



Islamabad POST

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 30

Brunei values ties with Pakistan, say High Commissioner

Detailed News On Page-08

UK police release envoy Mandelson

Detailed News On Page-08



Pakistan and Türkiye have cordial ties

Detailed News On Page-02



Kohat attack

7 including DSP martyred

Police said the terrorists opened fire on a police mobile van in the remote area of Shakardara Road, resulting in the martyrdom of three policemen, including a deputy superintendent, identified as Asad Mehmood, on the spot

BUREAU REPORT

KOHAT: At least seven individuals, including six cops, were martyred and multiple personnel sustained injuries in a terrorist attack on a police van in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Kohat district on Tuesday. Police said the terrorists opened fire on a police mobile van in the remote area of Shakardara Road, resulting in the martyrdom of three policemen, including a deputy superintendent, identified as Asad Mehmood, on the spot. Meanwhile, two civilians passing by the van were also injured in the attack. Police said the death toll rose to seven after three injured cops and one civilian succumbed to their wounds.

Three cops and the other civilian injured in the shooting were still under treatment. Following the attack, the terrorists also set the mobile van ablaze, police added. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi strongly condemned the terrorist attack carried out by Fitna al-Khawarij militants. He paid tribute to DSP Mehmood and three police personnel who were martyred in the attack, honouring their sacrifice and bravery in the line of duty. The interior minister expressed heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the families of the martyrs, stating that DSP Mehmood and the fallen officers attained the highest rank of martyrdom. Naqvi said the martyrs sacrificed their today for the nation's tomorrow, adding that their timeless sacrifices will always be remembered. He assured that the government stands with the families of the martyrs in this difficult time and shares in their grief. Terrorist attacks have been prevalent in the country, especially in the provinces neighbouring Afghanistan. At least three Federal Constabulary (FC) men were martyred when an ambulance carrying injured personnel came under a terrorist attack in the Badrakhal area of Karak, KP on Monday.

Moreover, four Indian proxy, Fitna al-Khawarij terrorists were killed in an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in KP's Dera Ismail Khan, while five others were killed in separate raid in Balochistan's Pishin district. Pakistan, since the Taliban regained control of Afghanistan in 2021, has witnessed an increase in cross-border terrorist activity.

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

UK govt to release docs about Andrew past role

NEWS DESK

LONDON: The UK government said on Tuesday it supported the release of documents on ex-prince Andrew's past role as a trade envoy, hours after a veteran politician was quizzed by police in the widening Jeffrey Epstein scandal. US authorities last month published millions of files related to late sex offender Epstein, containing revelations which have rocked British political and royal circles. It has ramped up pressure on Labour Prime Minister Keir Starmer's government to release its own vetting documents and sparked two separate, high-profile police investigations. The Liberal Democrats party tabled a motion in parliament on Tuesday to force the government to release vetting documents on Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor's appointment as trade envoy, a post he held from 2001 to 2011.

Govt amends ID card rules

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The government on Tuesday notified amendments to the National Identity Card Rules, 2002 and the Pakistan Origin Card Rules, 2002 to modernise the country's identity document framework by legally embedding QR-based verification, strengthening authentication controls across digital services, expanding biometric recognition, and updating card formats for key citizen categories. According to a handout by the National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra), a core reform is the statutory introduction of the QR code — a scannable barcode containing horizontal and vertical lines, dots, and patterns — as a defined security and verification feature.

Green Shirts 'on way out'

England defeat Pak to reach T20 World Cup semi-finals

Harry Brook anchors chase with century as England seal two-wicket victory

SPORTS DESK

KENDY: England booked their place in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 semi-finals after Harry Brook led his side to a dramatic two-wicket victory over Pakistan in the Super Eight fixture at Pallekele International Cricket Stadium, Kandy, on Tuesday. The victory, England's second consecutive win in the Super Eights, made them the first team to qualify for the semi-finals of the 20-team tournament, consolidating their top spot in Group 2 with four points. Set to chase a 165-run target, the two-time champions amassed the target for the loss of eight wickets and five balls to spare, courtesy of Brook's captain's knock. The Three Lions had a contrasting start to their innings as Shaheen Shah Afridi struck thrice, dismissing Phil Salt (zero), Jos Buttler (two) and Jacob Bethell (eight), inside

five overs with just 35 runs on the board. But Brook stood his ground firm and kept the scoreboard ticking singlehandedly as he registered one-sided partnerships with Tom Banton (two) and Sam Curran (16), which yielded 23 and 45 runs, respectively. The England captain eventually found ample support from the other end when Will Jacks walked out to bat at No.7 as the duo pulled the game away out of Pakistan's grasp by putting together 52 runs for the sixth wicket until the set batter was eventually cleaned up by Shaheen on the final delivery of the 17th over. Brook walked back after top-scoring with a 51-ball 100, studded with 10 fours and four sixes. Brook was named Player of the Match for his stellar performance. Jacks, on the other hand, followed suit an over later as he was bowled by Mohammad Nawaz

Continued on Page 06

PTI objects to 'secrecy' after Imran undergoes treatment

The Pims doctor said: "Prior to the procedure, he was examined by a board of specialists: a consultant cardiologist who also performed echocardiography and ECG (result: normal) and a consultant physician

FIAZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: The PTI took exception to the government's "secrecy" regarding ex-prime minister Imran Khan after it emerged that he underwent a follow-up eye treatment at an Islamabad hospital in the early hours of Tuesday. According to a doctor at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims), Imran was brought to the hospital for a second dose of anti-VEGF intravitreal injection on February 24. Imran's eye ailment — right central retinal vein occlusion (CRVO) — came to light in late January. His first medical procedure, which was carried out on January 24, was confirmed by the government five days later. Since then, the government and the opposition have also been engaged in a blame game, with the latter accusing the former of a lack of transparency on the matter, of not ensuring appropriate treatment for

Continued on Page 06

Opposition denounces 'suspension' of Senate's live broadcast

Law Minister Tarar says govt has no role in broadcasting, calls it Senate's prerogative

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Opposition Leader in the Senate, Allama Raja Nasir Abbas, has condemned the "suspension" of the live broadcast of the upper house of parliament and demanded an explanation for the move. Speaking during the session of the upper house, Allama Abbas, who was appointed to the post with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) backing,

Continued on Page 06



DOHA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets with the Amir of Qatar His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. — DNA

Senate deplore Israeli PM plan

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Senate on Tuesday unanimously adopted a resolution condemning Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's remarks about a plan to ally with India and other countries to counter Muslim nations. The resolution moved in the House by PPP's Palwasha Mohammad Zai Khan deplored the continued provocative steps and statements by the Israeli leadership that threatened the regional and international peace and stability, including the latest statement about forming "alliances" against Muslim nations. Addressing a cabinet meeting on Sunday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said his country "will create an entire system — essentially a kind of hexagon of alliances — around or within the Middle East", Times of Israel reported. Netanyahu listed India, Greece, Cyprus, and "unnamed Arab, African and Asian countries", the report added.

Continued on Page 06

Gandapur says security withdrawn

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: Former Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) chief minister Ali Amin Gandapur on Tuesday said he would not accept the return of his government-provided security, claiming it had been withdrawn by the provincial administration. Gandapur, who resigned from the top provincial post in October last year, said that KP Chief Minister Sohail Afridi's deputy chief security officer (CSO) called his security personnel at around 11pm, informing him that the CSO had ordered them to return. The former KP CM added that he had been provided a provincial government jammer and a double-cabin vehicle, accompanied by 14 personnel. He described how the security personnel had approached him, and he instructed them to "just close up".

Continued on Page 06

PM Shehbaz woes Qatari investors to explore Pak market

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed bilateral trade and economic cooperation and expressed satisfaction over the growing momentum in Pakistan-Qatar relations

DNA

DOHA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday emphasized the importance of enhancing bilateral trade volumes and diversifying Pakistan's exports to Qatar, particularly in agricultural products, food items and value-added goods. The prime minister was talking to Minister of State of Qatar on Foreign Trade Dr. Ahmed bin Mohammed Al-Sayed who called on him during his official visit to Doha. Dr. Al-Sayed is also the chairman of Pak-Qatar Joint business task force.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed bilateral trade and economic cooperation and expressed satisfaction over the growing momentum in Pakistan-Qatar relations. Both sides discussed follow-up to the 6th Session of the Pakistan-Qatar Joint Ministerial Commission and reaffirmed their commitment to implementing agreed decisions. The prime minister also highlighted Pakistan's investment-friendly reforms and the role of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) in facilitating foreign investment. Dr. Ahmed bin Mohammed Al-Sayed reiterated Qatar's interest in

Continued on Page 06

PM Shehbaz meets Qatar PM

DNA

DOHA: Prime Minister of Pakistan, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, during his official visit to Doha, met with the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani. Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, Chief of the Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting and Special Assistant to the PM Tariq Fatemi were also present. The two leaders held discussions on bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and international developments. They reaffirmed the strong fraternal ties between Pakistan and Qatar and expressed satisfaction over the growing momentum in political, economic and institutional engagement.

Continued on Page 06

Iran to buy cruise missiles from Chian

"It's a complete gamechanger if Iran has supersonic capability to attack ships in the area," said Danny Citrinowicz, a former Israeli intelligence officer

CENTRELINER REPORT

TEHRAN: Iran is close to a deal with China to purchase anti-ship cruise missiles, according to six people with knowledge of the negotiations, just as the United States deploys a vast naval force near the Iranian coast ahead of possible strikes on the Islamic Republic. The deal for the Chinese-made CM-302 missiles is near completion, though no delivery date has been agreed, the people said. The supersonic missiles have a range of about 290 kilometres and are designed to evade shipborne defences by flying low and fast. Their deployment would significantly enhance Iran's strike capabilities and pose a threat to US naval forces in the region, two weapons experts said.

Negotiations with China to buy the missile weapons systems, which began at least two years ago, accelerated sharply after the 12-day war between Israel and Iran in June, according to the six people with knowledge of the talks, including three officials who were briefed by the Iranian government as well as three security officials.

As talks entered their final stages last summer, senior Iranian military and government officials travelled to China, including Massoud Oraei, Iran's deputy defence minister, according to two of the security officials. Oraei's visit has not been previously reported. "It's a complete gamechanger if Iran has supersonic capability to attack ships

Continued on Page 06

FEBRUARY 2026

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

Find us on:
www.centrelineline.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



YDA demands justice for female doctor's killing

PESHAWAR: The Young Doctors Association (YDA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tuesday condemned the killing of a female colleague Dr Mahjoo in Kohat the other day, saying the provincial government has completely failed to provide protection to doctors. Speaking at a press conference here at Peshawar Press Club, YDA President Dr Asfandiyar Bhattani said the tragedy could have been prevented if hospitals had basic facilities. He warned that doctors are now forced to confront life-threatening situations daily due to the government's failed policies. He criticized the provincial administration for neglecting hospitals for the past 12 years and called the provincial government fully responsible for doctors' safety. He demanded that Dr Mahjoo's killers be arrested immediately and protection be provided to all medical staff. He also threatened protests and sits-ins at the Chief Minister's House and Adiala Jail if demands are ignored, saying the government's inaction has pushed doctors to the brink.—APP

IUB signs MoU with Chinese Academy of Agri sciences

BAHAWALPUR: The Islamia University of Bahawalpur signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Institute of Urban Agriculture, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences China to promote strategic collaboration in sustainable and urban agriculture. The agreement was signed in Chengdu, China, by Dr Muhammad Shahzad from the Department of Agricultural Extension Education on behalf of IUB and Prof Zhang Dequan, Director of the institute, representing the Chinese partner organization. The MoU outlines cooperation in joint research and project development across key disciplines, including agronomy, plant breeding, horticulture, soil sciences, agricultural extension, food science and technology, ecology, environmental sciences, and intercropping. It also provides for academic exchange and mobility programs for faculty, researchers, postdoctoral fellows, PhD scholars, and undergraduate students.—APP

Governor condemns Kohat terrorist attack

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday strongly condemned the terrorist attack on a police mobile on Shakardara Road in Kohat, which resulted in the martyrdom of a DSP and two other police personnel. The Governor paid glowing tribute to DSP Waheed Mehmood and two other police officials who embraced martyrdom in the line of duty. He prayed for the elevation of ranks of the martyrs and expressed patience and fortitude for the bereaved families. The Governor extended heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the families of the martyrs and expressed best wishes for the speedy recovery of the injured police personnel.—APP

PRCS, TRCS sign MoU, launch Ramazan relief

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prof. Dr. Fatma Meriç Yılmaz, President of the Turkish Red Crescent Society along with Alper Kucuk, Director General for International Affairs and Migration led a high-level delegation from Türkiye on an official visit to the National Headquarters of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society, reaffirming the longstanding, trusted and brotherly humanitarian partnership between the two sister National Societies. Pakistan travel guides During the visit, H.E. Prof. Dr. Yılmaz held a cordial courtesy



ISLAMABAD : Group photo of Dr. Riaz Janjua, Rana Aqeel and other political and social figures after meeting with Khadim Ala Hazrat Bari Imam Sarkar Baba Kilo Sarkar Mansar Sharif Raja Sarfaraz R Akram, senior leader of Pakistan People Party Chaudhry Riaz also present on the occasion.—DNA

KP activates Dengue Action Plan 2026

The Minister directed all district administrations, health facilities, and surveillance teams to remain on high alert and ensure strict implementation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

PESHAWAR :KP Minister for Health Khaliq ur Rehman chaired a high-level meeting to review and activate the Dengue Action Plan (DAP) 2026 in response to the recent reporting of two positive dengue cases in Kohat. Taking immediate notice of the situation, the Health Department has initiated a comprehensive and proactive response to prevent further spread. During the briefing, it was informed that over 94,000 households and 183,000 water containers have been inspected across the province as part of intensified surveillance activities. So far, zero dengue larvae have been detected, reflecting the effectiveness of ongoing preventive measures and coordinated field operations.

