



Islamabad POST

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Donal Trump says pharma, Chips tariffs coming very soon

Detailed News On Page-08

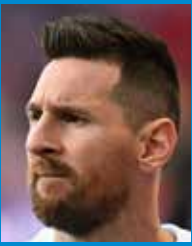
Serena hotels introduces Prestige cards

Detailed News On Page-02



Messi ruled out of Miami Leagues

Detailed News On Page-06



Over BRICS, Russian Oil Links

Trump tightens trade noose on New Delhi

25 per cent more tariff announced; India will take all actions necessary to protect its national interests, says its external affairs ministry

CENTRELINE REPORT

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump on Wednesday issued an executive order imposing an additional 25% tariff on Indian goods citing New Delhi's continued imports of Russian oil, sharply escalating tensions between the two countries after trade talks collapsed. The new measure raises tariffs on some Indian goods to as high as 50% – among the steepest faced by any US trading partner. In an executive order issued from the White House, the US president said: "I find that the government of India is currently directly or indirectly importing Russian Federation oil. "Accordingly, and as consistent with applicable law, articles of India imported into the customs territory of the United States shall be subject to an additional ad valorem rate of duty of 25%." The US president further said he determined it "necessary and appropriate" to impose an additional ad valorem duty on imports of articles of India since it was directly or indirectly importing Russian oil. The order maintains exemptions for items targeted by separate sector-specific duties such as steel and aluminum, and categories that could be hit like pharmaceuticals. The move is expected to hit key Indian export sectors including textiles, footwear, and gems and jewellery and marks the most serious downturn in US-India relations since Trump returned to office in January. It also comes as Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi prepares for his first visit to China in over seven years, suggesting a potential realignment in alliances as

Continued on Page 06

Modi to visit China for first time in 7 years

DNA

NEW DELHI: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit China for the first time in over seven years, a government source said on Wednesday, in a further sign of a diplomatic thaw with Beijing as tensions with the United States rise. Modi will go to China for a summit of the multilateral Shanghai Cooperation Organisation that begins on August 31, a government source, with direct knowledge of the matter, told Reuters. India's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment. His trip will come at a time when India's relationship with the US faces its most serious crisis in years after President Donald Trump imposed the highest tariffs among Asian peers on goods imported from India, and has threatened an unspecified further penalty for New Delhi's purchases of Russian oil. Modi's visit to the Chinese city of Tianjin for the summit of the SCO, a Eurasian political and security grouping that includes Russia, will be his first since June 2018. Subsequently, Sino-Indian ties deteriorated sharply after a military clash along their disputed Himalayan border in 2020.

In Tirah Valley

TTP agrees not to use civilians as human shield

Written in Pashto on the letterhead of TTP and duly stamped by its 'supreme council' (Rahbari Shura), a Bar Qambarkhel elder read out the five-point agreement in front of a gathering of local tribesmen in response to their demand for ending hostilities against ordinary tribesmen and a pullout from Tirah to restore peace

NEWS DESK

KHYBER: The leaders of banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) agreed on Tuesday that they would not use civilians as a human shield in their armed struggle against security forces, nor would they extort money from anyone in the name of Zakat and Ushr in the restive Tirah valley of Khyber tribal district. Written in Pashto on the letterhead of TTP and duly stamped by its 'supreme council' (Rahbari Shura), a Bar Qambarkhel elder read out the five-point agreement in front of a gathering of local tribesmen in response to their demand for ending hostilities against ordinary tribesmen and a pullout from Tirah to restore peace. There was, however, no mention of a pullout from

Continued on Page 06

Three FC personnel martyred in KP's Karak

DNA

PESHAWAR: Three Frontier Constabulary (FC) personnel were martyred when unidentified attackers opened fire on their vehicle in the Garagri area of Karak, an official said. Speaking to Geo News, DPO Karak Shehbaz Elahi said that the FC personnel were targeted while carrying out routine patrol duties. He said the officers were assigned to security duty for a gas company operating in the area.

Continued on Page 06

Talk of Field Marshal becoming president 'nonsense': DG ISPR

"They [India] need to understand that they can be hit everywhere," says Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry has firmly refuted reports claiming Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir has any intention of becoming the country's president. In an interview with the British journal The Economist, the chief military spokesperson termed such reports of the army chief becoming president as "nonsense". This reaffirmation comes after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in July strongly dismissed the rumours suggesting that President Asif Ali Zardari may be asked to step down or COAS has any ambition to assume the presidency. Terming such claims as "mere speculation," the premier assured that there was no truth to the reports circulating in certain sections of the media.

Speaking to The News on the matter, the prime minister categorically stated: "Field Marshal Asim Munir has never expressed any desire to become the president, nor is there any such plan in the offing." He emphasised that the trio of President Zardari, Field Marshal Asim Munir, and he himself share a relationship built on mutual respect and a common goal – the progress and prosperity of Pakistan. PM Shehbaz's clarification came after Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, in a statement shared on his official X handle, denounced what he called a "malicious campaign" targeting President Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the Army Chief. "We are fully aware of who is behind the malicious campaign," said Naqvi, who is considered close to the top military leadership. "I have categorically stated that there has been no discussion, nor does any such idea exist,

about the president being asked to resign or the COAS aspiring to assume the presidency," he added. Meanwhile, DG ISPR, while responding to a question about how Pakistan would react if India repeats any act of aggression, Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry said that Pakistan would begin by striking deeper within India. "We'll start from the east. "They [India] also need to understand that they can be hit everywhere," he added. Earlier in May, Pakistan and India engaged in the military confrontation triggered by an attack in April on tourists in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) that New Delhi blamed on Islamabad, before agreeing to a ceasefire. In response to the Indian aggression, Pakistan's armed forces launched a large-scale retaliatory military action, named "Operation

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting to review progress regarding Jinnah Medical Complex. – DNA

Nasa to build nuclear reactor on Moon by 2030

DNA

WASHINGTON: DUS space agency Nasa will fast-track plans to build a nuclear reactor on the Moon by 2030, according to US media. It is part of US ambitions to build a permanent base for humans to live on the lunar surface, reports BBC. According to Politico, the acting head of Nasa referred to similar plans by China and Russia and said those two countries "could potentially declare a keep-out zone" on the Moon. But questions remain about how realistic the goal and timeframe are, given recent and steep Nasa budget cuts, and some scientists are concerned that the plans are driven by geopolitical goals. Nations including the

Continued on Page 06

US envoy meets Putin for three hours

NEWS DESK

MOSCOW: United States envoy Steve Witkoff held talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin in the Kremlin on Wednesday, two days before the expiry of a deadline set by President Donald Trump for Russia to agree to peace in Ukraine or face new sanctions. Witkoff flew to Moscow on a last-minute mission to seek a breakthrough in the three-and-a-half-year war that began with Russia's full-scale invasion. Russian state TV showed a brief clip of him shaking hands with Putin at the start of their meeting.

Continued on Page 06

Imran Khan release

PTI to hold second phase of protest on August 14: Asad Qaiser

Imran has explicitly ordered Gandapur against any military operation in KP, says former NA speaker

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior leader and former National Assembly speaker Asad Qaiser has said that the party's protest movement's second phase would be held on August 14 – the country's independence day. "The second phase of our protest will be on August 14, then we will go to Sindh," Qaiser said in Swabi late Tuesday night as the party took to the streets to mark the second anniversary of party founder Imran Khan's incarceration and demand his release. A day earlier, police arrested more than 240 opposition party activists, with at least 122 arrested trying to block roads and threatening law and order in Lahore, said Deputy Inspector General of police Faisal Kamran. A PTI supporter is being detained by police officers during a nationwide

Continued on Page 06

PHC stops ECP from taking further action against PTI MPs

High court announces reserved ruling on pleas submitted by NA, Senate opposition leaders

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court (PHC) on Wednesday stopped the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) from taking further action against the disqualified Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawmakers. In a two-page order,

Continued on Page 06

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Financial relief for Gomal varsity as Rs 2b special grant

DERA ISMAIL KHAN :A special grant of Rs 2.581 billion for Gomal University has been approved for the fiscal year 2025-26 on the special directives of Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, marking a major step toward resolving long-standing financial issues of the university. According to a spokesman for Gomal University, the announcement was made during the Senate meeting held at the Higher Education Department's Committee Room, chaired by Provincial Minister for Higher Education and Pro-Vice Chancellor Meena Khan Afridi. The university's Vice Chancellor, Professor Dr. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, along with representatives from the Finance and Establishment departments, the Higher Education Commission (HEC), and other Senate members, attended the meeting. The spokesman said the Vice Chancellor presented a detailed briefing on the FY 2025-26 budget, including the revenue framework, funding sources, and a performance review of the previous fiscal year 2024-25. Highlighting the budget's key components, the spokesman confirmed that the increased regular grant, raised from Rs 900 million to Rs 2.581 billion, would primarily be used to resolve pension-related issues faced by retired university staff, a long-pending concern. The spokesman further stated that the meeting also reviewed the university's solarization initiative, aimed at achieving sustainable energy use and reducing operational costs.—APP

Police nab suspect in landlord's murder

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police, in a swift operation, arrested a suspect within hours for brutally beating and killing his landlord on Wednesday. A police spokesperson told APP that a citizen approached Humak Police Station stating that his father had been mercilessly assaulted by their tenant, resulting in his death. Acting promptly, Humak Police registered FIR No. 719/25 and launched an investigation. Teams from Humak Police Station and the Homicide Unit, using modern technical and scientific methods, traced and arrested the accused, identified as Qaiser Masih, in a short span of time. The suspect had allegedly assaulted and beaten his landlord, Muhammad Jamil, to death. The spokesperson said that a case has been registered and further investigation is underway. SSP Operations Islamabad Muhammad Shoaib Khan stated that the ICT Police are taking indiscriminate action to curb crimes, violence, and murder incidents. "The accused will face strict legal action, be prosecuted on solid evidence, and brought to justice," he added.—APP

Serena Hotels launches global prestige club programme

Speaking on the occasion, Aziz Boolani, CEO of Serena Hotels, stated, "Through the Prestige Club, we are bringing exceptional benefits to our members in recognition of their unwavering support at all Serena Hotels



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels officially launched its global loyalty programme, Prestige Club, at a special event hosted at Islamabad Serena Hotel and simultaneously across all Serena properties worldwide. The event was attended by ambassadors, government officials, corporate sector representatives, and

esteemed Prestige Club members, marking a key milestone in the brand's journey across eight countries and 33 destinations. The launch introduced the enhanced Prestige Club Plus programme, offering exclusive benefits on dining, Maisha Spa & Health Club, and a range of hotel services, further enriching the guest experience across the Serena

portfolio. Guests explored an interactive Experience Zone featuring a live demonstration of the new Prestige Club mobile app, designed to enable access to rewards, redemptions, reservations, and other services. Speaking on the occasion, Aziz Boolani, CEO of Serena Hotels, stated, "Through the Prestige Club, we are bringing exceptional benefits to our members in

recognition of their unwavering support at all Serena Hotels. This launch is not just a loyalty programme; it is a commitment to elevating every guest experience across our hotels." The celebration reaffirmed Serena Hotels' dedication to innovation, hospitality excellence, and building deeper relationships with its valued guests worldwide.

Show-cause notices to be issued for poor anti dengue efforts

RAWALPINDI: The Deputy Commissioner Dr. Hassan Waqar Cheema, has directed the issuance of show-cause notices to Deputy District Health Officers (DDHOs) for negligence in sweeping activities in certain areas. The decision came in response to a report reflecting insufficient actions regarding sweeping activities.

He once again directed that sweeping, fogging, and dengue surveillance activities be ensured regularly and consistently across all union councils in the city to prevent the breeding of dengue mosquitoes. He announced that, starting tomorrow, the District Emergency Response Committee will hold nightly meetings in the committee room to review anti-dengue measures daily. These instructions were issued while presiding over the daily anti-dengue meeting at his office.

