety list

"I'm grateful to aviation experts in both the UK and Pakistan for their collaborative efforts in achieving compliance with international safety standards', says Jane Marriott

CENTRELINE REPORT

ISLAMABAD: In a significant development for Pakistan's aviation sector, the United Kingdom has officially removed Pakistan from its Air Safety List, paving the way for Pakistani airlines to apply for resuming direct flight operations to the UK. The decision was announced following a comprehensive review by the UK's Air Safety Committee, which determined that Pakistan had made sufficient improvements to its aviation safety protocols. Although each airline will still need to apply individually to the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) for operational permits, the lifting of the ban marks a crucial step forward. British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Jane Marriott CMG OBE, welcomed the announcement, stating: "I'm grateful to aviation experts in both the UK and Pakistan

for their collaborative efforts in achieving compliance with international safety standards. While the resumption of flights will take some time as logistics are finalized, I look forward to flying with a Pakistani carrier when visiting family and friends." The UK had originally placed restrictions on Pakistani carriers in 2021 following concerns over pilot licensing and regulatory oversight. Since then, the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) has worked closely with the UK's Air Safety Committee to address these concerns and implement corrective measures. The delisting follows a thorough, independent, and technically driven assessment process, underscoring the progress Pakistan has made in aviation governance and safety standards. With over 1.6 million people of Pakistani heritage residing in the UK and

Continued on Page 06

President, PM condemn attack

Many dead as bus targeted in Kalat

Coach was en route from Karachi to Quetta when gunmen opened fire, say police

BUREAU REPORT

KALAT: At least three people were killed and seven others sustained injuries after unidentified assailants opened gunfire on a passenger coach travelling from Karachi to Quetta near a checkpoint in Balochistan's Kalat, police said on Wednesday. The attack occurred when the bus approached Nemargh Cross near Kalat district as the unidentified attackers first opened fire and then hurled hand grenades. The vehicles that run on this route carry approximately 40 to 50 passengers. However, the exact number of passengers on board the targeted bus remains unknown. Balochistan government spokesperson, Shahid Rind noted that security agencies, district authorities, and rescue teams reached the scene immediately. The wounded were transferred to the Qalat DHQ Hospital, where an emergency has been declared. Security forces cordoned off the area and

Continued on Page 06

Major embraces martyrdom in Awaran Distt.

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Security Forces conducted an intelligence-based operation in Awaran District, on reported presence of terrorists belonging to Indian Proxy, Fitna al Hindustan. During the conduct of operation, own troops effectively engaged the terrorist location and resultantly, three Indian sponsored terrorists were sent to hell. However, during the intense fire exchange, Major Syed Rabnawaz Tariq (age: 34 years, resident of District Muzafarabad), a brave officer who was leading his troops from the front, fought

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs Federal Cabinet Meeting. – DNA

Pakistan, China vow to strengthen cooperation: Ishaq Dar

DPM Dar congratulated Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the successful hosting of the SCO CFM

DNA

TIANJIN: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar met with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Wednesday, where the two sides reiterated their firm commitment to further strengthen bilateral cooperation to promote regional peace, stability, and development. In the meeting held on the sidelines of the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers meeting here,

Continued on Page 06

Thousands of Afghans secretly moved to Britain

Leak by UK's defence ministry in early 2022 and secret relocation programme were subject to superinjunction

NEWS DESK

LONDON: Britain set up a secret scheme to bring thousands of Afghans to the United Kingdom after their personal details were disclosed in one of the country's worst ever data breaches, putting them at risk of reprisals from the Taliban after their return to power. Concerns that individuals could be targeted by the Taliban

Continued on Page 06

CABINET MEETING

Govt believes in performance and service delivery

PM commends peaceful Muharram processions, effective rain arrangements

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday commended the efforts of all provincial governments, the federal administration, as well as authorities in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) for making the best possible arrangements during Muharram. He also expressed gratitude to the law enforcement agencies and all stakeholders for maintaining law and order during the religious observances. Chairing the meeting of the federal cabinet here, the prime minister also spoke about disaster preparedness amid the ongoing monsoon season. He said he had chaired a high-level meeting with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Provincial Disaster

Continued on Page 06

Cabinet approves 15% increase in EOBI pensions

This increase will be funded from the institution's own resources

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet on Wednesday approved a 15% increase in pensions provided by the Employees' Old-Age Benefits Institution (EOBI), effective from January 1, 2025. The cabinet's decision was based on the recommendation of the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development.

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan defends envoy

Iran's Pak envoy named in FBI's 'most wanted' list

FBI alleges diplomat's involvement in abduction, detention and probable death of special agent

MONITORING DESK

TEHRAN: Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan Reza Amiri Moghadam has been named in the United States' Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) "most wanted" list over his alleged role in the abduction, detention, and probable death of retired FBI special agent Robert A. Levinson and alleged efforts to cover up its responsibility. The US has sought information on Moghadam, who as per the FBI is an official of Iran's Ministry of Intelligence and Security. According to the FBI, Levinson – who re-

tired from the FBI in 1998 and worked as a private investigator – travelled to Iran's Kish Island, Iran, on March 8, 2007, and has not been publicly seen or heard from since his disappearance the following day. In 2010 and 2011, a video and photographs were obtained showing Levinson in captivity. In March of 2025, the US Department of the Treasury designated Moghadam and others for their involvement in the abduction, detention, and probable death. The FBI has since then continued its investigation in order to identify more Iranian officials

Continued on Page 06

The poor being pushed to the brink

OPINION

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI



IN a country already reeling from the devastating effects of inflation, unemployment, and persistent economic stagnation, the recent abnormal increase in fuel prices has delivered yet another punishing blow – particularly to Pakistan's poor and middle-income groups. For the second time within a single month, petrol and diesel prices have witnessed a sharp upward revision. This is not just a marginal adjustment; it is a significant surge that threatens the very survival of millions of struggling citizens. With each fuel price hike, the ripple effect spreads far and wide – across food prices, transport fares, utility costs, and even school tuition. For households that are already barely managing to survive, the latest surge comes as an unbearable addition to their growing financial burdens. Petrol and diesel are not just commodities; they are lifelines for economic activity, especially in a country where public transport is inadequate, and where the informal economy – driven by motorcycles, rickshaws, and small vehicles – forms the backbone of livelihood for countless people. The working class – including daily wage earners, delivery riders, rickshaw drivers, and small vendors – is among the hardest hit. These individuals do not use fuel for luxury. They rely on it for mobility, for earning a living, and for accessing essential services such as healthcare and education. With every rupee increase in the price of fuel, their costs of living rise disproportionately

“At this critical juncture, the government must remember that leadership is not judged by how well it protects the powerful, but by how compassionately it supports the powerless. The elite may have influence, but it is the people — the millions who labor quietly every day to keep this country running”

ly, forcing many to make heart-wrenching choices between food, medicine, and fuel. Some are now walking long distances to save money, while others are cutting down on meals or pulling children out of school just to make ends meet. In sharp contrast, the elite class – politicians, top bureaucrats, and other high-ranking officials – remain disturbingly insulated from this crisis. Despite the gravity of the economic situation, many continue to enjoy free fuel, free luxury vehicles, and an assortment of perks that are funded by taxpayers. This disparity is not just unfair – it is immoral. Nowhere in the world is this culture of entitlement as entrenched as it is in Pakistan. In most developed nations, public servants are required to use public transport or fuel-efficient vehicles, and even then, fuel expenses are monitored and reimbursed strictly based on need and performance. But in Pakistan, senior government officials ride around in fuel-guzzling SUVs and luxury cars, often for personal use, with no accountability. Meanwhile, the poor are told to "tighten their belts" and "make sacrifices for the country." This free-fuel culture has become a toxic legacy of misplaced priorities and unchecked privilege. It drains the national treasury of billions every year. These funds could – and should – be redirected toward targeted relief programs for low-income households, especially at a time when the economic squeeze is reaching intolerable levels. The state must ask itself: how can it justify giving away fuel to

the privileged when the poor cannot even afford to cook their meals or send their children to school? Ending this two-tiered system of governance is not just an economic imperative – it is a matter of social justice. The government must urgently reform the existing policies that provide fuel allowances and luxury vehicles to senior officials. Replacing these perks with modest, need-based transport subsidies – if any – would send a powerful signal that the government is willing to lead by example and share in the hardships faced by the people. Equally troubling is the lack of long-term planning that this price hike exposes. Pakistan remains woefully unprepared to deal with global oil shocks. Successive governments have failed to build strategic fuel reserves, improve public transportation systems, or invest in alternative energy sources. Instead, they continue to take reactive, short-term decisions – often at the urging of international financial institutions such as the IMF, with the burden falling squarely on the poor. The absence of foresight has now created a vicious cycle: global oil prices rise, and the cost is immediately passed on to the public, with no mitigating strategies in place. There are no buffer mechanisms to protect the masses. There are no subsidies for low-income earners. There are no efforts to reduce the country's dependence on fossil fuels through renewable energy initiatives or urban transport planning. This failure in governance is not just inefficient – it is reckless.

The timing of this fuel price hike only adds salt to the wound. Inflation is already hovering at dangerously high levels. Utility bills have become unaffordable, food prices are skyrocketing, and school fees are increasingly out of reach for the average family. This additional burden has pushed countless households beyond the brink of survival. People are not only frustrated; they are desperate. Small businesses are closing down. Transport fares have doubled in some cities. Workers are unable to commute to jobs that already pay below subsistence level. In rural areas, where distances are longer and infrastructure is weaker, the impact is even more catastrophic. For many families, it is no longer a question of reducing expenses – it is a question of basic survival. The public outcry is growing, and rightly so. Citizens are demanding accountability, relief, and empathy from a government that seems increasingly detached from their daily realities. There is a pressing need for emergency measures: reversing the latest fuel price hike, rolling back non-essential perks for government officials, and introducing relief packages for vulnerable populations. At this critical juncture, the government must remember that leadership is not judged by how well it protects the powerful, but by how compassionately it supports the powerless. The elite may have influence, but it is the people – the millions who labor quietly every day to keep this country running. Pakistan's poor are watching. They are hoping for relief, for fairness, and above all, for mercy.

**CM upgrades
NSIC to
specialized
medical
institution**

SARGODHA: In a significant development for public healthcare, Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif upgraded the Nawaz Sharif Institute of Cardiology (NSIC) in Sargodha to a specialised medical institution. According to spokesperson here on Wednesday, the upgraded institution will offer advanced medical care and specialized services to patients, improving healthcare outcomes in Sargodha and surrounding areas. Former Member National Assembly Barrister Mohsin Shah Nawaz Ranjha said in his tweet that the decision reflects the government's commitment to prioritizing public welfare and providing quality healthcare services to citizens. He said that the NSIC upgradation is expected to have a positive impact on the healthcare landscape in Sargodha, providing patients with access to specialized care and treatment. "This development underscores the government's focus on improving public services and promoting the well-being of citizens", he added.—APP

**'Killer' of
little girl killed
in crossfire**

BAHAWALPUR: A suspected killer of a little girl was killed in crossfire between police and accomplices of the accused here. A spokesman for Bahawalpur police said the suspect had murdered a six-year-old girl, Sumera Bibi. He said the local police arrested the killer in just 12 hours. The police spokesman said that the police were taking the accused to the murder scene where armed accomplices of the suspect opened indiscriminate fire at the police and the suspect was killed in crossfire. "The accomplices of the suspect managed to escape from the scene," he concluded. He said that local police were conducting raids to trace out whereabouts of the suspects and to bring them to justice.—APP

**RWMC fully
active to
drain water in
ongoing rains**

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Waste Management Company is fully active and alert in terms of sanitation and water drainage during the ongoing monsoon rains under the Suthra Punjab programme. "Despite the rain in urban, commercial and rural areas, the process of door-to-door waste collection, manual sweeping, and waste lifting is continuing without interruption," an RWMC spokesman said on Wednesday. As per the orders of Chief Executive Officer Rana Sajid Safdar, RWMC workers continuously remained present in the field, especially in low-lying and sensitive areas, cleaning the blocked manholes and drains during the rains as a quick response and ensuring the drainage process so that the citizens did not face any kind of problem, he added. The spokesman said the RWMC officials conducted door-to-door and market awareness campaigns in Sadiqabad and other areas, appealing to citizens not to throw garbage or construction debris into drains, as "this practice obstructs drainage and leads to the breeding of dengue larvae".—APP

BankIslami, ZLK join hands to promote Riba-free banking

Zahid Latif Khan, Chairman of ZLK Islamic Financial Services, commented, "This partnership with BankIslami is rooted in a shared vision to broaden understanding and trust in Shariah-compliant investments

DNA

KARACHI: In a joint effort to promote Riba-free banking in Pakistan, BankIslami and ZLK Islamic Financial Services, Pakistan's first Shariah-compliant brokerage Firm, hosted a high-impact session on Islamic finance for a diverse group of industry leaders and advocates of ethical banking. Titled 'Leading with Purpose,' the event focused on meaningful conversations around Islamic finance and aimed to help individuals make informed, faith-aligned financial decisions. Held at the Serena Hotel in Islamabad, the session was attended by valued partners and corporate leaders from the business community, along with notable organizations, including Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI), Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (RCCI), as well as representatives from civil society, the armed forces, government, financial institutions, and religious scholars. Dr. Mufti Irshad Ahmad Aijaz,



former Chairman of the Shariah Advisory Committee of the State Bank of Pakistan and current Chairman of the Shariah Advisory Committee of SECP and Chairperson of the Shariah Board of BankIslami, delivered the keynote address, highlighting the growing global relevance of Islamic finance. He addressed common misconceptions and emphasized the ethical and socially responsible nature of Islamic finance. "As

leaders in Islamic finance in Pakistan, we are committed to fostering meaningful dialogue on Riba-free banking and raising awareness to drive this crucial cause forward," commented Rizwan Ata, President & CEO of BankIslami. "We are honored to join hands with ZLK Islamic Financial Services to strengthen the position of Islamic banking and collectively work towards realizing our vision of a Riba-free economy," he added. Zahid Latif

Khan, Chairman of ZLK Islamic Financial Services, commented, "This partnership with BankIslami is rooted in a shared vision to broaden understanding and trust in Shariah-compliant investments. Together, we are laying the foundation for a principled financial ecosystem that serves all segments of society and aligns with the ethical aspirations of our people, regulators, and national direction toward a fully Islamic financial

system." This session marked a significant step forward in reinforcing the role of Islamic finance in Pakistan's evolving financial landscape. As the country progresses toward a fully Shariah-compliant system, BankIslami and ZLK Islamic Financial Services remain committed to leading with purpose, engaging stakeholders, and shaping a future centered on ethical, inclusive, and faith-aligned financial solutions.

