



Islamabad POST

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PM Shehbaz Sharif lauds services of the security forces

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Economy on path of recovery, says Ahsan Iqbal

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Snooker: Asif moves into semi final

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Diplomatic success

Pak welcomes US decision on BLA, Majeed Brigade

The FO emphasised that Pakistan had proscribed the Majeed Brigade – BLA's suicide squad – as a terrorist entity since July 18, 2024. The BLA itself was proscribed in 2006, according to the National Counter-Terrorism Authority's list of proscribed organisations

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Tuesday welcomed the US' decision to designate the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) and Majeed Brigade to its Foreign Terrorist Organisation list, according to a Foreign Office (FO) press release. The US State Department made the announcement yesterday, stating that the designations demonstrated the US President Donald Trump's commitment to counter-terrorism. The FO emphasised that Pakistan had proscribed the Majeed Brigade – BLA's suicide squad – as a terrorist entity since July 18, 2024. The BLA itself was proscribed in 2006, according to the National Counter-Terrorism Authority's list of proscribed organisations. "BLA/Majeed Brigade is involved in multiple terrorist attacks in Pakistan, including the heinous Jaffer Express terrorist incident and the Khuzdar bus attack that resulted in the loss of precious lives," the release said. At least 26 hostages lost their lives in the Jaffer Express attack in March, for

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US reiterates resolve to fight all forms of terror

US Embassy in Islamabad says meeting aimed to advance shared resolve against terrorism

STAFF REPROT

ISLAMABAD: The United States has reaffirmed its commitment to countering terrorism in all its forms during a counterterrorism dialogue with Pakistan, the US Embassy in Islamabad said on Tuesday. The dialogue took place a day after the US State Department listed the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) and Majeed Brigade as foreign terrorist organisations after a string of deadly assaults claimed by the group. In a statement, the embassy said Acting Coordinator for Counterterrorism Gregory LoGerfo and Chargé d'Affaires Natalie Baker took part in the US-Pakistan Counterterrorism Dialogue. According to the statement, the engagement was aimed at advancing the two countries' shared resolve to combat what it described as a "global threat". The embassy underscored that Washington "remains committed" to this cooperation. Washington had already listed the BLA under the less severe label of specially designated global terrorists, which targets financial resources, before toughening the ban on Monday. The new step comes as US President Donald Trump increases contact with Pakistan after

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ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Morocco to Pakistan, Mr. Mohamed Karmoune, called on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwn-e-Sadr. – DNA

Imran bail CJP Afridi questions LHC's 'final observations'

The bench issued notices to the Punjab government and adjourned the hearing till August 19

STAFF REPORT/DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Yahya Afridi on Tuesday raised questions over some observations made by the Lahore High Court (LHC) on former premier Imran Khan's bail pleas in eight May 9 cases. In November 2024, a Lahore anti-terrorism court had denied Imran bail in the cases related to the May 9, 2023 riots, including an attack on the house of the Lahore corps commander. The incarcerated PTI leader's plea challenging that was also rejected by the LHC on June 24. Subsequently, days later,

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Friendship bonds

President Zardari for strengthening Pak, Morocco ties

Reaffirming that Pakistan and Morocco enjoy close and brotherly ties, the President expressed his best wishes for the continued health of His Majesty King Mohammed VI

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has said that Pakistan and Morocco enjoy fraternal ties, based on common faith, shared values, and mutual respect, which need to be further strengthened for the mutual benefit of the two countries. He made these remarks during a meeting with the Ambassador of Morocco, Mr. Mohamed Karmoune, who called on him at Aiwan-e-Sadr. The President said that Pakistan is committed to further enhancing bilateral cooperation with Morocco in diverse fields. He expressed gratitude for Morocco's for its support to Pakistan during the 2022 floods,

noting that such gestures reflect the depth of friendship between the two nations. President Zardari emphasized that Pakistan attaches great importance to its economic relations with Morocco and highlighted the vast potential for expanding economic cooperation between the two countries. He observed that Africa is poised for significant economic growth in the coming years, and Morocco – with its remarkable economic development – is well-placed to lead this transformation and contribute to regional prosperity. Reaffirming that Pakistan and Morocco enjoy close and brotherly ties, the President expressed his best wishes for the continued

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Briefs

Bilawal not aware of 27th Amend.

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Tuesday dismissed talk of any potential legislation regarding a 27th constitutional amendment as "baseless rumours". Even though the 26th Amendment is still mired in controversy, the power corridors in Islamabad are abuzz with talk of a possible 27th Constitutional Amendment, which, according to the insiders, will further "fine-tune" the structure and the functioning of the superior judiciary. With the 26th Amendment, the government introduced sweeping changes to the judicial framework. Sources had said certain contentious matters, such as a separate constitutional court, left unresolved in the 26th Amendment, would now be taken up in the new amendment.

Polio virus still present in parts of Pakistan

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: While the overall trend shows a decline in positive environmental detections of the poliovirus, reflecting the impact of high-quality vaccination campaigns, the virus continues to circulate in certain parts of Pakistan, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) said. According to July data from the country's environmental surveillance system, 127 sewage samples were collected from 87 districts, the NIH said in a statement issued on Tuesday. Testing at the Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication in Islamabad confirmed 75 samples as negative and 42 as positive, with 10 samples still under process.

Temporary relief for PTI

Appointment of Opp leaders; PHC issues stay order

On August 5, ECP had disqualified Ayub and Faraz, along with other opposition MNAs and MPAs, following their convictions in three cases related to the May 9, 2023 riots

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court (PHC) on Tuesday issued a stay order for the appointments of new opposition leaders in the National Assembly and the Senate following the disqualification and removal of PTI's Omar Ayub and Shibli Faraz. On August 5, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) had disqualified Ayub and Faraz, along with other opposition MNAs and MPAs, following their convictions in three cases related to the May 9, 2023 riots. Subsequently, on August 8, both leaders were removed from their posts in notifications issued by the NA and Senate secretariats. A division bench comprising Justices

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Lahore ATC orders Qureshi's release

Court orders seizure of properties of Dr Yasmin Rashid, Senator Ejaz Chaudhry, Mian Mehmood ur Rasheed

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Following his acquittal a day earlier, an Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) in Lahore on Tuesday ordered the release of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior leader Shah Mahmood Qureshi in two May 9 cases. ATC Judge Manzoor Ali Gill, following up on his verdict

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50 Khwarij eliminated in 4-Day operation

During the conduct of the operation, three more Indian sponsored khwarij, were hunted down and successfully neutralized

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Following the successful engagements by the security forces in general area Sambaza, Zhob District from 7-9 August 2025, during which forty seven khwarij were sent to hell; on night 10/11 August 2025, a deliberate sanitization operation was conducted in surrounding areas of Sambaza along Pakistan-Afghanistan Border. During the conduct of the operation, three more Indian sponsored khwarij, were hunted down and successfully neutralized. Weapons, ammunition & explosives were also recovered from the killed khwarij. The number of khwarij killed in four days anti-inflation operation has risen to fifty. The Security Forces remain committed to secure the nation's frontiers and thwart attempts at sabotaging peace, stability and progress of Pakistan.


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President, PM laud security forces

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday commended the officers and personnel of the security forces for carrying out another successful operation against Khawarij in the Sambaza area of the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. The president and prime minister, in their separately issued statements, appreciated the security forces for killing 50 Indian-sponsored terrorists in the last four days as a testament to their professionalism, bravery, and determination. "The nation stands shoulder to


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Govt offers grants for self-employment, paid internship

PESHAWAR: The provincial government has launched a programme offering financial grants for self-employment and paid internships. This initiative is a core part of the government's strategy to create sustainable livelihoods and reduce poverty across the province. The programme is a collaborative effort between the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rural Economic Transformation Project and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (KPK TEVTA). Online applications have been invited from professionally skilled young men and women who have recently graduated from technical institutions. Eligible candidates must meet specific criteria, including holding a Khyber Pakhtunkhwa domicile, possessing a technical certificate from 2023 or later, being registered in the BISP (Benazir Income Support Programme) database, and being between the ages of 18 and 29. Selected candidates will receive a stipend, and a 50% quota has been reserved for women to ensure gender inclusivity.—APP

Youth Pakistan's brightest future, most valuable asset: CM

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has said that the government is committed to utilising all available resources to realise the dreams of the youth, describing them as Pakistan's bright future and most valuable asset. In her message on International Youth Day, the CM said, "Every young person is a shining star in the nation's destiny, and we are proud of them. Punjab's unique Honhaar Scholarship Programme is turning the aspirations of talented students into reality." She noted that thousands of young people are benefiting from modern knowledge and technology through the CM Punjab Laptop Scheme, while the Khelta Punjab Programme is providing platforms across all divisions for youth to excel in sports, engage in positive activities, and maintain good health.—APP

Tarar advises opposition to approach courts for relief

ISLAMABAD, Aug 12 (AP-P): Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar on Tuesday advised the opposition to approach the courts, stating that relief does not come from protests or speeches but by following the legal process. Responding to points raised by Senator Ali Zafar, he said the remedy lies with the constitutional courts—either the High Court or the Supreme Court—under the legal framework enacted by Parliament. "If someone commits a crime, whether guilty or innocent, the matter must go through the legal course, and remedies are available within that system," he added.—APP

First lady calls for united action to prevent breast cancer

Ms. Aseefa Bhutto Zardari emphasized making women's health a national priority, with targeted efforts on prevention, early detection, and treatment

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD : First Lady Ms. Aseefa Bhutto Zardari has called for united action — involving government institutions, health professionals, media, and communities — to raise awareness to combat breast cancer, the most common cancer among women in Pakistan and the highest in prevalence in Asia. She made these remarks during a meeting with Mr. Omer Aftab, Founder and Honorary CEO of Pink Ribbon Pakistan, at Aiwan-e-Sadr today. Highlighting that one in every nine Pakistani women is at risk, the First Lady warned that delayed detection claims thousands of lives annually. She noted that survival rates exceed 90 percent when the disease is diagnosed early and stressed that "every woman, regardless of where she lives, must have access to timely screening, diagnosis, and treatment." Ms. Aseefa Bhutto Zardari emphasized making women's health a national priority, with targeted efforts on prevention, early detection, and treatment. She called for expanding breast cancer facilities to underserved rural areas, breaking cultural taboos that delay consultations, and promoting mobile mammography units, community outreach, and male family involvement to



overcome stigma. She urged all stakeholders — including the media, educators, and religious lead-

ers — to spearhead a nationwide awareness drive, encouraging early detection and timely medical

intervention. Commending Pink Ribbon Pakistan for its awareness and screening initiatives, the First

Lady lauded its efforts to establish the country's first dedicated Breast Cancer Hospital.

James stresses youth empowerment

ISLAMABAD: President of the Minorities Parliamentarians Forum and Member of the National Assembly, James Iqbal, has said that International Youth Day serves as a reminder that young people are the architects of the future and the true drivers of change. Highlighting the growing significance of youth in today's era of technology and opportunity, he noted that this powerful combination enables young people to transform their ambitions into tangible results, paving the way for a sustainable and equitable future. "With 60% of its population under the age of 30, Pakistan is home to one of the largest youth populations in the world, increasingly connected to the global digital landscape," he said. By leveraging technology in education, business, and social engagement, young people can become catalysts for positive change. Reaffirming his commitment to creating an enabling environment with equal opportunities for all youth, James Iqbal stressed the importance of skill development programs to equip them with the tools needed for success and progress. "Today's youth are tomorrow's leaders. An empowered youth population will not only foster individual growth but also contribute significantly to the country's socio-economic development," he added.—APP

Kundi assures support for sports promotion in varsities

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday reaffirmed his commitment to promoting sports and encouraging talented athletes across the province. He made these views while meeting a delegation of players from various universities, led by Pakistan Cricket Board coach Ahmad Khattak, at the Governor's House. The delegation included Women University Mardan Director Sports Dr. Nilofer Ikram, University of Lakki Marwat Director Sports Rukhsana Yaqoob, Principal of Government Postgraduate College Kohat Dr. Musarrat, Dr. Shania, and athletes from multiple sports disciplines. The delegation briefed the Governor on the current sports facilities available in higher education institutions and shared proposals for

further improvement. Ahmad Khattak informed the Governor about a PSL-style tournament being organized in Punjab, with each province fielding a team, and invited him to attend as chief guest to boost the morale of the KP team. Governor Kundi assured full cooperation in enhancing university-level sports infrastructure and announced plans to host an award ceremony at the Governor's House to honor outstanding young athletes. He emphasized that creating opportunities for talented youth to excel is a key priority of his agenda. Meanwhile, a delegation of AID International, led by Chief Executive Officer Rehman Badshah, called on Governor Faisal Karim Kundi at the Governor's House. The delegation included Dr. Arifullah Khan,

