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PIA's handing over to new management a landmark step

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Population control a must: Ahsan Iqbal

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Western border heats up again Pakistan hands over demarche to Afghan envoy

Tarar says retaliatory strikes were carried out in the aftermath of recent multiple terrorist incidents inside Pakistan against the innocent people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Pakistan Rangers (Sindh) Camp in Karachi

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed that a strong demarche was issued to the Afghan Taliban regime following the recent terrorist attacks in Karachi. Spokesperson Tahir Andrabi stated that the Afghan chargé d'affaires was summoned to the Ministry last night, where Pakistan conveyed its concerns directly. A similar demarche was also delivered by Pakistan's Ambassador to Kabul, Ubaid-ur-Rehman Nizaman, to the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Andrabi explained that these steps were taken in light of evidence showing Afghan nationals, including one apprehended alive, were involved in the attack. He stressed that this proves once again that Afghan soil and Afghan nationals continue to be used to orchestrate terrorist attacks inside Pakistan. Meanwhile, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar said that security forces killed 29 militants in an intelligence-based operation (IBO) followed by calibrated strikes targeting terrorist hideouts along the Pakistan-Afghan border. In a post on X, Tarar said that the strikes were carried out in the aftermath of recent multiple terrorist incidents inside Pakistan against the innocent people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Pakistan Rangers (Sindh) Camp in Karachi. He said that security forces conducted a well-planned intelligence-led ground operation in Bajaur district on June 28, targeting militants linked to Indian proxy Jamaat ul Ahram and Fitna al-Khwarezi. During the operation, high-value militant commander Khan Ferooz alias Zehal along with three other militants belonging to Jamaat ul Ahram were killed, while several others sustained injuries.

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Cop martyred in Bannu

DNA

BANNU: A police constable was martyred after unidentified assailants opened fire on him near Lora Bridge in Bannu on Monday. Police identified the deceased as Umar Niaz Khan, who was on his way to report for duty. He was posted at the Bannu Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Bungalow. Local sources also said that unidentified armed assailants forced the police constable off a rickshaw before opening fire on him and killing him on the spot. Following the attack, the police and the peace committee cordoned off the area. They launched a search operation to trace the attackers, and efforts were underway to apprehend those responsible. Later, the funeral prayers for the fallen police officer were offered at the Police Lines, where fellow officers and officials paid tribute to his sacrifice. Bannu district has witnessed repeated security incidents in recent months, with both civilians and local security forces coming under attack. Violence has included attacks on police and jirga members, prompting targeted operations by police and

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ISLAMABAD: Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos, United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations and UN Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia (UNAOC) called on Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar. - DNA

Govt orders crackdown on Afghan nationals

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: The interior ministry has ordered law enforcement agencies nationwide to arrest Afghan citizens without visas from July 10 as part of an intensifying deportation drive. In a letter dated July 28 - addressed to all four provinces, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan and Islamabad administration - the ministry directed law enforcement agencies to "expedite the registration/deportation" of Afghan nationals living illegally in the country. The ministry said that "with effect from 10 July 2026, any Afghan national found residing in Pakistan without a valid visa shall be arrested immediately."

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Imran, Bushra move SC against IHC verdict

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi have approached the Supreme Court, challenging the Islamabad High Court's (IHC) verdict in the £190 million case, seeking suspension of their sentences and immediate release. The IHC, last month, rejected the petitions of the ousted prime minister and his wife seeking the suspension of their sentences in the £190 million corruption case, observing that their main appeals were already fixed for hearing.

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Iran's President says \$6 billion of Iranian assets in Qatar to be released: state media

The release comes under the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding signed on June 17, 2026, between US President Donald Trump and President Peshkshian, with Pakistan and Qatar acting as mediators and guarantors

DNA

TEHRAN: Iranian President Masoud Peshkshian announced that \$6 billion in frozen Iranian assets held in Qatar will be released, according to state media. The funds, originally tied to oil exports and transferred to Qatar in 2023 after a prisoner exchange deal, had been inaccessible since the October 7 Hamas attacks and subsequent regional tensions.

The release comes under the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding signed on June 17, 2026, between US President Donald Trump and President Peshkshian, with Pakistan and Qatar acting as mediators and guarantors. Negotiations are currently taking place in Bürgenstock, Switzerland, led by US Vice President JD Vance and Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf.

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Iran, US 'agree' to halt attacks and renew talks

"Technical talks are slated to continue on all areas of the MOU," says US official

DNA

TERAN: Iran and the United States agreed to halt recent hostilities in the Gulf and renew talks regarding their dispute over the Strait of Hormuz, a US official said on Sunday, raising hopes of saving an interim peace deal that was under pressure from days of tit-for-tat strikes. "Technical talks are slated to continue on all areas of the MOU."

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Briefs

Rains from first week of July

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) said on Monday that a fresh monsoon spell was set to begin in the country from the first week of July. Monsoon rains fall across the region from June to September, offering respite from the summer heat and are crucial to replenishing water supplies. However, heavy downpours also trigger deadly floods, landslides and displacement, particularly in vulnerable, poorly drained, or densely populated areas. In an advisory, the department said that a westerly wave was likely to enter the upper parts of the country from the Arabian Sea are continuously penetrating the eastern and central parts of the country.

14 prisoners escape from prison

DNA

RAWALPINDI: As many as 14 under-trial prisoners escaped from a prisoner van on Monday while being transported from Kahuta to Adiala jail after overpowering security guards, prompting police to launch a search operation, a statement said. "Following reports of prisoners escaping from a prison van in the Shalimar area of Rawalpindi, CPO Hamdani took notice of the incident and directed senior officers to immediately reach the scene, submit a report, and launch an operation," said a statement by a Rawalpindi Police spokesperson. However, the police spokesperson added that four of the escaped prisoners had been rearrested during an operation, while police teams were continuing search operations to apprehend the remaining escapes.

Landmark step Shehbaz welcomes handing over of PIA to new management

The successful completion of the First Closing of the PIA privatisation transaction is a moment of real satisfaction for my government and for the people of Pakistan, said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif

FIAZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has welcomed the First Financial Closing of Pakistan International Airlines Corporation Limited (PIACL) and greeted the nation on this historic milestone in the privatization history of Pakistan. The Privatisation Commission of Pakistan today achieved the First Closing

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of the investment of PIACL through privatisation, transferring management control of the airline to the investor consortium led by Arif Habib Corporation Limited, following satisfaction of all conditions precedent under the Share Purchase and Subscription Agreement (SPSA). The successful completion of the First Clos-

ing of the PIA privatisation transaction is a moment of real satisfaction for my government and for the people of Pakistan, said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. It demonstrates that complex, strategic transactions can be delivered transparently, competitively, and on time through team work and "Whole of the Government Approach." More importantly, it opens a new chapter for PIA and for our broader economic reform agenda, he added. Today's milestone achievement sends a strong signal to domestic and international investors: Pakistan is open for business, committed to reform, and ready for growth, said PM Shehbaz Sharif. With this First Closing, we move closer to reviving PIA to its past glory, said the Prime Minister. The Government remains committed to protecting the interests of employees,

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Pakistan says IWT dispute 'global test' of water rights

Minister Musadik Malik urges expanding country's storage capability to improve water management

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Musadik Malik on Monday said Pakistan was elevating the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) issue beyond a bilateral dispute, framing it as a global matter of justice, fundamental rights and the protection of downstream nations' access to water. Addressing a joint press conference with Information Minister Attaullah Tarar in Islamabad, Malik said Pakistan's position had been endorsed within the United Nations and international arbitration forums. According to the minister, many observers attributed floods and droughts solely to climate change, but argued that another factor also determined whether farmers received water or suffered drought. "There is a tap whose handle is in the hands of the prime minister of our neighbouring country, who says not a single drop of water will be allowed to flow into Pakistan," he said. According to Malik, between 40% and 50% of Pakistan's population depended on agriculture for employment, the sector contributed between 20% and 25% of the country's economy, and Pakistan's food security depended entirely on water availability. "Our food security, our economy and

the livelihoods of millions are linked to this water," he said, adding that decisions affecting river flows should not rest in the hands of another country. He argued that if upstream countries were allowed to stop or manipulate river flows to downstream states, it would create consequences for river systems across the world. "If this becomes acceptable here, what about all the other countries that depend on rivers flowing across borders?" he asked. Malik said the upcoming seminar on IWT would focus not only on the water treaty with India, but also on justice and fundamental rights. "This conference is about justice," he said. "This conference is about rights. It will decide whether children living downstream around the world have a right to water."

Malik said that concerns had previously existed that a series of run-of-river hydropower projects could enable India to temporarily retain enough water at critical agricultural periods to damage crops downstream. He said international rulings had already accepted Pakistan's position that water storage associated with run-of-river projects was subject to technical engineering limits and could not be carried out without restriction. Malik said recent events had demonstrated that while water could not be withheld indefinitely,

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CM Sindh lauds GIMS Gambat's performance in SA

SUKKUR: Chief Minister Sindh, Syed Muzaf Ali Shah highlighted the "exceptional performance" of the Gambat Institute of Medical Sciences (GIMS) during a session of the Sindh Assembly, citing the institute's one-year service data. Presenting the figures to the House, the Chief Minister said GIMS had attended to 128,094 Outpatients Department (OPD) patients and treated 29,052 indoor patients in the past year. He added that the institute conducted 126,761 dialysis procedures, performed 3,352 surgeries, and managed 4,722 oncology patients during this time period. The CM noted that GIMS had carried out 182 liver transplants, seven kidney transplants, 14 bone marrow transplants, and 19 cornea transplants, all free of charge. A total of 108 cardiac procedures were also completed at the facility. "Alhamdulillah, people are praising our hospital. MashaAllah, GIMS is delivering results that speak for themselves," the CM told the Assembly. According to GIMS Spokesperson, Jameel Haider, on Monday, the recognition came as the provincial government underscores its focus on expanding access to specialised, free healthcare. Officials credited the achievement to Captain (Rtd) Dr. Robin Bux Bhatti, Director GIMS Gambat, and the institute's medical and administrative teams.—APP

Strict action against motorcyclists riding without helmets

RAWALPINDI: City Traffic Police (CTP) Rawalpindi have launched crackdown against motorcyclists riding without helmets, with strict enforcement measures introduced across the city to improve road safety. Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Rawalpindi Farhan Aslam has directed all circle and sector in-charges to adopt a zero-tolerance policy and deploy special enforcement teams at all major entry points to the city to ensure compliance with helmet regulations. Speaking on the occasion, CTO Farhan Aslam said that protecting the lives and property of citizens has always remained the foremost priority of the Rawalpindi Traffic Police. He noted that motorcyclists account for approximately 73 per cent of road accident victims, with head injuries being the leading cause of fatalities in such incidents. He said the department is committed to ensure the mandatory use of helmets, adding that the ongoing helmet enforcement campaign has already resulted in a 40 per cent reduction in head trauma cases over the past few months. However, he stressed that stricter enforcement is essential to further reduce road fatalities and serious injuries. The CTO clarified that the objective of the campaign is not to generate revenue through traffic fines but to safeguard precious human lives. He added that widespread helmet use can significantly reduce fatalities and ease the burden on hospital emergency departments. Appealing to the public, Farhan Aslam urged motorcyclists to wear helmets not out of fear of penalties but for their own safety.—APP

Kundi urges overseas Pakhtuns to promote investment in KP

Governor Kundi said overseas Pakistanis were ambassadors of the country and continued to promote the identity and cultural heritage of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa wherever they lived

DNA

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Monday urged overseas Pakistanis, particularly Pakhtuns living in the Gulf countries and Europe, to play an active role in attracting foreign investment to the province. He said, saying their contributions could help unlock the province's economic potential. He expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation of Pashtun Global, a social organisation representing Pakhtuns residing in the Gulf and Europe, led by its head Umar Badshah, here at the Governor House.



