



Islamabad POST

Monday, August 04, 2025

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

New US Consul General in Lahore takes charge of office

Detailed News On Page-08

Pak, China ties growing, says Ahsan Iqbal

Detailed News On Page-07



Lionel Messi injury is now confirmed

Detailed News On Page-06



For peaceful purposes

Iran has right to have nuclear program: PM

President Pezeshkian echoed the commitment to border security and peace, noting that the safety of citizens and stability of the region must remain a top priority

SAIFULLAH ANSAR / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday described Iran as a "true friend of Pakistan" and vowed to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in multiple sectors including trade, energy, security, and regional peace. He made these remarks during a joint press stakeout alongside Iranian President Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian following the signing of several Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) aimed at enhancing cooperation between the two neighboring countries. The two leaders engaged in wide-ranging discussions on mutual interests, regional challenges, and the way forward in building lasting peace and prosperity. The Prime Minister lauded Iran's principled stance on international issues, particularly its unwavering support for the oppressed people of Gaza and Kashmir. Condemning Israeli aggression in Gaza, Prime Minister Shehbaz said, "The world must open its eyes to the genocide taking place in Gaza. Innocent children, women, and civilians are being killed. Pakistan stands firmly with the Palestinian people in this time of crisis." He appreciated Iran's strong voice against Israeli atrocities, saying Iran's support on Palestine reflects its moral clarity and commitment to justice. On the ongoing situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK), the Prime Minister said Pakistan will never remain silent over the suffering of the Kashmiri people. "We highly value Iran's consistent support for the Kashmir cause and acknowledge its strong position against Indian atrocities," he added. Shehbaz Sharif also reaffirmed Pakistan's support for

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan, Iran pledges to deepen bilateral trade

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Iran on Sunday pledged to deepen bilateral trade and border cooperation during high-level talks between the trade ministers of both sides here. In a significant move to enhance bilateral economic cooperation, Pakistan's Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, met with Iranian Minister for Industry, Mines and Trade, Mohammad Atabak, on the sidelines of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian's two-day official visit to Pakistan, said a release issued here. The high-level discussion marked a renewed commitment from both sides to accelerate trade, remove border bottlenecks, and build trust-based partnerships across priority sectors. The two ministers acknowledged the historic depth of Pakistan-Iran relations, expressing that recent regional and global developments have pushed both nations closer together. Minister Atabak praised

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif receives the President of Iran H.E. Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian at the Prime Minister's House in Islamabad on 3 August 2025. – DNA

Zardari receives Iranian President

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Iran have reaffirmed their commitment to further broaden bilateral cooperation in diverse fields. Both sides emphasized the importance of enhancing bilateral ties in wide-ranging and mutually beneficial areas. This was discussed during a meeting between the visiting President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, H.E. Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian, and President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan e Sadr, today. Welcoming President Pezeshkian, President Zardari said that Pakistan and Iran enjoy fraternal relations which are based on shared religion,

Continued on Page 06

Cop martyred in Bannu attack; Three outlaws killed

Mohsin Naqvi condemns attack

DNA

BANNU: Funeral prayers were held Sunday morning for a police constable martyred in a terrorist attack on a checkpoint in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Bannu district, where an exchange of fire also left three terrorists dead and three policemen injured. Over the past few months, multiple areas of KP – including Bannu, Peshawar, Karak, Lakki Marwat and Bajaur – have seen a series of attacks, particularly targeting police personnel in Bannu in July.

Continued on Page 06

Asad Qaisar says

PTI all set for 'peaceful' August 5 protest movement

KP chief minister will resign the moment party founder directs, says Gandapur's spokesperson

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior leader Asad Qaisar said on Sunday that all preparations were completed for the upcoming August 5 protest movement for the release of the party's founder. The former ruling party has been calling for Imran's release, who has been behind bars in multiple cases ranging from corruption to terrorism since his ouster from power via the opposition's no-trust motion in April 2022. This year, the PTI has announced staging protests across the country on August 5. Former prime minister Imran Khan has ordered every member of his party to immediately set aside all internal differences and focus solely on the party's August 5 protest. Addressing a joint press conference with senior PTI leader Shahram Khan Tarakai in Swabi, former NA speaker Asad Qaisar said that preparations for the

Continued on Page 06

Imran says 'Gandapur should resign'

Ali Amin denies Imran Khan made any such demand

NEWS DESK

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan has criticised Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, suggesting that he should resign if he fails to maintain law and order in the province, according to sources. "If Ali Amin Gandapur cannot restore peace, he should step down," the PTI founder was quoted as saying by sources, who spoke to Geo News on Saturday.

Continued on Page 06

Second quake in two days shakes part of KP, Islamabad

5.1-magnitude quake hit at 12:10am at a shallow depth of 10km, with its epicentre 15km southeast of Rawat

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Strong tremors shook Islamabad, Rawalpindi, and multiple other areas shortly after midnight on Saturday as a 5.1-magnitude earthquake hit at 12:10am, the second to hit the region in two days, prompting residents to evacuate their homes. According to the Pakistan Meteorological Department's National Seismic Monitoring Centre (NSMC) in Islamabad, the earthquake struck at a shallow depth of 10 kilometres. The epicentre was located 15 kilometres southeast of Rawat. Shocks were also re-

ported in Attock, Swabi, and Zafarwal, as well as in northern areas including Swat, Shangla, Buner, Malakand, Mansehra, Batagram, Kohistan, and Murree. Tremors were also felt in Jhelum and several towns across Azad Jammu and Kashmir. No immediate reports of casualties or damage have been received so far. A day earlier, a 5.5-magnitude earthquake had rattled northern Pakistan, shaking homes across several towns and cities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Seismic monitoring centres said the tremor originated in Afghanistan's

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Smugglers using social media to be punished

DNA

LONDON: People smugglers who use social media to promote their services to migrants seeking to enter Britain illegally could face five years in prison under plans announced by the government. Prime Minister Keir Starmer's Labour government is under huge political and public pressure to cut the number of migrants arriving illegally in small boats from France. More than 25,000 people have made the crossing so far this year. Analysis by the Interior Ministry showed around 80 percent of migrants arriving on small boats had used social media during their journey to find or communicate with people smugglers.

China and Russia start joint drills

DNA

BEIJING: China and Russia began joint naval drills in the Sea of Japan on Sunday as they seek to reinforce their partnership and counterbalance what they see as a US-led global order. Alongside economic and political ties, Moscow and Beijing have strengthened their military cooperation in recent years, and their relations have deepened since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022. The "Joint Sea-2025" exercises kicked off in waters near the Russian port of Vladivostok and would last for three days, China's defense ministry said in a statement on Sunday. The two sides will hold "submarine rescue, joint anti-submarine, air defense and anti-missile operations, and maritime combat." Four Chinese vessels, including guided-missile destroyers Shaoxing and Urumqi,

Russian officials say

Ukraine drone attack sparks fire at Sochi oil depot

A massive oil depot fire raging near Russia's Black Sea resort of Sochi has been blamed by Russian authorities on a Ukrainian drone attack

AGENCIES

MOSCOW: Krasnodar Region Governor Veniamin Kondratyev said on Telegram that drone debris hit a fuel tank and 127 firefighters were tackling the blaze. The airport near Sochi - where the 2014 Winter Olympic Games took place - briefly suspended flights. Meanwhile, a Russian missile strike destroyed homes and civilian infrastructure in Ukraine's southern city of Mykolaiv, local officials say. At least seven civilians were reported injured in the city, which has been repeatedly shelled by Russian forces. Ukraine's State Emergency Service said three of the wounded were being treated in hospital. Russian authorities said the drone attack on the Sochi refinery was one of several launched by Ukraine over

Continued on Page 06

Thousands join Pro-Palestine March in Sydney

NEWS DESK

SYDNEY: Tens of thousands of demonstrators braved pouring rain to march across Sydney's iconic Harbor Bridge on Sunday calling for peace and aid

Another news on Page 2

deliveries in the war-torn Gaza Strip, where a humanitarian crisis has been worsening. Nearly two years into a

Continued on Page 06

Political witch-hunting a threat to democracy

OPINION

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI



THE ongoing political crisis in Pakistan, particularly the systematic marginalization of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), raises serious concerns about the future of democracy in the country. The recent court verdicts sentencing and disqualifying PTI's top leadership from assemblies, coupled with the Election Commission's hasty actions, suggest a deliberate attempt to sideline the country's popular political party. While PTI's actions on May 9—attacking military installations—were indefensible, the manner in which the party is being dismantled is undemocratic and counterproductive. This approach does not serve the long-term interests of democracy. Instead, it deepens political instability, fuels public resentment, and sets a dangerous precedent where any political party in power today could face similar treatment tomorrow. The ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) must realize that political victimization is not a sustainable strategy. History has

shown that suppressing popular movements only strengthens them in the long run. PTI's leadership, including its chairman Imran Khan, has been sentenced in multiple cases, ranging from corruption allegations to charges related to the May 9 riots. While the legal process must be respected, the speed and timing of these verdicts raise suspicions of political engineering. The Election Commission's swift moves to disqualify PTI leaders further reinforce the perception of bias. Legal accountability is essential in a democracy, but when courts are seen as tools for political engineering, public trust erodes. The right to appeal exists, but given the current political environment, many fear that justice may not be impartial. PTI remains one of the most popular party in Pakistan. However, instead of engaging with it politically, the state has chosen to suppress it through legal and administrative measures. Banning PTI's electoral symbol, arresting its workers, and forcing leaders to quit the party under pressure are tactics reminiscent of authoritarian regimes, not democratic systems. If the goal is to establish genuine democracy, political parties must compete on a level playing field. Eliminating the largest opposition party from the electoral process undermined the very essence of democracy. There is no justification for the attacks on military installations on May 9. Imran Khan's statement that such a reaction was "natural" if he was arrested was irresponsible and further inflamed

tensions. A true statesman would have called for restraint. However, the state's response—mass arrests, enforced disappearances, and media blackouts—has been disproportionate. Moreover, the May 9 episode was not solely PTI's doing. Non-PTI elements exploited the chaos, as often happens in politically charged environments. The state's failure to investigate all culprits fairly has reinforced the narrative of selective justice. Defence Minister Khawaja Asif's repeated statements about Pakistan's "hybrid system" acknowledge the military's role in politics. By admitting that both political forces and the establishment are stakeholders, he inadvertently confirms what many have long suspected: that democracy in Pakistan is not fully sovereign. However, his candor has reportedly angered the military leadership, which prefers to keep its political influence behind the scenes. Some reports suggest pressure on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to remove Asif from his position, indicating the military's discomfort with public discussions about its role. The PML-N cannot absolve itself of responsibility for the current political crisis. By aligning with the establishment to suppress PTI, it is setting a precedent that could be used against it in the future. Rana Sanaullah and Khawaja Asif have occasionally expressed concerns, but their voices are drowned out by hardliners within the party. If the PML-N believes it will remain immune to similar tactics in the future, it is mistaken. Political instability harms all parties, and a

weakened democracy benefits none. Pakistan's economy is surviving on IMF bailouts and loans from friendly nations—a unsustainable strategy. Without political stability, investor confidence will remain low, and economic growth will stagnate. The current crackdown on PTI is exacerbating polarization, making it harder for any government to implement necessary reforms. History shows that nations thrive when political inclusivity, rule of law, and democratic norms are upheld. Pakistan's leadership must recognize that sidelining a major political force like PTI will only lead to greater instability. The way forward is not through suppression but through dialogue and political reconciliation. The state must ensure fair trials for all, including PTI leaders, and allow them to participate in elections without coercion. The PML-N and other political stakeholders should push for a democratic framework where all parties compete fairly. If PTI is indeed unpopular, let the people decide its fate at the ballot box—not through judicial and administrative maneuvers. Democracy cannot flourish when the largest opposition party is systematically dismantled. The powers that be must realize that while they may erase PTI from the political scene, they cannot erase it from the hearts of the people. And that should worry them more than anything else. Pakistan's future depends on stable, inclusive politics—not witch hunts. The choice is clear: continue down the path of confrontation and instability, or embrace true democracy for lasting peace and prosperity.

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Aug. 13 (APP): Widespread violations of transport laws continue across Dera Ismail Khan, as public transport vehicles particularly coaches and flying coaches, operate with illegally installed extra seats, causing severe discomfort to passengers. The unchecked practice persists under the watch of the district administration and Regional Transport Authority (RTA), drawing criticism from citizens and commuters alike. These violations are commonly observed on routes from General Bus Stand, Bannu Adda, Tank Adda, Paroo Adda, and adjoining areas such as Paharpur and Kulachi. Transporters, in a bid to increase profits, have modified vehicles to carry more passengers than permitted, often cramming individuals into tightly packed and unsafe conditions.—APP

In his statement, the Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister emphasized that Pakistan remains steadfast in its support for Palestine

Additionally, he called for renewed international support for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), which is essential for the survival of millions of Palestinian refugees.—DNA



KARACHI: Following the recovery of Rs16 billion by the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) amid revelations of massive financial irregularities, the Sindh Local Government and Town Planning Department has issued formal instructions to all districts to appear in upcoming PAC sessions with complete financial documentation.