**CDNS sets
saving
inflows target
of Rs 1.3t**

ISLAMABAD: The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS), has set a savings inflows target of Rs 1.3 trillion for the current Fiscal Year, 2025-26. Similarly, the CDNS has set a target of Rs 50 billion in investments in Islamic Investment for the Current Fiscal Year 2025-26, which will lead to the growth of the Islamic economy in the country, the senior official of CDNS told APP here on Wednesday. Already the CDNS has accomplished a net target of Rs 255 at the end of fiscal year, from July 1 to June 30, 2024-25, he said. The CDNS has achieved the net annual target of Rs 106 billion for the current Fiscal Year, 2024-25, which will promote the country's saving culture, he said. He said that National Savings has set an annual target of Rs1.7 trillion for the year 2023-24; it is encouraging that this year, "We surpassed the 100 per cent of the annual target." The CDNS surpassed the annual target and achieved the target of Rs 1.6 trillion in fresh bonds in the previous fiscal year 2022-23, he said. He said it was an Rs 200 billion additional annual target than the target of Rs 1300 billion for the financial year 2021-22.—APP

Govt increases police martyrs' children recruitment quota

PESHAWAR: KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur has said that the recruitment quota for the children of the police martyrs to the posts of Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) has been increased from 5% to 12.5% and the heirs of 280 martyrs have already been recruited under the new quota. He was addressing a Police Darbar during his visit to Police Lines here on Wednesday. The chief minister said that the budget of the Police Force for the current financial year has been increased from Rs.124 billion to Rs.158 billion. He said that increase in the salary of police force was their due right and added that they have increased the salaries of KP Police personnel to bring them at par with other provinces of the country. He said that the nations, which honour their martyrs become undefeatable in defence, saying till honouring martyrs and their families, the spirit of sacrifice could not be created in Police personnel. He said hat the martyrs of police force have

sacrificed their lives to protect our lives. He added that the families of martyrs would be given standing reception which-ever public sector office is visited by them. He said that the staff of the Chief Minister's Secretariat will also give standing welcome to the families of the martyrs. The chief minister said that police force is being provided resources on priority basis and during last one year, they had worked a lot on meeting the deficiency faced by them in head of resources and vowed that no hurdle will be created in head of the provision of resources to police. He said that as per announcement made by him, the heirs of martyrs would be allotted free residential plots in the public sector housing societies during the current fiscal year. He said that the provincial exchequer is available to protect the life and properties of the police force and general public. Ali Amin Khan Gandapur said that the protection of the Police Force is their first priority, and they have been equipped

with modern equipment and arms in first instance. He urged the police officers and personnel to pay no heed to the recommendation of any one and provide merit-based justice to the people. He said that he has not made a single referral to police in the capacity of chief minister, so when the chief he is not making any recommendation, then referral of no one should be accepted in this regard and all steps should be taken on the basis of merit. He told the police officers to ensure that none of the common men should be deprived of justice to save the oppressor from the punishment. He said that in the capacity of the chief minister, he will provide full support to the police force in this regard. The chief minister asked the personnel of the traffic police to minimize the issuance of challans to poor workers on the basis of minor violations, issue them maximum warnings. He said that common men meet their ends hardly and cannot afford heavy challans.—APP

**NPO to
organize
webinar**

ISLAMABAD: The National Productivity Organization (NPO) is going to organize a webinar titled "Enterprise Design Thinking" on July 17 (Thursday). Enterprise Design Thinking is a human-centered, collaborative approach to innovation and problem-solving in large organizations, according to the NPO document shared here on Wednesday. The webinar will provide information about the fundamentals of enterprise design thinking, including key practices such as empathy and stakeholder mapping, the big idea vignette, prototyping and playbacks, and integration and application. The workshop enables participants to understand and apply the design thinking framework in real projects, gain hands-on experience with empathy tools and collaborative mapping, write clear, outcome-focused hills to guide project direction, translate user insights into visualized concepts and testable ideas, effectively prioritize and present ideas using design thinking methods.—APP

CG US discusses coop on minorities' welfare with Arora

DNA

LAHORE: US Consul General in Lahore Ms. Kristin Hawkins called on Punjab Minister for Minorities Affairs Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora, here on Wednesday. Matters related to minority welfare, religious tourism, digital education, and interfaith harmony came under discussion during the meeting. The meeting took place at the Minister's office and was attended by senior officials from both sides, including US Embassy representatives Ms. Han Nee, Ms. Usmei, and Mr. Nikhil Lakhanpal, as well as Secretary HR Farid Ahmed Tarrar and Dr Rizwana Naveed. During the meeting, the minister highlighted the Punjab government's ongoing efforts under the leadership of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz to promote inclusive governance

and protect the rights of religious minorities. He outlined key initiatives such as employment quotas, educational scholarships, and funding for the preservation and upkeep of religious sites belonging to minority communities. Emphasizing Punjab's rich religious heritage, the minister underscored the province's potential as a hub for interfaith harmony and religious tourism. He welcomed international cooperation for the conservation and promotion of historical religious landmarks associated with Christian, Sikh, Hindu, and other faiths. Discussions also focused on expanding digital access and education for minority youth in underserved regions. He shared the provincial government's commitment to bridging the digital divide through e-learning platforms and digital literacy programs, aimed at empowering the next generation.

The meeting further reaffirmed mutual interest in fostering interfaith dialogue, peaceful coexistence, and cultural exchange. The US Consul General commended the Punjab government's proactive role in advancing minority rights and building a society grounded in diversity, tolerance, and mutual respect. Minister Arora expressed appreciation for the United States' continued support in strengthening democratic institutions and civil society in Punjab. He conveyed optimism about future cooperation in capacity building, community development, and initiatives aimed at uplifting marginalized segments. The meeting concluded on a positive and forward-looking note, with both sides expressing a shared resolve to deepen bilateral engagement for inclusive growth and the well-being of all communities in Punjab.

Efforts afoot to give practical shape to 'Healthy Punjab' initiative

FAISALABAD: The Punjab government is actively working to give practical shape to the 'Healthy Punjab' initiative as per the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, according to Provincial Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique, here on Wednesday. In this regard, the health minister paid a surprise visit to the Faisalabad Institute of Cardiology (FIC) on Wednesday. Secretary Specialised Healthcare and Medical Education Department Azmat Mahmood Khan, Chairman Punjab Chief Minister Advisory Committee on Cardiology Dr Farqad Alamgir and Special Secretary Operations Tariq Mahmood Rahmani were also present. The minister expressed displeasure over the disorder in the queue management system in the hospital and non-supply of medicines to patients. He went to the pathology lab and echography ward and inquired from the staff about the details of diagnostic tests and reporting time. The provincial health minister also expressed his strong displeasure over the mistreatment of patients by the security staff and the poor cleanliness and directed the concerned for immediate improvement of the situation. The minister visited the emergency, OPD and pharmacy and inquired about the medical facilities available, supply of medicines and service delivery from the patients present there individually. Khawaja Salman Rafique and Azmat Mahmood Khan personally met more than 50 patients. The minister directed that an effective and regular mechanism should be formed for the provision of medicines other than heart disease to the under treatment patients. He also reviewed the packaging and other related records of the process of delivering medicines to homes. On this occasion, the health minister said that Rs33 billion were provided for the purchase of medicines in the last fiscal year, while another Rs15 billion has been allocated in the current fiscal year. Khawaja Salman Rafique said that strict action would be taken on complaints regarding ordering medicines from outside the hospital and all medicines for heart diseases should be available in the hospital. He directed that announcements should be made regularly on loudspeakers about the medicines available in the hospital for the awareness of the patients. He further said that a zero tolerance policy would be adopted for any kind of negligence in service delivery. Secretary Health Azmat Mahmood Khan said that funds of Rs. 23 billion have been provided to the hospitals in the form of dues of previous years. He expressed his determination that no compromise will be made on the unavailability of medicines to the patients as per the instructions of the Chief Minister of Punjab. —DNA

Truth Behind the Borders

TANVEER HUSSAIN



U.S. President Trump played an important role in the ceasefire between Pakistan and India. While his remarks about resolving the Kashmir issue may sound promising on the surface, most analysts do not take them seriously. Those who study history know that the Kashmir issue was actually created by the British government. Kashmir issue would not

have arisen at all if the sub-continent had been divided according to the agreed-upon Radcliffe Award. The British acted dishonestly not only in Kashmir but also in Punjab and Bengal. The partition formula of India did not include the division of any province. Muslims were in the majority in the entire Punjab province, and likewise in the united province of East and West Bengal. According to the Radcliffe Award, all of Punjab, all of Bengal, and Kashmir were supposed to be part of Pakistan. In that case, the border between India and Pakistan would have been, in Quaid-e-Azam's words, as peaceful as the one between the United States and Canada. But the British did not want that. It is said that in the final moments of the partition, three lines were

drawn with a pencil on the Radcliffe Award. Two of those lines split Punjab and Bengal, handing over the fertile regions to India - even though no province that became part of India was divided based on the basis of religion. The third line was the most dangerous. It pushed 1.5 billion people of the sub-continent to the brink of nuclear war. At the time of partition, Jammu and Kashmir was a Muslim-majority state. It had eight land routes leading to Pakistan, and its rivers also flowed into Pakistan. There were many reasons why Kashmir could and should have been part of Pakistan. Without this connection, there was only one route from Kashmir to India - a path through a village in the Gurdaspur tehsil. The third line on the Radcliffe Award was

drawn right there, transferring Gurdaspur tehsil to India, thereby giving it access to Kashmir. Following a pre-determined plan, India sent troops into Kashmir through Gurdaspur. (To counter this, Quaid-e-Azam ordered General Gracy to send Pakistani troops to Kashmir, but the General flatly refused). Handing Gurdaspur over to India was, in fact, a Western conspiracy, intended to create eternal hostility between the two nations. Western powers have deliberately created similar conflicts in Africa and Asia to serve their own interests - so that wars continue and their arms industries keep thriving. A British company manufactures expensive special uniforms for soldiers deployed in Siachen, where temperatures drop to minus 50°C. According

to a report, both India and Pakistan purchase these uniforms from the same company. Why would such companies want the Siachen issue resolved and risk damaging their business? Whenever tensions rise between India and Pakistan, American F-16 fighter jets are sold, and French Rafales arrive in the subcontinent. During such tensions, submarines, helicopters, artillery, and tanks from major powers are sold. Deals are made for missiles and drones. Anti-missile and defense systems are purchased. The very powers that created the Kashmir issue have been turning a blind eye to Indian state-sponsored terrorism for the past 80 years. Why would they want to solve this issue now and damage their own economic interests?

CDA CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY Procurement & Contracts Agreement-II	URAN PAKISTAN 1974-1975		
INVITATION FOR BIDS #HumCDA			
The Capital Development Authority invites electronic bids on percentage basis, as per PPRA Rule 36(b) from firms who are well reputed, registered with Pakistan Engineering Council having valid Registration Certificate in Category C2, or above with Project Codes ME-03, ME-06 EE-04 & EE-06 for the year 2025-26, who can prove their eligibility and qualification as mentioned in the Bidding Documents for the following project.			
NAME OF WORKS	NIT COST	EARNEST MONEY	REMARKS
REPLACEMENT OF OLD AND UNSERVICEABLE ELEVATORS WITH NEW ELEVATORS AT SHAHEED-E-MILLAT SECRETARIAT BUILDING, ISLAMABAD.	Rs. 93.047Million	Rs. 2.790Million	Detail of work is available in the bidding documents.
<ol style="list-style-type: none">The bidding shall be conducted in lines with PEC Standard Bidding Documents; PPRA notified e-Pak Procurement Regulations, 2023 and is open to all potential bidders registered in the "e-Pak Acquisition & Disposal System (EPADS)".Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security duly generated from firm's own account should be in the form of Pay order/ CDRs in favor of PADO (P&C), CDA. The prospective bidders shall upload scanned copy of Bid Security on E-PADS and original will be provided on or before submission of bids in the office of Director (P&C-II), CDA.Project related information may be sought from the office of Dy. Director, Works-III, CDA, Ground Floor, Room #48, Old Naval HQ, G-6 Markaz, Islamabad.The prospective bidders are required to submit their Bids online through E-PADS at http://eprocure.gov.pk and as per instructions contained in Bidding Documents on or before August 04, 2025 at 11:30 AM.The electronic Bids will be opened by using EPADS publicly on the same day at 12:00 PM, in the presence of the procurement committee & Bidders' authorized Representatives who choose to attend the opening session to be held at the office of Director (P&C-II), Room No 30, Block III, P&C Wing, CDA Secretariat, Sector G-7/4, Islamabad.Notification of GRC constituted in terms of Rule-48 of Public Procurement Rule-2004 is provided on EPADS at www.eprocure.gov.pk and www.ppra.org.pk.The Firm providing unsubstantiated and / or incorrect information is liable to legal action and disqualification from the bidding.			
Deputy Director E&M (P&C-II), CDA P&C Wing, Block No III, Room No. 21, CDA Secretariat, Sector G-7/4 Islamabad, Ph# 051-9252412			
15x3			
PID (I) 429/25			

National Days and Armed Forces Days

JULY

July 01/Japan Self Defence Day

July 01/Singapore Armed Forces Day

July 01 / Canada National Day

July 01/Somalia Independence Day

July 04/USA Independence Day

July 05/Algeria Independence Day

July 09/Argentine Independence Day

July 09/Mongolia Revolution Day

July 14/France National Day

July 15/Brunei Sultan's Birthday

July 21/Belgium National Day

July 20/TRNC Independence Day

July 23/Egypt National Day

July 26/Cuba National Day

July 26/Liberia National Day

July 30/Morocco National Day

Serena Hotel.....111 133 133
Marriott.....051- 2826121
Monal.....0334-5421812



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

Rescue (Police).....15
Bomb Disposal.....15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance.....1122 & Rescue Services.....4451122
Motorway Police.....9266044
Motorway Police.....9270601-20
Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596
Rawalpindi.....9270601-20



Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115
PIA Flight Info.....114
PIA Cargo.....9280979
Railway Inquiry.....117
Railway Exchange.....9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.....5555489
CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

CMH.....5611111
MH.....5611116
Cantt Hospital.....9270907-11
DHQ.....5556311-4
RGH.....9290301-7
Holy Family.....9290322-7
PIMS.....9261170-79
Polyclinic.....9218300-09
Shifa International.....4603666



Departments

CDA.....9221334-43
CDA.....9208301-04
Met Office.....9250360-6
RDA.....5555864
TMA.....5770886
Cantonment Board.....9270151-3

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

S Korean delegation visits NUML to explore academic collaboration

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: A five-member delegation from AJOU Motor College, Republic of Korea, led by Chairperson Ms. Seo Jung Oak, visited the National University of Modern Languages (NUML) today to explore avenues for academic collaboration and mutual cooperation. The delegation held a meeting with Director General NUML, Brigadier Shahzad Munir, who was accompanied by the Director of NUML International Linkages Office (NILO), Pro-Rector (Research and Strategic Initiatives), Director Academics and Dean Faculty of Computing and Engineering. The visit was facilitated by NILO as part of NUML's continued efforts to expand international academic linkages. During the meeting, both institutions presented brief overviews of their respective academic strengths and strategic priorities. Professor Kim Tae Hyoung from AJOU Motor College gave an insightful presentation on the institution's specialized programs, particularly those relevant to



automobile technology and engineering, highlighting potential opportunities for Pakistani students, especially from NUML. Chairperson Ms. Seo Jung Oak appreciated NUML's significant role in promoting the Korean language and culture in Pakistan and expressed her interest in building a strong academic partnership aimed at benefiting future generations. DG NUML

warmly welcomed the delegation and shared that NUML hosts the largest Korean language learning program in Pakistan. He expressed NUML's keen interest in formalizing a partnership with AJOU Motor College, particularly in areas of computing and engineering, and proposed initiating discussions for signing a Letter of Interest (LOI) between the two institutions. The AJOU delegation acknowledged the potential for collaboration between their automobile industry-focused programs and NUML's Engineering Department. Both sides underscored the importance of launching student and faculty exchange programs, joint degree programs, internships, externships, and collaborative research initiatives. It was mutually agreed to nominate focal persons from both institutions to chart a roadmap for future co-operation and finalize areas for joint academic ventures. The visit marks a promising step toward fostering academic and cultural ties between NUML and AJOU Motor College, and more broadly, between Pakistan and the Republic of Korea.

Water level reaches 1745 acre feet in Rawal dam: MD WASA

RAWALPINDI: The recent spell of rain had increased the water levels in Rawal and Khanpur dams supplied to the Garrison city. Water and Sanitation Agency(WASA) Managing Director Saleem Ashraf said that the water level reached 1745 acre feet in the Rawal Dam, and the total water storage capacity is 1752 feet. Saleem said that more rain is likely to increase the dams' storage and the groundwater level. He said that the water level in Nullah Leh at 5 feet near New Katarian and 4 feet under the Gawal-mandi Bridge. The MD said all operational wings of the local administration, including WASA were remained on high alert as the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) forecast more rain during the next week. According to the PMD, in the wee hours, the 11 mm rain was recorded at Saidpur, 9 mm at Golra, 6 mm at Bokra, 19 mm at PMD, 22 mm at Shamsabad, 5 mm at Kachhari, while 5 mm of rain had been recorded at Pir Wadhai. —APP

Action demanded as climate change reshapes Pakistan's landscape

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) organized a seminar titled "Climate Change and Responsible Tourism in Pakistan" to highlight the country's escalating climate crisis and explore how tourism can both contribute to and help mitigate its impacts. The event featured Mr. Wajahat Malik, a renowned documentary filmmaker, TV presenter, and Managing Director of EyeBex, as the keynote speaker. The session was moderated by Dr. Zulfiqar Ali, Assistant Professor at PIDE. Pakistan is among the top 10 most climate-vulnerable countries globally, facing severe and accelerating consequences such as melting glaciers, flash floods, unpredictable weather patterns, rising temperatures, and biodiversity loss. These changes pose a direct threat to both lives and livelihoods, particularly in the northern regions where tourism forms a significant part of the local economy. In his talk, Mr. Wa-

jahat Malik emphasized that tourism can either accelerate environmental degradation or become a catalyst for resilience and adaptation. He explained that while mass tourism, when unmanaged, contributes to carbon emissions, deforestation, and excessive strain on natural resources, responsible tourism has the potential to promote sustainability, education, and local empowerment. The seminar highlighted a range of climate-related impacts already affecting Pakistan's tourism sector. Flash floods and glacial lake bursts have caused extensive damage to critical infrastructure, including roads, hotels, and trekking routes. Erratic weather patterns are disrupting travel seasons, resulting in decreased tourist footfall. The increased frequency of natural disasters such as landslides and Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs) has raised safety concerns for visitors. Additionally, peak-season tourism places overwhelming pressure on limited water supplies and

local ecosystems, while the degradation of scenic landscapes and biodiversity diminishes the overall quality of the tourist experience. During the session, Mr. Malik discussed key insights into how tourism must evolve in response to these realities. He asserted that climate change is human-driven and linked to unchecked economic practices. Mass tourism, he said, often leaves behind a legacy of waste, emissions, and ecological damage. Therefore, responsible tourism is no longer optional—it is essential. To this end, he outlined several practical steps that tourists and tourism businesses can take: avoiding litter and single-use plastics by using reusable items; respecting natural ecosystems by staying on designated trails and limiting pollution; supporting local communities by choosing locally owned accommodations, guides, and products; opting for low-impact transportation; and engaging with the culture and environment of the region before visiting.

The seminar also stressed the importance of policy reform. Participants agreed on the urgent need for investment in sustainable infrastructure, effective regulation of high-traffic tourist areas, and robust awareness campaigns targeting both tourists and local communities. Such efforts are necessary to ensure that tourism contributes to climate resilience rather than exacerbates environmental vulnerabilities. "Tourism is not just about leisure—it is deeply political and environmental," Mr. Malik stated. The seminar concluded with a call to action for all stakeholders—including policymakers, tourism operators, researchers, and citizens—to promote ethical, climate-conscious tourism practices. Only through collective responsibility and strategic policy measures can Pakistan protect its fragile ecosystems and reimagine its tourism sector as a force for sustainable development.—DNA

Pakistani scholar honored at Tsinghua Forum for digital economy research

ISLAMABAD: Executive Director of the Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future (PRCCSF), Khalid Taimur Akram received the "Best Paper Presentation Award" at the 4th Tsinghua Area Studies Forum, held in at Tsinghua University, Beijing China. His research on harnessing the digital economy for inclusive growth in the Global South stood out among submissions from over 100 countries, earning international recognition at one of the world's most prominent academic gatherings on global development and international relations, Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday. About 250 scholars and experts from 100 countries participated in the three-day conference from 2nd to 4th July. The conference, themed "Beyond Regions: Emerging Issues for the Global South", featured diverse discussions on critical global challenges. The Pakistani expert spoke in a panel titled "Economic Inequality and Governance", part of the broader track on "Economic Development: New Pathways and Future Prospects for the Global South". In his award-winning presentation, Akram emphasized the digital economy's potential to drive inclusive growth in the Global South. He highlighted the necessity of combining technological advancements with robust policy, infrastructure, and human capital development. He also underscored key lessons from digital business case studies, advocating for strategic investments, human capital growth, and innovation-supportive regulations, alongside consumer protection. It also addressed concerns like the digital divide and the need for collaborative efforts to ensure equitable distribution of digitalization's benefits. The 4th Tsinghua Area Studies Forum featured a series of thematic panels addressing key issues facing the Global South. Panel discussions covered a wide range of topics, including the interplay between geopolitics and domestic politics, economic development with a focus on trade, investment, and sustainable growth, and social challenges such as inequality, health governance, and digital sovereignty.—DNA

Urologist warns malnutrition

ISLAMABAD: A leading Urologist Wednesday urged to increase public awareness and undergo screening for kidney failure and urinary tract infections triggered by insufficient water consumption and poor nutrition, highlighting the importance of early diagnosis and treatment. Dr. Sharjeel Saulat, urologist at Tabba Kidney Institute Hospital Karachi, in an exclusive conversation with a local news channel, explained that kidney diseases can sometimes be genetic, affecting even infants as young as two to three months old. He emphasized that early detection is crucial for managing these conditions effectively and preventing long-term complications. He further highlighted that in areas where children do not receive proper nutrition, malnutrition plays a significant role in the development of kidney diseases, adding, poor feeding practices and lack of essential nutrients weaken the body's defenses, making young children more vulnerable to urinary tract infections and kidney failure.—APP

ICCI pushes for skill development, startup culture among students

ISLAMABAD: In a significant move to bridge the gap between academia and industry, the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and Roots IVY International Colleges have agreed to collaborate in promoting educational excellence, skill development, and entrepreneurship among youth to better

prepare them for the challenges of the modern economy. President ICCI, Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, while speaking to a delegation from Roots IVY led by Rector Muhammad Ali Iqbal Raja and Ms. Kalsoum Nawaz, Head of Early Years - A Level at Roots International Schools, emphasized that the world is transforming at an

unprecedented pace and traditional methods of education are no longer sufficient. He underscored the urgent need for adaptive, innovative, and inclusive learning approaches that equip students with critical 21st-century skills, creativity, and global citizenship to navigate an unpredictable future. President Qureshi briefed the

delegation on ICCI's initiatives aimed at strengthening industry-academia linkages and encouraging students to become job creators rather than job seekers. The sides explored multiple avenues for synergy between the two institutions, particularly in promoting entrepreneurship, startups, and youth-focused economic empowerment. On behalf of Roots IVY, Muhammad Iqbal Raja and Ms. Kalsoum Nawaz reaffirmed their institution's commitment to educational innovation, stating: "At Roots International.—APP

Fuel price hike triggers inflation: Mian Zahid

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, the President of the Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, the President of All Karachi Industrial Alliance, the Chairman of the FPCCI Advisory Board, and the President and former provincial minister, Mian Zahid Hussain, said on Wednesday that the recent surge in petrol and high-speed diesel prices, orchestrated by the federal government, is a ticking time bomb that will set off another round of inflation for the general public. He stated that government policies are continually adding to the financial burden on citizens, making their lives difficult. Mian Zahid Hussain noted that according to the federal finance ministry, petrol prices have increased by Rs 5.36 per liter. At the same time, the cost of high-speed diesel has risen by Rs 11.37 per liter. Under the new rates, petrol will be available at Rs 272.15 per liter and diesel at Rs 284.35 per liter.—DNA

11th BoA meeting of NIMA held

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The 11th meeting of the Board of Advisors (BoA) of the National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA) was convened at NIMA's Head Office in Islamabad. The session was chaired by Admiral Muhammad Zakaullah, Former Chief of the Naval Staff and Chairman NIMA BoA. In his opening remarks, Admiral emphasized

the importance of aligning maritime research outcomes with industry needs and ensuring they are results-oriented and contribute tangible dividends. He expressed sincere appreciation for the dedicated contributions of the board members and acknowledged NIMA's evolution into a credible maritime think tank, both nationally and internationally. The Admiral also commended the NIMA team and researchers

for their exceptional work and commitment. Earlier, Vice Admiral Ahmed Saeed, President of NIMA, welcomed the participants and presented an overview of the emerging global trends in geopolitics, the economy, and the strategic maritime environment in 2025. A summary of the institute's recent research activities was delivered by Commodore Dr. Baber Bilal Haider, Vice President NIMA.



JULY 2025

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

Find us on:
www.centrelines.com.pk
www.dnanews.com.pl
www.islamabadpost.com.pk

@PostIslamabad/ @Editordnanews

A sister concern of

IslamabadPOST

11# Block 18-A, Awan Plaza,
G-8 Markez, Islamabad-Pakistan
Ph: 051-2261960, 051-8488394

MEMBER ALL PAKISTAN NEWSPAPERS SOCIETY (APNS)

CENTRELINE

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

Dr. Zuhair Zaid

'Unity among Muslim world a must for an independent Palestine'

Alimuddin Tahir greets daily on regular day

CEC: A beacon of light progress under visionary leadership

Sreena Bhatia and Noman Ali Gallery best vibrant event

LARGEST CIRCULATED DIPLOMATIC MAGAZINE

82 008

Briefs

Big industry grows by 2.29 % in May 2025

ISLAMABAD: The output of the Large Scale Manufacturing Industries (LSMI) witnessed an increase of 2.29 per cent during the month of May 2025 compared to the same month of last year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. On month-on-month basis, the LSMI's production in May 2025, also increased by 7.39 per cent when compared with that of April 2025. Overall the LSMI output showed a decline of 1.21 per cent during July-May 2025 when compared with the same period of last year, according to the PBS data. The provisional quantum induces of Large Scale Manufacturing Industries (LSMI) for May 2025, with the base year 2015-16, have been developed based on the latest data supplied by the source agencies. The main contributors towards overall growth of -1.21% are Tobacco (0.12), Textile (0.46) Garments (0.80), Petroleum Products (0.33), Pharmaceuticals (0.16), Automobiles (0.78), Other transport Equipment (0.15), Food (-0.41), Chemicals (-0.33) Non Metallic Mineral Products (-0.51), Cement (-0.25), Iron & Steel Products (-0.43), Electrical Equipment (-0.38), Machinery and Equipment (-0.18) and Furniture (-1.69). The production in July-May 2024-25 as compared to July-May 2023-24 has increased in Tobacco, Textile, wearing apparel, Coke & Petroleum Products, Automobiles and Other Transport Equipment while it Decreased in Food, Chemical Products, Non Metallic Mineral Products, Iron & Steel Products, Electrical Equipment, Machinery and Equipment, and Furniture.—APP

PTCL Group, TPL Corp form partnership

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's largest telecommunication and digital services provider, PTCL Group (comprising PTCL & Ufone 4G), has entered a landmark partnership with TPL Corp, a tech conglomerate with investments across various industries. This collaboration covers the deployment of Machine-to-Machine (M2M) devices, secure Data Centre hosting, and managed network connectivity across TPL Corp and its operating companies. The agreement was signed by Asif Ahmed, Group Chief Business Solutions Officer (GCBSO), PTCL & Ufone 4G, and Ali Jameel, CEO, TPL Corp, during a ceremony held at TPL Corp's headquarters in Karachi. Senior leadership from both sides attended the event. Through this alliance, PTCL Group will deliver integrated technology solutions that support TPL Corp's operational scalability, strengthen its digital infrastructure, and enable smarter business operations nationwide. Speaking at the signing, Asif Ahmed, Group Chief Business Solutions Officer, PTCL & Ufone 4G, said, "PTCL Group is committed to empowering Pakistani enterprises with future-ready ICT services.—APP

Pakistan-Uzbekistan to set up joint working group

Ambassador Ali Sher Takhtaev stated that Uzbekistan and Pakistan have historic, religious, cultural, and trade relations

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis Chaudhry Salik Hussain met with Uzbekistan's Ambassador to Pakistan, Ali Sher Takhtaev. During the meeting, various proposals regarding employment opportunities for Pakistanis in Uzbekistan were discussed. In the meeting, an agreement was reached to establish a joint working group to facilitate employment opportunities for Pakistanis in Uzbekistan, said a press release here on Tuesday.

