



Islamabad POST

Tuesday, September 01, 2026

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

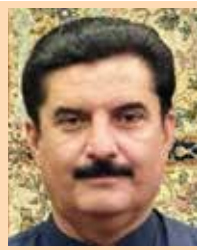
Price Rs. 40

War not in anybody's interest, says Iranian president Pezeshkian

Detailed News On Page-08

KP Governor calls for more sports events

Detailed News On Page-02



Safraz Ahmed removed as cricket coach

Detailed News On Page-01



Tri-nation pact renamed 'Makkah Defence Alliance'

Joint efforts against terrorism, defence capabilities and collective deterrence on agenda, says Turkish foreign minister; first secretary general to be from Pakistan: Turkish FM

DNA

ISTANBUL: Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan on Monday announced that the tripartite defence pact between Ankara, Islamabad and Riyadh has been renamed the "Makkah Defence Alliance", with its first secretary general to be from Pakistan. Addressing a press conference following the inaugural meeting of the Strategic Political and Defence Committee, established under the tripartite pact, in Istanbul, FM Fidan said the secretariat of the alliance would be established in Riyadh. Previously, the tri-nation agreement had been named as the "Makkah Joint Defence Agreement." The Turkish FM said that they were working on a roadmap for process of other countries to participate in the joint defence pact. He said that the meeting aimed at promoting regional peace, stability and prosperity, adding that decisions taken at the meeting would yield meaningful results. The meeting will determine shared responsibilities in the backdrop of growing regional and global tensions, FM Fidan added. He said that the meeting would also discuss global and regional security issues, strengthening the defence capabilities of the three countries and enhancing coordination among their armed forces. Fidan said the pact aimed at strengthen joint defence capabilities and collective deterrence. He said the agenda will also include strengthening joint efforts against terrorism and reviewing cooperation in the defence industry, including joint production, research and development. Fidan said the meeting will also consider a framework for establishing a secretariat and relevant mechanisms to guide joint activities. Fidan emphasised

that the alliance is not directed against any specific state and remains open to participation by friendly countries that adhere to the principles.

Earlier in the day, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) and Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir represented Pakistan at the high-level trilateral huddle. The meeting was also attended by the foreign and defence ministers, as well as the chiefs of general staff of Türkiye and Saudi Arabia. Pakistan's participation in the meeting reflects its historic bonds of friendship with the brotherly countries of Türkiye and Saudi Arabia, as well as its commitment to lasting regional peace and stability. The defence agreement, signed on August 7, brought together the Muslim nations concerned by the Middle East war that began on February 28, after the US and Israel jointly bombed Iran and targeted its top leadership. The defence pact is intended to strengthen collective deterrence against any act of aggression and stipulates that an armed attack against any of the three would be regarded as an attack on all, similar to NATO's Article 5 collective defence clause. On the sidelines of the first meeting of the committee, Saudi Arabia's Defence Minister Khalid Bin Salman met CDF Munir to review the prospects for military and defence cooperation between the two brotherly countries. In a X post, he said that they discussed developments in the regional situation and the efforts being made in response to them. Meanwhile Defence czar Asif met Minister of National Defence of Türkiye Yasar Guler in Istanbul. Khawaja Muhammad Asif and the Turkish leadership agreed to enhance joint defence cooperation in the region.

Two terrorists killed during Washuk IBO

Sources say India-backed terrorists were involved in attacks on Mashkel police station, Customs House

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Security forces have killed two terrorists affiliated with Fitna al-Hindustan during an intelligence-based operation in Washuk district of Balochistan, security sources said on Monday. The successful operation was carried out in the Palantak area of Washuk as part of the ongoing Operation Rad-ul-Fitna against India-sponsored terrorists operating in the province, they added. The killed terrorists were involved in attacks on the Mashkel police station and Customs House, the sources said. During the operation, the terrorists' vehicle was destroyed, while weapons and ammunition were recovered from their possession. They said that the arms and ammunition were intended to be used in target killings of unarmed Baloch people and other terrorist activities. The sources said security forces would continue operations against Fitna al-Hindustan terrorists until the threat is completely eliminated from the province. Pakistan has witnessed a surge in terror activities,

Continued on Page 06



BISHKEK: Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif and President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev held a productive meeting on the sidelines of the SCO summit. – DNA

Brotherhood in Bishkek

Pakistan, Uzbekistan chart a shared future

PM Shehbaz Sharif conveys warm felicitations to President Mirziyoyev and the people of Uzbekistan on the occasion of their 35th Independence Day, underscoring the deep fraternal ties between the two nations

DNA

BISHKEK: On the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit in Bishkek, a highly productive meeting was held between the Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif and his "dear brother," President Shavkat Mirziyoyev of Uzbekistan. The Pakistani leader conveyed warm felicitations to President Mirziyoyev and the people of Uzbekistan on the occasion of their 35th Independence Day, underscoring the deep fraternal ties between the two nations. Both leaders reviewed the strong momentum in their Strategic Partnership and reaffirmed their commitment to accelerate the implementation of decisions in trade, investment, and connectivity.

Continued on Page 06

PM stresses building on Islamabad MoU for lasting peace

Premier emphasises importance of restraint and sustained diplomatic engagement to achieve lasting peace

DNA

BISHKEK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday underscored the need to build on the understandings reached under the Islamabad memorandum of understanding (MoU), saying that it offered the only viable pathway

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

Chinese, Russian leaders meet



CENTRELINE REPORT

ISTANBUL/BANGKOK/NEW DELHI: The leaders of China, Russia and India gathered with other heads of state in Kyrgyzstan on Monday for the summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, a group billed as a counterweight to US global influence. Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi are attending the events in Bishkek, the capital of the Central Asian nation. Putin and Xi met in one of the many bilateral sessions on the sidelines of the summit, Russian state media reported.

Bilawal denies reports of his engagement

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD:Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Monday denied reports that his engagement had been finalised, saying no such development had taken place. "I want to make it clear that neither has the match been finalised nor have I got engaged," Bilawal said. The denial comes amid reports that President Asif Ali Zardari and Bilawal are in Vienna, where they were "holding discussions with the family of a prospective bride. In a video statement, Bilawal said: "First of all, social media has already finalised my marriage talks, engagement and wedding. I want to clarify that nothing of this sort has happened, nor do I know any Princess Gloria."