The recovery, stemming from audit reports exposing widespread embezzlement across government departments, has prompted a sweeping accountability drive targeting Union Councils throughout Sindh.

According to the official circular, the PAC has released a comprehensive audit schedule focusing on multiple fiscal years. According to official letter, August 6, 2025, Audits paras from 2017-18 and 2018-19, While, August 18, 2025, Review of audit records from 2015-16 and 2016-17. Whereas, August 25, 2025 – Special audit for selected districts,

including Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur, Larkana, Ghotiki, Jamshoro, Kashmore (Kandhkot), Shikarpur, Tando Allahyar, Naushahro Feroze, and Mirpurkhas, focusing on 2013–14 and 2014–15 financial record. The official letter to all Principal Accounting Officers (PAOs) have been directed to submit two certified copies of each audit para. Present original audit documents and compliance reports during the sessions. They have been ordered to ensure submission of 35 updated working paper sets to the PAC Secretariat at least three days in advance. Strict disciplinary action has been warned for non-compliance the notice said. According to section Officer (Admin) letters dispatched to regional directors across Sindh, mandating urgent preparation and full cooperation. This move signals the Sindh Government's renewed commitment to financial transparency and heightened scrutiny of local governance practices. The sources in PAC said that such an accountability should continue and hopefully more billions of recovery shall be made under the rules and regulations.

KARACHI: The Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, terming a strong and free press vital for a robust, sovereign and democratic Pakistan, on Saturday reiterated the commitment to practical measures for the well-being of journalists and financial independence of the media industry. He was addressing the distinguished gathering at the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists' (PFUJ) Platinum Jubilee celebration, honouring the organisation's 75 years of unwavering commitment to press freedom. The Sindh CM, in his speech, reaffirmed the historical significance of journalist unions in Pakistan, tracing their roots back to the establishment of the Sindh Union of Journalists in 1948 and underscoring the pivotal role they have played in advocating for the rights of journalists throughout the nation's tumultuous political history. Shah praised the contributions of the late former Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, who bravely stood against authoritarianism, and acknowledged the sacrifices made by journalists in the face of oppression. He also highlighted the struggles faced by media professionals in contemporary times urging for immediate reforms to protect journalists' rights and enhance their working conditions. "Today's journalist faces a severe economic and professional crisis. Media organisations are under immense financial pressure, and many journalists go months without their salaries. When a journalist struggles to provide for their family, how can they raise their voice against injustice?" he noted. Paying tribute to Shaheed Mohtaram Benazir Bhutto, who was a steadfast advocate for press freedom, Shah recalled her emphasis on a free press in a democratic society, initiatives to address journalists' housing issues and leading protests for media rights. The CM Sindh also highlighted the current efforts of Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, who continues to advocate for media rights and the welfare of journalists. He reiterated the commitment to taking practical measures for the well-being of journalists and financial freedom of media houses. "If we want journalism to uphold democracy, we must prioritize the economic independence and professional dignity of journalists," he stated and committed the Sindh government to collaborate with PFUJ and other media organisations to implement sustainable initiatives that ensure journalists' welfare and strengthen the independence of media houses. Murad Shah recalled the resilience shown by journalists during historic struggles against censorship in various regimes and expressed the commitment of the Pakistan Peoples Party to stand alongside journalists in their fight for freedom of expression.—DNA

KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori on Sunday attended the Carpe Diem's Pakistan Awards ceremony as the chief guest, where he presented awards to individuals who demonstrated outstanding performance in various fields. Addressing the ceremony, Governor Tessori lauded the organization's contributions, saying, "Carpe Diem is not just any organization, it is a vision that is shaping the future of our youth." He said the awards are a recognition of their achievements and serve as a message of encouragement for the next generation. Praising Carpe Diem's efforts, he remarked, "Its contributions in the fields of education, social service, and development are truly commendable." Highlighting the importance of technology, the Governor emphasized to learn Artificial Intelligence as the future is heading in that direction. —APP

LAHORE: Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique on Saturday said that the provincial government is committed to transforming Punjab into a hub of healthcare innovation through smart hospitals, telemedicine, artificial intelligence, and evidence-based clinical practices. He made these remarks while addressing the National Research and Innovation Conference 2025 held at King Edward Medical University (KEMU) as the chief guest. Highlighting the government's priorities under the leadership of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the minister said that historic healthcare initiatives have been launched, including the Chief Minister's Children's Heart Surgery Program, Dialysis Program, Transplant Program, Clinic on Wheels, and Field Hospitals. He also noted the establishment of cutting-edge institutions such as the Nawaz Sharif Institute of Cancer Treatment and Research, Nawaz Sharif Institute of Cardiology Lahore, and Nawaz Sharif Institute of Cardiology Sargodha.—APP

LAHORE: Around the world, countries, institutions, and organisations are launching green initiatives to combat climate change and promote sustainability. From national policies to grassroots projects, these efforts aim to reduce environmental impact and create a more sustainable future. The Punjab government is actively engaged in tree planting campaigns during August 2025, particularly under the “Chief Minister’s Plant for Pakistan Initiative”. These initiatives aim to combat climate change, promote sustainable development, and create a greener Punjab. This initiative focuses on large-scale tree plantation with a target of planting 42 million trees on 50,869 acres. Under the CM Agroforestry Initiative, it focuses on planting trees on forest wastelands, with a target of 1.375 million trees on 3,790 acres. Furthermore, 1.375 million trees are being planted over 3,790 acres of forest wasteland, said a Punjab Forest Department top official. It is worth mentioning here that the CM’s

green Initiatives are expansion of the Green Pakistan Program, under which the plantation of 466.463 million trees over 251,000 acres is underway. Furthermore, in Punjab, a groundbreaking initiative has been launched by Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif – the CM Punjab Green Credit Programme, that is the country's first performance-based green rewards system. This flagship environmental programme incentivises citizens to undertake verified climate-positive actions, awarding them 'Green Credits' that are redeemable for cash prizes, public recognition, and other rewards. Renowned environmentalist Dr Mahmood Khalid Khan, speaking to APP, highlighted that the programme identifies 32 climate-positive actions under its Green Credit Component. These actions target critical environmental sectors such as air, water, land, waste, ecology and biodiversity, and public awareness. Each verified action earns a Green Credit, carrying a monetary reward of Rs10,000. Current

the program is in its pilot phase and limited to Lahore. Only actions performed within Lahore are eligible for rewards. However, the initiative is being seen as a major leap forward in public-driven environmental engagement in Pakistan. It is worth mentioning here that to implement the vision of Climate Resilient Punjab of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the provincial government has set aside a total of Rs795 billion (64 percent of the ADP) in current Budget for several projects made part of the Climate Budget Tagging Framework within different sectors. Out of this allocation, Rs 277.4 billion is for Climate Adaptation, Rs 371.7 billion for Climate Mitigation and Rs 146 billion for various multi-faceted projects to enhance the capacity of various institutions and create awareness regarding environmental protection. In the next fiscal year, a total of Rs 40 billion in development funds and Rs 9.12 billion in non-development funds have been allocated for the environmental protection. —DNA



General Practice

HOSPITAL

We Are

OPEN

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





OPD CLINICS



INPATIENT ROOMS



INTENSIVE CARE UNIT



MATERNITY CARE UNIT



DIALYSIS CARE UNIT



X-RAYS



RADIOGRAPHY



ENDOSCOPY / COLONOSCOPY



ICU



24/7 EMERGENCY ROOM



NEWBORN OPERATION THEATRES



DAY CASE SURGERY



NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT (NICU)



RADIOLOGY



ULTRASOUND



X-RAY



GYN



PHARMACY



General Physician Services



Medicine



Gynaecology & Women's Health



Dermatology & Aesthetics



General Surgery



Urology



Paediatrics & Child Health



Plastic Surgery



Ear, Nose & Throat



Cardiology



Neurology



Nutrition, Dietetics & Lifestyle



Nephrology



Ophthalmology and Special Medicine



Ophthalmology



Dental & Maxillofacial Surgery



Psychiatry



Gastroenterology



Physiotherapy & Rehabilitation



Psychology & Mental Health

Empathic & Caring for everyone

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

FOR APPOINTMENT

+92 33 47 47 47 01

Pakland Tower 2, New Blue Area, Islamabad

www.generalpractice.com.pk

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

+92 51 6860 474 | +92 51 6161 474

National Days and Armed Forces Days

AUGUST

Aug 01/China
Armed Forces Day

Aug 01/Switzer-land
National Day

Aug 01/Lebanon
Armed Forces Day

Aug 01 /Syria
Armed Forces Day

Aug 4/Bukino Faso
National Day

Aug 09 /Singapore

Aug 15/DPR Korea
Independence Day

Aug 15/India
Independence Day

Aug 15/Poland
Armed Forces Day

Aug 17 /Indonesia
Independence Day

Aug 24/Ukraine
Independence Day

Aug 25/Uruguay
Independence Day

Aug 30 /Turkey
Armed Forces Day

Aug 31/Kyrgyz
Republic
Independence Day

Aug 31/Malaysia
National Day

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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

Rescue (Police).....15

Bomb Disposal.....15

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

Emergency Ambulance.1122

& Rescue Services.4451122

Motorway Police.....9266044

Motorway Police.9270601-20

Women Police Stations
Islamabad.....9222596

Rawalpindi.....9270601-20



Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115

PIA Flight Info.....114

PIA Cargo.....9280979

Railway Inquiry.....117

Railway Exchange9270831-5

WASA Rawalpindi..5555489

CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

CMH.....5611111

MH.....561116

Cantt Hospital..9270907-11

DHQ.....5556311-4

RGH.....9290301-7

Holy Family.....9290322-7

PIMS.....9261170-79

Polyclinic.....9218300-09

Shifa International 4603666



Departments

CDA.....9221334-43

CDA.....9208301-04

Met Office.....9250360-6

RDA.....5555864

TMA.....5770886

Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480



ISLAMABAD: Visitors looking life-sized Baluchitherium sculpture during visiting at Pakistan Museum of Natural History.

CDA’s beautification drive shines as Iranian President arrives in Islamabad

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) successfully led a wide-ranging beautification campaign as the President of Iran arrived in Islamabad for a two-day official visit, marking a major diplomatic milestone in Paki-

stan-Iran relations. The civic body transformed key areas of the federal capital to reflect Pakistan’s tradition of hospitality and commitment to regional diplomacy. “The arrival of the Iranian President is a proud moment for our nation. Islamabad was prepared to reflect our warmth and our values of peace, progress, and hospitality,” said Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa. “Our

team worked tirelessly to ensure the capital presented itself with dignity and grace.” In the days leading up to the visit, the CDA launched a comprehensive city beautification campaign. Major roads, intersections, and avenues were cleaned and adorned with national flags of Pakistan and Iran, celebrating the long-standing cultural and diplomatic ties between the

two countries.Colorful lighting installations were placed along key routes, giving the city a festive and ceremonial atmosphere. Greenbelts were freshly maintained, and floral arrangements were positioned at strategic locations to enhance the aesthetic appeal of the capital. These measures, carried out in coordination with other departments, served a dual purpose—

offering a dignified welcome to the visiting head of state while contributing to the broader vision of developing Islamabad as a clean, green, and efficient capital. Officials noted that such visits are not only symbolic of strong bilateral ties but also provide Pakistan an opportunity to project its capital as a modern, well-managed city ready to host international leaders.

Isphanyar Bhandara concludes participation in Geneva moot



DNA

ISLAMABAD – Mr. Isphanyar Bhandara concluded his participation in the 6th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament in Geneva as a member of Pakistan’s five-member parliamentary delegation led by Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq. On the sidelines of the conference, the Pakistani delegation engaged in a series of high-level interactions with parliamentary speakers from key strategic partners including the United Kingdom, China, Türkiye, and Iran. These meetings focused on enhancing

parliamentary cooperation, fostering people-to-people linkages, and reaffirming shared positions on critical regional and global challenges. Key issues discussed included the situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK), the ongoing genocide in Gaza, and broader multilateral engagement. Strategic priorities such as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and strengthening institutional collaboration were also prominently featured. Mr. Bhandara expressed his honour at representing Pakistan on this important global platform, contributing to dialogue aimed at promoting peace, mutual understanding, and long-term partnerships.