Ambassador Ali Sher Takhtaev stated that Uzbekistan and Pakistan have historic, religious, cultural, and trade relations. There are extensive opportunities for cooperation between Uzbekistan and Pakistan in the fields of information technology, medicine, agriculture, and labor. Through joint efforts, economic prosperity in the region can be promoted and new employment opportunities can be created for the people of both countries.

Federal Minister Chaudhry Salik Hussain mentioned that Pakistan has initiated pilot projects related to labor supply with South Korea and Japan, which have yielded very positive results. Pakistan is also interested in starting a pilot



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis Chaudhry Salik Hussain met with Uzbekistan's Ambassador to Pakistan, Ali Sher Takhtaev. During the meeting, various proposals regarding employment opportunities for Pakistanis in Uzbekistan were discussed.

project with Uzbekistan to provide employment to Pakistanis. Over 12 million Pakistanis are

employed abroad, and currently Pakistan is among the top 10 countries worldwide in remit-

ances. During the fiscal year 2025, overseas Pakistanis sent a record \$38.8 billion in remittances to Pa-

kistan. The goal is to increase this amount to \$50 billion within the next 2 to 3 years.

Road Infrastructure completes for Chinese-owned textile park in SEZ

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In connection with establishing a "Special Economic Zone" for a textile park owned by a Chinese garment company, significant road infrastructure has been completed from Lahore's border to Kasur. Under the road infrastructure, a 4.2-km-long road has now formally connected the main building of the Chinese textile company "Challenge Fashion (Pvt) Ltd" at Lahore's border to the Kasur locality where Shanghai-based Chinese company has already acquired 100 acres of land to develop a Special Economic Zone

(SEZ) for a textile park. "The textile park is expected to be built within 12 months," stated an official from Challenge Fashion in an interview with Gwadar Pro. It aims to help Pakistan earn \$500 million in foreign exchange and create 30,000 jobs each year. Challenge Fashion (Pvt.) Ltd plans to invest \$150 million over the next 3-5 years. If everything progresses as planned, it is expected to attract an additional investment of \$100 million in supporting industries. The garment factory official said that acquiring high-quality fabrics is a significant challenge. "Currently, more than 80% of the

surface accessories are imported, which substantially hinders the company's pace of expanding its industrial scale. The company is developing the textile park into the most innovative and sustainable textile industry base in South Asia, showcasing China's park design concept and construction standards to Pakistani counterparts." "This will promote the most efficient and environmentally friendly automated fabric production equipment and garment production systems, and spread modern production management science," the official added. The official also stated that the establishment

of a supply chain cluster would help improve Pakistan's labor structure and management. "We hope to demonstrate China's industrial park standards to our Pakistani counterparts by creating a Chinese-regulated industrial park project," the official said. "We aim to enable Chinese enterprises interested in an overseas layout to see Pakistan's investment potential and also provide project landing sites for SMEs so that they can fully benefit from the preferential investment policies provided by the Pakistani government," the official asserted, Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday.

Imran Khan's Senate nominations ignored in major party setback

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is facing a damaging internal rebellion as senior leaders in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa systematically undermine Imran Khan's Senate nominations, replacing his handpicked technocrat candidates with wealthy businessmen, despite explicit instructions from the imprisoned party founder, a key figure in PTI's history and ideology. The controversy centres on Khan's nomination of Azam Swati and former Inspector General Syed Irshad Hussain for technocrat positions among PTI's finalized Senate candidates of seven general seats, two women's seats, and two technocrat positions. However, influential KPK figures have launched a coordinated effort to substitute these qualified nominees with wealthy businessmen as candidates, exploiting Khan's inability to intervene from Adiala Jail. Party insiders reveal that one proposed businessman maintains membership in a religious political party, raising serious questions about ideological alignment with PTI's political agenda. The second candidate reportedly lacks loyalty to PTI's core principles, further intensifying concerns among party workers who view these developments as a fundamental betrayal of the movement's anti-corruption foundation. The timing proves particularly destructive as Senate election lobbying intensifies, with party leadership appearing fractured over candidate selection processes. Social media platforms have erupted with objections from PTI workers, who argue that prioritizing wealthy candidates over qualified professionals directly contradicts the party's founding commitment to meritocracy and transparent governance.—DNA

PML-N confident ahead of senate vote

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-N Senator Afnan Ullah on Wednesday reaffirmed confidence in his party's strong performance in the upcoming Senate elections while emphasizing that talks with allied and opposition parties are actively ongoing. In an exclusive conversation with a local news channel, PML-N Senator Afnan Ullah stated that his party firmly believes in democracy and is committed to taking all political stakeholders into confidence ahead of the upcoming Senate elections. He stressed that inclusive dialogue remains a top priority and the PML-N is actively engaging with allied and opposition parties to ensure a united and cooperative political environment. He further highlighted that key partners such as the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Awami Party and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) Maulana Fazlur Rehman are being consulted closely. Addressing their concerns is high on the agenda, he said, adding that mutual respect and consensus-building are essential for political stability and a successful electoral process. Responding to a question about the political situation and governance in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Senator Afnan Ullah criticized the PTI, saying the party is known for promoting chaos and relying on a narrative built on lies.—APP

IRSA releases 313,700 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Wednesday released 313,700 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 349,800 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1529.00 feet which was 127.00 feet higher than the dead level of 1402.00 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 234,200 cusecs and 207,900 cusecs, respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1185.70 feet, which was 135.70 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 19,800 cusecs and 10,000 cusecs, respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 226,400, 214,700, 343,900 and 252,200 cusecs, respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 40,200 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 28,800 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.—APP

TIKA marks Turkiye's democracy day

ISLAMABAD: The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) on Tuesday planted 253 saplings at Fatima Jinnah Park in the federal capital - each symbolizing a life lost in the defense of democracy in a poignant tribute to the martyrs of the

failed 2016 coup attempt in Turkiye. The tree plantation drive, held in collaboration with the Capital Development Authority (CDA), was organized to commemorate Turkiye's Democracy and National Unity Day, and drew the participation of Turkish

Ambassador Dr Irfan Neziroglu, diplomats, senior Pakistani officials and members of civil society. Despite the rainy weather, the ceremony resonated with a spirit of unity and shared resolve between the people of Turkiye and Pakistan. Welcoming the participants, TIKA Country Director Salihu Tuna expressed heartfelt gratitude to those who attended. "We are here today, alongside our Pakistani brothers and sisters, to honor the sacrifice of 253 martyrs who stood against tyranny.—APP

CDA's plot auction successfully continues for second day

DNA

ISLAMABAD : The Capital Development Authority's (CDA) open auction of commercial plots in Islamabad entered its second day with remarkable investor participation and enthusiasm. Chairman CDA and Chief Commissioner Islamabad, Muhammad Ali Randhawa, is personally overseeing the auction process to ensure transparency and efficiency. So far, eight commercial plots have been successfully auctioned, fetching a total of Rs. 19.03 billion. On the second day of the auction: Plot No. 20, a petrol pump site located in Sector I-14 Markaz, was auctioned for Rs. 1.64 billion. Plot No. 1-E, located in F-11/1, fetched Rs. 251.3 million. On the first day: In Blue Area (8-G): Plot No. 13 was auctioned for Rs. 7.24 billion. Plot No. 14 for Rs. 4.16 billion. Plot No. 12 for Rs. 3.60 billion. In I-14 Markaz: Plot No. 3-A fetched Rs. 749.32 million. Plot No. 3-B went for Rs. 709.32 million. Plot No. 10-A was sold for Rs. 669.32 million. The three-day auction event, which includes

commercial plots and shops in Blue Area's parking plaza, will continue until Thursday, July 17. The enthusiastic participation of investors is a strong vote of confidence in CDA's transparent and investor-friendly approach. A total of 46 plots and shops are being offered through open auction during the event. Under the supervision of Chairman Randhawa, senior officials including Member Estate Talat Mehmood, Member Finance Tahir Naeem, Member Engineering Syed Nifasat Raza, and Member Planning Dr. Khalid Hafeez are actively monitor-

ing the process. A special committee led by Member Finance Tahir Naeem has been formed, comprising DG Resource, DG Building Control, DG Law, and other senior officials to ensure fair proceedings. As part of investor facilitation, an Investment Expo has been organized at Jinnah Convention Centre, featuring booths from the Environment Wing, MCI, and the Sports & Culture Directorate, among others. Chairman Randhawa has directed all CDA wings to provide complete support and services to investors and the business communi-

ty. Investor-friendly incentives include: A 5% discount on full payment within one month. An additional 5% discount for full payments made in US dollars. CDA has also deployed dedicated facilitation teams to guide and assist investors at every stage of the auction process. According to Chairman Randhawa, the revenue generated through this auction will be invested back into Islamabad's development, including sector infrastructure, road networks, and beautification projects, with the aim of transforming Islamabad into a model capital city.



MOST EXPERIENCED MANUFACTURERS & EXPORTERS OF MARTIAL ARTS UNIFORMS IN PAKISTAN

WHERE EACH STITCH IS WATCHED

JUDO
KARATE
KUNG-FU
JU-JITSU
TAEKWONDO
UNIFORMS AND
COLOURED BELTS

ASHRAF INDUSTRIES [PVT] LTD
 127 C, Industrial Estate
 Sialkot-51340, Pakistan
 Phones: +92-52-3256000 / 3255768
 E-mail: info@ashraf.net.pk

Rainy Nullah overflows in diplomatic enclave

THEAVY rainfall in the federal capital led to severe waterlogging in the upscale Diplomatic Enclave after a critical rainy nullah (storm-water drain) overflowed, inundating roads and compounds of several foreign missions. The worst-hit areas included the French Residence, Dutch Embassy, Malaysian and Italian embassies, as well as the Canadian Club. The flooding caused significant disruption, particularly on the eve of France's National Day celebrations, forcing visitors to take lengthy detours to avoid submerged roads.

The root of the problem traces back to ongoing construction work at Serena Chowk, where overhead and underpasses have been built. Sources reveal that the construction firm mistakenly identified the rainy nullah—a natural waterway originating from the Margalla Hills and passing through the Diplomatic Enclave—as a mere ditch and filled it in. This critical error obstructed the natural flow of rainwater, leading to severe flooding as the downpour intensified.

With no outlet for the water, the nullah overflowed, submerging surrounding areas and leaving several embassies waterlogged. The situation has raised serious concerns among diplomatic staff, who have demanded immediate action to prevent future disruptions. The flooding caused particular embarrassment on July 11, just before France's Bastille Day celebrations, as guests struggled to navigate through waterlogged streets to reach the French Residence. Diplomats and visitors were forced to take long alternative routes, with some even wading through ankle-deep water.

"The situation is unacceptable," said a diplomat from one of the affected missions. "This is a high-security zone, and such negligence in urban planning poses risks not just to convenience but also to safety." The Dutch, Malaysian, and Italian embassies also reported water entering their premises, damaging landscaping and causing inconvenience to staff. The Canadian Club, a popular social spot for expatriates, faced similar issues, with its parking area partially submerged. The Capital Development Authority (CDA) and other relevant departments have come under fire for failing to anticipate the consequences of blocking the natural drainage system. A senior CDA official acknowledged the oversight, stating that the construction firm had not been properly briefed about the significance of the nullah.

However, diplomatic sources indicate that mere assurances are not enough. Several embassies have formally lodged complaints, urging the government to expedite corrective measures. "This isn't just about today's inconvenience—it's about ensuring that such negligence doesn't recur during the monsoon season," said another diplomat. This incident highlights a recurring issue in Islamabad's urban development—where rapid construction often overlooks natural waterways. Environmental experts have long warned against encroaching on natural drainage paths, as it exacerbates flooding during heavy rains. "The Margalla Hills feed several streams that pass through the city," explained an environmental consultant.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti
Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

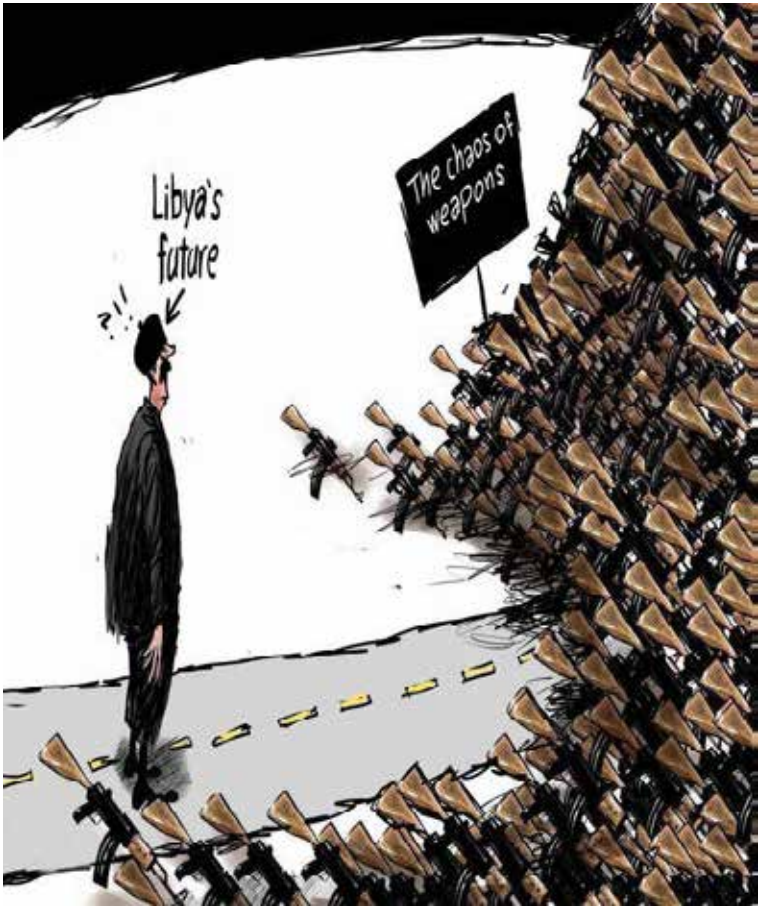
Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 06 Issue: 61

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-8488394 / 051-2261960

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



Urgent need to boost exports to stabilize rupee

PAKISTAN'S economic woes continue to deepen, with one of the most pressing challenges being the widening disparity between the US dollar and the Pakistani rupee. As of recent reports, the dollar is fast approaching an alarming rate of Rs. 350, threatening further economic instability and severely impacting sectors reliant on imported goods. This exchange rate crisis has not only hit the business community hard but has also fueled inflation, making life increasingly difficult for the common man. At the heart of this crisis lies Pakistan's chronically low export base. Despite having a sizable population, abundant natural resources, and strategic geographic location, Pakistan's export performance remains dismal. For a country of over 240 million people, a consistent annual export volume hovering around \$30 billion is far from adequate. This limited inflow of foreign exchange, combined with large import bills, continues to exert pressure on the rupee.

