



# Islamabad POST

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

**Palestine President calls upon world leaders to help end Gaza starvation**

Detailed News On Page-08

**Ishaq Dar in US for high level negotiations**

Detailed News On Page-08



**Mohsin Naqvi orders major reforms in FIA**

Detailed News On Page-08



## Horrific couple killing

# Balochistan CJ steps in amid public anger

The viral video showed a group of men leading a couple out of vehicles and into a desert before gunning them down with pistols and shooting the bodies. Political figures and activists said it was an 'honour' killing incident

### BUREAU REPORT

QUETTA: At least 11 suspects, including a tribal leader, have been arrested for their alleged involvement in the killing of a man and a woman in Balochistan after a video of the murder went viral on social media, with the case now handed over to the Serious Crimes Investigation Wing (SCIW), police said. Meanwhile, the Chief Justice of the Balochistan High Court has taken notice of the incident and issued notices to the Chief Secretary, IG Balochistan and other relevant officials. Superintendent of Police (SP) SCIW Syed Saboor Agha told Dawn.com, "Eleven people have been arrested, including a tribal leader who issued directives to shoot the couple, and all of them will appear before a judicial magistrate today."

### Editorial on Page 5

The viral video showed a group of men leading a couple out of vehicles and into a desert before gunning them down with pistols and shooting the bodies. Political figures and activists said it was an 'honour' killing incident. On Sunday, Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti announced on X that he had directed the Balochistan Police to take immediate action, following which one suspect was apprehended. According to a first information report (FIR) — a copy of which is available with Dawn.com — registered by the Station House Officer (SHO) Naveed Akhtar at Quetta's Hanna-Urak Police Station, he lodged the complaint after receiving

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## CM Bugti: No one has right to kill another

### DNA

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti has strongly condemned the recent incident involving the killing of a couple in the province, stating that "no one has the right to take another person's life." Addressing a press conference on Monday, the Chief Minister clarified that the slain couple did not share a valid marital status, based on the official records available. However, he emphasized that this in no way justifies their murder. "Regardless of their relationship status, no individual or group is allowed to act as judge, jury, and executioner," Bugti said. He reassured the public that all legal and administrative measures are being taken to bring the perpetrators to justice. "We are committed to upholding the rule of law. Several arrests have already been made and more will follow. No one involved in this heinous act will be spared," he asserted. CM Bugti also directed the police and relevant authorities to investigate the matter thoroughly and submit a detailed report at the earliest.

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## President confers Nishan-e-Imtiaz on Saudi Naval Chief

### SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari conferred the award of Nishan-e-Imtiaz (Military) upon Vice Admiral Mohammed Bin Abdulrahman Al Ghoraibi, Chief of the Royal Saudi Naval Forces, at a special investiture ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr today. The award was presented in recognition of Vice Admiral Al Ghoraibi's professional achievements and his role in strengthening the friendship between the Royal Saudi Naval Forces and the Pakistan Navy. The ceremony was attended by senior officers of the Pakistan Armed Forces. Following the ceremony, the Chief of the Royal Saudi Naval Forces called on the President.

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## PM launches digital system for medical devices registration

### MAHNOOR ANASR

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday formally launched the Digital System for Licensing and Registration of Medical Devices, a transformative initiative aimed at streamlining and modernizing Pakistan's healthcare regulation process. With this development, medical device registration and licensing will now be completed online within just 20 days — a drastic improvement from the earlier manual process that often took years. Addressing the launching ceremony in Islamabad, the Prime Minister hailed the initiative as a

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari confers the award of Nishan-I-Imtiaz(Military) on the Vice Admiral (Staff) Mohammed Bin Abdulrahman Al Ghoraibi, Chief of Royal Saudi Naval Forces during a special investiture ceremony. — DNA

## PML N Karim wins from Punjab

# PTI KP government secures six out of 11 Senate seats

Women and technocrat seats split between PTI, PPP, and JUI-F candidates; Talah Mahmood, Rubina Khalid also elected as Senators

### SHAMIM SHAHID/ DNA

PESHAWAR: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has won six of the 11 Senate seats from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, while opposition parties jointly bagged five, according to unofficial and unconfirmed results of the Senate elections held in the provincial assembly. Polling was held for all 11 seats, and all 145 members of the KP Assembly cast their votes. On the general seats, PTI candidates Murad Saeed, Faisal Javed, Mirza Afridi, and Noorul Haq Qadri were

Continued on Page 06

## KP CM, Speaker challenges oath taking

### DNA

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister (CM) and Speaker Provincial Assembly, here Monday challenged the oath taking of newly elected members of the reserved seats in

Continued on Page 06

## Briefs

### Russia strikes Ukraine after Kyiv offers fresh talks

KYIV: Russia fired a volley of drones and missiles at Ukraine early on Monday, hitting apartment blocks and a nursery in Kyiv, days after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky proposed holding a fresh round of peace talks. Moscow has not responded to Zelensky's call for new negotiations this week or an ultimatum by US President Donald Trump to make progress on a peace deal or face massive sanctions. Two people were killed across the country, Zelensky said. French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot arrived in the capital, Kyiv, while rescuers were still sifting through the rubble. Zelensky condemned the strikes as an "assault on humanity" and said at least 15 other people had been wounded in the attacks, including a 12-year-old boy. — APP

### Iran blames Europeans for nuclear deal collapse

TEHRAN: Tehran on Monday blamed European powers for the failure of the 2015 nuclear deal, accusing them of breaking their commitments ahead of renewed talks in Istanbul with Britain, France and Germany. The 2015 deal, reached between Iran and the UN Security Council's permanent members — Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States — plus Germany, imposed curbs on Iran's nuclear programme in exchange for sanctions relief. But it unravelled in 2018 when the United States, during Donald Trump's first term as president, unilaterally withdrew from the accord and reimposed sweeping sanctions. The Europeans had pledged continued support for the deal. — APP

## Dr Aafia Siddiqui case

# IHC issues contempt notice to PM, Cabinet

"Will use my judicial powers to maintain the honour of the high court," says Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan

### COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has issued a contempt notice to the federal cabinet over its failure to submit a report in the Dr Aafia Siddiqui case. "I am issuing a contempt of court notice to every member of the federal cabinet," Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan said during a hearing of the plea filed by Dr Aafia's sister, Dr Fauzia Siddiqui, regarding the former's health and repatriation from US prison. Dictating a short order, Justice Ishaq said that the next hearing of the case will be held on the first working day after the court holidays. Dr Aafia, a Pakistani neuroscientist, has been incarcerated in US for over 14 years after being handed down an 86-year sentence in 2010 on charges of attempted murder and assault of US personnel in an Afghan jail. She is serving a jail term in Carswell, a high-security prison in Fort Worth, Texas. In January this year, she sought a presidential pardon, terming her jail term as "a bla-

tant miscarriage of justice", hours before the power transition in the United States (US). However, the then-US president Joe Biden rejected Dr Aafia Siddiqui's clemency plea. During the hearing today, Justice Ishaq said that he had fixed Dr Fauzia's case for Monday, however, he was informed on Thursday that the cause list would not be issued until it was changed. "The personal secretary informed about the roster change. I told the personal secretary to write to the chief justice regarding the cause list," the judge said while highlighting that the roster of judges of the IHC was handled by the CJ's Office. "The chief justice did not get even 30 seconds to sign it?" Justice Ejaz remarked, adding that the judges' roster has been used for decisions in certain cases in the past. "Once again, administrative power has been used [to exercise] judicial power. I will not let justice face defeat. I will use my judicial powers to maintain the honour of the high court," the judge remarked. The court then issued a contempt of court notice to the federal cabinet.

# Indian court acquits all 12 convicts of train bombings


Bench rules that prosecution had "completely failed" to establish case against accused

### NEWS DESK / DNA

MUMBAI: Nineteen years after the 2006 Mumbai train bombings, which killed 189 people and injured over 800, the Bombay High Court has acquitted all 12 individuals previously convicted by a lower court in connection with the attacks. In 2015, a trial court had found the 12 accused guilty, sentencing five to death and the remaining seven to life imprisonment, reported NDTV. However, overturning that verdict, the High Court bench comprising Justice Anil Kilar and Justice Shyam Chandak ruled that the prosecution had "completely failed" to establish the case against the accused. "The prosecution has utterly failed to prove the case against the accused. It is hard to believe that the accused committed the crime. Hence, their conviction is quashed and set aside," the bench said. The court said the accused shall be released from jail if they are not wanted in any other case. The Bombay High Court noted that the

12 men convicted in the 2006 Mumbai train bombings were given the "benefit of doubt" because the prosecution failed to establish their guilt beyond reasonable doubt. The court raised concerns about the reliability of witness testimonies, observing that it was unreasonable to expect accurate identification of suspects more than 100 days after the attacks. The judges also questioned the relevance of the explosives, weapons, and maps recovered during the investigation, stating they did not appear to be connected to the blasts. Furthermore, the prosecution was unable to conclusively determine the type of bombs used in the explosions. On July 11, 2006, seven coordinated blasts tore through Mumbai's suburban trains over an 11-minute span during the evening rush hour. The explosions, caused by pressure cooker bombs placed in first-class compartments of trains departing from Churchgate, occurred near Matunga Road,


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## زرعی ترقی سے عوامی بینکاری تک

AAA/A-1+

ماحول سے زرعی ترقی تک کیلئے (ZTBL) زرعی مالیاتی خدمات کے لئے ایک قابل اعتماد گام ہے۔ لیکن کیا آپ جانتے ہیں (ZTBL) آپ کا ریشل چیک بھی ہے، جو پاکستان بھر میں اہل کار واداری حضرات کو خدمات فراہم کر رہا ہے۔ ملک بھر میں 501 برانچوں کے مشیورین ہونے کے ساتھ ZTBL سب کے لئے روزانہ ریشل بینکنگ کی تمام سہولیات فراہم کر رہا ہے۔



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## Post-arrest bail petition of PARC's chairman rejected

ISLAMABAD: A special court on Monday rejected the post-arrest bail petition of Pakistan Agriculture and Research Council (PARC)'s Chairman Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali in a case against alleged illegal recruitments in the department. Special Judge Central Shahrukh Arjumand rejected the post-arrest bail after hearing the arguments. During the hearing, the petitioner, lawyer Riasat Ali Azad, appeared in the court and took the position that the matter was of 2022 while the FIR was filed in 2025. There is an allegation of recruiting 168 employees without advertisement and use of official position. He said that after three years, an FIR was registered against Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali and other accused. Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali is the Chairman of PARC, there is no complaint against him in his entire career, he said. He was first pressured to resign, when he did not agree, an FIR was registered, all the affairs of PARC are looked after by the Board of Governors, not a single paper related to corruption could be brought on record by the prosecution, the lawyer said. The FIA investigation officer said that 164 posts were advertised and 332 people were recruited. Petitioner lawyer said that the chairman is not a member of the PARC selection committee. If a candidate is a relative of the chairman, so he become ineligible to recruitment, he questioned. The lawyer said that his client has no direct connection with the recruitment. He prayed the court to grant his client post-arrest bail. The FIA prosecutor said that an FIR was registered on the direction of the PAC. After the arguments of the parties were completed, the court reserved the decision and later rejected the bail petition of the accused. —APP

## KP CS reviews governance, monsoon preparedness

PESHAWAR: A high-level meeting on governance and monsoon preparedness was held here under the chairmanship of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Secretary (CS) Shahab Ali Shah. The meeting included a detailed briefing on proactive measures in response to the upcoming monsoon spell. The CS emphasized the urgent need to complete river demarcations and ordered strict implementation of all relevant directives. He instructed that leaves for government officials in flood-prone areas be canceled to ensure full preparedness. Shahab Ali Shah stressed inter-departmental coordination to enable timely response in case of emergencies. The Additional Deputy Commissioner's office was directed to remain fully prepared as the first response unit. Revenue and Irrigation departments were told to take action against encroachments based on official land records to prevent any rights violations. To curb urban flooding, municipal authorities were instructed to ensure proper cleaning of drainage systems. —APP