Dr. Ayaz, Dr. Asad ur Rehman, Dr. Usman, Dr. Sadia, Dr. Farwa, Dr. Saima, and other members. The representatives briefed the Governor on the organization's performance, highlighting that Aid International comprises health sector professionals from across the province and is actively engaged in raising awareness on education, climate change, and health issues. Governor Kundi appreciated the organization's work, saying that following the Swat tragedy, three ambulances and five boats were provided to the Pakistan Red Crescent Society in Swat, while a free ambulance service has been launched in Peshawar. He said efforts were underway to secure additional donor funding to strengthen such initiatives.—DNA

Climate Minister reaches Geneva for Global Plastic Treaty Talks

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Dr. Musadik Malik has arrived in Geneva, Switzerland, to participate in an informal ministerial dialogue under the framework of the Global Plastic Treaty. The high-level discussions, scheduled for today, will focus on investment opportunities in the circular economy — an approach aimed at reducing waste by reusing, recycling, and repurposing materials. According to the Ministry of Climate Change, ministers from various countries will explore strategies for eliminating plastic pollution worldwide. "Dr. Malik will present Pakistan's stance and priorities in the negotiations, ensuring the country's voice is heard in shaping a collective strategy to combat plastic waste," an official statement said.—APP

Efforts afoot to attract more investment in IT sector

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, said on Tuesday that the government is working to attract more foreign investment in Pakistan's IT sector. Speaking at the Next-Gen Cyber Resilience Workshop and Telecom Cybersecurity Awards 2024-25, she highlighted the growing importance of cybersecurity in the fast-changing IT world. Shaza explained that digitization is a government priority, with the Digital Pakistan Act already approved in line with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's vision for a digitally transformed country, which will have a significant impact on the economy, society, and governance. A key part of this vision is ensuring strong cybersecurity. "Once everyone's digital identity is created and data is digitized, securing that data becomes essential, as it is the most valuable asset,"

she said. The Minister reassured that both individual and national cybersecurity would be rigorously protected. She also praised the efforts of agencies such as the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), NADRA, and SECP in implementing cybersecurity measures. Shaza Khawaja pointed out that Pakistan's cybersecurity sector had made significant progress, with the country scoring 96.7% in the International Telecommunication Union's Cybersecurity Index for 2024. She credited this achievement to collective efforts and mentioned that over 3,000 young people received cybersecurity training in the past year. Plans are in place to expand this initiative to further develop skills and create job opportunities for the youth. She also stressed the importance of enhancing Pakistan's digital capabilities

and building a skilled cybersecurity workforce to meet the growing demands of artificial intelligence and modern technology. She said that, the government is working to improve internet connectivity, with two submarine cables already in place and more planned. Investors from countries like China are interested in investing in this sector. The government is also pushing forward the National Fiberization Policy and working to address issues related to the right-of-way for IT companies. Following instructions from the Prime Minister, policy changes have led to positive developments, such as the removal of right-of-way charges by the CDA, ongoing discussions with NHA and Railways, and a proposed amendment to the Pakistan Telecommunication Act, which will address related issues through an online portal.—DNA

Unanimous resolution passed, paid tributes to minorities

ISLAMABAD: The Senate of Pakistan on Tuesday passed a unanimous resolution paying tribute to minorities for their indispensable role in the nation's development, progress, and unity, enriching the cultural, social, and economic fabric of the country. The resolution, moved by Senator Danesh Kumar, said that the founding father of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, in his historic address on 11 August 1947, unequivocally declared that all citizens of Pakistan, irrespective of religion, caste, or creed, shall enjoy equal rights, freedoms, and protections under the law. It highlighted that this principle remains a cornerstone of the country's policy towards minorities. It noted that the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan enshrines the fundamental rights of minorities, ensuring their freedom of religion, equality before the law, and protection against discrimination. The resolution highlighted that Pakistan is a signatory to international covenants, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which affirm the rights of minorities. It further underscored that fostering interfaith harmony, social cohesion, and inclusivity is essential for national unity and prosperity. On the occasion of the National Day for Minorities, the resolution acknowledged the invaluable contributions of minorities to the development, progress, and unity of the nation. It paid profound tribute to the minorities of Pakistan for their unwavering patriotism, sacrifices, and exemplary contributions to the country's growth. The resolution reaffirmed the Senate's unwavering commitment to safeguarding the constitutional, legal, and human rights of all minorities, ensuring their dignity, security, and equal status as citizens of the state. It appreciated and commended the Chairman Senate for the visionary initiative of establishing the Minorities Caucus in the Senate of Pakistan. This joint parliamentary forum, with representation from both the National Assembly and the Senate, aims to collectively address concerns and promote the rights of minorities. The resolution urged the government to ensure the effective implementation of constitutional provisions and legal protections for minorities. It called upon the government to initiate public awareness campaigns and interfaith harmony programs that promote tolerance and inclusivity in society.—DNA

Randhawa chairs meeting on Marka-e-Haq, Independence Day plans

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman CDA and Chief Commissioner Islamabad, Muhammad Ali Randhawa chaired a high level meeting at CDA Headquarters which meeting was attended by Member Admin and Estate Talat Mahmood, Member Planning, Dr. Khalid Ha-fee, Member Finance Tahir Naeem, Inspector General of Police Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi and other senior officers. During the meeting, the arrangements made by the CDA to celebrate Marka-e-Haq and Independence Day in a dignified manner in the Federal Capital, Islamabad in line with the direction of Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and the leadership of Chairman CDA and Chief Commissioner Islamabad, were reviewed. It was decided that in connection with the celebrations of Marka-e-Haq and Independence Day, national flags have been hoisted on all official buildings across Islamabad, along with illuminations. Additionally, beautiful lighting arrangements, digital streamers have also been installed on all major highways, including Constitution Avenue, Club Road, Srinagar Highway, Jinnah Avenue, D-Chowk, Pakistan Monuments and other key areas to further beautify the Federal Capital on this occasion. Chairman CDA and Chief



Commissioner Islamabad, Muhammad Ali Randhawa, said that to celebrate Marka-e-Haq and Independence Day with national zeal, various events are being organised by CDA across Islamabad, including flag-hoisting ceremonies, decorative lighting on highways, cultural events, fireworks, national song competitions and public programs. Similarly, speech

competitions, painting contests, national song competitions and tableau shows have also been held among school students. Moreover, all parks and grounds in Islamabad are being adorned with beautiful lights. Additionally, branding related to Marka-e-Haq and Independence Day are also being displayed on electric and other buses operating in the city.

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CDA, PPAF join hands to uplift marginalized communities

Randhawa underscored the importance of inclusive growth in the federal capital. “Sustainable urban development and social welfare are essential for the prosperity of the city

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) and the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) have agreed to launch joint initiatives aimed at improving living conditions in underprivileged areas of Islamabad, with a focus on skill development, job creation, and community empowerment. The agreement was reached during a meeting between CDA Chairman and Chief Commissioner Islamabad Muhammad Ali Randhawa and PPAF Chief Executive Officer Nadir Gul Barech at CDA Headquarters on Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion, Randhawa underscored the importance of inclusive growth in the federal capital. “Sustainable urban development and social welfare are essential for the prosperity of the city,” he said, adding that CDA is committed to improving the lives of all residents and will work closely with relevant institutions to achieve this goal. Barech praised the CDA’s leadership for its development efforts and pledged PPAF’s full support. “We are confident that our collaboration will lead to effective measures for poverty alleviation and economic empowerment,” he said. Under the agreement, both organizations will enhance coordination to launch practical, community-focused projects. The planned initiatives aim to reduce poverty in Islamabad’s marginalized neighborhoods by creating sustainable economic opportunities and promoting active citizen participation.



The meeting was attended by senior CDA board members, including Member Administration and Estate Talat Mehmood, Member Finance Tahir Naeem, Member Planning Dr. Khalid Hafiz, and Member Environment Esfandiyar Baloch.

ICCI leadership pushes for regulatory reforms

ISLAMABAD: Nasir Mansoor Qureshi, President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), has stressed that maintaining fiscal discipline, strengthening beneficial foreign partnerships, and pursuing inclusive economic policies are essential for Pakistan’s sustainable development. Speaking during a meeting with a visiting delegation of renowned businessmen from the region, he said the challenges facing the country can only be overcome through prudent governance and consistent policy execution aimed at achieving lasting progress. Highlighting the barriers to investment, Qureshi noted that bureaucratic red tape has long hindered both foreign and domestic investors. He emphasized that regulatory reforms are urgently needed to eliminate these challenges, stimulate export growth through targeted incentives, and provide greater support to value-added industries. He further said that foreign direct investment must be encouraged through stable policies and reliable dispute resolution mechanisms. “The ICCI President underscored the importance of investing in human capital via modern education and market-oriented vocational training to boost productivity and competitiveness. He added that strengthening key institutions, ensuring policy continuity, and reducing political interference in economic decision-making should be top national priorities. He also called for broadening the tax net by integrating untaxed sectors into the formal economy, making the system more equitable, and ensuring fiscal sustainability. ICCI Senior Vice President Abdul Rehman Siddiqui and Vice President Nasir Mehmood Chaudhry echoed the need for comprehensive reforms to reduce the cost of doing business and enhance Pakistan’s appeal as an investment destination.—DNA

Talal dismisses Mosque Seminary demolition

Chaudhry emphasized that current measures are focused on two tehsils of Bajaur and are being carried out with full cooperation from provincial and local authorities

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry on Tuesday categorically dismissed media reports regarding the abrupt demolition of a mosque, clarifying that the recent relocation of a mosque seminary on Murree Road was carried out in consultation with and with the consent of the seminary’s management. Responding to a point of order raised by Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri in the National Assembly, Chaudhry rejected claims of overnight demolitions of madrassahs and mosques in Islamabad. He emphasized that the relocation process was initiated in January and involved months of dialogue with the seminary administration. “A newly constructed, modern facility—valued at Rs 40 million—was completed in the last week of July to accommodate the relocated seminary,” he said, adding that 185 students, along with their belongings, had been shifted to the new premises. The entire process, he noted, was supervised by the seminary’s management and fully documented to avoid any misunderstandings. “Both madrassahs and mosques are sacred to us, and no step can be taken without due respect and consultation,” Chaudhry affirmed. He further dismissed reports of any planned “overnight” operation targeting 50 religious institutions in the capital. Any future action, he

said, would be undertaken only after comprehensive consultation with religious scholars and relevant stakeholders, in accordance with legal and urban planning requirements.— Following discussions with the leadership of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) and local ulema, a 48-hour window was agreed upon for further deliberations. The matter will be presented to the Interior Minister upon his return from an official visit abroad. Chaudhry lauded JUI-F’s constructive role and reaffirmed the government’s commitment to continued consultation. He also clarified that the newly provided facility meets the highest standards of a modern educational institution and is valued between Rs 140–150 million. Responding to another point of order, Chaudhry stated that no new military operation is currently underway in Bajaur. All ongoing actions, he said, are being conducted under the framework of the National Action Plan (NAP), in close coordination with the provincial government and local stakeholders. He revealed that approximately 190 intelligence-based operations (IBOs) are conducted daily across Pakistan. Intelligence reports, he added, indicate a higher concentration of terrorists in Bajaur, including foreign nationals and elements linked to India. Appropriate action is being taken in response. Chaudhry emphasized that current measures are focused on two tehsils of Bajaur and are being carried out with full cooperation from provincial and local authorities.