Preparations for AIOU’s convocation in full swing

ISLAMABAD: Preparations for the 2025 Convocation at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) have reached their peak. Under the leadership of Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, all concerned departments including the Examination Department, Admission Department, Administration and Estate Office are working tirelessly to ensure the successful execution of this significant academic event, said a press release. It is noteworthy that Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood assumed office as Vice Chancellor in November 2023. Under his leadership, a successful convocation was held in 2024 and now, with the organization of the convocation for a second consecutive year, the university is set to make a new mark in its history. Keeping in view the ease and convenience of students, this year’s convocation will also be held chapter-wise, as was done last year. This will enable the distribution of degrees to graduating students in cities close to their residence. The convocation ceremonies will be organized in major cities across the country including Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, and Quetta (Balochistan) during October and November 2025. Thousands of students will be awarded degrees during these events, in formal recognition of their academic efforts.Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood stated that the Open University is playing a prominent role in the promotion of higher education at the national level through its consistent academic services, digital advancements, and student-friendly initiatives. These convocation ceremonies will not only be a memorable moment for students but will also serve as a practical demonstration of the university’s academic prestige and administrative efficiency.—DNA

Swiss community celebrates 734th National Day in Islamabad

Ambassador Georg Steiner welcomes guests at a vibrant evening of culture and camaraderie

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Swiss community in Pakistan came together to celebrate the 734th Swiss National Day with enthusiasm and unity at a reception held at the Ambassador’s Residence in Islamabad. The event, hosted by the Swiss Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Georg Steiner, brought together Swiss nationals and friends of Switzerland for an evening of celebration, cultural appreciation, and warm hospitality. Ambassador Steiner warmly welcomed the guests and highlighted the enduring values that define Switzerland—peace, democracy, and unity in diversity. He expressed gratitude to the Swiss community in Pakistan for maintaining strong ties with their homeland while positively contributing to the host country. “This gathering is a reflection of the friendship and connection we share—not just as Swiss citizens living abroad, but as members of a global family committed to peace and progress,” he noted. The beautifully arranged evening featured



Call to break stigma around female drug addiction

ISLAMABAD:In Pakistan, countless women struggle with drug addiction behind closed doors, their pain hidden by a wall of silence and stigma. Many suffer alone, too afraid to seek help for fear of judgment, shame, or rejection by their families and society. “It started quietly, I didn’t even realize when I lost control,” said one young woman in recovery, speaking anonymously from a rehab center. Health experts and social activists now warn that this growing crisis demands urgent attention and compassionate care before more lives are lost to neglect and shame. Dr. Shamsher Hayat, a PhD, clinical psychologist and CEO of Hayat Rehab Clinic, told APPP that, “addiction among women is rising, yet most cases are reported anonymously. Families avoid bringing daughters or wives for treatment out of fear of judgment,” he said, noting a growing number of school and university girls falling into addiction due to peer pressure, neglect, or academic stress. He described that addiction is often linked to deeper mental health issues like depression, anxiety, or bipolar disorder, and requires holistic care, detox, therapy, and emotional healing. Dr. Shamsher Hayat explained that whether women are using cannabis, heroin, methamphetamine, amphetamines, prescription painkillers, or alcohol, substance abuse takes a serious toll, not just physically, but also on their emotional stability, mental health, behavior, and personal relationships.—APP

PIDE’s deregulation plan promises billions in farmer benefits

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) has released a game-changing policy blueprint titled “Towards a Free Market: A Blueprint for Wheat Sector Deregulation,” authored by Dr. Muhammad Faisal Ali and Dr. Sobia Rose. Published as Policy Viewpoint, the document calls for the full and structured deregulation of Pakistan’s wheat sector, arguing that the long-standing Minimum Support Price (MSP) policy has failed to stabilize markets, protect farmers, or ensure consumer welfare. Instead, it has led to unintended consequences—benefiting large landholders, flour millers, and middlemen—while accumulating a circular debt of PKR 680 billion in Punjab by 2023. The authors note that the MSP regime distorts incentives, discourages crop diversification, and consumes substantial taxpayer funds annually for procurement and storage. They argue that the government’s abrupt withdrawal from the wheat market in the previous year disrupted market dynamics, allowing millers to form cartels and depress farm-level wheat prices to levels that barely covered production costs. A gradual, transparent transition to a market-driven system was recommended, but it was not followed.—APP

Briefs

PIMS denies negligence in snakebite child's treatment

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Executive Director of Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), Dr. Imran Sikandar, has refuted the allegations circulating on social media related to the treatment of a snakebite victim, calling them baseless and misleading. In an official statement, Dr. Sikandar confirmed that the child, who was brought to PIMS on the morning of July 31 at 8:35 AM, was given prompt and proper medical attention. "The child was examined within 17 minutes and samples were sent for tests. He was administered 10 anti-venom vaccine injections immediately, and additional medication was also initiated," said Dr. Sikandar. As the child's condition deteriorated, another 10 anti-venom injections were administered. A senior physician and ICU team were also involved in the case during the vaccination process. Due to severe breathing difficulties, doctors decided the patient needed to be placed on a ventilator. "At that time, all ventilators at PIMS were already occupied," Dr. Sikandar clarified. "We contacted Polyclinic Hospital, but no ventilator was available there either. The child was referred to a private hospital after confirming ventilator availability." He added that no negligence occurred, and all necessary steps were taken to save the child's life. "We provided the child with complete treatment. The referral was made only after ensuring ventilator availability at the private facility," he noted. PIMS also shared the child's electronic medical record to verify the facts and stressed that over 700 vials of anti-venom vaccine are currently available in the hospital's stock.

ICCI hosts Iranian delegation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A high-level Iranian delegation led by Reza Masrouf, Secretary of the Supreme Council of Free Trade, Industrial and Special Economic Zones, visited the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) on Saturday and held a productive meeting with ICCI President Nasir Mansoor Qureshi to explore avenues for deepening economic cooperation between the two brotherly nations. The Iranian delegation included Mohammad Said Arbabi, Managing Director of the Chamber of Free Zones; Saeed Rabiei, Deputy Secretary of Free Zones; Ali Reza Khayyami, Director; Zahra Qadyanlo, Commercial Counsellor; Asif Ghias, Managing Director Zenith; and Ms. Faiza Hussaini. The ICCI side was represented by Senior Vice President Abdul Rehman Siddiqui, Chairman Founder Group Shaikh Tariq Sadiq, Executive Members Mohammad Imran Minhas, Waseem Chaudhry, and Advisor to the ICCI President, Naeem Siddiqui. Both sides agreed to foster collaboration in trade, joint ventures, investment, and industrial cooperation, emphasizing the need for mutually beneficial economic initiatives.—DNA

Azerbaijan envoy says promotion of bilateral trade top priority

Ambassador Farhadov emphasized that the role of the private sector is crucial in elevating economic and trade cooperation between the two countries to new heights

SAIFULLLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan are exemplary, rooted in mutual trust, brotherhood, and shared interests. The leadership of both countries — President Ilham Aliyev and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif — are committed to further strengthening these ties. This was stated by Azerbaijan's Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Khazar Farhadov, during his visit to the Azerbaijan-Pakistan Chamber of Commerce. Present on the occasion were United Business Group (UBG) Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari, Chairman of the Azerbaijan-Pakistan Chamber of Commerce Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, former President of Chakwal Chamber Waqar Bakhtawari, Adeel Butt, President of Azerbaijan Trade House in Lahore, connected to Azerbaijan-Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Islamabad along with other notable business personalities. Ambassador Farhadov emphasized that the role of the private sector is crucial in elevating economic and trade cooperation between the two countries to new heights. Azerbaijan not only welcomes Pakistani traders and investors but also offers them market access, facilitation, and excellent investment opportunities. He noted that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has visited Azerbaijan four times in recent months, and Field Marshal Asim Munir has also held significant meetings — a reflection of the deep strategic ties between the two nations.



The Ambassador further highlighted the increase in air connectivity between the two countries as a positive development — with four weekly flights from Lahore and two from Islamabad — which will enhance people-to-people and commercial exchanges. During the meeting, it was also agreed to establish a joint trade company to promote imports, exports, and joint business ventures between the two nations.

This initiative will help strengthen industrial linkages and increase the volume of bilateral trade. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari stated that he plans to visit Baku in August, while Zafar Bakhtawari will lead a high-level trade delegation in September to explore practical avenues of collaboration in potential sectors. Speaking on the occasion, Adeel Butt shared that during his stay in Azerbaijan, he closely observed various trade

opportunities and saw open doors for cooperation in key sectors such as road trade, logistics, energy, agriculture, information technology, tourism, and textiles. He emphasized that partnerships in these areas will not only strengthen trade ties but also open new chapters of friendship between the two countries. He further stressed that there is significant potential for Pakistani products

in the Azerbaijani market, which, if leveraged properly, can lead to a substantial increase in exports. Waqar Bakhtawari appreciated the efforts of the Azerbaijan-Pakistan Chamber of Commerce, describing it as an economic bridge between the two countries. He also thanked Ambassador Farhadov for his keen interest in fostering bilateral trade and cultural relations.

CDA chairman chairs meeting to review projects

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Ali Randhawa, Chairman CDA and Chief Commissioner Islamabad chaired a high level meeting to review overall performance of CDA at CDA Headquarters. The meeting was attended by CDA Member Administration and Estate Talat Mahmood, Member Engineering Syed Nafasat Raza, Member Planning Dr. Khalid Hafiz, Member Environment Esfandyar Baloch and Member Finance Tahir Naeem. The meeting reviewed CDA's overall performance, particularly in sector development, water supply in Islamabad, beautification projects, across the board actions against illegal housing societies, encroachments, construction of new sports complexes, operationalization of the Gandhara Citizen Art Center, upgradation of CDA Hospital, transformation of CDA Nursery into a "Gardenia Hub," establishment of a Food Street in Blue Area, improvement of CDA Model Schools and the upgradation of 25 cricket and 25 football grounds, among other matters. Chairman CDA and Chief Commissioner Muhammad Ali Randhawa said that provision of housing facilities to the citizen of Islamabad is the their top priority of CDA. He said that while sports complexes are being constructed, all necessary steps along with resources must be allocated for uplifting of 25 cricket and 25 football grounds in Islamabad in order to promote sports activities and health activity in Islamabad. He said that no effort should be spared in the development and beautification of Islamabad, as well as installation of beautiful lights at all major roads. Chairman CDA further said that in addition to addressing housing demands, strict action is being taken against illegal housing societies and cooperative societies across Islamabad. The CDA is also conducting surveys to assess how much land these societies originally applied with permission of lay out plan to CDA and how much land they possessed now and how many additional files they have sold out to citizen beyond their legal authorization. CDA intends to proceed all such illegal housing societies who have violated their layout plans as well as NOCs and will cancel illegal layout plans and withdraw all such NOCs in accordance with the law. Chairman CDA directed that all housing societies must install water treatment plants in their respective housing societies regarding provision of clean and safe drinking water to their citizens and ensure plot allotments strictly follow approved layout plans, rules and NOCs (No Objection Certificates). Regarding water supply, Chairman CDA said that CDA is taking serious steps in order to meet the demands of citizen regarding provision of water. He said that establishment of Islamabad Water Agency is a step towards ensuring adequate water. He instructed that ensuring clean water for Islamabad is a major priority. Measures such as installing underground water septic tanks, fully operationalizing water tankers, tube wells and establishment of water treatment plants are being taken. He also directed the formulation of a sustainable water supply strategy, including seeking donor funding for long-term solutions, and further activating the Islamabad Water system. Chairman CDA emphasized that all recruitments in CDA are being conducted transparently purely on merit to ensure the best talent to join CDA. He also ordered third-party audits of all CDA projects in order to maintain transparency, high-quality standards, from reputed audit firms to be engaged for this purpose. To enhance healthcare services, Chairman CDA said that qualified doctors are being appointed at Capital Hospital, and the process of medicine procurement has been streamlined. Efforts are being made to ensure best treatment as well as medical facilities for all patients. Regarding the CDA Nursery transform into Gardenia Hub, Chairman CDA said that funds are being utilized to transform it into a state-of-the-art "Gardenia Hub," with Baku collaboration. He directed that efforts should be made for early completion of development and beautification of Gardenia Hub. While expressing satisfaction on CDA's overall performance, Chairman CDA urged further improvements to increase its performance and service delivery so that citizen should be further happy with the excellent performance of CDA.—DNA

China unveils plan to strengthen Global early warning systems

ISLAMABAD: In line with the United Nations' (UN) Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative, the China Meteorological Administration (CMA) has launched MAZU, a Joint Action for Early Warnings for All to build a global Early Warning Service Network. CMA will also share practical experience and technological achievements with international partners. In recent years, CMA has jointly developed cloud-based early warning systems with the meteorological departments of Pakistan, Ethiopia, the Solomon Islands, and other countries, China Economic Net reported. Embodying the principles of Multi-hazard Alert, Zero-gap Coverage, and Universal, MAZU's mission includes providing technical support for early warnings, enhancing capacity building, improving risk identification and assessment systems, and developing effective cooperation mechanisms and models. "Ensuring universal access to meteorological early warning systems is not only a shared vision of the global community, but also an important mission of China's meteorological departments," said Dr. CHEN Zhenlin, Administrator of CMA. Through the MAZU partnership, CMA is committed to bridging critical gaps in early warning capabilities and jointly addressing escalating climate challenges. "The Ethiopian Meteorological Institute (EMI) and CMA have carried out fruitful cooperation. Through the joint development of early warning systems, we have enhanced our capabilities in disaster prevention and mitigation, as well as in supporting economic and social development," said Mr. Fetene Teshome, Director of EMI. Through international training programs, scholarship opportunities, and visiting scholar exchanges, CMA works to strengthen early warning capabilities, foster cross-border knowledge sharing and innovation, and support developing countries in cultivating local professionals. CMA also shares China's practices in disaster risk surveys and assessments, helping countries establish a scientific foundation for risk-informed decision-making.—DNA

Devcom chief calls for climate adaptation action plan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: "Disasters have no religion, no humanity and no mercy. We need to have a socially cohesive and inclusive climate adaptation action plan at grassroot level countrywide. Community based disaster risk reduction and preemptive measures for every household on shared vision is a must to combat the menace of climate impact at the final era of this human race. Being a top most vulnerable country to climate induced disasters, our communities are the frontline victims which are estimated to 70 percent of the population," said Munir Ahmed, a renowned environment, climate, and development diplomacy expert, and Executive Director of Development Communications Network (Devcom-Pakistan), while delivering the keynote address at a community dialogue titled "Climate Change and Social Cohesion – Our Responsibilities for grassroot Communities.