During the meeting, Dr. Sajjad Ahmed, Coordinator of the District Emergency Response Committee, provided a detailed briefing on the ongoing anti-dengue efforts across the district. The Deputy Commissioner thoroughly reviewed all measures and issued immediate corrective orders for areas where shortcomings were identified. He further instructed all Assistant Commissioners to take action against officers violating Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and, if necessary, seal their offices.—APP

Governor vows to promote KP investment-friendly image

The event was attended by Iranian Consul General Ali Banafshehah, American Consul General Shante Moore, and staff members from both consulates

HATTAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, visited Silver Lake Foods in Hattar Industrial Estate on Wednesday, where he inspected various industrial units and held meetings with local industrialists. Addressing a ceremony during the visit, the governor emphasized the need to improve the province's image to attract investment. "Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has long been associated with terrorism, discouraging investors from exploring opportunities here. I am committed to promoting a soft image of the province to encourage investment and generate employment for the people," he said. He pointed out that costly energy and unbalanced tax policies have become significant hurdles in the path of industrial development. "I will represent your concerns at every forum. My goal is to ensure that, like Faisalabad and Lahore, industrialists in Haripur also receive all necessary basic facilities. Industrial growth leads to national progress," he added. The governor also acknowledged the challenges faced by the agriculture sector and stressed the need to give farmers the same level of attention and support as given to industrialists. Group Chairman of Silver Lake Foods, Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum, while speaking at the event, revealed that the company recorded exports worth seven billion rupees last year and now employs thousands of workers across its nationwide branches. "With government support, the industrial sector can contribute significantly to the country's progress. What we need is a favorable environment, low-cost energy, and business-friendly policies," he stated. Earlier, Managing Director of Silver Lake Foods, Qadir Mehmood, briefed the governor on key issues related to ministries, the Workers Welfare Board, vocational training, and healthcare facilities. To mark the occasion, Governor Faisal Karim Kundi was presented with a traditional turban by Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum, along with commemorative shields. Earlier, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi formally launched the Monsoon Tree Plantation Campaign 2025 at the Governor House on Wednesday. The event was attended by Iranian Consul General Ali Banafshehah, American Consul General Shante Moore, and staff members from both consulates. Governor Faisal Karim Kundi inaugurated the campaign by planting a sapling in the lawn of the Governor House.—DNA

New case of polio infection confirmed in KP

PESHAWAR: The Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication at the National Institute of Health (NIH) has confirmed a new case of polio from District Lakki Marwat in South Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The case involves a 5-month-old child from Union Council Sulemankhel. This is the 12th polio case reported from the KP this year, bringing the total number of polio cases in Pakistan in 2025 to 19. The continued detection of polio cases highlights the ongoing threat to children, especially in areas with low vaccine acceptance. It is crucial for communities to understand that repeated vaccination is essential to protect every child against poliovirus. Multiple doses are needed to build and maintain immunity. Every unvaccinated child remains at risk and may contribute to further transmission of the virus. Over the past year, the Pakistan PEI has achieved significant progress. Since September 2024, six high-quality immunization campaigns, including four nationwide campaigns, have successfully reached over 45 million children each. The National Emergency Operations Centre is planning to conduct two nationwide and one sub-national campaign between September and December 2025, besides targeted campaigns

in selected high-risk districts. These sustained efforts are essential to interrupt poliovirus transmission and protect children across the country. The next polio vaccination campaign in Pakistan will begin on 1st September, with a special focus on high-risk and priority areas, including South Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The campaign aims to vaccinate all children under the age of five, quickly boosting their immunity and closing any gaps. Parents and caregivers are strongly encouraged to ensure their children receive polio drops during this important campaign to help protect them from lifelong paralysis. Polio eradication is a collective responsibility that requires unified efforts at all levels. While dedicated frontline polio workers continue to deliver life-saving vaccines, it is equally critical for parents and caregivers to ensure their children receive every dose of the polio vaccine. Communities must play an active role by supporting vaccination efforts, dispelling misinformation, and encouraging others to protect their children through timely immunization.—DNA

Khattak directs for completion of RRR project timely

RAWALPINDI: Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Engineer Aamir Khattak has asked the Chairman National Highway Authority to convene a meeting for approval of the revised design of the Rawalpindi Ring Road (RRR) and issue a No Objection Certificate (NOC) promptly. He said this during a visit to review the pace of work at RRR here on Wednesday. The Commissioner, who is also the Project Director of the RRR, reviewed the overall progress of the project and directed the officials to speed up the work to achieve the target timely. He stressed the need for planning in view of the weather conditions and said that a strategy should be made in such a way that the monsoon rains do not affect

the pace of work. Aamir directed the officials to start the process of acquiring land at Thallian Interchange immediately and kick off the construction of the bridge at Chakri Interchange. Slope cutting and development work must be completed at the earliest, where the sub-base work has not been started. He further directed to amplify progress on the railway bridge and Banth Interchange. On the occasion, the officials briefed the Commissioner that around 70 per cent work on the project has been finished, while back-filling work was in progress on the drains, rivers and subway from Thallian to Banth Interchange. In addition, the work of superstructure (deck launching) of bridges was also being

resumed. The Commissioner directed that an activity and component-wise daily progress report be prepared on the project. He further said that the project should be divided into four sections: Thallian to Chakri, Chakri to Khasala, Khasala to Chak Belly and Chak Belly to Banth, and a detailed schedule of remaining activities should be prepared for each section. In addition, the roads for the construction structures are in poor condition; they should be repaired immediately. Aamir directed the concerned to complete the fencing around the RRR well in time. He directed Frontier Works Organisation to review the performance of subcontractors and replace ineffective contractors.—APP

Sindh CM chairs Steering Committee meeting for PIMEC

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Wednesday chaired a high-level meeting of the Steering Committee for the Pakistan International Maritime Expo and Conference (PIMEC) 2025. The third edition of PIMEC will be held from November 3 to 6, 2025, at the Karachi Expo Center. A large number of international delegates from various countries are expected to participate, according to a briefing during the meeting. Chief Minister emphasized that the success of PIMEC 2025 relies on the collaboration of the government, business community, and the public. He directed all relevant provincial departments to become fully active in preparation for the event. Instructions were issued to Karachi Municipal Corporation (KMC), Water Board and Traffic Police for effective measures. He assigned specific tasks to improve traffic flow, sanitation, and infrastructure ahead of the event. Addressing the Steering Committee meeting, Chief Minister said our goal is to establish Pakistan as a modern, influential, and leading maritime nation. "We stand united with a spirit of national cohesion, shared commitment, and strong determination, he added." He highlighted that PIMEC aligns with Pakistan's goals for economic growth, national se-

curity, and global engagement, and will play a key role in promoting the vision of a Blue Economy. "The Sindh government has always been at the forefront in promoting the Blue Economy," said, adding that we are taking practical steps to unlock its full potential. Pakistan's maritime sector is a valuable yet underutilized asset with vast potential for development. The Chief Minister announced the launch of the Shahrah-e-Bhutto project, which will connect Karachi Port to Jam Sadiq Bridge, aiming to revolutionize cargo and trade routes in Karachi. "Shahrah-e-Bhutto is not just a road; it represents the Sindh government's commitment to the maritime economy," he remarked. CM Shah recalled the success of PIMEC 2023, calling it a result of inter-institutional coordination, and vowed to make the 2025 edition even more impactful and globally recognized. "PIMEC 2025 will enhance Pakistan's stature in the global maritime community. Maritime progress depends on unity and collective efforts," he stated. He praised the leadership and professionalism of the Pakistan Navy, noting that development of the maritime sector will generate employment, trade, and economic opportunities. "With the

support of federal and provincial institutions, Pakistan's maritime potential will be fully realized," he added. "We will establish Pakistan as a modern, peaceful, and pivotal maritime nation." The Chief Minister expressed gratitude to all organizations involved for their cooperation and partnership and urged for innovation, global collaboration, and unity to ensure a secure and prosperous maritime future for Pakistan. Commander Karachi Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi acknowledged the Sindh Chief Minister's continued and strong support for the success of the Maritime Expo. He stated that PIMEC is a vital platform for the development of the Blue Economy, and appreciated the collaboration between the Navy and the Sindh government. The meeting was attended by provincial ministers Sharjeel Inam Memon, Dr. Azra Pechuho, Saeed Ghani, Syed Zulfiqar Shah, Jam Ikram Dharejo, Chief Secretary Asif Haider Shah, Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab, Commander Karachi Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi, along with senior officials of the Pakistan Navy and the Sindh government.—DNA

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

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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

Kashmir statehood restoration to prove India’s failure

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: While the restoration of occupied Jammu and Kashmir’s statehood remains uncertain, any such development would signal the erosion of India’s unilateral actions since August 5, 2019. With India’s internal unrest, mounting international scrutiny, and evolving global power dynamics, a new trajectory has emerged. India may attempt to reframe the narrative and capitalize on emerging scenarios. However, Pakistan must build on this trajectory, grounded in optimism, strategic clarity, and the unwavering pursuit of the Kashmiri people’s right to self-determination.

This was discussed during a session titled “Restoring Statehood of IOJ&K: A Step Forward or Political Mirage?” The meeting of the IPS’ Working Group on Kashmir (WGK) was addressed by Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice-chairman IPS, Dr. Sheikh Waleed Rasool, director general Institute of Multi-Track Dialogue, Development and Diplomatic Studies, Farzana Yaqoob, secretary general WGK, Dr Khurshid Khan, IPS associate, Ambassador (r) Nasarullah Khan, Brig. (r) Raja Shozeb Majeed, international law expert, and Brig. (r) Said Nazir, IPS associate and security analyst. The keynote speaker, Dr Waleed Rasool, noted that since 1947, the struggle of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIO-J&K) has been one of de facto versus de jure control. Once the territory came under Indian military control, it enabled India to engage in both legal and operational manipulation. The abrogation of Kashmir’s special status constituted a violation of multiple legal frameworks, including the Indian Independence Act, UNSC resolutions, bilateral agreements, and constitutional guarantees under Article 370. He emphasized the importance of Pakistan highlighting the Kashmir issue by engaging stakeholders at multiple levels. Equally

important is the need to raise awareness about the legal status of Kashmir at international political, humanitarian, and legal forums. Building on this legal and historical perspective, Brig (r) Khurshid Khan said India has been committing widespread human rights violations, but these atrocities have largely gone under-reported. However, the May conflict between Pakistan and India has once again brought the Kashmir issue to the international stage, giving rise to new geo-strategic realities. Global powers now increasingly recognize that the Indo-Pakistan conflict poses a serious threat to international peace. He noted that Pakistan must actively leverage its recently adopted UNSC resolution on the peaceful settlement of disputes to build diplomatic momentum. Brig (r) Shozeb, while extending the strategic dimension, argued that Palestine serves as a test case, and India may attempt to replicate a similar model in Kashmir. However, he noted that India’s professed hegemony was severely shaken after the May standoff. This evolving scenario, he asserted, presents Pakistan with a strategic opportunity to shape the broader South Asian context in its favor. He recom-

mended pursuing an advisory opinion from the ICJ on the Kashmir issue, leveraging the shift in international public opinion, engaging international think tanks, and establishing victim documentation centers to showcase testimonies via documentaries to expose Indian atrocities. Adding a defense perspective, Brig (r) Said Nazir observed that Pakistan has effectively re-established its deterrence in response to unwarranted Indian aggression. He cautioned that if India perceives this as the new normal, it would come at a significant cost for New Delhi.

Power Division opposes KE’s tariff adjustment decision

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Power Division Abdul Rahman Khan Kanju on Wednesday informed the National Assembly that the Power Division had already filed a review petition with the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) against the recent Karachi Electric tariff adjustment decision. Responding to various questions raised in the National Assembly, the minister said the ministry was committed to pursuing the matter for an early decision, adding that the Power Division categorically opposed the increase in the tariff. “If this amount accumulates over the coming years, it could run into hundreds of billions of rupees,” he said, and added that the ministry would oppose the adjustment at every stage. Kanju expressed the hope that NEPRA would deliver justice in the matter, reaffirming that the Power Division would continue to safeguard the public interest in electricity tariff decisions.—APP

Chinese hydropower wisdom to fuel Kurram Tangi Dam development

ISLAMABAD: A hydropower technology and management training course for water conservancy professionals from Pakistan has been concluded at Shandong Water Conservancy Vocational College (SDWCVC). China’s experience and wisdom on engineering operation management, water conservancy technology application, and innovative practices were shared with Pakistan for application in the Kurram Tangi Dam during the 28-day training. China Economic Net reported on Wednesday. Aligned with the actual needs of Pakistan’s hydropower development, the training covered five core modules: mechanical and electrical equipment, electrical and automation systems, hydraulic structures and design, dam operation safety management, and on-site practice of hydropower stations. Additionally, the trainees visited seven hydropower project sites including the Changgou Pumping Station on the Shandong Main Line of the South-to-North Water Diversion Project, as well as three hydropower enterprises such as Shandong Yimeng Pumped Storage Co., Ltd.—APP

Markets flooded with colours of patriotism

ISLAMABAD: As the 14th August approaches, markets across the country are flooded with the colours of patriotism, particularly green and white, reflecting the national flag. Citizens enthusiastically purchase flags, bunting, clothing, and various other accessories adorned with green and white. The federal capital has donned the colours of patriotism, as every street corner, market, and landmark begins to echo the spirit of August 14. From Aabpara Market’s tightly packed stalls to the vibrant lanes of F-10 Markaz, vendors have set up shop under canopies of green and white bunting. National flags of every size flutter in the monsoon breeze, while counters brim with patriotic badges, caps, balloons, and shirts emblazoned with the crescent and star. Shopkeepers say demand has surged over the past few days, with families and schoolchildren leading the charge to stock up on Independence Day accessories. “We start preparing a month in advance,” said Muhammad Saleem, a flag seller in Aabpara Market. “But this last week is when business really picks up—people want the biggest flags, the brightest lights, and the loudest music for August 14.” The preparations are not limited to the markets only. Along major roads like Constitution Avenue, Srinagar Highway, labourers can be seen hoisting giant flags atop government buildings, their silhouettes framed against a sky heavy with August clouds. Electricians work late into the evening, stringing up thousands of fairy lights on key landmarks including the Pakistan Monument, Faisal Mosque, D-Chowk, and the Parliament House. On the night of August 13, these illuminations will transform the capital into a glittering panorama of national pride. For many residents, the excitement is rooted in tradition. “Every year, we come here to buy flags for our rooftop and dresses for the children,” said Ahmed Raza, a father of three, while shopping at Aabpara Market. “This week is all about preparing for the big day—it brings the whole family together.” This year’s Independence Day holds special significance in light of the recent success of Operation Bunyan ul Marsoos, when Armed Forces defeated the enemy’s nefarious designs and proved that Pakistan’s defense was invisible. Citizens and officials alike say the operation’s achievements have revived a sense of unity and pride that recalls the earliest days of freedom. “Seventy-eight years later, in 2025, we are witnessing the same spirit that was seen in 1947,” said Fatima Malik, a university student in Super Market. “The peace we enjoy today has been hard-earned, and that makes our celebrations even more meaningful.” The Capital Development Authority, in collaboration with cultural and educational institutions, has lined up a full week of activities including flag-hoisting ceremonies, folk dance performances, art exhibitions, and special shows narrating the country’s history and sacrifices since 1947. School assemblies and community parades are also planned, ensuring participation from citizens of all ages.—DNA