Pakistani nation’s resolve remains unbeaten: Danyal

Awards were distributed among various artists, scriptwriters, program hosts, producers, poets, and technical staff for their exceptional contributions

RAWALPINDI: Federal Parliamentary Secretary, Barrister Danyal Chaudhry on Tuesday said that Pakistani nation is united to combat any challenge, with a great unbeaten spirit. He remarked this during the ‘Potohar Awards’ ceremony at Radio Pakistan, Rawalpindi which was organized to mark the 78th Independence Day. Speaking on the occasion, he emphasized that Pakistan was born from the great sacrifices of our elders and the spirit of ‘La ilaha ilAllah, which cannot be defeated. Barrister Chaudhry highlighted the recent struggle on May 6, where the entire nation united like an steel wall to defeat an enemy with far superior resources. He reiterated that the spirit of 1947 and the Islamic faith remain invincible, keeping the nation into a strong entity. He stressed that the progress of the country and its people hinges on performance and dedication. Congratulating the artists awarded for their outstanding contributions, he underscored that recognition should be based on merit and achievement, not criticism or slander. He said that success in offices or at government level, depends on deliverance, and only those who work diligently deserve opportunities to advance. He urged the younger generation to carry forward the legacy of freedom passed down by their elders. Underlining the importance of reconciliation over hatred or revenge, Barrister Chaudhry described revenge as a characteristic of the weak, while reconciliation plays pivotal role for countries’ progress. He emphasized the importance of teaching children to respect and obey their parents, as this strengthens societal fabric. “Educators and societal role models should guide the new generation positively”, he urged while observing the weakening of family values in Western societies as a cautionary example. For the progress of Radio Pakistan, he announced plans to collaborate with DG Radio, Saeed Sheikh to make it further professional and financial organization. He highlighted that his ministry will render for betterment of Radio Pakistan as was done for Pakistan Television Corporation. “My presence at PBC today must fetch some good fuots for the Radio Pakistan”, he said reiterating his commitment to chalk out a plan for PBC’s improvement. He proposed a mechanism to financially support Radio Pakistan through excise and taxation department by leveraging the use of radios in vehicles, aiming to strengthen the institution. He also lauded DG Radio, Station Director Musarat Shahrukh and the Rawalpindi station staff for their commendable performance. The event featured Senator Irfan Siddiqui as the chief guest. Awards were distributed among various artists, scriptwriters, program hosts, producers, poets, and technical staff for their exceptional contributions.—DNA

NUML hosts seminar to commemorate Youm-e-Azaadi, Youm-e-Marka-e-Haq

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Department of Arts and Humanities, National University of Modern Languages (NUML), organised a one-day seminar to mark Youm-e-Azaadi (Independence Day) and Youm-e-Marka-e-Haq. The event featured national songs, recitations of Al-lama Iqbal’s poetry, and inspiring speeches by Dean Faculty of Arts and Humanities, renowned columnist, scholar and Chairman National Rehamatul-lil-Alameen wa Khata-mun Nabiiyyin Authority (NRKNA), Dr. Khurshed Ahmed Nadeem, and Rector NUML, Major General Shahid Mahmood Kayani, HI (M). Dean Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Prof Dr. Arshad Mahmood in his welcome address, emphasized the responsibility of safeguard-



ing the country’s independence and striving for national progress. He highlighted that Marka-e-Haq proved that wars are not won by weapons alone but through faith and passion. Chief Guest, Dr. Khurshed Ahmed Nadeem reflected on the significance of the day, noting Pakistan’s immense regional value and its foundational spirit built on the dedication of its youth. He stressed that Pakistan is not an outcome of mere circumstances but the result of determination and sacrifice. Linking the day’s celebration with the perspective of Marka-e-Haq, he urged the nation to stand firm, embrace self-accountability, and avoid the culture of blame and unrest. He reminded that Pakistan is a blessing to be respected and valued, adding that progress requires patience and resilience in the face of challenges.

Dengue prevention efforts reviewed

RAWALPINDI: Two key meetings were held to tackle the dengue outbreak. In a nightly Deputy Commissioner Dr. Hasan Waqar Cheema and MNA Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb chaired a session which was attended by parliamentarians ACs and reps from various departments. The meeting reviewed the dengue situation and ordered accelerated daily sweeping, larva surveillance, fogging, sanitation, and drainage works across tehsils. Dr. Cheema emphasized public awareness. Citizens were urged to maintain cleanliness and support prevention teams, with representatives to monitor progress. A follow up meeting was held with Additional Deputy Commissioner Headquarters Abdullah Khan in the chair. Officials briefed the meeting on actions taken. Enhanced coordination and special teams were approved to boost efforts. All Assistant Commissioners were tasked with increased overnighting and increased field mobility.—APP

Finance minister calls on CJP

ISLAMABAD: Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, met with the Chief Justice of Pakistan, Justice Yahya Afridi, at the Supreme Court premises here Tuesday. During the meeting, the Chief Justice highlighted the SC’s ongoing initiatives aimed at improving access to justice, modernizing court systems, categorization of tax-related cases, and enhancing service delivery through technology-driven reforms. The CJ emphasized the importance of ensuring the success of the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism, which has been rolled out to ensure the timely resolution of tax-related disputes. He reiterated the importance of the government’s support to make it a real success. He also informed the Finance Minister that training sessions are currently being conducted at the Judicial Academy for judicial officers and members of SECP, with plans underway to extend similar training to officers of the Competition Commission of Pakistan in the near future. The Federal Minister appreciated the judiciary’s reform agenda and assured the government’s continued cooperation in ensuring the timely provision of requisite resources for judicial development projects. Both underscored the importance of coordinated efforts between the judiciary and the executive in upholding the rule of law and safeguarding citizens’ fundamental rights.

DRAP hosts training session

ISLAMABAD:President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Nasir Mansoor Qureshi on Monday stressed that a credible regulatory environment is vital for attracting local and foreign investment, particularly in healthcare and pharmaceuticals. Lauding the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) for organizing a Training Session on Implementing Quality Management System (ISO 9001:2015), he said the initiative is a significant step towards institutional excellence and global alignment. He said that the DRAP’s adoption of internationally recognized quality standards would enhance regulatory efficiency and bolster public trust. The event was organised in collaboration with TUV Austria Bureau of Inspection and Certification at ICCI auditorium, said a press release. The event drew wide participation from DRAP, PS&DC ICT regulators and DC TMD, NIH. Nasir Mansoor said that ISO 9001:2015 is more than just a certification; it is a holistic approach to quality that nurtures continuous improvement, customer focus.—APP

Briefs

Rizvi urges dignified, responsible Independence Day celebrations

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police Inspector General (IGP) Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi on Tuesday extended heartfelt congratulations to the people of Pakistan and overseas Pakistanis on the occasion of the country's 78th Independence Day. IGP Rizvi said Independence Day is a great blessing and a momentous occasion that should be celebrated with full spirit. He emphasized that while celebrating, citizens should also be mindful of those around them, showing respect and care for others. He urged the public to avoid hooliganism, one-wheeling, and aerial firing, warning that such acts will not be tolerated. "Families and women visiting parks must not be harassed under any circumstances," he stressed. The IGP said Islamabad Police had devised a comprehensive security plan for Independence Day celebrations, deploying over 4,000 officers across the city to maintain law and order.—APP

Independence day celebrations in full swing

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Preparations are in full swing across the country to celebrate the 79th Independence Day of Pakistan and victory in Marka-e-Haq in a befitting manner. Official buildings have been decorated with national flags, bunting and lights and people have displayed national flags on their vehicles and rooftops. Stalls selling national flags, bunting, caps, and children's clothing in green and white have been set up at markets. The success of Pakistan against India in the operation Bunyan-um-Marsoos under Marka-e-Haq has added colours to this year's Independence Day celebrations.

IBSA holds ceremony to celebrate Marka-e-Haq

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Boys Scouts Association (IBSA) held a commemorative ceremony at its headquarters to mark Marka-e-Haq and Pakistan's Independence Day, with special emphasis on National Flag Day that was designated on August 11 as Pakistan's national flag adopted by the Legislative Assembly on this day. The event was presided over by Provincial Commissioner Tariq Aleem Gill, while the Sector Commander of Pakistan Rangers (Islamabad), Brigadier Ghaznifar Ali Tarar, attended as the chief guest, said a press release on Tuesday.—APP

CDC, ZLK Securities integrate RAAST for instant investor transfers

The agreement marking this integration was signed during a ceremony held at ZLK Securities (Main Branch Office) on Monday, August 11, 2025, this integration couldn't have been possible without the efforts of Central Depository Company of Pakistan Limited (CDC) and Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP)

DNA

ISLAMABAD: RAAST System with Zahid Latif Khan Securities (Pvt.) Ltd for Instant Investor Fund Transfers In a significant move to enhance efficiency and convenience in Pakistan's capital markets, the Central Depository Company of Pakistan Limited (CDC) has successfully integrated the RAAST instant payment system with Zahid Latif Khan Securities (Pvt.) Limited, enabling investors to transfer funds instantly, securely, and directly from their bank accounts to their brokerage accounts.

The agreement marking this integration was signed during a ceremony held at ZLK Securities (Main Branch Office) on Monday, August 11, 2025, this integration couldn't have been possible without the efforts of Central Depository Company of Pakistan Limited (CDC) and Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP).

RAAST, developed by the State Bank of Pakistan, is the country's first instant payment system designed to enable real-time fund transfers between individuals and institutions. Through CDC's newly introduced RAAST Aggregator Module, the brokerage industry can now offer investors rapid and secure movement of funds without delays.

Under this system, every investor is provided with a unique RAAST Investment ID in IBAN format, linked directly to their CDC sub-account.



Investors can store this ID as a beneficiary in their online banking portal, ensuring that any transfer made is instantly debited from their account and credited to the broker's segregated

client account via CDC's RAAST Aggregator. This ensures immediate availability of funds for trading activities. The integration was made possible with the technical support of Microlinks

(Pvt.) Limited, which provided the essential infrastructure for a smooth rollout. The system is now live and fully functional for ZLK Securities clients. This milestone reflects a broader in-

dustry-wide commitment to digitizing Pakistan's capital market operations, streamlining payment processes, and elevating investor experience through innovative technology solutions.

Bio-healthy sesame bears rich fruit in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: A delegation from the Silk Road Biohealth Agriculture Industry Alliance of Northwest A&F University (NWAUFU), arrived in Sahiwal to visit the Biohealth Sesame Order Demonstration Farm under the China-Pakistan Biohealth Agriculture (BHA) Overseas Technology Demonstration Park. The farm was jointly built by China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC), Northwest A&F University, as well as Pakistan's Ayub Agricultural Research Institute, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Wednesday. "Relying on the joint oilseed laboratory established by both parties, we introduced high-quality Chinese sesame varieties and supporting production technologies to the local area. Through experiments, we identified sesame varieties suitable for cultivation in Pakistan and the optimal production parameters. We also developed and published technical standards for bio-healthy sesame production in Pakistan," Professor Zhang Lixin from NWAUFU, the project leader, told Gwadar Pro. Furthermore, after systematic study and training, Dr. Ammar, a Pakistani student studying at NWAUFU and others have become core technical personnel, Zhang added. Within the bilateral supply chain, harvested sesame seeds undergo primary processing at CMEC's processing plants, followed by sampling and quality testing in a jointly built lab. Subsequently, qualified products are exported to China for further processing and application in food, pharmaceutical, and industrial sectors. By now the project has established 12 standardized bio-healthy sesame farms, totaling approximately 500 acres. These farms utilize a contract farming model and have contracted with over 120 farmers. "Last year, the first batch of sesame planted under the contract has exported approximately 3,500 tons to China; by 2025, our goal of processing and exporting 5,000 tons of sesame seeds is expected to be achieved soon. All of which will not only drive increased production, quality, and income for the farm and surrounding small and medium-sized farmers, but will also provide over 500 long-term jobs for the local community," Zhang stated that CMEC and NWAUFU are actively exploring the breeding of new varieties and promoting wider dissemination of China's bio-healthy agricultural product production technology across Pakistan. "The near-term goal of the farm is to gradually expand its area to over 50,000 acres (with a planned yield of approximately 23,000 tons), representing over 5% of Pakistan's total sesame planting area. Currently, the country's total sesame planting area is approximately 1 million acres, with an average annual output of approximately 350,000 to 450,000 tons, but yields fluctuate significantly due to various factors. Last year, due to widespread torrential rains, total production dropped to 310,000 tons," Zhang told reporters. "If advanced technologies are further widely adopted, total production in high-yield years could reach over 500,000 tons, which is also our future goal.—DNA

Ayasz stresses youth empowerment through science

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Tuesday emphasized the importance of equipping Pakistan's youth with scientific knowledge and modern technology, as empowering the younger generation is key to placing the country on the path to progress and prosperity. In his message on International Youth Day, the Speaker paid tribute to the youth of Pakistan and the world, highlighting their pivotal role in shaping the future. He noted that over 60 percent of Pakistan's population comprises young people and stressed that harnessing their potential through education and innovation can lead the country toward sustainable development. Speaker Sadiq said Pakistan's youth possess immense capabilities, and

their potential must be fully realized to secure a prosperous future. He praised the youth for bringing pride to the country across various fields and affirmed their ability to meet emerging challenges. He also highlighted the youth's exceptional display of national solidarity during Operation Banyan Marsus, calling it a testament to their resilience and commitment. Emphasizing the need to prepare the younger generation for the future, he said that providing youth with modern knowledge and digital skills is the need of the hour. For sustainable development, youth should be given opportunities in digital technology, he added. The Speaker stated that the current parliament is committed to empowering the younger generation.—DNA

A day in life of Sahiwal's control room

ISLAMABAD: As dawn breaks over the Punjab plains, the Control Room at the Sahiwal 1,320 MW Coal-Fired Power Plant hums with purpose. The shift-change handover unfolds with disciplined precision. The off-going shift lead briefs the incoming team in low tones: yesterday's boiler start-up curve, minor voltage fluctuations at the 500 kV switchyard, status of circulating water pumps, and the day's anticipated grid demands. No sub-headings, just the human rhythm of continuity, guarded by strict record-keeping and disciplined trust. Operators settle at the Distributed Control System (DCS) consoles, two banks of workstations glowing with charts, alarms, and trend graphs: turbine speed, boiler pressure, coal feeder rates, FGD absorption currents, ESP voltage, stack gas temperature and the all-important heat rate index. Their eyes skim numbers and color codes as vigilantly as a pilot scans the horizon. One engineer adjusts the coal feeder screw-speed setpoint by a fraction, responding to a gradual drop in steam pressure. Elsewhere, another monitors generator reactive power, ready to tweak the exciter output to hold terminal voltage steady for the grid. Mid-morning, the team breaks for buffet-style refreshments a modest but welcome ritual. Steam-heated tea, chapatis, eggs, fruit, and chai restore energy for what comes next. Lunch and evening tea follow a similar pattern: communal moments that build camaraderie in an environment where a moment's distraction could ripple into a grid event. Routine site inspections proceed in parallel: the operations head walks to the turbine hall with the shift supervisor, lamps and helmets in place.—DNA