Scope of Pak-China media cooperation wider: Report

DNA

Islamabad, August 3 (): There is a lot of scope for cooperation between Pakistan and China in the media sector, particularly in films' production and their screening in cinema Houses, says a report carried by China Economic Net on Sunday. At present, there are more than 13,000 cinemas in China, while the number of screens is over 90,000. In comparison, there are only 150 cinemas in Pakistan. If Pakistani films are screened on just two percent of Chinese cinema screens, it becomes two thousand screens, which can become a huge business activity along with culture. It was 1956, the Pakistani film industry was trying to stand on its own feet. There is no other opinion that films/dramas/TV channels are such mediums that not only unite the cultures of countries and bring their

people closer, but are also a great source of business. However, when the film "Baaghi" was released in Pakistan in 1956, in order to make it successful and strengthen new business and cultural ties, steps were taken to release the film in China as well, and they were successful, and the film was even awarded an award in China. All this comes to mind because just a few days ago, a delegation from the Chinese embassy visited the headquarters of Pakistan's state-run channel PTV and discussed ways to increase the possibilities of greater cooperation between the two countries in this media field. It is interesting to know that a current affairs program called China Express is currently being presented on PTV in collaboration with China's state-run channel CGTN and PTV.

Our past is a witness that whenever Pakistan and China have collaborated in the media sector, it has been a huge success.

IFA seizes 160kg unstamped meat at shops on Golra Road

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Food Authority (IFA) seized 160 kilograms of unsafe meat during a surprise inspection on Golra Road. The meat, found without official slaughterhouse stamps and stored in unhygienic conditions, was immediately discarded on-site. The operation was carried out on Sunday by the IFA's Meat Safety Team as part of its ongoing crackdown against the sale and transport of unfit meat in the federal capital. During the inspection, a vehicle transporting 160 kilograms of meat was stopped and examined.—APP

COURT NOTICE

Falak Sher, son of Muhammad Riaz, caste Gujjar, resident of village Kalawala, Tehsil Kharian, District Gujrat
Versus
Muhammad Usman, son of Iftikhar Ahmad
Ifitikhar Ahmad, son of Muhammad Iqbal, residents of village Rakh Dhand, Tehsil Kharian, District Gujrat
Hanan Asghar, son of Muhammad Asghar, resident of village Chechiyan, Tehsil Kharian, District Gujrat
Claim for recovery: Amount \$13,000 USD
I and Muhammad Usman, son of Iftikhar Ahmad, reside in the United States. Due to mutual trust, we had ongoing financial dealings. On March 23, 2023, Muhammad Usman borrowed \$13,000 USD with a promise to return it within six months. Upon asking for the money after six months, he denied the loan. On March 5, 2024, in a local council (Panchayat) meeting, in the presence of witnesses Mushtaq Ahmad, son of Ghulam Sarwar, resident of Karnana, Azhar Iqbal, son of Muhammad Bashir, and other witnesses, the parties including Ifitikhar Ahmad, son of Muhammad Iqbal, and Hanan Asghar, son of Muhammad Asghar, promised to return the amount, but did not fulfill the promise. Now, for the past few days, they have been refusing to return the money. Since both parties are permanent residents of Kharian, I request the Kharian Court to provide me justice and help me recover the amount. This public notice has been issued for the awareness of the second party by the order of the Civil Magistrate, Kharian. If the second party does not appear before the court within 30 days, ex parte proceedings will be initiated against them, and no excuse will be accepted later. The Plaintiff: Falak Sher, son of Muhammad Riaz, caste Gujjar, resident of Kalawala, Tehsil Kharian, District Gujrat.

MONAL

NOW SERVING ON MURREE EXPRESSWAY

30 KM on Islamabad - Murree Expressway
Park Ridge Apartment, Lower Topa

+92 325 0000661-62

monalmurree

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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

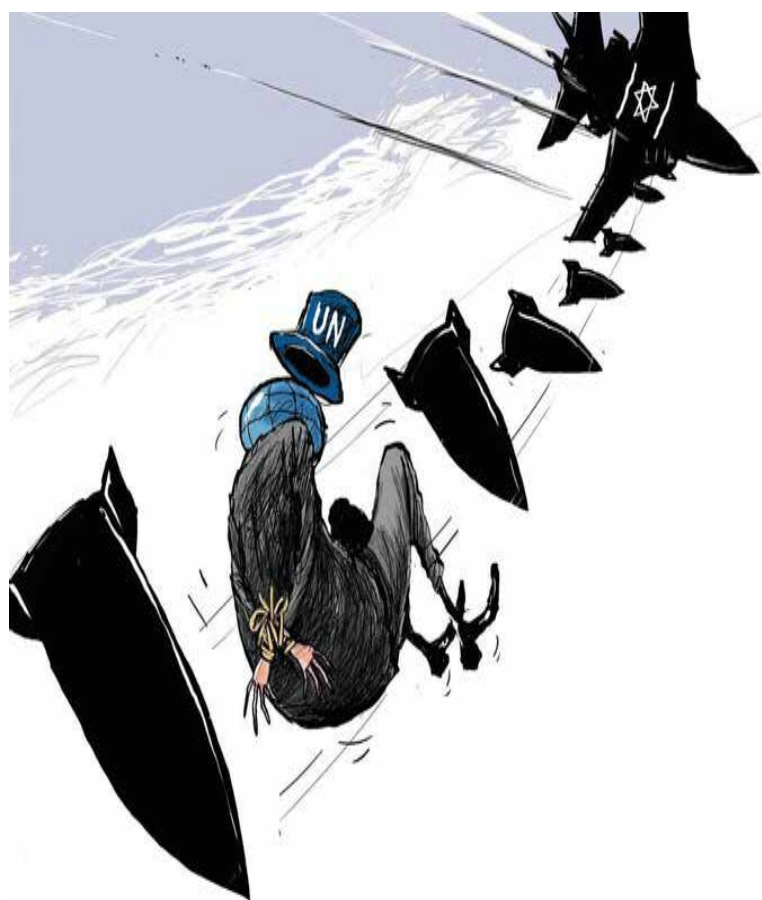
Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 06 Issue: 75

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-8488394 / 051-2261960

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



Time to Act on the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline

THE recent visit of Iranian President Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian to Pakistan has been marked by warmth, symbolic gestures of friendship, and a renewed resolve to strengthen bilateral ties. Multiple Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were signed, and both President Pezeshkian and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed firm commitment to working together for peace, regional stability, and the elimination of terrorism. Yet, while these developments are promising, they also reflect a persistent and troubling omission: the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline – a critical project for Pakistan's energy security – was neither mentioned in the joint statements nor addressed during the press interaction. It is no secret that Pakistan is facing a severe energy crisis. Industries are underperforming, domestic consumers are facing load shedding, and the country's import bill continues to balloon due to reliance on expensive LNG and other energy sources. The Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline – also referred to as the "Peace Pipeline" – could be a game changer. Iran has already completed its portion of the pipeline up to the Pakistani border. The responsibility now lies with Pakistan to complete its section.

Despite the strategic and economic value of this project, successive Pakistani governments have failed to take concrete steps towards its implementation. The silence during the Iranian president's visit is especially glaring. Not only did Pakistani leadership fail to address this pressing matter, but the media also missed an opportunity to raise pertinent questions during the joint press conference. When a project that could directly address Pakistan's energy shortages is left out of high-level discussions, it raises concerns about priorities and political will. One major reason for the inaction has been fear of international sanctions, particularly from the United States. However, the global geopolitical climate is changing. Even U.S. President Donald Trump admitted that war had significantly damaged Iranian infrastructure and that Iran, like any other country, would require foreign investment and support to rebuild. More recently, the U.S. has shown a willingness to explore engagement with Iran under new frameworks. This could offer Pakistan a narrow but critical window of opportunity to negotiate a way forward that aligns with its national interests without violating international norms.

The Iran-Pakistan pipeline is not just an energy project; it is a symbol of regional cooperation and strategic autonomy. For Pakistan, completing this pipeline would reduce dependency on volatile global markets and unreliable LNG suppliers. For Iran, it would provide a much-needed export channel and a gesture of goodwill that goes beyond words and ceremonies. While peace declarations and MoUs are welcome, the people of Pakistan need action – especially in sectors that directly affect their daily lives. Energy is one of them. The government must now demonstrate seriousness by resuming work on the pipeline, engaging in high-level diplomacy to manage geopolitical concerns, and mobilizing domestic and international resources to complete the long-stalled project.

Climate Change and the crisis facing Pakistan

CLIMATE change is no longer a distant threat—it is a present and intensifying reality, especially for third world countries like Pakistan. While the global community is grappling with the consequences of rising temperatures, it is the economically weaker nations that bear the heaviest burden. These countries, despite contributing the least to global greenhouse gas emissions, are the most vulnerable to the climate crisis due to inadequate infrastructure, limited resources, and socio-political challenges.

Pakistan exemplifies this disparity. Ranked among the top ten countries most affected by climate change, Pakistan experiences frequent and severe natural disasters, such as floods, droughts, and heatwaves. The catastrophic floods of 2022 submerged one-third of the country, affecting over 33 million people and causing damages worth billions of dollars. Crops were destroyed, homes were swept away, and essential infrastructure was crippled. The agricultural sector, which employs a large portion of Pakistan's population, is increasingly unpredictable due to changing rainfall patterns and extreme weather, threatening food security and rural livelihoods. Moreover, rising temperatures and glacial melt in the northern regions are endangering Pakistan's water supply. The country depends heavily on glacier-fed rivers, and as glaciers retreat, the risk of both floods and future water shortages grows. Urban areas also suffer as prolonged heatwaves, combined with power shortages, impact public health and productivity.

The impacts of climate change are not limited to environmental degradation; they exacerbate existing socio-economic inequalities. The poor, who often live in vulnerable areas and lack the means to recover from climate-related disasters, are pushed deeper into poverty. Children miss school during floods, families are displaced, and healthcare systems are overwhelmed. Climate change, in this context, is not just an environmental issue—it is a humanitarian crisis. So, how can Pakistan and other third world countries cope with this mounting challenge? First, there must be a renewed focus on climate-resilient infrastructure and disaster preparedness. Building flood defenses, improving drainage systems, and constructing climate-resilient homes can save lives and reduce economic losses. Investment in early warning systems is essential to give communities time to prepare and evacuate if needed. Second, international support is critical. Wealthier nations have a moral and historical responsibility to assist the Global South through climate finance, technology transfer, and capacity-building. Initiatives like the Loss and Damage Fund established at COP27 must be implemented swiftly and transparently, with developing countries having a seat at the decision-making table. Third, at the national level, Pakistan must prioritize sustainable development and environmental protection. Transitioning to renewable energy, reforestation, and public awareness campaigns can play significant roles in reducing vulnerability. Strengthening institutions and enforcing environmental regulations is equally crucial. In conclusion, climate change is an existential threat to Pakistan and many other third world nations.

America Needs an Alliance in Asia

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



One of the main arguments against the formation of a Pacific defense pact has been the diversity of political systems, threat perceptions and historical grievances among potential member states. However, recent developments indicate that strategic convergence is now more attainable than ever before.

The Quad a security dialogue comprising the United States, Japan, India and Australia has evolved from a loose consultative mechanism into a more structured platform for defense cooperation

THE changing strategic landscape of the Indo-Pacific region, characterized by China's growing assertiveness, has led to renewed calls for the United States to establish a formal collective defense pact in Asia. For decades, the idea of such an alliance was considered neither feasible nor necessary, primarily due to the fragmented political interests of regional actors, the complexity of historical rivalries, and the relatively stable balance of power maintained by the United States' bilateral security arrangements. However, in recent years, China's rapid military modernization, its increasingly aggressive posture in the South China Sea and Taiwan Strait and its broader geopolitical ambitions have significantly altered the regional power equation. In this context, the notion of a Pacific defense pact has evolved from a theoretical proposition to a strategic imperative.

China's foreign policy under President Xi Jinping has grown more assertive, driven by a vision of national resurgence encapsulated in the slogan "the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation." This ambition is not merely symbolic; it manifests in tangible geopolitical strategies, including territorial claims over disputed waters, increased military incursions near Taiwan and efforts to expand Chinese influence through mechanisms such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Beijing's long-term goal appears to be the establishment of a regional order in which China is the preeminent power, capable of setting rules and norms to suit its strategic interests. This trajectory, if left unchecked, threatens to destabilize the existing security framework in the Indo-Pacific and could potentially provoke military conflict.