ISLAMABAD: Due to unavailability of dense tree the Antelopes take shelter under dry fallen branch of tree along Faisal Avenue zoo in the Federal Capital during a hot and humid day.

CM directs stronger public oversight, digital reforms in PERA

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif chaired a special meeting to review Punjab Enforcement & Regulatory Authority (PERA)'s performance, digitalisation, legal framework and future roadmap. Authorities concerned briefed participants of the meeting that digital requisition would now be mandatory for PERA operations in order to ensure transparency and effective monitoring. She directed Director General PERA to further strengthen "PERA Ask" public complaints portal for prompt resolution of citizens' grievances; besides enhancing the direct public engagement and outreach. She also directed the relevant authorities that anti-encroachment operations must be preceded by due notice and warning to the public; and except for anti-encroachment and price control operations, all enforcement actions must be carried out only after prior digital requisition. Chief Minister Punjab said

that there is no place in PERA for officials who intimidate public or misuse their authority; as corruption and abuse of powers will not be tolerated under any circumstances; and strict compliance with PERA requisition rules must be followed in letter and spirit. She observed that PERA's 99% conviction rate reflects its performance, but stressed that Authority's goodwill should not be compromised; so every action of PERA must be people-friendly, adding that resistance to lawful action must end and rule of law should prevail. She also directed that investigating officers would no longer be transferred on anyone's recommendation. Relevant authorities apprised her in the meeting that PERA had won 99% of 136 writ petitions filed against it; and it has achieved 89% success in cases before judicial magistrates and hearing officers. They said that PERA's challan system is being fully

digitalised, with digital evidence and all records after trial force requisition are being preserved electronically; as the Authority has so far acted on more than 92,000 digital requisitions. They added that PERA has conducted 1,527,028 inspections across Punjab, resulting in sealing of 3,509 shops for violations of law. Under anti-encroachment campaign, more than 21,000 kanals of land have been retrieved, while 1,700 people have been arrested over illegal price hikes and encroachments. They highlighted that complete digital records of all such enforcement actions are being maintained. The meeting was further informed that PERA's challan completion rate has reached a record 97%. The first FIR under the PERA Act was registered over a manual challan, while 700 disciplinary punishments have been awarded within the department, dismissing 20 employees from service on charges of negligence.—DNA

Ombudsman stresses on institutional augmentation

KARACHI: The Federal Ombudsman, Navsood Kamran Baloch, Monday, emphasized the significance of augmenting institutional structure and informal resolution of dispute for ensuring speedy justice to aggrieved citizens. Federal Ombudsman, while chairing a meeting in his visit to Regional Office Karachi, also highlighted the measures focused at strengthening the institutional structure of Wafaqi Mahshab secretariat. Member in charge Karachi and provincial coordinator for Sindh, Amir Ahmad Shaikh, officers in charge of Regional offices at Hyderabad, Mirpurkhas and Sukkur, advisors and other senior officers attended the meeting. Navsood Kamran said that structure of registration, appraisal, implementation, informal resolution of disputes (IRI) and other sections of the Wafaqi Mahshab after joining of senior competent officers while initiatives for capacity building, facilitation.—APP

NUST CEME holds the 22nd NERC, showcases robotics competition

ISLAMABAD: Department of Mechatronics Engineering at College of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (CEME) successfully hosted the 22nd National Engineering Robotics Contest (NERC), reaffirming its status as Pakistan's foremost platform for robotics, innovation and engineering excellence. Welcoming participants and guests, Engr. Asbeer Mahmood Khan, Commandant, College of E&ME, lauded the remarkable growth of NERC over the past two decades and commended the increasingly sophisticated technical standards demonstrated by competing teams. The Chief Guest, Major General Atique Ahmed, HQ, DG EME, Pakistan Army, lauded NUST and CEME for their unwavering commitment to cultivating a culture of innovation and technological advancement among Pakistan's youth. NUST CEME holds the 22nd NERC, showcases robotics competition. He described NERC as a transformative platform that nurtures creativity, collabor-

ation, technical proficiency, and problem-solving capabilities. Expressing immense satisfaction with the caliber of the competition, he remarked that the ingenuity and enthusiasm displayed by the participants offered encouraging prospects for Pakistan's technological future. In recognition of their achievements, he also announced the doubling of prize money for the winners. Addressing the closing ceremony, Dr. Hamid Jabbar, Head of the Department of Mechatronics Engineering, extended his gratitude to the participants, organisers, volunteers, sponsors and partner institutions whose collective efforts contributed to the resounding success of the event. Since its inception in 2003, NERC has evolved into the country's largest and most prestigious robotics competition. This year's edition attracted approximately 247 teams from schools, colleges, universities, and private organisations across Pakistan, competing in nine diverse categories including Indig-

enous Robotics, Modular Robotics, RoboWars, and Aero challenges. The event was organised in collaboration with the STEM Careers Programme and the Higher Education Commission (HEC), with invaluable support from the Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF), Headstart School, National Centre of Robotics and Automation (NCRA), and the Society of Mechatronics Engineers (SOME). Awards were conferred in a wide range of categories, including Aero Ball and Fly, Aero Flying Exhibition, SumoWar, RoboWar, Modular, Ready to Race, and the flagship Indigenous Robotics Category. Special honours included the Akhtar Nawaz Team Spirit Award, presented in memory of the late Brigadier Dr. Akhtar Nawaz Malik, pioneer of NERC and founding Head of the Department of Mechatronics Engineering, as well as the Best Engineering Design Awards, recognising exceptional innovation, ingenuity and engineering excellence.—DNA

Religious leaders reaffirm resolve against extremism

RAWALPINDI: Prominent religious scholars, spiritual leaders and scholars from various schools of thought across Pakistan Monday reaffirmed their firm resolve against extremism, sectarianism and terrorism and pledged full support for national security institutions. The commitment was expressed at the "Paigham-e-Pakistan Ulema and Mashaid Seminar" held at Jamia Masjid Murhaba, where speakers credited the peaceful observance of Muharram to effective implementation of the Paigham-e-Pakistan code of conduct. The scholars paid rich tributes to the Pakistan Army, Rangers, police, law enforcement and intelligence agencies, as well as provincial governments, district administrations and volunteers for maintaining law and order during Muharram despite a sensitive security environment. They also appreciated the role of the Paigham-e-Aman Committee in strengthening coordination among scholars, spiritual and organisers of religious gatherings and ensuring compliance with the agreed code of conduct. Addressing the seminar, Prime Minister's Coordinator on the Paigham-e-Aman Committee and Chairman Pakistan Ulema Council, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi thanked participants for their role in promoting peace. He highlighted that hostile elements had attempted to incite sectarian tensions during Muharram, but responsible leadership by religious scholars, institutions efforts and public awareness ensured peace across the country. He said that Pakistan is a shared homeland for followers of different schools of thought and religions, where respect for beliefs is a constitutional, legal and religious obligation. He added that no individual or group has the right to spread hatred or insult others' beliefs. He further said the Paigham-e-Pakistan code reflected true Islamic teachings of moderation, dialogue, justice, tolerance and peaceful coexistence, stressing that disputes must be resolved through the constitutional and law rather than violence. He emphasised that only qualified scholars should issue religious rulings (fatwas), noting that irresponsible practices had declined due to the committee's efforts, helping reduce sectarian tensions. Ashrafi appreciated the Pakistan Election Commission (PEC) for taking timely and effective action over controversial television content during Muharram, urging media organisations to strengthen editorial oversight to avoid such incidents in future. He said that mistakes, if corrected, should be acknowledged, but repeated violations must be dealt with strictly under the law.—APP

MILITARY LANDS & CANTONMENTS DEPT
RAWALPINDI CANTONMENT BOARD

The Mall, Rawalpindi Cantt
Tel. 051-9274401-04 Fax No: 051-9274407

NOTICE INVITING E-BIDDING
SINGLE STAGE ONE ENVELOP EPADS V2.0

The Rawalpindi Cantonment Board being the procuring entity hereby invites E-bids from reputable firms registered with Pakistan Engineering Council having valid MTN and PEC Registration of relevant codes and relevant category are eligible to apply as mentioned in the bidding documents and the scope of the project has also been defined in bidding documents for the following project:

Sr #	Description	Estimated Cost Rs. in Millions	02% Earnest Money in Rs.	EPADS V2.0
1.	Desilting of Drains / Nullah Located at Rawalpindi Cantt	24.84B	498694	PS3270

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- i. Bidding documents shall be available only on PPRA and EPADS V2.0 portals. No hard copies shall be issued. Only firms registered on EPADS V2.0 as vendors shall be eligible to participate.
- ii. E-bids, prepared in accordance with the instructions contained in the bidding documents, must be submitted electronically through EPADS V2.0 on or before: 16 July, 2026 at 1:00 PM. The bids will be opened on the same day at 16 July, 2026 at 1:30 PM
- iii. Manual submission of bids shall not be entertained. Vendors not registered on EPADS V2.0 may register at: <https://vendors.epads.gov.pk/tutorial-link>: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9M9V13y7s>
- iv. In accordance with Rule 48 of PPRA Rules, 2004, a Grievance Redressal Committee (GRC) has been constituted. The notification is available on the procuring agency's website and EPADSPortal.
- v. Procurement shall be carried out through Open Competitive Bidding under Single Stage One Envelope Procedure PPRA rule 36(a), adopting Least Cost Based Selection (LCBS) technique in line with PPRA Rules, 2004.
- vi. The prospective bidder shall be responsible for cleaning, clearing and maintaining all drains during the forthcoming monsoon season and shall ensure that they remain free from blockages and obstructions up to 30-09-2026.
- vii. Bidders shall submit 2% of the estimated cost in the shape of Call Deposit Receipt (CDR) issued by any scheduled bank in favour of the Cantonment Executive Officer, Rawalpindi Cantonment Board.
 - i. As scanned copy shall be uploaded with the e-bid.
 - ii. The original CDR must be submitted prior to opening of bids.
- viii. Firms/contractors blacklisted by any Government/Semi-Government organization shall not be eligible to participate.
- ix. Detailed terms and conditions may be seen in the office of the Rawalpindi Cantonment Board during working hours on any working day.
- x. The Procuring Agency reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids prior to acceptance in accordance with Rule 33(1) of PPRA Rules, 2004, without assigning any reason.