Education ministry Launches PSL Training for Families of the Deaf

ISLAMABAD The National Institute of Special Education (NISE) hosted a two-day training course, “Orientation to Basics of Pakistan Sign Language (PSL): Empowering Families for Inclusive Communication,” on August 4-5, 2025, at its premises in Islamabad. This initiative aimed to foster inclusive communication for Deaf and hearing-impaired children by equipping families, educators, and professionals with foundational PSL skills. Directed by Capt. (R) Asif Iqbal Asif, Director General (Special Education), and aligned with the roadmap for revamping the Directorate General of Special Education approved by Federal Secretary, M/oPE&PT, Mr. Nadeem Mahbub, the program engaged 60 family members and 12 new inductees from the National Special Education Centre (HIC). Expert-led sessions covered PSL basics, daily communication vocabulary, and technology integration in education for deaf students. Participants practiced practical signing through interactive partner drills, group exercises, and role-plays, enabling effective communication with deaf family members and students. The concluding session featured certificate distribution and a group photo, graced by Mrs. Asna Aziz, Director (Admin), Master Trainer PSL Ms. Nasreen Agahi, Deaf community leaders Mr. Zahid Majeed and Mrs. Rehana Zahid, Country Manager, DeafTawk Ms. Resham Arif, and Officer Incharge, NISE Mrs. Naureen Altaf.

Body formed for twin cities water project: Talal

“We are committed to resolving this crisis during our term in office,” he said

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Interior, Talal Chaudhry said that Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif has constituted a high-level committee, headed by the Interior Minister, to oversee a mega water supply project for Rawalpindi and Islamabad. Speaking in the National Assembly on Wednesday, in response to a call-attention notice by Anjum Aqeel Khan regarding the dangerously low water table in the capital, he explained that the underground water level in Islamabad, which stood at 10 metres in 1960, has now dropped to over 120 metres. He attributed this alarming decline to rapid population growth and urban expansion. The capital requires approximately 120 million gallons of water daily, but the Capital Development Authority (CDA) is currently supplying only 60

million gallons—meeting 90% of urban and just 15-20% of rural water needs. He said a mega water project is essential to bridge this gap adding that a feasibility study is already underway. He further informed the house that, in a bid to raise groundwater levels, CDA has revised its building by-laws, making rainwater harvesting mandatory for all new residential and commercial constructions. Soak wells are being installed to ensure that rainwater seeps into the ground, and the practice of groundwater extraction through boring is being actively discouraged. To address the shortfall, treated water from Sangiani and water tankers from Khanpur are being used. He revealed that residents of a 10-marla house pay Rs192 per month for water, while those living in one-kanal houses are

charged Rs280—rates that cover only half the actual cost of supply. Highlighting the situation in rural areas, he said the government has launched 44 water supply schemes worth billions of rupees, but only 12 are currently operational. The remaining projects are hindered by issues such as faulty motors or unpaid electricity bills. Meanwhile, Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry noted that water supply remains limited to urban parts of Islamabad, leaving over 1.2 million people in rural areas without regular access. He said the government is working to address this imbalance, with plans underway for the construction of small dams in Shahdara, Chirah, and parts of Rawalpindi. “We are committed to resolving this crisis during our term in office,” he said.

CJP chairs meeting to further Bar, LJCP coordination

ISLAMABAD: Continuing his nationwide initiative to strengthen institutional linkages between Bar Associations and the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan (LJCP), Justice Yahya Afridi, Chief Justice of Pakistan and Chairman, LJCP, chaired a high-level strategic meeting on Wednesday at the Supreme Court Branch Registry, Karachi. The meeting focused on enhancing coordination between the legal fraternity and justice sector institutions to improve service delivery and promote participatory law and policy reforms. Welcoming the participants, the Chief Justice of Pakistan acknowledged the vital role of the Bar in ensuring access to justice and pointed out the existing coordination gap between Bar Associations and the LJCP in advancing justice sector reforms. He reaffirmed the Commission’s decision to post senior-level representatives in every province, stationed at the High Courts, to serve as focal points for liaison with district bar associations. These officers will raise awareness of ongoing initiatives, identify local priority needs, and supervise the implementation of grassroots justice sector projects. According to a press note released here, the Chief Justice urged Bar leaders to sensitize their members about these initiatives and to proactively submit proposals for infrastructure and capacity-building projects through the respective District Development Committees headed by District and Sessions Judges. —APP

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Briefs

Pakistan ramps up fight against climate change

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Climate Change on Wednesday stated that Pakistan is stepping up its fight against the devastating effects of climate change through initiatives like the National Adaptation Plan and the Recharge Pakistan programme. Addressing the National Assembly in response to a question from MP Shahida Rehmani, Dr Shezra Mansab Ali underscored the severe challenges posed by climate change, which has made Pakistan one of the world's most vulnerable nations. "We are witnessing its impacts through recent heavy rains and earthquakes," she said. "To counter this, we have developed the National Adaptation Plan, under which several key programmes are being implemented." Among these is Recharge Pakistan, a major initiative aimed at conserving and storing water resources. Partnering with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the programme employs nature-based solutions to manage rainwater and floodwater. We are diverting this water to natural lakes, ensuring it is stored and used effectively rather than wasted," she explained. The initiative also includes the National Capital Land Water project, designed to bolster water management.

SZABIST students laud Safe City

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police's Safe City Project on Wednesday welcomed a delegation of students from the Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science and Technology (SZABIST) as part of its 'Friend of Police' initiative. A police spokesperson told APP that Director General (DG) Safe City Islamabad and Software Engineer Asmat Ullah received the students and briefed them on the project's operational framework and benefits. The delegation visited the Command and Control Center, Data Hub Unit, modern technology-equipped cameras, and the Police Operations Center Hall, where they were informed about the procedures and advantages of these systems. He said the students were apprised that Safe City Islamabad plays a vital role in multiple departments, including the Police Operations Center, Emergency Control Center, Data Hub Unit, Dispatch Control Center, E-Challan System, and the "Pucar-15" helpline. The spokesperson said the delegation was also briefed on the functionality and effectiveness of Safe City's surveillance cameras, which help prevent crimes, ensure public safety, and protect lives and property. Face recognition cameras installed at the city's entry and exit points are aiding in identifying suspicious elements, he added. The students appreciated the technical advancements of the Islamabad Police and expressed gratitude to DG Safe City Islamabad. —APP

Haroon Akhtar invited to attend World Expo in Japan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Industries and Production, Mr. Haroon Akhtar Khan, was called on by the Japanese Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Akamatsu Shuichi, today in Islamabad. During the meeting, Ambassador Shuichi formally invited SAPM Haroon Akhtar Khan to visit Japan and attend the World Expo 2025 in Osaka, where Mr. Khan will represent Pakistan at the Pakistani Pavilion and promote the country's cultural heritage. SAPM Haroon Akhtar Khan will also meet key Japanese government officials, including the Foreign Minister of Japan, during his upcoming visit. Speaking on the occasion, he stated that this visit would mark a significant milestone in strengthening bilateral relations between Pakistan and Japan. "I have visited Japan previously and was deeply impressed by the work ethic and technological advancement of the Japanese people," he said. "Japanese products have always been considered reliable due to their exceptional quality."

Highlighting the government's broader vision, SAPM Haroon Akhtar Khan emphasized: "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, we are introducing a



new Industrial Policy and New Energy Vehicle Policy aimed at attracting investment and enhancing business facilitation. This is the right time for Japanese investors to ex-

plore opportunities in Pakistan." He further added that Pakistan is committed to expanding trade and investment ties with Japan and sees this partner-

ship as mutually beneficial for long-term economic growth. SAPM Haroon Akhtar Khan is scheduled to depart for Japan on August 12, 2025, for his official visit.

Pak-China breakthrough in agri research wins praise

PU786 isn't just a rice seed—it's a seed of prosperity, innovation, and food sovereignty. From 1,600 kg to 5,600 kg per acre—that's a game changer for Pakistani agriculture," said a local farmer leader following the announcement

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a breakthrough gaining international attention, scientists from Pakistan and China have unveiled a new hybrid rice seed—PU786—that has the potential to triple per-acre yields. The innovation is set to revolutionize Pakistan's agricultural sector and significantly improve food security, Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday. Developed jointly by Punjab University (PU) and China's Wuhan University, PU786 increases yields from approximately 1,600 kg to 5,600 kg per acre. What makes it especial-

ly promising is its resistance to heat, pests, and bacterial diseases—critical traits for farmers facing climate-related challenges in Pakistan. "PU786 isn't just a rice seed—it's a seed of prosperity, innovation, and food sovereignty. From 1,600 kg to 5,600 kg per acre—that's a game changer for Pakistani agriculture," said a local farmer leader following the announcement. PU786 is Pakistan's first-ever Honglian-type hybrid rice, the result of over a decade of collaborative research and field trials conducted across all four provinces. The initiative was led by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashfaq, Chair of PU's Department of

Plant Breeding and Genetics, in partnership with Dr. Muhammad Ali Klasra and Chinese experts including Prof. Renshan Zhu, Dr. Xianting Wu, and Mr. Xu from Wuhan University. After rigorous testing and technical evaluations, the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) officially approved PU786 for nationwide use. "This is a big deal," wrote one agricultural expert on social media. "A seed like PU786 that boosts yields and withstands heat and pests? That's a total game-changer for farmers in Pakistan. Big props to the teams at Punjab and Wuhan. That's years of hard work paying off." Another

citizen posted, "Thank you, China, for supporting Pakistan—not just in defense, but in development and food security too!" According to Dr. Ashfaq, PU786 does more than increase yields—it also opens doors for scientific collaboration, research exchange, and agricultural exports. "This breakthrough isn't just about rice. It's about research-driven progress that benefits farmers, strengthens our economy, and enhances food security for millions," he said. In addition to boosting crop production, the new seed is expected to improve local nutrition and strengthen Pakistan's position in the global rice market, especially

in Asia. "Rice is fundamental in Asia. Every country should treat it as a priority—it's one of our most essential needs," noted a policy analyst. While the innovation has been widely praised for its productivity and climate resilience, experts say future efforts should focus on combining yield gains with quality. Pakistani rice—especially Basmati—is globally prized for its aroma, grain length, and flavor. Analysts stress that ongoing research should aim to integrate these premium traits into high-yield hybrids like PU786 to help Pakistan maintain its competitive edge and meet growing global demand for high-quality rice.

CDA to roll out cashless economy system across all deptts

"This system will not only promote transparency but also make public service delivery faster, easier, and more efficient," the spokesperson quoted Chairman Randhawa as saying, emphasizing that the goal is to transform Islamabad from a 'safe city' into a fully 'smart capital city'

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA), in a significant move toward digital transformation, has announced the implementation of a cashless economy system across its departments. The decision was made during a meeting chaired by CDA Chairman and Chief Commissioner Islamabad Muhammad Ali Randhawa, CDA spokesperson told APP on Wednesday. He said the initiative will enable citizens to make payments for CDA services—such as property tax, water charges, land transfers, and parking fees—via QR codes and other digital platforms. "This system will not only promote transparency but also make public service delivery faster, easier, and more efficient," the spokesperson quoted Chairman Randhawa as saying, emphasizing that the goal is to transform Islamabad from a 'safe city' into a fully 'smart capital city.'