In response, several U.S. allies and partners in the region have begun to recalibrate their defense postures. Japan has significantly increased its defense budget and revised its security policies, allowing for a more proactive military role. Australia, similarly, has intensified its military cooperation with the United States and other regional actors, notably through the AUKUS pact. South Korea, while traditionally more focused on the threat from North Korea, is increasingly attentive to the strategic challenges posed by China. Even countries in Southeast Asia, such as the Philippines and Vietnam, are seeking closer security ties with the United States and other like-minded powers to hedge against Chinese encroachment. Despite these efforts, the lack of a formal, institutionalized collective defense framework undermines the cohesion and effectiveness of regional deterrence.

The United States, as the principal guarantor of regional stability, must therefore transition from its traditional hub-and-spokes model of bilateral alliances to a multilateral approach. A Pacific defense pact, similar in structure and purpose to NATO, would offer a more unified and credible deterrent against Chinese adventurism. Such an alliance would not only enhance interoperability and strategic coordination among member states but also signal a clear, collective commitment to defending the status quo in the Indo-Pacific. The psychological impact of such a pact should not be underestimated: it would serve as a powerful message to Beijing that coercion and expansionism will be met with unified resistance.

One of the main arguments against the formation of a Pacific defense pact has been the diversity of political systems, threat perceptions and historical grievances among potential member states. However, recent developments indicate that strategic convergence is now more attainable than ever before. The Quad a security dialogue comprising the United States, Japan, India and Australia has evolved from a loose consultative mechanism into a more structured platform for defense cooperation. While it is not a mutual defense alliance, its existence and growing activities, suggest a willingness among its members to deepen strategic alignment. Similarly, the increasing frequency of joint military exercises, intelligence sharing and defense technology transfers in the region underscores the readiness of like-minded nations to enhance their collective security.

Another critical aspect supporting the case for a Pacific defense pact is the evolving nature of warfare and security threats. Traditional concepts of territorial defense are being supplemented, and in some cases replaced by hybrid warfare, cyber-attacks and grey-zone operations. China's use of non-military tools such as economic coercion, disinformation campaigns and maritime militias demonstrates the need for a security architecture that goes beyond conventional military alliances. A collective defense pact would facilitate the sharing of not just military capabilities but also intelligence, cybersecurity infrastructure and early warning systems, thus enabling member states to mount a coordinated response to a broader spectrum of threats.

Critics may argue that a formal alliance could provoke Beijing and accelerate an arms race in the region. While this concern is valid, it overlooks the fact that the status quo is already deteriorating. China has been expand-

ing its military capabilities and influence regardless of U.S. policy choices. In fact, strategic ambiguity and fragmented defense arrangements are more likely to embolden China, as they create uncertainty about the consequences of its actions. A clear, rules-based framework anchored in collective defense would reduce the likelihood of miscalculation and serve as a stabilizing force in the region. It would also offer smaller states the confidence to resist coercion, thereby strengthening the overall resilience of the regional order.

Furthermore, the establishment of a Pacific defense pact would have significant implications for global security. As the Indo-Pacific becomes the primary theater of geopolitical competition, stability in this region is increasingly vital to international trade, supply chains and economic growth. The vast majority of global maritime commerce passes through Indo-Pacific waters and any disruption whether through conflict or coercion—would have far-reaching consequences. A robust security architecture would thus not only protect the sovereignty and interests of regional states but also uphold the global economic order.

It is also important to recognize the normative dimension of such a pact. Beyond military considerations, a Pacific alliance would reinforce the principles of international law, freedom of navigation and the peaceful resolution of disputes. These values are currently under threat from China's efforts to reinterpret or disregard established norms. By aligning around shared principles, member states can collectively promote a vision of regional order based on openness, sovereignty and mutual respect. This normative consensus would also enhance the legitimacy of the alliance and make it more attractive to prospective members.

The time is ripe for the United States to spearhead the formation of a collective defense pact in the Indo-Pacific. The growing threat posed by China's assertive behavior and geopolitical ambitions has rendered traditional security arrangements insufficient. While the path to establishing such a pact is fraught with political and diplomatic challenges, the strategic rationale is compelling. A Pacific defense alliance would not only bolster deterrence and stability but also reaffirm the United States' commitment to upholding a free, open and rules-based order in the region. In the absence of such a concerted effort, the Indo-Pacific risks sliding into a period of uncertainty, rivalry and potential conflict an outcome that no responsible power should accept.

The World vs US-Israeli Brutality in Gaza

Qamar Bashir



The tide is turning because the truth can no longer be buried. The International Court of Justice has ruled that Israel's occupation, annexation, and forced displacement are illegal. The UN General Assembly passed resolutions demanding ceasefire and humanitarian access, only to be vetoed or ignored by Washington. Civil society, from London's streets to Jakarta's mosques, is united under one banner: Stop the genocide

INSTANTLY, both Israel and the United States have turned colorblind, deaf, and heartless, refusing to see the rivers of blood in Gaza or hear the cries of its dying children. They ignore the wailing of mothers clutching lifeless infants, the screams of youth writhing in agony as their limbs are amputated, their bodies shredded, their reproductive organs destroyed by sniper fire. They look away from children dying not only from bombs but from starvation, as two million people are herded from one ruined shelter to another, promised food only to find death. This is not war. This is a calculated slaughterhouse, a genocide carried out under the shield of "self-defense," and the world knows it. Yet Washington and Tel Aviv expect everyone else to mimic their silence—do not see, do not hear, do not speak. They want to render humanity numb to horror. But their dominance is fading. Donald Trump's transactional diplomacy, where allies are insulted and international partnerships are reduced to trade-offs and arm-twisting, has driven even America's closest friends to break free. Nations once compelled to echo U.S. narratives are now openly defying them, charting their own course, and rejecting the moral bankruptcy of shielding Israel's crimes.

As French President Emmanuel Macron declared at the UN conference on Palestine, "The status quo is no longer acceptable. France will recognize a Palestinian state because peace cannot be postponed indefinitely while children die every day in Gaza." Germany's Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock echoed this, saying, "Humanitarian law is not optional. No ally, no matter how powerful, can expect us to be complicit in mass starvation and endless occupation." Even the United Kingdom, long America's most loyal partner, now openly calls for an "irreversible pathway to Palestinian statehood," signaling a break from Washington's veto of justice. Meanwhile, António Guterres, UN Secretary-General, tore through decades of diplomatic hypocrisy with unprecedented clarity: "Statehood for the Palestinians is a right, not a reward... Gaza has descended into a cascade of catastrophes—tens of thousands dead, virtually the entire population displaced many times over, the shadow of starvation looming over everyone. These are not preconditions for peace. They are the foundation of it."

Yet from Washington, the response is chillingly different. U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio mocked the

140 nations pledging to recognize Palestine: "They can't even tell you where this Palestinian state is... At the end of the day, Hamas is sitting there saying: We're winning the PR war. The Palestinian statehood side is the Hamas side." In one sentence, Rubio dismissed the will of nearly the entire planet, equated Palestinian self-determination with terrorism, and gave Israel another blank check to continue its war crimes. This arrogance exposes the deepening isolation of the U.S.-Israeli axis. On one side, 140 nations, the UN, humanitarian agencies, civil society, and millions in the streets of London, Paris, Berlin, and New York demand ceasefire, statehood, and accountability for atrocity crimes. On the other, two governments defy global law and morality, veto every path to peace, and unleash a narrative so grotesque that even mainstream U.S. media is cracking.

When Israel's ambassador recently suggested that countries supporting Palestinian statehood should "take the Palestinians into their own lands," Fox News anchor Brian Kilmeade sarcastically asked, "Why doesn't Israel migrate instead? Leaving the land to its original owners, the Palestinians?" Such questions were once unthinkable in America but are now inevitable because the brutality is undeniable. Europe's defiance is not a sudden act of courage but the result of exhaustion with U.S. unilateralism. Trump's foreign policy has humiliated allies, reduced partnerships to mere transactions, and insulted leaders across NATO. The last straw is Gaza: a live-streamed massacre defended relentlessly by Washington. Macron said it plainly: "The international order cannot survive if a superpower shields an occupying force from law while condemning others for far less."

Canada, once in lockstep with U.S. policy, now calls for sanctions on Israeli officials over settlement expansion and starvation tactics, defying its largest ally. The tide is turning because the truth can no longer be buried. The International Court of Justice has ruled that Israel's occupation, annexation, and forced displacement are illegal. The UN General Assembly passed resolutions demanding ceasefire and humanitarian access, only to be vetoed or ignored by Washington. Civil society, from London's streets to Jakarta's mosques, is united under one banner: Stop the genocide. Free Palestine. Social media has shattered propaganda walls, showing unfiltered images of bombed hospitals, starved infants, and mass graves. The world sees what America refuses

to: deliberate extermination disguised as war. Even within the U.S., voices of conscience rise despite political fear. Senator Bernie Sanders declared, "We cannot stand by while a whole people is bombed, starved, and erased from history under our funding and protection." UN Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese described Israel's actions as "a war of extermination against an occupied people," earning U.S. sanctions for telling the truth. The line is now clear: stand with humanity and be punished by Washington, or stand with Washington and be complicit in atrocity. This strategy is failing. U.S. power, once unquestionable, is now bought off with trade deals and investments as nations build independence from its dictates. Trump's recent EU trade deal has been interpreted not as strength but as a payoff for European defiance over Gaza. The old world order, where America dictated morality, is dead. In its place is a multipolar conscience where even U.S. allies refuse to endorse blind support for Israel's slaughterhouse policies.

And yet, Israel and the U.S. cling to a delusion: that Palestinians can be erased, either by bullets or by "resettlement," stripping them of homeland and history. This delusion is what fuels resistance, global outrage, and calls for immediate statehood. As Guterres warned, "We cannot defer peace efforts until suffering becomes unbearable. We must act before it is too late." The world has chosen to act, with or without Washington's approval. The conclusion is as inevitable as it is just. The momentum of history, powered by the conscience of humanity, is moving toward Palestinian freedom. The days when America and Israel could bully nations into silence are gone. Their veto cannot erase law. Their propaganda cannot hide mass graves. Their power cannot crush the will of a people who, despite decades of dispossession, refuse to vanish.

The day is coming—and now it feels close—when Palestinians will live in a sovereign state, when Israel will exist as a nation among equals instead of a colonizer above the law, and when the United States, stripped of its moral cloak, will face the shame of having stood on the wrong side of humanity's last great struggle for justice.

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

Briefs

Iran has
right to have
nuclear...

FROM PAGE 01

Iran's right to pursue peaceful nuclear technology. "Iran has every right to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Pakistan supports Iran on this issue at international forums," he stated, adding that cooperation and dialogue must prevail over confrontation. Echoing these sentiments, Iranian President Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian said, "Unity is strength. The Muslim world must unite to overcome the challenges it faces." Quoting Allama Iqbal, he highlighted the importance of solidarity among Muslim nations and expressed gratitude to Pakistan for its consistent support against Israeli aggression.

Pakistan,
Iran pledges
to deepen...

FROM PAGE 01

the Pakistani government's proactive role in facilitating bilateral trade progress and said: "Without the rapid engagement and determination from you and your team, we wouldn't have reached this stage. The momentum we've built must now be translated into structured trade outcomes." Jam Kamal Khan echoed similar sentiments, noting that both governments, as well as the private sector, have shown strong will and passion to work together.

PTI all
set for
'peaceful'...

FROM PAGE 01

August 5 protest were complete, adding that the movement would remain peaceful and within the bounds of the Constitution and law. "This movement is about justice, not confrontation. We want a fair trial of our leader's [Imran Khan] cases based on merit," he said. The former NA speaker recalled that August 5 marks the day when the former PM [Imran Khan] was arrested, and he termed it a turning point for the party's political course. "PTI founder's release could happen within an hour, but he will not make any deal," he added.

Imran says
'Gandapur
should...

FROM PAGE 01

He further remarked that if Gandapur is unable to resolve governance issues, someone else should be given a chance. Pakistan witnessed a surge in terror activities, particularly in its Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan provinces, since the return of Taliban rulers in Afghanistan in 2021. At least 476 incidents of terrorism were reported across KP during the first seven months of 2025, according to a police report obtained by Geo News.

Ukraine
drone attack
sparks...

FROM PAGE 01

the weekend, targeting installations in the southern Russian cities of Ryazan, Penza and Voronezh. The governor of Voronezh said four people were injured in one drone strike. Ukraine has not commented on the strikes. It has been targeting Russia's energy infrastructure in retaliation to Russia's sustained bombardment of Ukraine's energy grid throughout the war. Russia's defence ministry said its air defences intercepted 93 Ukrainian drones overnight, 60 of which were over the Black Sea region.

Thousands
join Pro-
Palestine...

FROM PAGE 01

war that Palestinian authorities say has killed more than 60,000 people in Gaza, governments and humanitarian organizations say a shortage of food is leading to widespread starvation. Some of those attending the march, called by its organizers the 'March for Humanity', carried pots and pans as symbols of the hunger.