P01014409/25

Cantonment Executive Officer Rawalpindi Cantt

National Days and Armed Forces Days

JUNE

- June 02/Italy National/Independence Day
- June 04/Finland Armed Forces Day
- June 06/Sweden National Day
- June 10/Portugal Portugal Day (National Day)
- June 10/Jordan Arab Revolution & Army Day
- June 11/United Kingdom Birthday of Her Majesty The Queen Elizabeth
- June 12/Philippines Independence Day
- June 12/Russian Federation Day of Sovereignty of the Russian Federation (National Day)
- June 13/Zambia Armed Forces day
- June 17/Iceland National Day
- June 18/Seychells National Day
- June 25/Croatia National Day
- June 25/Mozambique National Day
- June 25/Azerbaijan Army Day

- Rescue (Police).....15
 - Bomb Disposal.....15
 - Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16
 - Emergency Ambulance.....1122 & Rescue Services.....4551122
 - Motorway Police.....9286944
 - Motorway Police.....9270601-20
 - Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596
 - Rawalpindi.....9270601-20
- Enquiry**
- Ethi Ambulance.....315
 - PIA Flight Info.....114
 - PIA Cargo.....9280979
 - Railway Enquiry.....117
 - Railway Exchange/9270831-5
 - WASA Rawalpindi.....5555489
 - CAA.....9281692

Hospitals

- CMH.....5611111
- MH.....5611116
- Coast Hospital.....9270907-11
- DIQ.....5556311-4
- RGH.....9290301-7
- Holy Family.....9290322-7
- PIMS.....9281170-79
- Polyclinic.....92183000-9
- Shifa International 4603666

Departments

- CDA.....9221334-43
- CDA.....9280301-04
- Met Office.....9256390-6
- RIDA.....5555864
- TMA.....5770886
- Content Board 9270151-3

Islamabad Metropolitan

- Corporation.....9209224
- Potstar Town.....9209224
- Rawal Town.....5773243

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr. Musadik Malik meeting with UN Resident Coordinator Mohamed Yahya at Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental.

Unchecked population growth threaten uplift: Ahsan

Ahsan Iqbal highlighted that although Pakistan had reduced its population growth rate from 3.4 percent in 1990 to 2.4 percent by 2017, the latest census showed a reversal, with the rate increasing to 2.55 percent

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Monday warned that unchecked population growth remained Pakistan's most critical structural challenge, undermining economic progress and human development, and called for urgent national-level reforms to address the issue. Addressing the launching ceremony of a book on "Impact of Population Growth on Human Security in Pakistan," based on a study by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI), the minister said that without controlling population growth, the country would struggle to achieve sustainable development and improved living standards. He noted that while Pakistan's economic indicators were approaching those of middle-income countries, its social indicators lagged far behind, resembling those of least developed nations. "This contradiction in our development model must be resolved if we are to move forward," he

said, adding that rapid population growth was at the heart of this imbalance. Ahsan Iqbal highlighted that although Pakistan had reduced its population growth rate from 3.4 percent in 1990 to 2.4 percent by 2017, the latest census showed a reversal, with the rate increasing to 2.55 percent. "No country in history has achieved sustained progress with such a high population growth rate," he remarked, stressing that successful nations had brought their growth rates down to around 1 to 1.5 percent or lower. He explained that high population growth effectively dilutes economic gains. "If the economy grows at three percent while the population increases by 2.5 percent, the real progress is only half a percent," he said, terming it a major impediment to national prosperity. The minister pointed out structural flaws in the resource distribution mechanism, particularly the linkage between population size and allocation of resources and political representation.

He observed that the current system discouraged provinces from effectively implementing population control measures, as reducing population could lead to a decline in their share of resources and representation. Calling for reforms, he suggested introducing incentives for demographic efficiency within the National Finance Commission (NFC) framework so that provinces benefiting from population control efforts would not be penalized. Ahsan Iqbal also highlighted the importance of a stable and conducive development ecosystem, identifying four key pillars: peace, political stability, policy continuity, and a sustained commitment to reform and modernization. He said that no country had achieved development without ensuring these fundamentals. He lamented that despite having strong planning frameworks, Pakistan had historically struggled with implementation due to political instability and policy discontinuity. "We are not short of plans;

our weakness lies in execution," he added. Highlighting human security concerns, the minister described population growth as a central factor affecting education, health, and overall productivity. He noted that nearly 40 percent of children in Pakistan suffered from stunting due to malnutrition, calling it a "national security crisis" that limited the country's human potential. He further pointed out that Pakistan's literacy rate stood at around 63 percent, far below the global benchmark required for sustainable development, and stressed the need for universal primary education. "No nation can progress without ensuring that all children are in school," he said, adding that millions of children remained out of the education system. Ahsan Iqbal urged policymakers to treat population control, education, and human development as national emergencies, stressing that economic stability and long-term growth depended on addressing these fundamental challenges.—DNA

Scholars discuss Islamic political thought at AIQU seminar

ISLAMABAD: The Majlis-e-Fikres-Adab of Alama Iqbal Open University (AIQU) in collaboration with the Cultural Consulate of the Islamic Republic of Iran organized a scholarly seminar titled "The Philosophy of Politics in Islam" followed by the launch of the Urdu translation of a book on the same subject. The event was chaired by Prof. Dr. Shah Molyudhin Hashmi, Dean Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies, while Majid Meshki, Cultural Attaché of the Islamic Republic of Iran, attended as the chief guest. Prominent scholar Khurshid Nadeem, Iqbal scholar Dr. Muhammad Arif, Dr. Muhammad Hassan Nadir, and other academics participated in the seminar. The proceedings were moderated by Dr. Tahir Islam Askari. Speakers explored various dimensions of Islamic political thought, emphasizing that

the Islamic philosophy of governance is rooted in the principles of justice, trust, consultation (Shura), human rights and public welfare. They noted that these values provide the foundation for building a balanced and equitable society. In his presidential address, Prof. Dr. Shah Molyudhin Hashmi said that Iran has developed a distinctive intellectual and political model regarding Islamic political philosophy while Pakistan's Constitution also represents an important example of Islamic political thought, recognizing the sovereignty of Almighty Allah. He stressed that scholarly dialogue on the subject is a pressing need in the contemporary world. The second session featured the launch of the Urdu translation of the book "The Philosophy of Politics in Islam," translated by Dr. Muhammad

Hasnain Nadir. He highlighted the book's significance, explaining that it serves as an important academic resource for understanding Islamic political thought and concepts of governance. Addressing the ceremony, Khurshid Nadeem described the publication as a valuable academic and intellectual contribution. He noted that the book is taught in Iranian universities and reflects Iran's political and ideological approach to governance. He compared its role to that of Pakistan Studies textbooks in Pakistan, as it explains the intellectual foundations of the Iranian state. He also congratulated Dr. Hasnain Nadir on his lucid and scholarly Urdu translation. Chief Guest Majid Meshki said that the State of Madinah remains the practical and historical model of Islamic political philosophy. He observed that the book presents various dimensions of Islamic and Shia political thought and governance from an academic perspective. He expressed hope that the Majlis-e-Fikres-Adab at AIQU would continue to strengthen academic and intellectual cooperation between Pakistan and Iran.—DNA

Vibrant Parliament cornerstone of democratic stability

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Monday said that Parliament is the cornerstone of every democratic state and the true voice of the people's aspirations. He emphasized that the supremacy of Parliament is pivotal for democratic stability, constitutional supremacy, the rule of law, and public confidence. A vibrant, transparent and effective Parliament, he said, lays the foundation for sustainable solutions to public issues and serves as the driving force behind national development. He expressed these views on the occasion of the International Day of Parliamentarism, observed annually on 30 June, in various parts of the federal capital as part of enhanced security measures. The Speaker said that the National Assembly continues to play a proactive role in upholding democratic values, strengthening constitutional governance, promoting transparent legislation and ensuring effective parliamentary oversight. He observed that legislation is not merely about passing laws; rather, it's about building a comprehensive, effective and people-centric legal framework that advances public welfare, social justice, economic prosperity and national cohesion. He said that efforts are underway to further strengthen the role of parliamentary committees in order to make the legislative process more effective, transparent and result-oriented. Special emphasis, he noted, is being placed on harnessing modern technology, research, digital systems and institutional capacity-building to enhance the quality of legislation. Ayaz Sadiq stressed that, in keeping with the demands of a rapidly changing world, Parliament's responsibilities extend beyond lawmaking. It must also hold the Executive to account effectively and ensure that elected representatives faithfully champion the interests and aspirations of their respective constituencies. The speaker also urged all political stakeholders to rise above partisan differences in the larger national interest, the Speaker underscored the need to foster cooperation, tolerance, and constructive political dialogue to strengthen democracy and parliament. He remarked that a strong Parliament is the bedrock of a strong, stable and prosperous Pakistan. He also highlighted that, as an active member of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the National Assembly of Pakistan continues to make meaningful contributions towards promoting democracy, human rights, the rule of law, the political inclusion of women and youth, parliamentary diplomacy and sustainable development at the global level. Reaffirming Pakistan's commitment, he stated that the National Assembly would continue working closely with the IPU and other international parliamentary forums to advance global peace, inter-parliamentary cooperation and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Emphasizing the importance of parliamentary diplomacy in promoting regional and global peace, stability and development, the Speaker observed that stronger inter-parliamentary engagement fosters mutual trust, enhances understanding, facilitates the exchange of best practices and promotes collaborative legislation among nations. Such cooperation, he said, contributes significantly to strengthening democratic institutions both regionally and globally.—DNA

Long-term mineral policy, rail connectivity urged

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the All Pakistan Mines Owners' Association (APMOA), Mir Behroz Rigi, presented a comprehensive set of recommendations to Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Industries, Hanson Akhtar Khan, aimed at accelerating the development of Pakistan's mineral sector and transforming it into a key driver of national economic growth. During the meeting, along with other stakeholders from mining sector, Chairman of the All Pakistan Mines Owners' Association (APMOA), Mir Behroz Rigi emphasized that while Balochistan is richly endowed with natural resources and mineral reserves, the sector has remained developing due to the absence of a long term policy framework, inadequate infrastructure, limited connectivity and insufficient financial participation. The Chairman of APMOA proposed the formulation of a 15-year national mineral policy, to provide stability, attract domestic and foreign investment, and ensure sustainable growth of the mining industry. Highlighting the

importance of infrastructure, the APMOA chairman called for the modernization and expansion of Pakistan's railway network, particularly the Tufan-Quetta, Chaman-Quetta, and Sibi-Punjab/Sindh routes. He also stressed the need to rehabilitate and effectively manage the Chamsang-Dak-Harai-Sibi railway link, enabling the efficient transportation of minerals to ports. According to Mir Behroz Rigi, improved rail connectivity would significantly reduce transportation costs and facilitate the safe movement of minerals such as iron ore, granite, fluorite, chromite, copper, and other valuable resources to domestic and international markets. He added that increased freight operations could also generate billions of rupees in additional annual revenue for Pakistan Railways. The APMOA chairman further urged the government to prioritize vehicle addition by establishing refineries and mineral processing plants in mining regions instead of exporting raw minerals. Such initiatives, he said, would increase

export earnings, retain byproduct revenues within the provinces, promote industrialization, and create substantial employment opportunities for local communities. Mir Behroz Rigi emphasized that the rights and interests of local populations must be safeguarded through meaningful economic participation, employment opportunities, and equitable development benefits. He noted that corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives alone are insufficient, and that local communities should become genuine stakeholders in mineral development projects. He also recommended that mining be granted the status of a formal industry, enabling mine owners to access institutional financing. In this regard, he called for the establishment of specialized mineral banks and the provision of interest-free and low-cost loans to help investors acquire modern mining equipment and technologies. The APMOA chairman proposed developing power plants, mineral processing facilities.—DNA