Under the new system, QR code-based pay-

ments will be introduced at CDA offices and facilitation centers. Plans were also underway to launch online portals and mobile applications in partnership with local banks. The CDA, he said would initiate staff training and public awareness campaigns to ensure a smooth transition. He said CDA chief further directed the full activation of the One-Window Facilitation Center to integrate it with the cashless system. "We want to offer citizens the best modern and digital facilities," he stated, expressing optimism that all departments will take immediate action to implement the change. The spokesperson noted that the CDA's push toward a cashless economy represents a broader effort by the federal government to modernize governance and public services through digital innovation. If successfully implemented, it could serve as a model for other government institutions in Pakistan, he maintained.—DNA

China, Pakistan ink MoU to establish Global South Research Center

ISLAMABAD: China's Soochow University Think Tank and Pakistan's Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to jointly establish a Global South Research Center. It aimed at strengthening academic and policy collaboration between China and Pakistan, China Economic Net reported. The center will also serve as a platform for research, academic exchange and policy dialogue on critical issues facing the Global South, with a focus on evidence-based policy analysis, practical recommendations and the application of research findings to support sustainable development. The partnership aims to enhance both institutions' contributions to national strategies and international development initiatives. Under the agreement, the two sides will promote knowledge sharing, innovative research and expanded international cooperation. They will also work to advance policy research with real-world impact and foster academic and technological exchanges between China and Pakistan. Key areas of collaboration include joint research projects, high-level academic exchanges, policy reports and data integration. The initiative reflects a shared commitment to address global challenges through enhanced research cooperation and cross-border dialogue.—DNA

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Bahria town properties to be auctioned today

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday dismissed petitions filed against the planned auction of five Bahria Town properties in Rawalpindi and one in Islamabad, enabling the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) to proceed with the sale, scheduled for Aug 7

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday dismissed petitions filed against the planned auction of five Bahria Town properties in Rawalpindi and one in Islamabad, enabling the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) to proceed with the sale, scheduled for Aug 7. Shortly after the issuance of a short order by the division bench comprising Chief Justice Sardar Mohammad Sarfraz Dogar and Justice Muhammad Asif, NAB Rawalpindi announced fresh auction of six properties of Bahria Town at NAB office in Islamabad's Sector G-6/1.

The properties are being auctioned after Malik Riaz was declared an absconder in the £190 million Al-Qadir Trust case. Reacting to the development, Bahria Town Chairman Malik Riaz Hussain said they were willing to participate in any arbitration and implement its decision, if they are granted a chance to "return to serious dialogue and a dignified solution". In a post on his official X account, he claimed government agencies had been exerting unprecedented pressure over the past few months, which included the arrest of dozens of staff members,

the freezing of the company's bank accounts, seizure of vehicles and other stringent measures, which had paralysed all of the Bahria Town's operations across the country. Controversial real estate tycoon claims crackdown has 'paralysed' housing society's operations "The situation has reached a point where we are being forced to completely shut down all Bahria Town activities across Pakistan," said the statement attributed to Malik Riaz. "Trillions of rupees of investment by millions of Pakistanis in Bahria Town from Karachi to

Lahore and Islamabad have been frozen," he claimed. Bahria Town in court, senior lawyer Farooq H. Naik earlier argued that NAB's auction notice was "illegal, deceptive, and issued with mala fide intent". He said the properties were being wrongfully targeted as Bahria Town was not a party to a plea bargain agreement. He said Bahria Town was also not named as an accused in any reference related to the £190 million case. He warned that the auction would set a dangerous precedent, undermining due process and investor confidence. —Agencies

Two news bills introduced, two ordinances laid in NA

ISLAMABAD: As many as two new bills including the Pakistan Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2025 and the Motor Vehicles Industry Development Bill, 2025 were introduced in the National Assembly on Wednesday.

Minister of State for Interior and Narcotics Control Tala Chaudhry and National Food Security & Research Rana Tanveer Hussain introduced the bills in the National Assembly respectively.

Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah referred both the bills to the concerned standing committees for detailed deliberation. Meanwhile, two ordinances included the Capital Development Authority (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025 (Ordinance No. III of 2025) and the National Agri-trade and Food Safety Authority Ordinance, 2025 (Ordinance No. VI of 2025) were laid before the National Assembly as required by clause (2) of Article 89 of the Constitution.

The ordinances were laid by State Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control Tala Chaudhry and National Food Security & Research Rana Tanveer Hussain in the House respectively.

Moreover, as many as four reports of various standing committees including Interior and Narcotics Control and Cabinet Secretariat were presented in the House. Chairman Standing Committee on Interior and Narcotics Control Raja Khurram Shahzad presented the report of the Standing Committee on the bill further to amend the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860 [The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2024] (Ordinance No. VI of 2023) in the House. Similarly, Chairman Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat Ibrar Ahmad presented three reports of the committee including the Asaan Karobar Bill, 2025, the National School of Public Policy (Amendment) Bill, 2025 and the bill further to amend the Civil Servants Act, 1973 [The Civil Servants (Amendment) Bill, 2025] in the House. —APP

Negligence and fee hike render Naseer Bunda Hockey Ground practically useless

THE once-vibrant Naseer Bunda Hockey Ground in Islamabad lies in a state of disrepair, a stark reminder of the Pakistan Sports Board's (PSB) negligence and poor administrative decisions. A place that once echoed with the rhythm of hockey sticks and the dreams of young athletes now wears a deserted look. The reasons are many, but the most glaring is the sharp increase in ground usage fees that has effectively priced out local clubs and athletes. In recent months, the PSB raised the ground usage fee by nearly 300 percent, a move that has shocked and disappointed the local hockey community. What was once an affordable space for budding players and clubs to train has now become inaccessible to most due to the exorbitant charges. With no teams or clubs able to afford the revised fee, the ground sees little to no activity—leading to rapid wear and tear of the turf, unmaintained facilities, and a visible decline in its overall condition. Reports suggest that washrooms are in a filthy condition, water pumps are out of order, and general maintenance is non-existent. The very turf that was supposed to be preserved through better financial planning is now deteriorating faster due to non-usage and lack of upkeep. Ironically, the PSB's decision to increase revenue through the hike has likely backfired, as the absence of bookings means less revenue instead of more. One wonders whether anyone at PSB has formally assessed the revenue trends before and after the price hike—a basic step in policy-making. It appears not. Despite repeated appeals and written requests by local clubs to reconsider the revised fees or to offer concessions for student and grassroots teams, both the Pakistan Sports Board and the Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination have remained unmoved. Their inaction signals not only indifference but also a disturbing disconnect from ground realities and the needs of the hockey community. Pakistan's national sport has long been in decline, and missteps like these only further alienate young players from pursuing hockey professionally. Naseer Bunda Hockey Ground was meant to be a cradle of talent, nurturing the next generation of national players. Instead, it now symbolizes the decay of the sport itself. There is a pressing need for introspection at the PSB and the ministry level. If the goal is to promote sports, particularly hockey, then facilities must be made affordable, accessible, and maintained to a standard that encourages participation. Charging steep fees while failing to provide basic amenities is a disservice not only to the sport but also to the nation's youth. Until the authorities take corrective action—including revisiting the fee structure, restoring basic facilities, and consulting with stakeholders—the future of hockey in Islamabad, and by extension in Pakistan, remains bleak.

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The Role of OIC and Arab League in resolving Muslim world's challenges

THE Muslim world, comprising over 1.8 billion people across 57 countries, faces complex challenges—political conflicts, economic disparities, and religious extremism. Two major organizations, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Arab League, have long sought to address these issues. However, their effectiveness remains debatable. Strengths of OIC and Arab League: The OIC, with 57 member states, serves as the largest collective voice of the Muslim world. It has mediated conflicts, such as the Afghanistan reconciliation process, and advocated for Palestinian rights at the UN. The Arab League, though smaller (22 members), has played a role in crises like the Yemen war and Libya negotiations. Both organizations have launched aid programs. The OIC's Islamic Development Bank funds infrastructure projects, while the Arab League coordinates economic policies among members. The OIC promotes Islamic solidarity, condemning Islamophobia globally. The Arab League preserves Arab identity through cultural exchanges and media collaborations. Weaknesses and Failures: Neither body has strong mechanisms to implement decisions. The OIC's resolutions on Kashmir and Palestine often go unheeded, while the Arab League failed to prevent the Syria war or Gulf diplomatic rifts. Geopolitical rivalries (Saudi-Iran tensions, Turkey-Arab disputes) paralyze decision-making. The Arab League is split between pro-US and anti-Western blocs, weakening collective action. Both organizations suffer from slow, consensus-based processes. The OIC's response to crises like the Rohingya genocide was delayed, and the Arab League's economic integration lags behind ASEAN or the EU. Given these limitations, there is a strong case for a more effective, action-oriented body to represent the Muslim world. A smaller, more agile organization (e.g., a "G20 of Muslim Nations") could bypass bureaucratic hurdles. A dedicated trade bloc, like an "Islamic Common Market," could reduce dependency on the West. A neutral, military-backed peacekeeping force could intervene in crises like Sudan or Afghanistan. The OIC and Arab League have symbolic value but lack teeth. Instead of creating a new body from scratch, reforming the OIC with stricter compliance mechanisms, a rapid-response crisis unit, and economic integration plans may be more practical. However, if divisions persist, a coalition of willing nations—perhaps led by Turkey, Malaysia, Indonesia and Pakistan—could pioneer a more effective platform.

The Return to Divine Reality

Qamar Bashir



The more we learn about consciousness, the more the divide between body and soul disappears. We are not flesh alone. We are vessels of perception, imagination, and spiritual energy. As Donald Hoffman proposes in his “Conscious Realism” theory, space-time is merely a user interface—a simplified projection of a far more complex, unseen reality. This aligns with the Bible: “The Kingdom of God is within you” (Luke 17:21), and with the Qur’an: “Indeed, it is not the eyes that are blind, but the hearts within the breasts” (Surah Al-Hajj 22:46)

FOR centuries, humanity has looked up at the stars and deep into atoms, hoping to uncover the secrets of the universe. With every equation solved and every particle smashed, we thought we were inching closer to truth. But truth—real truth—was never locked in matter. It was always hidden in something more elusive, more sacred: consciousness. Today, a profound shift is occurring. The world’s most advanced scientists and spiritual thinkers are converging on a realization that religions proclaimed long ago: the foundation of the universe is not matter—it is mind. Not atoms—but awareness. Not logic—but the soul. This is not mysticism masquerading as science. It is science finally catching up with revelation. In the words of Nobel laureate Max Planck: “I regard consciousness as fundamental. I regard matter as derivative from consciousness. We cannot get behind consciousness.” What does this mean? It means the laws of physics, the logic of philosophy, and even the frameworks of mathematics are not primal. They were created—by consciousness. This reverses everything we were taught. The human being is not a machine made of carbon and code. The human being is a carrier of divine consciousness, and through that consciousness, reality is perceived—and formed. The Qur’an hinted at this long ago: “And We breathed into him of Our spirit...” (Surah Al-Hijr 15:29). In recent quantum research, it has been revealed that particles do not exist in any fixed form until they are observed. This is the infamous “observer effect.” In simple terms: the universe appears because we are conscious of it. One physicist said, “You are not inside space-time. Space-time is inside you.” Let that settle. The planets, stars, galaxies—all appear as phenomena within the field of our individual consciousness. The body is not separate from the cosmos. It is a living interface. And every cell within our body—over 30 trillion of them—contains the entire genetic code of the human being, making us holographic by design. The entire story of humanity is encoded in DNA in every part of us. Further strengthening this narrative is the scientific discovery that human DNA emits scalar waves—energy pulses capable of traveling faster

than light, crossing the cosmos without resistance, and returning with intact information. These waves, born of our conscious field, can metaphorically touch the moon and return in an instant. There is no delay, no degradation. Just presence, movement, and return—like divine will. “My command is but a single word: Be. And it is.” (Surah Al-Qamar 54:50). This is not science fiction. This is science validating scripture. The more we learn about consciousness, the more the divide between body and soul disappears. We are not flesh alone. We are vessels of perception, imagination, and spiritual energy. As Donald Hoffman proposes in his “Conscious Realism” theory, space-time is merely a user interface—a simplified projection of a far more complex, unseen reality. This aligns with the Bible: “The Kingdom of God is within you” (Luke 17:21), and with the Qur’an: “Indeed, it is not the eyes that are blind, but the hearts within the breasts” (Surah Al-Hajj 22:46). Our consciousness, it seems, is not merely human—it is a reflection of divine light, capable of knowing, creating, and perceiving because it is rooted in the Source that made it. Now, at this historical junction, humanity is doing something remarkable. It is breaking the chains of scientific reductionism and escaping the prison of philosophical abstraction. We are starting to see—not through telescopes or formulas—but through the eye of consciousness. We are realizing that science and philosophy, for all their power, cannot answer the ultimate questions: Why does anything exist at all? Who created it? What is our role in it? And most importantly: what happens when we understand it all? Here lies the climax of the story. Scripture tells us that the Day of Judgment would arrive when truth is laid bare, when all veils are lifted. Perhaps that Day is not just a physical apocalypse—but a spiritual reckoning. The Qur’an encourages us to explore the universe, to reflect, to discover. Not as a mere intellectual exercise—but because discovery itself is a pathway to divine realization. Now, for the first time in human history, we are reaching a point where we can comprehend the mechanics of the universe, understand the role of consciousness in

shaping reality, realize that the universe exists because we are aware of it, and finally accept that this awareness—this consciousness—is the command, the breath, the will of Allah. And perhaps, once that realization becomes widespread—once the secret is uncovered—the universe will no longer need to exist. Its purpose fulfilled. Its Creator revealed. Its witnesses awakened. “On that Day, the people will be like scattered moths... and the mountains will be like carded wool” (Surah Al-Qari’ah 101:4–5). The universe may not end in fire or ice, but in awakening—when enough humans finally see the truth. And so, as we step into this transformative age—one where science peers beyond its own frontiers and philosophy humbly pauses before the unknown—we begin to witness the slow but steady unraveling of the final veil. The process of breaking free from the inherited constraints of materialism, logic, and abstraction has already begun. Humanity is not yet fully awakened, but the path is now visible. With each passing day, with each open mind, we draw nearer to the understanding that consciousness is not merely a faculty of perception—it is the very origin, essence, and enduring substance of all that exists. This awakening will not be sudden, but it will come. The realization that what we see is formed through consciousness. It may take time, perhaps generations, for this understanding to permeate our institutions, languages, and disciplines. But the trajectory is clear, and the momentum is irreversible. When that truth is no longer debated, but deeply known—when humanity collectively understands that consciousness preceded the cosmos and shall remain when the stars burn out—then perhaps the universe will have fulfilled its purpose. Perhaps then, with grace and not with fire, the veiled reality will dissolve, and the final chapter of existence will quietly, divinely, be written. Press Secretary to the President (Rtd) Former Press Minister, Embassy of Pakistan to France Former MD, SRBC Macomb, Michigan, USA

The Unsung heroes of a nation

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



The 2010s and beyond marked a golden era of overseas contributions. Officially, the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis in December 2017 estimated about 8.8 million Pakistanis living abroad. By 2023, the Ministry of Emigration and Overseas Employment reported that well over 10.8 million had migrated since 1990. The United Nations places Pakistan among the six countries with the largest...