Australian envoy Hawkins encourages
youth to champion hockey development

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a spirited and heartwarming celebration, Rising Stars Hockey Club hosted a special event to mark the birthday of His Excellency Neil Hawkins, the Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan. The event, held during the club's regular Sunday practice session, turned into a celebration not only of Mr. Hawkins' special day but also of his dedication to youth development and his support for the sport of hockey in Pakistan.

The gathering drew a diverse crowd of young players, club officials, and distinguished guests, including H.E. Kamal Basha, the High Commissioner of Brunei, who joined in the

festivities to honor Mr. Hawkins. The celebration underscored the close ties between sport, diplomacy, and youth engagement.

During his remarks, Mr. Hawkins passionately urged young athletes to continue honing their skills and playing a proactive role in the revival and promotion of hockey at the national level. "Pakistan has a rich hockey legacy. With hard work and commitment, young players can bring back the glory days and even take the game to new heights," he said, addressing the club's aspiring talent.

A highlight of the occasion was the symbolic cutting of Mr. Hawkins' birthday cake, followed by an inspiring gesture – the distribution of hockey sticks to young players. This act was both a gift and a statement of support, as Mr. Hawkins emphasized the

importance of providing resources and encouragement to nurture the next generation of players.

In another commendable moment, Mr. Hawkins recognized and appreciated Asad Abbas, a club member, for successfully completing his umpiring course in Malaysia. His acknowledgment of Abbas' achievement highlighted the value of technical growth alongside athletic training in the development of Pakistan's hockey ecosystem.

Throughout the event, Mr. Hawkins interacted with both male and female players, taking photos, engaging in conversations, and encouraging them to keep pursuing excellence. His genuine enthusiasm and accessible demeanor made a strong impression on the young athletes and club members alike. The Rising Stars Hockey Club expressed gratitude

to its leadership and organizing team for making the event a success. Special thanks were extended to Chief Patron Asif Masood Bhatti, President Mehmood Ahmed, General Secretary Sohail Akram Janjua, Finance Secretary Muhammad Azeem Jutt, Chief Editor of Islamabad Post Ansar Mehmood Bhatti, and Media Coordinator Syed Khayree Ali for their unwavering support and efforts in promoting hockey at the grassroots level.

The celebration was a vivid reflection of how diplomacy and community sports can intersect to foster talent, unity, and national pride. With committed support from diplomatic figures like Mr. Hawkins, High Commissioner Kamal Ahmed and institutions such as the Rising Stars Hockey Club, Pakistan's future in hockey looks increasingly promising.

Lionel Messi's Leagues
Cup injury confirmed as
'hamstring discomfort'

38-year-old Messi's exit brings a halt to exceptional run of clean health, the longest since he joined Miami in July 2023

DNA

LONDON: Lionel Messi exited Saturday night's Leagues Cup match against visiting Necaxa in the 11th minute due to a right leg injury. After Inter Miami completed its 2-2 draw, manager Javier Mascherano declared Messi felt "hamstring discomfort." The 38-year-old Messi's exit brings a halt to an exceptional run of clean health, the longest since he joined Miami in July 2023. He had played in every minute of 16 consecutive matches for Miami between MLS regular season and FIFA Club World Cup play before his failure to appear in the 2025 MLS All-Star Game resulted in a one-match suspension against FC Cincinnati a week ago. He returned Wednesday night for Miami's Leagues Cup opener against Atlas and provided two assists – one leading to the game-winner late – in a 2-1 victory. Neither team scored prior to Messi's exit Saturday, though Miami's Telasco Segovia scored shortly thereafter to put Miami in front. Necaxa took a 2-1 lead with the Herons reduced to 10 men when Marcelo Weigandt was sent off for denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity, but Inter Miami rallied for the equaliser in extra time. The Herons then won 5-4 on penalty kicks. Messi, an eight-time Ballon d'Or winner, has not scored in the Leagues Cup. But in MLS play, he is tied for the league lead with 18 goals. Messi's run of consecutive appearances was in stark contrast to his first two MLS seasons, during which he missed significant portions of regular-season play. After playing all seven matches of Miami's run to the 2023 Leagues Cup title, minor ailments limited Messi to just six appearances among Miami's last 12 regular-season games that year. He also dealt with multiple issues in 2024, the most pronounced being an extended recovery from a torn leg muscle sustained while playing for Argentina during the 2024 Copa America final that July.

IOA Gears
Up for Youth
& National
Games

OUR CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: In a major step to boost Islamabad's presence in national sporting events, the Islamabad Olympic Association (IOA) has announced its full-fledged participation in the inaugural National Youth Games and the upcoming National Games.

The decision was made during an important meeting of the Executive Committee, chaired by IOA President Begum Ishrat Ashraf and attended by key members, including Secretary General Rizwan ul Haq Razi. The move reaffirms the association's commitment to developing competitive teams and strengthening its role as the federal capital's leading sports body.

During the session, the committee discussed several critical matters related to the strategic growth and organizational strengthening of the IOA and its affiliated units. A key topic was the regularization and formal recognition of affiliated sports bodies under the IOA umbrella – aimed at enhancing coordination and transparency across all disciplines.

West Indies defeat Pakistan
by 2 wickets in 2nd T20

TRINIDAD: Holder's 4 for 19 and last-ball heroics kept series alive as West Indies defeated Pakistan in the 2nd T20 by 2 wickets. This was not so much a game as an exhibition to showcase the brilliance of Jason Holder. The allrounder opened the bowling, took four wickets across phases of the Pakistan innings, walked in to bat when the equation was steepest, and won West Indies the second T20I with a boundary off the final delivery from Shaheen Shah Afridi. The two-wicket win sees the hosts level the series following a pulsating contest, one that ended with a savage Holder swipe past fine leg when they needed three off one, and a yell of unadulterated joy that ripped through Florida.

West Indies had won just two of their last 19 completed T20Is before this, but began the better of the two sides, puncturing Pakistan with early wickets that left them trying to catch up through the middle overs. They accomplished this to a point thanks to a counter-attacking 60-run fifth-wicket partnership between Salman Agha and Hasan Nawaz, only for Holder's double-strike to peg them back again.

The hosts dominated the final five overs which saw Pakistan produce just 23 runs, setting Shai Hope's side an eminently manageable 134 for victory. But batting appeared only to be getting more difficult, and Pakistan's immaculate bowling complicated matters further for a tentative West Indies. Beyond a brief early flair from Jewel Andrew, West Indies soon fell behind the asking rate, epitomised by a tortured stay at the crease for captain Hope, who limped to 21 in 30 deliveries.

With spinners scything through the middle order, it fell once more to Holder to pull off a heist. There was some support from the other end as Gudakesh Motie and Romario Shepherd struck blows of their own. But just when West Indies had it in control, they appeared to lose it once more as Holder found himself stranded at the non-striker's end for large parts of the final two overs. He was given the most consequential delivery of all though – the final one. When Afridi tried the surprise delivery by going at the pads rather than wide outside off, Holder found a way to get enough bat on it, slicing through two fielders, dashing Pakistan's dreams in the process.

Holder's day out: Holder was on fire with the bat as the first T20I closed out, taking West Indies closer to the target than they appeared on track for throughout the innings. With ball in hand, he carried on where he left off in the powerplay, drawing Saim Ayub into a slog wide outside off which kissed the edge. His opening partner Sahibzada Farhan, too, fell to Holder in the fourth over. Holder was everywhere, taking a sharp catch that sent Mohammad Harris on his way to reduce Pakistan to 21 for 3.

An hour or so later, Pakistan had stormed their way back into the game. Hasan Nawaz shook off a stodgy start to wallop Shepherd for three successive sixes to round out the 15th over and put Pakistan on target for a total in excess of 150. Once more, though, it was Holder who dragged them back, inducing Hasan Nawaz into a chip back to him to send him on his way. He would round out his bowling figures by dismissing the other Nawaz - Mohammad - and his figures of 4 for 19 did not flatter him in the slightest. – DNA

Second
quake in
two days....

FROM PAGE 01

Hindu Kush region at a depth of 114 kilometre. The NSMC in Islamabad said the tremors were recorded at 2:03am. Residents in Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Azad Kashmir, Charsadda and Karak also reported feeling the quake. According to reports, the jolts were noticeable in various localities of the federal capital. Tremors were also reported in Gujranwala and surrounding areas.

Zardari
receives
Iranian...

FROM PAGE 01

culture and mutual respect. The two leaders exchanged views on major regional and international developments and stressed the need for co-ordinated diplomatic efforts to prevent the escalation of conflicts and to promote peace, security, and stability in the region. President Zardari appreciated Iran's principled positions on regional issues and acknowledged Tehran's consistent support for regional cooperation. He expressed gratitude for Iran's solidarity during critical moments and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to working closely with Iran for a peaceful and prosperous future.

Cop
martyred
in Bannu...

FROM PAGE 01

Bannu RPO Sajjad Khan said in a statement that three terrorists were killed and police constable Rooh Niaz Khan was martyred when 40 to 50 terrorists attacked the police check post in Fateh Khel, Bannu. Three terrorists were killed and as many policemen were injured in the exchange of fire, which lasted more than an hour, the statement added.

PCB imposes blanket ban on participation
in WCL over 'skewed politics, hypocrisy'

"Sporting events held hostage to political expediency and narrow commercial interests," says board

DNA

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has imposed a blanket ban barring any future participation in the World Championship of Legends (WCL) over politics, bias and hypocrisy in the tournament. "We cannot allow our players to be part of events where the spirit of the game is overshadowed by skewed politics that undermine the very essence of sportsmanship and the gentleman's game," read the

PCB's press release concerning the Board of Governors (BoG) meeting, headed by Chairman Mohsin Naqvi.

Expressing considerable disappointment with WCL's appalling conduct of awarding points to a willfully forfeiting team, the PCB lamented the content of the press releases of the WCL announcing the cancellation of the scheduled match between Pakistan and India – which, as per the board, were tainted with hypocrisy and bias.

The move comes in the aftermath of the WCL fixture between the two arch-rivals

due to what the organisers termed was aimed at mitigating the hurt sentiments and the discomfort caused to Indian team players. "The contents of the said press releases highlight a duality where the narrative of 'peace through sport' is selectively applied and sporting events are held hostage to political expediency and narrow commercial interests," the PCB said.

Stressing that it had always advocated for the separation of sports and politics, the board accentuated that cricket, like other international sports, should solely serve as a platform

for goodwill, healthy competition, and mutual respect. "For a tournament involving legendary players to be dictated by sentiments that undermine this fundamental principle is not only regrettable but also deeply concerning for the future of independent sporting events," read the PCB's press release.

It noted that WCL's apology for "hurting the sentiments", whilst being farcical, inadvertently acknowledges that the cancellation was not based on cricketing merit, but rather on succumbing to a specific nationalistic narrative.

Briefs

U.S. trade breakthrough game-changer for exports: Iftikhar

LAHORE: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik on Sunday lauded the government's successful efforts in securing a favorable trade tariff framework with the United States, calling it a major breakthrough for Pakistan's export sector.

In a statement issued here, he said, "The government deserves full credit for negotiating a fair and forward-looking trade arrangement with the U.S. amidst global tariff uncertainties." He emphasized that securing the 19 percent tariff framework is a strategic success that strengthens Pakistan's export potential, especially for value-added sectors such as textiles, garments, and IT services. "This landmark agreement will greatly enhance Pakistan's access to its largest non-Asian export market, boosting our competitiveness in the global arena," Malik added.He said the development signals Pakistan's rising credibility as a reliable and responsible trading partner. —APP

UK threatens jail for smugglers who advertise on social media

LONDON: People smugglers who use social media to promote their services to migrants seeking to enter Britain illegally could face five years in prison under plans announced by the government.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer's Labour government is under huge political and public pressure to cut the number of migrants arriving illegally in small boats from France. More than 25,000 people have made the crossing so far this year. Analysis by the Interior Ministry showed around 80 percent of migrants arriving on small boats had used social media during their journey to find or communicate with people smugglers. Under a new offense, which will be added to legislation already passing through parliament, individuals who post online to advertise services that facilitate a breach of immigration laws will face fines and prison sentences of up to five years. It is already an offense to facilitate illegal immigration to Britain, but the government said its latest plan would give law enforcement agencies another option to disrupt the criminal gangs that profit from organizing the crossings.—APP

China and Russia start joint drills in Sea of Japan

BEIJING: China and Russia began joint naval drills in the Sea of Japan on Sunday as they seek to reinforce their partnership and counterbalance what they see as a US-led global order.

