



Islamabad POST

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PM Shehbaz for urgent steps to help flood victims

Detailed News On Page-01

Palestine people need support: UN Secy General

Detailed News On Page-08



UNSC adopts Pak resolution on disputes

Detailed News On Page-01



May 9 cases

Opp leader in Punjab PA gets 10 years sentence

The verdict adds to the former ruling party's legal and political woes – triggered by the infamous May 9 riots which saw military installations including Rawalpindi's General Headquarters (GHQ) being vandalised by mobs following Khan's arrest in a graft case

ABID RAZA / DNA

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court in Sargodha on Tuesday sentenced Punjab Assembly Opposition Leader Ahmed Khan Bachar, MNA Mohammad Ahmed Chattha and several other Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers to 10 years each in prison in vandalism case related to May 9 riots. Bachar was not present in the court at the time of pronouncement of the verdict. The case was registered in Mianwali over vandalism and riots related to the protests triggered by the arrest of PTI founder and former prime minister Imran Khan in a corruption case on May 9, 2023. All 32 accused including Bachar were granted exemption from personal appearance by the court. Last month, the Lahore High Court (LHC) dismissed the bail petitions of former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan in eight separate cases related to the May 9 riots, including the attack on Jinnah House in Lahore. Previously, on November 27, 2024, the ATC had dismissed Imran's bail pleas in these eight cases. The May 9, 2023, events refer to the violent protests that broke out in several parts of the country following the arrest of the PTI founder and saw attacks on public properties and military installations, including Corps Commanders House Lahore, also known as Jinnah House. The riots were triggered by the arrest of ex-premier Khan from the premises of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) in a graft case. Several PTI leaders and workers were released on bail after their arrests, while many still remain behind bars. The deposed prime minister, who was ousted from

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26 suspended opposition lawmakers resorted

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Acting Punjab Assembly Speaker Zahid Iqbal Channar has ordered the immediate reinstatement of 26 suspended opposition members of the provincial house, saying that their return would send a positive message. "Even I'm not enjoying it without the opposition members," Channar remarked while addressing the house on Tuesday. He said the presence of opposition lawmakers is crucial for meaningful parliamentary debate and directed the immediate issuance of a notification to bring them back to the assembly floor. On June 27, PTI lawmakers protested in the house during Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz's speech. The proceedings broke into a disarray as lawmakers surrounded the speaker's dais and raised slogans. In response, Speaker Malik Ahmed Khan

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ISLAMABAD: Chairman CDA Muhamamd Ali Randhawa briefs Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz on renovation work of National Police Academy, on 22 July, 2025. – DNA

Visits police academy also

PM for spurring rescue operation in flood-hit areas

Orders the National Disaster Management Authority to ensure constant coordination with the provincial governments and relevant departments for their facilitation

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday condoling the loss of lives and property in rain and flood-related incidents in different areas, directed the authorities concerned to accelerate the rescue operation in the affected areas.

Editorial on Page 5

He also expressed grief over an incident of a car being swept away carrying a man and his daughter in floodwater in a housing society in Islamabad, and directed that all possible measures should be taken for their rescue. The prime minister, in a statement, instructed the provision of urgent medical aid to

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan's death toll from floods rises to 240

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's monsoon death toll reached 240 as fresh cloudbursts battered parts of the country, unleashing flash floods, landslides and lightning strikes, particularly in mountainous regions, the country's disaster response agency said on Tuesday. According to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA),

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Briefs

US to charge \$250 addl visa fee

DNA

WASHINGTON: The United States will soon require international visitors to pay a "visa integrity fee" of at least \$250, a new addition to existing visa application costs, according to a provision in the Trump administration's recently enacted domestic policy bill, CNN reported on Tuesday. In the fiscal year 2024, the US issued nearly 11 million non-immigrant visas according to the State Department. These encompass international students, many leisure and business travellers and other temporary visitors. The new fee will apply to all visitors requiring non-immigrant visas to enter the US. This does not include tourists and business travellers from countries that are included in the Visa Waiver Programme – including Australia and many European countries – that do not need visas for stays of 90 days or less.

4 terrorists eliminated in Kalat

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Security forces eliminated four Indian sponsored terrorists in Kalat. Meanwhile, Federal Minister Interior Mohsin Naqvi lauded the professional capabilities of the security forces, stating, We salute the security personnel for sending four Indian-backed terrorists to hell. He added that the timely action by the security forces thwarted the malicious intentions of the Indian-sponsored terrorists. "The nation holds in high regard the efforts of our security forces in eliminating the terrorists sent by the evil designs of India," he said. The Interior Minister emphasized that the grim fate of these Indian-sponsored terrorists sends a clear message: there is no safe haven for such elements in Pakistan.

On July 26

President of Iran to visit Pakistan

Bilateral ties between two countries based on historical, cultural and religious understanding, says spokesperson

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: President of Iran Masoud Pezeshkian is scheduled to visit Pakistan on July 26, The News reported, citing the spokesperson for Iran's Foreign Ministry. According to Iranian Tasnim News, Iran's foreign ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaee announced at a press conference on Monday that Pezeshkian will travel to Pakistan in the coming week. Describing the upcoming presidential visit as a sign of the significance that Iran attaches to its relations with Pakistan, the spokesperson said the bilateral ties are based upon historical, cultural and religious understanding and mutual respect. He noted that the contacts between Tehran and Islamabad have increased following the Israeli and US aggression against Iran. He highlighted that following the Zionist regime's attack on Iran from June 13, which targeted

Continued on Page 06

Iran says will not halt nuclear enrichment

DNA

TEHRAN: Iran has no plans to abandon its nuclear programme including uranium enrichment despite the "severe" damage caused by US strikes to its facilities, the country's foreign minister said ahead of renewed talks with European powers. Iran is scheduled to meet Britain, France and Germany in Istanbul on Friday, to discuss its nuclear programme, with Tehran accusing European powers of scuppering a landmark 2015 nuclear deal. The meeting will be the first since Iran's 12-day war with Israel last month, during

Continued on Page 06

UNSC adopted Pak resolution on peaceful dispute settlement

The adoption of the resolution in the Security Council session, presided over by the Deputy Prime Minister/FM, Senator Ishaq Dar, is a noteworthy development

CENTRELINE REPORT

NEW YORK: Security Council Adopts Pakistan-Sponsored Resolution on Peaceful Settlement of Disputes The Security Council today unanimously adopted Pakistan-sponsored resolution on "Strengthening Mechanisms for Peaceful Settlement of Disputes". The adoption of the resolution in the Security Council session, presided over by the Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, is a noteworthy development. The resolution is an important contribution to the promotion of international peace and security through the use of preventive diplomacy, conflict prevention measures and dispute resolution by peaceful means. The Security Council Resolution 2788 (2005) seeks to strengthen mechanisms for peaceful settlement of disputes, as envisaged in Chapter VI of the United Nations Charter, and urges member states to utilize peaceful means for settling disputes. The

resolution calls upon the member states to take necessary measures for the effective implementation of Security Council resolutions for peaceful settlement of disputes. Member states and the United Nations have been encouraged to explore ways and means to prevent disputes from escalating including but not limited to timely diplomatic efforts, mediation, confidence-building and facilitation of dialogue at the international, regional and subregional levels. The resolution calls for enhancing efforts by all regional and subregional organizations for peaceful settlement of disputes and to strengthen cooperation between these organizations and the United Nations. As an active member of the Security Council, Pakistan seeks to contribute to the promotion and maintenance of international peace and security including through peaceful settlement of disputes. The adoption of Pakistan-sponsored resolution would serve as an important instrument to achieve these goals for peace and security at the regional and global level.

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CDA meeting reviews actions against illegal housing societies

Chairman CDA stated that protecting citizens' interests is the institution's responsibility, and illegal housing schemes will not be tolerated under any circumstances. He urged citizens to utilize information available through the CDA's Planning Wing or on the CDA website before investing in any housing society established within the limits of Islamabad

DNA

ISLAMABAD: An important meeting was held at the CDA Headquarters under the chairmanship of Chairman CDA and Chief Commissioner Islamabad, Muhammad Ali Randhawa.

The meeting reviewed the progress made so far by the CDA, Islamabad Administration, and DMA regarding actions taken on the directives of Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi concerning illegal housing societies, cooperative societies, and unauthorized encroachments. During the briefing given to Chairman CDA, it was informed that the CDA is taking legal action against illegal housing societies and unauthorized encroachments in the Federal Capital.

The meeting was informed that the CDA has not only shared information about legal and illegal housing societies established within the limits of Islamabad on its website, but is also proceeding with legal actions against societies that have initiated development activities without permission.

These actions include the cancellation of layout plans and NOCs (No Objection Certificates) for several hous-

ing societies, as well as the sealing of offices of multiple societies in strict accordance with legal requirements. The CDA has published the list of illegal societies on its website. Registered and legal housing societies have also been directed to carry out development work in their societies strictly in accordance with the layout plans and NOCs approved by the CDA.

According to the law, no housing society is authorized to sell more plots than approved in the layout plan. Legal action will be taken against housing societies selling plots and files without layout plan and map approval, including the cancellation of their layout plans and NOCs.

The CDA has warned those promoting illegal housing societies and supplying them with construction materials to refrain from promoting or selling construction materials to any illegal housing society.

Chairman CDA stated that protecting citizens' interests is the institution's responsibility, and illegal housing schemes will not be tolerated under any circumstances. He urged citizens to utilize information available through the CDA's Planning Wing or on the CDA website before investing in any housing society established within the limits of Islamabad.

Need stressed to boost solar manufacturing industry

ISLAMABAD: Experts during a high-level consultative session emphasized that Pakistan must urgently prioritize the development of a comprehensive policy framework to strengthen its local solar manufacturing ecosystem, amidst rising energy demands and import dependency. The session was hosted by the US-Pakistan Centre for Advanced Studies in Energy (USPCASE) at NUST.

The session marked the launch of an important study titled "Crafting a Sustainable Business Model to Drive Indigenous Solar PV Panels Manufacturing in Pakistan," presented by Dr. Nadia Shahzad, Associate Professor at NUST. The study outlines a detailed roadmap for setting up a 100 MW solar PV panel manufacturing plant in Pakistan, with the capacity to scale up to 1.0 GW.

Developed through on-ground facility visits and stakeholder consultations, the model is positioned as a practical blueprint to kickstart local solar panel production. Welcoming the participants, Dr. Adeel Waqas, Dean and Principal at USPCASE, stressed the critical need to establish a self-sufficient solar manufacturing industry to meet Pakistan's growing energy needs and reduce reliance on imports. The event attracted a broad range of stakeholders, including industry leaders, policy-makers, and academics, all of whom echoed the urgency of building a strong domestic solar manufacturing base. _APP

Inquiry on planting 35% eucalyptus

MUMTAZ AHMED BHATTI

ISLAMABAD : The Punjab Forest Department's Forest Division in Gujarat has initiated an inquiry targeting forest officers who planted 35 percent eucalyptus trees, while granting concessions to those who planted 100, 57, and 40 percent eucalyptus trees, according to the MOCC's Monitoring Report 2023-2024. The report, prepared by a consortium formed by the Ministry of Climate Change (MOCC), highlights that the plantation of eucalyptus trees in Punjab significantly exceeds the 10 percent limit stipulated in the Project

Cycle-1 (PC-1) guidelines, which permits eucalyptus planting only in waterlogged areas. Despite multiple directives from higher authorities prohibiting excessive eucalyptus plantations, the report reveals widespread non-compliance in Punjab's regions, including Jhang, Sargodha, DG Khan, Gujarat, Kasur, and Lahore. Public outrage has grown over what many perceive as selective enforcement. Residents of Punjab have criticized the inquiry's focus on Gujarat Forest Division, arguing that it unfairly singles out one forest division while overlooking similar violations elsewhere. They demand a

comprehensive investigation targeting all responsible parties, including conservators, chief conservators, project directors, and secretaries who conducted inspections but failed to report excessive eucalyptus plantations in their notes. Critics question why these officials, who received regular allowances, did not document the violations during routine inspections. If an inquiry is conducted only in Gujarat while excluding others, it is not an inquiry but an act of revenge," said a concerned resident, echoing widespread sentiment that the probe should be impartial and cover all forest divisions and officials involved.