SINCE the inception of Pakistan in 1947, the sons and daughters of the soil who ventured beyond its borders have remained deeply attached to their motherland. These overseas Pakistanis, scattered across continents, have played a vital role in the development and prosperity of Pakistan—not merely through financial remittances, but also in the realms of philanthropy, advocacy, national image-building, and crisis support. Their story is not just one of expatriate or economic migration, but of sustained contribution, undying loyalty, and deep-seated patriotism. From the early 1970s, Pakistan saw a wave of migration, particularly towards the oil-rich Gulf countries. The decade marked the beginning of large-scale labour migration, with thousands of Pakistanis moving to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, and Bahrain. These workers—many of them unskilled or semi-skilled—helped build the infrastructure of Gulf cities, and in doing so, began to send back foreign exchange to Pakistan in unprecedented amounts. In 1974, the remittances stood at around \$143 million. By the end of that decade, these had surged, and remittances became a crucial support for Pakistan’s balance of payments. In the 1980s, the trend deepened. As the number of Pakistani workers grew, particularly in the Gulf, so too did the foreign exchange inflows. The decade saw annual remittances crossing \$2 billion. The Middle East remained the primary destination, but migration to Europe also rose. Pakistani communities in the United Kingdom, Norway, Germany, France, and Italy became more organised, with many becoming second-generation migrants. In the UK alone, the Pakistani community grew steadily, becoming one of the largest ethnic groups. These communities sent remittances, built schools and mosques back home, and contributed to local development in their villages and towns. The 1990s witnessed diversification. While the Gulf continued to absorb Pakistani workers, migration towards North America and Canada saw significant acceleration. Educated professionals, IT specialists, doctors, and engineers began settling in the United States and Canada. By the end of the 1990s, remittances had reached \$1.2 billion per annum—a figure which, though slightly lower than the 1980s due to

informal transfer channels like Hundi. Overseas Pakistanis also began to participate more actively in Pakistan’s politics, media, and advocacy, supporting democracy and voicing concerns over governance and rights. The 2000s saw a technological transformation in the financial world. With the introduction of formal channels and stricter regulations post-9/11, more remittances began to flow through official banking systems. By 2009–10, Pakistan was receiving over \$8 billion annually in foreign remittances. The diaspora in the Gulf, UK, USA, and Canada had now grown in size and stature. Moreover, this period saw the emergence of overseas Pakistani philanthropic organisations—raising funds for disaster relief after the 2005 earthquake and the 2010 floods. Charitable initiatives helped build hospitals, schools, roads, and provided emergency relief. The diaspora emerged not just as financial supporters, but as partners in nation-building. The 2010s and beyond marked a golden era of overseas contributions. Officially, the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis in December 2017 estimated about 8.8 million Pakistanis living abroad. By 2023, the Ministry of Emigration and Overseas Employment reported that well over 10.8 million had migrated since 1990. The United Nations places Pakistan among the six countries with the largest diaspora globally. A widely cited breakdown from 2021 holds that over 4.7 million now dwell in the Middle East, 1.6 million in Britain, followed by the United States, Canada, and Europe. With remittances rising each year, 2022 recorded an all-time high of over \$31 billion in remittances, making Pakistan one of the top five recipient countries globally. Saudi Arabia contributed around \$8 billion, UAE about \$6 billion, followed by the UK (\$4.5 billion) and the USA (\$3 billion). Today, over 9 million Pakistanis live abroad. Approximately 2.64 million reside in Saudi Arabia, 1.5 million in the UAE, over 1.5 million in the UK, 1.2 million in the USA, around 300,000 in Canada, over 200,000 in Italy, and tens of thousands scattered across France, Germany, Norway, Spain, Greece, Australia, Malaysia, and South Africa. Apart from sending remittances, overseas Pakistanis have played a heroic role in charitable initiatives. They were among the first responders during national calamities—donating generously during the 2010 and

2022 floods, COVID-19 relief campaigns, and in countless medical and educational projects. Philanthropists among them helped retire Pakistan’s external debt on various occasions. Institutions like Shaukat Khanum Cancer Hospital, Edhi Foundation, Indus Hospital, and countless orphanages and schools have benefited from their largesse. Furthermore, their role in promoting Pakistan’s soft image abroad cannot be overstated. Pakistani professionals, academics, and businesspersons have served as ambassadors of goodwill. From Silicon Valley to the British Parliament, from Canadian think tanks to European humanitarian organisations, Pakistanis have made their mark with dignity and competence. They have challenged stereotypes, promoted cultural exchange, and built bridges of understanding between Pakistan and the global community. Notably, over a dozen British-Pakistanis have served as Members of Parliament in the UK, including figures like Sajid Javid, Sadiq Khan, Yasmin Qureshi, and Imran Hussain. In Canada, several Pakistan-origin individuals have been elected to federal and provincial legislatures. In Norway, politicians of Pakistani descent like Abid Raja have held ministerial positions. These achievements reflect the values, discipline, and public service ethos carried from Pakistan to their adopted lands. Yet, despite their immense contribution, overseas Pakistanis often remain distant from policymaking within the country. They have long demanded voting rights, proper representation, and facilitation in investment. While steps have been taken over time, more institutionalised support is needed. A well-structured diaspora engagement policy is the need of the hour—one that not only honours their past contributions but also harnesses their future potential. In conclusion, overseas Pakistanis have been more than just remitters of money. They have been the silent builders of Pakistan’s economy, the quiet benefactors of its institutions, and the unsung heroes of its tragedies and triumphs. Their role—steadfast, sincere, and selfless—must be recognised, celebrated, and institutionalised, for no nation can afford to neglect the outstretched hands of its own scattered across the world, who have never ceased to pray, work, and hope for the homeland they carry in their hearts.

Briefs

Trump tightens trade noose on New Delhi

FROM PAGE 01

ties with Washington fray. "India will take all actions necessary to protect its national interests," India's external affairs ministry said in a statement, saying it was "extremely unfortunate that the US should choose to impose additional tariffs on India for actions that several other countries are also taking in their own national interest."

It said India's imports were based on market factors and aimed at energy security for its population of 1.4 billion. Trade analysts warned the tariffs could severely disrupt Indian exports. The additional 25% tariff comes into effect 21 days after August 7, the order said. "With such obnoxious tariff rates, trade between the two nations would be practically dead," said Madhavi Arora, economist at Emkay Global.

TTP agrees not to use civilians...

FROM PAGE 01

Tirah in the agreement inked between local elders and TTP. The leaders banned TTP vowed to continue their armed resistance against security forces and also punish those, who supported forces or found guilty of spying against them.

"Our sole purpose is an armed struggle (jihad) against anti-Islam forces and their collaborators for which we desperately need sympathies and assistance of Muslim population. We consider our involvement in internal and personal affairs of local people as inappropriate and have thus strongly refrained our volunteers from doing so," said the agreement.

Three FC personnel martyred...

FROM PAGE 01

"A search operation is underway in the area to arrest culprits," he said. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur condemned the attack and directed authorities to swiftly arrest those involved.

"We salute the security personnel and their families who sacrificed their lives for the country," Gandapur said in a statement while offering condolences to the victims' families. Governor Faisal Kundi also condemned the killings, saying the sacrifices made in the fight against terrorism will not go in vain.

PTI to hold second phase of...

FROM PAGE 01

protest demanding Imran Khans release, on the second anniversary of his jailing, in Lahore on August 5, 2025. — Reuters

A PTI supporter is being detained by police officers during a nationwide protest demanding Imran Khan's release, on the second anniversary of his jailing, in Lahore on August 5, 2025. The remainder were picked up in overnight raids in the province, two security officials said. Party spokesperson Zulfikar Bukhari said over 200 activists were detained in Lahore alone.

PHC stops ECP from taking...

FROM PAGE 01

the PHC provided an interim relief to the PTI members of parliament who have approached the court to challenge the ECP's disqualification move following their conviction in the May 9 riots case. The high court, announcing its reserved ruling on the pleas submitted by PTI's Omar Ayub Khan and Shibli Faraz, issued notices to the election commission and other parties before adjourning the hearing till August 20. The order stated the petitioners were convicted by the Faisalabad's anti-terrorism court (ATC) and at the time of the verdict, they were not present in the said court.

Donald Trump creates task force to prepare for 2028 Olympic Games

The 2028 Games will be the first Olympics to be hosted by the U.S. since the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City, Utah. Setting up the task force reflects the intense planning that comes with hosting the Olympics, as well as Trump's desire to be involved in an event he considers one of the highlights of his term

DNA

BAKU: US President Donald Trump established a task force on the 2028 Olympic Games being held in Los Angeles that he said would ensure the event is "safe, seamless and historically successful," AP reported. The 2028 Games will be the first Olympics to be hosted by the U.S. since the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City, Utah. Setting up the task force reflects the intense planning that comes with hosting the Olympics, as well as Trump's desire to be involved in an event he considers one of the highlights of his term.

"The L.A. Olympics is shaping up to be a wonderful moment for America. It's going to be incredible. It's so exciting," Trump said as he signed an executive order at the White House establishing the task force. The executive order calls for the task force to coordinate security and planning for the Games, streamline visa processing and credentialing for the athletes, coaches, media and other visitors coming to the U.S.

Trump said that "we'll do anything necessary to keep the Olympics safe," adding that could potentially include deploying "our National Guard or military." Earlier this year, Trump sent National Guard troops to Los Angeles to respond to immigration protests. Trump will serve as chair of the task force, with Vice President JD Vance as vice chair. Other members include a number of Cabinet secretaries and administration officials, like Attorney General Pam Bondi, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem and White House chief of staff Susie Wiles, who appeared alongside Trump on Tuesday.

Also present were Olympic champion gymnast Nastia Li

ukin and Brad Snyder, a swimmer who competed at the 2012 Paralympic Games. Trump praised Gene Sykes, chair of the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee board of directors, for the USOPC's move to effectively bar transgender women from competing in women's sports.

"The United States will not let men steal trophies from women at the 2028 Olympics," Trump said. He questioned why he didn't hear applause from the room when he praised Sykes for it, and then received some claps from some people in the room. Trump "considers it a great honor to oversee this global sporting spectacle," White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said in a statement, calling sports one of the president's



Ugandans still suffering from deadly garbage collapse

Kiteezi collapse "could have been avoided", said Ivan Bamweyana, a scholar of geomatics at Kampala's Makerere University

KAMPALA: When the giant landfill collapsed in Uganda's capital Kampala a year ago, Zambhall Nansamba thought she was hearing an aeroplane taking off.

Then came screams and a giant wave of garbage rushing towards her, ripping up trees as it went. Nansamba, 31, grabbed her children and ran. She was luckier than most – the avalanche of waste killed some 35 people before stopping at her doorstep. Many survivors of the collapse at the Kiteezi dump on August 9,

2024, have yet to be compensated for their losses, leaving them trapped at the dangerous garbage site.

"We are living a miserable life," Nansamba told AFP. Kiteezi is the largest landfill in Kampala, serving the city's residents since 1996, receiving 2,500 tonnes of waste daily. City authorities recommended closing it when it reached capacity in 2015, but garbage kept coming.

The disaster highlighted the challenge of managing waste in many rapidly urbanising African cities.

A 2017 landfill collapse in Ethiopia killed 116 people. A year later, 17 died after heavy rain caused a landslide at a dump in Mozambique. It doesn't help that wealthier countries send vast amounts of waste to Africa, particularly second-hand clothes, computers and cars.