Alongside economic and political ties, Moscow and Beijing have strengthened their military cooperation in recent years, and their relations have deepened since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022. The "Joint Sea-2025" exercises kicked off in waters near the Russian port of Vladivostok and would last for three days, China's defense ministry said in a statement on Sunday. The two sides will hold "submarine rescue, joint anti-submarine, air defense and anti-missile operations, and maritime combat." Four Chinese vessels, including guided-missile destroyers Shaoxing and Urumqi, are participating in the exercises alongside Russian ships, the ministry said. After the drills, the two countries will conduct naval patrols in "relevant waters of the Pacific." China and Russia have carried out annual drills for several years, with the "Joint Sea" exercises beginning in 2012. Last year's drills were held along China's southern coast.—APP

Economic collaboration between Pak, China is key to development

He mentioned that the policy rate has declined from 23% to 11%, while the Pakistan Stock Exchange has crossed 140,000 points

DNA

BEIJING: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal, met with Mr. Lu Hao, President of China's Development Research Center (DRC) and Centre for International Knowledge on Development (CIKD). During the meeting, both sides discussed further strengthening economic cooperation between Pakistan and China. Minister Ahsan Iqbal stated that strong economic collaboration between Pakistan and China is key to national development. He remarked that CPEC has transformed the everlasting friendship between Pakistan and China from political cooperation into a comprehensive economic and social partnership. He emphasized that Pakistan is eager to learn from China's economic and reform successes, and termed China's scientific planning as a guiding light for achieving long-term and sustainable development. The Minister noted that under the Uraan Pakistan program, the country's economy is moving toward stability, with the target of becoming a one-trillion-dollar economy by 2035. He further stated that all indicators of Pakistan's economy are showing positive trends, a fact also acknowledged by international institutions. He mentioned that the policy rate has declined from 23% to 11%, while the Pakistan Stock Exchange has crossed 140,000 points.

Minister Ahsan Iqbal pointed out that Chi-



na imports nearly 2 trillion dollars worth of goods annually, while Pakistan's share remains negligible. He added that Pakistan seeks to expand trade and exports with China and that gaining access to Chinese markets is a key economic objective. Referring to past challenges, the Minister

highlighted that political instability and lack of policy continuity had hindered the country's development process. On this occasion, Minister Lu Hao expressed confidence in Pakistan's strategy to build an export-led economy. During the meeting, it is agreed upon to enter into a

partnership and cooperation agreement between Ministry of Planning and China's Development Research Center. Under the agreement, China will support Pakistan's economic development through joint research, training programs, and expert exchanges.

Chaos, gangs, gunfire

Gaza aid fails to reach most needy

PARIS: The trickle of food aid Israel allows to enter Gaza after nearly 22 months of war is seized by Palestinians risking their lives under fire, looted by gangs or diverted in chaotic circumstances rather than reaching those most in need, UN agencies, aid groups and analysts say. After images of malnourished children stoked an international outcry, aid has started to be delivered to the territory once more but on a scale deemed woefully insufficient by international organizations. Every day, AFP correspondents on the ground see desperate crowds rushing toward food convoys or the sites of aid drops by Arab and European air forces. On Thursday, in AlZawayda in central Gaza, emaciated Palestinians rushed to pallets parachuted from a plane, jostling and tearing packages from each other in a cloud of dust. "Hunger has driven people to turn on each other. People are fighting each other with knives," Amir Zaqot, who came seeking aid, told AFP. To avoid disturbances, World Food Programme (WFP) drivers have been instructed to stop before their intended destination and let people help themselves. But to no avail. "A truck wheel almost crushed my head, and I was injured retrieving the bag," sighed a man, carrying a bag of flour on his head, in the Zikim area, in the northern Gaza Strip. Mohammad Abu Taha went at dawn to a distribution site near Rafah in the south to join the queue and reserve his spot. He said there were already "thousands waiting, all hungry, for a bag of flour or a little rice and lentils." "Suddenly, we heard gunshots.... There was no way to escape. People started running, pushing and shoving each other, children, women, the elderly," said the 42-year-old. "The scene was truly tragic: blood everywhere, wounded, dead." Nearly 1,400 Palestinians have been killed in the Gaza Strip while waiting for aid since May 27, the majority by the Israeli army, the United Nations said on Friday. The Israeli army denies any targeting, insisting it only fires "warning shots" when people approach too close to its positions. International organizations have for months condemned the restrictions imposed by the Israeli authorities on aid distribution in Gaza, including refusing to issue border crossing permits, slow customs clearance, limited access points, and imposing dangerous routes.—DNA

UK to take in hundreds of kids from Gaza for medical treatment

LONDON: The UK government is set to announce plans to evacuate hundreds of children from Gaza for medical treatment. Up to 300 children will be given free healthcare on the National Health Service, in a scheme running "in parallel" with the group Project Pure Hope, a source told The Times. So far, just three children from Gaza have been granted visas to travel to the UK for vital medical treatment since the start of the war in October 2023. The three cases followed months of painstaking work by Project Pure Hope to raise money from private donors. In the coming months, children evacuated from Gaza to the UK will be accompanied by a parent or guardian, and siblings where deemed necessary. Sources told The Times that biometric and security checks will be conducted on families by Home Office staff before traveling to the UK. More than 7,000 people have been evacuated from Gaza on medical grounds since the start of the war, 5,000 of them children, according to local health officials. Most have traveled to neighboring Egypt as well as the Gulf. The UN children's charity UNICEF estimates that as many as 50,000 children have been killed or wounded in the conflict. Around 200 children have traveled to Europe for treatment, including to Spain, Italy, Ireland, Norway and Romania. Earlier this week, the third child to travel to the UK from Gaza, 15-year-old Majd Al-Shaghnoobi, was greeted at London's Heathrow Airport, alongside his mother and two siblings, by well-wishers bearing flowers.—APP

Tens of thousands join pro-Palestinian march over Sydney Harbor Bridge

SYDNEY: Tens of thousands of demonstrators braved pouring rain to march across Sydney's iconic Harbor Bridge on Sunday calling for peace and aid deliveries in the war-torn Gaza Strip, where a humanitarian crisis has been worsening. Nearly two years into a war that Palestinian authorities say has killed more than 60,000 people in Gaza, governments and humanitarian organizations say a shortage of food is leading to widespread starvation. Some of those attending the march, called by its organizers the 'March for Humanity', carried pots and pans as symbols of the hunger. "Enough is enough," said Doug, a man in his 60s with a shock of white hair. "When people from all over the world gather together and speak up, then evil can be overcome." Marchers ranged from the elderly to families with young children. Among them was Wikileaks founder Julian Assange. Many carried umbrellas. Some waved Palestinian flags and chanted "We are all Palestinians." New South Wales police said up to 90,000 people had attended, far more than expected. The protest organizer, Palestine Action Group Sydney, said in a Facebook post as many as 300,000 people may have marched. New South Wales police and the state's premier last week tried to block the march from taking place on the bridge, a city landmark and transport thoroughfare, saying the route could cause safety hazards and transport disruption. The state's Supreme Court ruled on Saturday that it could go ahead. Acting Deputy Police Commissioner Peter McKenna said more than a thousand police were deployed and the size of the crowd had led to fears of a crush. "No one was hurt," he told a press conference. "But gee whiz, I wouldn't like try and do this every Sunday at that short notice." Police were also present in Melbourne, where a similar protest march took place. Diplomatic pressure ramped up on Israel in recent weeks. France and Canada have said they will recognize a Palestinian state, and Britain says it will follow suit unless Israel addresses the humanitarian crisis and reaches a ceasefire. Israel has condemned these decisions as rewarding Hamas, the group that governs Gaza and whose attack on Israel in October 2023 began an Israeli offensive that has flattened much of the enclave. Israel has also denied pursuing a policy of starvation and accused Hamas of stealing aid. Australia's center-left Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has said he supports a two-state solution and Israel's denial of aid and killing of civilians "cannot be defended or ignored," but has not recognized Palestine. Therese Curtis, a marcher in her 80s, said she had the human right and privilege of good medical care in Australia. "But the people in Palestine are having their hospitals bombed, they're being denied a basic right of medical care and I'm marching specifically for that," she said.—Agencies

Pakistan Air Force soaring the future wind

IZMI HERLANI

Whenever our history has looked uncertain and our skies have been threatened to darken, Pakistan Air Force hasn't just braced for the storm, it has become the storm. In just four transformative years, PAF has reshaped its destiny, turning the tide of regional power with visionary reforms, fearless innovation and cutting-edge operational might. PAF's unprecedented progress in the past few years is no ordinary chapter in military evolution, it's a revolution in flight led from the front by Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu. At a time when conventional thinking would have called for cautious upgrades, the Air Chief dared to dream bigger. He ignited a movement, a renaissance that turned Pakistan's air arm into a symbol of unmatched resolve, relentless precision and rising indigenous power. Under his command today Pakistan Air Force is not just defending airspace—it's Redefining it.

When ACM Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu took charge of PAF in 2021, the regional balance was tilting dangerously. Rivals were flaunting 4.5+ generation fighters, cyber tools and space-based dominance. But rather than mirroring their playbook, the Air Chief tore it up and rewrote it. With a deep understanding of contemporary warfare's new frontiers, he launched an ambitious blueprint for Full Spectrum Multi-Domain Dominance. This wasn't just a military jargon, it was a rallying cry to unify air, space, cyber and electronic warfare into one lethal responsive force, knitting a Kill Web that

resulted into a humiliating defeat to Indian aggressive designs. Experts believe that ACM Sidhu has pushed the envelope far beyond traditional air combat, bringing in real-time intelligence, networked ISR and agile electronic warfare capabilities into PAF's operational framework at an unprecedented pace. The results? Monumental. PAF hasn't just leveled the playing field rather it has completely turned it in its favor.

On the fateful night of 06–07 May, when Pakistan's sovereignty was brazenly challenged, Pakistan Air Force didn't blink. What unfolded was more than



retaliation, it was a masterclass in modern warfare. From satellites to radars, electronic jamming to precision strikes, PAF unleashed a perfectly synchronized ballet of technology, tactics and tenacity. The response was swift, stunning and surgical. A 7–0 clean sweep against Indian aggression sent shockwaves across the region, rewriting rules of deterrence and reasserting PAF's supremacy in the skies. It was No drama, No grandstanding but just Mission Excellence. While Pakistan's adversary invested in headline-making hardware and flashy narratives, PAF chose a different path, Doctrine over Drama. PAF's every sortie was backed by intelligence, it's every move rehearsed through simulation and it's pilots flew with real-time updates with unmatched situational awareness. This wasn't Combat; it was Choreography. This disciplined approach made all the difference. During the conflict PAF didn't just fly better platforms, it flew smarter missions. With satellite-linked targeting, cyber protection, smart use of UCAVs & Killer Drones backed by electronic warfare dominance, Pakistan Air Force orchestrated the air battle in a theater few even understood.

The J-10C's induction with its PL-15 BVR missiles wasn't just about keeping up with India's Rafales. It was about regaining the edge and doing it on PAF's terms. But the transformation wasn't confined to cockpits. The real leap came in connecting every domain: Air, Space, Cyber, Unmanned Force and Electronic Warfare. With a seamless kill chain, advanced data-sharing and AI-enabled decision support, PAF has proved to be an integrated force of the future today. Indigenous UAVs, electronic war-

fare platforms and network-centric operations have become the backbone of this modernization. It's a full-spectrum shift, not just in how PAF fights but how it thinks.

If there's a cornerstone of this revolution, it's Self-reliance. In a world where technology can be withheld at will, PAF turned inward and upward. Air Chief Marshal Sidhu's push for indigenous innovation wasn't a luxury; it has turned out to be a lifeline. Enter National Aerospace Science and Technology Park, Pakistan's bold leap into the future and one will witness a convergence point for academia, industry and government. NASTP isn't just a lab for innovation; it's evolved into a launchpad for Strategic Autonomy. In pursuance to the vision of the Air Chief, with homegrown technologies, talent development and thousands of high-tech jobs in the pipeline, Pakistan is no longer a buyer; it's on its way to becoming a builder and eventually an exporter of advanced defence solutions. The transformation of Pakistan Air Force under ACM Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu isn't just a military milestone—it's a national resurgence. Where once the future looked uncertain, today it looks unstoppable. From rearming the fleet to reshaping the doctrine, from building indigenous capacity to outclassing adversaries in real combat, PAF now stands as a fortress in the skies and a beacon of resilience on the ground. And above all, it soars as a symbol of Pakistan's ingenuity, strength and unshakable will. So when the world looks up and sees PAF flying, they're not just witnessing its aircraft in motion, they're witnessing a Nation in Ascension.