Police detain 19 suspects in fresh combing, search operations

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police detained 19 suspects and shifted 26 motorcycles for further verification during large-scale combing and search operations conducted in various parts of the federal capital as part of enhanced security measures. An official told APP on Monday that the operations were launched on the directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Razi and carried out under the supervision of zonal SPs in the jurisdictions of Sumbal, Kirpa, Ashpara, Shahzad Town, Sabzi Mandi and Khanna police stations. The official said the lady police personnel participated in the operations to ensure comprehensive checking. During the search operations, police checked 507 individuals, 254 households, 20 hotels, and 70 shops, besides inspecting 238 motorcycles and 124 vehicles, the official said.—APP

7 detained, drilling equipment seized

DNA
ISLAMABAD: Seven people were taken into custody and drilling machinery was ordered to be seized after authorities uncovered illegal water drilling activity on a green belt along the Expressway near Khanna Pul. The action was taken following complaints, with district officials moving quickly against the operation. According to the district administration, the illegal drilling was being carried out on the green belt area near Khanna Pul along Islamabad's Expressway. Following reports of unauthorized activity, the Deputy Commissioner of Islamabad directed officials to take immediate action against those involved. Acting on these instructions, the Assistant Commissioner Nilgore conducted an operation at the site. During the inspection, authorities found that drilling work was continuing despite the cancellation of the No Objection Certificate (NOC) previously issued for the activity. As a result, seven individuals involved in the operation were taken into custody and shifted to the local lockup for further legal proceedings. The administration also ordered the seizure of the machinery being used for excavation and drilling at the site. Officials stated that the NOC for the project had already been revoked, making any further drilling activity unauthorized. The administration viewed the continued operation as a violation of official directives and environmental regulations governing public land and green belt areas. The district administration said it remained committed to monitoring illegal activities and responding to public complaints. Authorities added that action would continue against individuals or groups found carrying out unauthorized excavation, drilling, or other activities on public land. Legal proceedings against those detained were expected to follow in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Briefs

PM Shehbaz grieved over helicopter crash in KSA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday expressed deep grief over the tragic helicopter crash in Ras Daura, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which claimed the precious lives of 14 Saudi nationals.

"On behalf of the people and Government of Pakistan, I extend our heartfelt condolences to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the bereaved families, and the bereaved people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia," the prime minister wrote on his X timeline. He reiterated that Pakistan stood in full solidarity with its Saudi brothers and sisters in that hour of grief. Earlier on Sunday, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar held a telephonic conversation with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud on Sunday to convey condolences. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif thanked FPM Dar and deeply appreciated the brotherly gesture.—APP

Beijing Institute signs MoU with Punjab uni

ISLAMABAD: A high-level delegation from the University of the Punjab (UoP) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Beijing Institute of Business and Technology to strengthen academic, research and economic cooperation between the two institutions. According to a Gwadar Pro's report on Monday, the delegation was led by UoP Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Mahmood Ali and included Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities Prof. Dr. Mehboob Hussain, Dean of the Faculty of Information Technology Prof. Dr. Shehzad Sarwar, and other senior university officials. During the visit, representatives of both institutions discussed expanding bilateral cooperation through student and faculty exchange programs, joint research initiatives, and new opportunities for academic and economic collaboration. As per UoP's statement, the two sides also signed an MoU aimed at broadening institutional partnerships and translating their shared academic and research goals into practical cooperation. The agreement is expected to further strengthen higher education ties between Pakistan and China while promoting academic exchanges and collaborative research between the two countries.—APP

Pak records strong IPO momentum

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) approved ten Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) for listing on the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) during the first half of 2026. According to a press release issued by the Commission on Monday, the nine companies have already completed their IPOs, raising more than Rs20 billion through public offerings, while the book building for LSE SPAC-II is scheduled to take place in the coming days. The strong IPO momentum came despite regional uncertainty and geopolitical tensions, demonstrating the resilience of Pakistan's capital market and sustained investor confidence. The robust IPO pipeline also reflects the success of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan's (SECP) reforms to simplify regulations, facilitate capital raising, and encourage investment companies to access the capital market. The IPOs spanned a

IHC disposes of contempt case against Adiala Jail Superintendent

Accepting the request, the court recorded the undertaking in its order and adjourned the hearing for two weeks.

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday disposed of contempt of court petitions filed against the Adiala Jail superintendent over the alleged non-provision of signed vakalatnamas (powers of attorney) to PTI founder and his wife, Bushra Bibi, declaring the matter infructuous after the documents were made available. A division bench comprising Chief Justice Sattar Muhammad Sarfraz Dogar and Justice Muhammad Asif directed the parties to proceed with final arguments in the appeals against the convictions in

Government hands over management control of PIACL

Government achieves First Financial Closing of PIACL Privatisation Transaction with Management control transferred to the investor consortium following satisfaction of all conditions precedent under the Share Purchase and Subscription Agreement

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Privatisation Commission of Pakistan today achieved the First Closing of the investment of Pakistan International Airlines Corporation Limited (PIACL) through privatisation, transferring management control of the airline to the investor consortium led by Arif Habib Corporation Limited, following satisfaction of all conditions precedent under the Share Purchase and Subscription Agreement (SPSA). The successful completion of the First Closing of the PIA privatisation transaction marks a significant milestone in the Government of Pakistan's economic reform programme. It reflects the Government's commitment to implement a transparent, competitive and investor-friendly privatisation agenda under the leadership of the Honourable Prime Minister, Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, who has consistently championed a greater role for the private sector as a driver of sustainable economic growth, investment and employment. The Privatisation Commission highly commends the support and guidance of Deputy

Prime Minister, Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Finance Minister and Cabinet Committee on Privatisation. Since execution of the SPSA on 29th January 2026, the Privatisation Commission and other GoP stakeholders including Ministry of Defence, completed a challenging Condition Precedent under the SPSA. These included domestic and overseas regulatory approvals, lessors and commercial consents, aviation policy reforms, corporate approvals, restructuring of taxation relating legacy liabilities, aircraft financing arrangements, governance changes, tax-related matters, airport infrastructure arrangements, and the provision of transaction security by the investor consortium. The Conditions Precedent were completed within an exceptionally compressed timeframe while maintaining uninterrupted airline operations, preserving critical commercial relationships and aviation certifications, protecting employees' interests, and ensuring continuity of services for passengers throughout the transition. The bidding process, held on 20th December, 2025 led to total investment commitment by the consortium of Rs. 180 billion, out of which Rs. 55 billion will be paid to

Government of Pakistan for sale of PIA and Rs.125 billion will be injected into PIA to support the long-term transformation of PIA and revive the national carrier to its past glory. Accordingly following successful achievement of the Conditions precedent, under the First Closing, the Consortium today has completed the following: Rs.10 billion paid to the Government of Pakistan as Sale proceeds and Rs.80 billion injected into PIACL as fresh equity to strengthen the airline's financial position, support fleet expansion and modernisation, expand its route network, enhance operational performance and customer service, and position the airline for long-term growth. The Second Closing is scheduled to take place within twelve months of the First Closing, in accordance with the terms of the SPSA, whereby the consortium has committed to invest a further Rs.45 billion into PIACL. The consortium which has also served its intent to buy the remaining 25% of the PIA-CL shares as a Call option under the SPSA for an additional payment of Rs.45 billion to the Government of Pakistan. Speaking on the occasion, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Privatisation, Mr. Muhammad Ali, said:

"This transaction demonstrates Pakistan's ability to execute complex strategic transactions through a transparent, fair, competitive and professionally managed process. It reinforces the Government's commitment to economic reforms, fiscal responsibility and greater private-sector participation while strengthening confidence among domestic and international investors." The Government remains committed to protecting the interests of employees, passengers and consumers while ensuring a smooth transition and uninterrupted airline operations. All applicable aviation laws and regulatory oversight will continue to apply. The Privatisation Commission acknowledges the support of the Federal Cabinet and the contributions of the Privatisation Commission Board, participating ministries particularly Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Finance and other government institutions, local regulatory authorities and the financial advisory consortium - for the transaction led by EY Consulting LLC. Debt for their contribution and efforts leading to the successful First Closing. This First Closing marks a significant milestone in Pakistan's privatisation programme.



ISLAMABAD: A CDA staffer watering the roadside plants in the Federal Capital.

Motorcycle snatching gang busted

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police have arrested two members of a motorcycle-snatching gang allegedly involved in multiple incidents of motorcycle snatching and robbery, recovering two stolen motorcycles and weapons during an operation in the Banu Gals police station area. An official told APP on Monday that the arrests were made by a Banu Gals Police team during an intelligence-based operation conducted with the help of modern technology and human intelligence as part of the ongoing crackdown against motorcycle snatchers, dacoits and other street criminals in the federal capital. The official said police recovered two snatched motorcycles, a weapon used in the commission of the crimes and ammunition from the possession of the arrested suspects. According to the official, the two accused were already named in several criminal cases and, during preliminary interrogation, confessed to their involvement in multiple incidents of motorcycle snatching and robbery. Further investigation is underway to trace their accomplices and determine their involvement in other criminal activities, the official said. Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Islamabad Muhammad Jawad Tariq said Islamabad Police was continuing a strict campaign against motorcycle theft, snatching and robbery, adding that these efforts had resulted in a significant decline in such crimes across the federal capital. He directed all police officers to intensify operations against criminal elements and ensure that offenders were brought to justice.—DNA

diverse range of sectors, including manufacturing, petroleum, dairy, Islamic finance, poultry, real estate, and technology, highlighting the growing depth and breadth of Pakistan's capital market. Service Long March Tyres Limited raised Rs7.77 billion to establish a passenger car tyre manufacturing plant in Noorabad. Sitar Petroleum raised Rs4.83 billion, with its IPO fully subscribed in just eight minutes and attracting demand seven times the shares offered. Ghani Dairies raised Rs4.4 billion, becoming Pakistan's first listed corporate dairy farm, while Wahdat Poultry raised nearly Rs. 1 billion for business expansion. PakQatar General Takatuf, Pakistan's first listed non-life Takatuf company, received institutional demand 21 times the shares offered and attracted more than 13,000 retail investors. The period also saw the successful listing of Signature Residency REIT and JS Rental REIT, expanding investment opportunities in professionally managed real estate. Pakistan's first LSE SPAC-I was listed, while LSE SPAC-II received SECP approval. Select Technologies also joined the market, reflecting growing investor interest in Pakistan's technology and manufacturing sectors. SECP Chairman Dr. Kabir Ahmed Siddiqi reaffirmed the Commission's commitment to further simplify listings and make stock market investing easier and more accessible. He said SECP's objective is to expand investor participation, enable more Pakistanis to share in the country's growth, and strengthen capital markets as a key driver of investment and economic development.—APP