In 2019, the United States exported some 900 million items of second-hand clothing to Kenya alone, more than half designated as waste, according to Changing Markets Foundation, an

advocacy group.

The Kiteezi collapse "could have been avoided", said Ivan Bamweyana, a scholar of geomatics at Kampala's Makerere University. For a decade, he said, the landfill grew vertically until it reached a height of some 30 metres (98 feet). Early on the fateful morning, rain seeped into the landfill's cracks, causing a fatal cascade. "What is coming can still be avoided," Bamweyana said, of the continued risks at the site. — Agencies

more disappointments, there are reasons to believe the business is healthy, the institution and the products good," he said.

Novo Nordisk announced last week that it was promoting Maziar Mike Doustdar, its vice president for international operations, to succeed Jorgensen. The popularity of Novo Nordisk's weight-loss treatments had once made it a darling of investors, boosting its share price and at one point making it Europe's most valuable company. But it now faces growing competition from rival treatments made by US group Eli Lilly in the United States. A rule by the US Food and Drug Administration allowing pharmacies to create so-called "compound" copycat versions of the drug, after high demand led to shortages, has also dented Novo Nordisk's earnings. — Agencies

Novo Nordisk posts strong results but competition weighs

COPENHAGEN: Danish pharmaceutical giant Novo Nordisk posted a sharp rise in second-quarter net profit Wednesday, but rising competition is weighing on sales of its diabetes and obesity treatments Ozempic and Wegovy in the United States.

The group reported a net profit of 26.5 billion kroner (\$4.1 billion), a 32 percent increase from the same period last year, while sales increased by 18 percent to 76 billion kroner.

The drug maker lowered its annual

earnings outlook last week, causing its share price to continue its nearly year-long slide. The company had already cut its forecast in May and announced the departure of its chief executive Lars Fruergaard Jorgensen. "In May we mostly thought the bottom was reached," Mikael Bak, director of the Danish shareholders' association, told AFP. Bak said "every is a bit surprised" that the situation has deteriorated. "So now we don't want to see

Pakistan shines at INSO-2025 with stellar medal haul

ISLAMABAD: In a proud moment for the country, Pakistani students secured one Gold, one Silver, and two Bronze medals at the 2nd International Nuclear Science Olympiad (INSO-2025), held in Malaysia from July 30 to August 5. The event, organized under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), brought together bright young minds from 19 countries, including China, Japan, Singapore, Türkiye, Indonesia, and Saudi Arabia.

The Pakistani delegation, trained and mentored by distinguished faculty from the Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences (PIEAS), delivered an exceptional performance at the global competition. According to the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission official, the team comprised Muhammad Tayyab Bukhari from Beaconhouse School Abbottabad who won the Gold medal; Ammar Asad Warraich from Siddique Public School Islamabad, who claimed Silver; and Rawah Javed and Tatheer Aima Naqi, from Siddique Public School Islamabad and Chenab College Jhang respectively, both of whom earned Bronze medals. The team was led by Dr. Sajjad Tahir from PIEAS and Dr. Muhammad Maqsood from the Directorate of Education at PAEC, who played an instrumental role in preparing the students for the competition. — Agencies

Lionel Messi ruled out of Miami's Leagues Cup clash with Pumas

Messi suffered what Mascherano described as "minor muscle injury" in his upper right leg last Saturday

MIAMI: Football legend Lionel Messi won't be taking the field for Inter Miami in their important Leagues Cup match against Pumas UNAM. The star forward has picked up a minor muscle injury, his coach said, adding that the the footballer needs time to recover before playing again.

The Argentinian striker suffered what Mascherano described as a "minor muscle injury" in his upper right leg during Miami's win over Necaxa last Saturday. While there is no set timetable for Messi's return, Mascherano remained hopeful the star forward would be back on the pitch soon. "Within the bad news, it's good news," Mascherano told reporters. "He usually recovers very well from inju-



ries and, above all, normally does so with speed, so we will see. But clearly, for tomorrow he is unavailable. Then we'll see how he feels, how he progresses."

Messi, who leads the league with 18 goals in MLS matches this season, helped guide Miami to the Leagues Cup title in 2023 shortly after joining the Herons.

Inter Miami will likely need a win over Pumas in their final group stage match to reach the quarter-finals of the Leagues Cup, which includes teams from MLS and Mexico's top division. If Miami progress to the knockout stage, Messi would have two weeks to recover before the quarter-finals. Miami's next MLS fixture is scheduled for Sunday against Orlando. — DNA

Cricket Fever Grips Punjab: 35,000+ Youth Join PMYP Trials

OUR CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The cricketing heartbeat of Pakistan is growing louder with every passing day as the Prime Minister's Youth Programme (PMYP) – Lahore Qalandars talent hunt cricket trials continue to inspire and empower thousands across the country.

From the land of Shaheens, Sargodha, to the industrial capital of Pakistan, Faisalabad, more than 35,000 male and female youth participated in the talent hunt, reaffirming the belief that Pakistan's cricketing future lies in its grassroots.

Sargodha witnessed a turnout of over 15,000 plus passionate young cricketers, while Faisalabad surpassed expectations with more than 20,000 aspiring players attending the trials. The nationwide initiative, a collaborative venture between PMYP and the Lahore Qalandars' globally acclaimed Player Development Program (PDP), is unlocking opportunities for youth who have long been overlooked.

Talk of Field Marshal becoming president...

FROM PAGE 01

Bunyan-um-Marsoos", and targeted several Indian military targets across multiple regions. Pakistan downed six Indian fighter jets, including three Rafales, and dozens of drones. After at least 87 hours, the war between the two nuclear-armed nations ended on May 10 with a ceasefire agreement brokered by the US. The ceasefire was first announced by US President Donald Trump on social media after Washington held talks with both sides, but India has differed with Trump's claims that it resulted from his intervention and threats to sever trade talks.

Nasa to build nuclear reactor on...

FROM PAGE 01

US, China, Russia, India and Japan are rushing to explore the Moon's surface, with some planning permanent human settlements. "To properly advance this critical technology to be able to support a future lunar economy, high power energy generation on Mars, and to strengthen our national security in space, it is imperative the agency move quickly," US transport secretary Sean Duffy, who was appointed temporary head of Nasa by President Donald Trump, wrote to Nasa, according to the New York Times.

US envoy meets Putin for three...

FROM PAGE 01

Russian news agencies said the talks ended after about three hours, and Witkoff's motor convoy was seen leaving the Kremlin.

Russian investment envoy Kirill Dmitriev, who earlier greeted Witkoff on arrival and strolled with him in a park near the Kremlin, posted on social media: "Dialogue will prevail." There was no immediate statement from either side on the substance of the talks.

Chairman CDA Visits Capital Hospital, Emphasizes Improved Medical Facilities

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Chief Commissioner Islamabad, Muhammad Ali Randhawa paid a visit to the Capital Hospital, CDA today. He was accompanied by Member Finance, Member Engineering, DG Services and other senior officers of the authority.

During the visit, ED Capital Hospital briefed about medical facilities for the patients at the Capital Hospital, CDA. The Chairman CDA during his visit inspected various sections of the hospital, including emergency, OPD, wards, laboratories and Dispensary.

The Chairman CDA personally interacted with patients, inquired about their health and listened to their concerns regarding medical facilities.

Chairman CDA and Chief Commissioner directed Executive Director, Capital Hospital, CDA to ensure the provision of high-quality healthcare services to the patients and to improve cleanliness and hygiene within the premises. He said that hospital plays a vital role in public service, health care and negligence in this regard will not be tolerated. He directed for upgrading of hospital, special instructions to Biomedical staff for their presence

24/7. He said that all equipments should be functional and directed up gradation of Operation Theatre. Moreover, MRI Machine should be functional 24/7 and instrumental functionality and availability should also be made up to date. The Chairman CDA directed Member Finance to provide and release necessary funds to capital hospital for its up gradation and purchase of new equipments. He also directed that presence of all Doctors on Bio-

medical attendance 24/7 should be ensured as eel as Digitalisation of Capital Hospital should also be ensured through IT Wing. The Chairman CDA instructed that maintenance and functionality of Elevator and Air conditioners should be made by DG Services. He further directed that concerned members should made daily visit of the Capital Hospital for ensuring that best of the best medical facilities to the patients as well as to ensure that all



maintenance works have been done properly.

Addressing the parking issue, Chairman CDA directed that 1122 should be shifted from Capital Hospital to Emergency and Disaster Management Premises near DMA. Most importantly, Chairman CDA said that emergency services are considered the face of any hospital, therefore emergency services of Capital Hospital, CDA should be at par with any reputable hospital, coupled with specialised doctors. He said that expansion of premises for emergency services should be expanded and all steps should also be taken to provide essential medicines, and equipments to the hospital especially modern medical machinery.

The Chairman CDA said that CDA intends to revamp Capital Hospital. He asked for a comprehensive plan to resolve the ongoing challenges faced by the capital hospital. The Chairman CDA directed planning wing CDA for a separate space for parking of vehicles of the attendants of the patients.

The Chairman CDA, Muhammad Ali Randhawa's visit was well-received by patients and members of the public, who expressed their gratitude and appreciation upon the personal interest of Chairman CDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa and hoped that the hospital facilities will soon be seen significant improvement.

Briefs

Rupee sheds 10 paise against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD: The Rupee on Wednesday depreciated by 10 paise against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 282.67 against the previous day's closing Rs 282.57. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 284.35 and Rs 285.15, respectively. The price of the Euro increased by 96 paise to close at Rs 327.16 against the last day's closing of Rs 326.20, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs 1.91, whereas an increase of 62 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs 375.55 compared to the previous day's closing of Rs 374.93. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal went up by 02 and 01 paise to close at Rs 76.95 and Rs 75.33, respectively.

Industrial zone to be established in Samarkand

TASHKENT : A Presidential Resolution of the Republic of Uzbekistan has been adopted entitled "On measures for the establishment of the Nurabad Technopark Special Industrial Zone in Samarkand region". According to the resolution, the following target indicators have been set to improve the investment climate and promote industrial development in Nurabad district for the period 2025-2030: – Attraction of direct foreign investment totalling \$1.1 billion into projects focused on the production of high-tech, modern, and high-quality industrial goods; – Creation of 5,100 permanent jobs through the expansion of capacities for the production of high-tech, modern, and high-quality industrial products. According to the resolution, an unused land plot of 115.3 hectares located in the Sazagun area of Nurabad district will be excluded from the Urgut Free Economic Zone. In its place, the Nurabad Technopark Special Industrial Zone will be established. The project will be managed by the foreign company LLC New Vision Investment Development. Multistory (34 floors) industrial buildings are also planned to be constructed within the territory of the special industrial zone.—APP

SECP records highest-ever company registrations in July

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has achieved a historic milestone by registering a record 4,065 companies in July 2025—the highest monthly registrations to date, surpassing the previous record of 3,609 set in May 2025. With 99.9% of incorporations processed digitally, the total number of registered companies in Pakistan now stands at 262,309, said a press release. The total paid-up capital for July 2025 amounted to Rs. 4.96 million. Private limited companies accounted for 57% of new registrations, followed by single-member companies at 39%. The remaining 4% comprised public unlisted companies, not-for-profit organizations, companies limited by guarantee, and limited liability partnerships. The Information Technology and e-commerce sectors led with 862 new incorporations, followed by trading (530), services (468), and real estate development and construction (398). Other active sectors included tourism and transport (295), food and beverages (203), education (148), marketing and advertisement (98), mining and quarrying (95), textiles (91), pharmaceuticals (86), agricultural farming (74), engineering (64), cosmetics and toiletries (59), and chemicals and healthcare (56). An additional 482 companies were registered across other sectors, including fuel and energy, non-profits under Section 42, auto and allied, power generation, and communications. Foreign investment also showed positive momentum—APP



Ottawa, Canada: Pakistan High Commissioner Muhammad Saleem with Pakistani community members on Yaum-e-Istehsal

Ahsan vows to make Pak's agri sector climate-resilient

Under the URAAN Pakistan initiative, he said, the government was working to digitize all sectors of the national economy to ensure greater accuracy, transparency and efficiency. Ahsan Iqbal urged agricultural scientists to fully utilize their expertise to boost the production of crops and milk, highlighting the significant gap between local and international production levels

DNA

ISLAMABAD :Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday expressed a strong commitment to transforming Pakistan's agriculture sector on a scientific, data-driven basis, making it climate-resilient and aligned with international standards. Addressing the launching ceremony of the 7th Agricultural Census 2024 titled "Integrated Digital Country," compiled by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), the minister said the latest and most accurate data on agricultural land, machinery and livestock would help the government formulate future policies for the uplift of the sector and the achievement of national economic goals.

