



Islamabad POST

Thursday, August 21, 2025

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

US keen to invest in Pakistan energy sector, says Natalie

Detailed News On Page-08

Imran names Achakzai as Opp leader in NA

Detailed News On Page-08

Pakistan, China cooperation to grow: Mao

Detailed News On Page-08



Damages in KP

Civil, military leadership visits affected areas

COAS also interacted with troops, police and civil administration personnel involved in rescue efforts, lauding their selfless commitment in assisting victims of floods and torrential rains. COAS directed ground formations to approach this responsibility with utmost devotion and to spare no effort in alleviating the hardships of flood-stricken families

BUREAU REPORT / DNA

BUNER: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, accompanied by Federal Ministers and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, Chief of Army Staff (COAS), visited the flood-affected districts of Swat, Buner, Shangla, and Swabi. The Prime Minister and COAS received a comprehensive briefing on the ongoing rescue and relief operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. During their interaction with flood victims, the Prime Minister assured them of the Federal Government's and Pakistan Army's unwavering commitment to extending maximum support in this critical hour. The Prime Minister, while appreciating the tireless dedication of the Armed Forces and civil administration, reaffirmed solidarity with the flood-affected population and assured them of all possible assistance. The Prime Minister emphasized that every available national resource will be mobilized to accelerate recovery efforts and restore normalcy in the affected areas. Prime Minister also drew attention towards the illegal encroachments, timber mafia and mining / crushing activities especially in waterways which contribute greatly towards loss of lives and damages. He directed that Pakistan must act as a hard state where no one is above law and necessary actions be taken against defaulters without distinction. COAS also interacted with troops, police and civil administration personnel involved in rescue efforts, lauding their selfless commitment in assisting victims

of floods and torrential rains. COAS directed ground formations to approach this responsibility with utmost devotion and to spare no effort in alleviating the hardships of flood-stricken families. He underscored that the safety and relief of fellow citizens remain the foremost priority, commending the forces and civil administration for their untiring service. Prime Minister and participants earlier also offered Fateha for those who lost their lives in this catastrophe. Upon arrival, the Prime Minister was received by Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday warned that more spells of torrential rain are yet to come, as he visited flood-hit areas in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). Addressing flood victims in Buner, the prime minister expressed sorrow over the devastation caused by heavy rains and flash floods, saying more than 350 people had lost their lives in KP alone, while hundreds were injured. Nationwide, over 700 people have died so far, with many still missing, he added. He also offered condolences to families who had lost loved ones, noting that incidents in South Waziristan and Mansehra had left "every Pakistani with teary eyes." PM Shehbaz said that destroyed bridges and roads were already being repaired by engineers, with instructions issued to restore all affected sites within a week. He pledged that electricity would be restored everywhere in the same period, "whether bills had been paid or not." He further announced seven days of free electricity for flood victims. Relief cheques were also distributed during his visit.

Rains devastation

Death toll climbs to 17 as monsoon showers batter Karachi again

Power outages and flight disruptions persist after city's torrential downpour

BUREAU REPORT / DNA

KARACHI: The death toll from rain-related incidents in Karachi rose to 17 on Wednesday after intermittent downpours battered the city since the day before, with the port city receiving more monsoon showers at night. The aftermath of yesterday's urban flooding remains visible across the city, with stranded vehicles and potholes scattered along major thoroughfares. The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) reported 178 millimetres of rainfall in Gulshan-e-Hadeed and 145 millimetres on University Road during the past 24 hours. Drainage operations continued through the day to clear key roads, including Karsaz and Malir Halt, where several vehicles remained stuck. Rainwater also inundated parts of the Old City Area, Aram Bagh, Sindh High Court, Liaquatabad, and University Road. Police confirmed that children and a woman were among the deceased. In one incident, a

70-year-old disabled man was found dead inside his PECHS residence after reportedly falling from his bed into accumulated rainwater. The power situation also worsened, with 2,000 feeders restored but 240 still down, suspending electricity in multiple neighbourhoods, including Gulistan-e-Jauhar, North Nazimabad, Malir, Korangi, Orangi Town, Liaquatabad, Gadap, Bin Qasim, PECHS, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Sultanabad, Moinabad, and DHA. Many areas have been without electricity for over 24 hours. Flight operations at Jinnah International Airport remain heavily affected, with several domestic flights cancelled as airline and PIA staff were unable to reach duty stations due to flooding. International flight schedules also suffered delays. In view of the deteriorating conditions, the Chief Justice of the Sindh High Court ordered the closure of all courts in Karachi, including

Continued on Page 06

'Talks expected soon between PTI, govt'

PTI leaders have contacted us as well as other leadership, and are convincing us that negotiations should open up again, claims minister

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Law and Justice Barrister Aqeel Malik has said he expects negotiations between the PTI and the government to start in a few days, but Imran Khan's release from jail would not be part of the discussion. Since Imran's incarceration last year in several cases, PTI's relations with the government and the establishment have deteriorated sharply. Last year in November, protests by the party had escalated into violence amid state repression. Subsequently, in December last year, Imran Khan had formed a five-member committee to hold talks with "anyone", prompting Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to set up a counterpart panel. Despite several rounds, however, the talks ended abruptly and without results. Ties have been further strained after several

PTI Chairman announces protest march

Ejaz Ch wife gets Senate ticket from Punjab

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a strong message to the ruling government, PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar has declared that the party will soon initiate a vigorous agitation against the government's handling of recent arrests and sentencing, which he alleges are based on fabricated cases. Speaking to the media,

Continued on Page 06

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, received member of the CPC Politburo and Minister for Foreign Affairs of China, H.E. Wang Yi today in Islamabad. – DNA

China to showcase latest military hardware

DNA

BEIJING: China will unveil a slate of new domestically produced military hardware that will showcase its "powerful capability to prevail in modern war" at a parade next month, officials said on Wednesday. The event, marking 80 years since the end of World War II, will see President Xi Jinping inspect troops in Beijing's Tiananmen Square, with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin and other world leaders expected to attend. Millions of Chinese people were killed during a prolonged war with imperial Japan in the 1930s and 40s, which became part of a global conflict following Tokyo's attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. The ruling Communist Party has held a series of blockbuster events in recent years to

Continued on Page 06

Trilateral meet in Kabul

Pakistan, China, Afghans to 'jointly fight terrorism

In meeting with Muttaqi, Dar highlights rise in terrorist attacks in Pakistan by groups operating from Afghan soil

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan, China, and Afghanistan on Wednesday expressed commitment to strengthening joint efforts against terrorism. The resolve came during the sixth Trilateral Foreign Ministers Dialogue held in Kabul between Pakistan's FM Ishaq Dar, his Afghan counterparts Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi and China's Wang Yi. In a statement, Foreign Office spokesperson Shafqat Ali Khan said that the trilateral dialogues were focused on political, economic, and security cooperation between the countries. The spokesperson said that the three

Continued on Page 06

Shehbaz to visit China later this month

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The government on Tuesday announced that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's upcoming visit to China later this month will mark the formal launch of the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC-II), focused on industrial

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Solangi to act as President spokesman





DNA

ISLAMABAD: Senior journalist and former caretaker information minister Murtaza Solangi has been appointed spokesperson for the President of Pakistan, he confirmed on Wednesday. A former director general of Radio Pakistan, Solangi served as the caretaker minister for information and broadcasting from August 2023 to March 2024. "Mr Murtaza Solangi is appointed as Spokesperson of the President of Pakistan on honorary/pro bono basis with immediate effect until further orders," said a notification by the president's secretary, Muhammad Shakeel Malik yesterday.

Danyal meets UK envoy Jane




DNA




ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Danyal Chaudhry on Wednesday met British High Commissioner to Pakistan Jane Marriott to discuss cooperation between Islamabad and London. Pakistan and the United Kingdom have been engaged in the Enhanced Strategic Dialogue (ESD) since 2011, which has deepened and broadened the dialogue between the two countries, covering areas such as trade, economic growth and development, cultural cooperation, security, and education.



Prestige Club Goes GLOBAL

Unlock unparalleled experiences in over 33 Serena destinations across 8 countries.





serenahotels.com | prestigeclub@serenahotels.com

Democratic Republic of Congo | Kenya | Mozambique | Pakistan | Rwanda | Tajikistan | Tanzania | Uganda

Khichi vows full support to NA body on heritage, culture

Both sides discussed strategies for strengthening cultural institutions, many of which were devolved to provinces after the 18th Constitutional Amendment

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Aurangzeb Khan Khichi, reaffirmed the government's commitment to safeguarding Pakistan's centuries-old cultural legacy. He was speaking during a meeting with the Chairperson of the National Assembly Standing Committee on National Heritage and Culture, Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar, held in Islamabad on Wednesday. Welcoming Ms. Iftikhar to her new role, the Minister praised her dedication and assured that the Ministry would ensure complete cooperation to the

Committee. "Our culture and heritage span centuries, and their preservation and promotion remain my foremost priority," he said. During the meeting, both sides discussed strategies for strengthening cultural institutions, many of which were devolved to provinces after the 18th Constitutional Amendment. Mr. Khichi underlined that the Ministry's attached departments were not profit-oriented but existed to promote heritage, preserve historical legacy, and create public awareness. He stressed that institutions associated with Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Allama Iqbal are vital to the country's national identity and will never be

abolished. Nosheen Iftikhar highlighted the importance of further improving institutional performance and expressed her resolve to work in close collaboration with the Ministry. "It is an honor to work alongside you and to learn in a positive environment. I have assumed this responsibility on the Prime Minister's wish, as he attaches special importance to this sector," she remarked. The meeting concluded with an agreement that all subsidiary organizations of the Ministry would provide detailed briefings to the Chairperson. Secretary National Heritage and Culture Asad Rehman Gillani also attended the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of the National Assembly Standing Committee on National Heritage and Culture Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar called on Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Aurangzeb Khan Khichi.

CM Sindh chairs meeting to review rain situation

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah chaired a high-level meeting on the rain situation in the city Wednesday. The Chief Minister reviewed the overall situation caused by heavy rains and received briefings from various departments regarding water drainage efforts and assistance to citizens. He directed municipal bodies to remain on high alert as more rain has been forecast for Karachi. Mayor Murtaza Wahab and the Local Government Minister briefed the CM about measures taken so far. Officials informed the meeting that Tuesday's heavy rainfall had turned major roads into ponds, but de-watering operations began as soon as the rain subsided. Commissioner Karachi informed that on the CM's directives, 40 students stranded at FUUAST University were rescued. Municipal bodies, the Water Board, and the administration worked throughout the night to clear water from Gulbai, Mauripur, Central District, Gulshan Zone, Ayesha Manzil, Shahrah-e-Pakistan, and Gulberg. Water was also drained from the areas around Commissioner's Office, High Court, Secretariat, and Supreme Court, while clearance work at Arts Council Chowrangi is still underway. Additional IGP Karachi Javed Alam Odho briefed the CM that Karachi Police, including Traffic Police, effectively managed traffic during the rains. Traffic flow was regulated in South District at Capri Cinema, Shahrah-e-Liaquat, and MA Jinnah Road, in East District at Bahadurabad, PAF Bridge Dalmia, in Central District at Lasbela Chowk, Jehangir Road, Ayesha Manzil, and Karimabad and in West District at PTC Gate, Dabba Mor, Malir, and National Highway.—DNA

Police constable critically injured in late-night gun attack

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police's constable was injured when unidentified assailants opened fire on him within the limits of Police Station Aabpara. The injured officer was identified as Haider Ali, who was immediately shifted to the Federal Government Polyclinic Hospital for treatment. An official told APP that Muhammad Afzal, brother of the injured officer, informed police about the incident and submitted a written application. He stated that the firing took place late Tuesday night at the officer's residence in Sector G-6/1-2, when armed men stormed the house and opened multiple rounds. Acting on the complaint, the Station House Officer (SHO) of PS Aabpara registered a First Information Report (FIR) under sections 324, 452, 109 and 34 of the Pakistan Penal Code and initiated investigation. The official added that police teams were working on different leads to trace the culprits, while forensic evidence was being collected and CCTV footage examined to identify those involved.—APP

Mondelez celebrates major wins at dragons of Pakistan awards

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Maintaining its winning streak, Mondelez Pakistan has been honored at the Dragons of Pakistan Awards 2025 with a Gold, Silver and Black Dragon. These achievements highlight the strength of a clear vision, passionate teams and collaborative partnerships. Earlier this year, the compa-

ny received four accolades at the Effie Awards, including one Gold, two Silver and one Bronze. The company extended its gratitude to its agency partners, Ogilvy Pakistan and Starcom, whose support has been central to these wins. Gohar Syed, Marketing Lead, Mondelez Pakistan, said: "We are truly honored to receive these prestigious awards, as they recognize the passion, dedication and creativity of our

people. Each achievement is the result of strong teamwork, valuable partnerships and the trust of our consumers. These awards remind us that when we work together with purpose, we can achieve great things. They also encourage us to keep raising the standard, exploring new ideas and building campaigns that not only engage but also create lasting connections with people across Pakistan."