RCCI to organize health expo and summit

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) is set to host a two-day Health Expo and Summit on July 29-30, aimed at exploring the export potential of Pakistan's health and pharmaceutical sectors while addressing key challenges faced by the industry. RCCI President Usman Shaukat shared that Pakistan holds significant untapped potential in the pharmaceutical export market due to its advanced drug manufacturing capabilities, skilled workforce, and the rising global demand for affordable medicines. "Pakistan is recognized for producing high-quality generic drugs at competitive prices, making its pharmaceutical products highly attractive to global markets seeking cost-effective healthcare solutions," he said. Despite its strengths, the sector remains underutilized due to regulatory hurdles, limited research and development, and stiff international competition. The summit, held alongside the RCCI Med-Health Expo 2025, will bring together stakeholders to deliberate on these critical issues that impact healthcare delivery and the growth trajectory of the pharmaceutical industry in Pakistan. President Shaukat also emphasized the need to improve the pharmaceutical regulatory system to ensure drug safety, quality, and efficacy, and to tackle the growing concern of counterfeit and substandard medicines. In addition to the summit, the Expo will feature a variety of free public health services, including diabetes screening, dental and eye checkups, fitness sessions (including yoga), and awareness programs on mental health and healthy weight loss tips delivered by renowned health and wellness experts. The RCCI Health Expo & Summit 2025 promises to be a comprehensive platform for networking, knowledge-sharing, and showcasing innovations in healthcare and pharmaceuticals, while offering valuable public health services to the community—DNA



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Bulgaria Irena Gancheva recently met with HEC Chairman Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed to discuss cooperation in education sector. DNA

NA body asks ministries to get ISO 9001 certification

ISLAMABAD: Commending the Establishment Division and Finance Division on attaining ISO 9001 certification, the National Assembly Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat has recommended that all the Ministry should follow the suit and get them certified as per international certification standards. The recommendation was given in a meeting of the NA Standing Committee held here on Tuesday with Malik Ibrar Ahmad, MNA in the Chair, said a press release. The Committee met for briefing on the working on Establishment Division and its attached/associated departments apart from pending legislative business. The Secretary, Establishment Division apprised the committee about the working of the Division and its core functions. He apprised that management of four occupational group of Services of Pakistan came under its purview besides regulation of all matters related to the recruitment, promotion, verification of character and antecedents, conduct and discipline and terms and conditions of civil posts in connection with affairs of the Federation. Apprising about the last five years performance of the Division, he said that special professional pay scales were introduced, head hunt was conducted to meet professional manpower requirements for technical posts.—APP

UAE Envoy, First Lady Aseefa discuss bilateral cooperation

DNA

KARACHI: Aseefa Bhutto Zardari, First Lady of Pakistan, today received His Excellency Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Alzaabi, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Pakistan, during a meeting held at Bilawal House. The meeting was also attended by His Excellency Dr. Bakheet Ateeq Al Remeithi, Consul General of the United Arab Emirates in Karachi.

Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, Provincial Minister for Sindh; and Barrister Murtaza Wahab, Mayor of Karachi. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest between Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates were discussed, with a focus on strengthening bilateral ties, promoting cultural and economic cooperation, and exploring avenues for social development and public welfare initiatives. First Lady Aseefa Bhutto Zardari

appreciated the longstanding and brotherly relations between the two countries and acknowledged the UAE's continued support for development and humanitarian efforts in Pakistan. The visiting dignitaries reiterated the UAE's commitment to enhancing collaboration with Pakistan in diverse fields and expressed appreciation for the warm welcome and the opportunity to exchange views on shared priorities.

NBF hosts awards ceremony to honor authors, writers

ISLAMABAD: National Book Foundation (NBF), under the Federal Ministry of Education and Professional Training, organized an awards and recognition certificate ceremony at the Islamabad Club to honour the authors and writers who have contributed their works to the Foundation. Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, was the chief guest on the occasion, said a press release issued here on Tuesday. Guests of honour included Wajih Qamar, Minister of State for Education and Professional Training, Farah Naz Akbar, Parliamentary Secretary and Hassan Saqlain, Additional Federal Secretary for Education and Professional Training.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui said that in today's era of electronic media, promoting a book culture and connecting people with books was both an important and challenging task. "I am proud that this responsibility is being carried out by our Ministry through the National Book Foundation. The Foundation continues to organize literary and intellectual activities to attract people towards books. It is especially vital to bring the younger generation closer to books, for which new, modern ideas and intellectual initiatives are needed," he said. The minister emphasized that while the world was rapidly progressing, Pakistan must accelerate its pace of work to keep up. "In the next thirty years,

time will change in ways we cannot even imagine. Keeping pace with the modern era and remaining relevant globally is a huge challenge, one that requires the dedicated services of our writers, poets, researchers, and scientists. The National Book Foundation is fulfilling this responsibility commendably," he added. He said that encouraging the writers through such ceremonies was a significant step that generated new inspiration, ideas and innovations. "Such initiatives and national-level encouragement for art and artists are essential. These authors, writers, and intellectuals are experts in their respective fields, and I congratulate them all," he remarked, appreciating the NBF's continued literary and academic efforts.—APP

Gujrat workshop trains BHU staff to boost women's health

DNA

ISLAMABAD: PODA, in collaboration with the District Population Office, Gujrat, conducted a workshop on reproductive health, menstrual hygiene management, and urinary tract infections for the staff of over 20 basic health units of the district at the seminar hall of the Family Health Clinic. The activity is part of the project Reduce Early Marriages to Enhance Gender Equality, supported by the Norwegian Embassy in Islamabad from December 2022 to November 2025. Presenting a detailed introduction of PODA's work focused on rural women, youth, and vulnerable segments of society, Nabeela Aslam said that the reproductive health of women is closely linked to menstrual hygiene management. Spotlighting anemia as a major health issue among women, she urged the participants representing over 20 BHUs to address it through improved nutrition.



The participants highlighted that child marriages are prevalent among the migrated population that has been residing in the district for several years. A majority of participants themselves had hemoglobin levels below the recommended rate set by WHO, i.e., 12. Umer Farooq,

District Population Welfare Officer, emphasized building alliances and collaborations to achieve SDGs 3, 4, and 5 related to women's health, education, and equal opportunities. "Women's effective role in spreading awareness through all available channels regarding reproductive

well-being and rights guarantees a visible and significant presence of women's health needs and solutions on the front," Umer Farooq said. The participants unanimously expressed their concerns, including the high rate of maternal and infant mortality, excessive bleeding, and

sudden rise in blood pressure among young pregnant child mothers—issues directly associated with the incidence of child marriages. Appreciating the leadership of Chief Minister Punjab Mariam Nawaz, they underscored the urgent need to amend the current Punjab Child Marriage Restraint Act, aligning it with the ICT Child Marriage Restraint Act passed a couple of months ago, to ensure the minimum age of marriage for both girls and boys is 18 years, with a National Identity Card as a mandatory requirement. In the end, certificates were awarded to the participants who showed commitment to making their communities aware of the risks associated with child marriages, in order to protect the rights of women and girls in line with Articles 25 and 34 of the Constitution of Pakistan.

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

JULY

July 01/Japan Self Defence Day

July 01/Singapore Armed Forces Day

July 01 / Canada National Day

July 01/Somalia Independence Day

July 04/USA Independence Day

July 05/Algeria Independence Day

July 09/Argentina Independence Day

July 09/Mongolia Revolution Day

July 14/France National Day

July 15/Brunei Sultan's Birthday

July 21/Belgium National Day

July 20/TRNC Independence Day

July 23/Egypt National Day

July 26/Cuba National Day

July 26/Liberia National Day

July 30/Morocco National Day

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Rescue (Police).....15

Bomb Disposal.....15

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

Emergency Ambulance.1122 & Rescue Services.4451122

Motorway Police...9266044

Motorway Police.9270601-20

Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596

Rawalpindi.....9270601-20

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Railway Inquiry.....117

Railway Exchange9270831-5

WASA Rawalpindi.5555489

CAA.....9281092

Hospitals

CMH.....5611111

MH.....561116

Cantt Hospital...9270907-11

DHQ.....5556311-4

RGH.....9290301-7

Holy Family.....9290322-7

PIMS.....9261170-79

Polyclinic.....9218300-09

Shifa International 4603666



Departments

CDA.....9221334-43

CDA.....9208301-04

Met Office.....9250360-6

MDA.....5555864

TMA.....5770886

Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480



ISLAMABAD : Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif laid foundation stone of tactical firing range and elite police training facility at National Police Academy.

Nasir vows to take up timber traders' issues for swift resolution

The delegation also included Chairman Noor Ayaz Khan, Senior Vice President Muhammad Basharat Gujar, Vice President Saeed Khan Mehsud, General Secretary Malik Azhar, and other office bearers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A 14-member delegation of the Timber Merchants Association, I-11 Islamabad, led by its President Haji Iqbal Khan, visited the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) to highlight key challenges confronting the timber business community in the area. During the meeting, the delegation apprised the ICCI leadership of various issues hampering their business operations. These included poor infrastructure, municipal service deficiencies, and regulatory hurdles related to the Capital Development Authority (CDA). ICCI President Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, while attentively listening to the concerns, assured the delegation of the Chamber's full support. He pledged that ICCI would take up the timber traders' issues with the relevant authorities for their early and effective resolution. He emphasized that addressing the problems of sector-specific markets like Timber Market I-11 is vital for the smooth functioning of trade and industry in Islamabad. "ICCI is committed to working with all segments of the business community and will continue to advocate for policies that foster a conducive environment for commercial growth," he added. The delegation also included Chairman Noor Ayaz Khan, Senior Vice President Muhammad Basharat Gujar, Vice President Saeed Khan Mehsud, General Secretary Malik Azhar, and other office bearers. ICCI Executive Members Malik Abdul Aziz, Waseem Chaudhry and Advisor to President Naem Siddiqui were also present. Earlier, ICCI Vice President Nasir Mehmood Chaudhry welcomed the delegation and reiterated the Chamber's firm commitment to supporting the timber merchants in resolving their genuine issues.

Heavy rain triggers action against illegal constructions

ISLAMABAD: Continuous heavy rain in Islamabad has exposed the risks posed by illegal constructions in the Saidpur area. As water flow in local streams intensified, a vehicle was swept into a drain, prompting authorities to accelerate action against encroachments. According to the spokesman of ICT administration, the federal capital experienced persistent heavy rains, leading to increased water flow in Saidpur streams. According to the district administration, the surge in water flow was mainly due to illegal constructions restricting the natural course of the drains. The spokesman of the administration confirmed that the continuous rainfall intensified the water current, causing a vehicle to fall into a drain in Saidpur. The vehicle was later retrieved by the authorities without further incident. The administration noted that sanitation teams remained active during the rain, ensuring water drainage in low-lying areas. However, the spokesman added that water accumulated in certain areas of Saidpur where encroachments blocked the natural drainage path. Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon had visited Saidpur along with the Additional Deputy Commissioner General (ADCG) and other officials to assess the situation on the ground. During his visit, the DC instructed officials to intensify operations against illegal constructions in the area. He said that unauthorized structures have obstructed the flow of rainwater, directly contributing to the risk of urban flooding. "These encroachments have disturbed the natural watercourse, resulting in the accumulation of water in lower areas," Irfan Memon stated. He further mentioned that the district administration had already issued notices to those responsible for illegal constructions prior to starting any operation. "The crackdown against encroachments commenced only after repeated warnings were ignored," the DC emphasized.—DNA

Poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, root causes of terrorism, extremism: Yousaf

ISLAMABAD: Senate Chairman Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani on Tuesday said that poverty, unemployment, and illiteracy are the root causes of terrorism and extremism, calling for a broad strategy to tackle these core issues and empower the youth for national progress. He was addressing the inaugural session of the Senate of the Kalam Bibi International Women Institute, Bannu, held at the Parliament House. Gilani chaired the session on behalf of the President of Pakistan. The session was attended by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, Chairman of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Vice Chancellor Dr. Aurangzeb Khan, MNA Shahida Akhtar Ali, MPA Engineer Ahmad Khan Kundi, and other senior officials. Welcoming the establishment of the Kalam Bibi International Women's Institute, Gilani said the institute would open doors to higher and professional education for women in the southern districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He appreciated the efforts behind the project and urged for maximum facilities to be provided to ensure the institute's success. Gilani said education and health have always been close to his heart, noting that both are closely linked. He stressed that women's welfare and the inclusion of minorities in the national mainstream remain among his top priorities. He directed the HEC to urgently equip the institute with modern technology, internet access, and other essential resources, enabling it to operate efficiently. Highlighting the challenges faced by backwards areas in southern KP and Punjab, Gilani proposed establishing support centres under the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) to help overcome regional issues. He also mentioned that his daughter has served as a goodwill ambassador for women's empowerment. Governor Faisal Karim Kundi also addressed the session, expressing his pleasure in attending and reaffirming his party's commitment to women's education. He said the new institute would help integrate the underdeveloped southern districts into the national development framework. Kundi praised the HEC's support and called for continued investment in institutions that address social inequality. He also proposed upgrading campus facilities, expanding the use of technology, and offering scholarships to deserving female students.—APP