"Before this census, all calculations were carried out manually, based largely on guesswork, with fragmented data across cultivable land, agricultural machinery and livestock. Now, for the first time, all statistics have been compiled digitally," he said. With this milestone, the minister said, Pakistan has entered a new era of evidence-based agricultural transformation that would enable the full utilization of available resources. Ahsan Iqbal emphasized that agriculture was considered the backbone of the national economy, contributing around 24 percent to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employing 38 percent of the workforce. Referring to the new census data, he said the size of cultivable land in the country has increased from 42.6 million acres to 52.8 million acres. Although the number of farm

households has surged from 8.3 million to 11.7 million, the average landholding has decreased from 6.4 acres to 5.1 acres. He stressed the urgent need to promote a culture of cooperative farming based on scientific principles to achieve self-sufficiency in the agriculture sector and ensure national food security. The minister also noted that the number of livestock has risen from 143 million to 251 million, reflecting a growth rate of 3 percent. With the availability of this comprehensive data, he said, the government would now be able to formulate more effective

and targeted policies, uplifting small farmers both financially and technologically, and putting the country on the path to sustainable development. Under the URAAN Pakistan initiative, he said, the government was working to digitize all sectors of the national economy to ensure greater accuracy, transparency and efficiency. Ahsan Iqbal urged agricultural scientists to fully utilize their expertise to boost the production of crops and milk, highlighting the significant gap between local and international production levels.

Long-term investment policy to unlock eco potential: Nasir

He stressed that instead of overburdening the existing taxpayers or creating a climate of fear, efforts should be focused on widening the tax net

ISLAMABAD: Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), has urged the government to take concrete and practical steps to establish an investor-friendly environment that encourages both foreign and local investment. Speaking to a delegation of visiting businessmen at the Chamber House on Wednesday, alongside ICCI Senior Vice President Abdul Rehman Siddiqui and Vice President Nasir Mehmood Chaudhry, Qureshi highlighted Pakistan's immense investment potential across diverse sectors. These include information technology, cement, pharmaceuticals, textiles, surgical instruments, sports goods, mining and minerals, and unique commodities like pink salt. He emphasized that the country urgently needs a long-term, consistent investment policy formulated in close consultation with real stakeholders. "Only through inclusive policy-making we can ensure sustainable economic growth and investor confidence," he stated. The ICCI President pointed out that strategies must be grounded in practical realities and address the genuine challenges facing the business community, particularly in terms of regulatory complexities and the Federal Board of Revenue's (FBR) taxation practices. He stressed that instead of overburdening the existing taxpayers or creating a climate of fear, efforts should be focused on widening the tax net and streamlining compliance mechanisms. Nasir Mansoor Qureshi reaffirmed that the ICCI has always played a constructive role by presenting actionable policy proposals to the government. "We are committed to continuing our proactive engagement with policymakers to shape a business-friendly ecosystem in the best interest of the national economy," he added.—DNA

Balochistan beast becomes showstopper at Museum

ISLAMABAD: The visitors at the Pakistan Museum of Natural History are pausing in amazement as they gaze up at a colossal figure—the towering skeleton of Baluchitherium, the legendary "Beast of Balochistan" and one of the largest land mammals to have ever walked the Earth. Standing eighteen feet tall and weighing an estimated 20 tons, this gentle, plant-eating giant once roamed the dense, green forests of present-day Balochistan some 30 million years ago. Its sheer size and the story of its discovery are captivating visitors from all walks of life. "This discovery is a proud moment in Pakistan's scientific history," said Dr. Saima Huma Tanveer, Director General of the museum. "It's a reminder that Balochistan was once full of greenery, life, and giant animals like Baluchitherium—very different from the arid landscape we know today." The first fossils were unearthed in 1908 in the Bugti Hills, but it was in 2000 that a joint Pakistani-French expedition made the landmark discovery of an almost complete skeleton. Today, it stands reconstructed and preserved in the museum's main hall, drawing hundreds of visitors daily. "These bones are more than just a display—they connect us to a lost world," said Ubaidullah Azeem, the museum's Operational Manager. "They spark curiosity and help people, especially students, understand how life, climate, and nature have changed over millions of years." With a smile, he remarked to APP, "In a way this is our very own Pakistani Dinosaur for Pakistani Children to marvel at—an inspiring piece of prehistory. Among the crowd, a young mother, Sara Ahmed, was visiting with her two children, ages six and eight. The children, their heads craned back and eyes wide, circled the display several times, pausing to stare at the enormous skull. "My kids have only seen dinosaurs and prehistoric animals in cartoons," she told APP with a smile. "Seeing something this huge in real life is magical for them. They've been asking about what it ate, how it survived, and why it disappeared. This visit turned into a science lesson they'll never forget—and I'm learning alongside them." Her son clutched a small notebook, trying to copy the shape of the Baluchitherium's massive legs, while his sister ran her fingers along the glass case protecting smaller fossilized bones. A short distance away, a group of university students from Lahore were busy sketching and photographing the skeleton. The group was working on a paleontology assignment but admitted that the trip was also a thrill for them. "Reading about Baluchitherium in textbooks is one thing," said Ali Raza, a geology major. "But standing here, looking up at this giant, it hits you just how vast life once was. You realize Pakistan isn't just rich in culture—it's rich in prehistoric heritage too." Another student, Maryam Khalid, said the visit was inspiring her to pursue a career in museum sciences. "We need more spaces like this where the public can connect with history in such a direct way," she said. The exhibit is also attracting foreign visitors. Rebecca Turner, a tourist from Europe, said she stumbled upon the museum while exploring Islamabad. "I've been to natural history museums in London, Paris, and New York," she said, "but I wasn't expecting something this extraordinary here. Baluchitherium is not just Pakistan's treasure—it's a gift to the world's scientific record. The way it's displayed here is impressive, and the historical context is beautifully explained." She added that she would be recommending the museum to fellow travelers. From schoolchildren buzzing with excitement to scholars deep in research, and tourists seeking to discover the country's lesser-known wonders, the Baluchitherium has become the beating heart of the museum. More than a fossil, it is a bridge to a time when the Earth's landscapes were greener, its creatures grander, and the land that is now Pakistan was home to giants.—DNA

Nawrocki becomes Poland's president

WARSAW: Nationalist historian Karol Nawrocki, who was sworn in as Poland's new president on Wednesday, is a former amateur boxer with a particular interest in the criminal underworld. The 42-year-old Nawrocki won a June 1 election with the support of the populist right-wing Law and Justice (PiS) party, which governed Poland from 2015 to 2023. Nawrocki campaigned under the slogan "Poland first, Poles first". While he has pledged to continue Poland's support for neighbouring Ukraine against Russia's invasion, he has denounced the benefits given to war refugees. He said in a campaign video in April that "social benefits will be above all for Poles" and that "in queues for doctors and clinics, Polish citizens must have priority". In May, he claimed Ukraine "has not shown gratitude for what Poles have done" and accused President Volodymyr Zelensky of "insolence". He opposes Ukraine's bid to join NATO. After speaking with Nawrocki last week, Zelensky said he looked forward to working together

with the Polish leader. Nawrocki is an admirer of Donald Trump and has said Poland should focus on shaping and leading Europe's relations with the US president. He met Trump at the White House in May and claimed Trump had told him: "You will win". The two were shown giving a thumbs up in photos released by the White House. Some lawmakers from the governing coalition at the time accused Trump of election interference. Nawrocki has called for controls on the border with Germany to keep out migrants, and would like Berlin to pay wartime reparations to Poland. While wooing voters during the campaign, Nawrocki signed an eight-point pledge prepared by far-right leader Slawomir Mentzen. The election campaign also saw Nawrocki embroiled in a series of scandals. While arguing against a property tax, he claimed to own one flat only. Later it was revealed he had acquired a second one through a convoluted deal with an elderly man. A bombshell news report also al-

leged he had arranged prostitutes for guests while working as a hotel security guard. Nawrocki called the accusations "a bunch of lies" and said he would sue the news site. Born in the Baltic port city of Gdansk, Nawrocki boxed and played football in his youth before earning a PhD in history and an MBA. He served as the director of the World War II museum in Gdansk from 2017 to 2021. Since then, he has led the Institute of National Remembrance, which investigates Nazi and communist-era crimes. His research focused on Poland's anti-communist opposition, organised crime during the communist era and sports history. Last year, Russia added Nawrocki to its wanted list for his alleged efforts to remove Soviet-era monuments in Poland. Nawrocki said he had obtained a gun licence and firearm after winding up in Russia's crosshairs. Nawrocki has written several books, including one under a pen name that landed him in an unusual controversy. In

2018, he secretly published a book about the communist-era gangster Nikodem Skotarczak using the pseudonym "Tadeusz Batyr". That same year, a blurred and voice-altered Batyr appeared on state television claiming Nawrocki had inspired the book. Nawrocki later wrote on social media that Batyr had sought his advice and "thanked me with an interesting book, which I recommend". But Polish media recently uncovered that Batyr and Nawrocki were one and the same. Political opponents seized on the revelation. Nawrocki has also faced accusations of ties to gangsters and neo-Nazis, which he has rejected as "deep manipulation", insisting his contacts were for professional purposes. "No one has ever heard a good word from me about Nazism," he said. Nawrocki speaks English and still boxes in his spare time. He has said Poland needs "a strong president for tough times". He lives with his wife, Marta, and has two children and an adult stepson.—Agencies

Turkmenistan's methane-spewing 'Gateway to Hell' loses its anger

DARVAZA: People go to the "Gateway to Hell" gas crater in the middle of the Turkmenistan desert expecting an angry cauldron but are now coming away unimpressed. Once a giant uncontrollable pit of red flames and glowing red embers, the 70-metre (230 feet) wide hole is now just a charred cauldron with only a few pockets of small fires. After letting it burn for 50 years, authorities in the reclusive Central Asian state have finally moved to put out the fire, which spews huge quantities of methane into the atmosphere. "I'm a little disappointed," said Irina, 35, who travelled five hours north from the capital, Ashgabat to get to see what she thought would be an inferno in the Karakum desert. "On the internet we saw impressive pictures of burning flames. Now we realise they were old photos and videos. The reality is different," she told AFP. Reducing the fire is an important step for Turkmenistan's climate ambitions, world's biggest methane emitter through gas leaks, according to the International Energy Agency, it has committed to cutting greenhouse gas emissions.—APP

SAPM Haroon to represent Pakistan at World Expo-2025 in Japan

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Industries and Production Haroon Akhtar Khan would leave for Japan on August 12 to represent Pakistan at the Pakistani Pavilion and promote the country's cultural heritage. The visit is taking place after Japanese Ambassador to Pakistan Akamatsu Shuichi, who met with him here on Wednesday, extended a formal invitation to the SAPM, according to a news release. During his upcoming visit to Japan, Haroon Akhtar is also scheduled to meet key Japanese government officials, including the Foreign Minister of Japan. The SAPM thanked the envoy for the invitation and expressed confidence that the visit would mark a significant milestone in strengthening bilateral relations between Pakistan and Japan. "I have visited Japan previously and was deeply impressed by the work ethic and technological advancement of the Japanese people. "Japanese products have always been considered reliable due to their exceptional quality," he said. Highlighting the government's broader vision, SAPM said "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, we are introducing a new Industrial Policy and New Energy Vehicle Policy aimed at attracting investment and enhancing business facilitation.—APP

KMG exports oil to Hungary via Croatia

ASTANA: As part of the strategic expansion of cooperation between NC KazMunayGas JSC (KMG) and MOL Group (Hungary), the first Kazakh oil in the amount of 85 thousand tonnes has been delivered to a Hungarian refinery, KMG press service reported. Sea transportation from the port of Novorossiysk to the Croatian port of Omisalj was provided by the national carrier Kazmornatransflot (a subsidiary of KMG) on its tanker Alatau. Further transportation from the port to the final destination, the Százhalombatta refinery in Hungary, will be carried out via the Adriatic oil pipeline, which is operated by the Croatian company Jadranski, Naftovod (JANAF). The tanker's arrival in Croatia, a meeting was held between the representatives of KMG, MOL Group and JANAF. The parties discussed further mutually beneficial cooperation. Following the discussions, a Framework Agreement was signed between KMG and MOL Group on future oil deliveries. It should be noted that this step enables Kazakhstan to significantly expand the geography of KMG's oil exports to the markets of the European Union. MOL Group is international, integrated oil, gas, petrochemicals and consumer retail company, headquartered in Budapest, Hungary. It operates in more than 30 countries, employing over 25,000 people.—APP

Briefs

Gaza civil defence says 20 killed

GAZA CITY: Gaza's civil defence agency said Wednesday that 20 people were killed when an aid truck overturned on a crowd of aid seekers in the central Gaza Strip. "Twenty people were killed and dozens injured around midnight last night in a truck carrying aid overturned... while hundreds of civilians were waiting for aid," the agency's spokesperson Mahmud Bassal told AFP.

The incident took place near the Nuseirat refugee camp, as the truck was driving on an unsafe road that Israel had previously bombed, Bassal added.

The Israeli military told AFP it was looking into the reports. Hamas accused Israel of forcing truck drivers to take dangerous routes to reach aid distribution centres, and to "intentionally engineer... starvation and chaos." Israel "forces drivers to navigate routes overcrowded with starving civilians who have been waiting for weeks for the most basic necessities," Hamas's media office said in a statement. "This often results in desperate crowds swarming the trucks," it added. – Agencies

Titan sub disaster was preventable

DNA

WASHINGTON: The catastrophic implosion of the Titan submersible that killed five people in 2023 could have been prevented, a US Coast Guard investigative board found on Tuesday, calling the vessel's safety culture and operational practices "critically flawed." The Titan vanished during a descent to the Titanic wreck on a tourist expedition, losing contact with its support ship.