# Irrigation minister inaugurates 16 New Weir Gates of Sukkur Barrage

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI/SUKKUR: In a significant milestone for Sindh's irrigation infrastructure, the Minister for Irrigation Sindh, Jam Khan Shoro, along with Secretary Irrigation Zarif Iqbal Khoro, inaugurated the newly completed 16 main barrage weir gates under Phase-I of the Sukkur Barrage Improvement Project (SBIP) here on Monday. The inauguration ceremony took place at the Sukkur Barrage on Monday. The upgraded gates spanning from Bay No. 44 to Bay No. 59, were installed by a Chinese contractor under contract package SBIP-SI, funded by the World

# CDA chairman chairs meeting to review progress on projects

Chairman Randhawa further instructed the removal of all obstacles hindering development in CDA sectors on a priority basis. He praised the successful auction of CDA's commercial plots, calling it a historic achievement, and appreciated the performance of all related wings

DNA

ISLAMABAD: July 21, 2025 – Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Chief Commissioner Islamabad, Muhammad Ali Randhawa, chaired an important meeting at the CDA Headquarters on Monday to review the progress of ongoing development projects across several city sectors. The meeting was attended by Member Administration and Estate Talat Mehmood, Member Finance Tahir Naem, Member Engineering Syed Nifasat Raza, Member Planning Dr. Khalid Hafeez, Member Environment Asfandiyar Baloch, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon, DG Resources CDA, Deputy Commissioner CDA, and other senior officials. The meeting focused on the development progress in sectors C-14, C-15, C-16, E-12, I-12, H-16, I-16, I-17, and Park Enclave. Chairman Randhawa emphasized the need to not only expedite development works but also ensure high standards of quality and transparency. He directed that CDA's relevant directorates, particularly the Deputy Commissioner CDA, establish field offices along with their teams within the active development sectors to help



resolve citizens' issues at their doorstep. He stressed that the issues brought to camp offices must be addressed in a transparent and lawful manner. The Chairman instructed that modern lighting and improved road infrastructure be included

in the development plans for all new sectors. He also ordered the widening of main entry points of newly developed sectors and the removal of all encroachments and illegal constructions in accordance with the law. He specifically directed

the concerned departments to accelerate the pace of development works in Park Enclave. Chairman Randhawa further instructed the removal of all obstacles hindering development in CDA sectors on a priority basis. He praised the successful auction

of CDA's commercial plots, calling it a historic achievement, and appreciated the performance of all related wings.

He also directed the finance wing to allocate adequate funds to ensure smooth continuation of development works. —APP

## Aleem orders high-quality road projects with 30-year vision

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan has directed senior officials of the National Highway Authority (NHA) to ensure timely completion and long-term sustainability of infrastructure projects, stressing the need for high construction standards and a forward-looking approach spanning the next three decades. Chairing a high-level meeting at the NHA Punjab Region Office, the minister emphasized the urgent completion of pending development work from Multan Road to Ring Road, cautioning that no compromise would be tolerated on quality or timelines, said a press release on Monday. Aleem Khan told that Lahore-Sialkot Motorway will be extended from 4 to 6 lanes and connected from Kharian to Islamabad. This new link

age is expected to ease traffic congestion on the existing Lahore-Islamabad Motorway M-2, reduce travel distance by 100 kilometers and shorten journey time by approximately one hour, he added. Highlighting the regional impact, Abdul Aleem Khan said that this Motorway will also connect Gujranwala, Gujrat, Kharian, Jhelum and Gujrat Khan Districts, offering significant travel convenience for residents commuting between Lahore and Islamabad. During the high-level meeting, the Federal Minister sought progress reports on ongoing NHA projects and issued key directives regarding new interchanges and infrastructure initiatives in the Punjab Region. The meeting was attended by the Federal Secretary for Communications, Chairman

of National Highway Authority and the CEO of RUDA who briefed the Federal Minister on their departmental matters. Following the meeting, Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan accompanied by senior officers inspected the ongoing expansion work on Multan Road, issuing on-site directives at various locations, as well. He also instructed officers to enhance development efforts and tasked them to beautify the stretch of Multan Road till Hadyara Drain and Ring Road. On this occasion, citizens warmly welcomed the Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan at various points along his visit and appreciated the developmental work being carried out on Multan Road for the convenience of traveler. —APP

## Citizens urged not to walk, drive through stagnant water

MULTAN: In precautionary guidelines during ongoing monsoon season, rescuers urged residents not to walk or drive through flowing or stagnant water, and to prevent children from bathing in the rain, as it could lead to accidents. This is the advisory released under special instructions of Punjab Emergency Services Secretary Dr. Rizwan Naseer and was shared by District Emergency Officer Dr. Hussain Mian here Monday. Through the advisory, citizens are asked to stay alert to obstacles or potholes hidden beneath water on roads, drive vehicles slowly using low gears, and keep headlights and fog lights on at all times. Sudden braking and speeding must be avoided, it said. Dr. Mian stated that although monsoon rains bring relief and pleasant weather, they also pose serious risks. —APP

## Commissioner reviews flood preparedness, monsoon strategy

LAHORE: Divisional Commissioner Zaid bin Maqsood chaired a meeting to review flood situation monitoring and monsoon preparedness across the division. The meeting focused on proactive measures to tackle potential flooding scenarios in light of ongoing and upcoming weather conditions. Addressing the senior officials, the Commissioner issued clear directives that all departments must be on high alert starting today, warning that negligence would not be tolerated under any circumstances. He emphasized the activation of early warning systems and the immediate mobilization of village-level flood committees around river belts. The Commissioner ordered that revenue teams remain present in the field at all times and that relief camps be made fully operational immediately. He also instructed the administrations of Lahore, Sheikhupura, and Kasur to evacuate communities residing in riverbeds and advised that mosques be

used for public announcements to guide citizens. The Commissioner Lahore also called for a list of designated supervisory irrigation officers for canal and drainage areas, directing that all irrigation officers remain stationed within their respective districts throughout the season. He instructed that monitoring and control centers operate round-the-clock. He further directed the Irrigation Department to eliminate all obstructions beneath bridges and to inspect the entire drainage network in coordination with district administrations. Immediate joint operations were ordered to clear all drainage systems to prevent urban flooding. Highlighting the seriousness of the monsoon season, the Commissioner stressed that protecting human lives remains the top priority of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif. He reiterated that Section 144 must be strictly enforced across the division, warning of strict crackdowns on any violations. Additional directives

included increasing police patrolling on rivers, canals, and drains, with a firm order that no unauthorized cuts or breaches be made to government infrastructure. The Lahore Safe City Authority was instructed to focus surveillance on all major drainage points, with designated departmental focal persons to remain on 24-hour duty at Safe City offices. The Commissioner called for seamless coordination among all departments to ensure swift response, safety of citizens, and protection of infrastructure during the ongoing monsoon season. The meeting was attended by RPO Sheikhupura Athar Ismail, Deputy Commissioner Lahore, DG LDA, Additional Commissioners, Chief Engineer Irrigation, representatives from Pakistan Army, Police, WASA, PHA, Rescue 1122, LWMC, MCL, and other departments while Deputy Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners, and district officers of relevant departments from across the division joined the session via video link. —DNA

## No tradition can justify murder, says Saba

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for Ministry of Human Rights, Saba Sadiq, has strongly condemned the brutal killing of a young couple in Balochistan. Calling the incident "inhumane and unacceptable," she said such barbaric acts under the guise of customs and traditions will not be tolerated under any circumstances. She vowed that justice will be ensured for the victims and their families. The victims—24-year-old Sheetal and 32-year-old Zarg—were reportedly lured by members of their own tribe before being publicly executed in a remote area of Balochistan. Saba Sadiq took immediate notice of the tragic case and telephoned the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Balochistan, seeking a detailed report. "This is a matter of grave concern. We will not let this pass without consequences," she said. "The state is responsible for the safety and dignity of its citizens, especially women, and we are committed to fulfilling that duty." She emphasized that the government of Pakistan and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has a zero-tolerance policy for gender-based violence and crimes committed in the name of culture or tradition. "No tradition, custom, or excuse can justify the cold-blooded murder of a woman and her husband simply because they chose to live their lives with dignity and free will," she stated. Expressing sorrow and anger, Saba Sadiq called the murders "a stain on our society's conscience" and said the authorities must move quickly to arrest those responsible. "We are heartbroken over the brutal killing of Sheetal and Zarg in Balochistan. Their blood cries out for justice, and the government will make sure their voices are not silenced forever," she said. She further added that the government is determined to eliminate such inhumane practices and harmful traditions that continue to threaten the lives and freedoms of women. "This is not just about one incident—it's about changing a mindset that sees women as property. This mindset must end." Reiterating her firm stance, the Parliamentary Secretary said, "We will strengthen the prosecution to ensure that no criminal escapes justice. It's time to send a clear message that the law stands with the victims—not with the perpetrators hiding behind tribal customs." In her conversation with the Balochistan police chief, Saba Sadiq stressed the importance of a transparent investigation, swift arrests, and immediate legal action. She also said the Ministry of Human Rights is monitoring the case closely and will ensure that the affected families are supported throughout the legal process. —DNA

## CRA Capital Development Authority (E&M Division – Aiwan-e-Sadr) #HumCDA

### TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders for the following works are hereby invited on percentage basis on NIT cost from the contractors duly enlisted with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in appropriate Code & category ME-01, EE-04 and PEC License having validity upto 30-06-2026:-

S#	NAME OF WORK	NIT COST	EARNEST MONEY	DATE & TIME OF RECEIVING OF TENDERS	DATE & TIME OF OPENING OF TENDERS
1	ILLUMINATION OF CABINET BLOCK BUILDING ON THE OCCASION OF (INDEPENDENCE DAY 14TH AUGUST 2025)	Rs 902,638/-	Rs. 27,079/-	07-08-2025 11:30 am	07-08-2025 12:00 NOON
2	ILLUMINATION OF CABINET BLOCK BUILDING ON THE OCCASION OF EID MILD-UN- NABI (1457 HIJRI)	Rs 902,638/-	Rs. 27,079/-	07-08-2025 11:30 am	07-08-2025 12:00 NOON
3	PROVIDING & FAXING OF 3KVA UPS AND DIFFERENT MISCELLANEOUS WORK AT AIWAN-E-SADR, ISLAMABAD	Rs 931,989/-	Rs. 24,960/-	07-08-2025 11:30 am	07-08-2025 12:00 NOON
4	PROVIDING OF STORE ITEMS FOR AIR CONDITIONERS AND LIFTS AT AIWAN-E-SADR, ISLAMABAD	Rs 2,081,660	Rs. 62,450/-	07-08-2025 11:30 am	07-08-2025 12:00 NOON
5	PROVISION & FIXING OF LED FLOOD LIGHT 100-WATT AT PAKISTAN PARK AND PROVIDING/FIXING OF LED FLOOD LIGHT 20-WATT AND HIGH MAS POLE PROVIDING OF STORE ITEMS FOR AIR CONDITIONERS AND LIFTS AT FOOTBALL GROUND AT AIWAN-E-SADR, ISLAMABAD	Rs 907,858/-	Rs. 27,236/-	07-08-2025 11:30 am	07-08-2025 12:00 NOON
6	PROVIDING & LAYING OF POWER SUPPLY FOR 4 TON AC INSTALLED AT 3RD FLOOR AND MISCELLANEOUS WORK AT RECEPTION END AT AIWAN-E-SADR, ISLAMABAD	Rs 964,886/-	Rs. 28,947/-	07-08-2025 11:30 am	07-08-2025 12:00 NOON

- Bidding Documents are available on PPRA E-PADS portal, No hard Copy will be issued.
- Earnest Money / Call Deposit should be generated only from firms / Contractor account (firm name mentioned on CDR). The prospective bidder shall upload scanned copy of bid security on E-PADS. Earnest Money / Call Deposit in original must be deposited to Accounts Branch of E&M Aiwan e Sadr before 01.08.2025 of Opening of Tenders
- If any contractor wants to participate in tender opening process through their representative, then they should issue authority letter on letter head pad of the firm depicting complete valid address a contact numbers along with attested copy of CNIC.
- This call deposit shall be in addition to the earnest money for the work and shall be deposited at the time of submission of bids. Bids not carrying the Performance Security shall be rejected. The Performance security of the successful bidder shall be released after completion of the project.
- The Attorney holder may not be the employee of any Government / Semi Government Department.
- Bid security of all bidders will be deposited in the CDA's Account and same will be returned after acceptance of the lowest bid.
- The prospective bidders are also required to submit their bids online through E-PADS at <https://eprocure.gov.pk/> before opening date.
- The Tender Document shall be opened to only those firms having security clearness from Aiwan E Sadr Authority.
- CDA may reject all bids or proposals at any time prior to acceptance of bid or proposal as per PPRA Rules.
- Advertisement is also available on CDA website [www.cda.gov.pk](http://www.cda.gov.pk) and PPRA website [www.ppra.gov.pk](http://www.ppra.gov.pk).