The Minister directed all district administrations, health facilities, and surveillance teams to remain on high alert and ensure strict implementation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). He emphasized that early detection, timely response, and community awareness are key pillars of the Dengue Action Plan 2026. The Health Department has also expedited the procurement of insecticides and essential supplies, strengthened community-based surveillance, and activated rapid response teams at district and tehsil levels. Hospitals have been directed to ensure the availability of dengue diagnostic kits, designated isolation wards, and trained medical staff to manage any potential cases efficiently. Mr

Khaliq ur Rehman stated that the provincial government is fully committed to safeguarding public health and will not allow dengue to resurface as a public health threat. He urged citizens to cooperate with field teams, eliminate stagnant water from their surroundings, and follow preventive guidelines issued by the Health Department. "The Dengue Action Plan 2026 is not merely a reactive measure but a proactive, province-wide strategy to maintain zero-larvae status and protect our communities," the Minister remarked. The Health Department will continue daily monitoring, data-driven surveillance, and inter-departmental coordination to ensure that the province remains prepared.—DNA

IESCO notifies power suspension programme

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Tuesday issued a power suspension programme for Wednesday, in various areas of its region due to necessary maintenance and routine development work. According to an IESCO spokesperson, in Islamabad Circle, electricity will remain suspended from 7:00 am to 12:00 pm in NIH, T&T, B/Kahu-I, B/Kahu-II, Tret, Golf City, Park View, and Athal feeders. In Rawalpindi Cantt. Circle, power will remain suspended from 6:00 am to 11:00 am Dk. Farman Ali, Tipu Road feeders. Similarly, in Attock Circle, electricity will remain suspended from 7:00 am to 12:00 pm in Fawara Chowk feeder. In GSO Circle, power supply to 132-KV Chakwal-Bhagwal-Talagang, 132KV Kahuta City-Palandri, and surrounding areas will remain suspended from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm. The IESCO management apologized to consumers for the inconvenience and said that power supply may be restored earlier than scheduled if the maintenance work is completed ahead of time.—APP

Jalalpur Canal to irrigate 174,000 acres of arid land

ISLAMABAD: The Jalalpur Irrigation Project — commonly known as the Jalalpur Canal — is set for completion by December 2027, benefiting around 384,000 people across 80 villages in the Jehlum and Khushab districts. The project aims to divert water from the Jehlum River to irrigate barren lands in the tehsils of Pind Dadan Khan and Khushab. Located along the right bank of the Jehlum River, the Jalalpur Canal is a non-perennial (seasonal) irrigation system that will operate from April to October. The project comprises an intake structure, a 117-kilometre main canal, 23 distributaries, and 10 minor canals with a combined network stretching 210 kilometres. It will also include 485 tertiary-level watercourses and associated infrastructure. "The waters in the canal will irrigate 174,000 acres in the districts of Jehlum and Khushab, lying in the arid zone," said Engr Waheed Ashraf, Project Director of the Jalalpur Irrigation

Project. Talking to Wealth Pakistan, he said the foundation stone of the project was laid in December 2019. Once operational, it is expected to increase Kharif crop intensity by 50 percent. The Asian Development Bank is financing the project, which officials say will significantly enhance agricultural productivity in the region. The concept of the Jalalpur Canal dates back to 1898. During the construction of the Rasul Barrage between 1898 and 1901, the right divide wall was constructed with provisions for a future canal. Similar provisions were maintained during the barrage's reconstruction in 1967 under the Indus Waters Treaty framework. Infrastructure planning also incorporated the canal during the construction of the Lahore-Islamabad Motorway, with a crossing provided near the Lillah Interchange. A feasibility study was first conducted in 1992-93 and later updated in 2010. A fresh feasibility assessment took place between March 2014 and No-

ember 2015, followed by a topographic survey in 2016. Water experts believe the canal will bring about a transformative change to the region. Beyond supplying surface water for irrigation, it is expected to improve groundwater quality, which is currently brackish due to the area's proximity to the Salt Range. "The level of water will rise because of the canal and the area will become fertile," said Dr Ghulam Zakir Hassan Sial, Director of the Irrigation Research Institute (IRI), Punjab. He noted that the canal water would help recharge and improve the aquifer, which is presently saline. Pind Dadan Khan tehsil, located between the Salt Range and the Jehlum River, has long suffered from salinity and brackish flash floods flowing down from the salt-rich hills. High concentrations of natural salts have damaged thousands of acres of farmland, while residents also face acute drinking water shortages due to saline subsoil water. DNA

HEC reaffirms regulatory mandate with accreditation councils

ISLAMABAD: The Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) convened a high-level consultative meeting to deliberate on jurisdictional clarity and enhance coordination among Accreditation Councils in the accreditation of undergraduate programs. According to the commission, the meeting was chaired by Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar, Chairman HEC. Mr. Muhammad Raza Chohan, Member, HEC, along with other senior officials representing the Academics and Curriculum, Quality Assurance, Legal Affairs, Attestation and Accreditation divisions and officials from Accreditation Councils participated in the meeting. The discussion was focused on reinforcing institutional alignment, streamlining accreditation processes, and safeguarding regulatory coherence within the higher education framework. During the meeting, Mr. Muhammad Raza Chohan reiterated HEC's statutory authority under the HEC Ordinance 2002, particularly emphasizing Clause 20, which establishes the overriding effect of the Ordinance over any conflicting legislation. The participants reaffirmed that HEC serves as both regulator and facilitator of higher education in Pakistan. It was emphasized that compliance with HEC-prescribed standards is mandatory at every stage of an institution's academic lifecycle — from establishment and program approval to curriculum development, inclusion in the Pakistan Qualification Register (PQR), and degree attestation. The meeting also provided clarity on the delineation of responsibilities between HEC and Accreditation Councils within the National Qualifications Framework, whereby the Accreditation Councils retain the mandate for accrediting professional undergraduate programs that lead to licensure, while oversight of MS, MPhil, and PhD programs remains within the exclusive purview of the QAA-HEC, unless specific authorization is granted. This clarification aims to eliminate overlaps, enhance coordination, and ensure consistency in quality assurance mechanisms across all academic tiers. Reaffirming HEC's commitment to academic excellence, Chairman HEC Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad directed the convening of a plenary session with all Accreditation Councils to strengthen institutional collaboration and foster a unified quality enhancement strategy. "The integrity and global credibility of Pakistan's higher education system depend upon close coordination between HEC and professional councils," the Chairman stated. "Our shared objective must be to ensure that university programs consistently meet national standards and align with international benchmarks," he added. The meeting concluded with a renewed commitment to collaborative governance, regulatory clarity, and sustained efforts toward strengthening the quality and credibility of higher education in Pakistan.—DNA

The Smooth Moving Connection

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

<p>Karachi Floor No. 14, 4/15, 3rd Floor, Khatkhata Mall, Main Tariq Road, 17/2 Block-2, P.E.C.S. Karachi. Tel: (+92 21) 3453668, 3453949 Fax: (+92 21) 3453742 E-mail: karachi@freelinemovers.com</p>	<p>Lahore P.O. Gulberg Centre, Main Boulevard, Lahore. Tel: (+92 42) 3575881, 3575188 Fax: (+92 42) 3575142 E-mail: lahore@freelinemovers.com</p>	<p>Peshawar Office No. C-6, 3rd Floor, Zaher Plaza, Laff Road, Ring Road, Peshawar. Tel: (+92 91) 2962778 Fax: (+92 91) 2962688 E-mail: peshawar@freelinemovers.com</p>	<p>Rawalpindi House #4, Street #4, Chohan Avenue Road, Dhaib-e-Nau, Kabul, Islamabad. Tel: (+92 991) 775, 93 79396 938, 93 77949 203. E-mail: rawalpindi@freelinemovers.com</p>
---	---	---	---

National Days and Armed Forces Days

Feb 04/Sri Lanka National Day
Feb 06/N. Zealand National Day
Feb 06/Uganda Army Day
Feb 11/Iran Revolution day
Feb 16/DPR Korea National Day
Feb 16/Lithuania National Day
Feb 18/Gambia National Day
Feb 19/Nepal Democracy Day
Feb 23/Uzbekistan National Day
Feb 23/Brunei National Day
Feb 23/Guyana National Day
Feb 23/Russia National Army Day
Feb 23/Tajikistan Armed Forces Day
Feb 25/Kuwait National Day

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 Exchange 9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi..5555489
CAA.....9281092



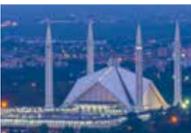
Hospitals

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



Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation.....9209224
Potohar Town.....9209224
Rawal Town.....5773343

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Pak-Iran ties enter most constructive phase: Envoy

Addressing the gathering, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan, Reza Amiri-Moghaddam, said that the two neighboring countries share a long common border and together represent a population of nearly 350 million people

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Iran are witnessing one of the most constructive phases of their bilateral relationship in recent decades, marked by high-level exchanges, expanding economic cooperation and close coordination on regional issues, speakers said at a public talk held here on Tuesday. The event titled "Pakistan-Iran Relations: An Enduring Partnership in a Changing Region" was organised by the Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) under its Ambassador's Platform, said a press release. Addressing the gathering, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan, Reza Amiri-Moghaddam, said that the two neighboring countries share a long common border and together represent a population of nearly 350 million people. Robust people-to-people ties, a strategically significant geographic location, substantial complementary, and non-competitive economic structures create extensive opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation. He further opined that Iran and Pakistan also maintain closely aligned positions on numerous regional and international issues, including the question of Palestine. He noted that terrorism and separatist movements are other serious challenges requiring enhanced cooperation and coordination between the two neighbors. Moreover, their collaboration is reinforced through regional engagement, mutual diplomatic support, and common membership in important multilateral platforms such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), and the Developing Eight Organization for



Economic Cooperation (D-8). He also shed light on the fact that Iran-Pakistan relations are currently experiencing one of their most constructive phases in recent decades. The exchange of more than 25 high-level delegations over the past two years, along with the signing of 25 agreements and memoranda of understanding across diverse sectors, reflects the upward trajectory of cooperation and the shared recognition of the strategic importance of bilateral relations. Two presidential visits from Iran within this period, in addition to visits by the Speaker of Parliament, the Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, foreign ministers, and other senior officials, underscore the depth and dynamism of mutual interaction. Ambassador Reza also pointed to the vast economic potential of regional cooperation, noting

that Pakistan and Iran together represent a market of nearly two billion people, which could further expand with the inclusion of Türkiye. He concluded by saying that Iran-Pakistan relations rest upon a solid foundation of shared history, cultural affinity, and common strategic interests. Chairman Board of Governors ISSI, Khalid Mahmood, said Pakistan and Iran are brotherly countries bound by history, culture and religion, with relations predating Pakistan's independence. He recalled that Iran was the first country to recognise Pakistan and supported it during the 1965 and 1971 wars. While acknowledging that the relationship has experienced challenging phases, he noted that both countries today are closer than ever, though issues such as terrorism and sectarianism still require attention. In a changing regional environment,

he said, Pakistan and Iran remain committed to pursuing peaceful and cooperative solutions. Director CAMEA, Amina Khan, said the bilateral relationship is grounded in historical ties, geographic proximity and intertwined security and economic interests. She emphasised sustained high-level engagement and close coordination on regional developments, including Afghanistan and the situation in Gaza. She further said that during last year's 12-day Israeli aggression, Pakistan strongly condemned Israel's military strikes against Iran, labeling them "reckless" provocations that threaten regional stability and a "grave violation of Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity", international law, and the UN Charter. The talk was attended by diplomats, academics, students, practitioners and members of the civil society.

Soyabean oil import decreases by 42.27%

On a month-on-month basis, the imports of food commodities were recorded at \$871.468 million in January 2026 as compared to the exports of \$783.438 million in December 2025

ISLAMABAD: The import of soyabean oil into the country during the first seven months of the current financial year decreased by 42.27 per cent as compared to the import of the corresponding period of the last year. During the period from July-January, 2025-26, about 85,771 metric tons of soyabean oil costing \$94.991 million were imported in order to fulfill the local consumption, according to the data of the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. The soyabean oil import into the country during the seven months of the last financial year was recorded at 94,991 metric tons valued at 164.550 million, it added. Meanwhile, the import of palm oil into the country during the first seven months of the current financial year increased by 24.28 per cent as 2.182 mil-

lion metric tons of the above-mentioned commodity costing \$2.350 billion were imported to fulfill the local requirements of edible oil and vegetable ghee. The import of palm oil during the same period of the last year was recorded at 1.887 million metric tons valued at \$1.885 billion, it added. It is worth mentioning here that the food commodities valued at \$2.988 billion were exported during the first seven months of the current financial year, as compared to the exports of \$4.613 billion of the corresponding period of the last year. During the period from July to January, 2025-26, food exports from the country decreased by 35.21 per cent compared to the exports of the same period of the last year. On a month-

on-month basis, the food commodities worth 624.445 million were exported in January 2026, as against the exports of \$405.983 million in December 2025. On the other hand, the food group imports into the country during the first seven months of the current financial year increased by 19.26 per cent as compared to the corresponding period of the last year. The food commodities costing \$5.502 billion were imported during the seven months of the current financial year as compared to the imports of \$4.613 billion of the last year. On a month-on-month basis, the imports of food commodities were recorded at \$871.468 million in January 2026 as compared to the exports of \$783.438 million in December 2025.—DNA