After a tense four-day search, its shattered remains were discovered strewn across the seabed 1,600 feet (488 metres) from the bow of the legendary ocean liner that sank in 1912, claiming more than 1,500 lives. OceanGate, the US-based company that managed the tourist submersible, suspended all operations after the incident.

A company spokesperson said on Tuesday the company again offered its deepest condolences to the families of those who died "and directed its resources fully towards cooperating with the Coast Guard's inquiry through its completion."

The chair of the US Coast Guard Marine Board of Investigation, Jason Neubauer, said the accident was preventable. "There is a need for stronger oversight and clear options for operators who are exploring new concepts outside of the existing regulatory framework," he said in a statement with the release of the 300-page report.

Chloe Nargeolet, whose father, French oceanographer Paul-Henri Nargeolet, died on the submersible, said she was satisfied with the investigation. "The OceanGate boss didn't do his job properly and obviously my father didn't know any of that," she said.

Pakistan pushes UNSC to end Israel's 'brutal' war

In his remarks, Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad underscored the gravity of the situation, saying 60,000 Gazans have been killed, including 18,500 children. "Palestinian children have been killed at a rate more than 1 per hour since the war began"

UNITED NATIONS: As conditions in Gaza continue to deteriorate, a senior Pakistani diplomat has called on the UN Security Council to act now to end Israel's "brutal and illegal war and the unconscionable suffering of the Palestinian people", as he highlighted the plight of children in the besieged enclave. "The entire world is watching – in disbelief," Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, told the 15-member body on Tuesday. Speaking in a debate on the situation in the Middle East, he pointed out that civilians have suffered the brunt of Israel's war on Gaza, saying nothing can justify the indiscriminate killings, the starvation of an entire population, the collective punishment of a besieged people.

"These actions are not only morally indefensible; they constitute grave breaches of international law, including the Geneva Conventions, and stand in flagrant violation of binding measures issued by the International Court of Justice." At the same time, the Pakistani envoy called for the release of Israeli hostages, saying it violated international law and was "totally unacceptable." He also referred to the testimony to the Council of Itay David, whose brother Eyvatar David, is a hostage, along with 48 other hostages, hoping that he would be reunited with the family. In his remarks, Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad underscored the gravity of the

situation, saying 60,000 Gazans have been killed, including 18,500 children. "Palestinian children have been killed at a rate more than 1 per hour since the war began." Around 9,500 Palestinians, including hundreds of children and women are currently imprisoned, around one-third without charge or trial, it was pointed out.

The Pakistani envoy drew attention of the Council about the "horrible" consequences of the Israeli blockade of Gaza: at least 175 Palestinians, including 93 children, have died of starvation. Even the delivery of humanitarian aid has become deadly, with over 1,200 aid-related killings documented since May, he said. "This war on civilians must end," Ambassador Asim Iftikhar said. Pakistan, he said, called for an immediate, unconditional, and permanent ceasefire, full Israeli withdrawal, the release of hostages, and unimpeded humanitarian access.

"The initial phase of the ceasefire agreement brokered by Egypt, Qatar, and the United States led to the release of 33 hostages. But for Israel's unilateral abandonment of the ceasefire, further releases could not take place."

"We further call for the full implementation of Security Council Resolution 2735, which presents a viable, actionable roadmap to end hostilities and deliver desperately needed aid." In this regard, Ambassador Asim Iftikhar emphasized the need for

addressing the root cause of this ongoing tragedy: that is the Israel's prolonged, illegal occupation of Palestinian territory.

"As long as this occupation endures, peace will remain elusive," he told delegates.

"Lasting peace demands a credible political horizon - one grounded in international law - leading to the realization of a sovereign, viable, and contiguous Palestinian state based on the pre-1967 borders, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital," the Pakistani envoy said, noting that the recent conference on the Two-State Solution must be followed by concrete international action to finally achieve the long coveted peace and stability in the Middle East.

At the outset of the meeting, a senior UN official upheld the need for a political solution to the crisis in Gaza that can lead to a lasting peace between the two peoples.

Assistant Secretary-General Miroslav Jenca briefed a Security Council meeting on Tuesday called by Israel to discuss the plight of hostages still being held in the war-ravaged enclave.

He stressed that people deprived of their liberty must be treated humanely and with dignity and allowed to be visited by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Meanwhile, "the situation in Gaza is horrifying – it is unbearable," he continued, noting that "Palestinians are subjected to squalid, inhumane conditions on a daily

basis." This is happening as Israel continues to severely restrict humanitarian assistance entering Gaza, while the aid that is allowed to enter "is grossly inadequate."

He told the Council that "hunger is everywhere in Gaza, visible in the faces of children and in the desperation of parents risking their lives to access the most basic supplies." Here, he echoed the Secretary-General's condemnation of the ongoing violence in Gaza, including the shooting, killing, and injuring of people trying to get food. "International law is clear. Civilians must be respected, protected and never targeted or deliberately deprived of food or access to other lifesaving aid – doing so is a war crime," he said.

"Israel must immediately allow and facilitate rapid and unimpeded passage of sufficient amounts of humanitarian relief for civilians in need, to avert further suffering and loss of life." Jenca also addressed latest reports regarding Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's possible decision to expand military operations through the entire Gaza Strip. If true, they are "deeply alarming," he said, as "this would risk catastrophic consequences for millions of Palestinians and could further endanger the lives of the remaining hostages in Gaza."

He again turned to international law, which is clear that Gaza is and must remain an integral part of a future Palestinian State.

PML-N always advocated talks, PTI refused: Rana

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Prime Minister on Political Affairs, Rana Sanaullah, said Wednesday that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) believed that political dialogue was way forward to resolve all the national and political issues. Speaking to a private news channel, he said political dialogue was essential for national stability.

He said that the Prime Minister has repeatedly invited the opposition to engage in discussions within the Parliament and has even offered to initiate talks through the Speaker's chamber. PML-N had always called for dialogue, but the PTI was never willing to engage in talks.

He added that political issues must be addressed through serious dialogue and a constructive approach. Answering a question, he said that PML-N leaders were falsely implicated in cases carrying the death penalty during PTI's tenure. PTI leadership used to demand evidence and punishment, but now, when verdicts are being delivered, they claim they are being targeted, he added. – APP

Repatriation of illegal refugees

These committees have been tasked to ensure the voluntary return of Afghan refugees in collaboration with their leaders in the first phase

PESHAWAR: In light of the directives of the provincial government, a meeting regarding the repatriation of illegal Afghan refugees was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Charsadda, Dr. Azmatullah Wazir. The meeting reviewed arrangements made for the repatriation of Afghan refugees. Besides, District Police Officer (DPO) Charsadda Waqas Khan, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Charsadda, and Assistant Commissioner (AC) Charsadda, the representatives of NADRA and other relevant security agencies, also attended. On this occasion, it was clarified to the participants of the meeting that all Proof of Registration (POR) and Afghan Citizenship (ACC) card holder refugees residing in the country have been declared illegal, after which the Government of Pakistan has decided to send such Afghan refugees back to their country.

The participants were told that all arrangements have been completed for the repatriation of such Afghan refugees residing in Charsadda, and in this regard, committees have been formed in the three tehsils of the district under the leadership of the concerned Assistant Commissioners. These committees have been tasked to ensure the voluntary return of Afghan refugees in collaboration with their leaders in the first phase. In this regard, Deputy Commissioner Charsadda Dr. Azmatullah Wazir made it clear to all participants that all illegal Afghan refugees should be returned to their country with dignity in the presence of the police. – Agencies

'US probe into Adani behind Modi's inability to stand up to Trump'

"One threat is to expose financial links between Modi, AA, and Russian oil deals," says Indian opposition leader



NEW DELHI: In a scathing criticism of alleged dubious dealings of the Indian prime minister, country's opposition leader Rahul Gandhi has said the reason Narendra Modi

President for boosting trade, economic ties with Oman

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Pakistan, Fahad Sulaiman Khalaf Alkharusi Wednesday called on President Asif Ali Zardari at Aiwan-e-Sadr and discussed ways to further promote bilateral cooperation. Both sides underlined the need to deepen relations for the mutual benefit of the two brotherly nations. Speaking to the Ambassador, the president said that Pakistan and Oman enjoy close fraternal relations based on shared religion, culture and values. He emphasized that enhanced interaction at the leadership level would further strengthen the cordial ties between the two countries.

The president highlighted the importance of expanding trade and economic cooperation, saying that Pakistan is keen to increase bilateral trade and investment in areas such as information technology, construction, healthcare, food security, and energy.

He stressed that government-to-government engagement would encourage robust private-sector collaboration, thereby boosting trade and investment between the two nations. President Zardari expressed his



gratitude to Oman for supporting Pakistan's candidature as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for 2025-2026. He also appreciated Oman for hosting

over 400,000 members of the Pakistani diaspora, who not only contribute to Oman's development but also act as a vital bridge of friendship between the two brotherly countries.

Pak-Turkish navies conduct exercise

DNA

KARACHI: Pakistan Navy and Turkish Navy have successfully concluded first Bilateral Amphibious Exercise which marked a significant milestone in strengthening maritime collaboration and interoperability between two friendly navies.

The exercise featured a comprehensive range of training activities including combat firing techniques, amphibious operation drills, convoy escorting drills and military operations in urban terrain, said a news release issued by Directorate General Public Relations (Pak Navy).

Live firing drills and close combat scenarios, designed to sharpen tactical coordination and readiness in littoral environments were also a part of the exercise.

The exercise culminated with a comprehensive amphibious drill in the designated coastal area validating operational readiness of both navies.

The conduct of bilateral exercise reflected deep rooted defence partnership between Pakistan and Türkiye and reaffirmed shared commitment towards regional peace through regular collaborative training initiatives.

Kashmir statehood: Indian top court to hear plea

NEWS DESK

NEW DELHI: India's top court will hear a plea for the restoration of occupied Kashmir's statehood later this week, court officials said on Tuesday.

The hearing, scheduled for Aug 8 in the Supreme Court, follows an application filed by two residents of the India-occupied territory. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government revoked occupied Kashmir's limited autonomy and brought it directly under federal control.

The move was accompanied by mass arrests and a communications blackout that ran for months as India bolstered its armed forces in the region to contain protests. The removal of Article 370 of the constitution, which enshrined the India-occupied state's special status, was challenged by political parties, the local bar association and individual litigants.

In Dec 2023, the Supreme Court upheld removing the occupied territory's autonomy, but added that it be restored to statehood and put on a par with any other Indian state "at the earliest and as soon as possible".

"We have moved an application seeking a definitive timeline for the restoration of statehood," said the petitioners' lawyer, Soayib Qureshi.

Trump says pharma, chips tariffs incoming as trade war widens

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump signaled Tuesday that fresh tariffs on imported pharmaceuticals and semiconductors could be unveiled within the coming week, as a cascade of incoming duties promises to reshape global trading ties. Governments around the world are bracing as new waves of US tariffs are due to take effect this week, first on many Brazilian products on Wednesday and then on dozens of other economies – including the European Union and Taiwan – beginning Thursday.

Trump's sweeping plans have sparked a flurry of activity as leaders seek to avert the worst of his threats, with Swiss officials heading to Washington on Tuesday in a last-minute push to avoid punitive duties. But the US president appears set to widen his trade wars. Trump told CNBC on Tuesday that upcoming tariffs on imported pharmaceuticals could reach 250 percent, while adding that he

plans for a steep levy on such imports will likely remain a point of contention in any talks. Pharmaceuticals represented 60 percent of Swiss goods exports to the United States last year. Outside of Switzerland, most products from the European Union face a 15 percent tariff starting Thursday, after Washington and Brussels struck a deal to avoid higher levies. But Trump warned Tuesday that the EU could see its tariff level surge again if it did not fulfill obligations under their recent pact. Some imports from Canada are also targeted by tariffs, although Prime Minister Mark Carney stressed Tuesday that more than 85 percent of trade between the North American neighbors remains tariff-free under existing exemptions.

Besides probing pharmaceuticals and chips imports, Trump has already imposed steep duties of 50 percent on steel and aluminum, alongside lower levies on autos and parts. – Agencies

new duties on foreign semiconductors soon. "We'll be putting (an) initially small tariff on pharmaceuticals, but in one year, one-and-a-half years, maximum, it's going to go to 150 percent," Trump said. "And then it's going to go to 250 percent because we want pharmaceuticals made in our country."

Trump also said that Washington will be announcing tariffs "within the next week or so." He added: "We're going to be announcing on semiconductors and chips." Trump has set out varying tariff rates for dozens of economies after imposing a 10-percent levy on almost all trading partners in April.

But these broad duties taking effect Thursday exclude products like pharmaceuticals, steel, aluminum and lumber, which are being separately targeted by sector. This means that although the 39-percent tariff Swiss leaders seek to avoid come Thursday excludes pharmaceuticals, Trump's

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