Excise dept launches action against fancy number plates

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad's Excise Department has intensified its campaign against vehicles carrying unauthorised number plates and a large-scale operation has been ordered across the federal capital to curb the use of non-standard and fancy number plates on vehicles. In this regard, Director General Excise Islamabad, Irfan Memon, issued strict instructions to the department's field teams to take immediate action against violators. He made it clear that only number plates issued by the Excise Department are permitted for use, and any other plates are unacceptable under the law. During a review meeting, the DG Excise directed officials to increase their operations citywide. He ordered that any vehicle found using non-standard or fancy number plates should not only be fined heavily but also taken off the road immediately. The crackdown will target vehicles using plates with unique designs, modified formats, or personalized inscriptions that differ from the standard format approved by the Excise Department. "The Excise Department's authorized number plate is the only valid plate allowed on vehicles in Islamabad," stated DG Irfan Memon. "Any vehicle found violating this rule will face strict penalties, including on-the-spot impoundment." He further emphasised that the objective of this campaign is to enforce the law uniformly and ensure that all vehicles display plates that conform to the prescribed format. "Citizens are urged to remove any fancy or unauthorised number plates immediately to avoid penalties and vehicle impoundment," Irfan Memon appealed. Officials believe that the use of non-standard number plates complicates identification of vehicles, especially during traffic checks, surveillance, and investigation processes. This, in turn, poses a security risk in the capital, where vehicle verification is crucial for law enforcement agencies. The department has observed that some vehicle owners opt for decorative plates featuring stylised fonts, logos, or personal names, which deviate from the official design. According to the Excise Department, such plates are illegal and will not be tolerated on the roads. To implement this directive effectively, inspection teams have been deployed in various parts of the city. These teams will inspect vehicles on the spot and impose fines on those found in violation. Persistent offenders may face further legal action, including the confiscation of vehicles until compliant plates are installed. DG Irfan Memon made it clear that there will be no exceptions in this operation. "Fancy number plates are not allowed on roads under any circumstances," he said. "We will ensure strict compliance with this policy to maintain discipline and standardisation in vehicle registration displays.—DNA

Retired officer, daughter swept away as car submerged in housing society's drain

ISLAMABAD: A retired government official and his young daughter were swept away by flood waters after their car was caught in rising rainwater and slipped into a drain in Phase 5 area of a private housing society on Tuesday. According to a police statement, the retired official, aged between 62 and 64, had left his residence in Sector A of Phase 5 along with his daughter, approximately 25 years old, in a grey Honda City. He said the vehicle stalled due to heavy water accumulation on the road. As the man attempted to restart the car, the water flow intensified, sweeping both the vehicle and its occupants into a nearby drain. said police teams, rescue services, staff of the housing society, and divers launched a search operation soon after receiving the alert.—APP

PTA intensifies crackdown on illegal SIM issuance

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) Zonal Office Lahore, in close coordination with the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) Lahore, conducted a successful raid on a Franchise located in Phase 8, DHA Lahore. The franchise was found to be involved in the illegal issuance of SIMs. During the raid, 152,000 fingerprints (in PDF format, including 10 and 8 FPS) and evidence of illegally opened Upaisa accounts were recovered from the franchise owner and a Ufone Area Sales Manager (ASM), were arrested on the spot. This enforcement drive underscores PTA's unwavering commitment to curbing illegal SIM activities and safeguarding Pakistan's digital ecosystem. In view of the ongoing flood emergency in various parts of the country, the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has issued an advisory to telecom operators, directing them to ensure uninterrupted services and maintain contingency plans for emergency situations. _APP

Muharram security plan on I-10 procession route reviewed

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police Muhammad Jawad Tariq, visited the I-10 sector on Tuesday to inspect the security arrangements for the Muharram procession from Imambargah Moosa Kazim. An official told APP on Tuesday that the DIG assessed security along the procession route and within the premises of the Imambargah. He was accompanied by zonal SPs and SHOs during the visit as part of Islamabad Police's ongoing efforts to ensure foolproof security during the holy month. DIG Tariq said all officers deployed for Muharram duty must remain on high alert and maintain strict vigilance throughout the processions. He directed that procession routes be fully cordoned off, and sufficient lighting arrangements be ensured along the way. The DIG said Islamabad Police is committed to implementing the security SOPs devised for processions and religious gatherings, adding that peace and inter-sectarian harmony will be preserved in line with the vision of the Inspector General of Police.—APP



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Briefs

IRSA releases
488,000
cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 488,000 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 511,100 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1530.00 feet which was 128.00 feet higher than the dead level of 1402.00 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 333,000 cusecs and 332,600 cusecs, respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1191.45 feet, which was 141.45 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 30,700 cusecs and 8,000 cusecs, respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 303,700, 357,500, 275,400 and 138,000 cusecs, respectively. —APP

Social media
age bill aims
to protect
children online

ISLAMABAD: Social rights expert Nighat Dad on Tuesday welcomed the ongoing discussion around the Senate's proposed bill to restrict social media use for children under 16, calling it an important step toward creating safer digital spaces for young users. Talking to a private news channel, she said the bill reflects global efforts such as those seen in Australia to protect minors from online risks. She noted that one of the proposed methods for age verification is the submission of government-issued identification, such as a CNIC or passport, to ensure that only users above 16 can create accounts. However, she also raised concerns about the enforcement of such restrictions, warning that it could lead to mass surveillance and data privacy issues. She emphasized that while tools like biometric checks and facial recognition might be considered, strong safeguards must be in place to protect users' data. —APP

RDA inflows
rise to \$10.563
b in June

ISLAMABAD: The inflow of remittances under Roshan Digital Account (RDA) has risen to US \$10.563 billion by the end of June 2025 as compared to US \$10.381 billion by May (2025) end. The data showed that the inflows of remittances during May were recorded at US\$ 182 million as compared to US\$ 201 million in May and US\$ 177 million in April 2025, according to the latest data released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). These accounts provide innovative banking solutions to millions of Non-Resident Pakistanis (NRPs), including Non-Resident Pakistan Origin Card (POC) holders, seeking to undertake banking, payment, and investment activities in Pakistan. The number of accounts registered under the programme also rose by 8,739 to 831,963 in June 2025 from 823,224 accounts in May 2025. —APP

Rise of China stabilizing
force for global politics

The book received widespread appreciation from the participants of the launch for critically addressing debates on China's multilateralism, economic diplomacy, technological expansion, institutional presence in the global South, and its policies across Europe, Africa, and Asia

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Experts term the rise of China as a stabilizing force in global politics. They were speaking at the launch of the book titled "China's Globalisation and the New World Order" organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) here on Tuesday. The book, edited by Dr Adam Saud and Dr Najimdeen Bakare and recently published by Palgrave Macmillan, presents critical yet divergent views of regional and global behaviour of China in the context of world order and system. Focusing on how China is perceived and sees itself. It contributes to the debate surrounding the rise of China, its diplomatic, political, and economic clout, while analysing the level of acceptance, accommodation, and rejection of this rising power. Contributions in the book explore issues such as epistemic contribution of China to global order and system, its multilateralism and globalisation of infrastructure, its forging institutional resilience in globalised landscape, its economic development and foreign economic assistance, China in Europe and response of the EU, Chinese policy of Green Development, and its nuclear doctrine. The book offers a timely perspective on the emerging geopolitical development vis-a-vis China and its considered affront to the liberal world order. The editors of the book, chapter contributors, and other relevant experts appreciated the official launch of a timely and thought-provoking new volume that explores the complex dimensions of China's global behaviour and regional engagement from multiple international perspectives.



They shared that the book brought together a diverse group of scholars and practitioners from Asia, Europe, and the Americas to offer a comprehensive and multi-angled understanding of China's rise in the 21st century. They added that with contributors from renowned institutions including Georgetown University, University of So Paulo, University of Sargodha, and the University of Malaya, the book examined China's diplomatic positioning, strategic behaviour, and its growing role in shaping the global order. The book received widespread appreciation from the participants of the launch

for critically addressing debates on China's multilateralism, economic diplomacy, technological expansion, institutional presence in the global South, and its policies across Europe, Africa, and Asia. President IRS Ambassador Jauhar Saleem appreciated the book for its valuable contribution to global knowledge on the subject, especially given the fact that it was edited by a Pakistani editor and had significant contributions from Pakistani authors. The speakers at the launch ceremony included President IRS Ambassador Jauhar Saleem; the editors of the book, Dean

of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at Bahria University, Islamabad, Dr Adam Saud and Professor, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Dr Najimdeen Bakare; chapter contributors, Dr Azam Khan from University of Sargodha and Dr Rizwan Zeb from Air War College Karachi; as well as subject matter experts Pakistan's former ambassador to China, the US, and the UN, Amb Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, former President of the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) Amb Dr Raza Muhammad, and Director Research at the Centre for International Strategic Studies (CISS) Dr Bilal Zubair.

CDA launches emergency plan
to beat monsoon flooding

DNA

ISLAMABAD: As heavy monsoon showers continue to drench Islamabad, on Tuesday, the Capital Development Authority (CDA) has jumped into action with a city-wide emergency response plan to protect residents from flooding and waterlogging. Led by Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and supervised by CDA Chairman and Chief Commissioner Islamabad, Muhammad Ali Randhawa, the plan includes round-the-clock monitoring, rapid-response teams, and efforts to clear drains and flooded roads — all aimed at keeping the city

running safely during the rainy season. "Our top priority is preparedness and prevention," said Chairman Randhawa. "We're working closely with all departments to ensure immediate action in any emergency." He said CDA is preparing Islamabad for more rainy days ahead, like dewatering machines have been sent to low-lying areas to quickly drain standing water. Storm drains and nullahs in critical areas like IJP Road, Khanna Pul, and Sector E-11 are being cleaned regularly to prevent blockages. A modern rain monitoring system is being installed to track water levels in real time.

Rapid-response teams, armed with the latest equipment, are on standby 24/7. Public awareness campaigns are being run on social media and local channels to keep citizens informed. The CDA has launched an emergency helpline — 1334 — along with a central control room to handle public complaints. Whether it's water accumulation outside your home, a blocked drain, or a sewer overflow, citizens are urged to call and report it immediately. "We're here to respond fast, but we need the public's help too," Randhawa said. Beyond the monsoon

season, the CDA is working on long-term fixes — including upgrading the city's drainage systems and setting up rainwater harvesting projects so that the rainwater can be stored and reused, not wasted. Citizens are also being urged not to throw garbage into drains, as it can lead to dangerous blockages. "A little cooperation from the public can go a long way in keeping Islamabad clean and safe," officials said. With more rain in the forecast, the CDA is calling on all residents to stay alert, report issues, and do their part to help keep the capital flood-free.

Climate crisis
no longer
hypothesis: Ahsan

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD, Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday said the climate change was no longer a looming threat but a "terrifying reality" that had already begun to severely impact vulnerable nations like Pakistan. Speaking at an event titled "From Planning to PRACTICE: Advancing Climate Resilience in Pakistan," he highlighted the profound impact global warming was already having on the country's environment, economy and future. "Climate change has become a serious threat to the future of humanity," he said, adding, "It is no longer a distant hypothesis. We are living in its consequences." Ahsan Iqbal underscored the disproportionate burden shouldered by developing nations in the Global South, urging developed countries to urgently deliver on their climate finance commitments. "The world has always demanded 'Do More' from the Global South. Today, we demand: 'Do More' from the global powers for environmental justice," he added. Citing the 2022 floods that submerged a third of Pakistan, displaced millions and caused billions in damages, he described them as a harrowing testament to the dangers of unchecked climate change. "These floods were not a fluke. They were a symptom of a planet in crisis," he said, adding that climate change was fueling erratic weather patterns, widespread flooding and escalating food insecurity across the region. Pakistan, home to more than 7,000 glaciers, he said, was witnessing the fastest rate of glacier melt in over 60 years. This rapid melting, he warned, was a direct threat to the Indus River system, which supported 90 percent of Pakistan's agricultural output, noting that the very foundation of its food security was under threat. The minister reiterated Pakistan's support for the principle of climate justice, emphasizing that the \$100 billion annual climate finance pledge made by developed nations for the affected countries was not charity, but a necessary step toward global equity. "This is not a favor. It is a requirement of environmental justice," he asserted. Ahsan Iqbal said the government has placed climate action at the core of its long-term strategy, incorporating it into the national 5Es policy.