Dialogue on 'Re-imagining Governance' today

ISLAMABAD: A flagship Pakistan Governance Forum-2026 would open here on Wednesday, bringing together top federal and provincial leadership, policy experts and development partners for a two-day high-level dialogue titled "Re-imagining Governance" under the vision of URAAN Pakistan. The forum, organized by the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, would outline a forward-looking reform agenda focused on institutional modernization, economic resilience and sustainable development. Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal would deliver the opening remarks, setting the tone for deliberations centered on governance reforms, policy coherence and improved service delivery. The forum would convene key members of the federal cabinet and provincial leadership to deliberate on cross-sectoral reforms and coordinated implementation mechanisms. Chief Minister Sindh Murad Ali Shah, Chief Minister Balochistan Sarfraz Bugti and Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Yar Muhammad are scheduled to address the forum, sharing their respective provinces' reform initiatives and development priorities. Finance Adviser to the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muzammil Aslam would also speak on fiscal and governance measures undertaken by the province. At the federal level, Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar, Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik, Minister for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Minister for Power Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Privatization Muhammad Ali, Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Musadik Malik, and Minister of State for Law and Justice Aqeel Malik would present sector-specific reform strategies aligned with the national development framework.—DNA

Police nab sons over stepfather's killing

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested two step sons accused of killing their stepfather in a shooting last month, police spokesperson said on Tuesday. The Cantt police detained the suspects after they went into hiding following the attack. According to investigators, the suspects were aggrieved by their mother's remarriage and allegedly shot their stepfather dead before fleeing the area. Police said the arrests were made using a technical surveillance and human intelligence. SP Potohar Sardar Babar Mumtaz Khan said the suspects would be produced before a court with "solid evidence" to ensure punishment under the law.—APP

10 Afghan nationals among 66 suspects shifted

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police continued large-scale search and combing operations in various areas of the federal capital as part of efforts to curb criminal activities and check illegal residents, during which 10 Afghan nationals were among the suspected individuals shifted for verification. An official told APP on Tuesday that police teams conducted search operations in the jurisdictions of Industrial Area, Sialha, Sangjani, and Karachi Company police stations, during which 66 suspected individuals, including 10 Afghan nationals, were shifted to the relevant police stations for verification. Lady police officials also participated in the operations. He said that senior officers briefed the teams before the operations to ensure effective coordination and safety compliance.—APP

IRSA releases 110,000 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 110,000 cusecs of water from various rim stations with inflow of 38,300 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in the River Indus at Tarbela Dam stood at 1476.23 feet which was 74.23 feet higher than the dead level of 1402.00 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam were recorded as 12,200 cusecs and 35,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1176.25 feet, which was 126.25 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 11,100 cusecs and 60,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kala-bagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 32,800, 34,600, 35,800, and 9,600 cusecs, respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul.—APP

FUUAST 390 students receive laptops under PM's scheme

DNA

ISLAMABAD: As many as 390 students of Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science and Technology (FUUAST) were awarded laptops under the Prime Minister's Laptop Scheme at a ceremony held on Tuesday, aimed at promoting digital learning and empowering youth through technology. Minister of State for Education and Professional Training Wajiha Qamar attended the ceremony as the chief guest and, along with Vice Chancellor Dr Zabta Khan Shinwari, distributed laptops among the students. Addressing the ceremony, Wajiha Qamar said that the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was transforming the future of the country's youth by connecting them with the world through modern technology. She said such initiatives enable students to access global knowledge and learning opportunities while staying at home. She praised the progress of Federal Urdu University, noting that the institution was playing an important role in promoting higher education and research. She also said that the government would soon provide a bailout package to support the university's development and address its financial challenges. Vice Chancellor Dr Zabta Khan Shinwari said the university was fulfilling its mission of education and research in Urdu as the national language and contributing significantly to national development. He expressed gratitude to the government and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for equipping students with laptops, calling it a valuable step toward strengthening academic and research capabilities. He urged students to use the laptops for academic and research purposes and to dedicate themselves to serving Pakistan. Campus In-Charge Dr Saba Bashir congratulated the students who received laptops under the scheme. Meanwhile, Government College Women University Faisalabad (GCWUF) organized Prime Minister's Laptop Distribution Ceremony under PM's Youth Program and distributed laptops among 637 meritorious students on the basis of academic excellence. GCWUF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Kanwal Ameen attended the ceremony as chief guest while Ms Qudsia Batool, MPA, attended it as guest of honor. Speaking on the occasion, Ms Qudsia Batool congratulated the students and said that national leadership is connecting youth to the digital world. She urged them to treat the laptops not merely as devices but as tools for skill development, learning and nation-building in the digital age.

GCWUF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Kanwal Ameen encouraged the students to use digital opportunities wisely and remain self-motivated in addition to pursuing lifelong learning with focus and discipline. Later, she along

with Ms Qudsia Batool and coordinators also distributed laptops among the selected students. Dr Shazia Riaz Focal Person for Laptop Scheme and others were also present on the occasion.



Briefs

Zamurrad urges Ramadan donations for sweet homes

ISLAMABAD: Patron-in-Chief of Pakistan Sweet Homes, on Tuesday urged philanthropists and affluent citizens to strengthen the foundation's mission through generous donations, reaffirming his pledge to nurture qualified and capable individuals for national leadership.

Talking to PTV News, Zamurrad Khan praised the children's spirit, discipline and dedication, highlighting their journey from Islamabad, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Kashmir all brought together under one umbrella shelter.

He encouraged the public to donate during Ramadan to support these children, who are being trained and educated to become tomorrow's leaders.

Zamurrad Khan reaffirmed his commitment to nurturing these young talents, stating, "These children are the future of Pakistan. I promise that with the right guidance and education, they will one day take their place in parliament."

He emphasized that Pakistan Sweet Homes provides world-class training, education and discipline, preparing children to become responsible, ethical and skilled citizens.

He also invited the public to participate in the special Ramadan iftar at H9 with the children, encouraging everyone to share love, tolerance and play an active role in the upbringing of young citizens.—APP

Police intensify grand search operations

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police continued large-scale search and combing operations in various areas of the federal capital as part of efforts to curb criminal activities and check illegal residents, during which 10 Afghan nationals were among the suspected individuals shifted for verification. An official told APP on Tuesday that police teams conducted search operations in the jurisdictions of Industrial Area, Sihala, Sangjani, and Karachi Company police stations, during which 66 suspected individuals, including 10 Afghan nationals, were shifted to the relevant police stations for verification. Lady police officials also participated in the operations. He said that senior officers briefed the teams before the operations to ensure effective coordination and safety compliance. During the search operations, police teams checked 395 individuals and 161 households. Police also inspected 74 shops and 101 hotels/guest houses.—APP

AIU exams to begin nationwide on March 2

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU) has announced that its Fall 2025 final examinations for Matric, FA, Associate Degree, BA, BS, B.Ed and Postgraduate Diploma programs will commence simultaneously across all provinces of Pakistan including Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir on Monday, March 2. According to the schedule, examinations will continue uninterrupted from March 2 to March 17. Due to Eid-ul-Fitr, a break in examinations has been scheduled from March 18 to March 25. The first paper after the Eid break will be held on Thursday, March 26 and the examination period will conclude on May 13. Students are reminded to adhere strictly to the exam timings, as no candidate will be permitted to sit for an exam without a valid roll number slip and identification card. The official date sheet is available on the university's website, while students can access their roll number slips through their CMS portals.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Motorcyclists standing a queue for M-Tag installation at Kachnar Park.

Feb 28 deadline for bikes M-Tag

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration has set February 28 as the final date for installing M-Tags on motorcycles under the second phase of the city-wide registration drive. From March 1, motorcycles without M-Tags will not be allowed on roads, and such vehicles will be shifted to police stations. Officials said the step is aimed at improving monitoring and public safety, and urged riders to complete registration before the deadline. According to the Directorate of Excise and Taxation, motorcycle owners can get M-Tags installed up to February 28. From March 1, enforcement will begin across Islamabad. Riding a motorcycle without an M-Tag will not be permitted, and vehicles found in violation will be taken into custody. The Director General Excise said the campaign is part of a broader plan to strengthen identification and tracking of vehicles in the federal capital. He confirmed that enforcement teams will start action immediately after the deadline to ensure compliance. Meanwhile, officials shared progress figures from the second phase, stating that more than 2,000 motorcycles have already received M-Tags. The administration expects this number to rise as the deadline approaches. To facilitate the public, M-Tag centers will remain open on holidays, including weekends. Additional staff has been deployed at registration centers to manage increased footfall and reduce waiting time for motorcycle owners. Authorities advised riders to visit centers early to avoid last-minute rush. The Excise Department also said that information desks are available at centers to guide applicants on the process and required documents. Motorcycle owners are required to bring standard ownership documents to complete registration. Officials appealed to citizens to cooperate with the drive and follow the deadline. They said public participation is essential for making the city safer and for the smooth implementation of government measures. The administration reiterated that the M-Tag system will help in vehicle identification and record management. It also supports law enforcement in routine checks and investigations. Motorcycle owners were advised not to delay registration and to ensure compliance before February 28 to avoid inconvenience from March 1 onward.—

Gilani, Saudi envoy discuss bilateral ties at iftar dinner

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani and Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmad Al-Malkiy discussed Pakistan-Saudi bilateral relations in detail, along with the regional and global situation, challenges facing the Muslim Ummah, and avenues for enhanced cooperation across various sectors. The discussion took place during an iftar dinner hosted by the Saudi ambassador in Islamabad on Monday evening. Both leaders reaffirmed their

commitment to further strengthening the historic, deep-rooted, and brotherly ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, and to expanding cooperation into new areas. The event was attended by a large number of prominent political, diplomatic, and social figures. Among the distinguished guests were Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi, Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori, Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Sardar Muhammad Yousaf, Senator Muhammad Talha

Mahmood, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political Affairs Senator Rana Sanaullah Khan, Minister of State for Interior Muhammad Tallal Badar, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, and former Member of the National Assembly Khurram Dasgiri Khan. Parliamentarians, diplomats, senior bureaucrats, journalists, leading business personalities, and members of the trade community were also present on the occasion. The Chairman Senate conveyed his best wishes to the Custodian of the Two Holy

Mosques and emphasised that Pakistan holds its relationship with Saudi Arabia in the highest esteem. He said that the religious, cultural, and strategic bonds between the two countries continue to grow stronger over time, reflecting mutual trust and solidarity. Ambassador Al-Malkiy said Saudi Arabia attaches special importance to its relations with Pakistan. He reiterated that the two brotherly nations have consistently supported each other's positions and expressed confidence that bilateral cooperation would continue to expand in the future.

PTCL posts 12% revenue growth in 2025

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL), the country's leading telecom and ICT services provider, recorded a 12% year-on-year (YoY) increase in consolidated revenue for the year ended December 31, 2025, driven by 50% growth in Flash Fiber and 16% growth in Business Solutions compared to the previous financial year. PTCL announced its consolidated annual financial results, highlighting strong revenue growth and reaffirming its position as Pakistan's premier integrated telecom and ICT services provider. Consolidated revenue rose by 12% YoY, supported by robust performance across fixed broadband, enterprise, wholesale, and mobile services. Consolidated operating profit surged by 216% year-on-year, reflecting improved operational efficiency. However, the Group recorded a net loss of Rs. 9.7 billion, primarily due to accelerated Expected Credit Loss (ECL) provisioning at Ubank following revisions to the Prudential Regulations. The Carrier and Wholesale segment maintained strong momentum, posting 28% growth, while the international segment registered a 3% YoY revenue increase. At the standalone level, PTCL's operating profit reached Rs. 18.2 billion, marking a 49% YoY increase. The company posted a net profit of Rs. 1.4 billion despite the one-off booking of an additional pension liability amounting to Rs. 6.9 billion, pursuant to a decision by the Supreme Court of Pakistan. Ufone recorded 14% YoY revenue growth, driven by retail and corporate segments. Its operating profit reached Rs. 17.6 billion, reflecting a 283% increase year-on-year, while the net loss narrowed significantly by 89%. PTCL achieved a major milestone with the successful acquisition of Telenor Pakistan after securing all requisite regulatory approvals. The transaction was formally completed on December 31, 2025. However, Telenor Pakistan's operational results will be consolidated from January 1, 2026. With Telenor Pakistan and Orion Towers operating as wholly owned subsidiaries, the acquisition marks one of Pakistan's most significant telecom consolidations. PTCL has initiated steps toward the planned amalgamation of Telenor Pakistan and Ufone, subject to regulatory approvals. The integration aims to enhance nationwide network coverage, improve operational efficiencies, strengthen market competitiveness, and support long-term strategic priorities across connectivity and digital services. PTCL Flash Fiber continued to lead the fiber broadband market, achieving 50% year-on-year growth and maintaining the highest subscriber market share at 33%. The introduction of the high-value "Tez Raftaar" offer expanded access to affordable high-speed internet, enhancing customer experience and supporting broader digital adoption.—APP

Oppression will fail to silence Kashmir's call for self-determination

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of the Peace and Culture Organization, Mushaal Hussein Mullick, spouse of incarcerated Hurriyat leader Muhammad Yasin Malik, declared that the blood and sacrifices of Kashmiris will fuel their struggle rather than weaken it and stressed that India's use of force and oppression will never succeed in silencing the collective voice demanding self-determination. While speaking to a local news channel, Mushaal Hussein Mullick said that Kashmir's demand for self-determination cannot be silenced, declaring that no force or oppression can suppress the collective will of the Kashmiri people. She stated that decades of sacrifices have only strengthened their resolve and reinforced their commitment to achieving their fundamental rights. The Chairperson of the Peace and Culture Organization emphasized that continued repression and coercive measures have failed to break the spirit of Kashmiris. She maintained that every attempt to stifle their voices has

instead amplified their call for justice and drawn greater international attention to their cause. She further reiterated that the sacrifices rendered by the people of Kashmir will not go in vain, asserting that the struggle for self-determination is rooted in resilience, courage, and an unwavering belief in freedom. Lasting peace in the region can only be achieved by acknowledging and respecting the legitimate aspirations of the Kashmiri people, she added. Mushaal Hussein Mullick claimed that India is perpetuating fear and repression in Kashmir through the killing of young civilians, arguing that such actions are intensifying resentment rather than restoring calm. She accused India of pursuing policies that destabilize Pakistan and destabilize the wider region. Citing the continued detention of Hurriyat leader Muhammad Yasin Malik and other in Jails, she warned that any harm to them could spark heightened tensions and significantly escalate the already fragile security situation.—DNA