PID/JS225

Dy. Director (E&M), Aiwan-e-Sadr  
CDA, Islamabad



stream of Sukkur Barrage. Highlighting the significance of the Sukkur Barrage, he noted it irrigates over 8.8 million acres of fertile land across Sindh. Responding to media queries, he clarified that Bay 43 remains safely sealed off with a perpendicular coffer dam and will be replaced in Phase-II. Bay 63 is currently closed for Caisson gate installation and under continuous monitoring, with no flood risk. On sediment buildup, he explained that silt movement is a natural process vital for downstream mangrove protection. Under SBIP Phase-II, silt will be removed by dredgers and flushing operations managed by the Chinese contractor during flood season.



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

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Motorway Police.9270601-20

Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596

Rawalpindi.....9270601-20

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CAA.....9281092

Hospitals

CMH.....5611111

MH.....5611116

Canth Hospital...9270907-11

DHQ.....5556311-4

RGH.....9290301-7

Holy Family.....9290322-7

PIMS.....9261170-79

Polyclinic.....9218300-09

Shifa International 4603666

Departments

CDA.....9221334-43

CDA.....9208301-04

Met Office.....9250360-6

RDA.....5555864

TMA.....5770886

Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480



Islamabad: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif inaugurates the digital system for licensing and registration of medical devices.

Crackdown against price hike in full swing

19 shopkeepers arrested for overcharging on sugar

During an inspection, the manager of a well-known supermarket was arrested for not maintaining mandatory essential items on the counters, a clear breach of market compliance rules

ISLAMABAD :In an ongoing campaign against profiteering, Islamabad authorities have launched strict action against shopkeepers selling sugar above the government's notified price.

At least 19 shopkeepers have been arrested in a citywide crackdown following directives from Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon. In this regard, multiple teams led by Assistant Commissioners (ACs) carried out inspections across various markets in the capital. In Nilor, the AC sealed five shops and arrested 11 shopkeepers for selling sugar at inflated rates. Meanwhile, the AC Sadder conducted an operation in Sector G-13 where eight shopkeepers were taken into custody for similar violations. Apart from sugar price violations, the crackdown also targeted retailers failing to comply with other essential commodity regulations. During an inspection, the manager of a well-known supermarket was arrested for not maintaining mandatory essential items on the counters, a clear breach of market compliance rules. DC Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon has directed all Assistant Commissioners to intensify inspections across the city. He instructed that any shopkeeper or retailer charging more than the notified rate for sugar must be arrested without delay. He emphasized that profiteering and hoarding are unacceptable, and the district administration will continue the operations without discrimination. He added that ensuring the availability of essential commodities at fixed rates is the top priority of the administration, especially during the current economic challenges. Memon reaffirmed that shopkeepers flouting government price controls will face strict legal action, including arrests, sealing of shops, and imposition of fines. He instructed monitoring teams to remain active in all markets, ensuring daily price checks and immediate action against violators. Furthermore, the DC appealed to the public to report any instances of overpricing or shortage of essential commodities. The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration also issued a reminder to all retailers to display the official rate lists of essential items, including sugar, at prominent places in their shops. Non-compliance with this directive will also lead to legal action. The crackdown is part of a broader effort by the government to control inflation and provide relief to citizens facing rising prices of daily use items. In recent weeks, the district administration has stepped up enforcement measures, particularly in response to public complaints about price hikes in sugar and other essential goods. Authorities have also warned wholesalers and distributors against creating artificial shortages or manipulating prices. The administration is keeping a close watch on supply chains to prevent such practices. The DC stated that the ongoing operations will continue until full compliance with the official price list is ensured across the city. He urged shopkeepers to adhere strictly to the notified rates to avoid penalties. The ICT administration has set up complaint cells where citizens can report overpricing, hoarding, or the sale of substandard goods. The administration has assured that prompt action will follow any credible complaint. The Islamabad police are assisting in the enforcement drives by providing security and ensuring arrests during operations. The joint efforts of law enforcement and administrative teams are expected to deter profiteers and bring stability to the prices of essential commodities. Deputy Commissioner Irfan Nawaz Memon reiterated that the district administration is fully committed to controlling prices and ensuring that no citizen is forced to pay beyond the official rates. The crackdown will remain active until the profiteering trend is curbed and essential items are available to all at government-fixed prices. He also emphasized the role of the community in reporting violations and urged citizens to stay vigilant and cooperate with the authorities.

Rawal Dam spillways closed after water level drops to 1747 feet

ISLAMABAD :Rawal Dam's spillways, which were opened early morning to release excess water following heavy rains, have been closed after a five-hour discharge. The water level, which had prompted authorities to open the gates, has now returned to a safer mark. The district administration closed the spillways of Rawal Dam on Monday after the water level dropped to 1747 feet. Earlier in the day, the gates were opened at 6 AM when the reservoir touched 1748 feet, nearing its maximum storage capacity. The spokesman of ICT administration said the release of water continued for five hours to manage the rising levels caused by rainfall in Murree and adjoining areas. After the discharge, the water level in the dam decreased by one foot, reaching 1747 feet. Before opening the spillways, the administration had stationed teams from Rescue 1122 and other relevant departments at bridges and along seasonal streams to ensure safety measures were in place. Assistant Commissioner Islamabad personally monitored the controlled discharge process and coordinated with emergency teams to manage any potential risks. Authorities continue to monitor the dam's water level closely in anticipation of more rainfall in the coming days.—APP

72 Pakistanis awarded Fulbright scholarship

ISLAMABAD: The United States Educational Foundation in Pakistan has awarded the prestigious Fulbright scholarship to 72 outstanding students and scholars from Pakistan to earn Master's and PhD degrees in the United States. Fulbright is the U.S. government's flagship academic exchange program, and the program in Pakistan is among the largest in the world. This year is the 75th anniversary of the Fulbright program in Pakistan. Funded by the Governments of the United States and Pakistan, the Fulbright program enables Pakistani students to attend top U.S. universities, engage in cutting-edge research, share knowledge with American peers, and build valuable global connections that promote a safer and more prosperous world.—APP

PNCA to celebrate I Day with cultural competitions

ISLAMABAD: As part of Pakistan's Independence Day celebrations, the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), operating under the National Heritage and Culture Division, has unveiled a comprehensive series of youth-centered cultural competitions. These events aim to encourage creativity, promote patriotism, and engage students in meaningful artistic expressions of national pride. With multiple competitions scheduled to take place in August, the initiative brings together students from schools, colleges, and universities across the country through art, drama, music and poster-making. One of the major highlights is the National Youth Art Exhibition and Competition 2025, inviting students aged 16 to 25 from colleges and universities in Pakistan. Participants are asked to submit original artworks based on the theme "Bunyanum Marsoos – Marka-e-Haq," which pays tribute to the bravery, sacrifice, and patriotism of Pakistan's armed forces. All painting mediums are accepted, including acrylic, watercolor, drawing, digital art, and mixed media. The minimum artwork size is A3 and mounting is not mandatory. Each participant may submit only one artwork, which must be accompanied by a short description explaining the idea or inspiration behind it. The last date for submission is August 05, 2025. The winning entries will be retained by PNCA for future exhibition and promotion. The cash prizes include Rs. 40,000 for first place, Rs. 30,000 for second place, Rs. 20,000 for third place, and Rs. 5,000 for five honorable mentions. All participants will receive certificates. Students can register and submit their entries through the link <https://forms.gle/H7FyjniBxdBiYm9>. PNCA is also organizing a drama competition for boys' colleges in Rawalpindi and Islamabad. This event invites group participation and focuses on dramatic performances themed around Independence Day. The competition will be held on August 13 at the PNCA Auditorium. Students must be nominated by their colleges, and the last date for registration is August 10. As per guidelines, scripts should be submitted in PDF format via WhatsApp to 0334-5252508. Shields will be awarded to the top three winning teams, and certificates will be issued to all participants. The college administrations are strongly encouraged to promote their students' involvement in this event.—APP

Rain continues in ICT, admin intensifies monitoring

ISLAMABAD: As rain continues to pour in Islamabad, the district administration has intensified monitoring efforts across the city and Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon, has issued directives to ensure the safety of residents and maintain smooth traffic flow during the wet spell. According to the spokesman of ICT administration, light to moderate rainfall continues in various areas of Islamabad, prompting the district administration to increase its field activities. In this regard, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon, has directed all Assistant Commissioners to visit low-lying areas within their respective jurisdictions to assess the situation and address any potential risks. According to the district administration, the monitoring of seasonal streams, drains, and nullahs is ongoing across the federal capital to prevent any overflow or urban flooding. Special teams have been mobilized to ensure that water flow remains unobstructed, particularly in areas prone to water accumulation.

Meanwhile, in a statement, Deputy Commissioner Memon emphasized the need for coordination with the traffic police to prevent congestion on major roads and ensure that traffic movement remains uninterrupted during the rain. The Islamabad Traffic Police has been tasked with deploying additional personnel at key locations to manage traffic flow and assist motorists. The administration has also urged citizens to adopt precautionary measures during the rainy weather. Residents living in low-lying areas have been advised to remain alert and avoid unnecessary travel. The DC further called on the public to report any emergency situation or blocked drains to the relevant authorities for immediate action. Monitoring teams are actively inspecting different sectors, especially areas with a history of waterlogging. The district administration said that it is in close contact with the Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) and other municipal bodies to clear any obstructions in drainage systems and prevent water

accumulation. The Pakistan Meteorological Department has forecasted continued rainfall in Islamabad and surrounding regions over the next few days. In light of the forecast, the district administration has placed all relevant departments on alert to deal with any potential emergencies. Deputy Commissioner Memon reiterated the importance of collective efforts between government agencies, traffic police, and residents to minimize the impact of the ongoing rain. He also reassured citizens that the administration is fully prepared to handle any situation that may arise. Citizens can contact the district control room in case of emergencies or seek assistance through the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Administration's helpline. The administration has committed to keeping the public updated on weather conditions and safety advisories through official communication channels. Authorities continue to inspect critical points in the city, including underpasses, bridges, and main roads.—APP

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## Briefs

Tarar  
condoles with  
social media  
team member

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Monday visited the residence Kashif Awan, an active member of the social media team of the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) and expressed his condolences on the death of his mother. The minister also extended his heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the other family members of the deceased. Tarar said he was deeply saddened to hear the news of the death of Kashif Awan's mother, and he shared the grief of the bereaved family. The minister said that the death of a great personality like a mother was a grief that cannot be compensated for. He prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved family to bear this loss with fortitude.—APP