ITP penalizes 2,746 vehicles

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) took legal action against 2,746 vehicles and motorcycles during the ongoing week for various traffic violations, impounding 1,881 motorcycles and 942 vehicles, according to its weekly performance report detailing strict enforcement measures across the federal capital. An ITP spokesperson told APP Tuesday that 880 drivers were penalized for lane violations, 114 for driving without a licence, 2,696 for illegal parking, and 1,213 for driving in the wrong direction. Similarly, 764 were fined for fancy number plates and signal violations, 1,386 for riding without a helmet, and 93 for operating vehicles without a fitness certificate. He said drone technology was used to monitor traffic, resulting in fines for 75 drivers, while 35 others were given on-the-spot awareness about traffic laws. Chief Traffic Officer (CTO), Captain (R) Syed Zeeshan Haider, has directed the continuation of indiscriminate operations under the special enforcement campaign. He said a zero-tolerance policy was being adopted against traffic law violations.—APP

Half of women found anemic in SRHR workshop

MAHNOOR ANSAR

RAWALPINDI: The participants of a workshop organized by PODA in collaboration with the office of

the District Population Welfare Rawalpindi on sexual and reproductive health rights identified anemia as a major challenge affecting women of all ages and emphasized the need for immediate

steps to ensure adequate folic acid intake. PODA collaborated with the office of the District Population Welfare, Rawalpindi to hold the workshop for the staff and Lady Health Workers attached

with the Basic Health Unit of Kotla Kalan, Rawalpindi on SRHR. Among the 25 women participants, around 50% were found to have hemoglobin levels below the World Health Organization's recommended level. Incharge Family Health Clinic, Benazir Bhutto Hospital, Dr. Asima Tariq, shared insights on the importance of nutrition, awareness, and preventive measures to address anemia.

The participants recommended declaring an iron deficiency emergency to ensure effective dissemination at the grassroots level, noting that women are now more willing to respond to such campaigns due to increased awareness of the consequences. Nabeela Aslam, Project Manager emphasized the need to address urinary tract infections by focusing on crucial issues of cleanliness and hygiene during periods. She stressed the importance of removing stigmas associated with menstrual health and advised maintaining hygiene by changing pads after at least six hours depending on the flow, taking frequent showers, and washing hands with soap.

Among the group of 25 women, three were survivors of child marriage. They shared the ordeals they had gone through, including deprivation of basic rights, particularly the right to education, mental abuse, and the hostile attitude of in-laws.



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PSB-PHF rift deepens as written demarche sent to hockey federation chief

THE Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) has sent a formal written demarche to Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) President Tariq Hussain Bugti, demanding an explanation of his position and detailed answers to a set of queries regarding the utilisation of funds allocated to the national sport. According to sources, the communication – viewed as unusually stern – warns that failure to respond may lead the PSB to escalate the matter to the Prime Minister, who serves as the Patron-in-Chief of the PHF. The development marks the latest flashpoint in an ongoing tussle between two of the country's top sports bodies. While official letters and bureaucratic language dominate the current exchange, insiders admit the dispute is less about protecting Pakistan's national game and more about power, control, and access to resources.

In its latest letter, the PSB has asked Bugti to provide a detailed account of funds received and their utilisation over recent years. This includes government grants, sponsorship amounts, and any other revenue streams available to the PHF. The Board's queries reportedly cover specific tournaments, training camps, and overseas tours, seeking clarity on expenditure and outcomes. However, despite earlier reminders, Tariq Bugti has yet to respond to these questions in writing. This silence has only deepened mistrust between the two organisations. A PSB official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said:

"We have a duty to ensure public funds are spent properly. The PHF has to answer for how they are using the money. If there is nothing to hide, then they should simply furnish the accounts." On the other hand, PHF insiders suggest that the federation views the PSB's letters as politically motivated pressure rather than a genuine effort to promote hockey.

While the PHF is now in the spotlight for alleged non-responsiveness, critics point out that the PSB's own record on transparency is far from perfect. For years, questions have been raised about how the Board allocates funds to different sports, the criteria for selecting athletes for training schemes, and the management of its own facilities. The state of affairs, observers argue, reflects a systemic problem: neither the PSB nor the PHF has consistently demonstrated openness in financial matters or long-term strategic vision for hockey. Instead, both bodies often find themselves embroiled in public disputes,

each blaming the other for the sport's decline. Islamabad, once a hub for top-tier domestic and international hockey events, has seen its hockey culture wither. One symbolic blow has been the discontinuation of free access to the PSB's hockey grounds. What was once a breeding ground for young talent has been largely shut out from public use, cutting off opportunities for aspiring players in the capital. Coaches and former players lament that "literally, the sport has been finished in Islamabad" due to this policy shift. Despite repeated pleas from hockey circles and consistent coverage in local media, the decision has not been reversed.

Pakistan hockey's crisis is no secret. Once a dominant force on the global stage, with multiple Olympic and World Cup titles, the sport now struggles to qualify for major tournaments. Facilities are outdated, training programmes are sporadic, and player welfare is neglected. The PSB and PHF, instead of joining forces to address these challenges, remain locked in a cycle of accusations, counter-accusations, and bureaucratic delays. Both organisations operate under the umbrella of the state's sports governance system, yet neither has shown a willingness to submit to truly independent audits or third-party reviews of performance and finances. The PHF's reluctance to answer PSB's questions mirrors PSB's own unwillingness to open its books to public scrutiny. This lack of accountability has direct consequences for athletes. The Prime Minister's position as Patron-in-Chief of the PHF is theoretically meant to ensure oversight and direction. However, in practice, prime ministers – past and present – have had little time to engage deeply with sports administration. The PSB's threat to escalate the matter to the PM's office is thus seen as a political pressure tactic rather than a guaranteed solution.

Still, if the dispute reaches the Prime Minister, it could open the door to a deeper investigation into sports governance and funding in Pakistan. Whether such scrutiny will materialise, or whether it will simply become another political headline, remains to be seen. Experts agree that the survival of hockey in Pakistan requires more than just resolving the PSB-PHF feud. Without these changes, the sport will continue to be a victim of administrative negligence and personal rivalries. The PSB-PHF confrontation is not just a hockey issue; it reflects the broader malaise of sports governance in Pakistan. Cricket, football, athletics – all have suffered from similar turf wars, financial opacity, and disregard for athlete development. Unless sports bodies are reformed to operate with genuine independence, transparent funding, and athlete-first policies, Pakistan's proud history in various sports will remain just that – history. For now, the written demarche to Tariq Bugti is a small chapter in a much bigger story: one of lost opportunities, squandered potential, and the steady decline of a sport that once brought Pakistan glory on the world stage.

BLA: Connection between terrorism and Modi backing

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



The BLA's crimes speak for themselves. It has orchestrated targeted attacks on Chinese engineers and workers involved in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), seeking to sabotage developmental projects vital for Pakistan's economic future. Notable incidents include the attack on the Pearl Continental Hotel in Gwadar in May 11, 2019, which left several dead; the assault on the Pakistan Stock Exchange in Karachi in 29 June 2020, foiled by brave law enforcement personnel; and the November 23

THE United States has formally declared the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), an organization notorious for spreading unrest and terrorism in Balochistan, as a terrorist entity. This decisive step comes after years of evidence that the BLA has repeatedly targeted innocent Pakistanis in cold blood, destabilized the region through acts of violence, and worked to further separatist designs against the sovereignty of Pakistan. It is now well-established that these conspiracies have been hatched with the covert assistance of the Modi government in India, which has long harboured malicious intentions toward Pakistan. The announcement is widely seen as a significant victory in Pakistan's ongoing war against terrorism, reaffirming the nation's stance that the perpetrators of violence will eventually face the weight of global justice.

For years, the Modi administration has extended material, logistical, and ideological support to the BLA, using it as a proxy to stoke ethnic divisions and weaken Pakistan internally. India's designs in this regard are neither new nor hidden; the pattern of interference stretches back decades. The day is not far when Narendra Modi himself, for his persistent sponsorship of terrorist outfits and acts of state terror, will also stand condemned as a terrorist on the world stage. His government's record is soaked in the blood of innocents—both Muslims and non-Muslims across India—through calculated campaigns of hate, persecution, and political violence.

The BLA's crimes speak for themselves. It has orchestrated targeted attacks on Chinese engineers and workers involved in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), seeking to sabotage developmental projects vital for Pakistan's economic future. Notable incidents include the attack on the Pearl Continental Hotel in Gwadar in May 11, 2019, which left several dead; the assault on the Pakistan Stock Exchange in Karachi in 29 June 2020, foiled by brave law enforcement personnel; and the November 23, 2018 strike on the Chinese consulate in Karachi. The group has repeatedly targeted security personnel, civilians, and economic infrastructure, often claiming responsibility with open pride. Its tactics are drawn from the most dangerous playbook of

insurgency—combining guerrilla strikes with media propaganda to create fear and instability. Behind the façade of political rhetoric, the BLA operates as a mercenary force for foreign powers hostile to Pakistan's territorial integrity. Evidence collected by Pakistan's intelligence agencies, later corroborated by independent observers, has traced arms, ammunition, and financial channels back to India. Confessions by captured militants have revealed training camps, safe havens, and funding pipelines across the border. India's notorious intelligence agency, RAW, has been repeatedly linked to these operations, with the notorious arrest of Commander Kulbhushan Jadhav serving as irrefutable proof of such interference.

Narendra Modi's own history with terrorism is well-documented. His tenure as Chief Minister of Gujarat saw one of the worst episodes of anti-Muslim violence in India's history, where thousands were killed in state-condoned riots. International human rights organizations have termed these atrocities as state-sponsored pogroms. Moreover, credible reports and investigations have implicated Modi and his allies in false-flag operations aimed at framing Pakistan. The burning of the Samjhauta Express in 18 February 2007, which claimed the lives of dozens of Pakistani and Indian passengers, and the 2008 Mumbai attacks, remain deeply controversial, with strong suspicions of state complicity in manipulating the narrative for political gains. Modi's involvement in such affairs was serious enough to result in a temporary ban on his entry into the United States.

The ideological foundations of his politics are no less dangerous. Modi, as a lifelong member of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), upholds a vision rooted in Hindu supremacism, which refuses to accept the existence of a plural, multi-religious India. This ideology is the same that inspired violence during the Partition of 1947, the destruction of the Babri Masjid in December 6, 1992, and the current wave of mob lynchings and anti-minority legislation. The same toxic ideology was put into practice in 1971, when India openly supported and armed the Mukti Bahini in then-East Pakistan. In an unguarded moment,

standing alongside Sheikh Hasina Wajid in Dhaka, Modi proudly admitted to aiding these forces in dismembering Pakistan. This confession alone stands as a permanent indictment of his moral character and political intent.

The fate of those who sow division and bloodshed is rarely different from that of their victims. Sheikh Hasina Wajid, who made her political fortune by aligning with Modi and perpetuating hostility toward Pakistan, now finds herself facing political collapse. History has a way of catching up with those who place personal ambition above peace. It is only a matter of time before Modi and his political machinery—built on propaganda, intimidation, and bloodshed—meet a similar fate. Pakistan, despite being on the frontlines of the global war on terror for more than two decades, has borne the brunt of the sacrifices. Tens of thousands of its civilians and soldiers have laid down their lives to defend the nation's sovereignty and to preserve peace in the region. The recognition of the BLA as a terrorist group by the United States is a long-overdue vindication of Pakistan's stance. It strengthens the case for international action against state sponsors of terrorism, no matter how powerful or well-connected they may be. The war against terrorism is not merely a military campaign—it is a battle of narratives and a test of political will. Pakistan's resilience, fortified by the blood of its martyrs and the unity of its people, has ensured that hostile designs have been thwarted time and again. While the BLA and its foreign patrons have sought to exploit local grievances, their agenda has been exposed as one serving foreign interests rather than the welfare of Balochistan's people.

The recent development is a reminder that global opinion can be swayed when facts are undeniable. It is also a call to continue exposing and isolating those who seek to destabilize Pakistan under the guise of politics, ethnic rights, or religious ideology. In the long arc of history, truth and justice, though often delayed, have a way of prevailing over lies and violence. The recognition of the BLA as a terrorist group may be one step, but it is a crucial one in dismantling the network of terror that thrives on deceit, bloodshed, and foreign sponsorship.