Pakistanis stand united behind armed forces

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Pakistan Ulema Council, Hafiz Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, on Tuesday, affirmed that Ulema from every school of thought in Pakistan stand shoulder to shoulder with the armed forces. He urged the religious scholars and people of Afghanistan to press their leadership to prevent their soil from being used against Pakistan and warned that any aggression in this regard will be met decisively. In an exclusive video message on PTV News, Ashrafi recalled how Pakistan has always provided shelter and support to Afghan refugees, treating them with brotherly care. He noted that even now, many Afghans are living in Pakistan, yet despite this longstanding generosity, the current Taliban interim regime is once again allowing their land to be used against Pakistan for terrorist activities. Ashrafi emphasized that terrorism has reached every corner of the country, and no province or even place of

worship is spared from terrorist attacks. He warned that such aggression can no longer be tolerated and that Pakistan will respond firmly to protect its people and sovereignty. Urging Afghan scholars and the nation to reflect on these developments, he called for immediate action to hold leaders accountable and prevent further misuse of Afghan soil. He stressed that responsible voices in Afghanistan must step forward before the situation escalates further. He said Pakistan is a nuclear power and its armed forces are among the best in the world. Referring to the recent attack on a training camp, he criticized the propaganda that followed and condemned statements by the Afghan spokesperson, stressing that such actions will not be tolerated. He affirmed that Pakistanis stand united behind their armed forces to defend the country and its territory against terrorism.—APP

Govt enforcing Int'l safety standards to curb road accidents

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhary on Tuesday informed the Senate that the government was implementing measures aligned with international safety standards to control road accidents, including registration of FIRs against serious violations and cancellation of driving licences. Responding to a Calling Attention Notice raised by Senator Zamir Hussain Ghumro regarding frequent fatal accidents on National Highway in Sindh due to lack of safety measures, the minister said road safety measures were being enforced uniformly across the country without any provincial discrimination. He rejected the impression of discrepancies in safety enforcement

on national highways, stating that accident prevention policies remained consistent throughout Pakistan. The minister acknowledged that the number of fatalities from road accidents in Pakistan was comparatively higher than many other countries. Providing details regarding Sindh, he said a 936-kilometre network of national highways fell within the province, including major routes such as the M-9, N-5 and N-55. He said round-the-clock patrolling was being carried out on key highways, while additional monitoring was ensured during peak traffic hours to minimize risks. Tariq Fazal said awareness initiatives, including road safety campaigns, seminars

and educational programmes, were being conducted across all provinces, including Sindh. Highlighting recent policy shifts, he said the government had introduced stricter enforcement mechanisms aimed at deterrence. He said penalties for over-speeding had been enhanced, while vehicles involved in serious violations could now be impounded following the registration of FIRs. The minister informed the House that the cancellation of driving licences had also been introduced as a preventive measure against reckless driving. He said the new enforcement framework was designed to discourage habitual violations, noting that financial penalties alone often proved ineffective.—APP

MOST EXPERIENCED
MANUFACTURERS &
EXPORTERS OF
MARTIAL ARTS UNIFORMS
IN
PAKISTAN

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

WHERE EACH STITCH IS WATCHED

Ashraf

ASHRAF INDUSTRIES (PVT) LTD
127 C, Industrial Estate
Shahkot-51340, Pakistan
Phone: +92-62-3256000 / 3256788
E-mail: info@ashraf.net.pk

Huckabee's positions closer to Netanyahu's than Trump's

CHRIS DOYLE

A SINGLE interview with an American diplomat has triggered a furious joint statement from 14 states, most of them allies of the US. Is there a precedent for an interview of a sitting ambassador of any state that has created such shock waves? The online reaction was often hysterical. If we live in an attention economy, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee – an evangelical Baptist pastor and the US ambassador to Israel – has just scored big time, as has his interviewer, the right-wing conservative broadcaster Tucker Carlson. The core point in the two-and-a-half-hour interview came when Huckabee, a Donald Trump appointee, espoused the Christian Zionist view that Israel was entitled to all the land from the Nile to the Euphrates, saying: "It would be fine if they took it all." This is the classic religious extremist view that God made the Jews the chosen people and promised them, uniquely, the land. Huckabee tried to excuse the view by claiming that the situation was not grave because, even though he believed that God did give the Jews, through Abraham, all that land in Genesis, chapter 15, Israel was not trying to take it. "They're not trying to take over Jordan, they're not trying to take over Syria, they're not trying to take over Iraq or anywhere else," he said. This may not be very reassuring. Israel is currently occupying five hilltops in Lebanon and large swathes of Syria, even beyond the Golan Heights. Israel has never declared its final borders. And Huckabee's comments come at a time when the Israeli government has just further narrowed the gap between de facto and de jure annexation of the West Bank. Huckabee holds views that do not belong in the diplomatic arena, not least in a zone of protracted conflict. Does this matter? Huckabee is the representative of the US and a friend of President Trump. He does not speak solely as a pastor but a diplomat from Israel's most vital backer. There are many within Israel who endorse these views: that Israel should have all the territory between the two great rivers. He will embolden them.



Huckabee will also embolden the 80 million Christian evangelicals back in the US, many of whom share his messianic views. This includes, for example, Secretary of State for War Pete Hegseth. Many hold the view that it is necessary to expel all the Palestinians from the Holy Land in order to bring back Jesus Christ for the Rapture and end of days. Is this much different to the hard-line views of religious clerics in Iran? This undermines international law, previous agreements and the efforts being made through the Trump plan for Gaza. How do you argue with a position that essentially says Gaza is for the Jews, so is the West Bank and, in fact, most neighboring countries too because God said so? Appointing Huckabee was foolhardy in the first instance. He is not a diplomat or even close. He holds views that do not belong in the diplomatic arena, not least in a zone of protracted conflict. He has a history of gaffes. In 2015, when running for president, he referred to Russia as the Soviet Union. He is also a compulsive warmonger. At a time when Trump is pushing for a deal with Iran, Huckabee clearly wants war. Huckabee's positions are far closer to that of Benjamin Netanyahu's Israeli government than the Trump administration. Huckabee would feel scarily comfortable embedded in the Likud ranks of the Knesset. As Carlson highlighted, Huckabee was representing an Israeli view on the region, not an American one. It is some accusation that an ambassador subordinates the interests of his nation for another. But Huckabee has a range of other problematic viewpoints. He calls the West Bank Judea and Samaria. He has stated "there's really no such thing as a Palestinian." He considers the International Criminal Court and International Court of Justice to be "rogue organizations." Last year, Huckabee met the convicted traitor Jonathan Pollard at the US Embassy in Jerusalem. Pollard was found guilty of passing secrets to Israel about American defense plans regarding the Soviet Union. Israel passed them on to Moscow. But Huckabee is also a compulsive warmonger. At a time when his boss, Trump, is pushing for a deal with Iran, Huckabee clearly wants war. In that, he is side by side with Netanyahu. If you want any sense of the fallout, check out Huckabee's dozens of post-interview damage limitation posts. He knows he has sparked fury. Alarmingly, Trump and Secretary of State Rubio did not immediately distance themselves from Huckabee's comments, let alone repudiate them. Will they do so and in a clear, robust fashion? Many other administrations would likely consider replacing Huckabee, given that his views are so completely incompatible with his role. The ambassador will be dealing with people who will know his view is that they should not be there and that their people do not even exist.

Tucker Carlson's Revolt Against America's Israel Policy

Qamar Bashir



Carlson then pressed further, asking whether the ambassador was implying that the U.S. military operates with lower moral standards than the IDF. In response, the ambassador cited historical examples of American warfare, including the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the flattening of the entire Germany during World War II during and civilian casualties in Iraq, Libya and Afghanistan. The Ambassador seemed so bought up by Israel that in defence of the IDF that he blamed the US army as worse than the IDF, clearly reflecting...

IF there is one American media figure who has done more than any other to rupture the long-standing conservative consensus on Israel, it is Tucker Carlson. A son of a diplomat and a deeply patriotic American, Carlson has positioned himself as the most relentless critic of Israel's outsized influence over U.S. foreign policy, congressional decision-making, business networks and geopolitical strategy. In his telling, Washington's reflexive alignment with Israel has drawn the United States into wars, drained its treasury and compromised its sovereignty. That argument was on full display in February 2026 at Ben-Gurion Airport, where Carlson conducted a combative, two-and-a-half-hour interview with U.S. Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee. Carlson accused American officials of "prioritizing Israel" over their own country, pressing Huckabee over civilian casualties in Gaza, biblical rhetoric invoked by Israeli leaders, extradition disputes and the scale of U.S. military aid. Carlson's contention was blunt: if American taxpayers provide billions in assistance – at least \$16.3 billion in direct military aid since October 2023, with broader estimates exceeding \$21 billion – then American officials have a duty to ask hard questions. He framed the issue as a defense of U.S. sovereignty. Why, he asked, should a prosperous, technologically advanced nation with a strong per-capita income require continuous American subsidy? During the interview, Carlson raised the issue of Christian casualties in Gaza and the West Bank, as well as the destruction of churches, hospitals, and schools operated by Christian communities. He questioned the ambassador about reports that Christian civilians had been killed and Christian institutions damaged during military operations. The ambassador acknowledged that such incidents had occurred, describing them as unintended consequences of war and stating that Israel had expressed regret over those events. The debate intensified when the ambassador argued that Christians enjoy greater protection in Israel than in many Muslim-majority countries. Carlson challenged that assertion, claiming that there are more Christians in Qatar alone than in Israel. He further argued that Qatar has provided land for churches, schools, and hospitals and that Christians there live openly and peacefully. In contrast, Carlson alleged that Christians in Israel face intimidation and harassment and that their numbers have declined in recent years due to emigration. While referring to the Epstein files that have been made public in the United States, Carlson raised the

issue of connections between Jeffrey Epstein, the established paedophile and blackmailer and Israeli intelligence agency Mossad, and the present President and former prime ministers of Israel. He said that Israel used Epstein's facility to compromise influential political figures, royalty, senators, and members of Congress through illicit activities involving minors and used their engagement as a blackmailing tool to garner support for Israel in the important decision making in Washington and other influential political capitals. He confronted the Ambassador to hold the Israelis accomplices of Epstein accountable. The Ambassador admitted the connection between Epstein and Mossad but evaded the question by stating the responsibility for prosecuting crimes committed on U.S. soil lies with American authorities, since Epstein operated primarily within the United States. During the interview, Carlson directly confronted a theological claim of Israel for the land promised to them by God "from the Nile to the Euphrates." He pointed out that, if interpreted literally in contemporary geopolitical terms, such a claim would encompass parts of present-day Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and beyond. Carlson pressed the ambassador on whether this scriptural narrative could justify territorial expansion under the banner of a so-called "Greater Israel." In response, the ambassador said that if Israel conquered those territories then why not. The tone and tenor of the Ambassador clearly suggested that he was aligned with the Israel dream of greater Israel and was playing his part to pursue the elusive Israeli dream. During the exchange, Carlson raised the issue of civilian casualties, specifically asking about how thousands of children had been killed during Israeli military operations. The ambassador acknowledged that large numbers of civilians, including thousands of children, have died in the conflict, but maintained that the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) attempt to minimize civilian harm even much better than the US army does. Carlson then pressed further, asking whether the ambassador was implying that the U.S. military operates with lower moral standards than the IDF. In response, the ambassador cited historical examples of American warfare, including the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the flattening of the entire Germany during World War II during and civilian casualties in Iraq, Libya and Afghanistan. The Ambassador seemed so bought up by Israel that in defence of the IDF that he blamed the US army as worse than the IDF, clearly

reflecting where his loyalties are and how, instead of defending the interests of the US in Israel, he was defending Israel which was against the term of employment of an Ambassador. Under the Vienna Convention an ambassador's foremost duty is to represent and protect the interests of the sending state—not to advocate for the host country. In a high-profile interview, the ideal ambassadorial posture would have re-centered the discussion on U.S. interests rather than theological or expansionist narratives. Now the question has been raised as to why Israel has strengthened its regional deterrence capabilities while the United States has borne significant costs—deploying troops, maintaining military bases across the region, committing naval assets to protect sea lanes and allied interests, and providing substantial financial and military assistance. They argue that this burden has placed American personnel and infrastructure at heightened risk while increasing fiscal and geopolitical strain. As a result of Carlson's crusade against Israel's tyranny in Gaza, West Bank, Lebanon, Syria, Qatar and Iran and its support based in Congress, Senate and White House, according to Pew Research Center, the public's views of Israel have turned more negative over the past three years. More than half of U.S. adults (53%) now express an unfavorable opinion of Israel, up from 42% in March 2022 – before the Hamas attack of Oct. 7, 2023, and the ensuing Israeli invasion of the Gaza Strip. What began as a series of interviews has now evolved into a defining ideological confrontation within American conservatism. Carlson is not merely questioning battlefield tactics or diplomatic language; he is challenging the moral, financial, and strategic foundations of America's unconditional alignment with Israel. By forcing senators and ambassadors to defend casualty figures, regime-change rhetoric, and billions in aid, he has exposed a widening rift between interventionist orthodoxy and nationalist restraint. Whether one views his campaign as courageous accountability or destabilizing provocation, it has undeniably shattered the illusion of consensus. The Republican Party may still stand institutionally with Israel, but the grassroots conversation has changed – and once a foreign policy doctrine is dragged into open public trial, it rarely returns to unquestioned authority. – Press Secretary to the President (Rtd) Former Press Minister, Embassy of Pakistan to France Former Press Attaché to Malaysia Former MD, SRBC | Macomb, Michigan

No Aggression, Only Protection: Pakistan's Strategic Clarity

Muhammad Mohsin Iqbal



Pakistan's western frontier presents a more complex and painful narrative. Since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in December 1979, Pakistan has borne immense burdens, hosting millions of Afghan refugees and extending humanitarian assistance in times of famine, conflict and displacement. From providing flour and essential supplies during economic crises to offering shelter...