28th death  
anniversary  
of Khalil  
Ahmed

ISLAMABAD: The 28th death anniversary of renowned Pakistani music composer Khalil Ahmed observed on Monday. Khalil Ahmed was born on March 3, 1936, in Agra, British India. After the partition, he migrated to Pakistan and settled in Karachi, where he began his musical career. His breakthrough came with the song "Kisi Chaman Mein Raho" from the film Shaam Dhalay. Some of his timeless compositions include "Insha Jee Uthho", "Main Nahi Manta", and "Chand Se Chandni". He worked with top poets like Iqbal-e-Insha and performed for both radio and TV. He also composed for the famous TV program Andaz-e-Bayan Aur, hosted by Zia Mohyeddin. Throughout his career, Khalil Ahmed received multiple awards and accolades for his musical excellence, including Nigar Awards for best music direction. He passed away on July 21, 1997, at the age of 61.—APP

Cement exports  
increase 23.74%

ISLAMABAD: The exports of cement witnessed an increase of 23.74 percent during the fiscal year 2024-25, as against the exports of the last year 2023-24. The cement exports from the country were recorded at US \$329.795 million during July-June (2024-25) against the exports of US \$266.516 million during July-June (2023-24), according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). In terms of quantity, the cement export also rose by 28.71 percent from 9,124,119 metric tons to 7,088,982 metric tons, the data revealed. Meanwhile, year-on-year basis, the cement exports witnessed an increase of 40.81 percent during the month of June 2025 as compared to the same month of last year. The exports of cement from the country during June 2025 were recorded at US \$41.848 million against the exports of US \$29.719 million in June 2024. On a month-on-month basis, cement exports also surged by 22.23 percent during June.—APP

Poor planning turns rainfall into  
recurring national disaster

Shahid Rasheed Butt called for the immediate formulation of a comprehensive national water policy aimed at turning rain from a curse into a blessing through systematic harvesting and conservation

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former Islamabad Chamber of Commerce President and prominent business leader Shahid Rasheed Butt has stated that the recent torrential rains, while devastating lives and property, also led to the waste of billions of dollars' worth of freshwater, an act he termed "national suicide" in a "water-starved country". Speaking to members of the business community, he said hundreds of people have been killed and injured, and crops and infrastructure worth tens of millions of rupees have been damaged in the lat-

Pakistani youth initiatives  
recognized among global actions

The Action Plan for Global Youth Development (APGYD), a joint initiative by the All-China Youth Federation, United Nations agencies, and global youth organizations, recognized innovative projects contributing to the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

## DNA

BEIJING: Three groundbreaking Pakistani projects have been selected among the 100 Excellence Actions for Global Youth Development (2025) at the World Youth Development Forum (WYDF), held in Suzhou, China, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. The forum, themed "Unleashing Youth Potential for Global Development", brought together youth ministers, leaders and young changemakers from over 100 countries and 17 international organizations to collaborate on sustainable solutions for the future. The Action Plan for Global Youth Development (APGYD), a joint initiative by the All-China Youth Federation, United

Nations agencies, and global youth organizations, recognized innovative projects contributing to the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Since 2022, APGYD has honored 200 outstanding youth-led initiatives from 63 countries, spanning critical areas such as climate action, digital innovation, poverty alleviation and inclusive education. Sher Shah Khan, founder of Skilistan, represented the country with his "SDG Impact Leaders Fellowship", which trains young Pakistanis to drive community change aligned with global development goals.

"At WYDF, we showcased Pakistan's youth potential in AI, green economy, and heritage

preservation," Khan shared. "This platform helped us forge partnerships to scale our impact back home."

Nameera Irfan's "From Earth to Fabric" initiative revives traditional block printing in Matiari, Sindh, empowering women displaced by climate crises. "We're preserving heritage while creating livelihoods for 50+ artisan women," Irfan explained. "With global support, we'll expand training, launch e-commerce exports, and turn Matiari into a cultural tourism hub." Among the celebrated Pakistani projects was "Trash Has Value" by Entertech Laboratories Private Limited, which transforms plas-

tic waste into eco-friendly tiles while creating jobs for informal waste collectors. To date, this program has upgraded and transformed over 10,000 kilograms of electronic waste, produced solar energy storage systems that cover more than 500 households and small businesses. PakGPT Co-Founder and National Director of Pakistan AI Hackathon Farah Gul Rahuja also made waves by securing a top 10 spot in the forum's Acceleration Week. "China's blend of tradition and technology is inspiring," she remarked. "I'm eager to use AI to uplift marginalized communities in Pakistan while learning from China's development journey." APGYD, backed by UN agencies

such as UNESCO and UNICEF, continues to amplify youth-led solutions worldwide. These Pakistani projects highlight the country's growing role in sustainable innovation. As Sher Shah Khan noted, "Young Pakistanis are proving that local actions can have global resonance—whether through recycling waste, preserving culture, or harnessing technology for good." Farah added, "This recognition isn't just about awards; it's a call to action. Together, we can make contributions to our communities." With such initiatives leading the way, Pakistan's youth are poised to shape a more sustainable and inclusive future



ISLAMABAD: People visiting Lake View Park to enjoy pleasant weather.

NADRA revamps child  
registration

ISLAMABAD: National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) spokesperson and Director of Public Engagement Syed Shababat Ali on Monday said that NADRA has implemented major changes to its Child Registration Certificate (CRC), also known as Form-B. Talking to a private news channel, he said the revised structure aims to strengthen child identity verification and block loopholes previously exploited in human smuggling. He said the previous system lacked biometric or photographic identification for individuals under the age of 18. This absence of post-birth identification created vulnerabilities in the registration system and made it susceptible to misuse by organized networks involved in illegal migration and trafficking, he added. He said for children under the age of three, NADRA will issue a CRC without a photograph or biometric data, and this certificate will automatically expire when the child turns three. From the age of three to ten years, a photograph is mandatory, and in NADRA centers with advanced facilities, an iris scan may also be recorded. He said once the child reaches ten years of age, a full biometric profile, including fingerprints, photograph, and iris scan (where available), is compulsory. The certificate issued at this stage remains valid until the child turns 18. Shababat said these changes were made to preserve the integrity of family structures in the national database. He said the new system will ensure that only genuine family links are reflected in official records and protect citizen identities from manipulation.—DNA

Pakistan's rice exports  
to China surge

BEIJING: Pakistan's rice exports to China have experienced significant growth during the first six months of 2025, marking an encouraging development under the framework of China's economic policies aimed at enhancing trade relationships and diversifying supply chains. According to recent data from the China General Administration of Customs (GACC), Pakistan's shipments of semi-wholly milled rice (Commodity code 10063020) to China have soared to over \$29.53 million, with the volume reaching approximately 66,960,601 kilograms in the January-June period. This marks a remarkable increase compared to the same period last year, when exports were

valued at around \$5.23 million. Ghulam Qadir, Trade and Investment Counselor at the Pakistan Embassy in Beijing, told China Economic Net that total rice exports from Pakistan to China for the first half of 2025, including both premium and broken rice, reached approximately \$35.93 million. In comparison, exports during the same period in 2024 were valued at \$19.53 million, signifying a growth of more than \$16.40 million, or an impressive 84% increase. Broken rice, notably IRR16 (Commodity code 10064020), crossed \$4.52 million in export value with a quantity of around 13,377,000 kilograms. Additionally, a specific category of broken rice, with rice length less than 6mm and L-W ratio

less than 2 (Commodity code 10064080), exceeded \$1.87 million in exports during the period. Ghulam Qadir said that the boost in rice exports aligns with China's broader policies to diversify import sources and stabilize its food security strategy. Pakistan's consistent increase in rice exports not only reflects its expanding role as a key rice supplier but also underscores the potential for deeper economic integration between the two nations. As bilateral trade continues to flourish, Pakistani rice producers are optimistic about further market expansion, supported by ongoing improvements in trade policies, quality standards, and diplomatic ties.

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Govt assures  
protection  
of farmer  
interests

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain on Monday said that the government's sugar export decision was aimed at protecting farmers and ensuring national food security. Talking to a private news channel, he said that Pakistan had a surplus of 1.4 million tons of sugar at the time of export. Timely export was necessary to stabilize the market and prevent losses to sugarcane growers, he added. The minister clarified that if sugar was not exported, farmers would suffer due to a price crash and lack of buyers. Rana Tanveer said sugar will only be exported next year if production crosses 7 million tons and local need stays around 6.3 million tons. He said the government is working closely with sugar mills to ensure a balanced approach that supports both the industry and the farming community. He assured that all future decisions will be made in the best interest of the public and the agriculture sector.—APP

CCP raids  
transformer  
material  
suppliers

ISLAMABAD :The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) teams have raided the offices of four suppliers involved in the provision of transformer reclamation materials to various power distribution companies (DISCOs). The raids were carried out simultaneously in Lahore and Gujranwala. These companies are suspected of being part of a cartel that manipulated bidding processes for transformer-related tenders. The CCP launched the raids as part of an ongoing enquiry into bid rigging practices in DISCO procurement. The enquiry was initiated after LESCO raised concerns with the CCP regarding identical bids submitted by various suppliers. A review of bidding data revealed that the companies often quoted identical prices and appeared to rotate tenders among themselves. Such practices fall under Section 4(2)(e) of the Competition Act, 2010, which prohibits collusion in tendering. Bid rigging not only distorts fair competition but also causes significant financial losses to the public exchequer. If the ongoing enquiry confirms any form of collusion, the CCP will issue show-cause notices to the companies involved.—APP



design—trapped in a web of tribal politics, local feudalism, and a governance model that benefits a select few while depriving the masses. The tribal chieftains and sardars, who wield enormous influence, often act as both the law and its executioners. These powerbrokers have resisted modern education, development projects, and social reform—because a disempowered, uneducated populace is easier to control. In such an environment, practices like honour killings thrive. It is not just about killing individuals—it is about killing autonomy, modernity, and dissent.

It often feels like Pakistan's laws stop at the provincial border of Balochistan. Constitutional protections, human rights, and civil liberties that are, at least on paper, available to all Pakistanis seem to vanish in these tribal strongholds. Local jirgas and tribal customs frequently override state laws. Women are routinely denied their rights. Victims are silenced. And perpetrators are shielded by their social standing or tribal affiliations. It is especially tragic and ironic that such killings are carried out in the name of religion, when Islam, in its true spirit, upholds the right of adult women to choose their spouse. The Quran and Hadith are explicit on the subject: consent is essential for a valid marriage. Yet tribal codes are routinely allowed to override religious teachings and constitutional rights. This fusion of cultural rigidity with religious misinterpretation continues to embolden murderers in the name of so-called honour.

We must say it plainly: there is no honour in honour killings. They are cold-blooded murders, often committed with calculated cruelty. They are an affront to human dignity, a stain on our national conscience, and a violation of both moral and legal codes.