Ukraine's Gamble on Belarus

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



Despite this starkly diverging path, Ukraine's post-Maidan leadership made a conscious choice not to isolate Lukashenko. Instead, they elevated Minsk to a central role in regional diplomacy, most notably as the venue for the Minsk Agreements aimed at resolving the Russian-Ukrainian conflict in Donbas. This decision served multiple purposes for Kyiv

THE seismic shifts in Ukraine following the Euromaidan Revolution and the 2014 election of a pro-Western government fundamentally altered the nation's geopolitical trajectory. Declaring European Union and NATO integration as its paramount objectives, Ukraine decisively pivoted away from Russia. This dramatic reorientation logically suggested an inevitable cooling in relations with Belarus, a state traditionally aligned with Moscow and under the enduring authoritarian rule of Alexander Lukashenko. Yet, contrary to expectations, Ukraine embarked on a policy of sustained, even strategic, engagement with Minsk. This approach, predicated on a critical misreading of Belarusian sovereignty, ultimately proved a costly failure, culminating in Belarus's complicity in the 2022 invasion.

Prior to 2014, under President Viktor Yanukovich, Ukrainian-Belarusian relations existed within a framework of gradual convergence with Russia. Despite nominal pro-European rhetoric, Yanukovich's policies fostered deeper ties with both Moscow and Minsk, making strong bilateral cooperation appear a natural extension of Kyiv's overall orientation. The Euromaidan upheaval shattered this dynamic. Ukraine's new leadership unequivocally rejected Russia's sphere of influence, embracing Western structures instead. This created a profound divergence: Ukraine sought security and integration with the West, while Belarus remained entrenched within Russian-led frameworks like the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), and the deeply integrating Union State.

Despite this starkly diverging path, Ukraine's post-Maidan leadership made a conscious choice not to isolate Lukashenko. Instead, they elevated Minsk to a central role in regional diplomacy, most notably as the venue for the Minsk Agreements aimed at resolving the Russian-Ukrainian conflict in Donbas. This decision served multiple purposes for Kyiv. Firstly, Minsk was perceived as a neutral location acceptable to all parties involved, including Russia and the OSCE. Secondly, and more strategically, Ukraine sought to leverage this engagement to pull Lukashenko away from Moscow's orbit. By offering Belarus a platform

for international relevance and fostering bilateral economic ties, Kyiv hoped to cultivate a degree of Belarusian independence beneficial to Ukraine.

This engagement yielded immediate, albeit superficial, benefits for Lukashenko. Hosting high-stakes negotiations provided a veneer of international legitimacy and became a crucial tool in his efforts to emerge from the isolation imposed by the West due to his regime's human rights record. Improved dialogue with Kyiv facilitated tentative outreach to the EU and even the US. For Ukraine, the logic was multi-layered. Beyond the practicalities of a negotiation venue, Kyiv aimed to bind Belarus economically, creating mutual dependencies that would deter Minsk from hostile actions. Preserving existing economic benefits – trade, transit, joint ventures – was a significant motivator. This explains Kyiv's notable reluctance, even after the brutal crackdown on Belarusian protesters in 2020, to fully align with Western sectoral sanctions against Belarus, seeking to insulate bilateral economic cooperation from broader geopolitical condemnation.

However, this strategy rested on a fundamental and ultimately catastrophic miscalculation: the overestimation of Alexander Lukashenko's genuine independence from Russia. Ukrainian policy treated Lukashenko as a pragmatic, albeit authoritarian, leader capable of balancing between Moscow and the West to preserve his own power and Belarusian sovereignty. This perception was dangerously divorced from reality. By 2014, and indeed much earlier, Belarus was already deeply enmeshed within Russia's political, economic, and military structures. Membership in the CIS, EAEU, CSTO, and the Union State represented not just formal alliances, but profound integration. Belarus's economy was critically dependent on Russian energy subsidies and market access. Its military doctrine and capabilities were inextricably linked to Russia's, with deep interoperability.

The events of 2020 laid bare the true nature of Lukashenko's dependency. The Kremlin's overt political backing and alleged involvement of Russian security "consultants" in suppressing protests demonstrated unequivocally that Lukashenko's political survival hinged on Vladimir Putin's support, not on maintaining distance from Moscow. His regime was a client state, its stability purchased with loyalty

to the Kremlin. Despite this stark revelation, Ukraine persisted with its engagement strategy, albeit in a diminished form, clinging to the hope of economic leverage and the Minsk negotiation format.

The brutal culmination of this failed policy arrived on February 24, 2022. Belarus, far from acting as a neutral buffer or a state restrained by economic ties to Ukraine, actively facilitated the Russian invasion. Its territory served as a crucial launchpad for Russian troops and missiles attacking Kyiv and northern Ukraine, transforming Belarus from a problematic partner into a direct co-aggressor. This act irrevocably shattered any illusions about Minsk's capacity or willingness to pursue an independent course contrary to Moscow's dictates. The war laid bare the utter ineffectiveness of eight years of Ukrainian policy towards Lukashenko.

The core systemic error was evident from the outset: Ukraine fundamentally misjudged the nature of the Belarusian state. It treated Belarus as a genuinely sovereign actor capable of strategic neutrality, rather than recognizing it as a de facto Russian vassal, deeply integrated and subordinate within Moscow's imperial project. Given the ongoing Russian aggression in Crimea and Donbas since 2014, Ukraine should have adopted a far more cautious and realistic approach. The minimal prudent stance would have been to treat Belarus unequivocally as an ally of the aggressor state, adjusting all political and economic relations accordingly, minimizing dependencies, and anticipating potential threats from Belarusian territory. Instead, the pursuit of a "Minsk mirage" – the belief that engagement could foster Belarusian neutrality blinded Kyiv to the hard reality of Belarus's subordination to Russia, leading to a profound strategic failure with devastating consequences. The war has now forced a complete reassessment, with Ukraine recognizing Belarus not as a neutral neighbor, but as occupied territory instrumentalized by the Kremlin. The lessons of this miscalculation resonate far beyond their bilateral relationship, underscoring the peril of underestimating the depth of authoritarian dependencies within Russia's sphere.

Briefs

Pakistan welcomes US decision on BLA, Majeed Brigade

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which the BLA claimed responsibility. In the Khuzdar bus attack, 10 people — including two students — lost their lives during a suicide attack on a school bus in May. The group was also behind the 2024 attack near the Karachi airport, which killed three people, including two Chinese nationals, as well as the Gwadar Port Authority Complex attack, which claimed the lives of eight soldiers. “Pakistan remains a steadfast bulwark against terrorism. Our sacrifices have secured critical counter-terrorism successes, not only for the country, but for regional stability and global security.”

It added that the country remained unwavering in its resolve to protect its citizens and eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. “Pakistan remains committed to cooperating with the international community to overcome this common challenge.”

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi welcomed the US’ decision and sincerely thanked US President Donald Trump and the US administration. “This is a major diplomatic victory for Pakistan and another defeat for our eternal enemy,” Naqvi was quoted as saying in a post on X by the Interior Ministry. “This move by the US is an acknowledgement of Pakistan’s immense sacrifices in the war against terrorism,” adding that Pak-US cooperation against terrorism is welcome. “A path has been created for action on a global level against the BLA and Majeed Brigade.”

US reiterates resolve to fight all forms of terror

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engagement with Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir. In March, Pakistani authorities detained and extradited to the United States Sharifullah, who the US says also goes by the name Jafar and is a member of the Daesh-K. President Donald Trump had also thanked Pakistan for his arrest. The State Department, in response, had also said that United States-Pakistan cooperation on counter-terrorism remains vitally important. The Daesh operative allegedly helped carry out the 2021 suicide bombing outside Kabul airport during the chaotic US military withdrawal from Afghanistan, which killed at least 170 Afghans as well as 13 US troops who were securing the airport’s perimeter.

Appointment of Opp leaders...

FROM PAGE 01

Arshad Ali and Dr Khurshid Iqbal took up the petitions filed earlier today by Ayub and Faraz against the denotification of their parliamentary roles. PTI interim chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan appeared as the counsel for both petitioners. The bench issued notices to the ECP and other respondents, directing them to halt the appointments for the opposition leader in both houses of the parliament, which are currently vacant. The court adjourned the hearing till August 15 (Friday), seeking replies from the respondents. A PHC bench comprising Justice Ali and Justice Farah Jamshed had also barred the ECP from taking any action against Ayub and Faraz on August 6, but to no avail since the order came a day after their disqualification.

President Zardari for strength...

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health of His Majesty King Mohammed VI. He also requested the Ambassador to convey the goodwill and warm regards of the people of Pakistan to the King and the people of Morocco.

Sabalenka edges Raducanu in Cincinnati thriller

Sabalenka next faces Spain's Jessica Bouzas Maneiro in the last 16

LONDON: World number one Aryna Sabalenka survived a nail-biting battle to beat Emma Raducanu in the Cincinnati Open, winning a match that went the distance with two tense tiebreaks. The world number one needed more than three hours to overcome the Briton in a clash packed with drama, power, and grit and kept her Cincinnati Open title defence alive by claiming a 7-6(3) 4-6 7-6(5) victory over Raducanu in a marathon third-round clash on Monday. In another clash of the tournament, Taylor Fritz advanced with a straight-sets win over Lorenzo Sonego. Fresh off their third-round clash at Wimbledon last month, Sabalenka and Raducanu produced another epic contest, featuring a 13-deuce game in the third set, before the Belarusian sealed victory in three hours and nine minutes. Sabalenka relied on her trademark powerful serve to hold firm in the key moments, winning two tiebreaks to take her tally to 18 for the season, the most by any women’s singles player in the professional era.



Despite the defeat, Raducanu seems to be finding her best form just in time for this month’s US Open at Flushing Meadows, where she triumphed in 2021. The Briton outscored Sabalenka in total points won,

125-123. ‘I’m really happy to see her healthy. I can see she’s improving,’ Sabalenka said of Raducanu. ‘Happy to get through this match. I really hope tomorrow I have a day off.’

Sabalenka next faces Spain’s Jessica Bouzas Maneiro in the last 16. Elsewhere, Anna Kalinskaya stunned American fifth seed Amanda Anisimova 7-5 6-4 for her third win against a Top 10 opponent in the season. She will face fellow Russian Ekaterina Alexandrova in the next round. After a one-hour delay caused by a power outage, fourth seed Taylor Fritz defeated Italy’s Sonego 7-6(4) 7-5. The 27-year-old American did not face a break point and capitalised on his lone break opportunity before serving out the match, sealing the win in two hours and eight minutes. Former champion Madison Keys booked her place in the last 16 with a 6-4 6-0 win over Japan’s Aoi Ito, edging a tight first set before storming through the second in just 20 minutes. ‘In the first set I got off to a pretty good lead and then kind of lost my way a bit,’ sixth seed Keys said. ‘Once I got a break early in the second I wanted to run away with it and keep that momentum and I did.’ – Agencies

Child dies in Italy as European heatwave sets records

LAS MÉDULAS: A young boy died of heatstroke in Italy while wildfires threatened a UNESCO site in Spain and French cities saw record temperatures, as a heatwave baked Europe on Monday. Many towns and cities in France, Italy and the Balkans were put on red alert due to the heat. Wildfires fanned by strong winds forced the evacuations of thousands of people throughout the continent and threatened popular tourist sites in Turkey and Spain. The four-year-old Romanian boy who died in Italy succumbed days after being found unconscious in his family’s car on the island of Sardinia. The news came as Italy’s health ministry issued a red alert warning for seven major cities, including Bologna and Florence. Some 11 Italian cities are on red alert for Tuesday, and 16 cities on Wednesday.



day. Red alerts were also announced in southern France and on the Adriatic and Ionian coasts in the Balkans. “The heatwave currently affecting France, Spain, and the Balkan countries is not surprising. It is driven by a persistent heat dome over Europe,” Akshay Deoras, a research scientist at the meteorology department in Britain’s University of Reading, told AFP. “Heatwaves don’t roar like storms — they creep in quietly, but can be just as deadly.” A blaze, which broke out on Sunday, damaged a UNESCO World Heritage-listed Roman-era mining site at Les Medulas in northwestern Spain — famed for its striking red landscape — and prompted hundreds of residents to evacuate. High temperatures and winds of up to 40 kilometres per hour (25 mph) created “many difficulties”

for firefighters struggling to contain the wildfire, said Juan Carlos Suarez-Quinones, the Castile and Leon regional environment minister. “We will not allow people to return until safety in their communities is absolutely guaranteed,” he told reporters, estimating that about 700 people had been displaced. Spain has been in the grip of a heatwave for the past week, with temperatures nearing 40C in many areas and fuelling wildfires. In the southern tourist town of Tarifa, more than 2,000 people were evacuated, some from hotels and beaches, after a fire that had been subdued on Friday flared up again, with more than 100 firefighters battling the flames. In neighbouring Portugal, firefighters were battling three large wildfires in the centre and north of the country, while Morocco is sending two aircraft to help fight the fires after two Portuguese planes broke down. In Italy, around 190 firefighters and the army were tackling a wildfire on Mount Vesuvius that caused the closure of the national park to tourists. People were evacuated from dozens of homes in the Balkans as firefighters battled blazes in Albania, Montenegro and Croatia, where red alerts were announced. In Albania, hundreds of firefighters and soldiers had subdued most of the nearly 40 fires that flared up in the last 24 hours, according to the defence ministry, but more than a dozen were still active. – Agencies

Steely Sinner advances amid Cincinnati power-failure chaos

CINCINNATI: Jannik Sinner ignored power failure interruptions and a blaring alarm to defeat Gabriel Diallo 6-2, 7-6 (8/6) on Monday’s day of distractions at the ATP and WTA Cincinnati Open. The top-seeded defending champion got down to business against a Canadian ranked 35th who was plagued by eight first-set double-faults and 49 unforced errors in the match as he faced the best in the world. Sinner recovered smoothly from an early breakdown and had his hands full on his way into the fourth round, sending over an ace on match point after saving a set point in the tiebreaker. Play was stopped briefly with Sinner leading 4-2 as the audio portion of the electronic line-calling system suddenly failed. Earlier, both players had to deal with flickering LED screens directly behind them, courtside. The pair agreed to soldier on without the system, with the chair umpire temporarily relaying the algorithm’s decisions — which he saw on his chair’s tablet — to the players when necessary as a re-boot was undertaken.