The depreciation of the rupee has a cascading effect. Businesses that rely on imported raw materials are now being forced to increase prices or shut down operations altogether. Essential goods, including pharmaceuticals, machinery, and fuel, become costlier, thus feeding into the inflation cycle. The burden eventually falls on the end consumer, who is already grappling with high food prices, unemployment, and low purchasing power. Perhaps most concerning is the government's seeming helplessness in managing the rupee's slide. Despite the tall claims of economic revival, ground realities suggest otherwise. Structural issues remain unresolved: energy shortages, political instability, inconsistent policies, and bureaucratic hurdles continue to scare away investors and stifle industrial growth.

A glaring contrast can be seen in the performance of the Afghan currency. Despite Afghanistan having virtually no formal export economy and being politically isolated, its currency has performed more steadily than Pakistan's. This is largely due to strict currency controls and tight government regulation—something Pakistan has failed to enforce effectively. The comparison is a national embarrassment and should act as a wake-up call for policymakers.

What Pakistan needs is an aggressive and coherent export policy. The government must move beyond short-term fixes and adopt structural reforms to boost export industries such as textiles, agriculture, IT, and pharmaceuticals. There must be focused incentives for exporters, reduced bureaucratic red tape, and guaranteed energy supply at competitive rates. Diversifying export markets and promoting value-added goods rather than raw materials is essential for long-term sustainability. Moreover, encouraging local manufacturing and import substitution can help reduce dependency on foreign goods. Effective monetary and fiscal policies, coupled with stability and investor confidence, are the only ways forward. The rupee-dollar disparity is more than just an economic figure—it is a symbol of national performance. If not addressed urgently, it threatens to unravel the economic fabric of the country. Pakistan must act now to break this cycle and chart a path toward financial sovereignty.

The Politics of National Divide

Imran Ghaznavi



This was not politics. It was strategic chaos. And the cost of that chaos was borne by the nation. What we witnessed resembled tactics used by hostile foreign actors, dismantling public trust, weakening institutions, and driving a wedge between the military and the people. Deepfake videos, incendiary hashtags, and doctored narratives intoxicated the national mood, transforming legitimate political debates into national emergencies. Tragically, some section of the media either knowingly or due to editorial negligence became part of the problem

IN Pakistan's increasingly polarized political landscape, the power to control the narrative now rivals the power to govern. When facts are buried under disinformation and public opinion is shaped by manipulation rather than dialogue, the foundations of democracy begin to erode. Nowhere was this more evident than in the events of May 9, 2023, a day that revealed how dangerous narrative warfare has become in our fragile democratic ecosystem. That day did not unfold in a vacuum. It was the outcome of calculated misinformation, emotional incitement, and a deliberately constructed perception that legal accountability was somehow an assault on democracy. Instead of being a test of the rule of law, it was turned into a spectacle of victimhood, crafted to protect personal interests under the guise of popular will.

This was not politics. It was strategic chaos. And the cost of that chaos was borne by the nation. What we witnessed resembled tactics used by hostile foreign actors, dismantling public trust, weakening institutions, and driving a wedge between the military and the people. Deepfake videos, incendiary hashtags, and doctored narratives intoxicated the national mood, transforming legitimate political debates into national emergencies. Tragically, some section of the media either knowingly or due to editorial negligence became part of the problem. In their rush to be first, not right, some platforms broadcast unverified reports, amplified false claims, and indulged in the politics of provocation. Instead of challenging incitement, they became its echo chamber. Let us be clear: this was not journalism. It was participation. In times of crisis, the media is not just a source of information, it is a force that shapes perception, behavior, and national direction. When this force is misused, it does not merely mislead; it endangers. Political narratives that vilify institutions and mask personal gain as public interest are not just misleading—they are destabilizing.

Pakistan is already fighting on many fronts, be it economic, diplomatic or ideological. It cannot afford to fight itself. The media, as a pillar of democracy, must recognize the gravity of this responsibility. The consequences of such internal polarization are not merely political, they are economic and global. Investors flee uncertainty. Tourism evaporates under unrest. Markets become volatile. And young, skilled talent migrates to safer, more stable environments.

When headlines are filled with conflict instead of collaboration, when institutions are reacting instead of planning, national progress stalls. The cost of rebuilding lost trust both domestically and internationally is far greater than the effort required to protect it through responsible, mature discourse. In this high-stakes environment, media must evolve from amplifiers of noise to protectors of national sanity. Journalism is not about choosing sides; it is about telling the truth. It's about contextualizing complexity not feeding emotional oversimplifications.

Responsible media must commit to five core principles:

1. Verification before Amplification: Every report, quote, or tweet must be fact-checked. In a digital age, speed must not come at the cost of accuracy.
2. Expose Narrative Engineering: Investigative journalism must uncover how narratives are weaponized to blur accountability and repackage personal agendas as national causes.
3. Context over Sensationalism: Media must move beyond "good vs. evil" framing. Present the constitutional, legal, and institutional realities. Inform don't inflame.
4. Editorial Patriotism, Not Censorship: When content has the potential to incite violence or serve hostile propaganda, media must exercise restraint. This is not about silencing voices, it's about protecting peace.
5. Invest in Media Literacy: A media-literate population is Pakistan's best defense against disinformation. Citizens must be equipped to

recognize manipulation and resist psychological warfare. We've seen what responsible journalism can achieve. During the 2022 floods, media outlets united for humanitarian causes broadcasting appeals, sharing logistics, and building momentum for relief. During the recent Pakistan-India tensions, Pakistani media projected national unity, diplomatic maturity, and strategic clarity.

In the face of aggression and misinformation from Indian outlets, Pakistan's public and private media responded with composure and consistency. Fact-based reporting, coordinated messaging, and adherence to international norms helped build credibility abroad and unity at home.

That is the media we need. That is the media Pakistan deserves. Political differences are the heartbeat of any democracy. But exploiting them to stoke enmity, undermine institutions, and fracture national morale is dangerous. In a country as resilient and yet as vulnerable as Pakistan, unity is not optional. It is an existential imperative.

The media now faces a critical choice: To inflame or to inform. To divide or to connect. To become complicit in the politics of national divide or to stand firm as guardians of peace, truth, and national unity.

In the end, nations are built not just on policies, but on stories. And it is the solemn duty of journalists, editors, and media owners to ensure those stories heal rather than hurt, clarify rather than confuse, unite rather than divide. Because without responsible media, there can be no unity. And without unity, there can be no progress.

About the Author: Imran Ghaznavi is a strategic communication expert and author of "Reputation Management and Crisis Communication: A Study of the Corporate Sector." He has held leadership roles in media regulation, public policy, and crisis communication strategy in Pakistan.

America without Immigrants: Collapse in real time

Qamar Bashir



Healthcare is next to shatter. Nearly 30% of doctors in the U.S. are immigrants. Add to that 23% of nursing assistants and 38% of home health aides. This isn't an abstract number—it's the emergency room doctor, the nursing home caregiver, the hospice nurse on a night shift. Their absence would render hospitals inoperable and elder care systems paralyzed

IMAGINE waking up to an America where every immigrant—documented or not—has vanished. In mere hours, fields lie barren, hospitals are crippled, software projects stall, and restaurants shutter. Markets nosedive, trucks stop moving, and cities fall eerily silent. This isn't dystopian fantasy—it's a projection grounded in data, real-life policy outcomes, and warnings from leaders like California Governor Gavin Newsom, who recently declared: "Without immigrants, California collapses—and America follows."

California, the world's fourth-largest economy with a GDP of \$4.1 trillion, owes its strength to immigrants. From Silicon Valley coders to Central Valley farmworkers, from hospital nurses to hotel cleaners, immigrants form the invisible scaffolding of nearly every major industry. They don't just fill gaps—they drive growth, productivity, and innovation. Their removal would not simply hurt America. It would break it.

Start with agriculture. Over 50% of farm laborers in the United States are immigrants, many of them undocumented. These men and women—often unseen—pick strawberries, milk cows, and harvest grains that keep America fed. Remove them, and crops rot in the fields. Dairy production stalls. Food prices spike. Shortages become the norm, not the exception. Rural America collapses first, followed swiftly by every grocery store in the nation.

Healthcare is next to shatter. Nearly 30% of doctors in the U.S. are immigrants. Add to that 23% of nursing assistants and 38% of home health aides. This isn't an abstract number—it's the emergency room doctor, the nursing home caregiver, the hospice nurse on a night shift. Their absence would render hospitals inoperable and elder care systems paralyzed. States already stretched thin on healthcare would face system-wide breakdowns within weeks. In Silicon Valley, the effect would be equally catastrophic. Twenty-four percent of tech workers in the U.S. are immigrants. More than 55% of startups in America's innovation epicenter are founded by immigrants or their children. They drive advancements in artificial

intelligence, cybersecurity, green energy, and medical research. Pull them out, and Silicon Valley becomes a desert of abandoned code and shelved inventions. The U.S. loses its technological supremacy overnight.

Wall Street too is built on global minds. One in four financial analysts and fintech engineers is foreign-born. Their departure triggers a domino effect: portfolio instability, retreating investors, and algorithmic panic in global markets. Without the quantitative analysts from China, India, and Eastern Europe, the heart of American finance skips a beat—and may never recover.

On construction sites, nearly a third of the workforce is made up of immigrants. They build homes, wire buildings, lay bricks, and pave roads. Their sudden removal would halt housing projects, delay critical infrastructure, and choke efforts to rebuild after disasters. The affordability crisis would deepen; entire cities would freeze in mid-construction. The service industry wouldn't fare better. Immigrants hold more than 40% of jobs in hotels, restaurants, laundries, garbage disposal, and transportation. They clean rooms, prepare food, drive taxis, operate buses, and sweep streets. Without them, urban centers grind to a halt. Tourism dies. City sanitation collapses. Public transport shrinks to a shadow of itself. The American city, in every major state, begins to decay from within.

In the realm of manufacturing and logistics, 15% of the labor force is immigrant. These individuals assemble electronics, produce steel, fabricate auto parts, and staff meatpacking plants. Pull this vital workforce and the U.S. supply chain falls apart—factories shut down, exports plummet, and global contracts are cancelled. Perhaps most dangerously, America loses its creative spark. Nearly half of all PhD holders in STEM fields are foreign-born. Immigrants contribute to over 25% of U.S. patents each year. These are the minds building new vaccines, designing space systems, and securing digital infrastructure. When these innovators vanish, so does America's future.

Then there's the fiscal nightmare. Immigrants contribute over \$330 billion in taxes annually—funding Social

Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and public schools. Their departure would tear massive holes in state and federal budgets. Pensions would become unstable. Infrastructure funding would dry up. Many rural hospitals and schools—already on financial life support—would shutter permanently. Economic modeling by UC Merced and the Bay Area Council estimates that removing undocumented immigrants alone would cost California up to \$275 billion annually—roughly 9% of its state GDP. Scale that across the country, and the U.S. economy could shrink by over \$1.5 trillion, with ripple effects triggering global recession.

Governor Gavin Newsom has made it clear: "Immigrants are the backbone of California's economy... They are the reason California leads in technology, agriculture, and service." He warned that recent immigration crackdowns threaten the entire ecosystem. "Under the Constitution, the Governor of California and all staff will protect immigrants by all means possible, without relent. And this will be done with the cooperation and goodwill of all inhabitants of California—whether immigrants or not." His words echoed as Los Angeles reeled from ICE raids that left neighborhoods terrified, businesses unmanned, and families torn apart.

Without immigrants, America doesn't just lose labor—it loses soul, structure, and strength. It stops being a destination of dreams and becomes a monument to fear. No economy, no matter how powerful, survives by cannibalizing the very people who build it.

Immigrants have cleaned America's homes and innovated its tech. They've raised its children and revitalized its cities. They've laid its foundations—literally and figuratively. To drive them out isn't just a political miscalculation; it's economic suicide.

Immigration isn't America's burden—it's America's engine. And without that engine, the world's most powerful nation will stall—and fall.

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

Briefs

Pakistan removed from UK air safety list

FROM PAGE 01
thousands of British nationals living in or traveling to Pakistan, the removal from the Air Safety List is expected to facilitate family reunions and enhance connectivity. The UK remains Pakistan's third-largest trading partner, with bilateral trade valued at £4.7 billion. Improved travel links are poised to further strengthen commercial and cultural ties. This development is a positive signal for Pakistan's aviation industry and a testament to the mutual cooperation between the two nations in advancing safety and regulatory standards.