Middle East tensions

Iran attacks US military targets in Jordan, UAE

UAE denies Iranian claims of attacking Al Menhad Air Base, says air force engaged a drone over its territorial waters

DNA

TEHRAN: Iran said on Monday it attacked US military targets in Jordan in retaliation for the first American strikes on its territory in a month, marking a fresh flare-up in the six-month war. Tehran's powerful Revolutionary Guards said they struck two US military air bases with ballistic missiles in Washington-allyed Jordan, causing "heavy damage." Jordan's army said it had intercepted eight missiles, without stating their origin. Iran's army also claimed it attacked the United Arab Emirates' Al Minhad Air Base with drones early on Monday, Iranian state TV reported, citing a statement from the army. However, the UAE's Ministry of Defence has denied media reports claiming that Al Menhad Air Base was targeted by missiles, calling such reports "false".

Continued on Page 06

Iran FM accuses Israel's Netanyahu of tricking US into war

NEWS DESK

TEHRAN: Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Monday accused Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of tricking Washington into going to war with the Islamic republic, calling him a "serpent." "In Hebrew, Netanyahu openly crows that he suckered the US Administration into a war on Iran on behalf of Israel. Netanyahu explicitly laughs about how he 'influenced' America through 1,000 hours of airtime on US networks," Araghchi said in a post on X.

Continued on Page 06

The Hague court orders India to uphold IWT with Pakistan

Following the killing of 26 people in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir in April 2025, India held the Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan in abeyance. New Delhi accused Islamabad of orchestrating the deadly militant attack, an allegation that Pakistan denies

DNA

THE HAGUE: In a major boon for Pakistan in its dispute over the 'one-sided' suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague has ordered India to suspend work on hydro projects and uphold the treaty. The Hague-based court said the Indus Water Treaty between the two countries remained fully in force, as India had no justification for ending or suspending the agreement. The court said a neutral expert, appointed by the World Bank, would judge by July 2027 whether the construction of hydroelectric plants in the Himalayan region was in line with the treaty. Meanwhile, Indian foreign ministry said that New Delhi "categorically" rejects the Permanent Court of Arbitration's order. Following the killing of 26 people in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir in April 2025, India held the Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan in abeyance. New Delhi accused Islamabad of orchestrating the deadly militant attack, an allegation that Pakistan denies. On the basis of these baseless allegations, India started the war against Pakistan in May 2025, which was the heaviest fighting to have

occurred between the two neighbouring nations in decades, before a ceasefire was reached and brokered by the US. Arbitration proceedings between Pakistan and India under the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) formally began at the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague, following Pakistan's request for the establishment of a court. The legal process was initiated under Article IX of the Indus Waters Treaty, which provides a framework for dispute resolution between the two countries over water-related issues. In its ruling issued on Monday, The Hague-based court also imposed interim measures limiting construction work on India's Ratle Hydroelectric Plant in the Kashmir region, prohibiting India from concreting the dam wall and power intake structure above certain levels until 90 days after a neutral expert's final decision, which is expected in July 2027. The Court of Arbitration is chaired by Prof Sean D Murphy of the United States. The other members included Prof Wouter Buytaert of Belgium, Prof Jeffrey P Minear of the United States, Judge Awn Shawkat Al-Khasawneh of Jordan, and Dr Donald Blackmore of Australia,

Continued on Page 06

General Practice HOSPITAL

Your Health. Our Priority - Every Step of the Way!

Our Departments

General Physician Services	General Surgery	Dental & Maxillofacial Surgery	Plastic Surgery	Ear, Nose & Throat	Nutrition, Dietetics & Lifestyle
Internal Medicine	Pediatrics & Child Health	Breast Surgery	Anesthesiology	Pulmonology	Physiotherapy & Rehabilitation
Gynecology & Women's Health	Cardiology	Bariatric Surgery	Gastroenterology & Hepatology	Endocrinology	Psychology & Mental Health
Dermatology & Aesthetics	Urology	Pediatric Surgery	Neurosurgery	Orthopedics & Sports Medicine	Diagnostic Radiology

Our Services

Empathic & Caring for everyone

FOR APPOINTMENT ☎ +92 33 22 474 474

or Visit: Pakland Tower 2, New Blue Area, Islamabad

www.generalpractice.com.pk | generalpracticeislamabad | +92 51 6180 474 | +92 51 6181 474

Punjab CM orders crackdown on overloaded tractor-trolleys

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has ordered the introduction of dedicated bike lanes on major roads of Lahore and directed the authorities to ensure strict enforcement of traffic laws, particularly by vehicles operating under the Suthra Punjab programme Presiding over a special meeting on traffic management, here on Monday, the chief minister expressed serious concern over traffic violations by Suthra Punjab vehicles and directed the authorities to ensure their strict compliance with traffic rules. She also expressed grief over the death of a minor girl who was run over by a Suthra Punjab vehicle. The meeting agreed to digitally monitor zebra crossings through cameras to discourage pedestrians from crossing roads at prohibited points, while a proposal to install alert buttons for pe-

destrians was also considered. The CM ordered the launch of a pilot project on The Mall to ensure compliance with zebra-crossing rules. She also declared Ferozepur Road a model road and directed the installation of traffic signals at Pine Avenue and Jati Umra Chowk. CM Maryam Nawaz directed strict enforcement of the requirement for cargo-carrying tractor-trolleys to be covered before entering roads. She said the same rule must apply to Suthra Punjab tractor-trolleys. She further ordered a province-wide crackdown on overloaded tractor-trolleys before the start of the sugarcane season. The chief minister sought immediate measures to ease traffic congestion at Shahdara and Thokar Niaz Baig, stressing that traffic flow at the city's entry and exit points must remain unobstruct-

ed. Lahore Chief Traffic Officer Syed Abdul Rahim Shirazi informed the meeting that Lahore's position in the Numbeo Global Traffic Ranking Index had improved from 149th to 29th. He said traffic congestion had declined by up to 70 per cent at Jati Umra Chowk, Pine Avenue, Defence Mor, Karim Block, Akbar Flyover, Kahna and Main Boulevard. The meeting was further informed that 4,096 traffic permits/licences had been issued to youngsters aged 16 to 18, while 65,000 panic buttons had been installed for women at various locations across Lahore. The chief minister welcomed the improvement in Lahore's traffic ranking in South Asia and directed the authorities to continue efforts to further improve traffic management and ensure smooth movement on major roads.—DNA