It is high time the government, civil society, religious scholars, and local communities united to uproot this barbaric practice. Laws must not just exist on paper—they must be enforced with zero tolerance. Police officials who turn a blind eye to such killings, or worse, facilitate cover-ups, must face exemplary punishment. Community elders who endorse these crimes should be named, shamed, and prosecuted. And above all, an urgent cultural shift must be engineered through education, media, and religious discourse. We must also begin a national dialogue to dismantle the toxic code of "ghairat" (honour), which has claimed far too many lives. Let us not let this couple's death fade into obscurity. Let it serve as a painful reminder of the urgent reform that is needed—legal, cultural, and moral. The youth of Balochistan deserve the same rights, freedoms, and protections as anyone else in Pakistan. They deserve schools instead of slogans, justice instead of jirgas, and safety instead of subjugation. The state must assert its presence—not through military might, but through justice, equity, and development. If we cannot protect our people's right to love and live freely, then we have failed as a society. Let this curse of honour killings end in our generation—before more hearts are stopped simply for daring to beat freely.

tronics and pharmaceuticals, but even core components like semiconductors and rare earths that sustain its defense and tech sectors.	
If the global monetary system transitions to a multipolar reserve structure—such as that envisioned by BRICS+, which includes a potential gold-backed or commodity-backed trade currency—the consequences for the U.S. would be dire. The collapse of dollar demand would render the U.S. unable to roll over its debt at low interest rates. The cascade effect would crush its financial markets, devalue its currency, and erode its global economic standing. Already the symptoms are visible: declining global trust, rising debt-to-GDP ratio, and eroding manufacturing capacity.	
Yet, the United States is still a nation of remarkable creativity, diversity, and strength. It has attracted the world's brightest minds, offered freedom to the oppressed, and powered innovation across industries. But this dream is now imperiled by systemic fiscal irresponsibility and imperial overreach. Wars fought not in American interest but on behalf of foreign allies drain both credibility and capital. Domestic infrastructure lags behind, while digital and logistical competitiveness fall further behind China's state-led modernization surge.	
If the U.S. is to remain relevant in the post-dollar world, it must act swiftly and boldly. The first step is to stop the reckless printing of unbacked currency. Fiscal discipline must be restored. The surplus must be generated through production, not printing. America must wean itself off military misadventures and redirect its resources toward rebuilding national infrastructure—high-speed rails, smart cities, digital highways, and renewable energy. It must re-industrialize, not through nostalgia, but through strategic foresight. Above all, it must begin a global campaign of resource consolidation—not with coercion, but with cooperation.	
China has read the future and is writing it in copper, fiber, and cobalt—not dollars. The world is moving toward a system based on assets, production, and connectivity—not paper promises. The U.S. still has a chance to adapt, to innovate, and to lead. But time is running out. The casino is closing. The empire must now become a republic again—one grounded in productivity, not printing presses.	

the regional context, both Indonesia and Pakistan are key players. As Southeast Asia's largest economy, Indonesia can play a vital role in supporting Pakistan's integration with ASEAN; potentially advancing its bid for Full Dialogue Partner status. Both countries also face common security challenges, particularly from extremism, making cooperation in intelligence-sharing and counter-radicalization efforts essential. On the global stage, their shared membership in the OIC and Developing-8 highlights a united front in advocating for Muslim-majority nations, especially on critical issues such as Palestine and Islamophobia. Looking ahead, there is hope that Ambassador Chandra will help institutionalize high-level engagements by accelerating the long-awaited visit of President Prabowo to Pakistan, which has been pending since January 2025. Of course, this is easier said than done. Ambassador Chandra faces several challenges. Bureaucratic inertia often slows progress. Fast-tracking pending agreements, such as the Trade in Goods deal, will require persistent diplomatic effort. There is also a notable perception gap. Many young Pakistanis, including even those born in the 1980s, have limited awareness of Indonesia's rich culture and global significance. This calls for targeted efforts to break stereotypes through media collaborations, cultural exchanges, and youth engagement programs. Geopolitical complexities add another layer. Balancing relations with both Pakistan and India, managing ties with China and its allies, while maintaining strong connections with the West, is no small feat. In this context, consistent advocacy for a multipolar Asia and a multipolar world becomes not just relevant but essential. Ambassador Chandra's unique blend of military and diplomatic expertise positions him well to elevate Indonesia-Pakistan relations into a strategic partnership fit for the 21st century. By building on the legacy of his predecessors and confronting today's challenges head-on, he can help make this relationship a pillar of Asian solidarity, connecting ASEAN with South Asia and strengthening the collective voice of the Global South. The time for incremental steps has passed; what is needed now is bold, forward-looking diplomacy.



## Briefs

Balochistan  
CJ steps in  
amid public  
anger

FROM PAGE 01  
The video clip that had gone viral on social media, showing a man and a woman being brutally shot and killed by armed individuals. SHO Akhtar stated that he, along with his team, reached Balochistan's Dagari, situated on the outskirts of Quetta and, upon investigation, discovered that the incident occurred three days before Eidul Azha in the area of Sanjidi in Dagari. "The victims seen in the viral video have been identified as Bano Bibi and Inshanullah," the FIR said, naming eight suspects who allegedly shot the couple dead. The FIR also mentioned 15 other unknown suspects involved in the incident. Speaking to Dawn.com, SHO Naveed Akhtar said, "Owing to the nature of the murder, the case has now been transferred to the Serious Crime Investigation Wing for further investigation." Prior to being killed, the victims were allegedly taken to a tribal leader, who declared them guilty of being involved in an 'immoral relationship' (locally termed 'Karo Kari') and ordered their execution, following which they were taken to the (desert) and shot dead, the FIR said.

CM Bugti:  
No one has  
right to kill  
another

FROM PAGE 01  
He vowed to ensure that justice is served without delay or discrimination. The Chief Minister appealed to the public to remain calm and allow law enforcement agencies to complete their work. "We must act responsibly and let the legal process take its course. Vigilantism and tribal justice have no place in a civilized society," he concluded. The tragic killing has sparked widespread outrage across the country, with civil society and human rights organizations demanding immediate action. The provincial government's swift response aims to not only punish those responsible but also set a precedent against such crimes.

Indian court  
acquits all  
12 convicts  
of train...

FROM PAGE 01  
Mahim Junction, Bandra, Khar Road, Jogeshwari, Bhayandar, and Borivali stations. The attacks left 189 dead and over 800 injured. In 2015, a special Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) court found 12 people guilty. Faisal Sheikh, Asif Khan, Kamal Ansari, Ehtesham Siddiqui, and Naveed Khan were sentenced to death. The remaining seven—Mohammed Sajid Ansari, Mohammed Ali, Dr Tanveer Ansari, Majid Shafi, Muzammil Shaikh, Sohail Shaikh, and Zamir Shaikh—were handed life sentences for their alleged involvement in the conspiracy. All 12 have now been acquitted and will be released following the High Court's ruling, which found that the evidence did not support convictions for murder, conspiracy, or waging war against the nation.

PTI KP  
government  
secures...

FROM PAGE 01  
declared winners, securing 26, 22, and 21 votes respectively. The opposition succeeded on the remaining three general seats, with victories for PML-N's Niaz Ahmad, PPP's Talha Mehmood, and JUI-F's Atta-ur-Haq. For the two women's reserved seats, PTI's Rubina Naz won with 89 votes, while PPP's Rubina Khalid secured the second seat. On technocrat seats, PTI's Azam Swati and JUI-F's Dilarwar Khan emerged victorious. With these results, PTI has clinched four general seats, one technocrat seat, and one women's seat. The opposition — comprising PML-N, PPP, and JUI-F — shared the remaining five seats: three general, one technocrat, and one women's.

## Pervez Malik advances strategic energy dialogue with Uzbekistan

"Pakistan is keen to transform the strong political understanding between our nations into tangible partnerships," said Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum, Ali Pervaiz Malik, emphasized Pakistan's commitment to deepening energy collaboration with Uzbekistan during a meeting with His Excellency Mr. Alisher Tukhtaev, Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, held today. The discussions centered on strengthening bilateral ties, with a particular focus on expanding cooperation in the oil and gas sector. Ambassador Tukhtaev lauded Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif's recent successful visit to Uzbekistan, which has paved the way for stronger economic and energy partnerships. He reaffirmed Uzbekistan's commitment to elevating bilateral trade to \$2 billion in the coming years and identified the energy sector as a key area for mutual growth. He noted signif-



icant opportunities for joint exploration ventures, technical training programs for Pakistani professionals in Uzbekistan, and collaborative research in synthetic fuel and polymer production. In response, Minister Malik proposed

the establishment of a dedicated Pakistan-Uzbekistan Energy Working Group to complement existing bilateral mechanisms and ensure focused progress in oil and gas cooperation. He said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has con-

sistently emphasized the importance of expanding Pakistan-Uzbekistan cooperation. He invited Uzbek investment in Pakistan's exploration sector, assuring full support for Uzbek companies looking for exploring opportunities in oil and gas sector. "Pakistan is keen to transform the strong political understanding between our nations into tangible partnerships," said Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik. He commended the Ambassador's proactive approach in advancing the shared vision of both countries' leadership and reiterated Pakistan's readiness to facilitate joint ventures, knowledge exchange, and projects. Pakistani companies can also look for opportunities in Uzbekistan vast oil and gas sector. The meeting concluded with a mutual resolve to accelerate practical collaboration, underscoring the potential for a transformative energy partnership that benefits both nations.

Army, govt support key to  
volleyball rise: PVF chief

## OUR CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Fresh from its historic triumph at the Asian U-16 Championship, Pakistan's junior volleyball team now sets its sights on conquering the world stage — but greater resources will be essential to turning that dream into reality. This was emphasized by Pakistan Volleyball Federation (PVF) Chairman Chaudhry Muhammad Yaqoob, who praised the Pakistan Army and government for their continued support. He

stated that with increased investment in young players, Pakistan could achieve even greater success internationally. "Despite limited resources, the PVF is providing maximum facilities to both senior and junior teams," he said. He highlighted the significant role played by the Army Sports Directorate in organizing training camps and supporting preparations for the Asian U-16 Championship. "Our U-16 team has made the nation proud. These young players are extremely talented.

We're already planning for the World U-17 Championship, and I hope all stakeholders will play their part in helping us raise Pakistan's flag through volleyball," Yaqoob added. Reiterating his gratitude to the Pakistan Army and the government, Yaqoob stressed that further investment in the country's youth could help Pakistan's name shine even brighter on the global stage. Meanwhile, the national junior volleyball team received a grand welcome upon its return home after making history at the Asian U-16

Championship held in Thailand. After clinching the gold medal, the team was warmly received at the airport by Punjab Sports Board Director General Khizar Afzal Chaudhry, PVF Chairman Chaudhry Muhammad Yaqoob, PVF President Suhail Khawar Mir, and a large number of fans. The national heroes were showered with rose petals and adorned with garlands upon arrival. It is worth noting that Pakistan remained unbeaten throughout the championship, defeating Iran in a thrilling final to secure the title.

Berlin MP triumphs  
as Global Champions  
Arabians Tour ends

VALKENSWAARD: The 2025 Valkenswaard edition of the Global Champions Arabians Tour in the Netherlands concluded on Sunday, with Berlin MP, owned by Hleetan Qatar Stud, taking home the prestigious Senior Stallion Gold Championship title. The 2018-born grey stallion was handled by Glenn Schoukens, delivering a performance that captivated judges and spectators alike. The sixth stage of the Tour in the Europe & the Middle East series unfolded at the renowned Longines Tops International Arena in Valkenswaard. Over three days, more than 100 of the world's finest Arabian horses competed in a venue filled with breeders, sponsors, influencers, VIPs, and fans. With a total prize purse \$1.64 million, of which \$1.22 million was allocated to championship classes and \$419,000 to qualifiers, Valkenswaard reinforced the GCAT's status as the most prestigious and rewarding series in the history of Arabian horse sport. "Valkenswaard continues to surprise and inspire," said Bader M. Al-Darwish, CEO of Global Champions Arabians Tour. "We witnessed world-class competition at the epicenter of equestrian sports in Netherlands." — Agencies

England to host  
next three World  
Test C'ship finals

ICC notes England's "successful track record in hosting recent finals"

## DNA

LONDON: England will stage the next three World Test Championship finals after the successful hosting of the first three showpiece matches, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced on Sunday. The most recent final took place last month, when South Africa were crowned champions for the first time after defeating holders Australia at Lord's. Nearly 110,000 people went through the gates of the London ground for a Test lasting four days. India was reportedly keen to host the next final in two years, but England have been awarded the finals of the 2027, 2029 and 2031 editions. At its annual conference in Singapore, the ICC noted England's "successful track record in hosting recent finals", even though Ben Stokes's side is yet to reach the one-off showpiece. "We are absolutely delighted that England and Wales has been chosen to host the next three ICC World Test Championship finals," said England and Wales Cricket Board chief executive Richard Gould.