Call for climate cooperation, trade facilitation for ECO's future

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) on Wednesday hosted a public address on "ECO, Regionalism and the New Geopolitical Dynamics." The event brought together a wide range of participants including academics, think-tank experts, and practitioners. Ambassador Dr. Asad Majeed Khan, Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), was the Guest Speaker, said a press release. In his welcome remarks, Director General ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood noted that the current global environment was marked by turbulence and transformation in which major-power competition was accentuating and globalisation and multilateralism were under severe stress. Regionalism, however, was not as challenged, except for in regions like South Asia. If ECO could provide a successful model of regional cooperation then there could be a good demonstration effort for the South Asian region. Ambassador Sohail Mahmood noted the timeliness of the ISSI event as Secretary General Asad Majeed had just returned from the 17th ECO Summit in Khankendi, Azerbaijan (3-4 July 2025). He highlighted the symbolism of Karabakh — a region once defined by conflict — hosting a summit of transformation and hope. At the gathering, ECO members pledged to expand trade, enhance transport and digital corridors, deepen energy cooperation, and build climate resilience. While intra-regional trade rose to USD 96.5 billion in 2022 from USD 76 billion in 2021, it still accounts for only 9.1% of the region's total trade—signaling untapped opportunities. He also noted persistent challenges, including border conflicts, terrorism, sanctions, and regional disputes. Sanctions on certain member states have further restricted economic prospects, while tensions between Pakistan and India pose a challenge to regional stability and wider regional connectivity. The Israel-Iran conflict of 2025 has also disrupted critical trade and energy routes, underscoring the fragility of regional integration. He expressed cautious optimism, noting that recent U.S.-mediated efforts at reconciliation between Azerbaijan and Armenia may open new trade and energy corridors in the South Caucasus. Ambassador Sohail Mahmood stressed that ECO's future is both an opportunity and responsibility for Pakistan, given its role as a natural conduit linking Central Asia with the Arabian Sea. He underlined three priorities for advancing regional integration: investing in resilient infrastructure to connect markets and people; strengthening energy cooperation to balance security with clean energy transition; and advancing digital connectivity to empower youth.—DNA

Punjab focuses on inmate skills, rehabilitation

LAHORE: Punjab Home Secretary Dr. Ahmed Javed Qazi chaired a meeting at the office of the Inspector General (IG) Prisons regarding the "Skilled Prisoners Programme." The session was attended by IG Prisons Mian Farooq Nazir, Additional Secretary Prisons Asim Raza, Chairman Punjab Vocational Training Council (PVTTC) Khalid Masood Chaudhry, Chairperson TEVTA Brig. (ret'd) Sajid Khokhar, DG Operations Amir Aziz, DIG Prisons Salik Jalal, DIG Lahore Region Naveed Rauf, and officers from the Bank of Punjab and Punjab Information Technology Board (PTTB).

During the meeting, Dr. Javed reviewed the volume of products manufactured in prisons and the compensation provided to inmates. He emphasised that the Home Department is implementing solid initiatives for the rehabilitation, skill development and socioeconomic integration of prisoners. Inmates across Punjab's prisons are being trained in various trades including barbering, tailoring, cooking, motorcycle mechanics, electrical work, and handicrafts. Products such as carpets, tiles, furniture, LED bulbs, shoes, gloves, footballs, garments, soaps, disinfectants, washing powder and trunks are being manufactured. Home Secretary Dr. Javed directed that the quantity of products manufactured and the wages paid to inmates be considered key performance indicators for jail superintendents. He added that under the "Skilled Prisoners Programme," inmates working in the prison industry are earning respectable wages.—APP

Marriage Bill historic step towards protecting rights

PESHAWAR: In a landmark development, the Kalash Marriage Bill has reached a major milestone, with its draft officially forwarded to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Cabinet Committee on Legislation. "After approval from provincial cabinet, the legislation will be tabled in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, paving the way for Pakistan's first-ever law dedicated to the rights of the indigenous Kalash community", informs Qamar Naseem, Program Manager at Blue Veins and co-drafter of the Bill. This initiative represents a significant step toward acknowledging and safeguarding the rights

of Pakistan's indigenous peoples, he remarked. In a press release jointly issued here on Tuesday, Civil society organizations have welcomed the development, noting that this achievement reflects years of advocacy and collaboration. They expressed appreciation for the government's commitment and called for the legislation to be presented in the Assembly without delay. Qamar Naseem, along with Wazirzada, Focal Person to the Chief Minister of KP on Minority Issues, emphasized that this landmark legislation will provide the Kalash community with indispen-

sable legal protection and a formal registration system for their marriages, respecting their cultural and religious identity. "It is not only a legal reform but also a recognition of their fundamental rights," they added. For generations, the Kalash people have lived in the valleys of Bumburet, Rumbur, and Birir in Chitral, maintaining their distinct identity through unique religious beliefs, festivals, rituals, and traditions. Despite their rich heritage and global recognition, the community has long been deprived of a formal legal framework to protect its social and cultural rights. —APP

World Photography Day celebrated



DNA

FAISALABAD: World Photography Day, a day to pay homage to the history of photography, President Faisalabad Photo Journalist Association Muhammad Tahir Told' World Photography Day' every year in Pakistan where all photo-journalists play vital role in celebration and convey the message of "Peace Through

Photography" to the people of Pakistan originates from the invention of the daguerreotype photo process system, developed by Louis Daguerre. On January 9, 1839 The French Academy of Sciences announced the process and a few months later, on August 19, 1839, the French government announced the invention as a gift free to the world. Louis Daguerre famous say-

ing goes like, 'a picture is worth a thousand words', and there is absolutely nothing that can prove this wrong. No amount of words can describe a thing as beautifully as a picture can. To celebrate this beauty and art, August 19 is celebrated as the World Photography Day. Every moment that passes is a picture. What hit the camera is dead, What remained safe in the mind was given a lifetime of viewership.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Guest, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan presents awards to the participants of Pakistan International Food and Restaurant Awards 2025 at local hotel in Federal Capital.

freeline MOVERS

PACKING, SHIPPING & FREIGHT FORWARDING

Our Services

- Packing
- Shipping
- Freight Forwarding
- Land, Sea & Air Freight
- Custom Clearance
- Relocations
- Office Removals
- Fine Art Handling
- Project Management
- Pet Relocation
- Warehousing
- Storage

Head Office
3rd Floor, Yasin Plaza, 74-West, Blue Area, Islamabad.
Tel: (+92 51) 2822471, 2274221, 2878029, 2272273, 2822711, 2874289 - Fax: (+92 51) 2825132, 2274227.
E-mail: moving@freelinemovers.com - Website: www.freelinemovers.com

Branch Offices

Karachi Room No. 14 & 15, 3rd Floor, Kalkhah Road, Main Tariq Road, 17D-1 Block-2, P.E.C.H.S. Karachi. Tel: (+92 21) 3430008, 34310478. Fax: (+92 21) 34301747. E-mail: karachi@freelinemovers.com	Lahore F-4, Gulberg Centre, Minar Boulevard, Lahore. Tel: (+92 42) 3579881, 35791055. Fax: (+92 42) 35791420. E-mail: lahore@freelinemovers.com	Peshawar Office No. C-6, 3rd Floor, Zohra Plaza, Left Road, Ring Road, Peshawar. Tel: (+92 91) 2822778. Fax: (+92 91) 2522086. E-mail: peshawar@freelinemovers.com	Kabul House #4, Street #4, Charahi Agha Road, Dhar-e-Naw, Kabul - Afghanistan. Tel: +93 78021173, 93 775956. Fax: 93 778655. E-mail: kabul@freelinemovers.com
--	---	--	---

National Days and Armed Forces Days

AUGUST

Aug 01/China
Armed Forces Day

Aug 01/Switzer-land
National Day

Aug 01/Lebanon
Armed Forces Day

Aug 01 /Syria
Armed Forces Day

Aug 4/Bukino Faso
National Day

Aug 09 /Singapore

Aug 15/DPR Korea
Independence Day

Aug 15/India
Independence Day

Aug 15/Poland
Armed Forces Day

Aug 17 /Indonesia
Independence Day

Aug 24/Ukraine
Independence Day

Aug 25/Uruguay
Independence Day

Aug 30 /Turkey
Armed Forces Day

Aug 31/Kyrgyz
Republic
Independence Day

Aug 31/Malaysia
National Day

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



Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

Rescue (Police).....15
Bomb Disposal.....15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad.....1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance.1122
& Rescue Services.4451122
Motorway Police.....9266044
Motorway Police.9270601-20
Women Police Stations
Islamabad.....9222596
Rawalpindi.....9270601-20



Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115
PIA Flight Info.....114
PIA Cargo.....9280979
Railway Inquiry.....117
Railway Exchange9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi..5555489
CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

CMH.....5611111
MH.....5611116
Cantt Hospital..9270907-11
DHQ.....5556311-4
RGH.....9290301-7
Holy Family.....9290322-7
PIMS.....9261170-79
Polyclinic.....9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666



Departments

CDA.....9221334-43
CDA.....9208301-04
Met Office.....9250360-6
RDA.....5555864
TMA.....5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Massive anti-encroachment drive in Saidpur village

The operation, carried out without discrimination, targeted constructions built illegally on 360 kanals of land after 2005. Several buildings were also vacated from occupants who had not paid rent for years. Minister Naqvi himself visited the site to inspect the progress of the operation and review the ongoing beautification and upgradation projects in Saidpur Village

ISLAMABAD : On the directives of Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, a large-scale anti-encroachment operation was launched in Saidpur Model Village, resulting in the demolition of more than 200 illegal structures. Authorities confirmed that 191 kanals of land belonging to the National Park had been retrieved from illegal occupants. The operation, carried out without discrimination, targeted constructions built illegally on 360 kanals of land after 2005. Several buildings were also vacated from occupants who had not paid rent for years. Minister Naqvi himself visited the site to inspect the progress of the operation and review the ongoing beautification and upgradation projects in Saidpur Village. The Interior Minister stressed that action against encroachments and unauthorized constructions around the historic site would continue without exception. He directed the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to ensure that the vacated properties are auctioned in a transparent manner. It has been revealed that Azerbaijan has provided a significant financial grant to the CDA to support the beautification of Saidpur Village, which remains a key tourist attraction in Islamabad. However, concerns have been raised regarding the lack of proper parking facilities for visitors. Civic authorities have been urged to address this issue on a priority basis to



improve tourist convenience. Residents also highlighted that during the recent heavy rains, several houses in Saidpur Village were damaged as the nullah overflowed due to rampant encroachments. The incident underscored the urgent need to remove all illegal structures obstructing the natural water flow in the area. The federal government has pledged that the historic and cultural value of Saidpur Village will be preserved while modern facilities are introduced for visitors.

SSC-I results, 42.06% candidates passed exams

RAWALPINDI: The Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE), Rawalpindi, announced the results of the 9th Class Annual Examination 2025, declaring 42.06% students could pass the exams. According to the results, a total of 125989 candidates appeared in the examination, of which 53657 remained successful while 72312 failed the examination. Among the candidates who appeared, 62332 were male students and 63357 were female students, reflecting the growing interest and participation of female students in the educational field. Addressing the ceremony, Chairman Muhammad Adnan Khan commended the Controller of Examinations and his team for the transparent conduct of the examinations and the timely announcement of results. "I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Controller of Examinations, Board Secretary, all officers, and staff for their tireless efforts, integrity, and professional dedication, he said. The chairman said the board's performance has not only ensured transparency but also set an example for other boards. I will endeavor to ensure that the Rawalpindi Board continues its tradition of excellence and progresses further in future examinations", he added. The Chairman further added that the board's reputation and prestige are the result of collective efforts, and we must work with full commitment and action to elevate this institution to even greater heights. The simple but dignified ceremony was attended by Controller Exams Tanveer Asghar Awan, Board Secretary Professor Amjad Iqbal Khattak, and other senior board officials.APP

Pakistan-Romania partnership opportunities explored

ISLAMABAD - Oceanic Group / Marsh in Pakistan, led by Group MD Asad ur Rehman, recently hosted a meeting with Romanian officials, including Ambassador H.E. Dr. Dan Stoescu, Deputy Head of Mission Mr. Robert Eduard Preda, and Head of Consular Section Cristian-Stelian COROMA. The meeting aimed to explore potential collaboration opportunities between Pakistan and Romania in the insurance, reinsurance, and IT sectors. The discussions centered on bilateral trade opportunities, with a focus on Romania's growing IT industry and Pakistan's expertise in IT. Both parties identified potential areas for mutually beneficial partnerships, including knowledge sharing, joint ventures, and investment opportunities that could drive growth and innovation. Atif Farooqi, Advisor to the Group MD of Marsh McLennan in Pakistan, emphasized the potential for collaboration, stating, "Pakistan's IT expertise and Romania's strategic location in Europe create a promising foundation for partnerships. Romania's recent accession to the Schengen Zone as of January 1, 2025, further enhances opportunities for cooperation, particularly in re-insurance. This partnership has the potential to be truly outstanding, benefiting both nations and elevating our economic ties."