School secures provincial accreditation

GWADAR: The China-Pakistan Gwadar Faqeer Government Girls High School has received accreditation as a senior high school from the School Education Department, Government of Balochistan. This recognition will unlock increased government support, greater operational autonomy, more qualified teaching staff and improved learning facilities. Gwadar Pro reported on Monday, funded by the China Foundation for Peace and Development (CFPD). Gwadar Faqeer Girls High School was established in 2016. Over the past decade, the school has developed from a primary school to a comprehensive secondary school under the financial management of China Foundation for Peace and Development (CFPD) Pakistan Limited, alongside support from local authorities. To date, its student enrolment has risen from an initial 140 to 550. Gwadar Faqeer Girls High School has become one of the most prestigious institutions in the region. It offers educational opportunities to many local girls from impoverished families and orphans," COPIEC said in a statement.—APP

Chinese Green buses reach Layyah

ISLAMABAD: As part of Punjab Chief Minister's Green Mobility Vision, 10 Chinese-made Higer electric green buses have arrived in Layyah, marking a significant step towards modern and environmentally friendly public transport in the district. The Punjab government has also announced that the financial management of China Foundation for Peace and Development (CFPD) Gwadar Faqeer Girls High School will soon be added to the fleet according to a Gwadar Pro's report on Monday. The newly arrived buses are designed to provide safe, comfortable, energy-efficient, and eco-friendly transportation for commuters. Their induction is expected to improve public transport services while helping reduce carbon emissions. The same Chinese Higer electric buses are already operating on roads in several Punjab cities, including Lahore, Faisalabad, Multan, Bahawalpur, Sargodha, and Gujranwala, as part of the Punjab government's expanding green transport network. The initiative aims to modernize urban transit and promote clean energy across the province.—APP

Lumino to organize free dental camp at ICCI

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Lumino Dental & Aesthetic Clinic, F4 Markaz, Islamabad, is organizing a Free Dental Camp on Wednesday, July 1, 2026, at the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The initiative is aimed at promoting oral health awareness and encouraging preventive dental care among the business community and the general public. During the camp, a team of highly experienced dental specialists will conduct free dental examinations, identify potential oral health issues, and provide professional advice on preventive and precautionary measures to help participants maintain good oral hygiene. The camp will offer an excellent opportunity for ICCI members, their families, employees, and visitors to receive expert consultations and guidance on maintaining healthy teeth and gums, while also learning about the importance of early diagnosis and timely treatment. It is noteworthy that Lumino Dental & Aesthetic Clinic is currently offering a 40 percent discount on all dental procedures, making quality dental care more accessible and affordable for patients. The management of Lumino Dental & Aesthetic Clinic has invited the business community and the general public to avail themselves of this free healthcare initiative and take a proactive step towards better oral health.

SP Ayaz honours city zone officers

ISLAMABAD: Superintendent of Police (SP) City Zone Dr. Ayaz Hussain on Monday honoured police officers of the City Zone with appreciation certificates in recognition of their exceptional performance during Muharram-ul-Haram security duties. An official told APP that the certificates were awarded to officers who performed their duties with dedication, professionalism and a strong sense of responsibility during the security arrangements for Muharram processions and Majlis. Ayaz Hussain appreciated the commitment and hard work of the officers in maintaining law and order and ensuring the safety of mourners throughout Muharram-ul-Haram. He encouraged the officers to continue performing their duties with the same spirit, professionalism and devotion in future assignments.—APP

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Briefs
Pakistan hands over demarche to Afghan envoy

FROM PAGE 01
Taliban view: Pakistani strikes in three eastern provinces of Afghanistan killed 36 civilians and wounded 163, the Taliban government's foreign spokesman said on Monday. "The attacks carried out last night resulted in the martyrdom of 36 civilians, including women and children, while 163 others sustained injuries," Hamdullah Fiaz posted on his X account. Pakistani security forces Sunday carried out a ground operation along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, followed by "calibrated strikes" against militant hideouts and safe havens, officials said.

Cop martyred in Bannu

FROM PAGE 01
Security forces in various localities to disrupt terrorist networks. Last month, the Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS) said in an assessment that after two consecutive months of improvement, Pakistan's security situation had deteriorated sharply in May 2026, driven primarily by escalating terrorist violence in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. On May 9, a suicide attack in Bannu claimed the lives of 15 police personnel, after which Pakistan issued a "strong demarche" to Afghanistan.

Pakistan says IWT dispute...

FROM PAGE 01
Even shorter-term interruptions reinforced earlier concerns regarding the timing of river flows needed for agriculture. He stressed that Pakistan also had a responsibility to improve its own water management by expanding storage and regulating seasonal flows. "The purpose of dams is not merely storage," he said. "Their purpose is to regulate water so that farmers receive it when crops actually need it." Addressing the presser, Minister Tarar maintained the IWT cannot be suspended unilaterally, adding that the agreement had been formally recognised by both countries. The information minister said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir had consistently maintained that water was a matter of Pakistan's survival.

Imran, Bushra move SC...

FROM PAGE 01
The petition - filed in the Supreme Court - argues that even after admitting the appeal as maintainable, the IJC ignored the key points of the case. It contends that rejecting the suspension plea without conducting a preliminary review of the evidence was legally incorrect, and that it is legally permissible to examine case merits while deciding on suspension of sentence. The petition highlights that during the trial, bail had been granted and the allegations had been declared baseless. It further states that the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) repeatedly sought adjournments, prolonging the appeal and causing undue delay in justice. The petition draws attention to serious health concerns faced by both the PTI founder and his wife during their imprisonment. It states that Imran developed an eye condition during detention and was shifted outside jail for treatment. It further argues that refusing release despite severe health issues amounts to injustice. The petition also states that the PTI founder faced extraordinary mental anguish due to solitary confinement, and that the manner of his arrest was unlawful and irresponsible - a higher court had previously ordered his release on grounds of illegal detention. On the question of jurisdiction, the petition argues that the proceedings were carried out on political grounds in the name of accountability.

South Korea demands change after dismal World Cup exit

Early exit prompts coach Hong to quit and casts doubt over the international future of captain Son Heung-min

DNA
SEOUL South Korea's dismal World Cup first-round exit has sparked fury at home and calls for a complete overhaul at the top have not been silenced by coach Hong Myung-bo's resignation. South Korea, World Cup semi-finalists as co-hosts in 2002, limped out of the tournament after failing to squeeze into the knockout rounds as one of the top eight third-place finishers. They had the last-32 within their reach only to suffer a shock 1-0 loss to lower-ranked South Africa. The exit prompted coach Hong to quit on Sunday and cast doubt over the international future of captain Son Heung-min. It also earned the team a re-buke from the country's president Lee Jae Myung, who pointed the finger at "incompetent people" and apologised to the nation. The president's comments reflect public anger that has reached boiling point after years of simmering discontent at South Korean football chiefs. Former captain Park Ji-sung said, "We may have expected this outcome years ago." "We have to look back and ask ourselves why things have come to this," the former Manchester United player said after the team's elimination was confirmed. "Even after spending a decade learning how to prepare for the World Cup and develop Korean football, we have forgotten those lessons once again." South Korea were expected to get out of a Group A that included co-hosts Mexico, plus South Africa and the Czech Republic. They started with a 2-1 win over the Czechs but lost 1-0 to Mexico before flopping against South Africa. The team were expected to arrive home on Tuesday morning but local media reported that the Korea Football



Association (KFA) were not planning to organise an event to welcome them back. In 2014, angry fans pelleted the team with Korean cans when they returned from the World Cup in Brazil, where they went out in the group stage during Hong's first spell as coach. Hong has been a lightning rod for criticism since he returned to the job in July 2024, five months after his predecessor, German World Cup-winner Jurgen Klinsmann, was axed. The KFA came under fire for the process that led to Hong's resignation, with questions asked over its transparency and fairness. Hong, who was regularly booed by fans, did himself no favours at the World Cup by dropping star player Son for the South Africa game, in which South Ko-

rea needed only a point to progress. Hong admitted afterwards that he was struggling to understand what had gone wrong as the nation nervously waited for results in other games to decide their fate. Lee Chung-soo, a member of the 2002 World Cup team, said he "felt pathetic and frustrated" in times since the "betrayal" against the Democratic Republic of Congo in the hope that the result would send South Korea through. "This is a message to change." Lee said on his YouTube channel. "Everyone should be ready to step down." South Korean fans reserved a sizeable chunk of their anger for KFA president Chung Mong-ryu. Chung said before the World Cup that he would quit after the tour-

namment, blaming his "lack of virtue" following fierce criticism of his 13-year tenure. The 65-year-old, who is in his fourth term as KFA president, came under fire for trying to pardon former players who were banned for life for match-fixing. Chung and Hong might not be the only ones to bow out, with captain Son yet to comment on his future. The skipper, who turns 34 next month, had previously hinted at retiring from international football. Former captain Park said South Korea needed the team from the past. "It's unfortunate that this kind of cycle keeps repeating," he said. "We must dream of and shape a better future, and move forward step by step so that we don't repeat these mistakes."

Pakistan's pace attack finalised for West Indies, England Test tours

LAHORE: The management committee of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has finalised its pace attack for the upcoming Test tours of West Indies and England. The selected fast bowlers are Mohammad Abbas, Mohammad Ali, Khuram Shehzad and uncapped pacer Usaid Shah. The 29-year-old Shah has been included as the pace-bowling all-rounder. As a result, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Hasan Ali and Hamza Badar who were part of the squad for the Bangladesh tour, have been left out. Twenty-year-old right-arm pacer Usaid Shah has a Test debut in an innings of 66.67. Khuram Shehzad, the 26-year-old fast bowler from Mandi Bahaudin,

He has claimed 72 wickets in 15 first-class matches at an average of 25.26. Usaid is also the younger brother of Pakistan Test fast bowler Naveem Shabbir. Veteran seamer Mohammad Abbas is the most experienced fast bowler in the squad. He has taken 110 Test wickets in 29 Tests at an impressive average of 23.23. Mohammad Ali will return to the national side after last representing Pakistan in the Bangladesh Test against Bangladesh in September 2024. The right-arm pacer has taken six wickets in four Tests at an average of 66.67. Khuram Shehzad, the 26-year-old fast bowler from Mandi Bahaudin,

Australian to host double header

SYDNEY: Australian said Monday its football team will play two games against powerhouse Brazil for their first home fixtures after the World Cup. Soccerex will face Carleto Anselmi's decorated side in Townsville on September 25 and in Brisbane four days later. "Brazil are a world-class football nation, and we look forward to facing them in Australia," said Soccerex coach Tony Park on Monday. "It's an exciting challenge and a media focus remains firmly on our World Cup campaign. I'm delighted that we are looking in features of this culture, because we want to consistently test ourselves against top-tier opposition moving forward." Two teams have been named for Monday's first encounter in 1988, with Australia winning just once while banking two draws. - APP

Samsung to expand financial support for suppliers

SEOUL: Samsung Group said Monday it will expand financial support for its suppliers and help approximately 6,700 partner companies expand into overseas markets. The initiative is part of the group's broader efforts to foster sustainable growth across its supply chain and promote a culture of cooperation between large corporations and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). "Samsung would not be where it is today without the hard work, dedication and tireless efforts of our partner companies," Roh Tae-yeon, co-chief executive officer (CEO) of Samsung Electronics Co. and a member of its board, said. "We will build an even stronger partnership with our suppliers to achieve sustainable growth together." Samsung said it will further expand financial assistance for its SME suppliers through existing funds, which together total 3.5 trillion won (US\$2.26 billion). The group's 11 affiliates will also broaden communication channels with suppliers and regularly assess the effectiveness of their support programs. In addition, Samsung plans to strengthen suppliers' global competitiveness by supporting their overseas expansion and helping connect them with global supply chains through various cooperative initiatives. - APP

Bulgarian hospital performs first surgery on "Butterfly Child"

The surgery was part of a two-day specialist seminar, experience-sharing programme and professional discussions at Pirogov
SOFIA: A child with epidermolysis bullosa, a rare inherited disorder commonly known as "butterfly disease", has undergone surgery for the first time in Bulgaria at the Pirogov University Hospital, the hospital said on Saturday. The operation on the boy's hands was performed jointly by specialists from Pirogov's Burn and Plastic-Reconstructive Surgery Clinic and Associate Professor Dr Paige Fox of Stanford Medicine, in partnership with DEBRA Bulgaria, a patient organization for people with epidermolysis bullosa. The procedure aims to significantly improve the patient's hand function and quality of life. The boy has already been discharged and is recovering at home, with rehabilitation planned. The surgery was part of a two-day specialist seminar, experience-sharing programme and professional discussions at Pirogov. The operation was broadcast live for attending medical professionals. Epidermolysis bullosa is a rare genetic condition that makes the skin and mucous membranes extremely fragile, causing painful blisters and wounds from even minor friction. In severe cases, it can lead to deformities of the hands and feet, fusion of the fingers and toes, and significant disability. According to Pirogov, specialised reconstructive surgery delivered by a multidisciplinary team is essential to preserving patients' mobility and independence. - APP

Shehbaz welcomes handing...