Preparations amid GLOF threat in KP reviewed

PESHAWAR: A high-level meeting was held in Swat district to review the potential threat of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs), preparedness measures and safety arrangements in vulnerable districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The meeting was chaired by the Secretary Relief, Rehabilitation and Settlement Department and the Director General of the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA). Deputy Commissioner Swat, Saleem Jan Marwat participated in the meeting via video link, while representatives of the district administrations and relevant departments from Swat, Upper Dir, Lower Dir, Upper Kohistan, Mansehra, Lower Chitral and Upper Chitral also attended. The meeting was convened in response to a GLOF alert and advisory issued by the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) for the aforementioned districts. The session focused on timely mitigation of potential risks, strengthening coordination among relevant departments and ensuring advance measures to protect lives and property in the event of an emergency. Participants reviewed various aspects of the PMD's GLOF advisory, the current situation in vulnerable areas, available resources, emergency response arrangements and the preparedness of relevant departments. The Secretary Relief and PDMA Director General directed all concerned district administrations to maintain continuous monitoring of vulnerable and high-risk areas, ensure timely dissemination of warnings to local communities and further strengthen coordination among relevant agencies. The meeting also emphasized ensuring the availability of evacuation plans, safe locations, relief personnel and necessary machinery to respond effectively to any potential emergency. Deputy Commissioner Swat Saleem Jan Marwat urged the public, particularly people living near glaciers, rivers, streams and low-lying areas, to remain vigilant.—APP

Afridi directs resolution of tobacco growers' problems

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Muhammad Sohail Afridi on Monday directed the authorities to take urgent measures to address the problems being faced by tobacco growers in Buner, particularly the non-purchase of their ready crop. A delegation of tobacco growers from Buner met with Chief Minister Sohail Afridi and briefed him in detail about the difficulties confronting them, including delays in the procurement of their produce. The chief minister directed that a meeting be convened with the chairman of the Pakistan Tobacco Board to take up the growers' concerns.

He further instructed that two local representatives of tobacco growers be ensured participation in the meeting. Sohail Afridi directed that the issue of timely procurement of the ready tobacco crop be resolved on an emergency basis. He also ordered that the matter of increasing the tobacco procurement quota be discussed at the relevant meeting. He stressed that every possible step should be taken to expedite the procurement process and protect growers from potential financial losses. The chief minister directed the authorities to take all possible measures to ensure the permanent res-

olution of tobacco growers' problems. "Protecting the rights of farmers is a priority of the government," Afridi said, adding that amendments to the legal framework could also be considered if necessary. He assured the Buner tobacco growers that the provincial government would extend all possible cooperation to resolve their problems. "The provincial government is striving for sustainable solutions to public issues and is committed to investing in human development," the chief minister said. He added Government believed in finding sustainable solutions to the problems faced by the people.—APP

Kundi calls for domestic cricket promotion in KP

He also urged school administrations to extend full cooperation to PCB regional coaches

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Monday said that all possible support would be extended for promotion of cricket, encouragement of talented players and strengthening the domestic cricket system in the province. "Governor House doors are open for the promotion of domestic cricket," he said while chairing a meeting on domestic cricket in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at Governor House, Peshawar. Senior General Manager Domestic Cricket Operations, Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), Usama Sharoon Niazi, briefed the Governor about domestic cricket tournaments, structure and schedule. He said that Pakistan had 16 domestic cricket regions, including Peshawar, FATA and Abbottabad in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Departmental cricket tournaments comprised eight teams. Niazi said the 2018 policy had adversely affected domestic cricket, adding that a new policy was now being implemented to promote the domestic structure and improve opportunities for players. He said the reforms introduced by PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi were benefiting domestic cricket and players. He stressed the need for the Governor's patronage and encouragement for promotion of domestic cricket in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Governor Kundi said construction of quality cricket stadiums and provision of better facilities, including accommodation for players, were essential for promoting the sport in the province. He urged the PCB to extend cooperation in this regard. He proposed that two grounds in Dera Ismail Khan be utilized for domestic cricket and said government departments and institutions in KP should also have their own domestic cricket teams. The Governor directed that better facilities be ensured for players in all cricket regions and stressed the need for international-standard cricket stadiums in areas of KP other than Peshawar. He said the provincial government and all relevant institutions would work together for the promotion of cricket and continue extending maximum support to provide young players opportunities to advance their careers. Regarding the School Cricket Talent Hunt Programme, Niazi said 450 schools across the country had participated in the previous phase, while PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi had expanded the programme threefold. More than 1,200 schools from across Pakistan were expected to participate in the upcoming phase, he added. He appealed to public and private schools to participate actively in the programme, saying it would play an important role in promoting cricket, identifying talented players and providing them training across the country, including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He also urged school administrations to extend full cooperation to PCB regional coaches.—DNA

Thar Coal railways connectivity project to boost economy

ISLAMABAD: Director General Frontier Works Organization (FWO), Major General Abdul Samad, along with his team on Monday called on Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi and discussed progress on the Thar Coal railway connectivity project. During the meeting, the FWO team briefed the minister in detail on the ongoing construction work, progress on the project and measures being taken to ensure its timely completion. Under the project, a 105-kilometre new railways line was being constructed from the Thar coal mines to New Chhor. The project also included around nine kilometres of double-track railways from Bin Qasim to Port Qasim, along with facilities for unloading coal. The railways connectivity project would link Thar's indigenous coal with the national railways network and Port Qasim, enabling faster, safer and more cost-effective transportation of coal. The successful completion of the project was expected to help reduce the country's dependence on imported coal and promote the utilization of indigenous resources, thereby contributing to energy security and economic

growth. It is pertinent to mention that the Sariab-Kuchlak Railway Project in Balochistan has been completed at a cost of Rs3 billion within 120 days, marking a significant development in improving railway connectivity and passenger facilities in the province. Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi, in a post on X, said a new chapter in railway travel in Balochistan was about to begin. The project was completed through cooperation between Pakistan Railways and the Government of Balochistan. Under the project, 32 kilometres of railway track between Sariab and Kuchlak were upgraded and rehabilitated. Necessary work was also carried out to strengthen and protect the railway track embankments. The construction, installation and commissioning of new turntables at Sariab and Kuchlak railway stations have also been completed. Sariab Railway Station has been upgraded with improved passenger facilities, while Kuchlak Railway Station has also been equipped with modern facilities. The project also included the upgradation of Sheikh Mandah Railway Station, while upgradation and construction work

at Beleli Railway Station has been completed. G.O.R Halt Railway Station was reconstructed, along with solarisation and electrical works. New furniture and benches were also installed for passengers. The project also included the upgradation of Quetta Railway Station, while construction and finishing works were carried out at Lori Kraz Halt Railway Station. Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi said several important measures had been completed to restore and improve railway infrastructure in Balochistan. He said the Jinnah Peoples Train would soon operate on the newly upgraded route, providing better passenger facilities and stronger railway connectivity to the people of Balochistan. The minister said the restoration of railway services in Balochistan reflected Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's vision of stronger connectivity, improved public facilities and inclusive development. He said providing better, easier and modern travel facilities to the people of Balochistan was a priority, adding that Pakistan Railways would continue its efforts to restore and improve the railway system in the province.—DNA