Iran's Pak envoy named in FBI's 'most wanted' list

FROM PAGE 01
allegedly involved in Levinson's abduction. The FBI is offering a reward of up to \$5 million and the Rewards For Justice Program of the US Department of State is offering a reward of up to \$20 million for information leading directly to the location, recovery, and return of their retired employee. As per Iran International, Levinson's family back in 2020, released a statement saying they had concluded, based on information provided by US officials, that he had died while in Iranian custody. Reacting to the FBI's most wanted list, Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Senator Jim Risch said that the FBI "is leading the way on holding Iran accountable for the abduction of Bob Levinson, a devoted father and patriotic American". Meanwhile, Pakistan has defended the Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan, Reza Amiri Moghadam, following his inclusion in the US Federal Bureau of Investigation's "most wanted" list over his alleged involvement in the 2007 disappearance of former FBI agent Robert Levinson. Foreign Office spokesperson Shafqat Ali Khan, in a statement on Wednesday, said that Ambassador Moghadam is viewed with respect in Pakistan and is a duly accredited envoy of a neighbouring country.

Many dead as bus targeted in Kalat

FROM PAGE 01
launched a search operation to pursue the assailants, Rind said, adding that the attackers are still at large. "Initial reports suggest that the attackers were waiting to strike. They closed the street from both sides," he added. Police officials added that the assailants were waiting on top of nearby mountains to attack the bus. The attack came days after at least nine passengers travelling on two Punjab-bound coaches were abducted and killed by unidentified armed men in Sur-Dakai area, on the border between Balochistan's Zhob and Loralai districts. Meanwhile, President Asif Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif have condemned the attack and assured the culprits shall be brought to justice.

Major embraces martyrdom in Awaran Distt.

FROM PAGE 01
fiantly and paid the ultimate sacrifice. Sanitization operation is being conducted to eliminate any other terrorist found in the area, as the security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of Indian Sponsored Terrorism from the country, and such sacrifices of our brave men further strengthen our resolve.

Pakistan hockey team unhappy with management; Captain Amad Butt voices concerns

As the patron-in-chief of Pakistan hockey, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is being urged to intervene. Many in the sporting community believe that immediate and meaningful action is necessary to save the national game from total ruin

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Serious cracks have emerged within the Pakistan national hockey team setup as players express growing dissatisfaction with the team management and the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF). Sources within the team reveal that the players, including senior members, are unhappy with the unfulfilled promises, inadequate support, and poor financial treatment being meted out to them. According to reports, an informal conversation between players and team captain Amad Butt was recently leaked, shedding light on the underlying tensions and discontent within the camp. In the audio clip, Captain Amad Butt is heard criticizing the hockey management for not delivering on its commitments.

He allegedly told his teammates that the management had failed to provide the promised facilities and financial benefits. "The players are not getting what was committed to them. Daily allowances are meagre and irregular. We are putting in effort for the country, but the treatment we receive is disheartening," Amad Butt reportedly said in the leaked discussion. The captain's remarks reflect a sentiment widely shared among the squad. The leaked audio has sparked outrage among the hockey fraternity and has highlighted the deepening crisis within the national sport. Once a source of pride for the nation, Pakistan hockey has been plagued by administrative chaos, financial mismanagement, and internal politics for years. Currently, the Pakistan Hockey Federation is divided into two prominent factions – one

led by Tariq Bugti and Rana Mujahid. While these two have temporarily joined hands for the sake of operational control, insiders suggest that the relationship between them remains tense and fragile.

Tariq Bugti, who is also the president of PHF, is believed to be more sympathetic to the players' concerns. However, he is reportedly unhappy with the performance and role of the federation's secretary, allegedly accusing him of mismanagement and lack of coordination. The infighting between top officials has only further weakened the structure of the already struggling federation.

The players, caught in the middle of this power struggle, feel abandoned and demotivated. Despite their efforts to raise the flag high on the international stage, they are forced to train and compete under conditions that are

far from ideal. With little financial security, poor facilities, and no clear roadmap, many promising players are contemplating early retirement or seeking careers abroad.

The continued decline of hockey in Pakistan has raised alarm bells among fans and former players. The sport, once crowned with Olympic and World Cup glory, now stands on the brink of collapse due to administrative neglect and lack of state support.

As the patron-in-chief of Pakistan hockey, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is being urged to intervene. Many in the sporting community believe that immediate and meaningful action is necessary to save the national game from total ruin. The players, despite all odds, remain hopeful that the highest office in the country will take notice of their plight and restore dignity and support to Pakistan's national hockey team.

Govt believes in performance...

FROM PAGE 01

Management Authorities (PDMAs) to ensure best arrangements. He commended the efforts of NDMA for making arrangements to cope with heavy rains in different parts of the country. He expressed sorrow over the loss of lives due to heavy rainfall in various parts of the country, specifically the tragic incident in Swat. He said it was an unfortunate incident and emphasized the need to learn lessons from it and implement measures to prevent similar tragedies in the future.

On the economic front, PM Shehbaz expressed satisfaction over the recent positive trends in macroeconomic indicators. He reiterated his government's focus on performance and service delivery, announcing that the performance of ministries would be evaluated every two months.

"This message I want to make loud and clear—it is all about delivery and service to the nation," the prime minister stressed. He added that ministries performing well will be acknowledged and appreciated, while those falling short will be held accountable and asked to explain. During the meeting, he also praised Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal for his ministry's effective utilization of development funds, noting that the development spending had reached over Rs 1 trillion under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP).

Cabinet approves 15% increase in EOBI pensions

FROM PAGE 01

This increase will be funded from the institution's own resources. The meeting of the federal cabinet was held here under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The prime minister directed the formation of a cabinet committee to introduce institutional reforms in EOBI. The committee will also deliberate on proposals to extend old-age benefits to the informal labour sector, including domestic workers, agricultural labourers, and other marginalised employment categories that have been previously overlooked. These reforms aim to ensure that workers in these neglected sectors receive their due rights.

Pakistan, China vow to strengthen cooperation: Ishaq Dar

FROM PAGE 01

DPM Dar congratulated Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the successful hosting of the SCO CFM and conveyed gratitude to the leadership of China for the warm hospitality extended during the event. The two leaders held wide-ranging discussions on key areas of mutual interest, including the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and multilateral cooperation. Emphasizing the strength of Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership, they expressed satisfaction with the ongoing close collaboration across various domains.

Thousands of Afghans secretly moved...

FROM PAGE 01

led the previous Conservative government to set up the relocation scheme, involving thousands of people and estimated to cost the government about 2 billion pounds (\$2.7 billion). The leak by the Ministry of Defence in early 2022, which led to data being published on Facebook the following year, and the secret relocation programme, were subject to a so-called superjunction preventing the media from reporting what happened, which was lifted on Tuesday by a court.



ISLAMABAD: Mr. Park Jaelark, Charge d'Affaires of Korea called on Federal Minister for IT & Telecom Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja on 16th July, 2025. – DNA

ICC reveals schedule for cricket fixtures at LA28 Olympics

Men's and women's T20 tournaments set to run from July 12 to July 29, 2028

DNA

DUBAI: The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Wednesday officially confirmed the schedule for cricket's return to the Olympic Games at Los Angeles 2028 (LA28), with the men's and women's T20 tournaments set to run from July 12 to July 29, 2028. This marks a historic moment for the sport, returning to the Olympics 128 years after its only previous appearance at the 1900 Paris Games, where Great Britain won gold against France in a one-off match. The International Olympic Committee (IOC), back in 2023, had approved the inclusion of cricket in the LA28. In April this year, the IOC gave its nod for a six-team T20 format for cricket for both men and women each. A quota total of 90 athletes has been allocated for each gender, allowing every

team to name a 15-member squad.

Issuing the cricket events schedule today, the ICC announced that the women's medal match is scheduled for July 20, while the men's final will be played on July 29. Both events will take place at the Pomona Fairplex, located approximately 50 kilometres from downtown Los Angeles.

In the group stage, teams will play two sides from the opposite pool, excluding the team that finished in the same corresponding position. For example, Group A winners will face the second and third placed teams in Group B, and vice versa. Results from all matches will determine the final standings. The top two teams will qualify for the final to contest the gold and silver medals, while the third- and fourth-placed teams will compete for bronze. The tournament will feature double-headers on most matchdays, with matches scheduled to begin at 9am and 6:30pm local time. The

inclusion of cricket at LA28 is seen as a significant step in expanding the sport's global reach, offering exposure on one of the world's largest sporting stages.

While the qualification process is yet to be finalised, discussions are expected at the ICC's Annual Conference in Singapore, starting July 17. In a statement, LA28 confirmed that the gender sequence and detailed schedule will be announced later this year. "The gender sequence for events in the 2028 Games is not yet available. As stated in today's release, a more detailed schedule with medal events and gender order will be released later this year," LA28 said. It is anticipated that the T20I rankings at a specific cut-off date will be used to determine the six participating teams. A key question remains whether the US, as host nation, will receive automatic qualification, which could reduce the number of spots available to other nations.

Migration group head urges EU to bolster deportations

VIENNA: The head of an influential EU-funded migration advisory body has urged the bloc to bolster expulsions of rejected asylum-seekers under its new migration pact and defended his group over human rights concerns. The director general of the International Centre for Migration Policy denied responsibility for what he called "individual cases" of human rights abuses by authorities in countries where his organisation works. Michael Spindelegger, a former vice chancellor from the conservative Austrian People's Party, spoke in an interview with AFP as Brussels comes under pressure to keep out or deport migrants, with hard-right anti-migration parties performing strongly across Europe. The EU migration pact, adopted last year and set to come into force in June 2026, hardens procedures for asylum-seekers at its borders. – Agencies

PCB unveils new domestic cricket structure for 2025-26

New structure categorises over 40 departments into Grade-I, Grade-II, and newly introduced Grade-III tiers

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has introduced a groundbreaking three-tier departmental structure for their upcoming 2025-26 season, which is set to run from August 2025 to May 2026. This new framework aims to inject greater competitiveness and establish clear promotion and relegation pathways within the country's departmental cricket. The revamped system will feature over 40 departments from across Pakistan, categorised into Grade-I, Grade-II, and the newly introduced Grade-III tiers.

This expansion from the previous two-tier system is a strategic move by the PCB to broaden the base of competitive cricket and provide diverse match experience to players across various formats, including first-class, List A, three-day, and two-day competitions. Teams in Grade-III will compete in two-day matches scheduled for March and April 2026. These teams have been selected based on their standings in the 2024-25 President's Trophy Grade-II tournament. The top two Grade-III sides will earn promotion, while the bottom two Grade-II teams will be relegated to the third tier. A total of 12 teams have qualified for the President's Trophy Grade-II based on their performance last season. They will be joined by two relegated sides from Grade-I, forming a 14-team competition. The PCB is also encouraging departments to form women's teams to support and expand the women's domestic cricket structure. Further details are expected to be announced soon. Director of Domestic Cricket Operations, Abdullah Khurram Niazi, emphasised the significance of departmental cricket in the country's domestic structure, highlighting its consistent role in nurturing and promoting cricketing talent. – DNA

Global demand for meat and dairy set to rise: UN

Cereal yields to grow 0.9 per cent annually, with harvested area expanding just 0.14 per cent per year — half the pace of the last decade By 2034, 40 per cent of cereals will go directly to human consumption, 33 per cent to animal feed, and the rest to biofuels and industry

UNITED NATIONS: Global demand for meat, dairy and fish is projected to climb steadily over the next decade, driven by rising incomes and urbanization in middle-income countries, according to a new study. However, persistent nutritional gaps and mounting environmental pressures reveal a complex path ahead, said the study by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) – an influential international policy forum. The Agricultural Outlook 2025-2034, released on Tuesday, projects a six per cent increase in global per capita consumption of animal-source foods by 2034 – beef, poultry, fish, dairy and other animal products. The trend is most pronounced in lower middle-income countries, where intake is expected to rise by 24 per cent, far outpacing the global average. "These projections point to better nutrition for many people in developing countries," said Qu Dongyu, Director-General of the

FAO. The surge in consumption in middle-income economies is attributed largely to rising disposable incomes, changing dietary preferences and urbanization. In these countries, daily per capita intake of animal-sourced foods is projected to reach 364 kilocalories, surpassing the 300 kcal benchmark. At the same time, consumption in low-income countries will remain low – reaching just 143 kcal (kilocalorie) per day, less than half the amount deemed necessary for a healthy diet – highlighting stark inequalities in access to nutrient-rich diets and the challenges ahead to ensure everyone is food secure.

Qu urged greater efforts to ensure people in the lowest-income countries also benefit from improved nutrition and food security. To meet rising demand, global agricultural and fish production is projected to increase by 14 per cent over the next decade, largely driven by productivity gains in middle-income nations. Output of meat, dairy and eggs is expected to grow by 17 per cent,

while total livestock inventories are projected to expand by seven per cent.

However, these gains come at an environmental cost: direct greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from agriculture are set to rise by six per cent by 2034, despite improvements in emissions intensity.

As production becomes more efficient, the emissions generated per unit of output will decline, but the overall footprint will still grow unless additional measures are taken. Cereal yields to grow 0.9 per cent annually, with harvested area expanding just 0.14 per cent per year – half the pace of the last decade By 2034, 40 per cent of cereals will go directly to human consumption, 33 per cent to animal feed, and the rest to biofuels and industry. Biofuel demand set to rise 0.9 per cent annually, led by Brazil, India and Indonesia.

The report outlines a scenario in which nourishment improves for all, and agricultural emissions are reduced by as much as seven per cent below current levels by

2034. Achieving this dual outcome would require major investments to improve productivity, alongside widespread adoption of existing low-emission technologies such as precision farming, improved livestock feed and prioritising nutritional production.

Future progress will depend on a blend of policy coordination, technological innovation and targeted investments – especially in countries where the gap between demand and nutritional value is stark.