FROM PAGE 01
passengers and consumers while ensuring a smooth transition and uninterrupted airline operations. All applicable aviation laws and regulatory oversight will continue to apply. Prime Minister commended the role and hard work of Deputy Prime Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar. The Prime Minister joined Tribuna Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and his dedicated team for this teamwork. PM also commended the role of Minister of Defence Khawaja Asif, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, Advisor on Privatisation Muhammad Ali and members of the Cabinet Committee on Privatisation and Privatisation Commission in making this transaction success.

Saudi Arabia football federation chief resigns

RIYADH: Yasser Al-Misheal resigned as president of the Board of Directors of the Saudi Arabian Football Federation (SAFF) on Monday, taking responsibility for the national team's early exit from the FIFA World Cup 2026 and bringing an end to his seven-year tenure at the helm of Saudi football. In a statement posted on X, Al-Misheal said the Green Falcons' failure to reach the knockout stage had fallen far short of the ambitions of Saudi football and its supporters, and that he accepted full responsibility for the disappointing campaign. He said stopping aside would allow for a new phase for Saudi football and confirmed that procedures would begin to open nominations for the election of a new board of directors in accordance with federation regulations. Al-Misheal also expressed gratitude to King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for their continued support of Saudi football, as well as to Sports Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Turki Al-Faisal and members of the federation's board. The resignation follows mounting criticism of the team's displays as deeply frustrating and said a new national team should begin to be built with an eye toward 2034. - APP

Govt orders crackdown on Afghan nationals

FROM PAGE 01
It further requested that a daily report - indicating the number of Afghan nationals found without valid visas, the action taken against them, and their present status - be furnished to the ministry, commencing July 11. The directive is dated Sunday, the day US military forces pulled out of Pakistan Rangers (Sindh) camp in Karachi left three Rangers personnel martyred and four others injured. According to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the assault on the camp at the main gate of the camp before attempting to breach the perimeter security. The attack was decisively foiled by the vigilant response of Rangers troops, who eliminated three militants and captured two in a wounded condition, the military's media wing said.

Canada reach World Cup last 16 as late strike sinks South Africa

That enraged a heavily Canadian crowd, and the jeers grew louder after half-time as South Africa were content to exchange deep passes under little pressure while the clock ticked down

LOS ANGELES: Stephen Eustaquio's stoppage-time winner fired South Africa to a 1-0 win over South Africa on Sunday in the first match of the World Cup knockout rounds, as the clock ticked down to the last 16 for the first time in their history. With both sides making their first-ever appearance in the knockout phase, the game appeared to be heading for extra time, before Eustaquio broke South African hearts with a clinical hit from just outside the area. Canada - playing in Los Angeles despite being co-hosts, after failing to win their group - will now face the Netherlands or Morocco in Houston in the last 16 on July 4, as South Africa's World Cup adventure comes to an end. Before the game, coach Jesse Marsch had

talked up the "X-factor" of Canada's star Alphonso Davies, available again after a hamstring injury. But the Bayern Munich wing-back, who was yet to appear at the World Cup, remained glaringly absent from the starting line-up. Still, Canada began on the front foot, racking up chances against South Africa's low block. In the 22nd minute, a pinpoint Eustaquio free-kick found Derek Cornelius wide open on the sixyard line. The Canada center-back utterly mistimed his headed effort. South Africa threatened sporadically on the counter. But in a frenetic period just before half-time Canada came agonizingly close. From a corner, Moise Bombito's header was cleared off the line, before Tajon Buchanan's follow-up shot was blocked

by goalkeeper Roman Williams. Moments later Khuliso Madau crashed into the dangerous Richie Riedel, but his penalty appeals were waved away. That enraged a heavily Canadian crowd, and the jeers grew louder after half-time as South Africa were content to exchange deep passes under little pressure while the clock ticked down. Just past the hour mark, Canada came close again. Substitute Niko Sigur slid a through ball to Tani Ulawasey whose shot was well-served by the goalkeeper and looped up toward Jonathan David - but defender Mboketsh Mboketsh just got there first and cleared brilliantly. In the 75th minute Davies finally appeared, to a huge roar, and made an immediate

impact. From the left wing, Davies found Jonathan David who laid the ball to fellow striker - and no relation - Promise David, but his shot went wide. Moments later Davies found Jonathan David again. This time he shot from a tight angle, but was denied by Williams. In the second minute of stoppage time, Canada finally broke through, from the other flank. Jacob Staffelburg raced down the right wing and pinged in a cross which was headed clear to Eustaquio. The Porto midfielder - on loan at Los Angeles FC - chested the ball down and slotted a first-time into the bottom-left corner. Canada's bench streamed onto the pitch as the stadium erupted, celebrating a historic victory. - APP

Iran, US 'agree' to halt attacks and renew talks

FROM PAGE 01
Both sides will stand down for now and vessels can move freely," the official said, referring to the 14-point memorandum of understanding that was agreed on June 17 under which the Strait would be reopened for traffic. It was the first reported cessation of hostilities, citing a senior US official, said talks would resume Tuesday in Qatar. A return to diplomacy would follow several days of strikes and counter-strikes since an Iranian projectile hit a cargo vessel in the Strait of Hormuz on Thursday, with both the US and Iran accusing the other of breaking an interim ceasefire that was agreed to on June 17. Iran launched missiles and drones at US military sites in Kuwait and Bahrain early on Sunday, shortly after President Donald Trump threatened that the Islamic Republic will not agree to exist if it did not honor the agreement to end the war. Meanwhile, Israel said on Sunday it had once again struck Iran-backed Houthi Hezbollah militants in Lebanon, destroying underground infrastructure used by the group in a village in southern Lebanon. That came after another strike on Saturday, which closely followed its latest ceasefire deal with Lebanon on Friday. Iran says the fighting in Lebanon must end if the wider agreement is to stick. The US military said earlier it had struck Iran again, hours after a tanker was hit in the Strait of Hormuz, the world's most important energy shipping route, which Tehran has largely closed for most of the conflict. "There may come a point where it is no longer able to be reasonable, and will be forced to militarily complete the job that we very successfully started," Trump said on social media, before the Axios report. "If that happens, the Islamic Republic will no longer exist" he added. The 14-point interim peace accord was meant to halt the fighting, which the US and Israel reopened on February 28, and reopen the Strait while talks proceeded on nuclear such as Iran's issues program.

\$6 billion of Iranian assets in Qatar...

FROM PAGE 01
Pezeshkian stressed that the agreement favors Iran, reaffirming Tehran's right to enrich uranium while clarifying that Iran does not seek nuclear weapons. He added that Iran will be used strictly for humanitarian goods and non-sanctioned items, primarily sourced from international markets. The deal also includes a 60-day ceasefire window during which talks will continue, signaling a potential first-time easing tensions in the Middle East and advancing US-Iran relations.

Briefs

Gold prices decline by Rs2,300 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The prices of gold witnessed a decline in the local market on Monday, with 24-karat gold per tola decreasing by Rs2,300 to settle at Rs428,536, according to rates issued by the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association. Similarly, the price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold fell by Rs1,972 to Rs367,743, whereas 10 grams of 22-karat gold declined by Rs1,907 to Rs357,110. In the international market, the price of gold decreased by \$23 to \$4,065 per ounce. Meanwhile, the price of silver per tola decreased by Rs69 to Rs6,324, while the price of 10 grams of silver fell by Rs59 to Rs421. The price of silver in the international market also decreased by \$0.69 to \$58.45 per ounce, the association reported.—APP

PSX losses over 1,156 points

ISLAMABAD: The benchmark KSE-100 Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish momentum on Monday, losing 1,156.47 points, a negative change of 0.64 percent, closing at 178,414.80 points against 179,571.27 points on the last trading day.

During the session, the ready market recorded a trading volume of 869,381 million shares with a traded value of Rs 43,946.56 billion, compared to 851,209 million shares valuing Rs 40,381 billion in the previous session. The market capitalization declined to Rs 20,020 trillion from Rs 20,135 trillion a day earlier.

Out of 494 active companies in the ready market, 151 advanced, 320 declined and 23 remained unchanged.

Sifara Petroleum topped the volume chart with 104,436 million shares, followed by WorldCall Telecom with 75,532 million shares and K-Electric Ltd. with 51,575 million shares. The top gainers included Sapphire Textile Mills Limited, which increased by Rs 78.89 to close at Rs 1,538.89, and The Premier Sugar Mills, which gained Rs 69.30 to settle at Rs 762.29. On the losing side, Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited declined by Rs 90.54 to close at Rs 25,705.11, while Khairpur Sugar Mills Limited fell by Rs 85.44 to close at Rs 2,300.23. In the futures market, larvae stood at 129,541 million shares with a traded value of Rs 6,960 billion, compared to 738,211 million shares worth Rs 34,105 billion in the previous session. Out of 302 futures-market companies, 71 recorded gains while 231 declined, with no company remaining unchanged, according to PSX data.—APP

Rupee gains 03 paise against Dollar

ISLAMABAD: The Rupee on Monday appreciated by 03 paise against the US Dollar in interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.17, down from the previous day's closing of Rs 278.20. According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market were recorded at Rs 279.00 and Rs 279.20, respectively. The price of the Euro against the rupee increased by Rs 1.59 and closed at Rs 317.24 from the previous day's closing of Rs 316.85, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen came down by 01 paise and closed at Rs 1.71, whereas the exchange rate of the British Pound witnessed an increase of Rs 0.68 and closed at Rs 307.61 compared to the previous day's Rs 306.93. The exchange rates of the Emirati Dirham remained unchanged to close at Rs 75.74. Saudi Riyal declined by 06 paise on a closed at Rs 74.06.—APP



ISLAMABAD: The Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Bilal Azhar Kayani chairing a high-level consultative meeting with prominent business leaders, exporters, and senior officials from the Ministry of Commerce and the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) at the Ministry of Finance to discuss tax reforms, export facilitation schemes, and measures to enhance Pakistan's industrial competitiveness.