SINCE its emergence upon the map of the world on 14 August 1947, Pakistan has consistently adhered to a policy of restraint rather than aggression. In a region long marked by rivalries and unresolved disputes, it has neither pursued expansionist designs nor sought entanglement beyond the imperatives of its security. History bears witness that whenever Pakistan has taken up arms, it has done so in response to external aggression or in defence of its sovereignty and people. From the wars of 1948, 1965 and 1971 to the recent standoff with India in May 2025, its actions have been reactive, measured and proportionate. This posture is not merely strategic; it is moral. The Holy Qur'an lays down a principle that has guided Muslim conduct in conflict: "Fight in the way of Allah those who fight you, but do not transgress. Indeed, Allah does not love the transgressors" (Al-Baqarah 2:190). The command is clear—defence is permitted, aggression is forbidden. Likewise, the Qur'an instructs, "And if they incline to peace, then incline to it [also] and rely upon Allah" (Al-Anfal 8:61). These verses establish a balance between vigilance and reconciliation, between preparedness and peace. Pakistan's security doctrine has consistently reflected this equilibrium. The events of May 2025 offered a contemporary illustration. Following provocations and threats to its security, Pakistan responded with precision and caution, ensuring that civilian life and religious sanctities were respected. It is worth recalling that during armed conflict, the Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) strictly forbade harm to non-combatants and destruction of places of worship. In an authentic Hadith, he instructed armies: "Do not kill women, children, the elderly, or monks in their monasteries." This Prophetic guidance remains a moral compass, rejecting indiscriminate violence and upholding the sanctity of life. Pakistan's western frontier presents a more complex and painful narrative. Since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in December 1979, Pakistan has borne immense burdens, hosting millions of Afghan refugees and extending humanitarian assistance in times of famine, conflict and displacement. From providing flour and essential supplies during economic crises to offering shelter and opportunity, Pa-

kistan acted in the spirit of the Qur'anic injunction: "And cooperate in righteousness and piety" (Al-Ma'idah 5:2). It sought fraternity, not friction. Yet goodwill cannot substitute for security. In recent years, sanctuaries for the group identified by Pakistan as Fitna al Khawarij (FAK), along with affiliates and ISKP elements, have operated from across the border, orchestrating attacks against civilians, mosques, imambargahs and security forces within Pakistan. The Qur'an unequivocally condemns such violence: "Whoever kills a soul unless for a soul or for corruption [done] in the land—it is as if he had slain mankind entirely" (Al-Ma'idah 5:32). Those who target innocents in markets, places of worship, and public spaces violate the core principles of Islam they falsely claim to uphold. After repeated warnings and the sharing of verifiable intelligence with Afghan authorities, Pakistan conducted intelligence-based, selective precision engagements against identified terrorist camps and hideouts. These operations were narrowly focused on terrorist leadership and infrastructure directly linked to cross-border attacks. They were not directed against Afghanistan as a state, its civilians, or its security forces. Claims alleging deliberate targeting of civilians or sacred places are malicious distortions designed to obscure the misuse of religious cover by extremist elements. The abuse of mosques and madrassahs as operational hubs is itself a desecration. The Qur'an condemns those who exploit sacred institutions for corruption: "And who are more unjust than those who prevent the name of Allah from being mentioned in His mosques and strive toward their destruction?" (Al-Baqarah 2:114). When terrorists convert places of worship into marakiz—centres for indoctrination, planning and launching attacks—they betray both faith and humanity. Pakistan's response has been limited and proportionate, consistent with the international law principle of self-defence and the Qur'anic injunction: "Permission [to fight] has been given to those who are being fought, because they were wronged" (Al-Hajj 22:39). Sovereignty cannot be invoked as a shield for cross-border terrorism. Denying

sanctuaries to violent non-state actors is the minimum obligation of responsible statehood. At the same time, Pakistan has not externalized responsibility. In 2025 alone, it conducted 75,175 intelligence-based operations nationwide—an average of 206 per day—eliminating 2,597 terrorists. Hundreds of civilians and security personnel embraced martyrdom in defence of the homeland. These figures reflect a sustained and comprehensive internal counterterrorism effort. The cross-border dimension is an additional factor, not an excuse. Pakistan has repeatedly sought negotiated and verifiable arrangements through diplomatic channels, including mediation facilitated by brotherly countries. The Qur'an provides guidance in cases of discord between Muslim parties: "If two groups among the believers fight, make peace between them... and act justly; indeed, Allah loves those who act justly" (Al-Hujurat 49:9). Pakistan has fulfilled this injunction—seeking dialogue, offering evidence, and inviting cooperation. Yet justice also requires firmness when aggression persists. The clarity shown politically and militarily within Pakistan, supported by religious scholars who have declared these terrorists to be outside the bounds of Islamic conduct, must be matched by corresponding resolve across the border. A lack of decisive action benefits only spoilers who thrive on discord between neighbours. Pakistan's actions were directed at terrorists operating from sanctuaries, not at Afghanistan as a sovereign state. Nevertheless, any actor that enables or protects such elements will be viewed as abetting terrorism. The immediate path to de-escalation remains clear: dismantle terrorist camps, disrupt facilitation networks, and cooperate in transparent verification mechanisms. Throughout its history, Pakistan has never coveted territory nor pursued confrontation. Its record affirms a consistent principle rooted both in statecraft and in faith: peace is preferred, reconciliation is desirable, and brotherhood is honoured—but the protection of life, dignity and sovereignty is a sacred trust. In upholding that trust, Pakistan acts not in defiance of Islamic teaching, but in faithful adherence to it.

Briefs

7 including
DSP martyred

FROM PAGE 01
particularly in the provinces of KP and Balochistan, which share a border with Afghanistan. Defence Minister Khawaja Asif earlier this month said that India was also waging a "proxy war" against Pakistan via militant attacks, stressing that New Delhi and Kabul, along with the militant outfits, "are on the same page." Amid the rising terror incidents, Pakistan carried out intelligence-based strikes targeting seven terrorist camps and hideouts belonging to Fitna al Khawarij (FAK), its affiliates and the Daesh-Khorasan along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border in response to recent suicide attacks. The airstrikes were carried out in Nangarhar, Paktika and Khost provinces of Afghanistan on Sunday morning, the security sources said, adding that more than 80 militants were killed in the airstrikes. The camps targeted included "New Centre No. 1 and New Centre No. 2 in Nangarhar, Khawarij Maulvi Abbas Centre in Khost, Khawarij Islam Centre, Khawarij Ibrahim Centre in Nangarhar, and Khawarij Mullah Rahbar and Khawarij Mukhlis Yar in Paktika." Pakistan's recent strikes along the Afghan border come in the wake of a spate of terrorist attacks in KP and Balochistan, which claimed the lives of numerous civilians and security personnel. Islamabad has repeatedly called on the Afghan Taliban regime to rein in militant groups operating from their territory, but Kabul has largely remained unresponsive to these appeals. The two countries, back in October 2025, were engaged in border clashes after the Afghan Taliban and militants launched unprovoked attacks against Pakistan's border posts. The resulting clashes led to the killing of over 200 Taliban and affiliated militants, while 23 Pakistani soldiers were martyred defending the motherland.

PTI objects
to 'secrecy'
after...

FROM PAGE 01
Imran, and of not allowing his personal physicians access to him. The government denies these allegations. The Pims doctor said: "Prior to the procedure, he was examined by a board of specialists: a consultant cardiologist who also performed echocardiography and ECG (result: normal) and a consultant physician. "After obtaining informed consent, and under standard monitoring, precautionary measures and protocols in the operation theatre, he was injected with a second dose of intravitreal injection of anti-VEGF under the guidance of microscopy by consultant phthalologist, and a consultant vitreoretinal surgeon of Pims and Al-Shifa Eye Hospital." It may be mentioned that Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital is located in Rawalpindi, whereas Shifa International Hospital — where Imran's family and personal doctors want him to be taken — is in Islamabad. The procedure was performed as a day care surgery, the Pims doctor said about Imran's treatment. During the course of his stay, Imran remained vitally stable before, during, and after the procedure, and was discharged along with instructions for care, follow-up advice, and the documents, the doctor stated. Another Pims doctor, wishing not to be quoted, told Dawn that security in the hospital was heightened on Monday night.

Senate
deplore
Israeli
PM plan

FROM PAGE 01
"The intention here is to create an axis of countries that see reality, the challenges, and the goals in the same way, in contrast to the radical axes," he was quoted as saying. "Both the radical Shia axis, which we have hit very hard, and also the emerging axis — the radical Sunni axis," Netanyahu added.

T20 World Cup:
WI inflict 107-run defeat on
Zimbabwe in Super Eight clash

ICC Men's T20 World Cup: West Indies cricket team Crush Zimbabwe national cricket team by 107 Runs in Super Eight Clash at Wankhede Stadium

MUMBAI: West Indies secured a convincing 107-run victory over Zimbabwe in the Super Eight clash of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium on Monday. Shimron Hetmyer's swashbuckling half-century, followed by Gudakesh Motie's four-wicket haul, led West Indies to a resounding victory in their Super Eights campaign opener. Set to chase a daunting 255-run target, the Chevrons' batting unit faltered against a disciplined West Indian bowling attack and could muster 147 before getting bowled out in 17.4 overs despite all-rounder Brad Evans' gutsy knock at the backend. Evans made a counterpunching 43 off 21 deliveries and remained the top-scorer for the Chevrons, who suffered their first defeat in the ongoing tournament. Besides him, Diaon Myers (28), captain Sikandar Raza (27) and Tony Munyonga (14) could amass double figures against the ruthless West Indian bowling attack. Motie spearheaded West Indies' bowling charge with economical bowling figures of 4/28 in his four overs, followed by fellow spinner Akeal Hosein, who bagged three,



while Matthew Forde chipped in with two scalps. Hetmyer bagged Player of the Match for a match-defining 85-run blitz. Zimbabwe captain Raza's decision to field first backfired as the two-time champions racked up a daunting total of 254/6 in their 20 overs. West Indies, however, had a con-

trasting start to their innings as they lost right-handed opener Brandon King (nine) in the third over with just 17 runs on the board. Following the early stutter, Hetmyer joined captain Shai Hope for a brisk 37-run partnership for the second wicket, which culminated on the penultimate delivery of the batting powerplay when the latter fell victim to Brad Evans after scoring a 12-ball 14. Hope's dismissal paved the way for Powell to walk out at No.4, and he, alongside Hetmyer, led West Indies into a commanding position by raising a hundred-plus partnership for the third wicket. The duo put together 122 runs off just 51 deliveries before Graeme Cremer gave Zimbabwe a much-needed breakthrough in the 15th over by getting rid of Hetmyer, who remained the top-scorer for West Indies with a swashbuckling 85 off just 34 deliveries, studded with seven sixes and as many fours. Powell followed suit nine balls later when he lobbed a short delivery by Blessing Muzarabani to Tashinga Musekiwa, stationed at deep backward square leg, and walked back after scoring 59 off 35 deliveries, laced with four sixes and as many fours. Middle-order batters Romario Shepherd and Sherfane Rutherford further added to Zimbabwe's woes as they ensured retaining West Indies' scoring rate with blistering cameos of 21 and 31 not out, respectively. For Zimbabwe, Richard Ngarava and Muzarabani bagged two wickets each, while Cremer and Evans made one scalp apiece.

Moeen Ali speaks out against alleged
Pakistani player boycott in The Hundred

ENGLAND: Former England captain Moeen Ali has said that discrimination "cannot happen in the UK" following reports that franchises linked to the IPL are unwilling to sign Pakistani players. Moeen warned that players could take collective action if they feel Pakistani cricketers are being systematically overlooked by Indian-owned teams in The Hundred, stressing that any form of discrimination is unacceptable in British sport. The four teams with Indian Premier League connections — Manchester Originals, London Spirit, Southern Brave and Northern Superchargers — are understood to be planning to avoid recruiting Pakistani players for this year's competition, fearing political repercussions given the hostile relations between India and Pakistan. Moeen, who lifted the ODI World Cup in 2022 with England, said it would be "a massive shame" if players were excluded on account of their nationality and urged the England and Wales Cricket Board to intervene. "In the UK, I'm not sure that can happen — and I hope it doesn't happen,"

Moeen told Telegraph Sport. "It just shouldn't happen, hopefully it won't happen. We just have to wait and see if it does, but I think it'd be a massive shame, and I'm sure the ECB will definitely keep an eye out." The all-rounder, who retired from international cricket last year, suggested players would undoubtedly unite if they believed discrimination was taking place. "There'll be a group of players that will speak up," he added. "There'll be things done about it. I think players should speak up. Anyone that has any sort of concern for these kind of things — it doesn't matter if they have Pakistani heritage — should speak up. Obviously, the news is very new. So I've not really had a chance to speak to anyone, but most of the players would be on the same page. "It'd be really interesting to see what happens, because I genuinely think other countries can do what they want, obviously we're not in control of those things, but in the UK, we have a bit more say about these things." The warning comes as Indian influence over global franchise cricket continues to expand. All six teams in South Africa's SA20 competition are owned by

IPL franchise groups, and not a single Pakistani player has featured in four seasons of that tournament. Similar patterns have emerged in leagues in the United Arab Emirates and the United States where Indian-owned teams operate. One Pakistani agent told Telegraph Sport last week that exclusion of Pakistani players from the four Indian-owned Hundred teams was "a given". No Pakistani has appeared in the IPL since 2008. Moeen, who has Pakistani heritage, acknowledged the difficulty of proving discrimination definitively but said patterns over several years would be revealing. "The difficulty is that you can't really prove anything if they don't get picked. But if it happens for three or four years in a row, that's different," he said. The ECB moved to address concerns on Sunday, emailing franchises to warn that teams will face action if there is evidence of discrimination in their recruitment. The Cricket Regulator, an independent body operating at arm's length from the governing body, would bring forward charges. — APP

PM Shehbaz meets...