ISLAMABAD: Uzbekistan artists presenting a cultural show on the sidelines of Uzbek Tourism Road Show, held under the aegis of the Embassy of Uzbekistan. — DNA

NCCIA 4 officials dismissed for misconduct

LAHORE: National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) Punjab Director Muhammad Ali Wasim on Monday held an orderly room to review disciplinary cases and ensure strict accountability of officials for their conduct and performance. According to the spokesperson, a total of 28 cases of officials were heard during the departmental proceedings, while complaints, official records and performance of the concerned personnel were examined in detail. In the light of available evidence and departmental records, strict action was taken against four officials. Three sub-inspectors and an assistant sub-inspector (ASI) were dismissed from service for misconduct and negligence. During the proceedings, four more officials were awarded strict departmental punishments for negligence in the performance of their duties. The increments of four officers were ordered to be withheld for one year each. Other officials were given relief and pardoned with a strict warning to remain careful in future and ensure complete compliance with departmental rules and regulations. NCCIA Director, Muhammad Wasim said that no compromise would be made on departmental discipline and the process of accountability would continue to ensure professional conduct and efficiency among officials.—APP

10 students complete two-month internship at KPRA

PESHAWAR: A group of 10 students from Frontier College for Women, Peshawar, completed their two-month internship at the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority (KPRA). Director General (DG) KPRA, Miss Irum Naz, awarded internship completion certificates to the interns at the Iftikhar Qutab Memorial Hall, KPRA Headquarters Peshawar. The Director General appreciated the interns' performance and commended their efforts in conducting a survey of the hospitality sector in Peshawar. During their internship, the students rotated through various Directorates and the Collectorate of KPRA.—APP

Sindh to distribute Pink Electric Scootties

KARACHI: The Sindh government has decided to distribute Pink Electric Scooties in Mirpurkhas in the next phase. Sindh Senior Minister for Information, Transport and Mass Transit Sharjeel Inam Memon has said that more than 50,000 women have so far applied for Pink Electric Scooties and the training program, which is clear proof of women's keen interest in this initiative of the Sindh government. He said that the Sindh government has provided driving and related training to more than 2,000 women so far, while the training process is ongoing in various cities of Sindh

including Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur, Mirpurkhas and Shaheed Benazirabad. The government aims to enable as many women as possible to drive scooties safely, helping facilitate their mobility and enabling them to play a more active role in economic and social activities. Sharjeel Inam Memon said that 925 scooties were allocated in the first phase of the program and 476 in the second phase, while more than 810 scooties have so far been distributed free of cost to women. These include 410 in Karachi, 200 in Sukkur and 200 in Hyderabad. He said that

the Sindh government is expanding the program to different areas of the province, and Pink Electric Scooties will be distributed in Mirpurkhas during the next phase. Memon said that the main objective of the Pink Electric Scooty Program is to empower women by providing them with freedom of movement, self-confidence and economic opportunities. The Sindh government is continuing to take practical steps to provide women with dignified and safe transportation facilities while enabling them to become more independent.—DNA

Interns urged to become envoys of democratic values

PESHAWAR: Provincial Election Commissioner Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Saeed Gul on Monday urged interns completing their two-month internship with the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to serve as ambassadors of the institution and contribute positively to society by applying the skills and practical experience gained during the programme. He was speaking at the concluding ceremony of the two-month internship pro-

gramme held at the office of the Provincial Election Commissioner in Peshawar. Joint Provincial Election Commissioner (Elections), Muhammad Farid Afridi, Director (MIS) Abdul Qadir, Director (Elections) Muhammad Nadeem Khan, other officers and the interns attended the ceremony. Saeed Gul said the internship programme was aimed at providing students with practical exposure to the working of the Election Commission and bridging

the gap between academic learning and professional responsibilities. He appreciated the interns for contributing fresh ideas, digital skills and enthusiasm during their association with the ECP. He advised them to pursue their professional careers with honesty, hard work and punctuality and to become agents of positive change wherever they serve. The interns shared their feedback on the programme and expressed gratitude to the Provincial Election Commissioner and ECP officials for providing them with a conducive and professional learning environment. At the conclusion of the ceremony, certificates were awarded to all interns in recognition of their successful completion of the two-month internship programme.—APP

DNA

DIPLOMATIC NEWS AGENCY

Connecting Pakistan to the World

Credible News. Global Reach. Trusted by All.

DNA delivers fast, accurate and balanced news from Pakistan and around the globe. Your trusted source for real-time updates on diplomacy, politics, economy and more.

REAL-TIME UPDATES Fast and timely news from around the world.	CREDIBLE & DEPENDABLE Committed to accuracy, fairness and integrity.	GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE In-depth coverage with a diplomatic lens.	WIDEST NETWORK Connecting sources, stories and societies.	DIVERSE COVERAGE Politics, diplomacy, economy, culture and beyond.
--	---	---	--	---

FOLLOW DNA

Stay informed. Stay connected. Stay ahead.