Pakistan
faces surge
in brain
disorders

ISLAMABAD: Leading neurologist Dr. Mohammad Rafay on Tuesday advised that ignoring early signs of brain-related issues could lead to serious and irreversible conditions. Talking to a private news channel, Dr. Rafay described the brain as the most complex organ in the human body, containing around 86 billion neurons. He said any disruption in its function can result in major health problems, both physical and mental. He explained that adults commonly suffer from migraines, epilepsy, strokes, and brain tumors, while children are affected by conditions like autism, ADHD, and cerebral palsy. In older adults, diseases such as Alzheimer's and dementia are caused by imbalances in brain chemicals called neurotransmitters. Dr. Rafay highlighted warning signs such as constant headaches, memory loss, speech difficulties, seizures, and hand tremors. He urged people to take these symptoms seriously and seek timely medical help. He also addressed the rising trend of extreme dieting, warning that cutting out carbohydrates, the brain's primary fuel, can lead to issues like fatigue, poor memory, and fainting spells. He advised a balanced intake of carbs, fats, and water, combined with physical activity, to keep the brain functioning properly. —APP

President
Zardari ex-
presses grief

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday expressed sorrow and grief over the loss of precious lives due to heavy rains and flash floods in various parts of the country. In a statement issued by the Aiwan-e-Sadr, the president extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for the elevation of the ranks of those who lost their lives in the calamity. President Zardari directed the relevant authorities to expedite relief and rescue operations in the affected regions. He emphasized the need to provide all possible assistance and rehabilitation support to the victims to help them recover from the disaster. —APP

DIG leads
ICT Police's
on-ground

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Islamabad Muhammad Jawad Tariq, along with the entire Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police force, remained on the ground on Monday amid torrential rains to ensure public safety, assist citizens, and tackle emergency situations across the city. An official told APP that the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) personally monitored the situation in the field, directing his officers to respond swiftly to rain-related challenges and provide timely support to affected residents. He said police officers were stationed in their respective sectors, actively extending help to citizens and remaining vigilant against any unforeseen incidents. —APP

Safe driving
urged as heavy
rains hit capital

He also encouraged the public to stay informed about traffic updates by following ITP's official social media platforms

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) on Tuesday urged citizens to adopt safe driving practices amid ongoing heavy monsoon rains, issuing a citywide advisory supported by real-time assistance, rapid response units, and continuous road monitoring. Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Captain (R) Syed Zeeshan Haider told APP that traffic officers had been actively deployed across the city to facilitate citizens and maintain traffic flow during the downpour. He said the officers were working diligently to ensure uninterrupted vehicular movement despite

challenging weather conditions. He advised motorists to reduce their speed, increase braking distance, and maintain a safe gap between vehicles to prevent accidents. "Avoid unnecessary travel in areas where water has accumulated on roads," he added. He urged drivers to keep headlights on, ensure wipers are functional, and keep the front windshield clean to maintain visibility during rain and fog. "Caution, patience, and safety are the keys to safe driving in such conditions," the CTO Zeeshan emphasized. Motorcyclists, he said,

should wear helmets and raincoats during the rain for their safety. He further requested citizens to avoid parking on roadsides and instead use designated parking areas to prevent disruptions. "In case of emergencies or vehicle breakdowns, citizens may call the ITP Helpline at 1915 for assistance," he said, adding that ITP's "Mechanic & Wakeel" teams were stationed on major roads to provide immediate roadside support. He also encouraged the public to stay informed about traffic updates by following ITP's official social media platforms. —DNA

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Islamabad's rain havoc – A wake-up call

THE twin tragedies that struck Islamabad on July 21 and 22, 2025, underscore a troubling reality about the state of urban planning and infrastructure resilience in Pakistan's capital city. What should have been a brief monsoon episode turned into a nightmare for many, with water gushing down the Margalla Hills and nearly submerging Saidpur Village—a heritage and tourism site recently rejuvenated with the generous support of the Azerbaijan government. The following day, a retired colonel and his 25-year-old daughter were tragically swept away by floodwaters in DHA Phase 5, a locality reputed for its safety and superior planning. Both incidents expose not only systemic infrastructural vulnerabilities but also institutional apathy that repeatedly turns natural events into human disasters.

Saidpur Village has long been celebrated as a picturesque tourist attraction tucked into the Margalla foothills. The village, with its centuries-old charm, was recently beautified with major investments by the Embassy of Azerbaijan, transforming it into a cultural gem that attracted locals and foreigners alike. But on July 21, nature exposed the dangers lurking beneath this aesthetic veneer.

A sudden influx of rainwater from the Margalla Hills turned the narrow nullah (stormwater drain) running through Saidpur into a raging stream. Due to severe encroachments and unregulated construction along the nullah's banks, the water had nowhere to go. The result was near-inundation of the village, massive property damage, and an ugly blot on a site that had just been given a new lease on life.

While it's fortunate that no lives were lost in Saidpur, the damage to property and to the village's hard-earned reputation as a model tourism destination cannot be ignored. What makes this situation particularly alarming is how preventable it was. Over the years, illegal constructions have gradually shrunk the size and capacity of the nullah. The lack of regulation, compounded by the city's expansionist mindset, has led to the erosion of natural water pathways—an issue that plagues not just Saidpur but many other parts of Islamabad.

If the Saidpur flooding was a warning, the very next day brought outright tragedy. A retired colonel and his young daughter lost their lives when their vehicle was swept away by floodwaters in DHA Phase 5, an area believed to embody the highest standards of modern, secure living. That such an incident could occur in DHA—a flagship project of the Pakistan Army—has shocked many and demolished the myth of flawless planning in gated communities.

DHA housing schemes are marketed as self-contained cities, immune from

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the chaos and hazards of unregulated urban sprawl. Yet the July 22 tragedy reveals that even these communities are not immune to nature's fury, particularly when urban planning fails to account for adequate stormwater management. While questions abound about the cause and precise circumstances of the incident, the broader issue remains: Why are our cities—planned or otherwise—so vulnerable to seasonal rainfall?

On paper, Islamabad has all the ingredients of an ideal city—green zones, master plans, protected forest areas, and an elite civic administration. In reality, the governance has become reactive, not proactive. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has been holding daily meetings, requesting updates, and issuing directives. Yet, beyond the ceremonial optics, there's no evidence of any long-term planning or urgency in disaster preparedness.

Whenever calamity strikes, a predictable cycle follows: a flurry of official meetings, sweeping announcements, and brief media attention. But as soon as the skies clear, so does the resolve to address the root causes. This short-sighted approach must end. Seasonal rains are not a new or surprising phenomenon. What's new—and deeply troubling—is the extent to which natural waterways have been encroached upon or obstructed, turning regular monsoon events into annual disasters.

The July rain events must serve as a wake-up call for policymakers, urban planners, and citizens alike. There are immediate and long-term steps that need urgent attention: In Saidpur Village, the nullah must be restored to its original size and capacity. All illegal encroachments along the banks must be identified and removed without delay, regardless of the influence or identity of the encroachers.

Islamabad must be mapped comprehensively for flood-prone zones. Water drainage systems across the city, especially in housing societies like DHA, must be upgraded to withstand heavy downpours.

There needs to be a strong campaign to educate residents on flood risks, safe driving in rain, and emergency response. Civic responsibility must be cultivated alongside governmental responsibility. The government should establish permanent, well-resourced disaster response cells for all major urban centers—tasked not just with emergency management but with year-round monitoring and mitigation.

Urbanization is not inherently dangerous. What makes it catastrophic is the lack of foresight, weak regulation, and absence of environmental respect in city planning. Islamabad, once envisioned as a green, serene, and orderly capital, is slowly morphing into another casualty of unchecked development and bureaucratic indifference.

Both the Saidpur flooding and the DHA tragedy are not just isolated incidents—they are symptoms of a deeper rot. Unless we treat them as calls to action, the cost next time may be even higher. It's not enough for the Prime Minister to take daily updates. It's time for real, structural change—before another storm becomes another headline, and more lives are lost while we wait for governance to catch up with the weather.

“Israel: A US Outpost to Exploit Middle East Resources”

Qamar Bashir



The façade of Israel as a sovereign actor also cracks when one examines intelligence cooperation.

The CIA, NSA, and Mossad are now known to operate in near-total synchronization. From satellite surveillance and cyberwarfare to human intelligence networks, the boundaries between American and Israeli operations are increasingly blurred

THE world has long decried Israel's brutal campaign in Gaza. From charred hospitals and bombed refugee camps to the anguished cries of children buried beneath rubble, the imagery emerging from the Strip has rightly shocked global conscience. Yet the real puppeteer of this unending carnage is not Tel Aviv—it is Washington, D.C. A chilling interview from the early 1980s by then-Senator Joe Biden revealed the U.S. logic behind Israel's existence. Biden stated bluntly: “If there were not an Israel, the United States of America would have to invent an Israel to protect her interests in the region.” This was not a passing remark—it was a declaration of strategic doctrine. Israel is not merely a nation-state to the U.S.; it is an outpost of American power projection, a regional gendarme tasked with ensuring U.S. supremacy in the Middle East.

This context clarifies why the U.S. continues to bankroll Israel's military-industrial complex with unwavering zeal. Since 1948, Washington has provided over \$300 billion in aid to Israel—most of it military. In 2023 alone, despite deepening deficits and rising domestic discontent, the Biden administration approved \$14.3 billion in additional military aid for Israel amid the Gaza war, bringing the annual military aid total to nearly \$4 billion. This funding flows even as the world watches Gaza transform into what European commentators now call a “slaughterhouse.” Eyewitness testimonies from international doctors and aid workers reinforce this grim reality. In a recent televised interview, a British trauma surgeon broke down in tears recalling the story of a Gazan child whose limbs were blown off while she watched her siblings die beside her. The doctor's raw anguish mirrored a deeper horror: if frontline humanitarian workers are emotionally shattered by what they've seen, how can the leaders who finance the machinery of this devastation remain unmoved?

The answer lies in the structural alliance between the U.S. and Israel. This is not a partnership of equals. It is a symbiosis in which the U.S. leverages Israel to control the Middle East—its oil, its politics, and its people. From U.S. military bases in Bahrain, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia to drone strikes and surveillance coordination across the region, Washington's grip is not only firm but deliberately hidden beneath the veil of Israeli action.

Consider the latest developments during Iran's missile retaliation following Israeli strikes on its consulates in Da-

mascus—attacks that killed Iranian military leaders. When Tehran responded with a barrage of missiles and drones, it wasn't only Israel that scrambled to intercept them. U.S. forces from CENTCOM, using air defense assets stationed in Jordan, Iraq, and aboard naval carriers in the Mediterranean, actively participated in downing Iranian projectiles. The message was clear: in any war involving Israel, the U.S. is not just a supporter—it is a combatant.

Meanwhile, in global forums meant to uphold peace and human dignity, America's duplicity becomes even more glaring. At the UN Security Council, multiple humanitarian resolutions—such as those demanding a ceasefire or the restoration of aid to starving Gazans—have been passed with near-unanimous international support. Each time, the U.S. stood alone in vetoing these motions. No explanation suffices for a country that claims moral leadership yet blocks food, water, and medicine from reaching dying civilians.

This moral collapse is now triggering a domestic reckoning. In universities across America, students are staging sit-ins, hunger strikes, and mass protests condemning U.S. complicity in what is widely being described as genocide. Hollywood celebrities, congressional staffers, and even Pentagon insiders have voiced dissent. A January 2025 Gallup poll showed a dramatic shift: 63% of Americans under 35 now disapprove of U.S. military aid to Israel, up from 29% just a year earlier. This generational rupture suggests that Washington's pro-Israel orthodoxy is rapidly losing legitimacy at home.

The façade of Israel as a sovereign actor also cracks when one examines intelligence cooperation. The CIA, NSA, and Mossad are now known to operate in near-total synchronization. From satellite surveillance and cyberwarfare to human intelligence networks, the boundaries between American and Israeli operations are increasingly blurred. This integration was vividly demonstrated during joint U.S.-Israel military exercises simulating strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities, including rehearsals for air dominance and precision bombardment of underground bunkers.

Moreover, the U.S. arms Israel with the very weapons used to decimate Gaza. In just the first three months of the 2023-2024 war, Washington approved emergency weapons shipments including 2,000-pound bunker-buster bombs, white phosphorus artillery, and guidance kits

for JDAM precision munitions—all used in densely populated civilian areas. These are not defensive tools; they are instruments of annihilation.

The argument that the U.S. is merely reacting to Israeli aggression no longer holds water. Washington is not following—it is leading. The Biden administration has framed its Middle East policy as a defense of “democratic values,” but what democracy sanctions mass child casualties, systematic starvation, and the razing of hospitals and schools? Nowhere is this hypocrisy more visible than in Washington's handling of the International Criminal Court. When the ICC sought arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant for war crimes, the U.S. didn't simply reject the ruling—it threatened the court. Biden called the ICC action “outrageous,” and Congress introduced bipartisan bills to sanction ICC judges. In short, the U.S. declared war on international law to shield its regional proxy from justice.

This pattern is not new. From the invasion of Iraq under false pretenses to drone strikes in Yemen and extrajudicial killings in Pakistan and Afghanistan, America's history in the Middle East is soaked in blood. But what makes the Gaza war different is that the mask has finally slipped. The world sees that the genocide is not just Israel's—it is America's. The billions in aid, the vetoes at the UN, the logistical coordination, and the political cover: all roads lead to Washington. It is time for the world—and especially for Americans—to recalibrate their outrage. The protests outside Israeli embassies must now extend to the steps of the White House and Capitol Hill. The real accountability must be demanded not just of those dropping bombs, but of those writing the checks, scripting the strategy, and supplying the impunity. Joe Biden's old confession was prophetic. Israel was created, nurtured, and empowered not for its own sake but to serve U.S. hegemony. The tragedy is that this alliance has now birthed one of the gravest humanitarian catastrophes of the 21st century. And if the world fails to confront the root of this horror, it won't just be Gaza that burns. It will be the last embers of global justice itself.

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

A Line Muslims will never let be crossed

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



Pakistan, too, has not remained immune to these dangerous efforts. Certain local and foreign-funded elements have sought to dilute the centrality of the Prophet's (PBUH) role and question the finality of his Prophethood through covert ideological campaigns, educational distortions, or legal manipulations. Attempts to rebrand Qadiani beliefs as mainstream Islam or to create confusion about Islamic tenets are part of a broader global agenda that seeks to undermine the unity of the Muslim Ummah

IN every era of human history, certain individuals have risen above all others by virtue of their unmatched character, timeless message, and universal appeal. Among these personalities, none occupies a more sacred and revered position in the hearts of more than a billion people across the world than the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him). He is not only the seal of prophethood in Islam, but also a symbol of mercy, justice, and moral excellence. The Holy Qur'an testifies: “Muhammad is not the father of [any] one of your men, but [he is] the Messenger of Allah and last of the prophets. And ever is Allah, of all things, Knowing.” (Surah Al-Ahzab, 33:40). This finality is not a matter of belief alone but constitutes the bedrock of Islamic faith, and denying it is to deny Islam itself.