FROM PAGE 01
Discussions focused on enhancing cooperation in trade and investment, energy, defence, labour mobility and cultural collaboration and joint task force of both countries mandated to accelerate the cooperation in all these areas. Both sides emphasized the importance of implementing decisions taken during recent high-level engagements and institutional mechanisms, including the Joint Ministerial Commission and Bilateral Political Consultations. Regional issues, including developments in Gaza and broader Gulf security dynamics, were also discussed. The Prime Minister appreciated Qatar's constructive diplomatic efforts in promoting dialogue and de-escalation in the region. Both leaders underscored the importance of peaceful resolution of disputes and adherence to international law including the UN charter. The meeting reaffirmed the shared commitment of Pakistan and Qatar to further strengthen their strategic partnership and to remain engaged and in-contact on bilateral, regional and international current issues.

PM Shehbaz
woes Qatari..

FROM PAGE 01
expanding economic cooperation and strengthening private-sector and business linkages between two countries. The two sides also agreed to convene a meeting of

the task force, comprising relevant officials of both countries, within the month of Ramadan, to discuss concrete investment proposals for Qatari investment in Pakistan. The meeting underscored the shared resolve to further deepen trade, investment and industrial collaboration between Pakistan and Qatar.

England defeat Pak
to reach T20 World
Cup semi-finals

FROM PAGE 01
on 28 when England needed five runs off 12 deliveries. Nawaz struck again in the same over, getting Jamie Overton stumped to cause a stir in England's pursuit. The equation came down to three runs required off the final over with two wickets in hand, and Jofra Archer smashed Salman Mirza for a boundary on the first delivery to clinch a hard-earned victory for England. Shaheen was the pick of the bowlers for Pakistan as he picked up four wickets for just 30 runs in his four overs, while Usman Tariq Nawaz bagged two each. Opting to bat first, the 2009 champions accumulated 164/9 in their 20 overs, courtesy of Farhan's anchoring knock. Pakistan got off to a shaky start to their innings as their left-handed opener Saim Ayub (seven) and captain Salman Ali Agha (five) perished inside the first four overs with just 27 runs on the board. Following the early setback, star batter Babar Azam joined Farhan in the middle, and the duo batted cautiously to launch a recovery by putting together 46 runs off 44 deliveries. Jamie Overton eventually broke the budding partnership in the 11th over by cleaning up Babar, who walked back after scoring 25 off 24 deliveries with the help of two fours.

Supersub strikes again as Sesko
gives Man United win at Everton

ENGLAND: Manchester United supersub Benjamin Sesko scored 13 minutes after entering the field to give his side a 1-0 win over Everton in the Premier League on Monday. It was the third time in four games that Sesko has scored after coming off the bench and secured points for United. "I believe in me and so do the other players as well," Sesko told Sky Sports. "They know what they are going to get when I arrive in the game. It's up to me to deliver of course." His goal with 19 minutes remaining finished off the slickest move of an otherwise stodgy game. Bryan Mbeumo controlled Matheus Cunha's superb long ball and played a perfectly weighted pass to the feet of Sesko, who steered the ball past Jordan Pickford with aplomb. "It was a great finish," United interim coach Michael Carrick said. "It was a ruthless finish. I liked the way he put it away with real confidence. It was



great play from Cunha and Mbeumo to set it up and we are dangerous on the break." Until then defenses had been on top and the lack of attacking fluency was not helped by a heavy pitch that appeared to slow down both teams. The result took fourth-placed United three points clear of Chelsea and Liverpool. United was three behind Aston Villa. It also extended Carrick's unbeaten run to six games since he replaced Ruben Amorim on Jan. 13. The defeat was a blow to Everton's hopes of a place in next year's European competitions and left it languishing in ninth, behind Brentford and Bournemouth and eight points adrift of Chelsea and Liverpool. David Moyes' men have gone seven games without a win at their new Hill Dickinson Stadium. "Generally we did very well in lots of bits," Moyes said. We got done on the counterattack and they ran away and got the goal that was there. — DNA

Al-Ahli as they go top of SPL with victory over Damac

It is why Al-Ahli's 1-0 victory over Damac in the delayed Matchday 10 opener was quite controversial. The match, highlighted by three goals that had to be checked by VAR in the first half and a last-minute equaliser revoked due to VAR, was no easy task for the Greens

DAMMAM: If anything has taken over the Saudi Pro League's fan sentiment this season, it's one line: "the league is being lined up for [insert title challenger here]". Under every post by broadcaster Thmanayh on X showing a VAR review in favour of one of the title challengers, the sentiment remains the same. It is why Al-Ahli's 1-0 victory over Damac in the delayed Matchday 10 opener was quite controversial. The match, highlighted by three goals that had to be checked by VAR in the first half and a last-minute equaliser revoked due to VAR, was no easy task for the Greens. After all, it isn't like Damac are easy opposition. Mired in the relegation battle this season with only two wins in 23 games, any casual viewer would think this is an easy three points for the big clubs. While Al-Nassr, Al-Ahli and Al-Hilal have all beaten Damac this season, the reality remains that the Knights of the South have only lost seven games out of 27 when facing the Big Four at home since their promotion to the SPL. Al-Ahli in particular have struggled against Damac. It wasn't until last season that they secured their first victory in Khamis Mushait. Their previous outings ended with little to celebrate, with late equalisers and winners proving a nightmare for Al-Ahli's large fanbase in the south. Despite the victory, Al-Ahli's struggles against Damac continued. They were lucky not to trail early when the hosts' first-min-

ute goal was rescinded for offside, and Damac did their best to ensure Matthias Jaissle's side did not get comfortable. Whether it was through overloading the space behind Rayan Hamed through Yakou Mé té and Dhari Al-Anezi, or the marauding runs of Morlaye Sylla to pull Zakaria Hawsawi out of position, Damac did their best to ensure Al-Ahli were as uncomfortable as they could possibly be. On the defensive end, their 5-4-1 box shape prevented Al-Ahli from launching the long balls they've been particularly successful with in behind the defence. On one occasion it succeeded, although Ivan Toney was caught offside as he chipped the ball past Kevin. Al-Ahli would get their goal in the 37th minute. A scramble in the box after a free-kick was delivered by Wenderson Galeo saw Franck Kessie capitalise on a loose ball to open the scoring. While half-time analysts predicted Damac would continue in a deep block and refrain from taking risks, the reality was starkly different on the pitch. Damac took full control of proceedings after the interval. After all, a result was a must if they intended to escape the relegation zone, however temporary that may be. The 71st minute saw them give Al-Ahli their biggest scare of the night. After a corner was cleared away from the Al-Ahli defence, Damac's Abdurrahman Al-Obeid struck a volley from range only for Mendy to produce an acrobatic save to maintain the lead. Despite hold-

ing a valuable lead at a tough stadium, Jaissle's only substitution until the 88th minute was the inclusion of Feras Al-Brikan in place of Enzo Millot. Al-Ahli's goal difference remains some way behind Al-Nassr (+39) and Al-Hilal (+37), with Jaissle's side sitting at +30. Mendy was ultimately the star of the night for Al-Ahli. An 89th-minute save after Syrian youngster Mohammed Al-Salkhadi wriggled his way to a clear shooting position sent Al-Ahli fans into celebration. Or so everyone thought. A free-kick deep into stoppage time saw Mé té sneak past the Al-Ahli defence to head in what looked like an equaliser. Al-Ahli's players immediately pushed for a VAR review, with the referee ultimately ruling out the goal for offside. Mé té, angered by the decision, approached the referee seconds before full-time in protest. Tensions spilled over on the pitch, with Toney and Jamal Harkass clashing after the disallowed goal. Tensions continued to flare as the final whistle blew, but Al-Ahli got what they needed: three points and a temporary spot at the top at one of the toughest grounds in the Saudi Pro League. In Damam, the Eastern Province's flagship derby between Al-Qadsiah and Al-Ettifaq took place at the Prince Mohammed bin Fahad Stadium, with the home side looking to keep pressure on the title challengers. The visitors have enjoyed a period of subtle, gradual improvement since Saudi manager

Saad Al-Shehri replaced Steven Gerrard last year. Finding themselves in seventh place before the game with a chance to leapfrog Al-Ittihad and Al-Taawoun, those chances were quickly extinguished within the first 10 minutes. Al-Qadsiah, already establishing themselves as this season's dark horses in search of their maiden Saudi Pro League title, continued the high-quality football they've enjoyed since the arrival of Brendan Rodgers. Yet to be defeated under the former Liverpool manager, the Knights of the Eastern Province blitzed to a 2-0 lead before Al-Ettifaq could settle into the game. Nahitan Nández was the star behind this dominance. In the third minute, he slipped in behind Jo o Costa to receive one of Musab Al-Juwayr's trademark line-breaking passes and score the opener. Four minutes later, he exploited that space again to create Christopher Bonsu Baah's goal, once more getting behind Costa thanks to a threaded pass from Mohammed Abu Al-Shamat. This was Al-Qadsiah at their best, but the reality is, it could have been more. Eight big chances, 20 shots and an xG of 2.83 meant a 2-0 scoreline until stoppage time felt relatively underwhelming given their attacking dominance. For Al-Ettifaq, it didn't help that they were missing the services of Mousa Dembélé and Alvaro Medrán through injury and starboy Khalid Al-Ghannam through suspension, limiting their attacking threat. — APP

Iran to
buy cruise
missiles
from Chian

FROM PAGE 01
in the area," said Danny Citrinowicz, a former Israeli intelligence officer and now senior Iran researcher at Israel's Institute for National Security Studies think tank. "These missiles are very difficult to intercept." Reuters could not determine how many missiles were involved in the potential deal, how much Iran had agreed to pay, or whether China would go through with the agreement now given heightened tensions in the region. "Iran has military and security agreements with its allies, and now is an appropriate time to make use of these agreements," an Iranian foreign ministry official told Reuters. The Chinese delegation to the United Nations directed Reuters to seek comment from the Foreign Ministry in Beijing. The foreign and defense ministries did not respond to requests for comment.

Gandapur
says security
withdrawn

FROM PAGE 01
Gandapur emphasised that even if the government restores his protection, he would refuse it. "I want to inform the chief minister that there is no need to return my security. I do not require it," he said. A spokesperson for the KP CM House, however, denied reports that Gandapur's security had been withdrawn, saying no such decision had been made. No instructions have been issued to relevant authorities regarding this matter, the spokesperson added. Gandapur — a firebrand Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader — stepped down from the post of KP CM on October 8 last year, hours after party leaders announced Sohail Afridi's nomination for the post. "In respectful compliance of the orders of my leader, and founding PTI chairman, Imran Khan, it is my honour to tender my resignation from the Office of the Chief Minister, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa," he wrote in a post on X at the time.

Opposition
denounces
'suspension'
of Senate's...

FROM PAGE 01
said that at times live streaming is "halted during certain speeches without explanation". He said that the Senate is a constitutional institution, adding, "We need clarification on who ordered the suspension of the broadcast". Reacting to the opposition leader's remarks, Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar said that this is the prerogative of the Senate of Pakistan and the government has no role in it. "Only the Chairman of the Senate can issue such rulings," he said and added that the limits of freedom of speech are also defined by the Constitution. It is pertinent to mention here that last month National Assembly YouTube channel appeared to be inaccessible, with live streams of proceedings not visible on the platform. In response, the National Assembly secretary rejected reports that its official YouTube channel was shut down, saying the disruption was caused by a temporary technical fault rather than any deliberate move to halt coverage of parliamentary proceedings.

Change
of Name

It is hereby notified for general information that my daughter's previous name **Rubab Hayat D/o Muhammad Hayat** has been changed to **Fatima Hayat D/o Muhammad Hayat**. Her NADRA Registration No. **13101-7345810-8**. Henceforth, she shall be known and called by the name **Fatima Hayat** for all Educational, Legal and Official purposes. **Muhammad Hayat**: Old Bank Stop near Faizan-e-Madina, Alipur Farash, Islamabad.

Briefs

Rupee gains 03 paise against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD: The Rupee on Tuesday appreciated by 03 paise against the US Dollar in interbank trading and closed at Rs279.52 compared to the previous day's closing at Rs279.55.

According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market were recorded at Rs280.25 and Rs282.2, respectively.

The price of the Euro against the Rupee decreased by Rs1.25 to close at Rs329.19 from the previous day's close of Rs330.44, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen came down by 01 paise and closed at Rs 17.7, whereas the exchange rate of the British Pound witnessed a decrease of Rs1.34 and closed at Rs376.58 compared to the previous day's Rs377.92.