That minor malfunction came two hours after the chaos of a widespread power outage which completely stopped play around the grounds for 75 minutes. Five minutes later, with Sinner leading 1-0 in the second set after winning the first, the chaos continued with an alarm going off somewhere in the stadium and play suspended for the third time. Sinner and Diallo continued to carry on with the distraction blaring somewhat faintly in the background before it finally halted after another game. Sinner polished off victory for his 23rd consecutive hardcourt win in under two hours. “It was a very difficult day at the office,” the Italian said. “You have to find the balance against these big servers. I struggled with that at times today. “But I need tough matches like this, I’m happy I got one before the Grand Slam... I’m happy about today, but I know I can do things better.” US fourth seed Taylor Fritz endured a one-hour delay after the first set before defeating Lorenzo Sonego 7-6 (7/4), 7-5 for a 21st win in 25 matches. – Agencies

Reims president admits Nakamura looking for transfer

Nakamura was also absent from Reims’ preseason tour of Japan through Aug. 2, in which they lost to J-League second-division club Montedio Yamagata 1-0 and top-tier side Kashiwa Reysol 2-1 before beating J1 Gamba Osaka 2-1

AMIENS: Japan attacker Keito Nakamura is seeking to leave French Ligue 2 club Reims this summer, their president said Monday. But Jean-Pierre Caillot was adamant the future of the 25-year-old, who scored 11 goals in the top-tier Ligue 1 last term, lies at his club. “He’s under contract with us,” Caillot said after Reims drew their season opener 2-2 away to Amiens, where Nakamura was not in the matchday squad. “I don’t know (about offers from other clubs). Either way, he will stay at Reims.” Nakamura, who joined Reims from Austrian outfit LASK in the summer of 2023 on a five-year contract, became the first Japanese player to score in five consecutive games in a major European league last October. Reims were eventually relegated, however, after they finished 16th and lost in the promotion-relegation playoff. Nakamura was also absent from Reims’ preseason tour of Japan through Aug. 2, in which they lost to J-League second-division club Montedio Yamagata 1-0 and top-tier side Kashiwa Reysol 2-1 before beating J1 Gamba Osaka 2-1. Back in May, Nakamura told Kyodo News he was determined to “survive” the battle to make the Japan squad for next summer’s World Cup in Canada, Mexico and the United States. “It’s the stage I’ve been dreaming of since I was little. – Agencies

Asif through to semifinals with dominant win over Britain's Cosker

CHENGDU: Pakistan’s Muhammad Asif delivered a masterclass performance in the billiards event on Tuesday, dismantling Britain’s Zac Cosker 2-0 in the quarterfinals of the World Games 2025. The clinical victory at the Civil Aviation Flight University’s Tianfu Campus Gymnasium booked Asif’s place in the final four, keeping Pakistan’s medal hopes alive. From the opening break, Asif imposed his will on the match, leaving his opponent scrambling. The first frame saw the Pakistani star construct a commanding 79-15 win through a combination of precise potting and tactical safety play that left Cosker frustrated. The second frame proved even more one-sided as Asif piled on the pressure with an 81-39 demolition. – Agencies

Sudan refugees face cholera outbreak with nothing but lemons for medicine

TAWILA: In the cholera-stricken refugee camps of western Sudan, every second is infected by fear. Faster than a person can boil water over an open flame, the flies descend and everything is contaminated once more. Cholera is ripping through the camps of Tawila in Darfur, where hundreds of thousands of people have been left with nothing but the water they can boil, to serve as both disinfectant and medicine. “We mix lemon in the water when we have it and drink it as medicine,” said Mona Ibrahim, who has been living for two months in a hastily-erected camp in Tawila. “We have no other choice,” she told AFP, seated on the bare ground. Adam is one of nearly half a million people who sought shelter in and around Tawila, from the nearby besieged city of El-Fasher and the Zamzam displacement camp in April, following attacks by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), at war with Sudan’s regular army since April 2023. The first cholera cases in Tawila were detected in early June in the village of Tabit, about 25 kilometres south, said Sylvain Penicaud, a project coordinator for French charity Doctors Without Borders (MSF). “After two weeks, we started identifying cases directly in Tawila, particularly in the town’s displacement camps,” he told AFP. In the past month, more than 1,500 cases have been treated in Tawila alone, he said, while the UN’s children agency says around 300 of the town’s children have contracted the disease since April. Across North Darfur state, more than 640,000 children under the age of five are at risk, according to UNICEF. By July 30, there were 2,140 infections and at least 80 deaths across Darfur, UN figures show. Cholera is a highly contagious bacterial infection that causes severe diarrhoea and spreads through contaminated water and food. Causing rapid dehydration, it can kill within hours if left untreated, yet it is preventable and usually easily treatable with oral rehydration solutions. More severe cases require intravenous fluids and antibiotics. Ibrahim Adam Mohamed Abdallah, UNICEF’s executive director in Tawila, told AFP his team “advises people to wash their hands with soap, clean the blankets and tarps provided to them and how to use clean water”. – Agencies

UAE Muay Thai Youth C’hip kicks off 15 August

The World Games is a multisport event held every four years for disciplines not included in the Olympics. Despite receiving immediate expert medical care at one of China's leading medical institutions, he passed away, the statement said

ABU DHABI: The UAE Muay Thai Youth Championship will commence on Friday, 15 August, at Hall 3 of the Dubai World Trade Centre. Organised by the UAE Muay Thai and Kickboxing Federation, the event is part of the federation’s competitive calendar and reflects its commitment to advancing the sport, offering top development opportunities, and elevating it to the global stage. The championship will feature participants from clubs across the UAE and abroad, aged 10 to 17, competing in over 90 weight categories divided into the following age groups: 10–11 years, 12–13 years, 14–15 years, and 16–17 years. The tournament programme begins with weigh-ins and medical checks for participants on Wednesday, 13 August, at the UAE Muay Thai and Kickboxing Federation headquarters in Abu Dhabi. The preliminary rounds will take place on 15 August from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m., followed by the semi-finals on 16 August from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. The final day, 17 August, will see the championship bouts starting at 10 a.m., concluding at 7 p.m. with the

crowning of the champions. Ali Khouri, Board Member and Executive Director of the UAE Muay Thai and Kickboxing Federation, said: “We are pleased to announce the UAE Muay Thai Youth Championship, part of this season’s competition calendar and in line with the directives of H.E. Abdullah Saeed Al Neyadi, President of the Federation, to support youth ambitions and make the most of the summer break to hone emerging talents. The federation is also focusing on preparing the Muay Thai sector for next month’s Youth World Championship at Space 42 Arena — an important step towards achieving our goal of taking the sport to the highest levels.” He added: “This championship is an ideal opportunity for clubs and fighters from inside and outside the UAE, and a vital platform for the federation to assess fighter performance and discover talent to represent the national team at the Youth World Championship. We are committed to ensuring the best organisational standards and providing all necessary resources to bring the youth national team to peak readiness

for the upcoming global stage. We have completed all preparations for the tournament, keeping participation open to both domestic and international athletes to raise the competitive level and maximize the benefits gained — positively contributing to our efforts to expand the sport’s reach and develop our national teams.” Italian athlete dies at World Games in China Italian orienteering athlete Mattia Debertolis died on Tuesday at the World Games in Chengdu, China after collapsing during competition, organisers said. Debertolis, 29, was found unconscious during an orienteering event on August 8 and died four days later, said a joint statement from World Games organisers and the International Orienteering Federation (IOF). The World Games is a multisport event held every four years for disciplines not included in the Olympics. “Despite receiving immediate expert medical care at one of China’s leading medical institutions, he passed away,” the statement said. It did not provide details on the cause of death. Orienteering sees athletes

navigate an unmarked course with a map and compass, punching in at designated spots along the route, in the quickest time. The event, held approximately 50 kilometres (30 miles) outside of central Chengdu, took place in intense heat and humidity, with temperatures above 30 degrees. Debertolis was taking part in the final of the men’s middle-distance event when he collapsed. The winner, Switzerland’s Riccardo Rancan, completed the course in 45 minutes and 22 seconds. Debertolis was listed as “Did Not Finish” in official results, along with 11 other athletes. He was ranked 137th in the men’s Orienteering World Rankings and had been competing since 2014, according to the IOF website. He participated in several World Championships and World Cups as part of the Italian team. This is the 12th edition of the World Games and it runs until August 17. World Games organisers and the IOF will “continue to support the family of Mattia Debertolis and the orienteering community in every possible way”, the joint statement said. – Agencies

Lahore ATC orders Qureshi’s release

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issued a mandamus to the superintendent of Kot Lakhpat Jail to release Qureshi if he was not wanted in any other case. The court had reserved its decision late last week after hearing arguments from both sides and announced it on Monday. The court however, sentenced Dr Yamin Rashid, Senator Ejaz Chaudhry, Mian Mehmood ur Rasheed, former Punjab governor Omar Sarfraz Cheema, and several others to 10 years in prison after finding them involved in the May 9 riots — triggered after the arrest of PTI founder Imran Khan’s arrest in a graft case where several military installations were vandalised by angry mob. Thousands of PTI supporters stormed public property and military installations, including the Corps Commander’s House in Lahore during the protest in May 2023 against the arrest of ex-premier Imran in a corruption case. During the unrest, the supporters of Imran — the only prime minister in Pakistan’s history to be ousted via a no-confidence vote — targeted civil and military installations, including the General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi.

50 Khwarij eliminated in 4-Day operation

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Meanwhile, Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday lauded the country’s security forces for killing three more “Fitna-e-Hindustan” militants in Balochistan’s Zhob district, describing the operation as another blow to Indian-backed terrorism in the province. Naqvi praised the professional skills and dedication of the forces, noting that their “remarkable successes against the terrorists of Fitna-e-Hindustan are a source of pride for the entire nation.” According to the minister, the militants were involved in attempts to spread unrest in Balochistan and were backed by India. “The security forces have foiled a nefarious conspiracy to sabotage peace in the province,” he said.

President, PM laud security forces

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shoulder with its brave armed forces against terrorism. The enemies of Pakistan’s peace, stability, and development will never succeed,” the president said, reiterating that the war would continue with full force until the complete eradication of terrorism. Prime Minister Shehbaz also praised the professional capabilities of the security forces for killing three more Indian-backed terrorists on Monday night, following a successful operation that neutralized 47 terrorists in the same area a few days ago. “We will continue this war against the scourge of terrorism until it is eradicated from the country. Pakistan armed forces are engaged day and night in the mission to cleanse the homeland of terrorists, and for this, the entire nation, including myself, pays tribute to them,” he added.

CJP Afridi questions LHC’s...

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Imran moved the Supreme Court against the high court’s decision. A three-member bench led by CJP Afridi, which also included Justices Muhammad Shafi Siddiqui and Miang Hassan Aurangzeb, resumed hearing the bail pleas ON Tuesday. Barrister Salman Safdar appeared on behalf of Imran, while Punjab Special Prosecutor Zulfiqar Naqvi was representing the state. During the hearing, CJP Afridi took note of some “findings” issued by the LHC in its detailed verdict of dismissing Imran’s bail pleas. “Can final observations be given in a case for bail?” the chief justice questioned rhetorically.