www.dnaneews.com.pk

A M Bhatti

@EditorDnaneews

DNA

DIPLOMATIC NEWS AGENCY

Connecting Pakistan to the World

National Days and Armed Forces Days

SEPTEMBER

Sept01/Libya Revolution Day

Sept01/Tanzania Defence day

Sept01/Uzbekistan Independence Day

Sept07/Brazil Independence Day

Sept09/DPR Korea National Day

Sept09/Tajikistan Independence Day

Sept16/Malaysia Armed Forces Day

Sept16/Mexico National Day

Sept16/Papua New Guinea Independence Day

Sept18/Chile National Day

Sept21/Malta Independence Day

Sept23/Saudi Arabia National Day

Turkish Airlines.....8494949

Rescue (Police).....15

Bomb Disposal.....15

Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16

Emergency Ambulance.....1122

& Rescue Services.....4451122

Motorway Police.....9266044

Motorway Police.....9270601-20

Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596

Rawalpindi.....9270601-20

Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115

PIA Flight Info.....114

PIA Cargo.....9280979

Railway Inquiry.....117

Railway Exchange.....9270831-5

WASA Rawalpindi.....5555489

CAA.....9281092

Hospitals

CMH.....5611111

MH.....561116

Cantt Hospital.....9270907-11

DHGH.....5556311-4

RGH.....9290301-7

Holy Family.....9290322-7

PIMS.....9261170-79

Polyclinic.....9218300-09

Shifa International 4603666

Departments

CDA.....9221334-43

CDA.....9208301-04

Met Office.....9250360-6

RDA.....5555864

TMA.....5770886

Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation.....9209224

Potohar Town.....9209224

Rawal Town.....5773343

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

President’s representatives visit Nepal embassy to convey solidarity

Ambassador of Nepal to Pakistan Rita Dhital received them and expressed her appreciation for the solidarity and support extended by the Government and people of Pakistan to Nepal during this difficult time

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Acting on the directives of the President of Pakistan, former Chairman of the Senate Syed Nayyar Bokhari and Presidential Spokesperson Murtaza Solangi visited the Embassy of Nepal in Islamabad to convey heartfelt condolences over the devastation caused by last week’s catastrophic flooding. The disaster, triggered by landslides and the bursting of a glacier along the China-Nepal border, has left widespread destruction and loss of life in Nepal. Ambassador of Nepal to Pakistan, Rita Dhital, warmly received the delegation and expressed her gratitude for the solidarity shown by the Government and people of Pakistan. She noted that Pakistan’s support during this difficult time reflects the deep bond of friendship and cooperation between the two nations. During the visit, Syed Nayyar Bokhari and Murtaza Solangi recorded messages of condolence and solidarity in the Visitors’ Book at the em-

bassy. They emphasized that Pakistan stands firmly with Nepal in its hour of grief and will continue to extend support to the Nepalese people as they recover from the tragedy. The

President of Pakistan’s initiative to send senior representatives underscores Islamabad’s commitment to regional solidarity and humanitarian cooperation. Pakistan has historically maintained close ties with Nepal, and this gesture further strengthens diplomatic relations by reaffirming mutual respect and empathy in times of crisis. The flooding in Nepal has drawn international concern, with governments and humanitarian organizations mobilizing aid to assist in relief and rehabilitation efforts. Pakistan’s expression of sympathy adds to the chorus of global voices offering support to the Nepalese people as they rebuild their lives after the disaster. This act of condolence highlights the importance of regional unity in South Asia, where natural disasters often transcend borders and demand collective responses. By reaching out to Nepal, Pakistan has once again demonstrated its resolve to foster goodwill and cooperation with neighboring countries.

Heavy rain hits Islamabad 24/7 monitoring, dewatering operations continued

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad district administration said it is closely monitoring the situation following heavy rainfall in different parts of the federal capital. According to officials, water drainage operations are continuing in affected areas with the help of dewatering pumps to prevent accumulation on roads and in residential localities. Assistant Commissioners have been directed to remain in the field and are conducting visits to low-lying areas and storm-water channels to review conditions and oversee response measures. The administration said coordination with

Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) is ongoing to ensure the smooth flow of traffic on major roads and highways during the rainy spell. Field teams are working to address issues that may disrupt movement across the city. Officials stated that anti-encroachment operations are being carried out on a daily basis in different areas as part of monsoon preparedness measures. These operations are aimed at removing obstacles that may hinder the flow of rainwater and increase the risk of urban flooding. The district administration further said that the cleaning of drainage channels had been

completed before the start of the monsoon season to improve water flow during periods of heavy rain. To ensure a quick response to complaints regarding standing water, a control room has been established. Residents have been requested to immediately report any water accumulation or drainage-related issues by calling 051-9108084. The administration urged citizens to cooperate with authorities and follow safety instructions. Residents have also been advised to avoid unnecessary travel during rainfall and remain informed about weather and traffic conditions until the situation improves.—APP

Public awareness to help curbing one-wheeling

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) has intensified enforcement and public awareness activities against one-wheeling, with citizens also joining the campaign to discourage the dangerous practice and protect lives on the capital’s roads. An ITP official told APP on Monday that the campaign was being carried out on the directions of Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Islamabad Kainat Azhar Khan, who ordered strict and indiscriminate action against one-wheelers under a zero-tolerance policy. The CTO Kainat said one-wheeling was a dangerous traffic violation that could pose a serious threat not only to riders but also to other road users. She said enforcement alone was not enough and directed traffic officers to further strengthen awareness activities to educate young motorcyclists about the potentially serious consequences of one-wheeling. Kainat urged parents to closely monitor their children’s activities and educate them about safe motorcycle riding and the importance of obeying traffic laws. She particularly appealed to young people to stay away from one-wheeling and other forms of dangerous riding, saying such practices were a major cause of road accidents and could put precious human lives at risk. The CTO Kainat said citizens were also actively participating alongside traffic police in the awareness campaign, reflecting growing public support for efforts to discourage dangerous riding. She called upon citizens to cooperate with ITP in preventing one-wheeling and timely report dangerous driving wherever observed. Kainat said the objective of action against one-wheelers was not merely enforcement of the law but also the protection of precious human lives. She said motorists and motorcyclists should travel in the designated direction and strictly follow traffic rules, as road discipline was essential for safe and smooth traffic flow. The CTO said ITP would continue indiscriminate action against dangerous driving and other traffic violations while simultaneously expanding awareness efforts to ensure safer travel for citizens across Islamabad.—DNA

Resources, manpower to strengthen police operations

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi on Monday chaired an important meeting with senior officers to review administrative and operational affairs, logistics support and manpower, directing greater focus on efficient use of available resources. An official told APP on Monday that the meeting was attended by DIG Headquarters Muhammad Jawad Tariq, AIG Logistics Muhammad Usman Tariq Butt and SSP Investigation Suleman Zafar, said a press release here. During the meeting, the IGP Rizvi reviewed administrative and operational requirements of the police force and discussed logistics support and manpower-related matters with the officers. Rizvi directed the officers to further improve administrative affairs and ensure that available resources were utilised effectively to strengthen police operations. He also called for special attention to manpower-related matters to ensure effective deployment and better management of human resources according to operational requirements.—APP