The exchange rate of the Emirates Dirham remained stagnant at Rs 76.10 while the Saudi Riyal came down by 02 paise and closed Rs74.50.—APP

Gold price surges by Rs 3,400 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold increased by Rs 3,400 and was sold at Rs 539,962 on Tuesday compared to its sale at Rs 536,562 on the previous trading day. All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association reported the price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs 2,915 to Rs 462,930 from Rs 460,015, whereas the price of 10 grams of 22 karat gold went up by Rs 2,672 to Rs 424,367 from Rs 421,695. The price of per tola silver increased by Rs 192 to Rs 9,286 from Rs 9,094, while that of 10 grams silver rose by Rs 165 to Rs 7,961 from Rs 7,796. The price of gold in the international market increased by \$34 to \$5,172 from \$5,138, whereas that of silver rose by \$1.92 to \$88.02, the Association reported.—APP

Trump's new tariffs shift focus to balance of payments

President Donald Trump's temporary 15 percent tariffs to replace those struck down by the US Supreme Court are meant to resolve a problem that many economists say does not exist: a US balance of payments crisis, making them potentially vulnerable to new legal challenges. Hours after the high court on Friday struck down a huge swath of tariffs Trump had imposed under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, the president announced the new duties under Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974 — a never-used statute that even his own legal team dismissed as irrelevant months ago. Collections of the new 15 percent tariffs began at midnight on Tuesday as IEEPA tariff collections of 10 percent to 50 percent halted. The Section 122 law allows the president to impose duties of up to 15 percent for up to 150 days on any and all countries to address "large and serious" balance-of-payments deficits and "fundamental international payments problems." Trump's tariff order argued that a serious balance of payments deficit existed in the form of a \$1.2 trillion annual US goods trade deficit and a current account deficit of 4 percent of GDP and a reversal of the US primary income surplus. Some economists, including former International Monetary Fund First Deputy Managing Director Gita Gopinath, disagreed with the Trump administration's alarm. "We can all agree that the US is not facing a balance of payment crisis, which is when countries experience an exorbitant increase in international borrowing costs and lose access to financial markets," Gopinath told Reuters. Gopinath rejected the White House's claim that a negative balance on the US primary income for the first time since 1960 was evidence of a large and serious balance of payment problem.—APP

Pakistan attracts strong foreign investment: SECP

Many of these transactions resulted from global corporate restructuring among multinational companies. Saudi Arabia's Wafi Energy acquired Shell Pakistan's operations as part of Shell's global portfolio reorganization, while Dubai based PTA Global Holdings obtained a majority stake in Lotte Chemical Pakistan following an international agreement between Lotte Chemical and TotalEnergies.

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is attracting substantial foreign investment across a wide range of sectors, particularly energy, logistics, information technology, and agriculture, largely through partnerships with Pakistani companies. Foreign investors are entering the market through new business establishments, joint ventures, acquisitions, and the expansion of existing operations, reflecting growing economic activity and investor interest, said a press release issued by the SECP here on Tuesday. In this context, 79 new foreign companies commenced operations in Pakistan over the past three years, while foreign firms invested Rs40.7 billion in key sectors during the same period. A total of 61 foreign companies also carried out shareholding transactions involving local entities. Of the 61 shareholding transactions, 29 involved transfers to other foreign companies, four to foreign indi-

vidual investors, 20 to local individual investors, and eight to local corporate entities.

Many of these transactions resulted from global corporate restructuring among multinational companies. Saudi Arabia's Wafi Energy acquired Shell Pakistan's operations as part of Shell's global portfolio reorganization, while Dubai based PTA Global Holdings obtained a majority stake in Lotte Chemical Pakistan following an international agreement between Lotte Chemical and TotalEnergies. Switzerland's Gunvor Group and Total Parco Limited acquired equal stakes in TotalEnergies Pakistan, while Saudi Aramco purchased a 40 percent equity stake in Gas & Oil Pakistan Limited (GO Petroleum). In the logistics sector, UAE based DP World entered into a joint venture with the National Logistics Corporation. In the digital sector, Bazaar Technologies acquired Wemsol, and Saudi Arabia's Waqub Data Company secured an 80 percent stake in Pakistani technology firm Woot Tech.

In telecommunications, PTCL acquired Telenor Pakistan's operations following regional consolidation in the telecom sector. In pharmaceuticals, Pfizer transferred its Karachi manufacturing plant and related assets to Lucky Core Industries to ensure continuity of local production. France's Sanofi sold its majority stake to a local investor consortium, after which the company was renamed Hoechst Pakistan Limited. In agriculture, Italy's Euricom S.p.A. acquired a 50 percent stake in Fatima Euricom Rice Mills. Netherlands based Berkeley Square Holding B.V. obtained 50 percent shareholding in Ogilvy & Mather Pakistan, Mindshare Pakistan, and Soho Square Pakistan. In energy, companies such as Saudi Aramco, Wafi Energy, Gunvor Group, Turkish Petroleum, and SOCAR have expanded their presence. The mining and minerals sector has attracted investment from Barrick Gold, Strategic Metals U.S., and Nova Minerals U.S. The electric vehicle industry has

seen new entrants including BYD, Chery Automobile, and NWTN Motors. In technology and telecommunications, companies such as Google, Samsung, Relational, IceWarp, Pro Device, and Russoft Synercon are expanding operations, while infrastructure projects are being supported by Abu Dhabi Ports and Portugal's Mota Engil Group.

Existing investors have also strengthened their commitments. Mashreq Bank has launched and is expanding Pakistan's first digital bank. Kuwait backed Raqami Digital Bank plans to invest 100 million dollars. UAE telecom group e& has acquired Telenor Pakistan. Nestlé is investing an additional 60 million dollars.

VEON Group has increased investment in Mobilink Bank, and the Engro Jazz consortium is investing more than 550 million dollars in digital infrastructure. Moreover, CPEC Phase II has further accelerated industrial cooperation, with 24 business to business agreements worth

more than 1.5 billion dollars and memoranda of understanding exceeding 7 billion dollars across agriculture, renewable energy, information technology, minerals, and industrial relocation. Additional major investments include a 1 billion dollar commitment from the UAE government through a local partner, a 160 million dollar expansion in cement capacity by the Mansha Group, the entry of global logistics firm Nippon Express into TCS, and renewed investments in the mining and minerals sector. There are several additional international partnership transactions currently in the pipeline.

As per SECP's records, 1,157 foreign companies are currently registered and operational in Pakistan. Only 19 foreign companies exited the market during the past three years. In 2023, 31 companies entered Pakistan while six ceased operations. In 2024, 21 entered and nine exited. In 2025, 27 new companies registered while only four closed operations

Students have right to protest but must know 'red lines': Iran

TEHRAN: University students have the right to protest but everyone must "understand the red lines," the Iranian government's spokeswoman said Tuesday, in the first official reaction to renewed rallies on campuses since the weekend. "Sacred things and the flag are two examples of these red lines that we must protect and not cross or deviate from, even at the height of anger," Fati-meh MoHajjari said. She said Iran's students "have wounds in their hearts and have seen scenes that may upset and anger them; this anger is understandable." University students in Iran started a new semester Saturday with pro- and anti-government rallies, according to local media, reviving slogans from nationwide demonstrations that peaked in January and led to thousands of deaths. Protests first began in December sparked by economic woes in the sanctions-hit country, but grew into nationwide demonstrations on January 8 and 9.—APP

US immigration agents' training 'broken'

WASHINGTON: A former US immigration official said that training for federal agents was "deficient, defective and broken," adding to pressure on President Donald Trump's sweeping crackdown. Ryan Schwank resigned this month from his job teaching law at the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) training academy in Glyncro, Georgia, after he said he was instructed to teach new recruits to violate the US Constitution. The fatal shooting of two American citizens in Minneapolis in January reignited accusations that agents enforcing Trump's militarized immigration operation are inexperienced, undertrained and operating outside law enforcement norms. The administration scaled back the deployment after the killings of Renee Good and Alex Pretti in broad daylight by officers sparked mass protests and widespread outrage. Schwank told a forum hosted by congressional Democrats on Monday that he "received secretive orders to teach new cadets to violate the Constitution by entering homes without a judicial warrant." "Never in my career had I received such a blatantly unlawful order," he said. He said that ICE cut 240 hours from its 584-hour training program, curtailing subjects such as the US Constitution, lawful arrest, fire arms, the use of force and the limits of officers' authority. "The legally required training program at the ICE academy is deficient, defective and broken," he said.—APP

French FM urges US envoy to explain no-show

PARIS: France's spat with the US ambassador to Paris took another turn Tuesday with the French foreign minister saying the top US diplomat in France must respond to a summons and won't have access to French government officials until he complies. French authorities had summoned Ambassador Charles Kushner — the father of US President Donald Trump's son-in-law and adviser Jared Kushner — for a meeting on Monday evening over comments from the Trump administration that France objected to. French diplomats said Kushner did not show up. Speaking Tuesday, French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot described the failure to attend the meeting as "a surprise" that flew in the face of diplomatic protocol and will dent Charles Kushner's ability to serve as an ambassador. "It will, naturally, affect his capacity to exercise his mission in our country," Barrot said, speaking to public broadcaster France Info. He said that Kushner "is bringing difficulties on himself. Because for an ambassador to be able to do his job he needs access to members of the government. That's the basics." "When these explanations have taken place, then the US ambassador in France will.—APP



FAISALABAD: Labourers busy in unloading onion from the delivery truck at Vegetable Market.

Daesh kills four security personnel in Syria

CAIRO: Daesh militants killed four Syrian government security personnel in northern Syria on Monday, the Syrian state news agency reported, in what would be the group's deadliest attack on government forces since the ouster of President Bashar Assad. The assault on a checkpoint west of Raqqa city underlined an escalation in attacks by the jihadist group against President Ahmed Al-Sharaa's government, two days after the jihadist group declared "a new phase of operations" against it. Islamic State issued no immediate claim of responsibility for Monday's attack. On Saturday, the group claimed two attacks targeting Syrian army personnel in northern and eastern Syria, in which a Syrian soldier and a civilian were killed. The Syrian state news agency said forces foiled Monday's attack and killed one of the militants. It quoted a security source as saying Islamic State carried out the attack. Separately, one soldier was killed after unknown gunmen attacked the army headquarters in the city of Mayadin in Deir Ezzor in eastern Syria, the Syrian state news agency reported on the early hours of Tuesday. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, which occurred in the same city where the Islamic State carried out an attack days earlier. The Syrian government joined the US-led coalition to combat Islamic State last year.—APP

Panama wrests control of canal ports from Hong Kong group

PANAMA: Panamanian authorities have taken control of two ports on the Panama Canal from CK Hutchison after the Hong Kong-based conglomerate's concession was annulled amid a row between the United States and China. CK Hutchison objected Tuesday to the takeover, which it called "unlawful" and said raises "serious risks to the operations, health and safety" at terminals. In January, the country's supreme court declared as "unconstitutional" the contract which had allowed Hutchison's subsidiary Panama Ports Company (PPC) to manage the ports of Balboa on the Pacific and Cristobal on the Atlantic since 1997. "The Panama Maritime Authority has taken possession of its ports and guarantees the continuity of operations," an official said Monday after the Panamanian Supreme Court annulled Hutchison's contracts to operate the ports. The court ruling was the latest legal move to ripple through the interoceanic waterway, which handles about 40 percent of US container traffic and five percent of world trade. The Central American country has been swept up in broader tensions between Washington and Beijing, with US President Donald Trump claiming, without providing evidence, last year that China effectively runs the canal. Panama has always denied Chinese control over the 80-kilometer (50-mile) waterway, which is used mainly by the United States and China. Hutchison had asked the Panamanian government to enter into negotiations to allow it to continue operating the two terminals — to no avail. Publication of the court ruling in the official gazette Monday effectively ended the legal process. "This does not imply the expropriation of those assets, but rather their use to guarantee the operation of the ports until their real value is determined for the corresponding actions," said Panamanian President Jose Raul Mulino. Ports director Max Florez said an 18-month transition period now begins, with the ports being operated by two other companies before contracts are awarded under a new international tender.—APP

Fire injures six, briefly suspends flights at Lagos airport

LAGOS: A fire broke out Monday afternoon at Lagos' Murtala Muhammed International Airport, injuring six people and causing a temporary suspension of flights, Nigerian airport authorities said. The fire, which affected control tower operations, was brought under control and traffic resumed shortly afterwards, the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) said. The six people injured were — three women and as many men — were in stable condition, the agency added. Fourteen people trapped in the control tower were rescued unharmed after emergency teams deployed a crane to evacuate them, according to FAAN. FAAN Managing Director Olubunmi Kuku said a temporary control tower had been activated to restore operations. "Our flights are taking off and landing normally again, and I want to reassure everyone who has a flight to catch: despite some delays, our flights are now on schedule.—APP

Duterte drew up 'death lists', boasted about murders: Prosecutor

THE HAGUE: Former Philippines president Rodrigo Duterte personally drew up "death lists" and boasted about murders committed during his "war on drugs," an International Criminal Court prosecutor alleged Tuesday at a crimes against humanity hearing. On day two of proceedings against Duterte, ICC prosecutor Edward Jeremy laid out searing testimony including allegations that children had their heads wrapped in packing tape and strangled to death. "As president, Duterte publicly named persons he alleged were involved in drugs, and many of those would end up as victims in his so-called war on drugs," Jeremy said. The "Duterte list" was "basically a death list," Jeremy cited a witness as saying, showing a video of Duterte himself saying: "I am the sole person responsible for it all." Duterte faces three ICC counts of crimes against humanity, with prosecutors alleging his involvement in at least 76 murders between 2013 and 2018. Prosecutors say this is a "mere fraction" of the thousands believed killed in his "war on drugs" as mayor of Davao City and then president. "As witnesses stated, the poor were often targeted, because they were the ones least likely to file complaints against the police," said Jeremy. Jeremy played a clip of Duterte joking about "extrajudicial killings" during a speech. "And in this opulent, gilded, presentation room, the officials laugh along with their president while he boasts about his skills in extrajudicial killing," said Jeremy. "And outside on the streets of the Philippines, the bodies pile up." Jeremy alleged that almost 1,500 people had already been killed at the time of this clip. The week-long ICC proceedings are not a trial but a "confirmation of charges" hearing, enabling judges to weigh whether to move ahead with a trial. Duterte, 80, is not in the courtroom after exercising his right not to appear. His defense team says he is weak and in cognitive decline. The prosecution and victims counter that he is healthy but does not want to face loved-ones of victims. The court passed him fit to attend but granted him his right to absence. Once the hearings wrap up Friday, the court will take up to 60 days to decide whether to proceed to a full trial, usually by written judgment. Duterte's defense lawyer, Nicholas Kaufman, on Monday said his client "maintained his innocence absolutely." Kaufman argued that while Duterte used "bluster and hyperbole" in his speeches, he also frequently ordered authorities only to shoot in self-defense.—DNA

DA initiates Gwadar potable water mechanism

The meeting further clarified that the responsibility for water supply to Pasni city lies with the Public Health Engineering Department (PHE)

DNA

GWADAR: To keep Gwadar water supply system smooth and steady, Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) has rolled out a new drinkable water mechanism. Under the new initiative, a meeting of the water committee launched a crackdown on illegal water connections in Gwadar, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Tuesday. The meeting was held on February 23 under the chairmanship of the Director General Gwadar Development Authority, Mr. Moeen ur Rehman Khan. Attended by Chief Engineer GDA Haji Syed Muhammad, Project Director Water Meer Jan Baloch, Executive Engineer Distribution Muhammad Akbar, Secretary Water Committee Babar Khan, and Assistant Engineer Qambar Baloch, a detailed review of the

overall water supply situation in Gwadar city was conducted, with special focus on issues related to Pasni. It was clarified in the meeting that the GDA's main pipeline laid from Shadi Kor Dam to Gwadar was primarily designed to supply water to Gwadar city, and its capacity is aligned solely with Gwadar's requirements. The meeting also reviewed technical issues affecting the water distribution system in various parts of the city, and it was decided to lay new pipelines where required. The Executive Engineer Distribution was instructed to immediately ensure the installation of new lines at necessary locations and to further strengthen and expedite unrestricted legal action against illegal connections and water theft on main pipelines. The issuance of new water connections and the implementation of a formal billing system were also reviewed. It was informed that the installation of new connections

is underway and comprehensive consumer data is being compiled so that the billing system can be activated at the earliest. It was further decided that water supply across the city will be provided through GDA's newly laid pipelines and constructed water storage tanks, as PHE's old water infrastructure has become obsolete and non-functional, which increases the risk of water losses. The meeting further clarified that the responsibility for water supply to Pasni city lies with the Public Health Engineering Department (PHE). PHE does not have a fully separate pipeline from the dam to Pasni, and approximately 18 kilometers of the pipeline are still pending. As a result, PHE relies on the Irrigation Department's water channel and the GDA pipeline. However, despite its limited capacity and with Gwadar's needs in view, GDA has continued to supply water to Pasni as supplies permit.