China shares waste paper recycling solutions

ISLAMABAD: China shared waste paper recycling solutions with Pakistan and other BR partners at the International Training workshop on Waste Paper Recycling Technology. The workshop was hosted here by the International Cooperation Department of China's Ministry of Science and Technology and undertaken by China National Pulp and Paper Research Institute, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Wednesday. During the 15-day workshop, China's advanced technologies, engineering design, products, and equipment of the pulp and paper industry were shared with professionals from 11 countries including Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, and Nepal. The workshop comprised thematic lectures, factory internships, exhibition visits, and academic exchanges. Held successively in Beijing, Longyou (Zhejiang), and Shanghai, it invited nearly 20 industry experts to deliver systematic lectures on pulp and paper making as well as waste paper recycling technologies. Overseas participants visited leading Chinese enterprises in specialty paper, household paper, papermaking machinery, and engineering design, such as China Haisum Engineering Co., Ltd., Shanghai Qingliang Industry Co., Ltd., Kingdecor (Zhejiang) Co., Ltd., Vinda International Holdings Limited, Zhejiang Hengda New Material Co., Ltd., and Zhejiang Huabang Special Paper Co., Ltd. They also attended the 2025 China International Paper Technology Exhibition and Conference to further deepen their understanding of the cutting-edge achievements and development trends in China's papermaking industry. Notably, a platform for exchanges in the papermaking industry among Belt and Road countries was established during the workshop, aiming to enhance cooperation in papermaking, resource recycling and green development.—DNA

Decades of Delays Illegal encroachments continue to block Sector G-14/1 uplift

ISLAMABAD: More than two decades after its launch, Islamabad's Sector G-14 remains mired in disputes, with G-14/1 in particular facing a deadlock caused by illegal encroachments and unresolved property claims.Launched in 2004 by the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) in collaboration with the Capital Development Authority (CDA), Sector G-14 was envisioned as a modern residential hub for federal government employees. The sector was divided into four sub-sectors—G-14/1, G-14/2, G-14/3, and G-14/4—offering 5,486 plots ranging in size from compact 25×40 feet to spacious 50×90 feet. While development has moved forward in neighboring sub-sectors, G-14/1 remains virtually untouched due to entrenched illegal occupations. For over 15 years, genuine allottees—many of them retired government employees—have been denied possession of their plots. Some have even approached the Supreme Court, demanding justice, equity, and a definitive timeline for the resolution of this long-standing issue.

Naqvi pays tribute to PAF hero Rashid Minhas

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Wednesday paid rich tribute to Pakistan Air Force's national hero and Nishan-e-Haider recipient Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas, calling him an eternal symbol of courage, patriotism, and sacrifice. "Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas is a timeless example of bravery, fearlessness, and love for Pakistan. By rendering an unforgettable sacrifice, he thwarted the nefarious designs of the enemy," Naqvi said in his message. He recalled how Minhas foiled a hijacking attempt by a traitor without caring for his own life, proving to the world that Pakistan's skies would never fall prey to hostile plots. "The light of his patriotism continues to illuminate our hearts even today," the minister remarked. Naqvi added that Rashid Minhas's sacrifice proved that true heroism lies in putting one's life at risk to safeguard the honor of the motherland. "He is a living example of that spirit," he said. The minister also praised the Pakistan Air Force for its continued professionalism and valor, noting that in the recent conflict, PAF falcons inflicted a humiliating defeat on the enemy by shooting down six of their fighter jets. "Through brilliant strategy and unmatched skill, the Air Force maintained its aerial supremacy — something the world has also recognized," he observed.

AUGUST 2025

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

Find us on:
www.centrelines.com.pk
www.dnanews.com.pl
www.islamabadpost.com.pk

@Postislamabad/ @Editordnanews

A sister concern of

Islamabad POST

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



CENTRELINES

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

A vision for Rwanda-Pakistan collaboration

RDA inflows rise to \$10.748b in July

ISLAMABAD: The inflow of remittances under Roshan Digital Account (RDA) has risen to US \$10.748 billion by the end of July 2025 as compared to US \$10.563 billion by June (2025) end. The data showed that the inflows of remittances during July were recorded at US\$ 185 million as compared to US\$ 182 million in June and US\$ 201 million in May 2025, according to the latest data released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). These accounts provide innovative banking solutions to millions of Non-Resident Pakistanis (NRPs), including Non-Resident Pakistan Origin Card (POC) holders, seeking to undertake banking, payment, and investment activities in Pakistan. The number of accounts registered under the programme also rose by 10,619 to 842,582 in July 2025 from 831,963 accounts in June 2025. By the end of July, overseas Pakistanis have invested US \$479 million in Naya Pakistan Certificates, US \$936 million in Naya Pakistan Islamic Certificates, and US \$75 million in Roshan Equity Investment.—APP

Link between green Tea, Alzheimer's protection

ISLAMABAD: Scientists have identified two natural compounds that show promise in reversing brain cell ageing and removing harmful protein buildup, potentially offering a non-drug approach for Alzheimer's disease, according to the Independent. The compounds, nicotinamide (a form of vitamin B3) and epigallocatechin gallate (an antioxidant found in green tea), restore guanosine triphosphate (GTP) levels, a key molecule for energy production in brain cells. Research demonstrated that treating aged nerve cells with these compounds restored GTP levels to those typically seen in younger cells within just 24 hours. This restoration of energy levels enabled neurons to regain their critical cleanup function, significantly improving the clearance of amyloid protein clusters, a hallmark feature of Alzheimer's. While further studies are required for optimal administration, these findings suggest a promising new strategy for treating age-related cognitive decline and Alzheimer's by supplementing the brain's energy systems.—APP

Briefs

August 25
deadline
for AIU
admissions

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU) reiterated August 25 admissions closed date for various programs offered during the Autumn 2025 semester for students across the country, emphasizing a golden opportunity to pursue quality education at home in a modern and convenient way. According to the statement issued here on Wednesday, the deadline for Matric, FA and B.Ed programs is August 25, 2025, while admissions in Associate Degree, BS, BBA and Postgraduate Diploma (PGD) programs will remain open till September 1, 2025. It was also informed that continuing students must complete their enrollment by August 25 using online channels.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood stated that the university's mission is to provide accessible, affordable, and quality education in line with modern requirements, expressing hope that a large number of students will benefit from this opportunity.—APP

TIKA provides
hot meals

ISLAMABAD :The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) has stepped up relief efforts in flood-affected areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, providing food and medical assistance to vulnerable families in Buner and Swat. According to TIKA's daily flood response report the other day, the agency distributed 2,500 hot meals among displaced families to help meet their immediate nutritional needs. In addition, its Mobile Health Unit treated 180 patients, including 31 women, 81 men, and 68 children. Free medicines were also provided as part of the emergency response. TIKA has been actively engaged in extending humanitarian aid to disaster-hit communities, reaffirming Türkiye's commitment to supporting the Pakistani people in times of crisis.—APP

DG NLP
terms literary
organisations
backbone of
society

ISLAMABAD: Director General of the National Library of Pakistan (NLP), Rana Yasir Arafat, has emphasised the vital role of literary organisations in shaping society, describing them as the "backbone" of ethical and humanitarian development. In an interview with APP, he said that literature and cultural institutions have always been central in instilling values of compassion, tolerance, and unity among people. "Change doesn't happen overnight; it comes gradually. Literary organisations play a vital role in teaching ethics and nurturing humanity. Their existence is essential, and we must strengthen them to ensure the proper upbringing of future generations," he remarked. He noted that societies across the world have drawn strength and resilience from literature, as it provides not only entertainment but also moral guidance and collective inspiration.—APP

AKDN leads flood relief,
recovery efforts in GB, Chitral

DNA

GILGIT-BALTISTAN: In response to the recent devastation caused by heavy rains and flash floods in Pakistan, particularly in Gilgit-Baltistan, Chitral, and other vulnerable mountain communities, the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), through its agencies, is on the ground — assessing needs, supporting affected families, and coordinating relief and recovery operations with local authorities. Travel packages to Pakistan The Aga Khan Agency for Habitat (AKAH), AKDN's lead response agency for natural disasters, has been spearheading community-based disaster management and response for over two decades. It has trained more than 36,000 community volunteers as first responders — half of whom are women — grouped into over 170 Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs). At the onset of the flooding AKAH rapidly mobilised emergency operation centres in Chitral, Gilgit, Karachi and Islamabad. They have been continuously assessing the situation, providing weather alerts, keeping residents informed. The Community Emergency Response Teams have evacuated more than 3000 people in the vulnerable areas and are providing supplies such as food and tents, as well as organising safe shelter in schools, community buildings and with host families. A Total of 100 families (800 individuals) have been supported with one month of food and non-food items. 19 Stockpiles have been useful in providing emergency assistance in Gilgit-Baltistan and District Chitral of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Nine Disaster Assessment Response Teams have been deployed across the northern part of Pakistan to conduct rapid assessment. AKAH is working in close coordination with the Gilgit-Baltistan Disaster Management Authority, District Disaster Management Authority, Chitral and Provincial Disaster Management Authority Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Community volunteers of AKAH continue repair works in restoring drinking water supply lines, irrigation channels, roads and agricultural land under extreme challenging conditions. Village Emergency Response



Teams (VERT) have been on the frontlines in Diamer, rescuing residents and stranded tourists, delivering emergency supplies, and evacuating the injured to hospitals. In addition to distributing tents and hygiene kits to affected families, AKRSP supported communities in Ghizer with the emergency repair of roads and irrigation channels, and in Baltistan, provided pipes to restore drinking and irrigation water. Working closely with government authorities, AKRSP teams continue to assess damage and prioritize rehabilitation projects to help communities recover. Aga Khan Health Service, Pakistan teams are on ground 24/7 in Gilgit-Baltistan and District Chitral ensuring healthcare reaches flood affected communities. In Puniial, Ishkamen a three-day medical camp was organised treating over 380 patients, offering counselling and awareness on hygiene

and safe water. Field teams remain on high alert, with medicines, staff and facilities to respond to any emergency and health teams are visiting homes in the vulnerable areas for ensuring safe deliveries. The Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan earlier presented an official letter to His Highness the Aga Khan and sought assistance in the wake of the recent floods. AKDN agreed to provide support in the early recovery, rehabilitation and green retrofitting of schools in Gilgit-Baltistan, solarizing and repairing solar facilities in flood affected Government health facilities, rehabilitating drinking water supply schemes, protective infrastructure and establishing Community Emergency Response Teams in flood affected areas. Delivery of portable medical equipment and supplies to health providers will be ensured and 16,500 mobile health care units will be established to provide

quality care at health facilities in the affected areas. The early identification and management of 3000 undernourished children and women in flood affected areas of GB will be conducted shortly as well. A total of 490 projects for land leveling and terracing to reclaim agricultural lands; distribution of livestock inputs to 435 vulnerable farmers; 98 micro grants to women and men will be ensured for the affected communities. bn Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) and its agencies have a long-term presence in, and commitment to, Pakistan, working in close collaboration with communities, government, and other partners to improve the quality of life for the most marginalised populations; and working to provide immediate humanitarian relief, restore basic infrastructure and livelihoods and build long-term resilience to future disasters.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Minister and Director General of Defence, Azerbaijan Agil Gurbanov called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force at Air Headquarters.