Baha festival honors women's traditional roles

BAHA: The eighth Al-atawelah Heritage Festival in Baha held a special event celebrating the traditional work of women in the past, the Saudi Press Agency reported on Sunday. The aim was to highlight and celebrate the vital roles women played in the past, reflecting their daily contributions to their families and communities. Live demonstrations showcased key tasks traditionally performed by women, including food preparation, wool spinning, basket and mat weaving, and firewood collection. A group of young girls replicated traditional methods for visitors, offering an immersive glimpse into rural life of the past, the SPA added. The event drew enthusiastic engagement, especially from children and youth, many of whom captured the moments on their phones. It was part of the festival's broader goal to preserve local heritage, strengthen national identity, and deepen connections to the past. —APP

Jordanian army foils drug smuggling attempt

DUBAI: The Jordanian army's Northern Military Zone on Friday thwarted an attempt to smuggle drugs that was loaded a drone. Border soldiers units tracked and monitored the drone, followed the rules of engagement, and dumped its package inside Jordanian territory, state news agency Petra reported, quoting a military source. The confiscated goods were handed over to authorities, the report added. From January until mid-July, Jordanian armed forces have intercepted an average of 51 drones each month, nearly two per day, all carrying narcotics destined for the kingdom. Over 14.1 million narcotic pills, 92.1kg of illegal drugs and more than 10,600 slabs of hashish have been confiscated over the past six months, with a street value worth tens of millions of US dollars.—APP

Vietnam flooding death toll rises to 10

HANOI: The death toll from floods in Vietnam's mountainous north has risen to 10, disaster authorities said Sunday. Heavy rain led to flooding in recent days in the provinces of Son La, Phu Tho, Tuyen Quang and especially Dien Bien, isolating several communities. The agriculture ministry confirmed 10 people were killed and seven others injured in Dien Bien province's Tia Dinh and Xa Dung communes. State media quoted local authorities as saying rain was heavy from Thursday to Saturday, triggering flash floods. On Saturday, local authorities deployed helicopters to access isolated communities and deliver basic necessities. Residents were relocated to safe areas while electricity and telecommunication services were mostly restored by Sunday evening. —APP

Briefs

US tariffs
on Pakistan
higher than
expected

MONITORING DESK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's value-added textile sector has raised alarms over the United States' recent imposition of a 19 per cent tariff on Pakistani exports, warning that it could neutralise any potential gains in market access. The new tariff, added on top of existing duties, is seen as significantly higher than expected, undermining hopes for improved trade relations and market share, particularly in comparison to regional competitors such as Vietnam and Bangladesh. Industry leaders argue that the new tariff structure, combined with rising domestic production costs, makes it increasingly difficult to compete. One exporter noted that the higher tariffs, along with Pakistan's growing production costs, could result in a decline in export volumes. "The deal is neutral at best," the exporter said, pointing out that regional players like Vietnam and Bangladesh, with their lower production costs, remain better positioned. Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) President Jawed Bilwani told Dawn that Pakistan's primary competitors in the US market, Bangladesh and Vietnam, stand to benefit from the existing tariff structure due to their significantly lower production costs.

'Bandits'
kidnap
more than
50 people
in Nigeria

KANO: Gunmen kidnapped more than 50 people in northwest Nigeria in a mass abduction, according to a private conflict monitoring report created for the United Nations and seen by AFP on Sunday. "Armed bandits" targeted the village of Sabon Garin Damri in Zamfara state Friday, the report said, the latest attack in a region where residents in rural hinterlands have long suffered from gangs who kidnap for ransom, loot villages and demand taxes. The report said this was the first "mass capture" incident in the Bakura local government area this year, "the recent trend of mass captures in Zamfara has been concerning," noting "a shift in bandit strategy toward more large-scale attacks in northern Zamfara." A Zamfara police spokesman did not respond to a request for comment. Nigeria's "banditry" crisis originated in conflict over land and water rights between herders and farmers but has morphed into organised crime, with gangs preying on rural communities that have long had little or no government presence. — Agencies

DPM Ishaq Dar calls
on Iranian President

Welcoming the Iranian President, the Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's deep commitment to its historic and brotherly ties with Iran, emphasizing their strong foundations in shared history, common cultural heritage, faith, and mutual respect



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar Sunday called on President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian. Welcoming the Iranian President, the Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's deep commitment to its historic and brotherly ties with Iran, emphasizing their strong foundations in shared history, common cultural heritage, faith, and mutual respect, Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release. President Pezeshkian appreciated Pakistan's support and reaffirmed Iran's resolve to improving bilateral collaboration in various areas of shared interest. He also looked forward to meaningful discussions with Pakistani leaders to further reinforce the political and economic ties between the two friendly nations. Later, talking to media, Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar reiterated that Pakistan stood by its brotherly country Iran and would continue to support it in trade, economic and other fields. He also welcomed the Iranian president's statement, which resonated with the vision of the prime minister to taking the trade volume between the two countries to \$10 billion. "It is very heart-warming and a need of the hour to expand the economic activities by building economic coordination together," he emphasised.

Stetson
Sanders
new Consul
General
in Lahore

DNA

LAHORE: CG Sanders is the 35th U.S. Consul General in Lahore. This is his third diplomatic assignment relating to Pakistan. He served in U.S. Embassy Islamabad's Management Section from 2019-2021 and also worked in Washington coordinating strategic management issues for Pakistan and Central Asian countries. His other prior diplomatic postings include International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Director in Juba, South Sudan and the Senior Civilian Representative at Provincial Reconstruction Team Ghazni, Afghanistan, as well as assignments in Tajikistan, India, and Spain.

US backs Morocco's
autonomy plan as
only Sahara solution

RABAT: In a message addressed to HM King Mohammed VI on the occasion of Throne Day, President of the United States of America Donald J. Trump reiterates the USA's recognition of Moroccan sovereignty over the Sahara and its support for the Moroccan Autonomy Proposal "as the only basis for a just and lasting solution to the dispute". "I also reiterate that the United States recognizes Moroccan sovereignty over Western Sahara and supports Morocco's serious, credible, and realistic Autonomy Proposal as the only basis for a just and lasting solution to the dispute," President Trump stresses in his message to the Sovereign. Extending his congratulations on behalf of the United States of America to HM the King and the Moroccan people, President Trump states that "the United States deeply values our strong and enduring partnership with Morocco. Together, we are advancing shared priorities for peace and security in the region, including by building on the Abraham Accords, combatting terrorism and expanding commercial cooperation that benefits both Americans and Moroccans." "I look forward to continuing our collaboration to promote regional stability, prosperity and peace," the USA President concludes. — Agencies

India wraps up
mass Hindu
pilgrimage in IIOJK

As many as 415,000 pilgrims take part in journey that commenced on July 3

DNA

SRINAGAR: More than 400,000 Hindus took part in a month-long pilgrimage in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), authorities said weeks after the conflict with Pakistan. The pilgrimage began on July 3 and closed officially on August 9, but organisers said that lashing rains had damaged narrow paths, forcing a premature end. Official Vijay Kumar Bidhuri said in a statement late Saturday that 415,000 pilgrims had taken part. Many of the faithful began their trek to the Amarnath ice pillar from near Pahalgam, where gunmen on April 22 killed 26 tourists in the disputed region. New Delhi said the gunmen were backed by Pakistan — claims Islamabad has vehemently rejected while calling for probe in the unfortunate incident — triggering a series of tit-for-tat diplomatic measures that escalated into a four-day conflict. It was the worst standoff by the nuclear-armed nations since 1999, with more than 70 people killed in missile, drone and artillery fire on both sides, before a May 10 ceasefire.

Widespread rains from today

PMD forecasts flash and urban flooding in low-lying areas; monsoon may persist through September

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Widespread heavy rains are forecast to sweep across Pakistan starting Monday, with the country's weather officials warning of flash floods in low-lying areas as another strong monsoon spell sets in. The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) says a fresh weather system will bring showers to much of the northern and central regions between August 4 and 7. Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan are both likely to be hit by this new spell of cloudbursts, the weathermen said. On the other hand, parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where strong winds and thunderstorms are also forecast, brace for the impact of this monsoon system. Punjab, which has so far been worst-hit, and the federal capital, where rains have continued without a let-up, won't be spared either, as these areas are expected to see torrents through the same spell that is now looming large. Further south, Sindh and Balochistan could be lashed by rain on August 6, though the activity there may be more scattered. The Met Office has strongly cautioned that the expected flash floods may lead to overflowing streams, clogged drainage, and flooding in low-lying spots, while local authorities have been asked to prepare accordingly.

NEWS DESK

MOSCOW: Russia's Ministry for Emergency Services lifted a tsunami warning for the Kamchatka Peninsula on Sunday after a 7.0-magnitude earthquake hit the nearby Kuril Islands. The ministry had said earlier on the Telegram messaging app that expected wave heights were low, but warned people to move away from the shore. The Pacific Tsunami Warning System, which gauged the quake at 7.0, said, however, there was no tsunami warning after the quake. The US Geological Survey also said the earthquake was at a magnitude of 7. Overnight, the Krashennnikov Volcano in Kamchatka erupted for the first time in 600 years, Russia's RIA state news agency and scientists reported on Sunday. Both incidents could be connected to the huge earthquake that rocked Russia's Far East last week, which triggered tsunami warnings as far away as French Polynesia and Chile, and was followed by an eruption of Klyuchevskoy, the most active volcano on the Kamchatka Peninsula. The Kuril Islands stretch from the southern tip of the Kamchatka Peninsula. Russian scientists had warned on Wednesday that strong aftershocks were possible in the region in the next several weeks. "This is the first historically confirmed eruption of Krashennnikov Volcano in 600 years," RIA cited Olga Girina, head of the Kamchatka Volcanic Eruption Response Team, as saying. On the Telegram channel of the Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, Girina said that Krashennnikov's last lava effusion took place within 40 years of 1463, and no eruption has been known since. The Kamchatka branch of Russia's ministry for emergency services said that an ash plume rising up to 6,000 meters (3.7 miles) has been recorded following the volcano's eruption. The volcano itself stands at 1,856 metres. "The ash cloud has drifted eastward, toward the Pacific Ocean. There are no populated areas along its path," the ministry said on Telegram. The eruption of the volcano has been assigned an orange aviation code, indicating a heightened risk to aircraft, the ministry said.

Russia cancels
tsunami warning
for Kamchatka

The Kuril Islands stretch from the southern tip of the Kamchatka Peninsula. Russian scientists had warned on Wednesday that strong aftershocks were possible in the region in the next several weeks

nikov's last lava effusion took place within 40 years of 1463, and no eruption has been known since. The Kamchatka branch of Russia's ministry for emergency services said that an ash plume rising up to 6,000 meters (3.7 miles) has been recorded following the volcano's eruption. The volcano itself stands at 1,856 metres. "The ash cloud has drifted eastward, toward the Pacific Ocean. There are no populated areas along its path," the ministry said on Telegram. The eruption of the volcano has been assigned an orange aviation code, indicating a heightened risk to aircraft, the ministry said.

299 dead,
715 injured
in flash floods

ISLAMABAD: A total of 299 people, including 140 children, have lost their lives, and 715 others—among them 239 children—have been injured in flash floods and torrential rains that have swept through vulnerable areas of the country since June 26, according to the latest figures issued by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). A total of 299 people were killed, including 140 children, 102 men, and 57 women, according to the data. Among 715 injured, 239 were children, while 204 women and 272 men sustained injuries. Since June 26, flash floods and torrential rains have caused widespread destruction, damaging a total of 1,676 houses across the affected areas. Of these, 562 homes were completely destroyed, while 1,114 sustained partial damage. The severe weather also led to the loss of 428 livestock, compounding the impact on local communities. NDMA has carried out 223 extensive rescue operations, successfully evacuating 2,880 individuals from flood-hit regions. To support affected communities, the authority has distributed 13,466 relief items in vulnerable areas. These include 1,999 tents, 61 ration bags, 958 blankets, 569 quilts, 613 mattresses, 1,282 kitchen sets, 1,163 food packs, 350 life jackets, 1,122 Hygiene home kits, 2,170 tarpaulins and 146 de-watering pumps along with other essential supplies. Authorities have established 77 medical camps, treating 571 people so far. According to the NDMA, the crisis has affected multiple regions, and joint relief operations are continuing in collaboration with provincial and federal agencies. — Agencies

US officials open
investigation into
former special counsel

Jack Smith led two federal criminal cases against President Donald Trump before resigning from his post earlier this year

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: US federal officials say they have opened an investigation into former special counsel Jack Smith, who led two federal criminal cases against President Donald Trump before resigning from his post earlier this year. The Office of the Special Counsel (OSC) confirmed to the BBC that an investigation into Mr Smith is underway, but declined to add further details. Mr Smith was appointed as special counsel in 2022 to investigate Trump's alleged mishandling of classified documents and his alleged attempt to interfere in the 2020 election. The OSC does not have authority to lay criminal charges against Mr Smith, but it can initiate disciplinary action or refer its findings to the Department of Justice. As an independent federal agency, the OSC's main function is to investigate and address federal rules violations by members of the US civil service.

It operates separately from special counsel's offices under the Department of Justice - like the one formerly headed by Mr Smith - which, unlike the OSC, can lay federal criminal charges under the Department of Justice. US media reported on Saturday that the OSC is investigating Mr Smith for alleged violations of the Hatch Act, a law that prohibits political activities by government officials. It comes after Tom Cotton, a Republican senator from Arkansas, called on the OSC to investigate Mr Smith for "unprecedented interference in the 2024 election." Mr Smith was tapped by former Attorney General Merrick Garland in November 2022 to oversee federal investigations into Trump. Both of the cases he investigated led to criminal charges being laid against the president, who pleaded not guilty and sought to cast the prosecutions as politically motivated. The cases were later closed following Trump's presidential election win in November 2024, as Justice Department regulations forbid the prosecution of a sitting president.

AUGUST 2025

Pakistan's Premier News &
Diplomatic Affairs MagazineFind us on:
www.centreline.com.pk
www.dnanews.com.pl
www.islamabadpost.com.pk

@PostIslamabad/ @Editordnanews

A sister concern of

Islamabad POST

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