England face dark horses  
Italy with sights set on  
Women's Euro final

GENEVA: Having come back from the brink of elimination against Sweden in the last eight, England will hope to live up to their billing as favourites when they face Italy in the semi-finals of Women's Euro 2025 on Tuesday. The holders are tantalisingly close to another major tournament final, with a showdown next Sunday against either Germany or world champions Spain the reward for Sarina Wiegman's team should they get the better of the Azzurre in Geneva. The Lionesses could be forgiven for feeling that their name is on the trophy after the dramatic nature of their victory over Sweden in Zurich on Thursday. England were 2-0 down late on but two goals in the space of three minutes forced extra time before they eventually

triumphed 3-2 in a remarkable penalty shoot-out. Now they find themselves in a sixth consecutive semi-final between Women's Euros and World Cups, and it would be a shock if they slipped up against Italy. Ranked 13th in the world, the Italians are surprise semi-finalists while England are where they were expected to be as they look to repeat their triumph at the last Euros on home soil in 2022. "I really had a sense throughout the game, even when we were down, that it wasn't our time to go," defender Esme Morgan told English media this weekend as she reflected on the unlikely comeback against Sweden. "I thought about three times we were out," admitted Wiegman, who remains on course to win a third

consecutive Women's Euros having guided her native Netherlands to victory on home soil in 2017 before triumphing with England three years ago. England have been exposed against top-level opposition at this European Championship, having been defeated by France in their opening group game before being torn apart in the first half against Sweden. But the nature of their recovery in the latter match, inspired by substitutes Michelle Agyemang and Chloe Kelly, will give them confidence and so can their recent record against Italy. England won 5-1 when the nations last met in a friendly in Spain in February last year, and were 2-1 victors a year earlier in Arnold Clark Cup in Coventry. — Agencies

Irina Begu  
wins UniCredit  
Iasi Open WTA  
tournament

BUCHAREST: Romanian tennis player Irina Begu won the UniCredit Iasi Open (WTA 250) tournament, equipped with total prizes amounting to 239,212 euros, on Sunday after defeating Swiss Jil Teichmann in the final, 6-0, 7-5. Irina Begu (34 years old, 110 WTA), seeded no. 7, sealed her victory after one hour and 33 minutes of playing. Irina Begu is now 4-1 in head-to-head matches with Teichmann (28 years old, 102 WTA), seeded no. 6, the Romanian having won her last four matches, most recently in 2023, again in Iasi, in the quarterfinals, 1-6, 6-4, 6-0. Begu, who played the final in Iasi in 2023 (WTA 125), has added to her list of sixth WTA titles of her career, after those in Tashkent (2012), Seoul (2015), Florianopolis (2016), Bucharest (2017) and Palermo (2022). — APP

US tariffs push Jeep  
owner Stellantis  
into 2.3-bn-euro loss

PARIS: Jeep owner Stellantis said on Monday it suffered a massive loss in the first half of the year, when it felt the first impact of new US tariffs and took a massive charge following a change in US laws. The 2.3-billion-euro (\$2.7-billion) net loss in the first half of the year came as sales in North America continued to slump, down 25 percent by volume in the second quarter year-on-year. The carmaker, whose stable of brands also includes Peugeot, Citroen and Fiat, said first-half net revenues dropped 12.6 percent to 74.3 billion euros, according to the preliminary and unaudited results. Sales of vehicles fell by six percent in the second quarter year-on-year, after having dropped nine percent in the first three months of 2025. Stellantis said "the early effects of US tariffs" had a 300-million-euro negative impact and disrupted its plans to respond to its struggling performance in North America. Automakers have struggled to respond to a new US tariff of 25-percent on imported cars that are not largely made within North America. Stellantis fell into a net loss when it took a 3.3-billion-euro charge, which it said was "primarily related to programme cancellation costs and platform impairments, net impact of the recent legislation eliminating the CAFE penalty rate and restructuring". US President Donald Trump's massive tax and spending legislation, approved earlier this month, removed the penalties for not respecting the so-called CAFE fuel economy targets, meaning automakers can produce and sell more higher polluting cars in the United States. Stellantis suspended its financial guidance in April due to the heightened uncertainty generated by US tariffs. — Agencies

KP CM,  
Speaker  
challenges  
oath taking

FROM PAGE 01  
The Peshawar High Court. The oath of new MPAs elected on reserved seats has been challenged in the Peshawar High Court (PHC) by Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur and Speaker Babar Saleem Swati. The writ petition comes a day after KP Governor Faisal Karim Kundi administered the oath to 25 opposition's reserved seats MPAs including 21 women and four minority members in compliance with the orders of Peshawar High Court. The opposition MPAs had approached PHC, urging the chief justice to nominate an authority to oversee the oath-taking process after KP Assembly speaker adjourned the session due to a lack of quorum on Sunday last. The KP governor, federal government, PHC registrar and ECP were made parties in the case. The plea maintained that the KP assembly session had commenced on Sunday but was adjourned by the speaker due to the lack of quorum.

President  
confers  
Nishan-e-  
Imtiaz...

FROM PAGE 01  
The President congratulated Vice Admiral Al Ghoraihi on receiving the award and acknowledged his efforts in promoting cooperation between the navies of the two brotherly nations. The meeting was also attended by the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Nawaf Saeed Al-Malkiy. The President highlighted that Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with Saudi Arabia, adding that the people and government of Pakistan deeply appreciate the Kingdom's support during challenging times. Expressing satisfaction over the ongoing engagements between the Pakistan Navy and the Royal Saudi Naval Forces, the President called for further enhancement of navy-to-navy collaboration. He appreciated the participation of the Royal Saudi Naval Forces in Exercise AMAN-25 and AMAN Dialogue-25, held in February 2025, noting that such joint activities contribute to promoting maritime cooperation and mutual understanding. The President also praised the vision of Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman, which he said is steering the Kingdom towards transformation, progress, and long-term prosperity. He expressed appreciation for the trust placed by the Royal Saudi Naval Forces in the Pakistan Navy's training system and emphasized the importance of expanding training cooperation between the two navies.

PM launches  
digital  
system for  
medical...

FROM PAGE 01  
milestone towards efficient governance and transparent decision-making. "This digital system will not only enhance the speed of processing applications but also eliminate human intervention, ensuring transparency and fairness," he said. "Decisions that once took years will now be completed in a matter of weeks." He emphasized that Pakistan has the potential and talent to revolutionize the medical and healthcare sector, and the introduction of digital governance mechanisms is a step in the right direction. "We are witnessing a new era of e-governance, which is aligned with our broader vision for a digital Pakistan," he remarked. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also expressed optimism that the healthcare industry, with such innovative tools, could attract greater investment and foster public-private collaboration. He underlined the need to replicate such models in other regulatory sectors to improve service delivery across the board. Speaking earlier, Federal Minister for National Health Services, Syed Mustafa Kamal, explained that the new digital system enables applicants to submit their requests for licenses and registration completely online.

## Pakistan Sports Board moves to curb age fraud

The PSB warned that any player found with fake or suspicious documents would not be allowed to join national training camps and would be barred from receiving any form of monetary incentives or awards. Additional punitive measures may also be taken against violators

## ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: In a decisive move to ensure fair play and transparency in sports, the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) has announced strict new measures to prevent age fraud in junior-level competitions. According to a notification issued on Monday, all athletes under the age of 21 must now submit their B-Form, CNIC (or smart card), and undergo mandatory medical testing, including dental examination and radiological tests, to verify their age.

The notification declared that any false or misleading information regarding a player's age would be considered a violation of the PSB's Code of Ethics and would lead to disciplinary action, including disqualification from training camps and ineligibility for financial support or cash awards. Furthermore, federations will be required to submit verified medical reports and relevant documents, attested by their respective presidents and secretary generals, for each participating junior athlete. The PSB warned that any player found with fake or suspicious documents would

not be allowed to join national training camps and would be barred from receiving any form of monetary incentives or awards. Additional punitive measures may also be taken against violators. "Age fraud at the junior level undermines the integrity of sports and threatens fair competition," the notification stated, adding that the practice also poses risks to the physical safety of genuine athletes due to uneven physical structures and capabilities among competitors. The notification also acknowledged concerns that some players have been participating in age-specific categories using forged

or inaccurate documents, thereby depriving deserving athletes of opportunities. The PSB emphasized that only those players who submit authentic and verified documentation will be deemed eligible to compete and benefit from PSB facilities. Promoting transparency and honesty in sports is essential, the notification reiterated, echoing similar directives issued by the International Olympic Association and other global sports bodies. According to the PSB spokesperson, these new rules are aimed at fostering a culture of fairness and integrity in the country's sporting ecosystem.



## Briefs

## PSX sheds 379 points

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) benchmark KSE-100 witnessed bearish trend on Monday, shedding 379.78 points, a negative change of 0.27 percent, closing at 138,217.58 points against 138,597.36 points last trading day. A total of 608,186,190 shares were traded during the day as compared to 609,443,979 shares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 23.523 billion against Rs 31.624 billion on the last trading day. As many as 479 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 193 of them recorded gains and 245 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 41 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were Prud Mod. Ist with 58,737,418 shares at Rs 4.98 per share, E-Electric Limited with 53,175,405 shares at Rs5.43 per share and Pak International Bulk with 51,735,265 shares at Rs 10.06 per share. Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 988.00 per share price, closing at Rs 25,498.00, whereas the runner-up was Nestle Pakistan Limited with Rs 86.97 rise in its per share price to Rs 7,400.00. PIA Holding Company LimitedB witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs3,446.15 per share closing at Rs 31,015.32 followed by Bata Pakistan Limited with Rs35.44 decline in its share price to close at Rs1,650.89. APP

## Rupee sheds 09 paise against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD: The Rupee on Monday depreciated by 09 paise against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 284.95 against the previous day's closing Rs 284.86. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 288.3 and Rs 288.6, respectively. The price of the Euro increased by Rs 0.11 to close at Rs 331.65 against the last day's closing of Rs 331.54, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen gained 01 paise and closed at Rs 1.92, whereas a surge of Rs0.24 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs 383.04 compared to the previous day's closing of Rs 382.80. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal increased by 03 and 02 paise to close at Rs 77.58 and Rs 75.96, respectively.—APP

## UK, France and other nations call for an immediate end to war in Gaza

LONDON: Britain and more than 20 other countries called on Monday for an immediate end to the war in Gaza and criticized the Israeli government's aid delivery model after hundreds of Palestinians were killed near sites distributing food. France, Italy, Japan, Australia, Canada, Denmark and other countries said more than 800 Palestinians have been killed while seeking aid and condemned what it called the "drip feeding of aid and the inhumane killing of civilians." The majority of those killed were in the vicinity of Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) sites, which the United States and Israel backed to take over aid distribution in Gaza from a network led by the United Nations. "The Israeli government's aid delivery model is dangerous, fuels instability and deprives Gazans of human dignity," the countries' foreign ministers said in a joint statement. The call for an end to the war and the way Israel delivers aid comes from several countries which are allied with Israel and its most important backer, the United States. The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation uses private US security and logistics companies to get supplies into Gaza, largely bypassing a UN-led system that Israel alleges has let Hamas-led militants loot aid shipments intended for civilians. —APP

## Pakistan, Australia for strengthen energy, mining ties

Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik emphasized Pakistan's commitment to enhancing energy security and welcomed Australian expertise mining and renewable energy projects

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum, Ali Pervaiz Malik, held a meeting with the Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Neil Hawkins on Monday at the Ministry of Petroleum in Islamabad. The discussions centered on expanding bilateral cooperation in energy and mining, with a focus on investment, technology transfer, and skills development. Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik emphasized Pakistan's commitment to enhancing energy security and welcomed Australian expertise mining and renewable energy projects. He highlighted opportunities for Australian firms to invest in Pakistan's growing energy sector. High Commissioner Hawkins appreciated the recent economic strides



made under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. He added

that the improving current account surplus and profit repatriation

has restored the confidence of multi national companies working in

Pakistan. He expressed strong interest from Australian mining com-

panies in Pakistan's mineral-rich regions. He proposed collaboration between Australian universities, mining firms, and Pakistani institutions to provide specialized training programs in modern mining techniques and services. This initiative aims to enhance local expertise and support Pakistan's mining sector development. Minister Malik appreciated the proposal, stating, "Pakistan values Australia's advanced mining capabilities and technical knowledge. We welcome partnerships that build local capacity and attract investment in our mineral and energy sectors." He assured full support for facilitating such collaborations. The meeting concluded with both sides agreeing to strengthen institutional linkages and explore joint ventures in energy and mining for mutual economic growth.