100 STEM faculty members of
62 Pakistani HEIs trained in UK

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: A week long capacity building initiative of the National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE) Higher Education Commission's (HEC), Pakistan for the STEM faculty from Universities across Pakistan in three batches concluded in UK on Friday August 08, 2025. Lecturers and Assistant Professors of as many as 62 universities took part in the program which was held in three batches during July to August. National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE), in collaboration with the British Council Pakistan, King's College London (KCL), and STEM Learning Center, York, UK, organized the training program under the umbrella of Pakistan-UK Education Gateway, a program aimed to enhance partnership between the higher education sectors of Pakistan and the UK. A consortium of UK universities were partners with KCL for this training program. Focused on bridging the gap between STEM teaching standards in Pakistan and the UK through collaborations between Pakistani and UK higher ed-

ucation institutions, and fostering partnerships between STEM institutions in both countries, the training was executed in three cohorts in the months of July and August, 2025. Colleagues from HEC and the British Council were also part of the training. Some of the modules covered in the training program included Global STEM education and challenges, Project based learning and its relevance to STEM education, embedding work-integrated learning (WIL) and industry into STEM education, microteaching, and designing authentic and effective assessment strategies. The role of community of practice, artificial intelligence, internet of things, STEM ambassadors, and gender equity and inclusion was also discussed at length during the week-long training for all the cohorts. Exposure visits to STEM Learning Center, University of York, University of Birmingham, King's College London and historical sites in London were also part of the training for better understanding of the available facilities and cultural aspects as well. These participants are now required to cascade their learnings in their universities and play their part in improving the STEM education systems in the universities

CJCSC, Service chiefs
honour martyrdom
anniversary of
Rashid Minhas

RAWALPINDI: Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, Chief of Army Staff; General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, NI, NI (M), Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC); Admiral Naveed Ashraf, NI, NI (M), Chief of the Naval Staff; and Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, NI (M), HJ, Chief of the Air Staff, together with the Armed Forces of Pakistan, solemnly honor the 54th Shahadat anniversary of pilot officer Rashid Minhas (Nishan-e-Haider), whose supreme sacrifice epitomizes the highest traditions of courage and devotion to duty. On this day in 1971, Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas displayed extraordinary resolve and selflessness, embracing martyrdom to safeguard the sovereignty of Pakistan. His indomitable spirit, loyalty, and patriotism remain an enduring source of inspiration for the Armed Forces and the nation, said a news release by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) here. His historic act of valor, choosing sacrifice over surrender, continues to illuminate our national conscience as a timeless reminder of the price of freedom and the fortitude required to defend the motherland. The Armed Forces of Pakistan pay glowing tribute to his everlasting legacy and reaffirm their unwavering resolve to uphold the values he so valiantly defended. Rashid Minhas's name shall forever be enshrined in the nation's history as a symbol of loyalty, courage, and pride.—DNA

PM praises
Rashid
Minhas's
courage

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday paid tribute to Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas Shaheed (Nishan-i-Haider) on his 54th martyrdom anniversary, lauding his courage, dedication, and sacrifice to safeguard the motherland. The prime minister, in a statement, said that the sacrifice of Rashid Minhas manifested the great values of courage and dedication to duty. "On this day in 1971, Pilot Officer Rashid Minhas demonstrated extraordinary resolve and embraced martyrdom to protect Pakistan's sovereignty. His unparalleled passion, loyalty, and patriotism remain a source of inspiration for the armed forces and the nation," he commented.—APP

ICT export
remittances
rise 23.8% in
July 2025

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Information and Communication Technology (ICT) export remittances surged by 23.8 percent to US\$354 million in July 2025 (FY2025-26), compared to US\$286 million during the same month last year. On a month-on-month basis, exports grew by 4.4 percent. The ICT sector also posted a trade surplus of US\$ 317 million in July, reflecting a 25.8 percent increase compared to July 2024, and maintaining the highest surplus among all services. The overall services sector recorded a trade deficit of US\$126 million during the same period. ICT exports accounted for 47.5 percent of Pakistan's total services exports, making it the country's largest contributor. It was followed by "Other Business Services," which earned US\$151 million.

NDMA hands
over relief
supplies

ISLAMABAD : The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) handed over a consignment of essential relief goods to the Swat district administration last night, aiming to support communities impacted by the recent flooding. The aid package includes tents, blankets, generators, dewatering pumps, and medicines. The handover ceremony was attended by Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan, Engineer Amir Muqam. This initiative is part of NDMA's ongoing relief operations, conducted in close coordination with civil and military institutions. The authority has confirmed it is actively supervising the distribution and implementation of relief efforts across the region, ensuring timely support to affected populations.—APP

Ahsan greets newly-elected
office-bearers of G 10 union

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Clean & Green Islamabad Movement Ahsan Bakhtawari congratulated the newly elected union of G-10 Markaz, saying that the Clean & Green campaign can only succeed with public cooperation. Along with the newly elected office-bearers, he planted trees, installed dustbins, and participated in an awareness walk. Arham Bakhtawari also accompanied him on the occasion. In his address, Ahsan Bakhtawari said that Islamabad is the heart of Pakistan, and its cleanliness and beauty are a collective responsibility. He added that the purpose of the Clean & Green Islamabad Movement is not only to promote cleanliness but also to create awareness about eco-friendly practices among citizens. "Tree plantation and the habit of disposing



garbage in dustbins are valuable investments for our future generations," he remarked. He assured the newly elected union that the Clean & Green Movement stands shoulder to shoulder with the business community and will leave no

stone unturned in making Islamabad a model clean and green city. Secretary General of G-10 Markaz, Amir Bukhari, expressed gratitude to Ahsan Bakhtawari, saying: "We are thankful that he encouraged us from day one and gave us con-

fidence through practical steps. Together with the Clean & Green Islamabad Movement, we will turn our center into a model market." Senior Vice President Tabish Mahboob Jutt said: "Cleanliness is half of faith. We have pledged to keep our area clean and play our role in spreading awareness." Vice President Muhammad Imran Ashraf said that the joint efforts of the business community and Clean & Green Islamabad will surely bear fruit and G-10 will be transformed into a model center. Media Coordinator Noor Islam said: "We will spread this message to as many citizens as possible through media so that the dream of a clean and green Islamabad can be realized." The trader leaders and citizens of G-10 appreciated the initiatives of Ahsan Bakhtawari and pledged to stand shoulder to shoulder with the Clean & Green Islamabad Movement in making Islamabad a clean, green, and healthy city.

WHERE EACH STITCH IS WATCHED

JUDO KARATE KUNG-FU JU-JITSU TAEKWONDO UNIFORMS AND COLOURED BELTS

ASHRAF INDUSTRIES (PVT) LTD
127 C, Industrial Estate
Sialkot-51340, Pakistan
Phones: +92-52-3255000 / 3255768
E-mail: info@ashraf.net.pk

ashraf

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 06 Issue: 88

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-8488394 / 051-2261960

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

Maryam Nawaz's Japan visit marks new era of cooperation beyond China-centric policy

PUNJAB Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz is on a rare and significant visit to Japan, where she toured several major car manufacturing plants and industrial units. During her engagements, she pledged to deepen economic cooperation with Tokyo, opening a new chapter in Pakistan's foreign and economic policy that has historically remained heavily tilted toward China. The visit is being described as groundbreaking, not only because it may be the first time a provincial chief minister from Pakistan has undertaken such a high-profile trip to Japan, but also because it signals Islamabad's intention to diversify its partnerships in East Asia. For decades, Pakistan's economic and infrastructural focus has revolved largely around Beijing, with the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) serving as the flagship of bilateral ties. While this cooperation has brought significant investment, it has also created a perception that Pakistan's foreign economic policy is overly dependent on China. Maryam Nawaz's outreach to Japan challenges this longstanding tradition. It is no secret that relations between Tokyo and Beijing have often been tense, and Pakistan, given its deep reliance on Chinese support, has generally avoided pushing closer to Japan in any substantive way. This diplomatic hesitancy has meant that Tokyo, despite being one of the world's largest economies and a global leader in innovation, has remained a secondary partner for Islamabad. By making this move, Maryam Nawaz has broken the psychological and political barrier that long restricted Pakistan's eastward engagement to a "China-only" lens. The decision to engage Tokyo sends a clear message that Pakistan is now prepared to broaden its regional outreach and explore opportunities with partners beyond Beijing. This development could serve Pakistan's long-term interests by diversifying sources of investment, technology, and trade. Japan is globally renowned for its automobile and industrial expertise. Its products are widely acknowledged as efficient, durable, and cost-effective. In Pakistan, Japanese vehicles, motorcycles, and electronics have long enjoyed a strong consumer base, but investment from Japanese corporations has remained limited compared to the country's vast potential. One key reason is Japan's strict adherence to transparency and fair business practices. Unlike some of Pakistan's other economic partners, Tokyo avoids underhand dealings, informal shortcuts, or political favoritism. Instead, it insists on clear rules, contracts, and accountability. While this approach is admired globally, it has often made it difficult for Japanese firms to operate smoothly in Pakistan, where bureaucratic red tape and inconsistent regulatory frameworks have historically deterred foreign investors.



Maryam Nawaz, by personally visiting Japanese factories and holding talks with business leaders, has sent a strong signal that Pakistan is serious about addressing these concerns. During her discussions, she emphasized Punjab's readiness to create an enabling environment for foreign companies, highlighting ongoing reforms aimed at reducing red tape, digitalizing governance, and ensuring greater transparency in business dealings. Observers note that this development will likely be watched closely in Beijing. China has invested heavily in Pakistan's infrastructure, energy, and transport sectors, and it sees the Pakistani market as a natural destination for its products. The potential entry of Japan in a bigger way could create new competition, particularly in the automobile sector. Chinese carmakers have recently attempted to establish themselves in Pakistan, but their products have struggled to match the efficiency, durability, and reputation of Japanese brands. If Japanese firms increase their investments and production in Pakistan, consumers will likely benefit from higher-quality vehicles, more competitive pricing, and better after-sales service. At the same time, the diversification of partnerships does not necessarily mean distancing from China. Instead, it represents a maturing of Pakistan's economic strategy. No country, particularly one in Pakistan's position, can afford to place all its eggs in one basket. By balancing ties with both China and Japan, Islamabad may be able to attract more investment while encouraging healthy competition that ultimately strengthens its economy. Japan itself may also see this as a timely opening. With global supply chains shifting and Japan increasingly interested in expanding trade and investment ties across Asia, Pakistan offers a market of more than 240 million people and a strategic location at the crossroads of South, Central, and West Asia. Japanese investment in areas like automobile manufacturing, renewable energy, high-tech industry, and vocational training could not only help modernize Pakistan's economy but also create long-term linkages that strengthen bilateral relations. For Pakistan, Japanese expertise in efficiency, technology transfer, and industrial training could be a game-changer. Unlike many other investors, Japan emphasizes capacity-building and long-term sustainability rather than quick profits. If nurtured carefully, this partnership could help Pakistan improve its industrial base, enhance export competitiveness, and integrate better into global supply chains. Maryam Nawaz's initiative should not be seen as moving away from China but rather as broadening Pakistan's options. Diversification of partnerships ensures resilience in a globalized world and reduces overreliance on any single country. It is a pragmatic step that reflects the evolving needs of Pakistan's economy. Her visit, though just the beginning, carries a strong message: Pakistan is open to fair, transparent, and diversified economic cooperation. For too long, foreign investors have viewed Pakistan with caution, worried about governance challenges and regulatory uncertainties. By engaging a country like Japan — which thrives on clarity, discipline, and accountability — Maryam Nawaz is not only sending an economic signal but also a political one: Pakistan is ready to reform and ready to engage. The challenge, however, lies in sustaining this momentum. Visits and photo opportunities alone will not be enough. What is needed is follow-up action — policy reforms that create an investor-friendly climate, infrastructure that supports manufacturing, and mechanisms that ensure long-term stability for foreign investors.

Netanyahu is now the problem — for the region and the world

The 12-day war between Israel and Iran was the culmination of a series of regional blows that Israel was able to deal to its enemies: Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Assad regime in Syria, the Houthis in Yemen, and the nuclear program of Iran. No one could have imagined such geopolitical fallout in less than two years. Netanyahu has become intoxicated with power. Why not: Oct. 7, 2023 has changed everything and made the improbable possible. Netanyahu is now the only Israeli leader whose military flies, uncontested, over Lebanon, most of Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and parts of Iran. Why would he not speak of himself as a man on a historic mission with a connection to "Greater Israel"?