"We have the tools to end hunger and boost global food security," said Mathias Cormann, Secretary-General of the OECD. "Well-coordinated policies are needed to keep global food markets open, while fostering long-term productivity improvements and sustainability in the agriculture sector." The Outlook also reiterates the importance of trade, given that 22 per cent of all calories eaten will have crossed international borders by 2034. "International trade will remain indispensable to the global agri-food sector," the report stressed. – Agencies

Briefs

Japan saw record 22m foreign visitors in 1st half of 2025

TOKYO: Japan saw a record 21.5 million foreign visitors in the first half of 2025, government data showed Wednesday, with travel demand remaining strong even outside peak seasons. Visitor numbers for the first six months of the year topped the previous record of 17.78 million set a year earlier, according to the Japan National Tourism Organization. The number of foreign visitors in June totaled 3.38 million, up 7.6 percent from a year earlier and the highest ever for the month. By country and region, South Korea accounted for the highest number of visitors in the first half of the year at 4.8 million, followed by China at 4.7 million and Taiwan at 3.3 million. —APP

Rupee sheds 30 paise against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD: The Rupee on Wednesday depreciated by 30 paise against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 284.96 against the previous day's closing of Rs 284.66. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs288 and Rs288.5, respectively. The price of the Euro decreased by Rs1.62 to close at Rs 331.11 against the last day's closing of Rs 332.73, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen decreased by 01 paise and closed at Rs 1.91, whereas a decline of Rs 1.02 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs 381.77 compared to the previous day's closing of Rs 382.79. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal increased by 08 paise each to close at Rs 77.58 and Rs 75.98, respectively. —APP

PSX turns bullish, gains 440 points

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) benchmark KSE-100 Index turned around to bullish trend on Wednesday, gaining 440.10 points, a positive change of 0.32 percent, closing at 136,379.97 points against 135,939.87 points last trading day. A total of 705,955,999 shares were traded during the day as compared to 879,118,158 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 32.185 billion against Rs 38.608 billion on the last trading day. As many as 482 companies transacted their shares in the stock market. —APP



ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of the Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) is Dr. Najeeba Arif presenting a book to Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Pakistan Albert Khorev, during an Urdu Translation book "Russia Ki Muntakhib Khanian" launching ceremony by Dr Mujahid Mirza, at Pakistan Academy of Letters.

Ceasefire collapses in Syria as Israel threatens escalation

DAMASCUS, Syria: Clashes raged in the southern Syrian city of Sweida on Wednesday after a ceasefire between government forces and Druze armed groups collapsed and as Israel threatened to escalate its involvement, saying it's in support of the Druze religious minority. The Israeli army said it struck near the entrance to the Syrian Ministry of Defense in Damascus. Israel has launched a series of airstrikes on convoys of government forces in southern Syria since the clashes erupted and has beefed up forces on the border. Syria's Defense Ministry had earlier blamed militias in the Druze-majority area of Sweida for violating a ceasefire agreement that had been reached Tuesday, causing Syrian army

soldiers to return fire. It said they were "adhering to rules of engagement to protect residents, prevent harm, and ensure the safe return of those who left the city back to their homes." Meanwhile, reports of attacks on civilians continued to surface, and Druze with family members in the conflict zone searched desperately for information about their fate amid communication blackouts. A rebel offensive led by Islamist insurgent groups ousted Syria's longtime despot leader, Bashar Assad, in December, bringing an end to a nearly 14-year civil war. Since then, the country's new rulers have struggled to consolidate control. The primarily Sunni Muslim leaders have faced suspicion from religious and ethnic

minorities, whose fears increased after clashes between government forces and pro-Assad armed groups in March spiraled into sectarian revenge attacks. Hundreds of civilians from the Alawite religious minority, to which Assad belongs, were killed. In Jaramana near the Syrian capital, Evelyn Azzam, 20, said she fears that her husband, Robert Kiwan, 23, is dead. The newlyweds live in the Damascus suburb, but Kiwan would commute to Sweida for work each morning and got trapped there when the clashes erupted. Azzam said she was on the phone with Kiwan when security forces questioned him and a colleague about whether they were affiliated with Druze militias.

When her husband's colleague raised his voice, she heard a gunshot. Kiwan was then shot while trying to appeal. "They shot my husband in the hip from what I could gather," she said, struggling to hold back tears. "The ambulance took him to the hospital. Since then, we have no idea what has happened." A Syrian Druze from Sweida living in the United Arab Emirates said her mother, father, and sister were hiding in a basement in their home near the hospital, where they could hear the sound of shelling and bullets from outside. She spoke on condition of anonymity out of fear her family might be targeted. She had struggled to get hold of them, but when she reached them, she said. —APP

Global experts call for cultural understanding, exchange

HARBIN: While speaking of his bond with Chinese culture, 69-year-old British translator David Ferguson hummed a passage from the Peking Opera classic Dingjun Mountain, recalling how Chinese art has profoundly transformed his life. Ferguson, the honorary chief English editor of China's Foreign Languages Press, has lived and worked in China for nearly two decades. Over the years, his engagement with Chinese culture has deepened both professionally and personally — his son, who came to China with him as a toddler, has studied Peking Opera for many years and can now perform a range of opera pieces. He said he is proud of what his son has achieved, noting that his son's experiences have strengthened his belief that cultural exchange is his life's mission. Ferguson was a recipient of the inaugural Orchid Awards in 2023. The awards were established to honor international friends who have contributed to fostering cultural exchanges between China and the rest of the world. From July 11 to 14, Ferguson joined dozens of global scholars, cultural experts and awardees of this year's Orchid Awards on a visit to Harbin, the capital city of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province famous for its unique music and cultural offerings. To Ferguson, meaningful dialogue between civilizations often takes place not on grand stages, but during ordinary encounters — much like his bond with Peking Opera. "We tend to associate cultural exchange first with fine arts, but ordinary people are in fact the protagonists of most cultural interactions," he said. He recalled a visit years ago to rural areas in northwest China's Gansu Province to learn about local poverty alleviation efforts. In a village inhabited by the Dongxiang ethnic group, children welcomed him in a modest classroom by performing "Auld Lang Syne" — a memory that remains vivid to this day. "As a Scotsman, hearing the melody of my homeland in a Chinese village thousands of miles away brought tears to my eyes. It was the most precious gift I've received in China," he said, noting that such moments of cultural exchange are more important than ever in a world troubled by conflicts and tensions. For German medical scientist Thomas Rabe, who also participated in the Harbin tour, cultural exchange has been consolidating his family's long-standing friendship with China and will continue to contribute to international peace and friendship. Rabe is the chairman of the John Rabe Communication Center, which is dedicated to commemorating his grandfather John Rabe for his role in protecting civilians during the Nanjing Massacre in 1937, an atrocity committed during Japan's war of aggression against China. Over the years, Thomas Rabe has dedicated himself to compiling over 20 volumes of wartime diaries written by his grandfather. —DNA

Doha Forum launches significant new global governance initiative

TOKYO: The Doha Forum Tokyo Conference took place in Tokyo on Wednesday and explored the engaging theme of "Prospects for International Order and Global Governance: A World Without Navigators." This event, in collaboration with the Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA), launched a new joint research initiative focused on the evolving landscape of global governance. Mubarak Ajlan Al-Kuwari, Executive Director of the Doha Forum, emphasized in his opening remarks that multilateral institutions are facing increasing pressure, leading to a more fragmented and uncertain global governance structure. "How can we ensure fairness, stability, and accountability in a multipolar world?" he asked. "What principles and partnerships can guide us through this evolving landscape? These questions are central to a new strategy launched today by the Doha Forum and JIIA." Over the next year, the Doha initiative aims to unite leading scholars and experts to focus on the role of middle powers in restoring trust, fostering cooperation, and strengthening the rules-based international system. Panelists and speakers at the conference on Wednesday included Professor Ken Endo and Professor Satoshi Ikeuchi, both from the University of Tokyo; Professor Maiko Ichihara from Hitotsubashi University; and Professor Naoko Eto from the University. —APP

Plan to import 50,000 kg Pakistani mangoes

BEIJING: Imperial Ventures plans to import approximately 50,000 kilograms of mangoes from Pakistan to China this year, generating over US\$200,000 in business, according to the company's Director, Adnan Hafeez. He shared that the first shipment—over 3,000 kilograms—was already dispatched for display at the Pakistan Pavilion during the Urumqi Expo last month. The second batch, consisting of around 2,000 kilograms, arrived in China on July 7, while a third shipment of similar quantity reached Kunming just yesterday, he told APP. Hafeez highlighted the growing popularity of Pakistani mangoes in China, noting strong demand among Chinese consumers due to their large size, vibrant yellow color, and rich sweetness. These mangoes are primarily sold through online platforms. Having introduced Pakistani mangoes to the Chinese market in recent years, Hafeez and his team are continuously working to improve product quality, packaging. —APP

Saudi Cultural Week concludes at Osaka expo

TOKYO: The Saudi Ministry of Culture hosted the Saudi Cultural Week in Osaka from July 12 to 15 at the Osaka Expo's Gallery EAST to celebrate Saudi culture and the cultural intersections between Japan and Saudi Arabia. The event was held in honor of the Kingdom's designation of 2025 as the Year of Handicrafts and highlighted artistic exchange between the two countries. It offered a diverse program

of exhibitions, performances and interactive showcases that invited visitors to explore the Kingdom's cultural heritage and learn about the traditions shared by both nations. It was organized by the Saudi Ministry of Culture with the participation of the Royal Institute of Traditional Arts, the Saudi Artisanal Company, the Prince Mohammed bin Salman Global Center for Arabic Calligraphy, and the

King Abdulaziz Foundation for Research and Archives. Visitors were welcomed into the Saudi Heritage Majlis, where they experienced traditional Saudi hospitality and viewed side-by-side presentations of cultural garments, including a Saudi bisht and a Japanese kimono. Live performances by a Saudi oud musician and a Japanese shamisen musician symbolized the harmony between the two cultures. The

program also featured collaborative demonstrations with Saudi and Japanese artisans presenting crafts together, including Al-Sadu weaving and Japanese tapestry, Khous making and bamboo crafting, and pottery from both traditions. Visitors participated in hands-on workshops led by craftspeople and students, highlighting the event's emphasis on cultural exchange and shared learning. A photographic exhibition curated by the King Abdulaziz Foundation for Research and Archives chronicled the history of Saudi Japanese relations over the past seven decades. —APP

Why does every M&E report from MOCC become controversial?

All team members selected for M&E should be trained in operating equipment & devices at a reputable institution

MUMTAZ AHMED BHATTI



MONITORING and Evaluation (M&E) is a crucial component of national-level environmental initiatives, especially those involving large-scale tree plantation projects. Such initiatives, often implemented as part of climate change mitigation strategies and biodiversity conservation efforts, demand rigorous oversight to assess their effectiveness, ensure transparency, and promote adaptive management. The success and credibility of M&E reports depend significantly on the qualifications and experience of the personnel involved, the quality of equipment used, and the adherence to established international

standards. The credibility and effectiveness of a national-level tree plantation project hinge on the integrity of its Monitoring and Evaluation system. International standards clearly demand that M&E personnel be highly qualified, experienced, and trained to use appropriate equipment. Without this foundation, the value of any M&E report is significantly compromised—rendering it not only unreliable but also potentially harmful to environmental governance and public trust. Monitoring and Evaluation serve as key pillars of project cycle management, especially in environmental projects such as afforestation and reforestation. Institutions like the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) recommend comprehensive M&E frameworks that are evidence-based, participatory, and aligned with sustainable development goals (SDGs). International guidelines, such as those from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), and professional bodies like the

International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), emphasize that individuals preparing M&E reports for environmental projects must possess relevant academic credentials. Bachelor's Degree in a Relevant Field: A minimum of a bachelor's degree in environmental science, forestry, ecology, natural resource management, or a related discipline is generally required. These fields provide foundational knowledge in ecosystem dynamics, plant biology, soil science, and environmental management, which are essential for understanding the complexities of tree plantation projects. For instance, the ISA specifies that professionals involved in arboriculture-related projects should hold a degree in arboriculture, forestry, or horticulture from an accredited institution to ensure competence in tree management and assessment. Advanced Degrees for Leadership Roles: For large-scale national projects, individuals leading M&E efforts often require advanced degrees, such as a master's or Ph.D. in environmental management, conservation biology, or sustainable development. These advanced qualifications equip professionals with the analytical and research skills needed to design and im-

plement complex M&E frameworks. The UNDP's guidelines for project evaluation suggest that lead evaluators should have postgraduate qualifications to handle the interdisciplinary nature of environmental projects. In addition to formal degrees, certifications in monitoring and evaluation, such as those offered by the American Evaluation Association (AEA) or the International Development Evaluation Association (IDEV), are increasingly recommended. These certifications demonstrate expertise in M&E methodologies, including data collection, statistical analysis, and impact assessment. For tree-specific projects, certifications like the ISA Certified Arborist or Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) provide specialized knowledge in tree health, growth monitoring, and risk assessment, which are critical for evaluating plantation success. The educational qualifications ensure that evaluators have a comprehensive understanding of ecological principles, project management, and data analysis. Tree plantation projects involve assessing tree survival rates, soil health, carbon sequestration, and community engagement, all of which require technical knowledge. For example, evaluating

the ecological impact of a plantation project requires familiarity with concepts like carbon sinks, hydrological cycles, and biodiversity, which are typically covered in environmental science curricula. Without such qualifications, evaluators may lack the ability to interpret data accurately or align the M&E process with international standards, such as the UN SDGs or the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). For national-level projects, lead evaluators often need 5–10 years of experience in M&E, with at least 3 years focused on environmental or forestry projects. This experience should include designing M&E frameworks, conducting field assessments, and managing stakeholder consultations. The GEF's evaluation policy recommends that senior evaluators have extensive experience in assessing large-scale conservation projects to ensure they can handle the complexity of national initiatives. For entry-level M&E roles, a minimum of 2–3 years of experience in monitoring and evaluation is typically required. This experience should include hands-on involvement in data collection, analysis, and report writing for environmental or development

projects. The U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) notes that specialized experience can be credited towards meeting qualification standards, provided it demonstrates progressive responsibilities and relevant skills. Experience in M&E ensures that evaluators can design robust methodologies, interpret complex data, and address challenges such as data gaps or stakeholder conflicts. For tree plantation projects, experienced evaluators are better equipped to assess long-term outcomes, such as tree survival rates after 3, 5, or 10 years, as required. Experience in M&E ensures that evaluators can design robust methodologies, interpret complex data, and address challenges such as data gaps or stakeholder conflicts. For tree plantation projects, experienced evaluators are better equipped to assess long-term outcomes, such as tree survival rates after 3, 5, or 10 years, as required in some reforestation programs in Brazil. Lack of experience can lead to methodological errors, such as inadequate sampling or failure to account for local ecological conditions, undermining the report's reliability. All team members selected

for monitoring and evaluation (M&E) should be trained in operating equipment and devices at a reputable institution. The first Monitoring and Evaluation Report by the Ministry of Climate Change (MOCC) was prepared by inexperienced fresh graduates and contained numerous errors. Subsequently, a consortium comprising employees from MOCC, WWF, FAO, and IUCN was formed to develop the Monitoring and Evaluation Report. From the outset to the present, all Monitoring and Evaluation Reports produced have faced significant scrutiny from forest experts working in the field. These reports have consistently disappointed those who have dedicated substantial efforts on the ground. In the upcoming article, the educational qualifications, competence, and experience of the consortium will be examined to determine if they meet the standards required to conduct Monitoring and Evaluation for the UGPP. Did MOCC provide all the necessary equipment and devices to the consortium? Did the consortium use all the provided equipment and devices in the field? A technical analysis of the 2023–2024 Monitoring and Evaluation Report will also be published.