## US officials express anger over Israel's Syria strikes

LONDON: White House officials have expressed frustration over Israel's bombing of Syria, The Times reported. Israel carried out a series of attacks on government targets in the Syrian Arab Republic last week, including a strike on a tank convoy and the shelling of the Defense Ministry in Damascus. US diplomats warned Israel to cease its intervention, which it claimed to be conducting in support of Syria's Druze minority. Clashes between local Bedouin and Druze forces had broken out in Syria's southern province of Sweida, with the country's government sending troops to quell the violence. One White House official told Axios that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "acted like a madman. He

bombs everything all the time. This could undermine what (US President Donald) Trump is trying to do." Trump lifted sanctions on Syria earlier this year after meeting President Ahmad Al-Sharaa, who has pledged to unite his country and bring an end to more than a decade of violence. The US brokered a ceasefire last week that appeared to stop the clashes in Sweida, where more than 1,000 people were killed over seven days, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The violence was reportedly sparked by a series of kidnappings targeting members of various faiths, clans and tribal groups in the province. Before launching strikes, Israel claimed that Syrian government forces

were involved in targeting the Druze. Israel has its own community of Druze, numbering about 130,000, and some Syrian members of the faith traveled to meet family members there to escape the violence in Sweida. After the overthrow of Bashar Assad's regime last year, Israel sent forces into Sweida to establish a buffer zone. The province borders Syria's Golan Heights, which Israel has occupied since 1967. Another US official told Axios: "Netanyahu is sometimes like a child who just won't behave." US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Sunday urged Al-Sharaa to halt the violence in his country, which he described as "horrifying and dangerous." The "rape and slaughter of innocent people, which has

and is still occurring, must end," Rubio said on X, adding that Syrian authorities "must hold accountable and bring to justice anyone guilty of atrocities including those in their own ranks." White House officials also described growing consternation over Israel's war on Gaza, especially after the shelling of the Palestinian enclave's only Catholic church last week. The attack killed three Palestinians. A senior American official told Axios after the church strike: "The feeling is that every day there is something new ... what the f\*\*\*?" Mike Huckabee, US ambassador to Israel, also delivered surprise public criticism in the wake of an arson attack on a Byzantine-era church in the occupied West Bank over the weekend.—DNA

## Two firms acquire 56% interest in PC Hotels for over Rs12b

AKD Holding acquire 27.9% shares of Pakistan Services Limited for more than Rs6.3bn KARACHI: In a move that appears to be synchronised, two firms have acquired about 56% stake in the company that owns and manages the chain of Pearl Continental Hotels, sparking speculation about a possible takeover. The News reported on Monday. According to the information filed with the Pakistan Stock Exchange under the Securities Act 2015, Dawood Jan Muhammad purchased 28% shares of Pakistan Services Limited on July 14, 2025. The investor has purchased 9,107,800 shares at the rate of Rs700 per share, which is worth over Rs6.37 billion. AKD Holding has also submitted information to purchase 27.9% of shares of Pakistan Services Limited on July 14. According to the information, it has purchased 9,089,651 shares of Pakistan Services Limited at the rate of Rs700 per share, which is worth over Rs6.3 billion. PS's 18,197,550 shares have been purchased by two different individuals at the rate of Rs700 per share. The total value of the two purchases is over Rs12 billion. According to experts, if the two different purchases are combined, it amounts to about 56% of the company's shares, which is enough to take over the management of the company's board. Toplevel Securities Chief Executive Mohammed Sohail said that yes, if two parties acquire 55.95% of the shares of Pakistan Services Limited, they can take over the company. He further stated that while the deal could be considered hostile, there is also a possibility that it was carried out with mutual understanding between both parties.—APP

## Ayaz grieves passing of Prince Al-Waleed bin Khaled

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Monday expressed profound grief over the passing of Prince Al-Waleed bin Khalid bin Talal Al Saud, who endured a prolonged illness with exceptional strength. In his condolence message, the Speaker paid heartfelt tribute to the late Prince, commending his remarkable perseverance and unwavering dignity throughout the ordeal. "Prince Al-Waleed bin Khalid bin Talal exhibited remarkable patience and fortitude during this challenging period," he said, highlighting the Prince's unwavering spirit in the face of adversity. The Speaker conveyed heartfelt condolences to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman, the Saudi Royal Family, and the people of Saudi Arabia. He noted that Pakistan's Parliament and its citizens share equally in the grief of the Royal Family and the Saudi people during this difficult time. "May Allah grant the deceased a high rank in Jannat-ul-Firdous and grant strength and patience to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss," the Speaker said.—APP

## Air India jet skids during landing

## NEWS DESK

NEW DELHI: An Air India Airbus AIR.PA A320 flight veered off the runway as it landed during heavy rain at the Mumbai International Airport on Monday, briefly shutting the runway and damaging the underside of one of the plane's engines. All passengers and crew members have since disembarked, Air India said, without saying whether anyone was injured. Air India flight AI2744 had flown from Kochi in southern Kerala state to Mumbai.

The Mumbai airport said in a statement there were "minor damages reported to the airport's primary runway" due to what it described as a "runway excursion", and a secondary runway had been activated to ensure operational continuity. The aircraft has been grounded for checks, Air India added. A Times of India report, citing sources, said three tyres had burst on the aircraft after the landing. TV footage from NDTV and India Today showed the outer casing of the engine damaged, with some apparent cracks. Air India has come under intense scrutiny after a Boeing 787 Dreamliner crashed in the Indian city of Ahmedabad last month, killing 260 people—APP

## Thousands in Morocco call for end to Gaza war

RABAT: Tens of thousands of Moroccans demonstrated Sunday in the capital Rabat against the dire humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, calling for the reversal of the kingdom's normalization deal with Israel. Protesters gathered in the city center, brandishing Palestinian flags and placards calling for the free flow of aid to the war-ravaged Palestinian territory. "It's a disgrace, Gaza is under fire," "Lift the blockade," "Morocco, Palestine, one people" and "no to normalization," chanted the demonstrators. They had gathered at the call of various organizations, including a coalition bringing together the Islamist movement Al-Adl Wal-Ihsane and left-wing parties. The war in Gaza, sparked by militant group Hamas's deadly attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, has created dire humanitarian conditions for the more than two million people who live in the coastal territory. Most people have been displaced at least once by the fighting, and doctors and aid agencies say they were seeing the physical and mental health effects of 21 months of war, including more acute malnutrition. "Palestinians are being starved and killed before the eyes of the whole world," said Jamal Behar, one of the demonstrators in Rabat on Sunday.—APP

## Eye hospital in Gaza reports 1,200 new cases of vision loss in July

LONDON: An eye hospital in Gaza reported on Monday nearly 1,200 new cases of complete or partial vision loss in July in the Palestinian coastal enclave as Israel continues its attacks and medical resources deplete. Dr. Abdel Salam Sabah, the director of the Eye Hospital in Gaza, reported that medical staff addressed nearly 1,200 new cases of complete or partial vision loss in Gaza City and the Al-Nasr neighborhood over the past two weeks. The hospital had previously recorded approximately 1,500 cases of total or partial blindness due to eye injuries, he said, while many others face progressive vision loss from untreated chronic illnesses. Dr. Sabah warned that 4,000 to 5,000 patients who regularly visited the hospital before the war in October 2023 are now without follow-up or treatment, putting them at serious risk of losing their sight. He added that severe malnutrition causes vitamin and mineral deficiencies, which increase the risk of vision impairment, particularly in patients with diabetes. Since March 2, 2025, Israeli forces have closed all border crossings with Gaza, greatly limiting the quantities of food and medical aid entering the enclave, which has led to a widespread famine. Since Israel's attack on Gaza in late 2023, there have been 58,895 Palestinian deaths, mainly among women and children, and 140,980 injuries.—APP

## Libya commander Haftar seeks to force int'l engagement

TUNIS: Libya's eastern authorities recently expelled a senior European delegation in a move analysts say was meant to send a message: the unrecognized administration backed by military leader Khalifa Haftar cannot be ignored. On July 8, an EU commissioner and ministers from Greece, Italy and Malta were in Libya to discuss irregular migration from the North African country. Their visit was divided in two, as is Libya, which is still grappling with the aftermath of the armed conflict and political chaos that followed the 2011 NATO-backed uprising that toppled longtime dictator Muammar Qaddafi. The delegation first visited the capital Tripoli, seat of the internationally recognized Libyan government of Prime Minister Abdelhamid Dbeibah. They then traveled to Benghazi, in the east, where a rival administration backed by Haftar and his clan is based, and with whom the EU has generally avoided direct contact. Almost immediately, a reported disagreement prompted the eastern authorities to accuse the European delegation of a "flagrant breach of diplomatic norms," ordering the visiting dignitaries to leave. In Brussels, the European Commission admitted a "protocol issue." Tarek Megerisi, a senior policy fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations think tank, said the scene at the airport "was a calculated move." Haftar was playing to EU fears of irregular migration in order "to generate de facto European recognition," and thus "broaden relations with Europe away from just engagement with him as a local military leader." Turning the delegation away showed that declining to engage with the eastern civilian administration was no longer an option. The complex situation in Libya has required unusual diplomacy. European governments recognize and work with the Tripoli-based government and not the eastern administration, but still hold contact with Haftar's military forces. In their visit earlier this month, the European commissioner and ministers were meant to meet with eastern military officials. But once at the Benghazi airport, they saw "there were people there that we had not agreed to meet," a European official in Brussels told journalists on condition of anonymity. "We had to fly back," the official said, adding that "of course" it was linked to recognition of the eastern government. Claudia Gazzini, a Libya expert at the International Crisis Group, said she did not believe "it was a premeditated incident." But "the question does present itself as to why" ministers from the eastern government were at the airport in the first place, and why Haftar would let it play out the way it did, she said. "We can't completely rule out that there was some particular issue or bilateral disagreement with one of the countries represented in the delegation," Gazzini added. Libya expert Jalel Harchaoui suggested Greece may have been the target. On July 6, two days before the axed visit, "the Greek foreign minister had come to demand concessions on migration and maritime (issues) without offering any tangible incentives," Harchaoui said. Despite Haftar's personal involvement, the July 6 visit "had yielded nothing," added the expert.—DNA

## ICCI, ICADRP join hands to promote ADR for business community

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: In a major step toward promoting a culture of mediation and arbitration in Pakistan's commercial sector, the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and the International Center for Appropriate Dispute Resolution and Prevention (ICADRP) have announced a strategic collaboration to advance Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms for the business community. A high-level delegation from ICADRP, led by CEO Dr. Nudrat E. Piracha, visited the ICCI and held a constructive meeting with its President Nasir Mansoor Qureshi. The delegation included Managing Director Barrister Farrukh Karim Qureshi and Vice President Strategic Alliances Hamid Sharif. From ICCI, Executive Member Shumaila Siddiqui and Advisor to the ICCI President, Naeem Siddiqui, were also present at the meeting. Welcoming the guests, President Nasir Mansoor Qureshi underscored

ICCI's commitment to supporting alternative legal frameworks that offer fast, cost-effective, and amicable resolutions for commercial disputes. He highlighted the increasing importance of ADR in the current economic climate and praised ICADRP's contribution in championing mediation and arbitration practices across Pakistan.

President Qureshi also briefed the delegation on the Mediation Council Office established at ICCI under the amended Rent Restrictions Act 2023. He stated that the Council has significantly contributed to resolving commercial rent issues and has successfully promoted out-of-court settlements — a welcome shift from time-consuming litigation to more business-friendly solutions.