Shaza to attend opening ceremony of LEAP

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja will attend the opening ceremony of LEAP 2026 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. During the visit, the federal minister will deliver a keynote address. Shaza Fatima Khawaja will also formally inaugurate the Pakistan Pavilion at the technology event. As part of her visit, an important meeting related to the Pakistan Compute Consortium will also be held. The federal minister will visit the Pakistan and Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) pavilions and stalls established at LEAP 2026. She is also scheduled to hold an important bilateral meeting with the Governor of the Saudi Digital Government Authority. During her visit, the federal minister will also hold meetings with other important personalities.—APP

Rawal Lake clean up drive started

ISLAMABAD: HEAL Pakistan, in collaboration with the Capital Development Authority (CDA), organised the Twin Cities’ largest cleanup drive at Rawal Lake on Friday, drawing more than 500 volunteers, mostly young people, who spent three hours clearing the lake’s shoreline of plastic bottles, wrappers, bags, discarded fishing lines and other waste. The cleanup drive was held from 3pm to 6pm and brought together volunteers from Islamabad, Rawalpindi and surrounding areas, including students from various universities and members of social welfare organisations. The campaign was led by HEAL Pakistan founder Habib-ur-Rehman and his team, with CDA staff assisting volunteers throughout the activity and helping collect and dispose of the waste. Volunteers removed a wide range of discarded material from the shoreline and

adjoining areas, including plastic water bottles, juice pouches, wrappers, plastic bags, fishing lines and dead fish. The organisers said the initiative was aimed not only at cleaning Rawal Lake but also at raising awareness among young people about climate change, environmental degradation and the need to protect natural resources. Volunteers from the Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR), Progressive Climate Foundation, Roshni Foundation and other social welfare organisations also participated in the campaign. At the closing ceremony, certificates were distributed among the volunteers. Chief guests included ADRC Chairman Advocate Tayyab Nawaz Malik, ADRC Vice Chairman Advocate Malik Asif Khan Awan, social figure Malik Allah Nawaz and Coordinator to the Governor Punjab Mudassir Nawaz Malik. The guests praised the volunteers for their contribution and urged them to continue supporting efforts aimed at creating a cleaner and healthier environment. Speaking on the occasion, Mr Habib-ur-Rehman called on young people to work alongside public institutions instead of merely criticising them. “Criticism alone cannot bring change; change begins with ourselves,” he said. The organisers said the campaign reflected the growing role of young people in environmental protection and community-led efforts to address climate and pollution challenges. The event concluded with lunch for the volunteers, followed by a music and entertainment session.—APP

Climate change team secures first position

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has secured a major achievement at the Kazan Global Youth Summit 2026, where the team “Climate Change and Environmental Crisis” won first position in the innovative competition organized by the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) under the theme “TNNOVERSE 50+”. For a Resilient Future. Ms. Jabina Fawwad, Program Officer at OIC-COMSTECH, represented Pakistan at the Kazan Global Youth Summit 2026 as a member of the winning team. The competition brought together more than 100 young participants, who were required to develop, submit and present innovative ideas before a jury. The winning team comprised five young participants representing Pakistan, Malaysia, Turkiye, Algeria and Russia.—APP

PIMS tragedy Negligent officials to face criminal proceedings

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhary on Monday said that those responsible for negligence in the PIMS tragedy would face criminal proceedings, as the government had adopted a zero-tolerance policy over the deaths of 14 newborn babies. Talking to the media at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), he said action had already been initiated against eight doctors and administrators in light of the initial inquiry report. He said officials and doctors found responsible for negligence, including the Executive Director, doctors who were on duty, heads of departments and other administrative officials, had been removed from their positions. The minister said the inquiry committee constituted by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had not yet completed its proceedings. He said that following the initial report,

the committee was reviewing the entire PIMS hospital and all its departments instead of limiting its inquiry to the Gynaecology Department. Dr Tariq said the final inquiry report could identify more individuals responsible for negligence in the incident. “If further negligence is established against anyone, that person will also be dealt with strictly and awarded exemplary punishment,” he said. He said punishment could not bring back the precious lives lost in the tragedy, but such action was necessary to make those responsible realise their duties. The minister said holding those responsible accountable was aimed at ensuring that such tragic incidents did not occur again. He said the government wanted to ensure that no such incident occurred again, either in Islamabad or anywhere else, so that mothers would not lose their children and families would not have to bear such pain throughout their lives. Dr

Tariq said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had made it clear that there would be zero tolerance for negligence in the PIMS tragedy. He said PIMS was established in 1985 and that this was the first such extremely tragic and heart-breaking incident to occur at the hospital. The minister said PIMS provided medical facilities to people from a wide area, stretching from Peshawar to Jhelum and beyond. It also served the Potohar region and Azad Kashmir. He said shortcomings identified in PIMS’s safety arrangements were being addressed. Dr Tariq said a new Executive Director of PIMS had already been appointed. He added that the Ministry of Health and the prime minister were directly monitoring the inquiry and safety measures being taken at the hospital. The minister said any shortcomings or lapses identified in other departments of PIMS would also be addressed. He said all necessary measures were being taken to ensure that such a tragic incident would not happen again.

حکومت پاکستان

وزارت دفاع (دفاع ڈویژن)

پری کوالیفیکیشن نوٹس

(وزارت دفاع کی گاڑیوں کی مرمت)

1. وزارت دفاع (دفاع ڈویژن) کی گاڑیوں کی مرمت کیلئے فرمزز رجسٹر کرنے کے لئے ستمبر پمیش برائے مئی سال 2026-28، (دوسرا کیلئے درکار ہیں۔

2. پری کوالیفیکیشن آف فرمز کے پیچہ ذہر صورت اشتہار شائع ہونے کے بعد 15 دن کے اندر اندر موصول ہو جانا چاہئے۔

3. مطلوبہ پری کوالیفیکیشن آف فرمز کے پیچہ زسٹیکشن آفیسر (جنرل) کو وزارت دفاع (دفاع ڈویژن) سے بلا معاوضہ حاصل کئے جاسکتے ہیں۔

4. گاڑیوں کی مرمت اور سیئر پمیش واپس دہلی ورکشاپ کو مینگل = 30000 کارڈز انٹ آپے آرڈر نام وزارت دفاع (دفاع ڈویژن) کو اپیلڈ کی کو بطور سیکورٹی فراہم کر ہونا چاہئے۔