Briefs

PSX extends losses as US tariffs return

DNA
KARACHI: The stock market extended losses on Tuesday, though a late rebound trimmed losses as value hunters stepped in after the previous session's sharp sell-off, as higher government bond yields and policy uncertainty continued to weigh on sentiment, with fresh US tariff developments and escalating geopolitical risks adding to investor caution. The Pakistan Stock Exchange's (PSX) benchmark KSE-100 Index settled at 166,258.54 points, down 1,432.54 points, or 0.85%, from the previous close of 167,691.08. The index traded between a high of 169,237.51 (up 1,546.43 points, or 0.92%) and a low of 163,907.59 (down 3,783.49 points, or 2.26%). "Stocks witnessed selling after a surge in Govt Bond yields in the SBP auction last week. SBP policy tightening amid surging inflation and weak earnings projections led to a massive sell-off," said Ahsan Mehanti, Managing Director and CEO of Arif Habib Commodities. "US trade tariff uncertainty, geopolitical crises and uncertainty over the outcome of IMF third review talks played a catalyst role in bearish activity at PSX," he added. Fresh US tariffs on imported goods came into effect on Tuesday after President Donald Trump moved to rebuild his trade agenda following a Supreme Court ruling that struck down many of his broad duties.

Iranian military helicopter crashes

NEWS DESK
TEHRAN: An Iranian Army helicopter crashed into a fruit market in the central province of Isfahan on Tuesday, killing the pilot, co-pilot, and two merchants, state media reported. The helicopter came down in the city of Dorcheh, causing a fire that was put out by emergency services, the reports added. The pilot, co-pilot, and two fruit vendors on the ground were killed, the official IRNA news agency said, attributing the crash to "a technical malfunction". Sanctions-hit Iran has suffered several air disasters in recent years, with officials complaining of difficulties acquiring spare parts to keep its ageing fleets in the air. Experts say Iran has a poor air safety record, with repeated crashes, many involving aircraft bought before the 1979 Islamic Revolution and lacking original spare parts for maintenance. Last week, a US-built F-4 fighter belonging to Iran's regular air force crashed in the western province of Hamadan, killing one pilot during a training flight.

FBR's integrity cell to get strengthened

NEWS DESK
ISLAMABAD: The government has assured the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that it will strengthen the Integrity Management Cell (IMC) within the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to curb corruption, digitise complaint handling and tighten oversight of tax officials. A formal notification of the revised Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the IMC will now be issued. It has been committed in writing to the IMF that the FBR will publish anonymised data on the receipt and processing of complaints to prevent reputational risk to officials and to safeguard the interests of complainants. The FBR will digitise the Complaint Management Cell. The use of a dedicated online platform for logging, scrutinising and investigating corruption-related complaints will enhance procedural efficiency and ensure that all cases are handled in a standardised and traceable manner.

Brunei High Commissioner hosts 42nd National Day reception

A special highlight of the evening was High Commissioner Kamal Ahmed's warm welcome to members of the Rising Stars Hockey Club, where he is an active player himself. He personally greeted team members, management, and rising hockey stars, acknowledging their contributions to promoting sports diplomacy and friendly ties through hockey

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to Pakistan, Kamal Ahmed, hosted a grand reception to mark the 42nd National Day of Brunei, coinciding with a special Iftar dinner during the holy month of Ramadan. The event, held at the Brunei High Commission, brought together diplomats, community leaders, and sports enthusiasts to celebrate the occasion with warmth and fraternity. In his address, High Commissioner Kamal Ahmed emphasized the profound significance of Brunei's National Day, which commemorates the nation's independence and enduring spirit of unity under the theme of national aspiration. He highlighted the deep-rooted ties between Brunei and Pakistan, grounded in shared Islamic values, mutual respect, and a common commitment to peace and prosperity. The High Commissioner called for enhanced people-to-people contacts between the two nations, urging greater cultural, educational, and community exchanges to further strengthen bilateral relations. He stressed that such interactions would foster better understanding and open new avenues for cooperation in trade, education, and beyond. A special highlight of the evening was High Commissioner Kamal Ahmed's warm welcome to members of the Rising Stars Hockey Club, where he is an active player himself. He personally greeted team members, management, and rising hockey stars, acknowledging their contributions to promoting sports diplomacy and friendly ties through hockey. The gesture underscored the passion for the sport and its role in building bridges between communities. The reception saw enthusiastic participation from heads of missions of ASEAN countries, adding a regional dimension to the cele-



brations. Former Pakistani ambassadors to Brunei also attended, reflecting the long-standing goodwill and continuity in diplomatic relations. The combined National Day reception and Iftar dinner featured traditional Bruneian hospitality

alongside iftar delicacies, creating an atmosphere of joy, reflection, and solidarity. Guests broke their fast together, symbolizing unity in faith and friendship. This event reaffirmed the vibrant Pakistan-Brunei partnership and

highlights opportunities for deeper engagement in sports, culture, and diplomacy. As Brunei celebrates its 42nd National Day, the gathering in Islamabad stands as a testament to the enduring brotherhood between the two Muslim nations.

New US tariffs take effect after court ruling

New tariffs, announced by US President Trump, only last for 150 days unless extended by Congress

DNA

WASHINGTON: Fresh US tariffs on imported goods came into effect on Tuesday, as President Donald Trump moved to rebuild his trade agenda after the Supreme Court ruled against a swath of his global duties. The new tariffs, initially set at 10%, are justified as a means "to deal with the large and serious United States balance-of-payments deficits," according to a White House released Friday. Trump has since vowed to raise this level to 15%, with exclusions expected to remain for goods covered by sector-specific investigations and the US-Mexico-Canada trade pact. The US president has doubled down on imposing tariffs on trading partners since the high court on Friday struck down many of his sweeping and often arbitrary duties, in a rebuke of his signature economic policy. His sector-specific tariffs on goods like steel and autos remain intact, but the ruling sets the stage for a complex fight for refunds elsewhere. The new duty taking effect on Tuesday only lasts for 150 days unless extended by Congress and is widely seen as a bridge towards more durable trade policy. US Customs and Border Protection has said it would stop collecting tariffs struck down by the court starting Tuesday, too. It separately said it would start collecting the new 10-percent tariffs Tuesday.

The conservative-majority court ruled six to three that Trump had exceeded his authority in using a 1977 law to impose sudden tariffs on individual countries. Trump's new tariff will apply to \$1.2 trillion worth of imports on an annual basis or about 34% of total goods imported, said Erica York, vice president of federal tax policy at the Tax Foundation. "The Trump tariffs amounted to an average tax increase per US household of \$1,000 in 2025," she added. With Trumps global tariffs imposed under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act ruled illegal, his new and existing duties are still set to "result in a household burden of \$700 in 2026," she said. Trump insisted on Monday that the Supreme Court gave him "far more powers and strength" with its ruling, adding that he could "use licenses to do absolutely 'terrible' things to foreign countries."

Medical board examines PTI founder at PIMS: Senate told

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar on Tuesday informed the Senate that the founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was examined by a medical board comprising four expert specialist doctors at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS). Responding to various points raised by leader of the Opposition in Senate Raja Nasir Abbas, he said that the former prime minister was taken to PIMS with his consent, where a board comprising both government and private specialist doctors conducted a detailed medical examination. He said the medical board evaluated the patient's health condition, including ophthalmological assessment, cardiac evaluation and general medical review. The minister said the examination was carried out within the framework of the law and jail manual, emphasising that medical procedures for prisoners were governed strictly under existing legal provisions. Azam Nazeer Tarar said that the law did not permit special arrangements outside the prescribed rules, noting that medical assessments must be conducted in accordance with

established regulations. He informed the House that specialist doctors, including Prof. Nadeem Qureshi from Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital, a retinal expert, and Prof. Arif, Head of Ophthalmology at PIMS, participated in the medical evaluation. The minister said necessary treatment, including administration of prescribed doses, was provided following consultations among the medical experts. He further said cardiologists conducted tests, including ECG and echocardiogram, while laboratory investigations were also carried out. Azam Nazeer Tarar explained that the examination was scheduled at night due to security and operational considerations, stating that such arrangements helped minimize disruption at the hospital. He said the decision was taken to ensure smooth medical procedures without affecting emergency services and routine patient care. He said that matters relating to release, bail or foreign travel of a convicted prisoner fell under the jurisdiction of courts. Azam Nazeer Tarar reiterated the government's commitment to implementing legal provisions without discrimination, citing Article 25 of the Constitution regarding equality before the law. Meanwhile, responding to a point raised by Kamran Murtaza about compensation to victims of G-11 Kacheri blast, the minister said the government ensured an immediate response, with senior officials, including the interior minister, promptly rushed to the site and supervised relief efforts. - APP

UK police release ex-envoy Peter Mandelson



DNA

LONDON: London police released former ambassador Peter Mandelson on bail in the early hours of Tuesday, in a probe into his ties to disgraced US financier Jeffrey Epstein, only days after ex-prince Andrew was arrested.

Mandelson, a pivotal figure in British politics and the UK's former envoy to Washington, was arrested on suspicion of misconduct in public office around 17:00 GMT (10pm PKT) on Monday following allegations arising from the latest set of documents linked to Epstein. "A 72-year-old man arrested on suspicion of misconduct in public office has been released on bail pending further investigation," the Metropolitan police said in a statement around nine hours after he was taken in to an unnamed London police station. Images on UK television earlier appeared to show Mandelson, 72, being driven away from his north London home, accompanied by a man and a woman, after police raided his properties earlier this month. The arrest came days after Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor, King Charles III's younger brother, was detained on Thursday and released under investigation in a separate misconduct in public office investigation also related to the latest Epstein documents. Mandelson is being probed over allegations that he sent sensitive documents to the late US sex offender when he was a government minister, including during the 2008 financial crash. Police have not specified which documents are part of the probe. The veteran ex-politician was sacked by Prime Minister Keir Starmer as envoy to Washington in September when an earlier release of documents linked to Epstein showed the extent of their friendship.

PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar 'moves to block' Imran Release Force

MONITORING DESK

ISLAMABAD: PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan has intervened to stop Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi from proceeding with a controversial plan to raise an "Imran Khan Release Force." Party sources told that the intervention, both direct and through senior party figures, came after the chief minister's public announcement that a dedicated force would be created to secure the release of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan. Sources disclosed that Barrister Gohar conveyed a blunt warning (to the KP CM) that the creation of any entity described as a "force," particularly one requiring members to take an oath for a political objective.

Seven killed in air ambulance crash in India

DNA

NEW DELHI: All seven people on board a Beechcraft air ambulance that crashed in the Indian state of Jharkhand on Monday were killed, officials said on Tuesday, including two crew members, the patient and his relatives. The Beechcraft C90 plane, operated by Redbird Airways, took off from state capital Ranchi but requested a change to its flight path due to weather, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation said on Monday. The aircraft subsequently lost communication and radar contact, the regulator said. Rescue and medical teams rushed to the site of the crash, which local media said was deep inside a difficult-to-access forest. "The team of doctors found them, and declared them dead," local administrative official Keerthishree G told reporters, adding that two of the seven people killed were crew members. "We have pulled out the bodies and sent them for post-mortem and further investigation," the official said. Keerthishree G is the deputy commissioner of Chatra district, where the crash occurred during a thunderstorm. A team from India's Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau has been dispatched to investigate the cause, the regulator said. Most air crashes are due to a combination of factors and can take at least a year to investigate, according to industry experts. Relatives of the patient, Sanjay Kumar, told reporters he was injured in a fire and was initially undergoing treatment in Ranchi.

MURREE SPARKLETTS
Bottled Drinking Water

WATER TASTES BEST IN GLASS!!

CARBONATED WATER ALSO AVAILABLE IN GLASS BOTTLE

For Sales & Supply Contact:
Adeel Butt 03334131756
Kaiser Waheed 03325808422
Riaz Muhammad 0335 5111043