ONLY one man wants the war to go on and on. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had always seen himself as a man on a historic mission: to bury Palestinian ambitions of a state of their own and extend Israel's boundaries beyond historical Palestine. His rise to the helm in the late 1990s came in the wake of the Oslo Accords, which he considered a betrayal of ultra-nationalist Zionism as preached by Ze'ev Jabotinsky, the Russian-born Zionist activist and poet. As a firebrand politician, Netanyahu galvanized both ultra-nationalist and ultra-religious Israelis, who until then played a minor role in Israeli politics. But he was able to charm the right and far right because of his ability to convince all that his maximalist designs, seen then as improbable, were possible. His ability to paint his radical policies as mainstream won him the unofficial title of "King of Israel," and eventually made him the longest-serving premier in the country's history. Until Oct. 7, 2023, Netanyahu rarely presented himself as a religious as well as a political leader. But since the notorious Hamas attack, Bibi, as he is often called, referred to the Torah several times to portray Israel's Palestinian enemies and the Hebrew state's modern wars. The purpose was always to whip up support among the extremists. The war on Gaza came as a personal relief for Netanyahu. Before the Hamas attack, his coalition was facing nationwide protests against his attempt to subjugate the judiciary and remove the corruption charges against him. His government was on the verge of collapse, but then came the war. There is a consensus in Israel today that almost two years of war in Gaza have failed to deliver its stated objectives. Even the Israeli military is now admitting that it has run out of targets. Gaza is in ruins. Hamas' military capabilities have been destroyed. Its leadership structure was decimated. Those who fight are isolated cells that can never be completely wiped out. On the other hand, Israeli society is tired. Hostages remain in the hands of their captors. The

cost of the war has been enormous even with the help of American taxpayers whose government has supplied Israel with tens of billions in munitions. And to top it all, the entire world is now against the conflict, and against Israel and its genocidal practices in Gaza. Western governments are openly denouncing Israeli violations in Gaza — the starvation, killing of children, dehumanization of Palestinians, ethnic cleansing, and multiple war crimes. Only one man wants the war to go on and on: Netanyahu. His survival depends on keeping the war machine running. But there is more. He now sees himself on a spiritual mission to fulfill the ambition of a "Greater Israel." His recent statements have shocked Israel's neighbors, especially those with which Israel had signed peace treaties. What does "Greater Israel" mean? For years, Netanyahu had warned of Iran's proxies in the region as an existential threat. He warned of Tehran's nuclear ambitions and convinced US President Donald Trump that Iran was only months away from building a nuclear bomb. He had already managed to thwart the Obama nuclear deal. Now he convinced Trump to strike Iran's nuclear infrastructure. The 12-day war between Israel and Iran was the culmination of a series of regional blows that Israel was able to deal to its enemies: Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Assad regime in Syria, the Houthis in Yemen, and the nuclear program of Iran. No one could have imagined such geopolitical fallout in less than two years. Netanyahu has become intoxicated with power. Why not: Oct. 7, 2023 has changed everything and made the improbable possible. Netanyahu is now the only Israeli leader whose military flies, uncontested, over Lebanon, most of Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and parts of Iran. Why would he not speak of himself as a man on a historic mission with a connection to "Greater Israel"? But such triumph did not come without a hefty price. Yes, Israel has emerged as a regional behemoth, one that wants to change the map of the region, destabilize its neighbors, and car-

ry out nefarious projects. But its image across the globe has been tarnished beyond repair. Most of its Western allies are now denouncing its policies in Gaza and the West Bank. Netanyahu is also breaking Israel's steadfast ties to its most important ally, the US, without which his country cannot survive. Israel has become a pariah state in the eyes of a majority of Americans from both main political parties. The dynamics of the US-Israel relationship are changing, and while the outcome may not appear soon, it will show at some point. The Israeli leader will find ways to keep the genocidal war going. He will push Trump to recognize the annexation of the West Bank. His far-right partners will force him to defund the Palestinian Authority and partition what remains of the West Bank, while planning the forced displacement of Palestinians. Netanyahu's narcissistic view of himself as a man on a mission has already damaged Israel from within. It has discredited the message of the Abraham Accords and the prospects of peace in the region. For many Israelis, Netanyahu had failed to deliver victory in Gaza because of his selfish reasons, while sacrificing the hostages. And when many influential countries announce their recognition of a Palestinian state, come September, Netanyahu will retaliate and make things worse for Israel, the Palestinians, and the entire region. Trump is wrong to assume that the occupation of Gaza City will destroy Hamas and end the war. On Sunday, almost a million Israelis took to the streets to express their rejection of Netanyahu's latest gambit. As one European official put it: "Netanyahu himself is now the problem." This is the shared sentiment of leaders across the world as well as a majority of Israelis. Netanyahu may think of himself as a man on a mission, but that is not how the world sees him. A man who sanctioned the killing of over 60,000 Palestinians, and threatens to kill and displace even more, is a criminal who should face justice. — **Osama Al-Sharif is a journalist and political commentator based in Amman.**

Innovation key as world battles extreme heat

Yet innovative measures are being implemented, proving there are options to help mitigate these abnormal conditions. The most fascinating ones are the low-emission options that do not rely on mechanical ventilation. The challenge is particularly tough in major cities, which trap heat, creating so-called urban heat islands. Wiser city authorities have been investing in green spaces and planting trees. Research has shown that areas within a 10-minute walk of a park can be 3 C cooler than those that are not. One challenge has been that lower-income areas tend to have fewer trees...

EUROPE is the world's fastest-warming continent and many cities are short on air conditioning. Aside from the bombs, the starvation and the disease, Palestinians struggling to survive in Gaza last week also had to handle 40 degrees Celsius-plus temperatures. They do not have the luxury of air conditioning and most do not even have shelter. Water is scarcely available and diseases rampant. But it is not just in Gaza and other war zones where extreme heat is a killer. It is now baked into the summer schedules of most countries, even in the Northern Hemisphere, as global warming sends the mercury ever upward and for longer periods. Extreme heat may be a familiar issue for many areas of the Middle East, but for most of Europe and North America it is still a new phenomenon for which countries are not prepared. Europe is the world's fastest-warming continent and many cities are short on air conditioning. The learning curve will have to be steep, as temperatures over 40 C have become all too normal in Europe. Last month was the world's third warmest July ever, with only 2023 and 2024 hotter. In 2022, more than 20,000 people died of heat-related causes in Europe. Fires have been rampant, with an increase of about 50 percent so far this year. Several European capitals, including Madrid and Athens, have been under significant threat. The wildfires in Spain, one of the most vulnerable countries, have been particularly devastating. But even in Northern Europe, where wildfires rarely used to be threatening, things are changing. As far north as Edinburgh, a major blaze occurred last week at the famous area known as Arthur's Seat. In July, Scotland endured the biggest

wildfires the country had ever seen. London has been hit by several fires in recent weeks in parkland areas. Canada too has had a surge in these infernos, with 2025 being the worst year except for 2023. These fires have even affected air quality in northern US states such as Michigan, leading to bitter complaints of Canadian inaction on fires from US Republican politicians. Droughts are another consequence. Rainfall is less predictable and groundwater resources are being overextracted. Crop destruction ensues. Why is this happening? Yes, climate change is the driver. The extreme heat has dried out both vegetation and soil, making territory more fire-friendly. Yet innovative measures are being implemented, proving there are options to help mitigate these abnormal conditions. The most fascinating ones are the low-emission options that do not rely on mechanical ventilation. The challenge is particularly tough in major cities, which trap heat, creating so-called urban heat islands. Wiser city authorities have been investing in green spaces and planting trees. Research has shown that areas within a 10-minute walk of a park can be 3 C cooler than those that are not. One challenge has been that lower-income areas tend to have fewer trees and less vegetation, meaning that extreme heat becomes a more lethal factor. The choice of trees also matters — authorities must use a sensible mix, including those that are more resilient to climate change. Paris has instituted about 800 "cool islands," where people can take refuge from intense heat. Seville has provided additional awnings across the city to create more shaded areas, as well as having a target of planting 5,000 trees a year.

How about New York City? It has for some years now been painting rooftops white to reflect sunlight. In areas of Los Angeles, even the streets have been coated in reflective paint, with some significant success. Other cities could do more to replace dark surfaces with white. After all, this is exactly what many Mediterranean communities have been doing for centuries, painting their houses white to keep them cool. Yet the reflective paint is costly and research is required to make its production more energy efficient. Rotterdam has focused on greening its rooftops. The Dutch city has showcased this with a "Rooftop Walk," where buildings are connected by bridges. In overcrowded urban settings, where additional green spaces can be tough to introduce, rooftops can provide that opportunity. Greater research should be undertaken to improve predictions of when major fires might occur. This is why it is more than unfortunate that the current US administration has cut research funding on climate science. Given that human behavioral patterns have not altered sufficiently, scientific advancement is the crucial ingredient in being able to slow down, let alone reverse, the effects of human-made climate change. The regularity and ferocity of extreme heat, fires and drought have focused authorities on taking mitigating steps. They will have to invest, be bold and learn from others. At the local level, authorities are taking it more seriously, whereas on the international stage, interstate bickering and geopolitical roadblocks have undermined attempts to advance effective climate deals and action. — **Chris Doyle is director of the Council for Arab-British Understanding in London.**

Briefs

US keen to invest in Pakistan energy...

FROM PAGE 01
PTI leaders' recent convictions in May 9 cases. "PTI leaders have contacted us as well as other leadership, and are convincing us that negotiations should open up again," he said, adding that the opposition was also in consensus that they wanted "some pathway out" after the sentencing and disqualifications of PTI leadership in the wake of the May 9 riots. He said that the negotiations would be held between the PTI's team and a committee formed by the Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq. He stressed, however, that these negotiations would not include a discussion on Imran's release, as this was "not in the government's power". "We have told them a dozen times to take the route of the courts, to prove his innocence in court," he said. "His release is only possible that way. The government cannot provide him freedom or release in any way." He added that if there was any issue that party members wanted to discuss; if they wanted to talk about "political space or political issues", such discussions would be welcome. Malik also said that the PTI would have to "convince" them as to the necessity of forming a judicial commission for an investigation into May 9 at the current stage in the proceedings, as many cases had already been decided. "If they have a convincing argument, then they can bring it to that session and convince us," he said, adding that the evidence already provided in these cases was already admissible and had been taken into account in the trial stages.

PTI Chairman announces protest...

FROM PAGE 01
Barrister Gohar condemned the government's actions, asserting that these moves are politically motivated attempts to suppress opposition voices and destabilize PTI's growing influence. He emphasized that the party is committed to protecting the rights of its leaders and workers, and vowed to mobilize party supporters nationwide to challenge these unjust measures. The agitation is expected to take the form of protests and rallies aimed at exposing what PTI describes as a misuse of law enforcement agencies for political vendetta. In a related development, PTI has issued a Senate ticket to the wife of former Senator Ejaz Chaudhry, who was recently defeated in the elections. This move is seen as a strategic effort by PTI to consolidate its position and maintain its representation in the upper house. Currently, PTI enjoys the support of 100 members in the Punjab Assembly, underscoring its significant political presence in the province. The party's leadership appears determined to leverage this strength in its upcoming political maneuvers against the government.

Death toll climbs to 17 as monsoon showers...

FROM PAGE 01
the principal seat and subordinate courts. According to the PMD, strong monsoon currents from the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal are impacting southern Pakistan. More showers, with isolated heavy falls, are expected in Karachi today and tomorrow, raising concerns of fresh urban flooding. Karachi's drainage capacity limited to just '40mm' of rainfall Speaking to Geo News, Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab said that while main roads had largely been cleared after the rains, drainage work was still underway in several waterlogged areas. "Drainage efforts are continuing where rainwater has accumulated," he said, noting that the city received over 235mm of rainfall—far exceeding its drainage capacity of just 40mm.

Mbappé scores penalty as Real Madrid beats Osasuna

Mbappé Scores Winner as Real Madrid Edges Osasuna in League Opener Victory

MADRID: Kylian Mbappé got off to a scoring start in his second season with Real Madrid, leading the team to a 1-0 victory over Osasuna in their Spanish league opener Tuesday. Mbappé, the leading scorer in his debut with Madrid last season, converted a 51st-minute penalty kick to give the hosts the victory. A nice run by Mbappé through the right side of the area, followed by a neat cutback move, prompted the foul. The goal gave new coach Xabi Alonso a winning debut in his first full season with the club. The former Madrid player arrived before the Club World Cup to replace Carlo Ancelotti, who left to take the Brazil job. "It was special to be back here as a coach, unforgettable," Alonso said. "Hopefully it was the first of many victories celebrated here." Alonso started the match with three of the club's new signings for the season — left back Álvaro Carreras, right back Trent Alexander-Arnold and central defender Dean Huijsen. Teenage forward Franco Mastantuono came off the bench to replace Brahim Díaz in the 68th, being loudly cheered by the crowd at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium. Some fans had not been happy after the former River Plate player praised Lionel Messi — the fellow Argentine who was a star at rival Barcelona — during his introductory news conference.



The 18-year-old Mastantuono had a chance to score in the 89th, but his shot from inside the area was saved by the Osasuna goalkeeper. "They all did well," Alonso said of the newcomers. "They are players who will be helping us for years. None of them felt the pressure of the Madrid jersey or of the Bernabeu." Osasuna defender Abel

Bretones was sent off in stoppage time with a straight red card for a high arm to block Madrid forward Gonzalo Garcia. "They dominated, we knew it was going to be like that," Osasuna midfielder Rubén García said. "We played a good game but couldn't get too close to their goal. In the end, they deserved the victory."