Briefs

Finance Minister chairs meeting on USC Wind-Up

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A high-level meeting of the Committee constituted by the Prime Minister to oversee the closure and privatization of the Utility Stores Corporation (USC) was held today at the Finance Division, with Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, in the chair. The Committee has been tasked with ensuring a smooth and transparent closure process, formulating a suitable VSS for USC employees, and recommending a structured timeline for privatization. Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Industries & Production, Haroon Akhtar Khan, Secretary Establishment Division, Secretary Finance Division, Secretary Industries & Production Division, Managing Director of USC and senior officers from the Finance and Revenue Division attended the meeting today. During the meeting, the Committee led by the Finance Minister reviewed the progress made in the light of the tasks assigned to it and held detailed deliberations on the way forward. It was reaffirmed that, in accordance with the government's directives, all operations of USC will be closed by 31st July 2025. The Committee discussed at length the formulation of a fair and financially viable Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS) for the USC employees.

Govt cuts sugar import amid IMF concerns

IMF terms tax waiver
“direct violation of written
commitments under
Extended Fund Facility”

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: In a sharp reversal of policy, state-run Trading Corporation (TCP) has cut its sugar import tender from 300,000 metric tons to just 50,000 metric tonnes due to pressure from domestic millers and rising concerns from IMF over policy violations tied to the \$7 billion loan programme.

The TCP's move, announced via an official corrigendum, comes after the federal government reached a behind-the-scenes deal with Pakistan's powerful sugar millers — many of whom are in parliament — agreeing to raise the ex-mill sugar price from Rs159 to Rs165 per kilogramme.

Furthermore, the body has delayed the bid opening date to July 22, 2025. That Rs6 per kg hike effectively granted the industry billions in fresh profits, even as retail prices remain stuck near Rs200 per kg, well above the government's earlier price cap of Rs164 per kg announced in March by DPM Ishaq Dar.

Pak, Egypt celebrate friendship on Egypt's National Day

The Ambassador paid tribute to the 1952 Egyptian Revolution – a transformative chapter in Egypt’s history that signified the rise of a sovereign republic, determined to pursue dignity, development, and independence



SAIFULLAH ANSAR/DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted a distinguished gathering to celebrate the National Day of the Arab Republic of Egypt, commemorating the historic 1952 Revolution. The event was attended by senior diplomats, scholars, and policymakers, reflecting the depth and warmth of Egypt-Pakistan relations. H.E. Ambassador Dr. Ihab Abdel Hamid delivered a heartfelt speech highlighting the shared legacy, mutual respect, and evolving strategic partnership between the two nations.

In his address, Ambassador Abdel Hamid expressed his sincere gratitude to ISSI for organizing the event and bringing together a host of eminent personalities, including Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman of ISSI Ambassador Khaled Mahmood, Director General Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, and senior Foreign Office officials.

The Ambassador paid tribute to the 1952 Egyptian Revolution – a transformative chapter in Egypt's history that signified the rise of a sovereign republic, determined to pursue dignity, development, and independence. "This day remains a cornerstone of our national identity and resilience," he said, emphasizing its significance not only for Egypt but also as a

beacon of hope for other nations striving for self-determination and social justice. Highlighting the historic depth of Egypt-Pakistan relations, Ambassador Abdel Hamid noted that Egypt was among the first countries to establish diplomatic ties with Pakistan in 1948. Since then, the two countries have stood side by side through significant historical moments. He fondly recalled President Gamal Abdel Nasser's visit to Pakistan in 1960 and Egypt's diplomatic role during the 1965 Indo-Pak war. Likewise, Pakistan's show of solidarity during the 1973 Egypt-Israel conflict – notably through the deployment of Pakistani fighter pilots – was remembered with deep appreciation. “Our countries have walked together on many fronts – from diplomacy to defense, education to energy, and culture to commerce,” he remarked. The Ambassador emphasized that this partnership is reinforced through active collaboration in global and regional forums such as the UN, OIC, and D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation. One of the most cherished elements of the bilateral relationship, according to the Ambassador, is educational and religious cooperation. Egypt continues to offer scholarships to Pakistani students at Al-Azhar University – one of the oldest Islamic institutions globally. Currently, 11 Al-Azhar scholars are serving in Islamabad’s Islamic University, promoting

the values of moderation, tolerance, and enlightened Islamic thought. Ambassador Abdel Hamid also shared exciting news about the upcoming inauguration of the Egyptian Grand Museum – the largest archaeological museum in the world. “It is a gift to the world,” he said, inviting Pakistani citizens to witness the grandeur of Ancient Egyptian civilization, including the wonders of Tutankhamun and the timeless legacy of the Pharaohs. To mark the occasion, the Ambassador presented a symbolic gift to ISSI – a collection of translated Al-Azhar publications in English and Urdu. These books cover important themes such as women’s rights in Islam, tolerance, and the nature of modern Islamic regimes. The gesture underscores Egypt’s commitment to intellectual exchange, interfaith dialogue, and mutual understanding. In conclusion, Ambassador Abdel Hamid reaffirmed Egypt’s dedication to deepening the strategic, cultural, and people-to-people ties with Pakistan. “May Egypt and Pakistan continue to thrive in unity, peace, and shared purpose,” he said, ending his speech with the spirited words: Zindabad Pakistan Zindabad. The event not only celebrated a national milestone for Egypt but also reinforced the enduring bond between two great nations, committed to peace, cooperation, and regional prosperity.

***‘40,000 Pak Zaireen
did not return from
Iraq, Syria, and Iran***

"If govt had proper record, we would know where each pilgrim went," says religious affairs minister

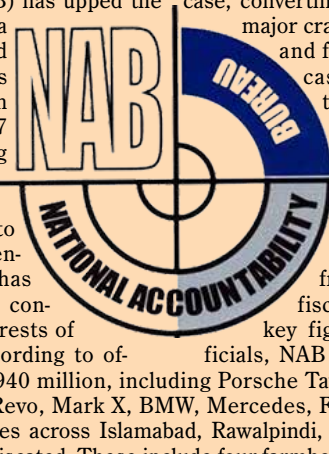
CENTRELINE REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Religious Affairs, Sardar Muhammad Yousaf has said that the Pakistan government was not keeping record of 40,000 Pakistani Zaireen who did not return from Iraq, Iran and Syria in recent years. The News reported on Wednesday. Expanding on the matter during a press conference, the minister said that 40,000 Pakistani Zaireen have remained in Iraq, Syria, and Iran in recent years. "If the government had a proper record, we would know where each pilgrim went," he remarked. The governments of Iran, Iraq, and Syria have previously raised this concern with Pakistan as well, underlining the need for a formal and accountable structure. The minister said that in the past, the Pakistani Zaireen used to visit Iraq, Syria and Iran as individuals or as part of informal groups, and there was no system of their registration or monitoring in these countries at the official level. He said that such a situation used to create insecurity for Zaireen, while complaints were also received from these countries. He said that it was for this reason that Pakistan has now introduced a centralised system for organising pilgrimages to the holy sites in Iran and Iraq through group organisers. The minister said the existing, outdated system would soon be phased out, and companies interested in organising pilgrimages must register with the ministry immediately.

Shocking details emerge **NAB starts formal probe into Rs40bn corruption scandal**

Anti-corruption watchdog recovers frozen assets worth Rs25bn, takes custody of over Rs1bn in cash

PESHAWAR: Shocking new revelations have rocked Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as details, photos, and videos of luxury vehicles and properties have surfaced in the massive Rs40 billion Kohistan corruption scandal. The News reported on Wednesday. The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has upped the case, converting the inquiry into a formal investigation, signaling a major crackdown on corruption. It has also recovered of Rs25 billion in this bungalow featured in a popular drama serial Pari Zaad, along with 77 high-end vehicles worth Rs940 million, including Mercedes, BMW, Audi, Porsche Taycan, Toyota Land Cruiser, Hilux Revo, Fortuner, and NAB has also taken into custody over Rs1 billion in cash, foreign currencies and more than three kilograms of gold. It has frozen Rs5 billion across 73 bank accounts and confiscated 30 houses, 25 flats, and four farmhouses. Arrests of key figures are expected within the next few hours. According to officials, NAB has also seized 77 luxury vehicles worth about Rs940 million, including Porsche Taycan, Toyota Land Cruiser, Lexus, Fortuner, Hilux Revo, Mark X, BMW, Mercedes, Ford Mustang, and Audi. In addition, 109 properties across Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Abbottabad, and Mansehra have been confiscated. These include four farmhouses, 12 commercial plazas, two commercial plots, 30 houses, 12 shops and food courts, 25 flats and penthouses and 175 kanals of agricultural land. The estimated value of these properties is about Rs17 billion. Official sources say key arrests are likely within 24 to 48 hours, and preparations are underway. A colossal fraud was meticulously orchestrated through explicit collusion among government officials, contractors, complicit banking authorities and others. The accused acted with chilling audacity, siphoning off billions of rupees from the public exchequer without drawing the attention of any financial regulatory authority. — DNA



UNSC extends reporting requirement on Houthi attacks

Acting U.S. Ambassador Dorothy Shea said the resolution recognizes the need for continued vigilance "against the Houthi terrorist threat"

DNA

UNITED NATIONS: With Pakistan supporting, the United Nations Security Council has adopted a resolution that extends by six months the requirement for the UN Secretary-General to provide monthly reports on attacks by Yemen's Houthis against ships in the Red Sea. Adopting resolution 2787 (2025) with a vote of 12 in favour to none against, with 3 abstentions (Algeria, China & Russia), the 15-member Council extended the reporting request as the Houthis – who control a significant portion of Yemen, including the capital city, Sanaa – have defied its previous demands to immediately halt all such attacks. The reporting obligation was established by the adoption of Resolution 2722 in January 2024, which was moved in response to the repeated attacks on commercial shipping. The Houthis have vowed to continue targeting vessels until Israel ends its war in Gaza. Tuesday's resolution was co-sponsored by the United States and Greece. In explaining his vote, Ambassador Asim Ifitikhar Ahmad, permanent representative of Pakistan, which holds the Council Presidency for July, having voted in favour of resolution 2787 (2025) and speaking in his national capacity, reaffirmed "our principled and longstanding commitment" to uphold-

ing maritime security and unequivocally condemning attacks on all commercial shipping. The Pakistani envoy denounced the recent assaults on vessels in the Red Sea and called for the immediate and unconditional release of all detained crew members. In the current context, the extension of the reporting mandate is a necessary and timely step. “We underscore the strategic significance of the Red Sea maritime corridor – not only as a critical artery for global trade, but also as a vital channel for humanitarian aid to Yemen,” Ambassador Asim Iftikhar said. All attacks on merchant and commercial vessels navigating the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden must cease immediately and permanently, in full compliance with international law. “The international community’s response to the situation must also conform fully with international law,” the Pakistani envoy added. “At the same time,” he added, “it is imperative to address the underlying root causes of regional instability and to actively support diplomatic efforts toward de-escalation. “Preventing further regional spillover of the conflict and its destabilizing consequences is essential—not only to curb attacks on commercial shipping, but also to safeguard broader regional peace and security.” Acting U.S. Ambassador Dorothy Shea said the resolution recognizes the need for continued vigilance “against the Houthi terrorist threat.”



General Practice

HOSPITAL

We Are

OPEN

General Practice Hospital is a state-of-the-art healthcare facility offering comprehensive medical services to the community. Our hospital is equipped with advanced diagnostic and treatment modalities, including specialized OPD clinics, an urgent care unit, a modern radiology unit, well-equipped IPD rooms, operation theatres, an on-site laboratory for precise diagnostics, dialysis services, and comfortable inpatient wards. We are dedicated to providing quality, easily accessible, and patient-centred healthcare in a welcoming and professional environment.



OPD CLINICS	INPATIENT ROOMS	INTENSIVE CARE UNIT (ICU)	MATERNITY CARE UNIT	DIALYSIS CARE UNIT	X-RAY	RADIOLOGY	ENDOSCOPY / CYSTOSCOPY	ECHO
DAY 7 EMERGENCY ROOM	OPERATION THEATRES	DAY CARE SURGERY	NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT (NICU)	RADIOLOGIC LAB	ULTRASOUND	VCU	IPD	PHARMACY

General Physician Services

Medicine

Gynecology & Women's Health

Dermatology & Aesthetics

General Surgery

Urology

Paediatrics & Child Health

Plastic Surgery

Ear, Nose & Throat

Cardiology

Neurology

Nutrition, Diabetes & Lifestyle

Nephrology

Orthopedics and Sports Medicine

Ophthalmology

Dental & Maxillofacial Surgery

Psychiatry

Gastroenterology

Physiotherapy & Rehabilitation

Psychology & Mental Health

Empathic & Caring for everyone

We know that seeking medical care can be overwhelming, but you're not alone. With empathy at the heart of our care, we listen, understand, and support you every step of the way. In our clean, premium environment, you'll feel safe, valued, and truly cared for. Book your appointment today and experience healthcare with compassion.

BOOK APPOINTMENT

+92 33 47 47 47 01

Pakland Tower 2, New Blue Area, Islamabad

www.generalpractice.com.pk
[generalpracticeislamabad](https://www.facebook.com/generalpracticeislamabad)

+92 51 6160 474 | +92 51 6161 474