The reverence with which Muslims hold the Prophet (PBUH) stems directly from divine injunctions. The Qur'an commands the believers to honor him: “Indeed, We have sent you as a witness and a bringer of good tidings and a warner, that you [people] may believe in Allah and His Messenger and honor him and respect the Prophet and exalt Him morning and afternoon” (Surah Al-Fath, 48:8-9). It is not merely a spiritual connection but a relationship rooted in obedience, love, and defense of his name and message. Numerous Hadiths further underscore this profound respect. The Prophet (PBUH) said: “None of you truly believes until I am more beloved to him than his father, his child, and all mankind.” (Bukhari). His companions demonstrated this love by defending him with their lives, considering it a greater honor than life itself. When an enemy disrespected the Prophet, his followers would respond with an uncompromising resolve that showed their commitment to his honor. Recognition of Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) extraordinary character has not been limited to the Islamic world. Many non-Muslim historians, philosophers, and religious thinkers have acknowledged his greatness. George Bernard Shaw once remarked: “He must be called the Savior of Humanity. I believe that if a man like him were to assume the dictatorship of the modern world, he would solve its problems in a way that would bring peace and happiness.” Similarly, Michael H. Hart in “The 100” ranked Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) as the most influential person in history, citing his unparalleled success on both religious and secular fronts. Moreover, various religious scriptures and traditions—while not explicitly naming him—indirectly affirm his coming and qualities. In the Christian tradition, many scholars have interpreted the reference to the “Paraclete” or “Comforter” mentioned in the Gospel of John (14:16, 15:26, and 16:7) as a prophecy about the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), especially when examining the meaning of the word in its original Greek context. In the Jewish scriptures, Deuteronomy 18:18 says: “I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee (Moses), and will put my words in his mouth.” Islamic scholars point out that

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), a descendant of Ishmael, fulfills this description as a non-Israelite prophet who, like Moses, brought a comprehensive law and led a nation.

Even in Hindu texts, there are references believed by some scholars to predict a final prophet. The Bhavishya Purana, an ancient Sanskrit text, mentions the arrival of a figure named “Mahamada” who would be a reformer in a foreign land and spread truth. Though interpretations differ, such passages have been cited to demonstrate that the universality of the Prophet's message was acknowledged across civilizations. Unfortunately, in recent years, a deeply disturbing trend has emerged across the world—deliberate attempts to disregard, mock, or diminish the importance of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) under the guise of free speech or artistic freedom. From blasphemous cartoons in European publications to offensive films and hate-filled speeches, such provocations are designed to hurt the sentiments of Muslims globally. This phenomenon, now widely referred to as Islamophobia, has been weaponized to normalize religious hatred, fuel division, and challenge the deeply held beliefs of over a billion Muslims.

Pakistan, too, has not remained immune to these dangerous efforts. Certain local and foreign-funded elements have sought to dilute the centrality of the Prophet's (PBUH) role and question the finality of his Prophethood through covert ideological campaigns, educational distortions, or legal manipulations. Attempts to rebrand Qadiani beliefs as mainstream Islam or to create confusion about Islamic tenets are part of a broader global agenda that seeks to undermine the unity of the Muslim Ummah. However, such actions have been met with strong resistance, not only from religious circles but also from the Pakistani Parliament, judiciary, and the general public.

What the world must understand is that while Muslims may differ on politics or culture, they are completely united on one core issue: the love, honor, and finality of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). From Asia to Africa, Europe to the Americas, Muslims have time and again demonstrated this unity. Peaceful protests, scholarly rebuttals, legal petitions, and international diplomacy have all been employed to uphold the dignity of the Prophet (PBUH). This global unity serves as a reminder that disrespect toward the Prophet is not a mere political or legal issue—it strikes at the very soul of the Muslim identity. Legally and politically, many countries uphold laws to protect religious sentiments and prohibit hate speech, including blasphemy against revered religious figures. In many European states like Germany and Austria, insulting religious sentiments can invite legal prosecution. Even India, includes provisions under sections 295 and 295A of the Indian Penal Code to protect religious communities against insults to their sacred beliefs and personalities. The European Court of Human Rights has, in past rulings, upheld

convictions against those who insulted Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), terming such actions as incitement to hatred and not protected by freedom of expression.

However, no nation has been more resolute in legally safeguarding the finality of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) than Pakistan. In 1974, following a nationwide movement and parliamentary debate, the Constitution of Pakistan was amended to declare Qadianis (Ahmadis) as non-Muslims. This historic decision was not based on religious discrimination but was aimed at preserving the core Islamic belief in the finality of prophethood. The Ahmadi community, despite calling themselves Muslims, held beliefs contrary to this foundational doctrine. The Parliament of Pakistan, representing the will of its people, determined through exhaustive hearings that this group's ideology deviated from mainstream Islam. Thus, under the Second Amendment to the Constitution of Pakistan, it was categorically stated: “A person who does not believe in the absolute and unequalled finality of the Prophethood of Muhammad (PBUH) is not a Muslim for the purposes of the Constitution or law.” Later, Ordinance XX was promulgated in 1984, which further barred Ahmadis from calling themselves Muslims or using Islamic titles, terminologies, or preaching their beliefs as Islamic. This legislation was upheld by the Supreme Court of Pakistan in the Zaheeruddin case (1993), where the court ruled that the state has the right to regulate religious expression to maintain public order and to prevent deception. The court rightly observed that freedom of religion does not extend to misrepresenting another religion's symbols and practices. It is essential to recognize that this legal stance is not an incitement to hatred or violence against any community. Rather, it is a firm line drawn to protect the integrity of Islamic beliefs. All citizens of Pakistan, regardless of religion or sect, are entitled to full rights under the law, but no one can be allowed to distort foundational principles of a religion for personal or political gain. Respecting the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is not just a theological matter. It is deeply emotional, cultural, and political for Muslims worldwide. The outcry seen whenever his honor is disrespected—be it through blasphemous cartoons, films, or statements—is not a reflection of intolerance, but of sincere devotion and the deep emotional bond that Muslims share with their beloved Prophet (PBUH). Any attempts at provocation under the guise of free speech only serve to inflame tensions and deepen misunderstandings among civilizations. Thus, in every corner of the world—whether in the courts of law, houses of worship, scriptures of old, or hearts of believers—the respect, honor, and finality of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) must be acknowledged and preserved. It is a call not just for Muslims, but for humanity to rise above narrow prejudices and recognize the dignity of one who transformed the moral compass of the world.

Briefs

Opp leader in Punjab PA gets 10 years sentence

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power via the opposition's no-confidence motion in April 2022, has been behind bars since August 2023 as he was facing a slew of charges ranging from corruption to terrorism.

26 suspended opposition lawmakers..

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suspended 26 opposition lawmakers for 15 sittings and fined 10 MPAs Rs200,000 each for "damaging public property". He then filed disqualification references with the Election Commission against the 26 PTI legislators over "unparliamentary conduct". However, two days earlier, the PA speaker formally rejected the petitions seeking the disqualification of 26 PTI members following successful negotiations between the government and the opposition.

President of Iran to visit Pakistan

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military, nuclear, and residential sites for 12 consecutive days, the United States launched airstrikes on Iran's nuclear facilities at Natanz, Fordow, and Isfahan on June 22. In response, Iranian forces launched powerful counterattacks. The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Aerospace Force reportedly conducted 22 waves of missile strikes against Israeli targets under Operation True Promise III, inflicting significant damage across the occupied territories. Iran also fired missiles at al-Udeid air base in Qatar, the largest American military installation in West Asia. The conflict halted with a ceasefire on June 24. Meanwhile, Iranian Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni held a telephonic conversation with Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, expressing deep sorrow over the loss of lives and property caused by recent floods in Pakistan.

Iran says will not halt nuclear enrichment

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which the United States carried out strikes against Tehran's nuclear facilities. For now, enrichment "is stopped because, yes, damages are serious and severe," Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told Fox News' "Special Report with Bret Baier" on Monday. "But obviously we cannot give up enrichment because it is an achievement of our own scientists," he continued, calling it a source of "national pride". US President Donald Trump responded to the comments on his platform Truth Social, saying Washington would carry out strikes again "if necessary".

The 2015 agreement, reached between Iran and UN Security Council permanent members Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States, plus Germany, imposed curbs on Iran's nuclear programme in exchange for sanctions relief. However, it unravelled in 2018 when the United States, during Trump's first term, unilaterally withdrew and reimposed sweeping sanctions. Though Europe pledged continued support, a mechanism intended to offset US sanctions never effectively materialised, forcing many Western firms to exit Iran and deepening its economic crisis. "Iran holds the European parties responsible for negligence in implementing the agreement," said foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Bagaei ahead of Friday's talks in Istanbul on the deal's future.

Pakistan football team gets new head, asstt coaches

Decision finalised after vote by PFF Executive Committee, where seven out of 13 members approved appointments

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) has taken a major step forward by announcing the appointment of Nolberto Solano as the new head coach and Jorge Castañeira as assistant coach for Pakistan's senior and under-23 national teams. "Under President Mohsen Gilani's leadership, PFF proudly welcomes Nolberto Solano as Head Coach of Pakistan U23 with a pathway to the senior team," said PFF in a short announcement. The decision was finalised after a vote by the PFF Executive Committee, where seven out of 13 members approved the appointments. While the move signals a fresh direction for Pakistani football, it was not without dissent, as six committee members opposed the decision. Nolberto Solano, a 48-year-old Peruvian, brings a wealth of experience to the role, both as a former top-level player and an accomplished coach.

He holds a prestigious Fifa CONMEBOL Pro Licence and has been involved in high-profile international competitions, including serving as an assistant coach for Peru during the 2018 Fifa World Cup in Russia and the 2022 World Cup qualifiers. His leadership was also instrumental in Peru's impressive fourth-place finish at the 2021 Copa America. As a player, Solano enjoyed a distinguished career, earning 95 caps for Peru and scoring 20 goals. He played for renowned clubs



like Newcastle United, Aston Villa, and Boca Juniors, where he was celebrated for skills. Joining Solano is Jorge Castañeira, an Argentine professional physical trainer with a strong background in football conditioning and tactical development. He has worked with Venezuela's national team during their 2002 World Cup qualifying campaign and has contributed to the success of clubs across South America and the Middle East. His resume includes stints with Peru's

Club Deportivo Municipal and Real Garcilaso, where he helped secure high finishes in domestic tournaments and continental competitions. Beyond his hands-on coaching, Castañeira is also an author, having written three books on soccer training methodologies, with a focus on speed, precision, and anaerobic performance. His practical experience includes guiding teams to promotions and cup victories, such as leading Ras Al Khaima Sport Club to the UAE First Division Cup in 2010. The duo will be joining the Pakistan Football set up for one-year and will focus on immediate improvements in player performance and long-term youth development. Their first tasks are set to be preparing the team for upcoming 2026 AFC U-23 Asian Cup qualifiers and implementing modern training techniques to elevate Pakistan's competitiveness. A PFF source confirmed to Geo News that both the coaches have agreed to join the Pakistan Football teams and a final contract with them will be signed this week.

Pakistani team to compete in World Taekwondo Championship

PESHAWAR: The Pakistan Global Taekwondo Team departed for Dubai to participate in World Global Taekwondo Championship scheduled to begin today (Tuesday), said a press release issued here. This prestigious international event is being hosted by the International Global Taekwondo Federation, drawing participation from male and female athletes across the globe. The national squad is composed of talented, energetic, and dedicated young athletes who

have undergone rigorous training under the supervision of professional coaches and the team management. The players are reportedly in excellent form and brimming with confidence. Leading the team is Masood Afridi, Secretary General of the Pakistan Global Taekwondo Federation and a renowned athlete himself. Afridi has not only focused on refining the technical skills of the players but has also instilled in them the fighting spirit and determi-

nation required to compete at the international level. Before departure, the athletes expressed their firm resolve to return home with medals, driven by the nation's prayers and their own hard work. "We are fully prepared and committed to Pakistan proud on the global stage," said one of the team members. Team officials also expressed optimism about the team's chances, noting the continuous progress Pakistan has made in taekwondo

in recent years. "We believe this team has what it takes to prove Pakistan's strength and potential in international martial arts," said a member of the management. Pakistan's growing presence in the global taekwondo arena is a testament to the sport's rising standards in the country. With the nation's hopes resting on their shoulders, the team embarks on this journey determined to deliver a memorable performance and elevate Pakistan's name on the world stage. - APP

India face Bumrah dilemma as England search for top order stability

MANCHESTER: India must make a crucial call on the fitness of star pace bowler Jasprit Bumrah for the fourth Test against England at Old Trafford. England can clinch the series with a victory in Manchester but they have top order questions to resolve, while Ben Stokes and Ravindra Jadeja will be looking to repeat their third Test exploits. AFP Sport looks at three talking points ahead of the first day of the Test on Wednesday:

India weigh up Bumrah decision: Trailing 2-1 in the five-match series after their painful 22-run loss at Lord's, India cannot afford another defeat if they are to win a Test trip to England for the first time since 2007.