Madrid forward Rodrygo stayed on the bench the whole match, intensifying speculation of a possible transfer. The game was played Tuesday instead of last weekend along with the rest of opening matches because Madrid's players needed more rest following the team's participation at the Club World Cup. Madrid's attempt to delay its debut even further was denied by the league.

Madrid controlled possession — more than 70 percent — but struggled to break through the tight Osasuna defense early, threatening with a few long-range shots. "There were positives, beginning with the result," Alonso said. "We still need a few things that will give us stability to keep progressing." Mbappé had one of Madrid's best first-half chances with a curling shot from inside the area that just missed the top corner, but finally broke through with the winner early in the second half as Madrid continued to press forward. He sent a low shot from the spot into the right side of the net as the goalkeeper dived the other way. Barcelona began its title defense with a comfortable 3-0 win at nine-man Mallorca on Saturday, while Atletico Madrid squandered a late lead in a 2-1 loss at Espanyol on Sunday. Madrid was runner-up to Barcelona in the Spanish league last season. Osasuna finished ninth. — **Agencies**

Alexander Isak says 'change' best for everyone after Newcastle trust broken

Isak Breaks Silence on Newcastle Exit; Liverpool Bid Rejected Amid Transfer Saga

LIVERPOOL: Alexander Isak believes his departure from Newcastle is "in the best interests of everyone" after breaking his silence on the saga of the Premier League transfer window amid speculation over a move to Liverpool. The Swedish international, who was the second-highest goalscorer in the Premier League last season, has not featured for the Magpies in pre-season or their opening game of the campaign, a 0-0 draw away at Aston Villa on Saturday. Liverpool have reportedly had a £110 million bid (\$149 million) rejected for the 25-year-old, with Newcastle holding out for a British transfer record fee of up to £150 million. Isak released a statement on Tuesday after deciding not to appear at the Professional Footballers' Association awards event despite being select-

ed in the Premier League 2024/25 team of the year. "I've kept quiet for a long time while others have spoken. That silence has allowed people to push their own version of events, even though they know it doesn't reflect what was really said and agreed behind closed doors," Isak posted on Instagram. "The reality is that promises were made and the club has known my position for a long time. To now act as if these issues are only emerging is misleading. "When promises are broken and trust is lost, the relationship can't continue. That's where things are for me right now - and why change is in the best interests of everyone, not just myself." According to reports, Isak had been promised an improved contract only for northeast side Newcastle to hold off due to pressures of meeting finan-

cial sustainability rules. Newcastle responded with a statement late Tuesday saying that while they were saddened by Isak's comments, they could yet welcome the 25-year-old back into the squad. "We are disappointed to have been alerted to a social media post by Alexander Isak this evening," the club wrote. "We are clear in response that Alex remains under contract and that no commitment has ever been made by a club official that Alex can leave Newcastle United this summer. "We want to keep our best players, but we also understand players have their own wishes and we listen to their views." The statement added: "This is a proud football club with proud traditions and we strive to retain our family feel. Alex remains part of our family and will be welcomed back when he is ready to rejoin his teammates." — **Agencies**

Pakistan Army may disband women's hockey team

Hockey bodies and officials have urged the Army to reconsider its decision, stressing that departmental teams are a lifeline for the sport

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan's women's hockey faces a fresh setback as reports suggest that the Pakistan Army is considering disbanding its women's hockey team. The development has sparked concern within the hockey community, which fears that the move will deal a severe blow to the already struggling sport. Women's hockey in Pakistan is largely sustained by a few departments, with the Army being one of the strongest supporters over the years. The loss of such institutional backing, observers warn, could further diminish opportunities for female players who already lack proper facilities, sponsorship, and exposure at the national and international levels. Hockey bodies and officials have urged the Army to reconsider its decision, stressing that departmental teams are a lifeline for the sport. Without them, many athletes risk losing not only their professional careers but also the financial security that comes with departmental representation. Pakistan's national women's hockey team has long struggled due to limited resources and opportunities, and departmental teams have been the primary source of nurturing talent. Stakeholders fear that if the Army withdraws, it could set a precedent for other institutions, further shrinking the already narrow space for women in hockey.

PSB Issues Notice to PBBF over Alleged Nepotism

OUR CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) has taken notice of alleged nepotism in the Pakistan Bodybuilding Federation (PBBF) for appointing three members of the same family — husband, wife, and daughter — as officials accompanying the national bodybuilding team. In an official letter addressed to PBBF Secretary General Sohail Anwar, the PSB expressed serious concern over the inclusion of his wife and daughter in the national contingent as Judge and Trainee Judge, describing the move as a clear case of nepotism. "It has been reported that you, Mr. Sohail Anwar, also facilitated the inclusion of your wife and daughter as Judge and Trainee Judge respectively in the said event, which prima facie constitutes nepotism," the letter stated. The PSB directed Sohail Anwar to submit a detailed written explanation within three days, warning that failure to respond may result in disciplinary action under the relevant rules and regulations. The controversy arose after it was revealed that three members of the same family had been nominated as part of the national team's official delegation to the Asian Championship. The development has sparked criticism, with stakeholders questioning the federation's transparency and merit policy. The 57th Asian Bodybuilding & Physique Sports Championship is being held in Bangkok from August 18 to 25, 2025, with Pakistan's contingent competing in multiple categories.

PSB Issues Notice to PBBF over Alleged Nepotism

OUR CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: PSB has taken notice of alleged nepotism in the Pakistan Bodybuilding Federation (PBBF) for appointing three members of the same family — husband, wife, and daughter — as officials accompanying the national bodybuilding team. In an official letter addressed to PBBF Secretary General Sohail Anwar, the PSB expressed serious concern over the inclusion of his wife and daughter in the national contingent as Judge and Trainee Judge, describing the move as a clear case of nepotism. "It has been reported that you, Mr. Sohail Anwar, also facilitated the inclusion of your wife and daughter as Judge and Trainee Judge respectively in the said event, which prima facie constitutes nepotism," the letter stated.

Cricketer Haider Ali's bail extended in rape investigation

Pakistan batter was set to appear before police but told to appear after two weeks

SPORT DESK

LONDON: Pakistan batter Haider Ali has been given a two-week bail extension by the Greater Manchester Police after a British-Pakistani woman reported him for the alleged rape at a local hotel. Haider Ali was set to appear before the police on August 20, 2025 but the police told him to appear after two weeks. Meanwhile, the investigation will continue into the allegations. Greater Manchester Police had confirmed to Geo News that Ali was arrested on the allegations of rape. The police confirmed it received a report of rape on Monday, August 4 and arrested Ali, 24, immediately after that. The police said: "It's alleged that the incident occurred on Wednesday, 23 July, 2025, at a premises in Manchester. The man has since been bailed pending further enquiries. The victim is being supported by officers." In his police interview, Ali had denied the rape allegation.

According to his family members, he told the police that he knew the girl well and they were friends. Their meeting occurred at a local hotel in Manchester, the source told Geo News. He was arrested at the Spitfire County Cricket Ground, Kent, from the Players' Canteen Office. He was taken to the Canterbury Police Station by the Kent Police officers. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said Ali has been provisionally suspended for the duration of the criminal investigation. "The PCB fully respects the legal procedures and processes of the United Kingdom and acknowledges the importance of allowing the investigation to run its due course," the PCB had said in a statement. "Accordingly, the PCB has decided to place Haider Ali under provisional suspension, effective immediately, pending the outcome of the ongoing investigation. "Once the legal proceedings are concluded and all facts have been duly established, the PCB reserves the right to take appropriate action under its Code of Conduct, if necessary."

Pakistan, China, Afghans to 'jointly fight terrorism

FROM PAGE 01

sides reaffirmed their commitment to deepening collaboration in trade, transit, regional development, health, education, culture, and combating drug trafficking, as well as, extension of CPEC to Afghanistan. Earlier in the day, DPM Dar urged the Taliban government in Kabul to take concrete and verifiable measures against terrorist entities such as the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), and Majeed Brigade. The demand came during a meeting between DPM Dar and Afghanistan's Acting FM Muttaqi, on the sidelines of the 6th trilateral meeting of the foreign ministers in Kabul. This call follows the recent designation of the BLA and its militant faction, the Majeed Brigade, as Foreign Terrorist Organisations (FTO) by the United States. In a statement, FO spokesperson said that the DPM highlighted a recent surge in terrorist attacks inside Pakistan perpetrated by groups operating from Afghan soil. Pakistan has witnessed a surge in cross-border terror incidents since 2021, particularly in the bordering provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. The country witnessed a slight uptick in terrorist attacks in July after a brief decline last month, according to the monthly security report released by the Islamabad-based think tank Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS). According to PICSS, the country reported 82 militant attacks across the country during July, resulting in 101 fatalities and 150 injuries. Those killed in militant attacks included 47 civilians, 36 security personnel, and 18 militants. The FO spokesperson said: "Both ministers expressed satisfaction with the positive trajectory of bilateral relations between their countries."

Shehbaz to visit China later this month

FROM PAGE 01
cooperation, after a delay of about five years. "Prime minister's upcoming visit will mark the formal launch of CPEC Phase-II, with both sides expected to set clear priorities and agree on tangible, measurable outcomes," said an official announcement quoting Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, focal person on the multi-billion-dollar bilateral initiative, as saying at a high-level meeting. The meeting was convened to review preparations for the forthcoming session of the Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) of CPEC, as well as the prime minister's scheduled visit to Beijing. While the JCC is expected to meet in October, official sources said the prime minister will travel to Beijing at the end of this month to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit (Aug 31-Sept 1). On the sidelines, he is also expected to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian leader Vladimir Putin.

China to showcase latest military hardware

FROM PAGE 01
commemorate its wartime resistance. On September 3, China's military will showcase its latest equipment, "reflecting the evolution of modern warfare", said Major General Wu Zeke, an official at China's military commission. "All of the weapons and equipment taking part in this review were selected from domestically produced, currently active main battle systems, with a significant proportion being newly unveiled equipment," Wu told reporters at a briefing. These will include strategic heavy weapons, hypersonic precision systems, as well as unmanned and counter-unmanned equipment making their first public debut, he added. The parade, which will last around 70 minutes, will "fully showcase our military's powerful capability to prevail in modern war", Wu said.

Swiatek, Ruud Advance; Alcaraz, Djokovic Crash Out

Swiatek, Ruud Reach US Open Mixed Doubles Semis; Alcaraz, Djokovic Suffer Early Exits

DNA

NEW YORK: Iga Swiatek shrugged off lingering weariness to partner Casper Ruud to back-to-back victories in the revamped mixed doubles competition at the US Open on Tuesday. Swiatek — who on Monday had battled through a two-hour tussle with Jasmine Paolini to win the Cincinnati Open — looked full of energy as she and Ruud powered into Wednesday's semi-finals. Swiatek and Ruud needed just 39 minutes to dispatch the US pairing of Madison Keys and Frances Tiafoe 4-1, 4-2 in their opening game at Arthur Ashe Stadium, and then reappeared roughly 20 minutes later to defeat Caty McNally and Lorenzo Musetti 5-3, 4-2 in their quarter-final clash. The victories capped a gruelling 24 hours for Polish star Swiatek, who hot-footed it to the airport after Monday's win in Cincinnati and only arrived at her hotel in New York in the early hours of Tuesday. "Honestly the last two days have felt like one day, but I'm super happy to be here," Swiatek said, adding that her tight turnaround had helped her unwind after her exertions in Cincinnati. "Honestly I think actually it's kind of nice for the recovery," Swiatek said. "To have another task and to not let yourself be lazy but also focused on the next exciting thing." Ruud and Swiatek had just enough time to fit in a quick practice before taking to the court in their first match as a doubles pairing. "I was happy to team up with Iga," Ruud

said afterwards. "She's on the winning train these days so I'm just jumping on the train and let's see if we can win some more before the mixed doubles is over. "I think everyone should show some appreciation to Iga today. She only got to her hotel 12 hours ago at 2.30am, and she's here playing." - Alcaraz, Djokovic out — Swiatek and Ruud will meet top seeds Jessica Pegula of the United States and Britain's Jack Draper in Wednesday's semi-finals. Pegula and Draper clicked smoothly to eliminate the glam-



our pairing of Carlos Alcaraz and Emma Raducanu 4-2, 4-2 in the first round before easing past Russia's Daniil Medvedev and Mirra Andreeva 4-1, 4-1 in the quarter-finals. Medvedev and Andreeva had earlier romped past Novak Djokovic and Olga Danilovic in straight sets in the first round, winning 4-2, 5-3. In other results on Tuesday, US tennis icon Venus Williams and partner Reilly Opelka exited against Karolina Muchova and Andrey Rublev, losing 4-2, 5-4. Italy's reigning champions Andrea Vavassori and Sara Errani ousted second seeds Elena Rybakina and Taylor Fritz 4-2, 4-2. Earlier Tuesday, world number one Jannik Sinner's withdrawal from the mixed doubles was confirmed as expected. Sinner, who retired due to illness in the first set of his Cincinnati Open final with Alcaraz on Monday, was due to partner Katerina Siniakova in the doubles. Sinner and Siniakova were replaced in the draw by the American duo of Danielle Collins and Christian Harrison. This year's US Open mixed doubles competition is being held over Tuesday and Wednesday in the week before the main singles draws get under way. The tournament is using a modified scoring system, with short sets to four games, no-advantage scoring, tiebreakers at four-all and a 10-point match tiebreak in lieu of a third set. The final will be a best-of-three set match to six games, featuring no-advantage scoring, with tiebreakers at six-all and a 10-point match tiebreaker instead of a third set, with the winning pairing pocketing \$1 million.