وزارت دفاع (دفاع ڈویژن) کو اپیلڈ کی گاڑیوں اور موٹر سائیکلوں کی مرمت، دیکھ بھال اور ایئر پمیش (مشیق ہائڈرو پمیش، فلٹر زاور دیگر پمیش) کی فراہمی کے لئے معروف اور ایجی طرح سے قائم (FBR) کم ٹیکس اور سیکورٹیکس (فائل) آؤٹو بائل ورکشاپس / فرمز سے ایڈز / تجویز طلب کرتا ہے۔

2. ہولی دہندگان کے لئے شرائط وضواید:

i. آؤٹو بائل ورکشاپس / کمپنیوں کے پاس ہر قسم کی مرمت اور دیکھ بھال، انجن کی اور ہوائی بائبلنگ، ڈیٹیلنگ، پمیشنگ، ہڈی سٹیکنگ، ری فریجٹ اور گاڑیوں کی سائٹ ویئر اور ایئر لٹک کیناویٹس بشمول ایئر پمیش پمیش کی فراہمی (مشیق ہائڈرو پمیش، فلٹر زاور دیگر پمیش پمیش) کی تکنیکی اور مالی صلاحیتیں ہونی چاہئیں۔

ii. صرف اسلام آباد اور راولپنڈی کی آؤٹو بائل ورکشاپس / فرمز جو کم از کم تین سال کا تجربہ رکھتی ہیں اپنی تجویز پیش کرنے کی اہل ہیں۔

iii. ورکشاپس / فرمز کا اپنا مکمل سیٹ اپ ہونا چاہئے یعنی گیران، ایئر پمیش پمیش، ڈیٹیلنگ، پمیشنگ (ہڈی سٹیکنگ، ری فریجٹ) ان کے اپنے تکنیکی کام کی دستیابی اور تکنیکی ماہرین وغیرہ۔

iv. دیگر شرائط وضواید مشقعی الیٹ کے دستاویزات کے ساتھ شلک ہیں۔

3. پری کوالیفیکیشن دستاویزات / اشتہار، جس میں تفصیلات، تفصیلی شرائط وضواید، ہولی جع کرانے کا طریقہ کار، خریداری کا طریقہ، ہولی کی حفاظت، ہولی کی درجی، حفاظت، ہولیوں کی قبولیت اور مسز دہونے وغیرہ وغیرہ PPRA EPADS، رجسٹر ڈیلی دہندگان آؤٹور کشاپس کے لئے دستیاب ہیں۔

4. ایڈاویس PPRA کے قواعد اور پری کوالیفیکیشن دستاویزات میں دی گئی ہدایات کے مطابق E-Pak Acquisition & Disposal System (www.eprocure.gov.pk) پر جرج 15-09-2026 تا 1600 بجے

5. پری کوالیفیکیشن آف فرمز کی ویب سائٹ www.ppra.gov.pk اور وزارت دفاع کی ویب سائٹ www.mod.gov.pk سے بھی حاصل کئے جاسکتے ہیں۔

شرائط وضواید:-

کامیاب ورکشاپ کو گاڑیوں کی مرمت یقینی بنانا ہوگی۔ مرمت تہی بخش نہ ہونے کی صورت میں سیکورٹی ڈیپارٹ شپ کو لیا جائے گا۔

بائمل اور مشروہ پیش قابل فورہ ہوگی۔

احمد نبیل جاوید

سیکشن آفیسر (جنرل)

وزارت دفاع (دفاع ڈویژن) راولپنڈی

فون نمبر: 051-9271178, 051-9271427

PID (I) 1962/26

Briefs

Friends of police visit CTD

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Friends of Police visited the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Complex in Islamabad, where participants were briefed on the department's working mechanism and various aspects of its operations. An official told APP on Monday that during the visit, CTD Deputy Director Training Major Ejaz Karim briefed the delegation on the functioning of the department and its working procedures, said a press release here. He explained various aspects of the CTD's working mechanism and familiarised the participants with the department's operational and professional framework. The visit provided the Friends of Police delegation an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the CTD's functioning and the nature of its responsibilities. The interaction was also aimed at enhancing awareness among participants about police working and strengthening engagement between the police and community. —APP

5 free cochlear implant surgeries held

ISLAMABAD: The ENT Department of Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) successfully performed five cochlear implant surgeries on deaf children, providing them with a chance to regain hearing and develop speech without any financial burden on their families. The surgeries were carried out free of cost with financial support and sponsorship from IMRA. Professor Dr Altaf Hussain and Associate Professor Dr Jawad Faisal of the ENT Department appreciated the coordinated efforts of the departments involved and reaffirmed PIMS commitment to expanding cochlear implant services, particularly for children from underprivileged families who cannot afford the expensive procedure. They said cochlear implantation could significantly improve the quality of life of children with severe hearing loss by enabling them to hear and, with subsequent rehabilitation, develop speech and communication skills. The ENT Department also acknowledged the professional support extended by the Anesthesia Department, including Professor Dr Naheed Fatima, Dr Yasmin Afriqi and Dr Abdullah. The department also appreciated the cooperation of the Pediatric Surgery Department, particularly its Head, Associate Professor Dr Khuram Arif, for facilitating the procedures. —APP

Agri, other chemicals group imports grew 11.15 %

ISLAMABAD: Agricultural and other chemical group imports into the country during the first month of the current financial year grew by 11.15 percent as compared to the imports of the corresponding period of the last year. During the month of June 2026, agriculture and other chemicals worth \$1.098 billion were imported as compared to the imports of \$893.823 million of the same month of the last year, according to the data of the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. Meanwhile, 67,810 metric tons of fertilizers worth of \$64.843 million were imported during the first month of the current financial year as compared to the imports of 71,096 metric tons valued at \$42.229 million of the same month of the last year. Over 3,630 metric tons of pesticides worth of \$19.743 million as compared to the imports of 1,958 metric tons worth of \$14.001 million of the same period of the last year. The import of the pesticides into the country during the month of July, 2026 decreased by 18.03 percent as compared to the imports of the same month of the last year. Over 213,516 metric tons of plastic materials costing \$325.171 million were also imported as compared to the imports of 231,314 metric tons worth of \$271.947 million of the same month of the last year. —APP



ISLAMABAD: Visitors enjoying the day at Dino Valley, a popular dinosaur-themed family amusement park located in the scenic Margalla Hills in the Federal Capital.