That perilous position has increased the pressure to make the right decision on the fitness of Bumrah. India coach Gautam Gambhir made it clear at the start of the series that Bumrah would only be available for three matches due to a nagging back injury. Bumrah, 31, played in the first and third Tests against England, with India losing both matches, and missed the second game, which the tourists won. If India opt to use the world's top ranked Test bowler in Manchester, it would likely rule him out of a potential series decider in the fifth Test. "We know we have got him for one of the last two Tests. It's pretty obvious that the series is on the line now in Manchester so there will be a leaning towards playing him," Gambhir's assistant Ryan ten Doeschate said. The need to play Bumrah at Old Trafford has been heightened by injuries to India all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy and seamer Arshdeep Singh. **England's brittle top order:** England may be within touching distance of winning the series, but questions about their fragile top order remain unsolved.

Polarising opener Zak Crawley could only muster scores of 18 and 22 at Lord's. Ollie Pope, filling the number three spot, reached 44 in the first innings but perished for just four in the second, while Crawley's opening partner Ben Duckett was dismissed for 23 and 12. England must decide whether to keep faith with Crawley, whose international career has been filled with highs and lows. Scores of 267 against Pakistan and 189 against Australia showcased Crawley's ability, but the 27-year-old's frustrating habit of surrendering his wicket cheaply has led to calls for a change at the top of the line-up. However, England have backed Crawley and Duckett to the hilt, and captain Stokes said: "They complement each other. Left-hand, right-hand. 'One is a giant, one is not. It is very hard for bowlers to settle in.'" - Agencies



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding security arrangements for Chinese citizens in Pakistan. - DNA

Del Castillo and Spain 'full of hope'

LAUSANNE: From being a bit-part player in the team that won the Women's World Cup two years ago, Athenea del Castillo has performed a key role in Spain's run to the semi-finals of Euro 2025, in which they will face Germany on Wednesday. The Real Madrid attacker, 24, was brought into Spain's starting line-up for their last group game against Italy and scored an early equaliser before her team went on to win 3-1. She was then relegated back to the bench for the last-eight tie against hosts Switzerland in Bern but the game changed after her introduction as a substitute just past the hour mark. Del Castillo replaced Mariona Caldentey and broke the deadlock four minutes later, setting Spain up for a 2-0 victory - and surely giving coach Montse Tome a selection headache for the clash with Germany in Zurich. "I have to just focus on the things that I can influence. Luckily I am managing to help the team whatever my role is, whether I am starting or not," Del Castillo told AFP at the Spanish team's base in Lausanne. A win for Spain against Germany will keep them on track to add a first ever European crown to the World Cup they won in 2023, when they defeated England in the final. - APP

New-look Australia swim team use worlds to build towards LA 2028

SYDNEY: Seasoned campaigners Kaylee McKeown and Kyle Chalmers spearhead a young Australia squad for the world championships in Singapore as the swimming powerhouse undergoes a post-Olympics changing of the guard. Since Paris, where Australia won seven golds to the eight by the United States, several big names have either retired or are resting. Australia's most successful Olympian, Emma McKeon, has hung up her goggles as have other stalwarts including Mitch Larkin, Brianna Throssell and Jenna Strauch. Four-time Olympic gold medallist Ariarne Titmus - who lost her 400m freestyle world record to Canadian Summer McIntosh last month - is on an extended break. That has opened the door for 10 debutants to make the Australia squad for the World Aquatic Championships, where the action in the pool begins on Sunday. Head coach Rohan Taylor characterised Singapore as the beginning of a new cycle building to the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, and a key learning experience for Australia's next potential superstars. "I am excited by what this

team can do over the next four years," said Taylor. "This is the beginning of the third Olympic campaign I have been the head coach for, and this team has a strong nucleus in place. "The end goal is LA, but to be great in LA this very young team, which boasts 10 rookies, is going to learn what is needed on the global stage in Singapore." Eleven of the squad are aged 20 or under.

At just 16, Sienna Toohey has Australian fans most excited after she came from nowhere to qualify for the 50m and 100m breaststroke. Australia also have high hopes for fellow newcomers such as Hannah Fredericks (200m backstroke) and Ben Goedemans (800m freestyle), while Ella Ramsay, 21, will contest four events. The experienced core of the squad is led by Paris Olympics 50m freestyle champion Cameron McEvoy, who will be at his seventh world championships. His close friend Chalmers - who has won medals in the 100m free at three consecutive Olympics including gold on debut in Rio 2016 - toyed with packing up swimming after Paris, but a new coach has rejuvenated him. - Agencies

Seminary student beaten to death in Swat

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I was called in to bring water. He drank a little, then put his head in my lap - and just went silent." Farhan was rushed to the nearest hospital by students and teachers, but doctors declared him dead upon arrival, according to Fayaz. A first information report (FIR), a copy of which is available with Dawn.com, has been registered against all three suspects under Sections 302 (premeditated murder) and Section 34 (common intention) of the Pakistan Penal Code, as well as Section 37 (punishment for violence) of the Child Protection Act (CPA). "One of the suspects has been taken into custody, while efforts are underway to arrest the other two. "This is a deeply disturbing case. A thorough investigation is ongoing, and we are committed to ensuring justice for the child and his family," Fayaz said.

PM for spurring rescue operation...

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those injured in such incidents. He ordered the National Disaster Management Authority to ensure constant coordination with the provincial governments and relevant departments for their facilitation.

He stated that immediate relief should be provided to the affected people and that all necessary preparations should be made in advance to deal with any untoward situation in the coming days. Prime Minister Shehbaz also instructed the National Highway Authority and Frontier Works Organisation to expedite the restoration work of highways and link roads affected by floods. He prayed to Allah Almighty for peace for those who lost their lives in floods and other related incidents and expressed sympathies for the bereaved families.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday visited the National Police Academy (NPA) and addressed the 52nd Commons Batch of Assistant Superintendents of Police (ASPs), announcing a comprehensive overhaul of the institution, aligning it with the standards of the Pakistan Military Academy. During his visit, the Prime Minister also inaugurated the 'Raising the Standard: NPA Tactical Firing Range and Elite Police Training Facility', a state-of-the-art complex designed to provide hands-on tactical training to police officers. He also performed the groundbreaking ceremony of the new ASP Hostel, aimed at providing modern residential facilities for trainee officers.

Pakistan's death toll from floods rises to 240

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the latest casualties include two men, as many women and eight children, while ten others were injured in rain-related incidents in the last 24 hours. So far, 594 people have suffered injuries in heavy downpoured accidents this monsoon season. Among them were 79 men, 42 women, and 112 children. Punjab remains the worst-hit province, with 135 deaths and 470 injuries recorded. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 56 people have lost their lives and 71 have been hurt. Sindh has reported 24 casualties and 40 wounded. Balochistan has confirmed 16 fatalities, while Azad Kashmir saw one death and six people harmed. Gilgit-Baltistan reported three non-fatal casualties, while Islamabad saw one fatality. Most of the deaths have been caused by structural collapses, drowning, landslides, flash floods, lightning strikes, and electrocution. The NDMA report further stated that 25 houses collapsed in the last 24 hours, while five cattle were also killed. Since the start of the monsoon season, 804 houses have been damaged or destroyed, and 200 heads of livestock have been lost. In terms of property damage, Punjab reported 168 partially damaged homes.

United States authorities probing airliner's close call with B-52 bomber

The Federal Aviation Administration said in a statement that US officials are "investigating the event involving SkyWest Airlines Flight 3788 at Minot International Airport on Friday, July 18

WASHINGTON: US aviation regulators said Monday they are investigating a recent close call in which a passenger plane took emergency action to avoid a mid-air collision with a US military bomber. A Delta flight operated by SkyWest took off Friday from Minneapolis and was approaching the city of Minot, North Dakota when the pilot rapidly rerouted after seeing another aircraft nearing from the right. "I don't know how fast they were going, but they were a lot faster than us, I felt it was the safest thing to do to turn behind it," the pilot told passengers, according to recorded audio of the commercial pilot. "Sorry about the aggressive maneuver," he said. "This is not normal at all." The Federal Aviation Administration said in a statement that US officials are

"investigating the event involving SkyWest Airlines Flight 3788 at Minot International Airport on Friday, July 18. SkyWest said it has also begun a probe. The flight was cleared for approach by the tower "but performed a go-around when another aircraft became visible in their flight path," the carrier said in a statement reported by US media. The US Air Force base near Minot confirmed in a statement that a B-52 bomber performed an approved flyover Friday night at the North Dakota State Fair, and said the crew was communicating with air traffic controllers at Minot's commercial airport. "The B-52 crew contacted Minot International Airport tower and the tower provided instructions to continue two miles west-bound after the flyover. The tower did not

advise of the inbound commercial aircraft," it said. It provided no further details about the near miss. The northern city, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) from the Canada border, is home to a commercial airport and a US Air Force base. In a passenger video posted to Instagram and verified by Storyful, the SkyWest pilot told passengers he was not made aware about the B-52. He said the Minot tower, which does not use radar - a common situation in smaller, more remote airfields in the United States - offered guidance that could have put the passenger jet in jeopardy. "He said 'Turn right.' I said there's an airplane over there. And he says 'Turn left,'" the pilot said. "I don't know why they didn't give us a heads up because the Air Force

base does have radar and nobody said, 'hey there's also a B-52 in the pattern,'" he said. The passenger who recorded the video, Monica Green, said she was "sick to my stomach" about the near miss. Green, quoted by NBC News, said she felt the jet take a hard turn and then "I just remember the plane going, like, sideways... and just looking straight out the window and just seeing grass" with no visible skyline. The incident comes less than six months after a US Army helicopter collided with an American Airlines jet approaching Washington's Reagan National Airport, killing all 67 people aboard both aircraft. The disaster prompted federal authorities and Congress to review coordination between military and civilian aircraft flying in the same airspace. - Agencies

Briefs

Erdogan says Gazans must not die for 'hunk of bread'

ISTANBUL: Türkiye's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Tuesday warned that it would be unacceptable for Palestinians to die from the want of a "hunk of bread or a mouthful of water." Erdogan's warning, made during a speech in Istanbul, came amid a mounting chorus of international criticism of Israel's campaign in Gaza, which has triggered a humanitarian crisis. "No one endowed with a minimum of human dignity can accept this cruelty, in which dozens of innocent people die every day because they cannot find a hunk of bread or a mouthful of water," he said. Erdogan is a frequent critic of Israel but his declaration came as Israel faced several demands from United Nations agencies and international capitals to protect civilian lives and to allow aid into Gaza. EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said Israeli forces "must stop killing people" at food distribution points, and UN rights chief Volker Turk warned Israel that it was possibly violating international law. Gaza's civil defense agency said that Israeli strikes had killed 15 people in the Palestinian territory on Tuesday, after the World Health Organization said that troops had invaded its staff residence.—APP

Once beacon of hope, Tunisia's civil society struggles to survive

TUNIS: In May 2024, Tunisian activist Cherifa Riahi was arrested just two months after giving birth, accused of harboring illegal migrants. Over a year later, she is still in prison without charge. Rights groups see Riahi's case as a symbol of accelerating repression of civil society under President Kais Saied, who dissolved parliament in 2021 and began ruling by decree. The crackdown marks a significant turnaround for Tunisia, where civil society groups flourished in the wake of the 2011 uprising that unseated President Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali, inspired other Arab Spring uprisings, and helped shape a democratic transition. As head of a refugee support group, Riahi had been helping sub-Saharan asylum seekers and other migrants find housing and access medicine and food. Her family says she did nothing wrong. The forced separation from her daughter and young son has been traumatic. "The girl doesn't recognize her mother at all," Riahi's mother Farida, who is now caring for her grandchild, told Reuters at their family home in La Marsa near the capital, Tunis.—APP

Bangladesh in mourning after many kids killed in military jet crash

DHAKA: When Fatema Akter went to school in the morning, she was supposed to be back home in the early afternoon. She never returned, along with at least 28 other children who were killed when a Bangladeshi military jet crashed into their classroom in Dhaka. Bangladesh observed a day of national mourning on Tuesday, a day after the Air Force F-7 BGI aircraft went down during class hours at Milestone School and College in the capital's Diabari area. The jet struck the building, killing many of the children on the spot and causing fatal burn injuries to others, health authorities said, as at least 165 victims remained hospitalized. "My niece, Fatema Akter, was a student of class three of that school. The school is actually five minutes walking from our home," Leon Mir, a TV reporter who witnessed the crash that killed his sister's eldest daughter, told Arab News. "I saw a huge smoke and the roads were blocked after the plane crashed on the school. Immediately, I rushed to the school ... somehow, I managed to enter.—APP

OGRA initiates comprehensive digitisation of oil supply chain

Under this initiative, every component of the oil supply chain — including refineries, storage terminals, tank lorries, Oil Marketing Company (OMC) depots, and retail fuel stations — will be brought under a unified digital oversight framework

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Oil & Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) has conducted a seminar at OGRA Headquarters to formally initiated a comprehensive digital platform to fully digitise Pakistan's oil supply chain and is at highly advanced stage of the development. The digitisation will cover the import terminals to the fuel dispensing stations, in a move aimed at eliminating inefficiencies, curbing pilferage, and restoring public trust in the energy sector. In a decisive statement, the Chairman OGRA Masroor Khan affirmed: "Pakistan's oil sector must embrace digitisation — fully and without delay.