Agricultural skills project Pak, Italy sign €20m concessional loan agreement

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Italy on Monday signed a concessional loan agreement worth 20 million (approximately Rs 6.3 billion) to support the Professional Capacity Building and Extension in Agriculture project under Pakistan's Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) National Reform Programme, aimed at strengthening agricultural skills development and vocational education in the country. The agreement was signed by Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Muhammad Hamid Karim and Ambassador of Italy, Marilina Anselmi in the presence of senior officials from the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation,

the Ministry of National Food Security and Research, and provincial departments. The project was aimed to strengthen Pakistan's Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) system, with a particular focus on the agriculture sector, by enhancing professional skills, improving technical certification, and promoting innovation across agricultural value chains. The initiative was designed to build the capacity of farmers, extension workers, trainers, and other stakeholders through modern, demand-driven training programmes that contributed to increased productivity, sustainable agricultural practices, and improved livelihoods. Under the programme, emphasis would be placed on the development of high-value crops and the strengthening of agro-food value chains. Dedicated

training facilities would support stakeholders engaged in horticulture production, processing and marketing, while fostering product diversification and value addition. The project would focus on crops including olives, pistachios, dates, mushrooms, cherries, grapes, peaches, and almonds, drawing upon Italian expertise in modern agronomic practices and Pakistan's significant agricultural potential. Over a period of 42 months, the programme would deliver 720 training courses benefitting an estimated 18,398 participants, including farmers, women, youth, and trainers, supported by the development of 11 standardized training curricula. Infrastructure investments would include the establishment of 12 model orchards and nurseries, eight eco-villages equipped with climate-resilient technol-

ogies, five agro-food processing units, and two National Centres of Excellence for citrus and date crops in Sargodha (Punjab) and Turbat (Balochistan). The project would be implemented by Pakistan Overseas Department in coordination with Provincial Agriculture Departments and was expected to generate rural employment, enhance producer incomes, reduce post-harvest losses, strengthen farmer cooperatives, and improve the competitiveness of Pakistan's agriculture sector. The signing of this agreement reflected the strong and longstanding development partnership between Pakistan and Italy and underscored their shared commitment to promoting sustainable agricultural development, skills enhancement, and inclusive economic growth through strengthened bilateral cooperation.

Philippines arrests 4 Israelis accused of violations

MANILA: Four Israelis have been arrested in Siargao on charges of violating Philippine laws, authorities said on Monday, after months of resident protests against Israeli presence on the southern Philippine island. Reports of misconduct involving Israeli tourists went viral last month, when two Israelis were reported to have assaulted the owners of Cartoon Resto Cafe in Siargao, allegedly because it had a Palestinian flag on display. Over the past few weeks, prominent Filipino influencers have been calling for a crackdown on visitors from Israel to stop harassment and abuse of local businesses and rules. In a series of arrests conducted by the Bureau of Immigration last week, Israelis were the largest group of foreigners accused of violations related to their stay and activities on the island. Besides them, immigration officials also arrested a Moroccan national, an Australian, a Lithuanian, a Nigerian, and two Chinese. "While the reports on unruly incidents did not directly cause the arrest, it caused the office to take a closer look at these individuals and their status in the country," BI spokesperson Dana Krizia Sandoval told Arab News. "They were found to have violated immigration laws, hence will face sanctions for their violations." One of the Israelis was tagged by the BI as "an undesirable alien following a previous arrest by local authorities." Elie Resa, Siargao resident and community advocate, welcomed the arrests but said she hoped the government's action would go beyond a single operation. "I'm glad that finally our authorities are now doing something about it, taking the necessary actions against these foreign nationals who blatantly violate our laws," she told Arab News.—APP

Pakistani delegation explores green construction partnerships

BEIJING: The 2026 Changsha International Green Intelligent Construction and Building Industrialization Expo, opened in Changsha, transforming the Changsha International Convention and Exhibition Center into a global showcase for next-generation building technologies. With over 45,000 square meters of exhibition space, the three-day event has drawn industry leaders, policymakers, and business delegations from 29 countries and regions, under the theme "Technology Empowers Intelligent Construction; Innovation Leads to a Better Life". For Pakistani visitors, the expo represents more than a technological spectacle, it is a strategic sourcing ground for scalable, cost-effective solutions to meet the country's growing infrastructure and housing needs. At the forefront of the overseas delegation is Abul Basit, Head of Business Development at Fecto Group of Industries, one of Pakistan's oldest industrial houses established in 1952 with flagship operations in cement, sugar, tractors and mining. SEN reported, "Chinese technology is always helpful for Pakistan. Pakistan has a demand for high-quality building materials and intelligent construction technologies, and China offers leading solutions," Basit shared. "We are looking for a good partner who can come as a joint venture partner so we can jointly expand the cement factory." Basit also revealed that Fecto Group held mining licenses in Balochistan and Gilgit-Baltistan and was actively seeking Chinese companies to cooperate on these untapped resources. This marked his first visit to Hunan province's strategic choice as the region was home to several of the world's top 50 construction machinery manufacturers, many of which were showcasing their full industrial value chains with a focus on intelligent and eco-friendly equipment. The expo was organized around three core pillars: intelligent equipment, "good housing" construction and urban renewal. Key innovations on display range from intelligent site safety equipment and automated cement leveling robots to low-carbon urban renewal technologies and smart living systems, providing a panoramic view of both domestic and international construction advances. Among the most sought-after technologies is SAHY's systemic green demolition and recycling service, which provides integrated solutions for controlled blast and eco-friendly material recovery. Hu Zhiming, President of Pakistan-Hunan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, noted that this particular innovation has attracted strong interest from the Pakistani side. "Pakistan has a demand in this area, especially as the country accelerates its infrastructure modernization and urban renewal projects," he noted. Major Hunan firms, including Hunan Construction Investment Group, have explored potential participation in infrastructure projects in Pakistan, highlighting a growing convergence between the province's technological expertise and Pakistan's development agenda. The intelligent construction sector in Hunan has been on a steep growth trajectory. From January to May 2025, the province's construction industrialization and intelligent construction sector achieved an output value of RMB 159.9 billion, up 23.9 percent year-on-year.—DNA



Relationship at Global Trade Expo Centre Pakistan, delivered a comprehensive briefing on the significant trade and investment potential between Pakistan and France. He highlighted promising opportunities in various productive sectors and emphasized the need for stronger institutional collaboration, increased business exchanges, and strategic initiatives to promote economic growth in both countries. He stated that the primary objective of the Pakistan-France

Saudi Foreign Minister to visit China

BEIJING: Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud will pay an official visit to China from June 30 to July 1, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Gao Jiankun said on Monday. Addressing his regular press conference, he said that the Saudi Foreign Minister will undertake two-day visit at the invitation of Wang Yi, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs. The visit underscores the continued high-level diplomatic engagement between Beijing and Riyadh.—APP

Pak envoy, Egypt's minister vow enhance sports coop

CAIRO: Ambassador of Pakistan to Egypt, Amir Shoukat, called on Egypt's Minister of Youth and Sports, Gharar Nabil to present Pakistan as a global sports hub and discuss avenues for enhancing bilateral cooperation in the field of sports during the meeting. Ambassador Shoukat official ball "Trianda" for the World Cup and discuss avenues for enhancing bilateral cooperation in the field of sports during the meeting. Ambassador Shoukat official Match ball "Trianda" to the Minister as a token of friendship and support for the Egyptian national football team ahead of the FIFA World Cup games. He conveyed best wishes from the leadership and people of Pakistan for the team's success and expressed confidence in Egypt's strong performance in the global stage. The two sides exchanged views on promoting sports diplomacy and explored opportunities for cooperation in sports development, including the exchange of expertise, technical knowledge, training programs, and international collaboration between Pakistan and Egypt. Ambassador Shoukat reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening bilateral ties with Egypt through enhanced people-to-people contacts and collaboration in sports, recognizing its role in fostering friendship and mutual understanding between the two countries.—APP

Five dead in shooting at German youth welfare center

STADE, Germany: Five people were shot dead at a youth welfare center in Germany Monday and the suspected gunman has been arrested. Police say the country's deadliest mass shootings in years. Police in protective vests and ambulances were seen in large numbers in the northern city of Stade, west of Hamburg, in the wake of the gun rampage. "Homicide involving multiple victims occurred at a youth welfare facility" in the city, police said. "Five people were fatally injured and additional victims sustained injuries." The suspected gunman and a second alleged perpetrator were arrested, police said, adding that investigations into what precisely happened were ongoing. There was no longer any danger to the public, they said. News emerged of the shooting, police confirmed that a major operation was under way in Stade, a city of about 20,000 people on the Elbe river, 50 kilometers (30 miles) west of Hamburg. Images in local media showed a large contingent of police and ambulances gathered on a cobblestoned street in Stade while helicopters hovered overhead. "We ask you to leave the area and give it a wide berth for your own safety," police said in an earlier post on X. Germany has some of Europe's strictest gun laws — they require anyone under 25 to pass a psychiatric exam before applying for a gun license — and mass shootings are relatively rare. But they occur from time to time, and Monday's was among the deadliest in recent times. In February 2020, a far-right extremist shot dead nine people and wounded 17 others in the central German city of Hanau.—APP

CEO GTEC, Pak envoy discuss steps to boost Pak-France trade ties

PARIS, France: Mr. Mazhar Hussain Thathal, Chairman & CEO of Global Trade Expo Centre (GTEC) Pakistan, successfully led the fifth Pakistan-France Trade and Business Delegation 2026 to Paris with the objective of strengthening bilateral trade, investment, and business cooperation between Pakistan and France. During the official visit, the delegation held a high-level meeting at the Embassy of Pakistan in Paris with Her Excellency Ambassador Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, Ambassador of Pakistan to France, along with the Embassy's Trade Counsellor Mr. Salman Ahmed Raja. The meeting focused on enhancing economic collaboration and identifying new business opportunities in key sectors, including agriculture, information technology (IT), textiles, and food processing. Her Excellency appreciated the continuous efforts of Mr. Mazhar Hussain Thathal and the Global Trade Expo Centre in promoting Pakistan's business community through international trade exhibitions, business delegations, and B2B networking initiatives across the European market. She reaffirmed the Embassy's commitment to supporting initiatives that enhance Pakistan's exports and strengthen commercial ties with France. The prestigious delegation comprised senior representatives from leading business organizations, including the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Haripur Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry, and other prominent trade bodies and business enterprises. During the meeting, Mr. Liaqat Ali Thathal, Director International Trade &



Trade and Business Delegation is to connect the business communities of both nations, facilitate bilateral partnerships, and create sustainable opportunities for trade, investment, and industrial cooperation. The visit consisted of a shared commitment from both sides to further strengthen Pakistan-France economic relations by encouraging greater private-sector engagement, trade promotion activities, and long-term business partnerships.—DNA

Briefs
China's Xi meets Belarus president

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping met with Belarusian leader Alexander Lukashenko, a key Russian ally, in Beijing on Monday, state media said. Xi hosted Lukashenko at the ornate Diaoyutai state guesthouse, Chinese state broadcaster CCTV said, without immediately providing further detail. Lukashenko, who has been in power since 1994, allowed Moscow to launch its 2022 Ukraine invasion through Belarus but has denied plans for direct involvement in the war. Belarus, which borders NATO's eastern flank, hosts Russia's latest nuclear-capable missile, the Oreshnik. China meanwhile has presented itself as a neutral party throughout the conflict, although Kyri's allies have long accused Beijing of secretly helping Moscow. Lukashenko last visited China in September 2025, when he attended a grand military parade in Beijing and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Tianjin. — APP

Australia, Vanuatu sign deal

SYDNEY: Australia and Vanuatu signed a sweeping economic and security agreement on Monday that bars the establishment of any foreign military base in the Pacific nation. Vanuatu is at the centre of strategic rivalry between China and US allies in the South Pacific, and Australia has expressed concern that Beijing is seeking a permanent security presence in the region. The agreement commits Australia to \$345 million in support for Vanuatu, whose largest external creditor is China, and it stops a foreign military power establishing a base there. "What this does is to provide certainty for Australia that there will be no foreign military base," Prime Minister Anthony Albanese told reporters after signing the deal in Canberra with his Vanuatu counterpart Jotham Napat. "We have concluded a balanced agreement that will protect our collective and individual security and our sovereignty," he said. China's navy has made repeated port calls to Vanuatu. Beijing also funded the expansion of a wharf in Luganville, once the largest US military base in the South Pacific, fueling concern that China wanted a navy base. China and Vanuatu previously said the wharf was for cruise ships. The "Napat Agreement" commits Vanuatu to rejecting the militarisation of infrastructure. Napat said.