Briefs

NATO chiefs to discuss Ukraine security guarantees

BRUSSELS, Belgium: NATO military chiefs were set Wednesday to discuss the details of eventual security guarantees for Ukraine, pushing ahead the flurry of global diplomacy aiming to broker an end to Russia's war. But even as diplomatic efforts continued Wednesday, Russian forces claimed fresh advances on the ground and Ukrainian officials reported more deaths from Moscow's missiles. Few details have leaked on the virtual meeting of military chiefs from NATO's 32 member countries, which is due to start at 2:30 p.m. (1230 GMT). But on Tuesday evening top US officer Dan Caine, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, held talks with European military chiefs on the "best options for a potential Ukraine peace deal," a US defense official told AFP. US President Donald Trump brought Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and European leaders to the White House Monday, three days after his landmark encounter with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Alaska. Trump, long a fierce critic of the billions of dollars in US support to Ukraine since Russia invaded in 2022, earlier said European nations were "willing to put people on the ground" to secure any settlement. He ruled out sending US troops but suggested it would provide air support instead. But while Trump said Putin had agreed to meet Zelensky and accept some Western security guarantees for Ukraine, Kyiv and Western capitals have responded cautiously, as many of the details remain vague.—APP

Rupee gains 01 paisa against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD: The Rupee on Wednesday appreciated by 01 paisa against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 281.95 against the previous day's closing of Rs 281.96. 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 and Rs 284.5, respectively. The price of the Euro decreased by 91 paisa to close at Rs 328.33 against the last day's closing of Rs 329.24, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs1.90, while the exchange rate of the British Pound witnessed a decrease of 20 paisa to close at Rs380.81 against the last day's closing of Rs381.01. The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal remained stagnant at Rs 76.76 and Rs 75.13, respectively.—APP

Gold price decreases by Rs 1,400 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold witnessed a decrease of Rs 1,400 on Wednesday and was sold at Rs 355,200 against its sale at Rs 356,600 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 1,201 to Rs 304,526 from Rs 305,727, whereas the price of 10 grams of 22 Karat went down by Rs 1,101 to Rs 279,158 from Rs 280,259. The rates of per tola and ten gram silver decreased by Rs 96 and Rs 82, and were traded at Rs 3,935 and Rs 3,373, respectively. The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$14 to \$3,325 from \$3,339, whereas silver decreased by \$0.96 to \$37.02 from \$37.98, the Association reported.—APP



KABUL: The Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign Minister of Pakistan held a bilateral meeting with the Acting Foreign Minister of Afghanistan, Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi, on the sidelines of the 6th Trilateral Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Pakistan, China, and Afghanistan.

Syrian, Israeli diplomats discuss de-escalation

DNA

DAMASCUS: Syria's foreign minister met with an Israeli delegation in Paris to discuss de-escalation and the situation in Druze-majority Sweida province after deadly sectarian violence last month, state media reported Wednesday. Syria's Foreign Minister Asaad Al-Shaibani and Israeli Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer attended the meeting on Tuesday, along with Syria's intelligence chief, Syrian state television said, citing an unnamed government source. The meeting discussed "de-escalation and non-interference in Syria's internal affairs" and addressed monitoring the Sweida ceasefire announced by the United States last month, state news

agency SANA said. "Both sides affirmed their commitment to the unity of Syrian territory, their rejection of any projects aiming to divide it," and emphasized that Sweida and its Druze citizens are an integral part of Syria, the broadcaster reported the source as saying. A week of violence began on July 13 with clashes between Druze fighters and Sunni Bedouin, but rapidly escalated, drawing in government forces, with Israel also carrying out strikes. Israel, which has its own Druze community, has said it acted to defend the minority group as well as to enforce its own demands for the demilitarization of southern Syria. "These talks are taking place under US mediation, as part of diplomatic efforts aimed at enhancing security and stability

in Syria and preserving the unity and integrity of its territory," SANA said, adding they resulted in "understandings that support stability in the region." Israel and Syria have technically remained at war since 1948. As an Islamist-led offensive late last year toppled longtime Syrian ruler Bashar Assad, Israel deployed troops to the UN-patrolled buffer zone on the Golan Heights which has separated Israeli and Syrian forces since the armistice that followed the 1973 Arab-Israeli war. State television said "the two sides discussed the need to reach a clear mechanism to reactivate the 1974 disengagement agreement... and establish a more stable environment." Discussions also addressed the humanitarian situation in southern Syria, with

both parties agreeing on "the need to intensify assistance for the people of Sweida and the Bedouin," it reported. Hundreds demonstrated in Sweida on Saturday, calling for self-determination and some raising Israeli flags and accusing Damascus of imposing a blockade, something officials have denied, pointing to the entry of several aid convoys. Paris hosted a similar meeting between Shaibani and Dermer last month, while a diplomatic source previously told AFP that other face-to-face meetings were held in Baku. US envoy for Syria Thomas Barrack said on X late Tuesday that he met with Israeli Druze spiritual leader Mowafaq Tarif, discussing Sweida "and how to bring together the interests of all parties, de-escalate tensions, and build understanding."

Belarus seeks closer ties with Iran including on defense

Belarus and Iran — two countries that have backed Russia's war in Ukraine — plan to deepen bilateral ties across all areas including defense REUTERS: Belarus seeks to deepen ties with Iran in all areas including "military-technical cooperation," state news agency Belta quoted President Alexander Lukashenko as telling his Iranian counterpart Masoud Pezeshkian on Wednesday. It said Pezeshkian, on a visit to Belarus, said Iran was ready to help Belarus to "neutralize illegal Western sanctions." Belarus and Iran — two countries that have backed Russia's war in Ukraine — plan to deepen bilateral ties across all areas including defense, their presidents said at talks in Minsk on Wednesday. Belarusian state news agency Belta said presidents Alexander Lukashenko and Masoud Pezeshkian agreed to work on a strategic partnership treaty "In conditions of geopolitical turbulence, Minsk and Tehran are undertaking consistent and balanced steps to further develop cooperation, and are working hard to turn each new challenge into a new opportunity," it quoted Lukashenko as saying. "We are ready to discuss any issues, we have no closed topics," Lukashenko said, adding that the two countries could partner across a range of areas including "military-technical cooperation." Lukashenko, a close ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin, allowed Russia to use Belarusian territory as a launchpad for its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, and later assented to hosting Russian tactical nuclear missiles. Iran has supplied drones to Russia for use in the war and Pezeshkian signed a strategic cooperation treaty with Putin in January, although it did not include a mutual defense clause. Both Iran and Belarus are under what Pezeshkian described as "illegal Western sanctions." Belta quoted him as saying Iran was ready to help Belarus "neutralize" such measures, noting that it had more than 40 years of experience in this area.—APP

UK set for more legal challenges over migrant hotels

EPHING: Britain's government was considering Wednesday whether to appeal a court ruling blocking the housing of asylum seekers in a flashpoint hotel, as it scrambled to come up with contingency plans for the migrants. Prime Minister Keir Starmer's Labour administration braced itself for further legal challenges from local authorities following Tuesday's judge-issued injunction that has dealt it a major political and logistical headache. Anti-immigrant firebrand Nigel Farage indicated that councils run by his hard-right Reform UK party, leading in national polls, would pursue similar claims as he called for protests outside migrant hotels. Security minister Dan Jarvis said the government was weighing challenging high court judge Stephen Eyre's granting of a temporary injunction to stop migrants from staying at the Bell Hotel in Epping, northeast of London. The local authority sought the ruling following several weeks of protests outside the hotel, some of which have turned violent. The demonstrations erupted after a resident was charged with sexually assaulting a 14-year-old girl. "We're looking very closely at it," Jarvis told Sky News of a possible appeal. The interior ministry had tried to have the case dismissed, warning it would "substantially impact" its ability to provide accommodation for tens of thousands of asylum seekers across Britain. "We're looking at a range of different contingency options," Jarvis told Times Radio, adding: "We'll look closely at what we're able to do." Several Reform-led councils, including in Staffordshire and Northamptonshire in the Midlands area of England, announced on Wednesday that they were exploring their options following the court ruling. Protests, some of them violent, broke out in Epping in mid-July after Hadush Gerberslasie Kebatu, 41, was charged. He denies the allegation and is due to stand trial later this year. Hundreds of people have since taken part in demonstrations and counter-demonstrations outside the Bell Hotel. Further anti-immigration demonstrations also spread to London and around England. Several men appeared in court on Monday charged with violent disorder over the Bell Hotel protests. Epping Forest District Council argued the hotel had become a risk to public safety and that it had breached planning laws as it was no longer operating as a hotel in the traditional sense. The judge gave authorities until September 12 to remove the migrants. Writing in the right-wing Daily Telegraph newspaper, Farage said the "good people of Epping must inspire similar protests around Britain." He said peaceful demonstrations can "put pressure on local councils to go to court to try and get the illegal immigrants out." In Epping, an attractive market town connected to London by the underground, residents appeared to broadly welcome the imminent removal of the asylum seekers. "It has made people feel unsettled, especially with schools being down there," 52-year-old Mark Humphries, who works in retail, told AFP on the high street.—DNA

KSrelief dispatches relief convoy for KP flood-affected families

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSrelief) has dispatched a large-scale emergency relief convoy to support victims of the recent flash floods and cloudbursts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). The ceremony was attended by His Excellency Ambassador Nawaf Bin Said Al-Maliki, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan; Mr. Rana Sana Ullah Khan, Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination; Mr. Abdullah Al-Baqami, Director of KSrelief Pakistan; along with representatives from National Disaster Management Authority, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and members of national and international media. The convoy comprises 10,000 Shelter NFI Kits and 10,000 Food Packages. Each Shelter Kit includes: Shelter, solar panels with LED lights, two thermal blankets, plastic mats, durable kitchen sets, water coolers, and antibacterial soap. Each Food Package, weighing 95 kilograms, contains wheat flour, sugar, lentils, and cooking oil, carefully designed to address the immediate nutritional needs of families. Distribution will be carried out in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), the Relief, Rehabilitation and Settlement Department (RR&SD), and KSrelief Implementing partners Hayat Foundation and Peach and Development Organization —ensuring transparent and timely delivery of aid to the most vulnerable communities. This initiative reflects the continued commitment of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, through KSrelief, to extend humanitarian assistance to Pakistan. Over the years, KSrelief has launched numerous projects across the country in food security, health,

shelter, education, and disaster response—further deepening the bonds of friendship and brotherhood between the two nations. The dispatch of this convoy stands as another mile-

stone in this enduring partnership, providing urgent relief to families affected by the devastating floods in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



Indonesia to make plastic recycling mandatory

JAKARTA: Indonesia, one of the world's nations most affected by plastic pollution, will make recycling mandatory for producers, the government has announced in a new move to tackle the crisis, following a ban on shipments of plastic waste from developed countries. Indonesia produces around 60 million tonnes of waste annually, government data shows, around 12 percent of which is plastic. Less than 10 percent of waste is recycled in the country, while more than half ends up in landfills. Indonesians are also the top global consumers of microplastics, according to a 2024 study by Cornell University, which estimated that they ingest about 15 grams of plastic particles per month. "Plastic is problematic for the environment, especially the single-use ones. It creates various problems, and contains hazardous toxic materials," Environment Minister Hanif Faisol Nurofiq told reporters earlier this week. Nurofiq was speaking after a UN summit in Geneva failed to produce the world's first legally binding treaty to tackle plastic pollution.—APP