From the point of import to the petrol pump, every link in the supply chain must be digitally monitored. Digitisation is essential not just for operational efficiency, but also for national transparency and integrity." OGRA is committed to leading this transition and will not tolerate any obstruction, whether deliberate or due to neglect. "Let me be clear: any obstruction to digitisation — whether by design, neglect, or vested interest — will be addressed firmly. We cannot allow outdated systems to hold back national progress," the Chairman added. Under this initiative, every component of the oil supply chain — including refineries, storage terminals, tank lorries, Oil Marketing



Company (OMC) depots, and retail fuel stations — will be brought under a unified digital oversight framework. This real-time monitoring system will allow for improved tracking, better data integrity, and enhanced regulatory control. OGRA clarified that this initiative is not a proposal, but a regulatory mandate. "Digitisation is now a legal requirement. Clear timelines and enforceable penalties will ensure compliance. All stakeholders must align with this transformation or face regulatory consequences." This bold move positions Pakistan among progressive nations that are integrating technology with energy regulation to enhance national efficiency, reduce economic losses, and build public confidence.

21 kids dead from starvation, malnutrition in 72 hours at Gaza

DUBAI: Twenty-one children have died from starvation across the Gaza Strip over a 72-hour period, the head of Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City said Tuesday. "These deaths were recorded at hospitals in Gaza, including Al-Shifa in Gaza City, Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir el-Balah, and Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis," Dr. Mohammed Abu Salmiya told reporters. He attributed the deaths to severe malnutrition and hunger-related complications amid ongoing shortages of food and medical supplies. The figures add to growing concerns over the humanitarian situation in Gaza, where aid access remains severely limited. According to the United Nations, more than 1,000 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces while attempting to access food since the start of operations by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, which is backed by the United States and Israel. Of those, 766 were killed near GHF distribution sites, and 288 were killed near UN and other aid convoys, UN human rights office spokesman Thameen Al-Kheetan said Tuesday. He stated that the deaths were caused by Israeli military fire. In a separate statement Tuesday, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk warned that Israeli evacuation orders and subsequent military operations in Deir al-Balah could result in further civilian deaths. "It seemed the nightmare couldn't possibly get worse. And yet it does... Given the concentration of civilians in the area, and the means and methods of warfare employed by Israel until now, the risks of unlawful killings and other serious violations of international humanitarian law are extremely high," he said. Also on Tuesday, at least 20 people were killed by Israeli airstrikes, according to Palestinian health officials. The strikes occurred in areas that had previously seen relatively little direct fighting during the 21-month conflict. The European Union's top diplomat, Kaja Kallas, issued a statement on social media condemning the killing of civilians at aid distribution points. "The killing of civilians seeking aid in Gaza is indefensible," she said. Kallas added that she had spoken with Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar to reinforce expectations regarding humanitarian access and warned that "all options are on the table" should current pledges not be met.—DNA

Heavy rains trigger floods, landslides in Jammu and Kashmir

SRINAGAR: Heavy rains pounded parts of Jammu and Kashmir along the Line of Control (LoC), unleashing flash floods and landslides that damaged infrastructure and killed a schoolchild, officials told Anadolu on Tuesday. The hilly districts of Rajouri and Poonch saw rivers and streams swell, inundating low-lying areas, washing away vehicles, and damaging buildings. Vikas Kundal, a senior official in Poonch, said a landslide struck a school, killing one child and injuring at least 23 others. "We are taking every possible measure to safeguard lives and have advised people from low-lying areas to move to safe places in view of the risk of flash floods," Kundal told Anadolu. "We have deployed teams of emergency and relief, including medical teams, to reach affected areas." In neighboring Rajouri, authorities ordered schools closed after rising water levels in the Dharhail and Saktho rivers posed further danger. A red alert has been issued in 12 districts — Kathua, Samba, Udhampur, Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban, Reasi, Jammu, Rajouri, Poonch, Baramulla, and Anantnag — due to expected heavy rainfall and heightened risk of flash floods, officials said. The Indian Meteorological Department in Srinagar had already issued an alert for July 21-24 warning of heavy rain with risks of flooding and landslides. The region has increasingly seen erratic weather patterns in recent years, with intense heat waves and untimely showers amplifying climate-related disasters.—APP

New study reveals details of lives of ancient Chinese nobles

BEIJING: Chinese archaeologists have investigated the lives of nobles from the Qin state during the Eastern Zhou Dynasty, providing new insights into ancient Chinese social hierarchy, dietary customs and cultural integration. Details of the study have been published in Heritage Science, an international journal. The work was conducted by a research team led by associate professor Shang Xue at the University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, in collaboration with the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology, the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Shaanxi Academy of Archaeology. The research team investigated two noble tombs — one of a male noble, and one of a female noble — and the burial sites of two accompanying sacrificial victims in northwest China's Shaanxi Province, employing advanced techniques such as high-precision stable isotope analysis and starch grain examination in dental calculus. The study revealed that the male noble had consumed millet as his staple food, with a significantly higher meat intake compared to the sacrificial victims and commoners of his time. This corroborates our current understanding of ancient China's social hierarchy: meat-eaters were nobles. Best restaurants near me The female noble had a unique dietary trajectory. She consumed more wheat or rice-based foods during her childhood, yet adapted to the local millet-dominated diet in adulthood while maintaining a relatively low level of meat consumption. Analysis indicates that the noblewoman spent her childhood in a warmer, more humid environment. The researchers inferred that she was likely a noble bride from a feudal state in eastern or southern China — an example of the political marriages characteristic of the Spring and Autumn Period. The study also found that noble Qin children were weaned around the age of 3, which is consistent with records in the ancient Chinese classic, "Book of Rites." In contrast, sacrificial victims were weaned significantly earlier, reflecting a status-based disparity. Additionally, dietary shifts during adolescence aligned with societal roles. Male nobles had fluctuating high levels of meat consumption as they neared military service age — potentially linked to martial activities — while female nobles transitioned toward local diets after about the age of 7. This research not only deciphers the sociocultural code behind food consumption in ancient China, but also provides innovative methodologies for the exploration of the courses of individual lives over the country's long history, according to Shang.—DNA



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, met with the Special Envoy for Global Affairs of the Austrian Chancellor, Peter Launsky, on the sidelines of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development.

Abu Dhabi Airports welcomes 15.8m passenger

ABU DHABI: Abu Dhabi Airports announced that it welcomed over 15.8 million passengers between 1st January and 30th June 2025, marking a notable 13.1 percent increase compared to the same period in 2024. Zayed International Airport (AUH) played a pivotal role in the increase, with 15.5 million passengers walking through its gates until the end of June — up 13.2 percent year-on-year. This rise in passenger traffic was also supported by 133,533 total flights across the five airports in the first half of 2025, representing a 9.2 percent rise from the same period last year. AUH registered 93,858 aircraft movements, 11.4 percent over H1 2024 when it recorded 84,286 flights. Expanding its global footprint remains central to Abu Dhabi Airports' growth strategy. In the first half of the year, the network added 16 new destinations and welcomed new airline partners. Notable additions include China Eastern Airlines' four-times-weekly Shanghai service (with daily service commencing in September), Air Seychelles' six weekly flights, and Fly Cham's service to Damascus. IndiGo also strengthened its presence at AUH with new routes to Madurai, Bhubaneswar, and Vishakhapatnam, further cementing AUH as the airline's most connected hub in the UAE. Elena Sorlini, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer at Abu Dhabi Airports, said, "Consistently delivering positive growth for the past 17 quarters is testament to the dedication and collective effort of the entire Abu Dhabi Airports team. It reflects our operational agility and commitment to delivering an exceptional aviation experience and attracting international investors." Abu Dhabi Airports also demonstrated impressive growth in cargo operations, highlighting the emirate's growing significance in global trade. In H1 2025, it handled a total of 344,795 tonnes of cargo year-to-date, bolstered by strategic partnerships and ongoing infrastructure enhancements. These include a major joint venture agreement signed with JD Property, the infrastructure arm of China's e-commerce giant JD.com. The agreement will see the development of a state-of-the-art 70,000sqm advanced-tech facility that aims to meet the growing east-west demand for e-commerce and specialised cargo logistics throughout the GCC and broader MENA region.—DNA

Australia's Parliament resumes with pro-Palestinian protests

Australia has imposed financial and travel sanctions on individual Israelis, including government ministers Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich. But the Australian government has not imposed wider sanctions on the state

MELBOURNE, Australia: Australia's Parliament resumed Tuesday for the first time since the center-left Labour Party won one of the nation's largest-ever majorities in the May elections. The day was largely ceremonial, with reminders of conflict in the Middle East. Hundreds of pro-Palestinian demonstrators gathered outside Parliament House on Tuesday, calling for the government to impose sanctions on Israel after Australia joined another 27 countries in issuing a joint statement, saying the war in Gaza "must end now." Security guards prevented 15 demonstrators from entering the public gallery of the Senate while Attorney-General Sam Mostyn,

who represents Australia's head of state King Charles III, was giving a speech to lawmakers on Tuesday afternoon, Australian Broadcasting Corp. reported. But Sen. Mehreen Faruqi, deputy leader of the minor party Australian Greens, made a silent protest by holding up a sign in the chamber during Mostyn's speech that said: "Gaza is starving, words won't feed them, sanction Israel." Australia has imposed financial and travel sanctions on individual Israelis, including government ministers Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich. But the Australian government has not imposed wider sanctions on the state. Home Affairs Minister Tony Burke

described the joint statement as the strongest words his government had used on the conflict in Gaza. "When you can make a statement together with so many other significant powers, then we're all hoping that there'll be something that will break this," Burke told ABC. "What we are watching on the other side of the world is indefensible. The hostages still need to be released, but the war needs to end," Burke added. But senior opposition lawmaker Jonathon Duniam described Australia joining 27 other nations in signing the statement as "alarming." "There is more to this issue than this letter betrays and I think it is a sad turn of events for our gov-

ernment to have joined with other countries in signing this letter," Duniam said. Australia's 48th Parliament was opened with Indigenous ceremonies in Parliament House on a day that was otherwise steeped in centuries of British Westminster political tradition. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese thanked the traditional owners of the national capital, Canberra, at a Welcome to Country ceremony. He noted that such ceremonies performed by Indigenous people to welcome visitors to their traditional land at the start of a new parliament had been introduced by a Labor government in 2007. "In the 48th Parliament, we write the next chapter. Let us

do it with the same sense of grace and courage that First Nations people show us with their leadership," Albanese said. Labor won 94 seats in the 150-seat House of Representatives, where governments are formed. Labor's majority is the largest since Prime Minister John Howard's conservative coalition won 94 seats in 1996, when the lower chamber had only 148 seats. Howard stayed in power for almost 12 years, and Albanese is the first prime minister since then to lead a party to consecutive election victories, following an extraordinary era of political instability.—Agencies

CCP approves global logistics merger involving CMA CGM, Borusan

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved the acquisition of Borusan Tedarik Zinciri Cozumleri ve Teknoloji Anonim Sirketi ("Borusan") by CMA CGM S.A., a global player in shipping and logistics. The proposed merger was filed and reviewed under Section 11 of the Competition Act, 2010 read with Competition (Merger Control) Regulations, 2016. The subject transaction involves the acquisition of Borusan from Borusan Holding AS and Borusan Yatirim ve Pazarlama AS, both incorporated in Türkiye, said a release issued here on Tuesday. The CMA CGM, headquartered in France, operates worldwide in container shipping and port terminal services. In Pakistan, it is present through its logistics arm, CEVA Logistics Pakistan Pvt. Ltd and CEVA Air and Ocean Pakistan Pvt. Ltd. On the other hand, Borusan provides third-party logistics services, primarily in Türkiye, with negligible presence in Pakistan through a local agent. The Commission, in its assessment, examined the potential anti-competitive effects of the transaction and concluded that the relevant market, freight forwarding services (air and sea), remains unaffected given the company's limited presence in Pakistan. The transaction neither creates nor strengthens a dominant position, and it does not pose any significant entry barriers.—APP

Indonesia cracks down on forest arsonists

JAKARTA: The Indonesian government has taken stern legal action against those allegedly responsible for forest fires, aiming to create a deterrent effect and strengthen preventative measures, a top official said in a statement issued on Tuesday. Head of the National Disaster Management and Mitigation Agency (BNPB) Suharyanto revealed that a total of 16 individuals have been named as suspects for allegedly setting forest fires. "The law enforcement task force has already been in action, and 16 people have been named as suspects," he said in the statement. Suharyanto issued the remarks after conducting an aerial inspection of Riau Province, noting that all districts and cities across the region had experienced forest and land fires as of July 20. The BNPB chief emphasized that efforts to curb forest fires are being carried out in tandem with firm legal enforcement. "In addition to extinguishing the fires, law enforcement operations are also being conducted so that everything is aligned and integrated," Suharyanto said. He underscored that any indications of deliberate land burning are being processed according to applicable laws.—APP

Syria identifies 298 suspects in Alawite heartland killings

DAMASCUS: A Syrian committee investigating sectarian violence in the country's Alawite heartland said Tuesday it identified 298 suspects implicated in serious violations that left at least 1,426 Alawites dead in March. The violence unfolded over three days in early March on Syria's predominantly Alawite coast, where government forces and allied groups were accused of carrying out summary executions, mostly targeting Alawite civilians. "The committee identified 298 individuals by name, who were involved," spokesman Yasser Al-Farhan told a press conference in Damascus, describing the figure as provisional. He said two lists of suspects had been referred to the judiciary. The committee documented "serious violations against civilians on March 7, 8 and 9, including murder, premeditated murder, looting, destruction and burning of homes, torture and sectarian insults." It confirmed the names of 1,426 dead, including 90 women, with most of the rest being civilians from the Alawite community.—APP

Briefs

New Russia-Ukraine talks on Wednesday: Zelensky

KYIV: Russia and Ukraine will hold new peace talks Wednesday, President Volodymyr Zelensky announced Monday, a follow-up to two earlier rounds that made little progress on ending their war. The talks will be held in Istanbul, a Turkish government spokesperson said, the same venue as previous negotiations which failed to make any breakthroughs in May and June. While US President Donald Trump has increased the pressure by giving Russia 50 days to agree on a deal or face sanctions, Zelensky spoke only hours after the Kremlin had downplayed hopes for a breakthrough.