In response, Dr. Nudrat Piracha, Barrister Farrukh Qureshi, and Hamid Sharif commended ICCI for its proactive vision and shared ICADRP's ongoing efforts in institutionalizing ADR frameworks nationwide. They emphasized that persistent delays in the conventional legal system underscore the urgent need for efficient alternatives like mediation and arbitration, especially for businesses.

Both institutions agreed to work closely to raise awareness and build capacity around ADR. Under the partnership, ICADRP will conduct specialized training sessions for mediators and organize an exclusive presentation at ICCI to highlight the practical benefits of ADR, particularly in terms of time efficiency, cost savings, and dispute resolution quality. Advisor to the ICCI President, Naeem Siddiqui, also shared his views, expressing confidence that the collaboration would lead to a more accessible, just, and commercially viable dispute resolution ecosystem. He noted, "This partnership is a timely move to provide the business community with effective alternatives to litigation, strengthening the overall business environment in Pakistan."





## Briefs

Mohsin Naqvi  
orders major  
reforms in FIA

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi Monday visited FIA headquarters in Islamabad, where he paid tribute to the martyrs of the agency by laying a floral wreath and offering prayers at the 'Martyrs' Monument'. During his visit, the minister chaired a high-level meeting and issued a series of directives aimed at overhauling the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA). He announced plans for a complete reorganization of the agency on modern lines and called for a comprehensive reform plan. Naqvi approved the immediate provision of modern technology and essential weaponry to the FIA, emphasizing that the agency must meet public expectations and deliver results. He said future incentives for the FIA would be based on performance. Calling for a zero-tolerance policy, the minister directed a ruthless crackdown on mafias involved in illegal immigration and stressed the agency's responsibility to protect the country's reputation. He also ordered the simplification of immigration procedures at airports and the establishment of fast-track counters for the convenience of citizens.

UN warns  
against Israeli  
evacuation  
orders

NEW YORK: An Israeli military order for residents and displaced people in Gaza's Deir al Balah area to move south dealt "another devastating blow" to humanitarian efforts in the war-ravaged territory, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said. OCHA warned that Sunday's mass displacement order issued by the Israeli military has dealt yet another devastating blow to the already fragile lifelines keeping people alive across the Gaza Strip. The order covers about 5.6 square kilometres of Deir al Balah, spanning four neighbourhoods. Initial estimates indicated that between 50,000 and 80,000 people were in the area at the time the order was issued, including some 30,000 people sheltering in 57 displacement sites. At least 1,000 families have fled the area in the recent hours. — APP

FPCCI chief lauds Azerbaijan  
decision to invest in Pakistan

*Azerbaijani Ambassador Meets FPCCI President Atif Ikram Sheikh to discuss trade expansion; both sides reiterated their commitment to a robust economic partnership and agreed to continue working closely to unlock the full potential of bilateral trade relations*

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Azerbaijan's Ambassador to Pakistan, Khazar Farhadov, called on Atif Ikram Sheikh, President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), to discuss avenues for strengthening bilateral trade ties between Pakistan and Azerbaijan. During the meeting, both sides expressed satisfaction over the recent warmth in Pakistan-Azerbaijan relations across political, defense, economic, and social spheres. They agreed on the need to further enhance cooperation in trade and investment. Atif Ikram Sheikh welcomed Azerbaijan's decision to invest in Pakistan, terming it a positive sign for long-term economic collaboration. "Pakistan is committed to deepening bilateral relations with Azerbaijan in all sectors," he stated, emphasizing the



importance of mutual partnerships under regional frameworks such as the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). He further appreciated Azerbaijan's active and effective role on the ECO platform, and noted that increased business-to-business (B2B) engagement could play a significant role in boosting trade between the two brotherly nations. Ambassador Farhadov, for his part, commended Atif Ikram Sheikh for his dynamic role as the President of the ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ECO-CICI). He said that the business communities of both countries must take a lead role in expanding trade and commercial partnerships. The meeting also explored opportunities to enhance bilateral trade volumes and foster direct B2B linkages to facilitate joint ventures and new market access. Both sides reiterated their commitment to a robust economic partnership and agreed to continue working closely to unlock the full potential of bilateral trade relations.

At least 22 killed  
in Bangladesh air  
force plane crash

**Eyewitnesses described scenes of panic and devastation as the aircraft plummeted into the campus, triggering a massive explosion**

DHAKA: At least 22 people were killed on Monday when a Bangladesh Air Force training aircraft crashed into a school and college campus in Dhaka, according to a statement from the press office of interim national leader Muhammad Yunus. The aircraft reportedly lost control shortly after take-off during a routine training session and crashed into the premises of a combined educational institution in a densely populated area of the capital. Among the dead were students, staff members, and local residents. Several others were injured and rushed to nearby hospitals, some said to be in critical condition. Eyewitnesses described scenes of panic and devastation as the aircraft plummeted into the campus, triggering a massive explosion and fire that engulfed parts of the school building. Firefighters and rescue teams arrived swiftly at the scene and managed to contain the blaze after several hours of operation. Interim leader Muhammad Yunus expressed deep sorrow over the incident and extended condolences to the families of the victims. "This is a national tragedy," his office said in a statement. "All necessary support will be provided to the affected families, and a full investigation is already underway." Officials from the Bangladesh Air Force confirmed that the aircraft was on a routine training flight and had encountered technical issues before losing contact with air traffic control. A board of inquiry has been constituted to determine the exact cause of the crash. The crash has reignited concerns about safety protocols in military aviation training, especially in urban areas. Local authorities have announced a day of mourning, and educational institutions in the vicinity will remain closed until further notice. This is one of the deadliest air force-related accidents in recent years in Bangladesh, sparking nationwide grief and calls for stricter oversight of flight operations over civilian zones. — Agencies

## Unabated Gaza crisis

Palestinian president urges  
world to stop starvation

Abbas called for an immediate and lasting ceasefire, the release of all hostages and detainees, and the urgent entry of food and medical aid into Gaza



DNA

RAMALLAH: Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has launched a major international campaign urging world leaders and organizations to intervene immediately and stop what he described as the "deliberate starvation" of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. In letters sent to global leaders and international bodies, President Abbas warned that Israel's ongoing blockade and military actions in Gaza amount to war crimes, including genocide, destruction and the use of starvation as a weapon against civilians. "We reach out to you at a critical and painful moment," Abbas wrote, highlighting that these actions by Israeli forces are undermining peace efforts and crushing hopes for a two-state solution. He accused Israel of tightening pressure on Palestinians and working to prevent the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Abbas called for an immediate and lasting ceasefire, the release of all hostages and detainees, and the urgent entry of food and medical aid into Gaza. He demanded the full withdrawal of Israeli forces from the area, and emphasized the need for a political process under international oversight that would lead to a comprehensive peace based on UN resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative. "The most urgent matter now is to stop the genocide in Gaza," Abbas stated. "People are being killed in front of aid centers. Children, women, and the elderly are dying from hunger.

UN chief hails  
Doha declaration

DNA

NEW YORK: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres welcomed the signing of the Declaration of Principles between the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the Congo River Alliance/March 23 Movement in Doha, in a statement released by his spokesperson, Stephane Dujarric. Guterres stated that the Declaration "opens a pathway" towards lasting peace, security, and the return of displaced persons and refugees. He urged all parties to ensure the swift implementation of the commitments undertaken. The UN chief expressed his appreciation to the State of Qatar for its facilitation of this process, and reiterated the United Nations' commitment to supporting efforts toward peace, protection of civilians, and stability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in close collaboration with national authorities, regional and international partners. For his part, Bruno Lemarquis, the Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in the DRC and Acting Head of MONUSCO, stated: "This important declaration marks a shift towards easing tensions and protecting civilians seriously affected by the conflict." "We commend the commitments made and call for their timely and good-faith implementation," he added. Doha hosted the signing ceremony of the Declaration of Principles between the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the Congo River Alliance/March 23 Movement (M23) on Saturday, marking a significant step toward achieving peace and stability in eastern Congo. Numerous countries and international and regional organizations have commended Qatar for its key diplomatic role in facilitating the dialogue, which ultimately led to the signing of the Declaration of Principles between the DRC government and the M23 movement.

Israeli fire  
kills 93  
aid seekers

Eighty were killed as truckloads of aid arrived in the north

GAZA CITY: Gaza's civil defence agency said Israeli forces opened fire on crowds of Palestinians trying to collect humanitarian aid in the war-torn Palestinian territory on Sunday, killing 93 people and wounding dozens more. Eighty were killed as truckloads of aid arrived in the north, while nine others were reported shot near an aid point close to Rafah in the south, where dozens of people lost their lives just 24 hours earlier. Four were killed near another aid site in Khan Yunis, also in the south, agency spokesman Mahmud Basal told AFP. The UN World Food Programme said its 25-truck convoy carrying food aid "encountered massive crowds of hungry civilians which came under gunfire" near Gaza City, soon after it crossed from Israel and cleared checkpoints. Deaths of civilians seeking aid have become a regular occurrence in Gaza, with the authorities blaming Israeli fire as crowds facing chronic shortages of food and other essentials flock in huge numbers to aid centres. The UN said earlier this month that nearly 800 aid-seekers had been killed since late May, including on the routes of aid convoys. — APP

China  
confirms  
EU leaders  
to visit  
Thursday

BEIJING: China confirmed that top leaders from the European Union will visit on Thursday for a summit, as the two major trading partners seek to smooth over a series of trade disputes. "As agreed between China and the EU, President of the European Council Antonio Costa and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen will visit China on July 24," Beijing's foreign ministry said in a statement Monday. "President Xi Jinping will meet with them. Premier of the State Council Li Qiang and the two EU leaders will jointly chair the 25th China-EU Summit," the ministry said. The summit will mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Beijing and Brussels. But it comes after the two sides have criticised each other for what each sees as violations of the principle of fair trade. Von der Leyen said this month that the EU would look to rebalance economic ties with Beijing by demanding it eases market access for European companies and loosens export controls on rare earths. — Agencies

Ishaq Dar meets UN  
Secretary General

DNA

NEW YORK: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, met with the UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, at the United Nations Headquarters today. During the meeting, the DPM/FM reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering and resolute commitment to multilateralism and the central role of the UN in addressing the most pressing global challenges. The DPM/FM reassured the Secretary General of Pakistan's focus on strengthening the UN's role in conflict resolution, in promoting sustainable development, and in upholding the fundamental rights of all peoples around the world. The Secretary General appreciated Pakistan's presence and initiatives at the UNSC. The DPM/FM underscored that Pakistan is fully committed to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, especially the need to advance peace through dialogue and diplomacy. He further stated that the high-level debate on multilateralism and peaceful settlement of disputes and the meeting on UN-OIC cooperation, under Pakistan's Presidency of the UN Security Council for the current month, reflects on Pakistan's commitment to multilateralism and the promotion of peace. The Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign

Minister emphasized issues of critical national and regional importance to Pakistan, particularly the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, violation of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) and externally sponsored terrorism in Pakistan. He stressed the imperative of a just settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the resolutions of the Security Council. The DPM/FM lauded the Secretary-General's leadership and sincere efforts for de-escalation of recent tensions between Pakistan and India. The DPM/FM reiterated Pakistan's unwavering support for Palestinian statehood, an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, and firm opposition to Israel's annexation plans in the West Bank. The DPM/FM and the UNSG also exchanged views on the need for promoting concessional financing to support development and climate goals, especially for the developing countries, mobilizing enhanced international support for debt relief and liquidity solutions for the Global South. The DPM/FM emphasized that the Secretary-General's "UN80" initiative offered a critical opportunity to strengthen the three pillars of the United Nations to promote international peace and security, sustainable development and human rights worldwide. The DPM/FM welcomed the appointment of a UN Special Envoy on Islamophobia and expressed readiness to support global efforts to combat religious intolerance.

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