Attack on Darfur hospital kills one: MSF

KHARTOUM: An armed assault on a hospital in the war-ravaged Darfur region of Sudan killed one person, medical charity Doctors Without Borders (MSF) said Wednesday, adding it had been forced to suspend operations. Five people were also wounded in last week's attack, one of them a health worker supported by MSF, it added. Since the war between Sudan's regular army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces began in April 2023, more than 120 aid workers have been killed, according to the United Nations. "Humanitarian needs in Sudan have reached unprecedented levels. Yet those who step forward to help — our frontline aid workers — are being attacked, detained, harassed and even killed," UN humanitarian coordinator Luca Renda said Tuesday. The hospital in Zalingei, capital of Central Darfur state, was attacked by armed relatives of a patient who had died of a gunshot wound. They then clashed with other armed individuals. A hand grenade went off in front of the emergency room, causing the casualties. The facility was the only referral hospital serving the area's population of around half a million, who are currently facing a deadly cholera outbreak.—APP

Israeli military will call up 50,000 reservists

JERUSALEM: An Israeli military official said on Wednesday that the country's top generals had approved plans to call up tens of thousands of reservists in order to begin a new phase of operations in some of Gaza's most densely populated areas. Speaking on the condition of anonymity in line with military regulations, the official said that the military will be operating in parts of Gaza City where the Israeli military has not yet operated and where Hamas is still active. Israeli troops are already operating in the Zeitoun and Jabaliya neighborhoods of Gaza City in order to prepare the groundwork for the expanded operation, which is expected to receive approval from the chief of staff in the coming days. It remains unclear when the operation will begin. The official said 50,000 reservists will be called up in the coming month, nearly doubling the number of active reservists to 120,000. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said earlier this month that the objective was to secure the release of the remaining hostages and ensure Hamas and other militants can never again threaten Israel. Hamas-led militants started the war when they attacked Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting 251. Most of the hostages have been released in ceasefires or other deals. Hamas says it will only free the rest in exchange for a lasting ceasefire and an Israeli withdrawal.—APP

Briefs

No ground troops, but maybe air support: Trump

Remarks come day after US president pledged security guarantees to help end war at extraordinary White House summit

DNA

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump said on Tuesday he ruled out putting US troops on the ground in Ukraine but said the United States might provide air support as part of a deal to end Russia's war in the country.

A day after Trump pledged security guarantees to help end the war at an extraordinary White House summit, the path to peace remained uncertain as the US and allies prepared to work out what military support for Ukraine might include.

"When it comes to security, (Europeans) are willing to put people on the ground. We're willing to help them with things, especially, probably, ... by air," Trump said in an interview with the Fox News "Fox & Friends" program. He did not elaborate. Following Monday's meeting, Russia launched its biggest air assault in more than a month on Ukraine, and Trump conceded that Russian President Vladimir Putin might not want to make a deal after all. "We're going to find out about President Putin in the next couple of weeks," he said.

The nature of US military aid for Ukraine under a peace deal was unclear. Air support could take many forms, such as missile defence systems or fighter jets enforcing a no-fly zone. White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt confirmed US air support was "an option and a possibility," but, like Trump, did not provide any details.

Turkmenistan bids to go tobacco-free in 2025

ASHGABAT: When he was a teenager, Bekmurad Khodjayev used to hide from his parents to smoke. Fifty years later, the Turkmen pensioner is still hiding, but this time from the police.

"I smoke in my apartment. But if I feel like smoking in town, I find a place without surveillance cameras to avoid a fine – an alleyway, a dead end, behind some tall bushes or trees, a deserted spot," the 64-year-old builder told AFP. The reclusive Central Asian state of seven million people, where the rate of smoking is already very low, has vowed to eradicate the habit altogether by the end of the year. Khodjayev said he had already been fined for smoking near his home. "Since then, I try not to get caught anymore," he said. – Agencies

US keen to invest in Pak energy sector, says Natalie

Federal Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik welcomed the keen interest from US investors and detailed the upcoming opportunities. "The Government of Pakistan is undertaking bidding round for both offshore and onshore oil and gas exploration blocks, which presents a tremendous opportunity for international partners



MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik, held a meeting with Ms. Natalie A. Baker, the US Charge d'Affaires to Pakistan, at the Ministry

of Petroleum. The high-level discussion focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation between the United States and Pakistan in the energy sector, with particular emphasis on oil, gas, and minerals sector.

Charge d'Affaires Natalie A. Baker highlighted the significant opportunities for American investment in Paki-

stan's energy landscape. "There is a strong and growing interest from US companies in Pakistan's Oil, Gas, and Minerals sector, in line with the vision of President Trump," she stated. "The United States is committed to work with Pakistan. The US Embassy will actively facilitate direct linkages between American companies and their Pakistani counterparts in the Exploration & Production (E&P) sector to unlock this potential."

Federal Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik welcomed the keen interest from US investors and detailed the upcoming opportunities. "The Government of Pakistan is undertaking bidding round for both offshore and onshore oil and gas exploration blocks, which presents a tremendous opportunity for international partners," the Minister said. "Pakistan possesses huge untapped potential esp shale oil & gas, and converting these indigenous resources into tangible reserves is a target of our government". We are already engaged in a positive information exchange with US companies. Both officials commended the success of the recent "Direct Line" webinar, an initiative organized to connect US companies with opportunities in Pakistan's mineral sector, citing it as a model for future engagement in Oil & Gas sector also. Charge d'Affaires Baker reinforced that the US-Pakistan had the counter terrorism dialogue, now we would like to drive this partnership forward in the economic realm. The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to deepen the energy partnership, leveraging US technology and investment to support mutual economic and energy growth.

PAF launches large scale flood relief operation in GB

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Air Force (PAF) has launched a large-scale flood relief operation in Gilgit-Baltistan. Demonstrating unwavering resolve amidst difficult weather conditions and rugged mountainous terrain, PAF C-130 aircraft airlifted 7 tons of dry rations, daily use eatables and life-saving medicines from PAF Base Nur Khan to Gilgit, said a press release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR).

The consignment will be distributed in remote flood-affected valleys in coordination with National Disaster Management Authority, ensuring that essential supplies reach distressed families cut off due to damaged communication lines.

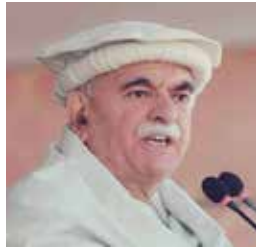
In a simultaneous humanitarian effort, 75 stranded individuals were also evacuated by PAF relief team from the disaster-hit areas. This swift and coordinated action forms part of the nationwide emergency relief

campaign, underscoring Pakistan Armed Forces' continued commitment to safeguarding lives during natural calamities. Over the coming days, PAF aircraft and ground teams will remain engaged in sustained relief operations, delivering food, medicines, shelter and medical aid to vulnerable communities. The timely and determined response by Pakistan Air Force has brought renewed hope to flood-hit families in Gilgit-Baltistan, reaffirming the unflinching resolve of Pakistan Armed Forces to stand shoulder to shoulder with the nation in every hour of trial. Meanwhile, The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Wednesday dispatched two separate consignments of relief goods to Bajaur and Mansehra, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, as part of its ongoing efforts to support flood-affected communities across the province. The consignments, dispatched early Wednesday morning, comprise essential relief items including tents, blankets, 7KVA generators, dewatering pumps, ration bags, and medicines.

Achakzai nominated as Opp leader in NA

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Incarcerated PTI founder Imran Khan has nominated Mahmood Khan Achakzai as the National Assembly Opposition Leader, PTI Secretary General Salman Akram Raja said on Wednesday. The announcement comes after the Election Commission of Pakistan earlier this month disqualified Opposition Leader in the NA Omar Ayub Khan and Opposition Leader in the Senate Shibli Faraz, along with other opposition MNAs and MPAs, following their convictions in May 9 cases. Both PTI opposition leaders were subsequently removed from their posts on Aug 8. Speaking to reporters outside the Supreme Court, Raja said that Imran named



Tehreek-i-Tahafuz Ayeen-i-Pakistan (TTAP) chief Achakzai as Leader of the Opposition in the NA. "Azam Khan Swati has been nominated as Leader of

the Opposition in the Senate, Raja said, adding that Imran has asked for five names to decide the opposition leader of the Punjab Assembly. "PTI founder has entrusted the by-elections matter to the party's political committee," he said. "A political committee meeting will be held later today, where a decision will be made in this regard."

Sino-Pakistan high-level exchanges distinctive feature of bilateral ties: Mao Ning



DNA

BEIJING: China and Pakistan are ironclad friends and all-weather strategic cooperative partners and solid strategic mutual trust and frequent high-level exchanges are distinctive features of bilateral ties. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning made these remarks while announcing Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's visit to Pakistan from August 20 to 22. Wang Yi will hold the Sixth Round of China-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar in Islamabad. Sharing the program and China's expectations, Mao

Ning, during her regular briefing, said that this will be Foreign Minister Wang Yi's second visit to Pakistan in three years, and the latest high-level exchange between China and Pakistan following recent bilateral meetings and visits.

During the visit, Foreign Minister Wang Yi will meet with Pakistani leaders and hold the sixth round of the China-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar. The two sides will have in-depth communication on bilateral relations and international and regional issues of mutual interest, she added. Terming China and Pakistan ironclad friends and all-weather strategic cooperative partners, she said that solid strategic mutual trust and frequent high-level exchanges are distinctive features of bilateral ties. In June last year, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif paid an official visit to China. In February this year, President Asif Ali Zardari paid a state visit to China and attended the Opening Ceremony of the Ninth Asian Winter Games. President Xi Jinping and Pakistani leaders have jointly provided strategic guidance for the growth of bilateral relations, she added. Mao Ning said that China hopes to work with Pakistan through this visit to further deliver on the important common understandings between the leaders of the two countries, deepen strategic communication, expand practical cooperation in various areas, enhance coordination and cooperation in international and regional affairs, and accelerate the building of an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era.

Chinese IPPs 'unwilling' to waive LPS

Both the Development Finance Corporation and IPPs are unwilling to forgo interest payments

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Ahead of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's upcoming visit to China, Chinese Independent Power Producers (IPPs) have declined to waive Late Payment Surcharges (LPS) alongside outstanding dues in the government's plan to settle the circular debt. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has yet to endorse the procedural framework for clearing Rs1,257 billion in circular debt through a deal finalised with commercial banks – a transaction that remains pending. Officials confirmed that both the Development Finance Corporation (DFC) and IPPs are unwilling to forgo interest payments. The government faces hurdles as further tariff relief depends on waiving these charges. Talks with additional IPPs are ongoing, but it remains unclear how much impact fresh negotiations will have in reducing tariffs. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is all set to visit China. Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb is also likely to visit China next month, as Islamabad wants to launch a Panda bond in the next few months.

Afghan bus crash toll rises to 76

NEWS DESK

KABUL: The death toll from a collision between a bus carrying Afghan migrants returning from Iran and two other vehicles in western Afghanistan has risen to 76, a provincial official said on Wednesday. "Seventy-six citizens of the country... lost their lives in the incident, and three others were seriously injured," Mohammad Yousuf Saeedi, Herat provincial government spokesman, said in a statement. Police in Guzara district outside Herat city, where the accident took place on Tuesday night, said the bus collided with a motorcycle and a truck carrying fuel, sparking a fire. The bus was carrying Afghans recently returned from Iran to the capital Kabul, Saeedi told AFP on Tuesday. At least 1.5 million people have returned to Afghanistan since the start of this year from Iran and Pakistan, both of which have sought to force migrants out.



General Practice
HOSPITAL

We Are **OPEN**

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



OPD CLINIC

IN-PATIENT ROOM

INTENSIVE CARE UNIT (ICU)

EMERGENCY CASE UNIT

NALYSE CASE UNIT

X-RAY

RADIOGRAPHY

HEMATOLOGY / CHEMISTRY

ECG

DAY SURGERY ROOM

TREATMENT

DAY CASE LIBRARY

MEDICAL HISTORY CASE UNIT (ICU)

RADIOLOGY LAB

ULTRASOUND

ECG

OPD

PHARMACY

General Physician Services

Medicine

Gynecology & Women's Health

Dermatology & Aesthetics

General Surgery

Urology

Pediatrics & Child Health

Plastic Surgery

Ear, Nose & Throat

Cardiology

Neurology

Nutrition, Dietetics & Lifestyle

Nephrology

Orthopedics and Sports Medicine

Optometry

Dental & Maxillofacial Surgery

Psychiatry

Gastroenterology

Physiotherapy & Rehabilitation

Psychology & Mental Health

Empathic & Caring for everyone

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

+92 33 47 47 47 01

Pakdard Tower 2, New Blue Area, Islamabad

www.generalpractice.com.pk

generalpracticeislamabad

+92 51 6160 474 | +92 51 6161 474