Briefs

Price-fixing case

CCP's order upheld against Floor Mills Association

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Appellate Tribunal (CAT) has upheld the order of the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) against the Pakistan Flour Mills Association (PFMA) for fixing the price of wheat flour, in violation of Section 4 of the Competition Act, 2010. The Tribunal directed the Association to deposit a fine of Rs 35 million into the national exchequer, said a press release issued here on Tuesday. The CCP had initiated an inquiry against PFMA based on multiple news reports indicating an unusual hike in wheat flour prices across Pakistan. The inquiry concluded that PFMA was engaged in anti-competitive conduct. PFMA had filed an appeal against the CCP's order before the Tribunal. The CCP's counsel argued in court that Sections 4(1) and 4(2)(a) of the Competition Act, 2010, prohibit any agreement or decision between undertakings, including associations, aimed at fixing prices. The CCP maintained that the repeated and structured issuance of price instructions by PFMA displaced the commercial autonomy of individual mills, constituting a horizontal agreement with an anti-competitive object.—DNA

Uzbekistan, Switzerland to produce mineral fertilizers from waste

TASHKENT : Practical measures are being taken in Uzbekistan to ensure environmental sustainability and the development of a green economy. Projects implemented jointly with the private sector contribute not only to environmental protection, but also to economic growth based on advanced technologies. The Association of Leather and Footwear Producers of Uzbekistan, together with Swiss Grow, is launching a major project. During the negotiations, the parties discussed the implementation of the project and the first steps in this direction. In particular, the project plans to produce high-quality mineral fertilizers for agriculture from waste generated during the processing of leather products. Previously, such waste was mainly disposed of without bringing economic benefits.—APP

Rupee gains 04 paise against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD, Aug 12 (AP-P): The Rupee on Tuesday appreciated by 04 paise against the US Dollar in the inter-bank trading and closed at Rs 282.41 against the previous day's closing Rs 282.45. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 284.2 and Rs 285.7, respectively. The price of the Euro decreased by 68 paise to close at Rs 328.15 against the last day's closing of Rs 328.83, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen came down by 01 paise and closed at Rs 1.90, whereas the exchange rate of the British Pound remained stagnant at Rs 380.07.—APP

Gold price dips by Rs 500 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold witnessed a decrease of Rs500 on Tuesday and was sold at Rs358,300 against its sale at Rs358,800 on the previous trading day, All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewelers Association reported. The prices of 10 grams of 24 karat also decreased by Rs 429 to Rs.307,184 from Rs 307,613 whereas the price of 10 grams of 22 Karat went down by Rs 393 to Rs 281,595 from Rs 281,988. The rates of per tola and ten gram silver remained unchanged and was traded at Rs.4,013 and Rs 3,440 respectively. The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$5 to \$3,356 from \$3,361 whereas silver remained stagnant at \$37.80, the Association reported.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar attends the landmark 400th Council Meeting of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP).

US reciprocal tariff reduction to boost Pak export: Jam

Jam Kamal Khan said that, on the directions of the Prime Minister, exporter's feedback on the opportunities provided by the tariff reduction necessitates charting a way forward to avail this opportunity and boost exports.

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's exporters are set to gain a competitive edge in the US market after the government successfully negotiated to get reciprocal tariff reduced from 29% to 19%, the lowest in the region providing Pakistan an opportunity to boost exports to the United States. The breakthrough was discussed in a meeting on 'US Reciprocal Tariffs' chaired by Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan, said a release issued here on Tuesday. The meeting was also attended by Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Industries and Production Haroon Akhtar Khan, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Commerce Rana Ishaan Afzal, Secretary Commerce Jawad

Paul, senior officers of Commerce Division and Industries and Production Division, and over 30 leading exporters and SMEs from various sectors including apparel and textiles, rice, salt, surgical goods, sports goods, electronics, food and agriculture, leather, and more. The industry congratulated the government on securing what industry leaders called one of Pakistan's most strategic trade wins in recent years over its regional competitors. Jam Kamal Khan said that, on the directions of the Prime Minister, exporter's feedback on the opportunities provided by the tariff reduction necessitates charting a way forward to avail this opportunity and boost exports.=

He appreciated the efforts of the Finance Minister and Secretary Commerce, as well as the support extended by the private sector in developing a comprehensive strategy to achieve this milestone. SAPM Haroon Akhtar underscored Pakistan's regional advantage and shared that the Government is committed to extend maximum support to the industry to untap business opportunities arising out of the current circumstances. Industry representatives, while appreciating the government's efforts in trade diplomacy, urged the government for favourable and predictable policy support aiming towards optimizing cost of manufacturing and access to the inputs to materialize the future busi-

ness opportunities. The Commerce Minister pledged the government's dedication to export-driven policies, encompassing both immediate support measures and sustained long-term strategies. He emphasized that through enhanced collaboration and decisive actions, Pakistan's export industries could achieve significant growth. All recommendations from the exporters, he added, would be submitted to the Prime Minister for consideration. The meeting concluded with a shared resolve to actively enhance Pakistan's export footprint in the United States, turning this opportunity into a sustained national advantage for socio-economic development of the country.—DNA

Abu Dhabi's AI sector expands 61% in one year

ABU DHABI: Abu Dhabi's artificial intelligence (AI) sector is undergoing an extraordinary acceleration, positioning the emirate as a global epicentre of AI innovation and growth. According to data published by the Abu Dhabi Chamber, the emirate, with 673 AI companies, has experienced a 61 percent increase in the AI sector between June 2023 to June 2024. Globally, there are approximately 90,904 AI companies as of 2024, which places Abu Dhabi's AI company count as a notable concentration within the global landscape. The findings highlight Abu Dhabi's rise as the fastest growing centre for artificial intelligence in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and a global leader in AI-driven enterprise, innovation, and research. Abu Dhabi is setting global standards for the adoption of AI across strategic sectors, supported by a constellation of unique institutions and establishments, including the Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Technology Council (AIATC), responsible for developing and implementing policies and strategies related to research, infrastructure and investments in AI and advanced technology, the Advanced Technology Research Council (ATRC), the Technology Innovation Institute (TII), AI71, Hub71, G42, and Space42 GIQ. Abu Dhabi Chamber has revealed that over 58 percent of all AI firms in the emirate are dedicated to innovation, research, and consultancy — clear evidence of a sophisticated, research-driven business environment. The past six months (January to June 2025) alone have seen the launch of 150 new AI companies, driven by strategic investment, advanced infrastructure, and cross-sector demand in Abu Dhabi. Shamis Ali Khalfan Al Dhaheri, Second Vice Chairman and Managing Director of the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said, "Abu Dhabi's artificial intelligence sector is rapidly evolving from early adoption to real-world transformation, with a growing share of activity rooted in research, strategic consultancy, and enterprise-level solutions." He noted that this surge is not only about numbers; it reflects a vibrant, diverse community of entrepreneurs, scientists, and global leaders who recognise Abu Dhabi as a magnet for groundbreaking technology ventures. "What sets this ecosystem apart is the strength of collaboration between government and business, global leaders and emerging innovators, and research and industry. At the Chamber, we see it as our responsibility to foster these connections and create the conditions for innovation to thrive, not as an exception but as the standard," Al Dhaheri added.—DNA

ASEAN to send first peace mission to Myanmar over Rohingya crisis

DHAKA: Malaysia and other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations will send a peace mission to Myanmar to help address the Rohingya crisis, officials said Tuesday, as Bangladesh's interim leader Muhammad Yunus, whose country hosts most refugees, met with Malaysian leaders. The Rohingya, a mostly Muslim ethnic minority, lived for centuries in Myanmar's western Rakhine state but were stripped of their citizenship in the 1980s. Since then, many of them have fled to Bangladesh, with around 700,000 arriving in 2017 after a military crackdown that the UN has been referring to as a textbook case of ethnic cleansing by Myanmar. Today, more than 1.3 million Rohingya are cramped inside 33 camps in Cox's Bazar district on the southeast coast of Bangladesh, making it the world's largest refugee settlement. Yunus, the Nobel Peace Laureate who pledged support for the Rohingya upon taking office last year, is on a three-day visit to Malaysia — the ASEAN chair for 2025 — at the invitation of Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim. "We are concerned with the burden placed on Bangladesh on having to cater for enormous numbers of Rohingya refugees," Anwar said in a press conference with Yunus. "The (Malaysian) foreign minister will coordinate a team with Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand to visit Myanmar in the next few weeks to ensure that peace is attained and the atrocity (against) some ethnic minorities and the people of Myanmar can be amicably resolved." Despite multiple attempts from Bangladeshi authorities, a UN-backed repatriation and resettlement process of the Rohingya has been failing to take off for the past few years. Efforts have been stalled by armed conflict in Myanmar since the military junta seized power in 2021. Violence in Rakhine State, home to most of the Rohingya, has surged in recent months amid clashes between the junta and the Arakan Army, a powerful ethnic militia. Retired Maj. Gen. Shahidul Haque, former diplomat and defense attaché of the Bangladesh Embassy in Myanmar, told Arab News: "The issue of Rohingya repatriation is in a complex state in 2025. "Multiple actors are involved in Myanmar: the capital, Naypyidaw, is controlled by the Myanmar military, while the Rohingyas' birthplace, Rakhine, is under the control of the separatist Arakan Army. "It will not be possible to repatriate a single Rohingya without reaching some form of agreement with the Arakan Army. "A UN-backed Rohingya conference will be held in Doha next September, and the ASEAN peace mission visit may also help boost the UN initiative to find a sustainable solution to the crisis."—DNA

Syria, Kurdish officials meet after Paris talks canned

QAMISHLI: Syria's foreign minister and a senior official in the country's Kurdish administration have met in Damascus, sources from both sides told AFP on Tuesday, days after the government boycotted talks in France. Damascus had said it would not participate in the Paris talks after the Kurds hosted a meeting last week involving Syria's Druze and Alawite minority communities, which have been subjected to sectarian violence in recent months. The event called for a decentralized state — a move repeatedly rejected by Syria's new authorities — and was effectively the first meeting to bring together representatives of several communities opposed to the approach and vision of governance of Syria's new authorities. Elham Ahmad, a senior official in the Kurdish administration in Syria's northeast, met Syrian Foreign Minister Asaad Al-Shaibani "on Monday evening upon the request of the Damascus government," a Kurdish official told AFP, requesting anonymity. A Syrian government source, also requesting anonymity, confirmed to AFP that the Damascus meeting took place,

without providing further details. The Kurds and Damascus have been holding talks on the implementation of a March 10 deal between Mazloum Abdi, head of the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), and President Ahmed Al-Sharaa on integrating the Kurds' semi-autonomous civil and military institutions into the state. Implementation has been held up by differences between the two parties. Monday's talks sought to affirm "the continuation of the negotiating process via intra-Syrian committees under international supervision," the Kurdish official said, adding that the sides agreed "there was no place for a military option." "Discussions focused on finding an appropriate formula for decentralization, without specifying a timeframe," the Kurdish official added. Late last month, Syria, France and the United States said they agreed to convene talks in Paris "as soon as possible" on implementing the March 10 agreement. Abdi said in a televised interview in July that the Paris meeting was set to discuss the mechanism for integrating his forces.—APP

CDA Illuminates the Islamabad for Marka-e-Haq and Independence Day Celebrations

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA), in line with the vision of Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif and directions of Federal Minister for Interior, Mohsin Naqvi and under the leadership of Chairman CDA and Chief Commissioner Islamabad, Muhammad Ali Randhawa has embarked on an impressive campaign to illuminate Islamabad in celebration of Marka-e-Haq and the nation's 78th Independence Day. The initiative aims not only to beautify the federal capital Islamabad exemplarily, but also to foster a spirit of unity, patriotism, and festivity among its residents. Over the past weeks, CDA, DMA and MCI teams have been working day and night to adorn the city's major landmarks, government buildings, avenues, and city centers with vibrant national flags, dazzling decorative lights, and colorful branding. The vision is to transform Islamabad into a glowing reflection of Pakistan's pride and cultural her-



itage during these significant national events. Key buildings in Pak Secretariat and constitution Avenue such as the Parliament House, Auditor General of Pakistan besides D Cowk, and Pakistan Monument as well as the CDA

Headquarters have been illuminated with exquisite lighting designs, showcasing the grandeur of the city's architecture. Major roads and intersections, including Constitution Avenue, Jinnah Avenue, and Kashmir High-

way, have been lined with strings of lights and national flags, creating an enchanting atmosphere for residents and visitors alike. Special attention has also been given to public spaces and city centers, where themed decorations and interactive lighting displays have been installed. These arrangements serve as a vibrant backdrop for planned public gatherings, cultural performances, and patriotic programs, ensuring that the celebrations resonate with citizens of all ages. The Chairman CDA and Chief Commissioner Islamabad, Muhammad Ali Randhawa has emphasised that these beautification and illumination efforts are part of a broader strategy to enhance Islamabad's image as a clean, green, and vibrant capital. "Our aim is to make Islamabad a city that reflects the spirit of the nation — full of life, color, and pride," he remarked. As Marka-e-Haq and Independence Day approach, the glowing streets and majestic landmarks of Islamabad stand as a testament to the dedication of the CDA in uniting the community through beauty, symbolism, and shared national pride.