His announcement of a fresh round of negotiations also came in the wake of the latest Russian barrage on the Ukrainian capital Kyiv, which sparked several fires and damaged an underground air-raid shelter where civilians had taken refuge. "Today, I discussed with (Ukrainian Security Council chief) Rustem Umerov the preparations for the exchange and another meeting in Turkey with the Russian side. Umerov reported that the meeting is scheduled for Wednesday," Zelensky said in his daily address on Monday.

Zelensky, who proposed fresh talks at the weekend, added that more details would be released on Tuesday. Russia did not immediately confirm the new negotiations. A senior Ukrainian official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told AFP earlier that the Istanbul talks would probably focus on further prisoner exchanges and a possible meeting between Zelensky and Russia's President Vladimir Putin. - APP

Kundi, Gilani discuss security, political issues

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi met with Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani here on Tuesday. JUIF Senator Maulana Attau Rehman and PPP's Parliamentary Leader in KP Assembly, Ahmad Karim Kundi, were also present on this occasion. The meeting focused on the overall security and political situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The Chairman Senate praised Governor Kundi for his democratic approach and strategic role in ensuring the success of opposition alliance candidates during the recent Senate elections. He expressed the hope that the newly elected senators from KP would actively raise the province's issues in the upper house. Governor Kundi briefed the Senate Chairman about the prevailing insecurity in the province and shared the concerns and demands of political parties regarding the rights of KP. He also highlighted the grievances of elders from the merged districts and informed that a tribal Jirga is planning to meet the President, Prime Minister, Chairman Senate, and other key officials to convey their concerns and demands.

Saudi Naval chief lauds Pak Navy commitment to maritime security

Admiral Naveed Ashraf highlighted Pakistan Navy's initiatives for ensuring maritime security and regional stability through Regional Maritime Security Patrols



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff, Royal Saudi Naval Forces, Vice Admiral Moham-

med Bin Abdulrahman Al Ghuraybi called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf at Naval Headquarters, Islamabad. Upon arrival at Naval Headquarters, Chief of the Naval Staff, Royal Saudi Naval Forces

was received by Admiral Naveed Ashraf and was presented Guard of Honour by a smartly turned out naval contingent. The dignitary was also introduced to the Principal Staff Officers of Naval Headquarters.

During the meeting, both leaders discussed matters of mutual interest, regional maritime security situation, and avenues for enhanced cooperation in defence, training, and security. Both dignitaries appreciated the successful conduct of PN-RSNF Exercise Naseem Al Bahr-XV that was held at North Arabian Sea this year. Admiral Naveed Ashraf highlighted Pakistan Navy's initiatives for ensuring maritime security and regional stability through Regional Maritime Security Patrols. Vice Admiral Mohammed Bin Abdulrahman Al Ghuraybi appreciated and acknowledged Pakistan Navy's contributions and unwavering commitment to collaborative maritime security efforts in the region. He commended PN for the quality training being imparted to RSNF cadets at Pakistan Naval Academy and onboard PN Ships, acknowledging its profound impact on their professional development. Both leaders pledged to further strengthen and diversify the scope of existing bilateral defence relationship. Pakistan Navy and Royal Saudi Naval Forces enjoy a long-standing and brotherly relationship. The visit of Chief of the Naval Staff of the Royal Saudi Naval Forces will further enhance bilateral defence collaboration between the two countries.

Pak signs UN agreement on 'Law of the Sea'

Agreement aims at conserving marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction

NEWS DESK

NEW YORK: Pakistan has signed an agreement under the UN convention that established a legal framework for all maritime activities, and aimed at conserving marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar signed the "Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement)" at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, the Foreign Office said on Tuesday. Pakistan played a leading role during the BBNJ negotiations, serving as Chair of the Group of 77 and China during

the two main sessions in 2022.

Representing the collective voice of developing countries Pakistan consistently advocated for fair benefit-sharing, capacity-building, and technology transfer, in line with the principle of the common heritage of humankind, said the FO. The signing of the BBNJ Agreement reflects on Pakistan's continued commitment to multilateral cooperation and to the protection and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Under the overall objective of the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, for the present and in the long-term, through effective implementation of the relevant provisions of the convention and further international cooperation and coordination, the agreement addresses the following four key issues.

NDMA advisory warns of landslide threat across Northern Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The National Emergencies Operation Center (NEOC) of the NDMA has issued a landslide alert for northern regions of the country, citing projected monsoon rains and potential slope destabilization across vulnerable areas. According to NDMA advisory, all provincial disaster management authorities, rescue teams, and humanitarian partners have been instructed to mobilize emergency resources and ensure standby readiness across vulnerable areas. Authorities have been placed on high alert for swift deployment in case of slope failure or any weather-induced incident. Residents and travelers in northern regions have been urged to avoid steep or unstable slopes and remain vigilant. Citizens are also advised to follow official instructions and download the Pakistan NDMA Disaster Alert App for real-time updates and safety guidance. Based on meteorological projections cited by NDMA, isolated rainfall is expected across various valleys in Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir, including Gilgit, Skardu, Hunza, Astore, Diamir, Ghanche, Muzaffarabad, Neelum Valley, Haveli, Bagh, and Poonch. - Agencies

Rs244bn electricity bill fraud unearthed

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: An official audit has exposed massive overbilling and financial fraud by eight power distribution companies, draining hundreds of billions from unsuspecting consumers already crushed by inflation and low incomes and high tariffs. According to the Auditor General of Pakistan's latest report, these companies overbilled consumers by Rs244 billion, allegedly to hide inefficiencies, line losses, and electricity theft. The audit names Islamabad Electric Supply Company (Iesco), Lahore (Lesco), Hyderabad (Hesco), Multan (Meeco), Peshawar (Pesco), Quetta (Qesco), Sukkur (Sepco) and Tribal Areas Electric Supply Company (Tesco) among those involved. Five of the companies reportedly overbilled 278,649 consumers by Rs47.81 billion in a single month, the report states. Over 900 million extra units were billed to customers during the 2023-24 financial year, with no action taken against officials responsible, the audit reveals.

UN chief slams killing of Palestinians seeking food

UNITED NATIONS: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is appalled by the accelerating breakdown of humanitarian conditions in Gaza, where the last lifelines keeping people alive are collapsing, his Spokesperson said Monday. Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric was speaking to reporters at UN Headquarters in New York, a day after dozens of Palestinians were killed seeking food aid. He said the Secretary-General deplored the growing reports of both children and adults suffering from malnutrition and strongly condemned the ongoing violence, including the shooting, killing and injuring of people attempting to get food. "Civilians must be protected and respected, and they must never be targeted," said Dujarric, noting that the population in Gaza remains gravely undersupplied with the basic necessities of life. The UN secretary-General spoke as 25 nations, including major US allies - Britain, Canada and Japan - issued a joint statement on Monday with "a simple, urgent message: the war in Gaza must end now." The statement by the US allies and partners across the globe and published online by

the U.K government condemns Israel's tightly-controlled aid distribution method, accusing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's U.S.-backed government of the "drip feeding of aid and the inhumane killing of civilians, including children." "It is horrifying that over 800 Palestinians have been killed while seeking aid," said the statement, which was published after one of the deadliest days for aid seekers during the 21-month war in Gaza. Health officials in the enclave said more than 80 people were killed trying to access emergency food supplies on Sunday alone. In addition to the U.K., the nations that signed the joint statement were Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland. At his meeting on Monday with the UN Chief, the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Ishaq Dar, 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. - Agencies

T20: Bangladesh thrash Pakistan

The victory helped Bangladesh to register their first-ever series triumph over Pakistan in T20Is

SPORTS DESK

DHAKA: Wicketkeeper batter Jaker Ali's gutsy half-century, followed by a ruthless bowling effort, led Bangladesh to a historic victory over Pakistan in the second T20I of the three-match series here at the Shere Bangla National Stadium on Tuesday. The victory helped Bangladesh to register their first-ever series triumph over Pakistan in T20Is. Set to chase a modest 134-run target, Pakistan's batting unit unfolded on 126 on the second delivery of the final over. The Green Shirts had an agonising start to their innings as their opener Saim Ayub (one) got run out in the first over with just four runs on the board. His dismissal was followed by a scathing middle-order collapse, which saw Pakistan lose

four more wickets in quick succession and thus be reduced to 15/5 in 4.4 overs. Following the debacle, Pakistan captain Salman Ali Agha (nine) and all-rounder Khushdil Shah put together a cautious 15-run partnership for the sixth wicket, which culminated in the 10th over with the former's dismissal. Khushdil then shared a 17-run partnership for the seventh wicket with Faheem Ashraf until eventually falling victim to Mahedi Hasan in the 12th over after scoring 13 off 18 deliveries. His dismissal had further reduced Pakistan to 47/1 in 11.5 overs, with 87 runs further required off 49 deliveries. Faheem was then joined by Abbas Afridi in the middle, and the duo battled hard to prevent Pakistan from succumbing to their lowest total in T20Is by knitting a 41-run partnership. The duo had brought Pakistan in the hunt as the

equation had come down to 46 runs required off 24 deliveries with three wickets in hand. But Shoriful Islam bamboozled Abbas on the first delivery of his final over to break the crucial stand. Abbas scored 19 off 13 deliveries with the help of two fours and a six. Faheem was then involved in another crucial partnership for Pakistan when he added 33 runs for the ninth wicket with Daniyal Ahmed until eventually falling victim to Rishad Hossain on the last delivery of the penultimate over. He remained the top-scorer for Pakistan with 51 off 32 deliveries, laced with four fours and as many sixes. Daniyal kept Pakistan's hopes alive by hitting Mustafizur Rahman for a boundary on the first delivery of the final over, reducing the required equation to nine off five. But Rahman deceived Daniyal with a slower delivery, who holed it straight to deep midwicket.

Korea's death toll rises to 19 after rains

SEOUL: Another person has been confirmed dead after last week's heavy rains and landslides, bringing the total death toll to 19, the government said Tuesday. Nine others also remain missing, raising the total number of those dead or unaccounted for from the heavy rainfall between Wednesday and Sunday to 28, according to tentative data from the interior ministry. The casualties include 10 dead in the southern county of Sancheong, three in the northern county of Gyeongju and two in the western city of Seosan, according to the ministry. Four of the missing were reported in Sancheong, while another four were reported in Gyeongju. Authorities have sped up recovery efforts, with about 2,976 of the 6,752 buildings and facilities reported damaged having undergone emergency restoration work. More than 14,000 people have taken shelter since the heavy rains started, with 2,549 people yet to return to their homes. - APP

Bullish momentum returns to PSX

Likely SBP policy easing in the announcement next week driving bullish activity, according to analyst

DNA

KARACHI: The equity market rose on Tuesday as investor sentiment was buoyed by high-level assurances of economic stability, expectations of policy easing, and strong corporate earnings ahead. The Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) benchmark KSE-100 Index closed at 139,419.61, up 1,202.03 points, or 0.87%, from the previous close of 138,217.58. This marks the highest ever close recorded for the index. During the session the index climbed to an intraday high of 139,901.77, gaining 1,684.19 points, or 1.22%, before retreating to a low of 138,197.81, down 19.77 points, or 0.01%. "Stocks trading at a new all-time after business leaders meet with Field Marshal Munir assured military's support for economic progress," said Ahsan Mehanti, Managing Director and CEO of Arif Habib Commodities.

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