Iran says held first meeting with Oman on managing Hormuz

"During a trip to Muscat, the first meeting of the Joint Hormuz Committee was held," said Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi on X, without specifying the date

TEHRAN: Iran's foreign ministry said Monday it had held the first meeting with Oman on managing the Strait of Hormuz since Tehran and Washington signed their preliminary deal to end the Middle East war. Both Iran and Oman say they hold sovereignty over the waterway, a vital route for Gulf energy exports that Tehran blocked during the war. "During a trip to Muscat, the first meeting of the Joint Hormuz Committee was held," said Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi on X, without specifying the date.

While reviewing the current issues related to the strait, we exchanged views on the future management," he added. Hormuz is a narrow stretch of water separating Iran and Oman that is only about 30 kilometers (18 miles) wide. The future of the strait has been a key sticking point during talks between Tehran and Washington to end their conflict. Last Tuesday, following a visit by Iranian officials, Oman and Iran announced in a joint statement that they were examining the costs associated with the future man-

'Israeli, Lebanon deal will not be passed by parliament'

Hezbollah on Monday reaffirmed its stand against the agreement and said it reserved the right to self-defense after several Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon despite a truce between the two sides. BEIRUT: Lebanese Parliament Speaker and Hezbollah ally Nabih Berri said early Monday that the trilateral framework agreement between Lebanon, Israel and the United States would not pass as it did not guarantee Lebanon's rights. "This agreement will not pass, and it will not be implemented in its current form," Berri said in a statement shared by his party the Aamal movement, adding that it was "an agreement of 'dictates', not an agreement that preserves Lebanon's rights." The deal paves the way for Lebanese-Israeli peace and conditions Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon on Hezbollah's disarmament. Hezbollah on Monday reaffirmed its stand against the agreement and said it reserved the right to self-defense after several Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon despite a truce between the two sides. In a statement, the group said that it "reiterates that what the enemy has done is a blatant violation of the ceasefire to which it has adhered until now, and that it is monitoring and tracking these violations, and reserves its right to defend its homeland and its people." — DNA



BAGHDAD: President of the Republic of Iraq Abdul Latif Rashid receives congratulatory letter from the Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue, Senator Saleem Mandivhala, along with an invitation to visit Pakistan. — DNA

Russia rallies support for army

"Next we're going to see the monument to Alexander Nevsky on the shores of Lake Peipus," she added, referring to a 15-meter-tall statue of the battle's victor, inaugurated by President Vladimir Putin in 2021. SAMOLVA: Seeing a whole class of children pile into his museum about a Russian prince's 13th-century victory over Western crusaders, historian Vladimir Potomov was delighted. His "Battle on the Ice" exposition is only made up of a few rooms, but has seen a surge in visitors since its inclusion on a list of "patriotic" tourist routes published by local authorities. It is one aspect of how Russia has sought to promote pride in its history and military conquests across the country since launching its Ukraine offensive in 2022. Authorities have launched more than 140 "patriotic" tourist routes since 2021, many aimed at highlighting historic victories by the Russian empire and Soviet Union. "Our museum is small, but recently we've been welcoming around 5,500 visitors a year," said 80-year-old Potomov, who moved from Moscow to the village of Samolva more than a decade ago to found the museum. "The Battle on the Ice brought to a close what was history's first clash between Russia and the collective West," he added, using a term the Kremlin regularly employs to describe Moscow's NATO and European enemies. Among the exhibits on display at the museum are maps and replica helmets that schoolchildren are encouraged to try on. A teacher accompanying the class told AFP that they were visiting as part of a "patriotic education" assignment set by her school — a task that has become increasingly commonplace since Moscow launched its Ukraine offensive. "Next we're going to see the monument to Alexander Nevsky on the shores of Lake Peipus," she added, referring to a 15-meter-tall statue of the battle's victor, inaugurated by President Vladimir Putin in 2021. "The children love it," she added. Fought in 1242 over a frozen lake straddling what is now Russia and Estonia, the Battle on the Ice resulted in a decisive victory for Prince Alexander Nevsky of Novgorod, halting the eastward expansion of the Catholic Teutonic order. The battle was the subject of film director Sergei Eisenstein's 1938 classic "Alexander Nevsky." — APP

Tens of thousands of immigrants scammed by US attorney

WASHINGTON: An attorney in Washington state promised "miracles" to tens of thousands of immigrants seeking legal status in the United States. Instead, Alexandra Lozano created fake stories of domestic abuse and human trafficking to apply for humanitarian visas without her clients' knowledge, according to several lawsuits and a federal investigation. They say she preyed on immigrants' desperation to drain their bank accounts while leaving them at risk of deportation. She is accused hiring workers who didn't have proper legal credentials and building an assembly-line system to rush through applications, even copying clients' signatures onto documents they never saw. "I put the trust of my family with her," 30-year-old Gabriel Martinez Garcia said. After they paid \$30,000, he said Lozano duped his family and got his mother placed in removal proceedings despite her marriage to a naturalized US citizen. "We believed in her and then she just let us down," Lozano's firm, Luz del Camino Legal, closed this month amid a barrage of allegations. She permanently surrendered her law license rather than face discipline from the bar association, and denies wrongdoing. While federal data shows immigration service scams are rising sharply, Lozano's alleged scheme stands out for its scale. The bar says her signature is on more than 53,000 pending cases. It's unclear how many cases were fraudulent or to what extent her clients were conflicted. The ones suing her say they had no idea. The consequences of her downfall are hitting the immigration system "like a tidal wave," said Erika Gano-

zalez, an attorney with the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking. The Trump administration last year started overhauling the humanitarian programs Lozano allegedly exploited, claiming a surge in applications since 2020 was a sign of widespread fraud. The administration tightened the programs' restrictions and slowed processing rates, which advocacy groups say will hurt legitimate victims. The visas are most for people who were trafficked or abused. Lozano specialized in getting visas under the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 and the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, which covers all genders. These programs seek to protect victims from having their immigration status rescinded by absent. Evidence standards are more flexible, making the system more accessible to victims. But it's also easier for an unscrupulous firm to exploit, immigration attorneys say. Lozano's firm probed clients for issues at home or work, then spun them as abuse cases that didn't meet the threshold for these humanitarian programs, according to attorneys representing dozens of her old clients. Although clients quickly secured work permits, they often faced trouble years later when seeking permanent residency and their claims faced greater scrutiny. Lozano denies mass immigration fraud Angelo Callo, an attorney representing Lozano, said clients were expected to review their applications before signing and bid blame for them for false statements. "Alexandra's practice has always been to fight for her clients, zealously pursue every lawful option available to them, and support their efforts to build a life in this country," his statement said.

SJC dismisses complaint against IHC judge

The judge's son was remanded in police custody after the incident. A judicial magistrate ordered his release on December 6, 2025 after the victims' families pardoned him in court, in accordance with provisions relating to qisas (retribution) and diyat (blood money) under the Pakistan Penal Code. ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) has dismissed a complaint against Islamabad High Court (IHC) Judge Muhammad Asif, closing proceedings over allegations that he used his office to influence a hit-and-run case involving his underage son. On December 2, last year, a black sports utility vehicle (SUV), driven at high speed, allegedly by Justice Asif's son, struck two girls travelling on a scooter near the Pakistan National Council of Arts in Islamabad. Both girls were killed in the incident. The judge's son was remanded in police custody after the incident. A judicial magistrate ordered his release on December 6, 2025 after the victims' families pardoned him in court, in accordance with provisions relating to qisas (retribution) and diyat (blood money) under the Pakistan Penal Code. The SJC — which is the constitutional body empowered to inquire into the conduct of superior court judges and recommend removal to the president — task that has become increasingly commonplace since Moscow launched its Ukraine offensive. "Next we're going to see the monument to Alexander Nevsky on the shores of Lake Peipus," she added, referring to a 15-meter-tall statue of the battle's victor, inaugurated by President Vladimir Putin in 2021. "The children love it," she added. Fought in 1242 over a frozen lake straddling what is now Russia and Estonia, the Battle on the Ice resulted in a decisive victory for Prince Alexander Nevsky of Novgorod, halting the eastward expansion of the Catholic Teutonic order. The battle was the subject of film director Sergei Eisenstein's 1938 classic "Alexander Nevsky." — APP

Man charged with attempted murder

DUBAI: A man has been charged with the attempted murder of five people after a car struck multiple pedestrians in west London, the Met Police said on Sunday. Tahir Ahmed Mohamed, 34, of Grange Park in Ealing, has been charged with five counts of attempted murder, as well as dangerous driving, failing to stop, failing to provide a breath sample and criminal damage. Police were called to Ealing Broadway at 2:29 pm on Saturday following reports of a vehicle hitting pedestrians. Five people were injured in the incident. Two were treated at the scene, while three were taken to hospital with injuries that were not considered life-threatening or life-changing. Mohamed has been remanded in custody and is due to appear at Willesden Magistrates' Court on Monday.

One killed in shooting in California

SAN JOSE: One person was killed and another seriously injured on Sunday in a shooting at a popular entertainment spot in San Jose, California, that has been hosting a World Cup "fan zone" screening matches, police said. There were no World Cup games being screened at the time of the shooting, with the only match of the day in the tournament finishing around 2 p.m. local time (2100 GMT). "One victim was pronounced deceased on scene. The second victim was transported to a local hospital with life-threatening injuries," San Jose police said in a post on social media platform X. "This incident is being investigated as a homicide. Several surrounding streets are closed in the area." The incident occurred at San Pedro Square, one of several places in the San Francisco Bay Area where huge crowds have gathered for lively "watch parties" showing World Cup matches on big screens. The Bay Area has hosted five World Cup matches so far, with the last game a knockout match on Wednesday between Bosnia and co-hosts the United States.

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