Wildfires in Spain kill one and force thousands to flee

MADRID: A man died from burns and thousands of people were forced to flee as wildfires swept through parts of Spain on Tuesday, fueled by strong winds during a searing heatwave. The victim suffered serious burns as winds of up to 70 kilometers (43 miles) per hour whipped the flames through Tres Cantos, a wealthy suburb north of the capital Madrid, officials said. He later died in hospital, in the first fatality from dozens of wildfires to have hit the country since the heatwave began last week. The head of the regional government of Madrid, Isabel Diaz Ayuso, said she "deeply regretted" the man's death in a message on X. Hundreds of residents in Tres Cantos were evacuated from their homes. "In barely 40 minutes, the fire advanced six kilometers," Carlos Novillo, Madrid's regional environment chief, told reporters. By Tuesday morning, regional officials said the blaze had been contained. Elsewhere, about 2,000 people were evacuated from hotels and homes near the popular beaches of Tarifa in the southern region of Andalusia.—APP

Russian forces pierce Ukraine lines in isolated advance

KYIV: Russian forces have rapidly advanced in a narrow but important sector of the front line, the Ukrainian military and analysts said Tuesday, days ahead of a meeting between the Russian and US presidents. Moscow's army, which invaded Ukraine in 2022, has made costly but incremental gains across the sprawling front in recent months and claims to have annexed four Ukrainian regions while still fighting to control them. The Ukrainian army said in a statement on Tuesday that there had been fighting around the village of Kucheriv Yar in the Donetsk region, acknowledging Russian gains. The Ukrainian DeepState blog, which retains close connections with the military, showed Russian advances around 10 kilometers (six miles) over around two days. The corridor now under Russian control threatens the town of Dobropillya, a mining town that civilians are fleeing and that has been coming under Russian drone attacks. It also threatens the embattled and destroyed town of Kostiantynivka, which is one of the last large urban areas in the Donetsk region still held by Ukraine. A popular military blogger, Sternenko, wrote on Telegram that Russian forces during the advance had taken control of parts of a highway connecting important population centers in Donetsk.—APP

Madonna urges pope to visit Gaza 'before it's too late'

LONDON: Madonna has urged the pope to travel to Gaza and "bring your light to the children before it's too late." The superstar posted her appeal to the pontiff on social media Monday, saying her son Rocco's birthday prompted her to make the post. Rocco turned 25 Monday. Addressing Pope Leo XIV, she wrote: "Most Holy Father. Please go to Gaza and bring your light to the children before it's too late. As a mother, I cannot bear to watch their suffering. "The children of the world belong to everyone. You are the only one of us who cannot be denied entry," she added. "We need the humanitarian gates to be fully opened to save these innocent children. There is no more time. Please say you will go. Love, Madonna." The singer added that she wasn't taking sides in the war. "I am not pointing fingers, placing blame or taking sides. Everyone is suffering. Including the mothers of the hostages," she wrote. "I pray that they are released as well. I am merely trying to do what I can to keep these children from dying of starvation.—APP

Briefs

Pakistani diplomats harassed in New Delhi

Extension of visas for 17 staff members also pending with Indian Ministry of External Affairs

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani diplomats at the Pakistani High Commission in India are facing harassment, with at least four of them having served eviction notices concerning their private, rented residences in New Delhi. Sources say that the four diplomats were issued notices by their landlord before the contract period expired. According to sources, Pakistani diplomats are being constantly monitored, while their gas and internet services are being cut off from time to time. The extension of Indian visas for 17 staff members, the sources added, including diplomats, is also pending with the Indian Ministry of External Affairs. A request was made to India for the extension of visas for 17 Pakistani officials three to five months ago. Furthermore, the water supply to the Pakistani High Commission in New Delhi has also been cut off, while the delivery of Indian newspapers to the High Commission has also been stopped for a month and a half. The Pakistani High Commission has informed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs authorities. The alleged harassment comes against the backdrop of heightened tensions between Islamabad and New Delhi following a brief armed conflict between the two nuclear-armed neighbours in May this year.

Magnitude 6.3 quake hits Papua in eastern Indonesia

JAKARTA: A magnitude 6.3 earthquake struck the eastern Indonesian region of Papua on Tuesday, the US Geological Survey said, but a monitor said there was no tsunami threat. The epicentre of the quake, which struck at around 5:24 pm (0824 GMT), was around 193 kilometres northwest of the town of Apepura in Papua, USGS said. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center said there was no tsunami threat. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage. USGS earlier gave a magnitude of 6.5 before revising it downward. The vast archipelago nation experiences frequent earthquakes due to its position on the Pacific "Ring of Fire", an arc of intense seismic activity where tectonic plates collide that stretches from Japan through Southeast Asia and across the Pacific basin. A magnitude 6.2 quake that shook Sulawesi in January 2021 killed more than 100 people and left thousands homeless. In 2018, a magnitude 7.5 quake and subsequent tsunami in Palu on Sulawesi killed more than 2,200 people. — Agencies



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif launches the Interest free loan scheme for Prospective Overseas Workers and Laptops for All Program at the International Youth Day Ceremony in Islamabad on 12 August 2025. — DNA

US and China extend tariff truce by 90 days

China continues to take significant steps toward addressing concerns of the US, reads Trump's executive order

DNA

WASHINGTON: The United States and China on Monday extended a tariff truce for another 90 days, staving off triple-digit duties on each other's goods as US retailers get ready to ramp up inventories ahead of the critical end-of-year holiday season. US President Donald Trump announced on his Truth Social platform that he had signed an executive order suspending the imposition of higher tariffs until 12:01am EST (0501 GMT) on November 10, with all other elements of the truce to remain in place. US and China extend tariff truce by 90 days China's Commerce Ministry issued a parallel pause on extra tariffs early on Tuesday, also postponing for 90 days the addition of US firms it had targeted in April to trade and investment restriction lists. "The United States continues to have discussions with the PRC to address the lack of trade reciprocity in our economic relationship and our resulting national and economic security concerns," Trump's executive order stated, using the acronym for the People's Republic of China. "Through these discussions, the PRC continues to take significant steps toward remedying non-reciprocal trade arrangements and addressing the concerns of the United States relating to economic and national security matters." The tariff truce between Beijing and Washington had been due to expire on Tuesday at 12:01am EDT (0401 GMT). The extension until early November buys crucial time for the seasonal autumn surge of imports for the Christmas season, including electronics, apparel and toys at lower tariff rates.



The new order prevents US tariffs on Chinese goods from shooting up to 145%, while Chinese tariffs on US goods were set to hit 125% — rates that would have resulted in a virtual trade embargo between the two countries. It locks in place — at least for now — a 30% tariff on Chinese imports, with Chinese duties on US imports at 10%.

"We'll see what happens," Trump told a news conference earlier on Monday, highlighting what he called his good relationship with Chinese President Xi Jinping. China said the extension was "a measure to further implement the important consensus reached by the two heads of state during their June 5 call," and would provide stability to the global economy. Trump told CNBC last week that the US and China were getting very close to a trade agreement and he would meet with Xi before the end of the year if a deal was struck. "It's positive news," said Wendy Cutler, a former senior US trade official who is now a vice president at the Asia Society Policy Institute. "Combined with some of the de-escalatory steps both the United States and China have taken in recent weeks, it demonstrated that both sides are trying to see if they can reach some kind of a deal that would lay the groundwork for a Xi-Trump meeting this autumn." Trade 'detente' continued: The two sides in May announced a truce in their trade dispute after talks in Geneva, Switzerland, agreeing to a 90-day period to allow further talks. They met again in Stockholm, Sweden, in late July, and US negotiators returned to Washington with a recommendation that Trump extend the deadline.

PSX hits all-time high as institutional buying

KSE-100 Index hits intraday high of 147,976.98 points, rising 1,047.14 points, or 0.71%

KARACHI: The stock market continued to trade at record highs on Tuesday, with gains driven by strong financial results, institutional buying, and optimism over the finalisation of US investment commitments under the recently signed trade deal. "Stocks closed to new all-time high amid strong financial results and speculations over positive outcome of finer details on US investments under Pak US trade deal," said Ahsan Mehanti, Managing Director and CEO of Arif Habib Commodities. "\$3.2 billion record remittances in July '25, rupee stability, and expectations for surge in exports on India US tariff conflict played catalyst role in record bullish close at PSX," he added. The Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) benchmark KSE-100 Index hit an intraday high of 147,976.98 points, gaining 1,047.14 points, or 0.71%, from the previous close of 146,929.84. — DNA

National economy on path to fast recovery: Ahsan Iqbal

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday said that Pakistan has achieved significant economic milestones, marking a robust turnaround in the macroeconomic framework — a foundation for long-term growth. Launching the Monthly Economic Development Update for July 2025, he said that key indicators, including GDP growth, inflation control, and fiscal discipline showed that Pakistan was on a path to economic recovery and stability. "We have achieved macroeconomic stability. Inflation has dropped, exports are up, and development spending has reached historic levels," he said during a media briefing. The minister stated that exports in July FY2026 rose by 17 percent year-on-year, reaching \$2.7 billion compared to \$2.3 billion in July FY2025 — reflecting resilience in the external sector. Meanwhile, the current account bal-

ance swung from a \$2.1 billion deficit to a \$2.1 billion surplus, a net gain of \$4.2 billion in one year. On the fiscal side, he said Pakistan posted a primary balance of 2.4 percent of GDP — the highest in 24 years—and reduced the fiscal deficit to 5.4 percent of GDP, down from 6.9 percent last year. "This is the lowest fiscal deficit in eight years, achieved through better expenditure management and revenue collection," Ahsan Iqbal added. The minister said public development spending surpassed Rs 1 trillion for the first time in Pakistan's history, with Rs 1.068 trillion spent under the PSDP—98 percent of the target. He highlighted a major drop in inflation, with CPI falling to 4.1 percent in July 2026, down from 11.1 percent the previous year. The Pakistan Stock Exchange crossed the 141,000-point mark, an all-time high reflecting investors' confidence in the country's economic outlook. He said international credit agencies including Fitch, Moody's, and S&P have upgraded Pakistan's credit ratings, signaling improved global confidence.

Pakistan, Belgium aim to boost cooperation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Chairman Senate, Ms. Misbah Khar, met today with the Ambassador of Belgium to Pakistan, Charles-Idesbald van der Gracht de Rommerswael, to discuss avenues for enhancing parliamentary cooperation and engagement in upcoming international forums. Ms. Khar briefed the Ambassador on the objectives and vision of the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC) — a dynamic new global platform dedicated to fostering collaboration and connectivity among parliaments worldwide. The ISC currently includes 45 parliamentary speakers representing diverse regions. She informed the Ambassador that, in recent elections held in Malaysia, the Honourable Chairman Senate of Pakistan, Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, was unanimously elected as the inaugural President of the organization — a testament to Pakistan's active leadership in promoting global parliamentary diplomacy. The Ambassador was also briefed on preparations for the upcoming ISC meeting, scheduled to take place in Islamabad on 11–12 November 2025. The update covered the conference agenda, proposed sessions, thematic priorities, and the expected participation of high-level delegations from across the globe. Ms. Khar underscored that the conference will serve as an important platform for parliamentary leaders to deliberate on pressing global issues, including peace, multilateral cooperation, and sustainable development. She emphasized the conference's goal of fostering impactful dialogue and developing actionable strategies to address shared challenges.

Holiday announced in Islamabad on August 13

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad authorities on Tuesday announced that a "local holiday" will be observed in the federal capital on Wednesday (tomorrow) ahead of the much-anticipated Independence Day celebrations. "It is notified that August 13, 2025 (Wednesday), is hereby observed as Local Holiday within the revenue limits of the Islamabad Capital Territory except the offices of essential services in Islamabad including MCI, CDA, ICT Administration, ICT Police, IESCO, SNGPL and Hospitals," read the notification shared by Islamabad Deputy Commissioner Irfan Nawaz Memon in a post on X. The announcement comes as preparations are in full swing across the country to celebrate the 78th Independence Day and victory in Marka-e-Haq (the battle of truth) — the title given to the recent armed conflict between Pakistan and neighbouring India.

India may release water
Flooding feared in Punjab rivers amid rains

PDMA spokesperson says there has been unusual increase in water levels of Indian dams

ABIR RAZA

LAHORE: The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) of Punjab on Tuesday warned of possible flooding in rivers due to rains in upper parts of the country coupled with expected water release by India in the coming days. "There is a fear of India releasing water into the Sutlej River in two days. There has been an unusual increase in water levels of Indian dams," said a PDMA spokesperson. The Bhakra, Pong and Thein dams in India have reached 61%, 76% and 64% of their total capacity, respectively, he added. With a warning issued for medium to high level flood in the Chenab River, the PDMA director general (DG) has said that the situation of rivers and dams was being monitored round the clock. The official further warned that there is a chance of further increase in water flow in the Sutlej River.

The development came a day after the authority issued a flood advisory as the province braces for a seventh spell of monsoon rains from August 13. A new monsoon spell is likely to cause rising water levels in major rivers, including the Sutlej, Ravi, Chenab and Jhelum, as well as their adjoining streams and tributaries. Commissioners, deputy commissioners, and all relevant departments have been instructed to remain on high alert, the advisory read. The recent monsoon spell wreaked havoc across Pakistan with scenes of urban flooding, flash floods and landslides resulting in over 300 deaths, while several others are still missing, along with damage to infrastructure. Gilgit Baltistan, which hosts several tourist hotspots, was also battered by flash floods and landslides, with Chief Minister Haji Gulbar Khan, last month, saying that at least 10 people were killed and four others were injured in the region in floods triggered by intense monsoon rains.

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