Efforts afoot to strengthen social protection

The measures are also aimed at strengthening transparency, controlling fraudulent activities and improving the efficiency of social protection delivery

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Standing Committee on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety (PA&SS) on Monday reviewed ongoing efforts to strengthen social protection through digitalisation, expand inclusion of beneficiaries and promote sustainable economic empowerment. The 18th meeting of the committee, chaired by Mir Ghulam Ali Talpur, was held at the Trust for Voluntary Organization (TVO) office in Islamabad and discussed the ongoing digitalisation of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), including efforts to bring beneficiaries into the digital domain, improve access and address connectivity challenges in remote areas. The measures are also aimed at strengthening transparency, controlling fraudulent activities and improving the efficiency of social protection delivery.

The meeting was attended by Syed Imran Ahmed Shah, Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety; Naveed Ahmed Sheikh, Secretary, Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety; Mian Asad Hayaudin, Chairman TVO Board of Directors; and Sahebzada Ghulam Mohyudin, CEO TVO, along with senior officials and other stakeholders. The participants stressed the need to evolve poverty alleviation efforts beyond cash assistance towards skills development, entrepreneurship, economic empowerment and sustainable livelihoods, enabling beneficiaries to become self-reliant and contribute to economic activity in line with Pakistan's commitments towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The meeting also provided an opportunity for TVO to present its journey as an indigenous, professionally managed and independent national grant-making institution supporting community-led development.

Briefing the committee, TVO CEO Sahebzada Ghulam Mohyudin highlighted how the organisation had evolved from a grant-making initiative into a sustainable institution by scaling its operations, investing in an endowment fund and developing social enterprises to strengthen its long-term sustainability. He said, "Our experience has demonstrated that sustainable development is possible when communities are given the resources, skills and opportunity to lead their own solutions. TVO has built an indigenous and professionally managed model that combines grant-making with sustainability, enabling us to continue investing in community-led development."

He said TVO had so far disbursed more than Rs1.3 billion in grants, implemented over 1,440 projects and benefited more than 10 million people across more than 100 districts, working with over 1,200 partners. The committee appreciated TVO's efforts to develop a sustainable institutional model and its contribution towards community-led development. The discussions emphasised the need for poverty alleviation initiatives to increasingly focus on economic opportunity, self-reliance and empowerment rather than dependence on financial assistance alone. Mir Ghulam Ali Talpur, Chairman of the Standing Committee on PA&SS, stressed the need to strengthen social protection through technology. —APP

National Savings hits Rs313b mobilization mark

ISLAMABAD: The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has mobilized Rs313 billion between July 1 and August 20, achieving its assigned savings mobilization target for the period and signaling continued public confidence in government-backed investment schemes. According to official sources, the institution achieved the target during the opening weeks of the new fiscal year, with officials attributing the strong performance to rising investor confidence, improved institutional efficiency and growing demand for secure avenues for savings and financial planning. Encouraged by the latest performance, CDNS has set an ambitious mobilization target of Rs1.53 trillion for fiscal year 2026-27. The target is intended to strengthen the country's savings base, broaden investment opportunities and promote financial inclusion by offering accessible and government-backed savings products. The national savings institution is also placing greater emphasis on Islamic finance, with Shariah-compliant products forming an important part of its strategy to attract a wider pool of investors. For FY2025-26, CDNS had allocated a target of Rs60 billion for Islamic savings instruments, aimed at expanding Shariah-compliant investment choices and encouraging greater participation in the country's expanding Islamic finance market. In FY2024-25, CDNS had set an overall mobilization target of Rs1.65 trillion, including Rs170 billion for Islamic finance investments. The initiative sought to diversify savings options and bring formal investment products within the reach of a larger section of the population. The institution has maintained a notable mobilization record in recent years. During FY2023-24, CDNS surpassed its Rs1.7 trillion target by mobilizing Rs1.742 trillion. In FY2022-23, it achieved its Rs1.6 trillion target. Similarly, in FY2021-22, the initial mobilization target of Rs1.3 trillion was revised upward to Rs1.4 trillion following favourable market conditions and stronger resource mobilization. Officials said the continued growth in mobilization reflected the impact of institutional reforms, improved operational performance and policy measures aimed at making National Savings services more effective and accessible. They added that these initiatives had helped expand the outreach of National Savings products while strengthening their appeal among citizens seeking secure investment and savings options. —APP

Pak, Russia agree to launch pilot container freight train

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Pakistan has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening bilateral cooperation with the Russian Federation in the railway sector to enhance regional connectivity, facilitate international trade and modernize Pakistan Railways. In this regard, Pakistan Railways has entered into a Freight Forwarding Contract with Russian Railways Logistics (RZD Logistics), establishing a framework for cooperation in international freight transportation and multimodal logistics services. Under the initiative, Pakistan Railways and RZD Logistics agreed to launch a Pakistan-Russia Pilot Container Freight Train aimed at promoting rail-based trade and strengthening connectivity between Pakistan, Russia and Central Asian countries. However, the commencement of the pilot train could not take place as scheduled due to the regional conflict. Both Pakistan Railways and Russian Railways Logistics remain committed to the project and are continuing coordination for launching the pilot train as soon as the regional situation permits. The proposed cooperation is expected to enhance rail-based trade and regional connectivity while promoting sustainable and cost-effective freight transportation through multimodal logistics solutions. —APP

Helmet, licence and lane violations in focus

ISLAMABAD: Superintendent of Police (SP) Traffic Islamabad Majid Iqbal visited different duty points across the federal capital to review traffic flow and enforcement against motorists violating helmet, driving licence and lane discipline rules. An Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) official told APP on Monday that the SP Traffic inspected ongoing enforcement activities and reviewed the performance of personnel deployed at different points. ITP was continuing action against motorcyclists riding without helmets, motorists driving without valid driving licences, lane violators and those breaching other traffic laws. During the visits, Majid Iqbal reviewed measures being taken to maintain smooth traffic flow alongside enforcement of road safety regulations. ITP urged citizens to strictly follow traffic laws during their journeys and ensure that they carried a valid driving licence. —APP

The fertile contradiction: Saraiki soil, Urdu poets

ISLAMABAD: There is something deeply fascinating about Pakistan's Saraiki belt. Saraiki fills its streets, songs, jokes, memories, and everyday speech, yet this deeply Saraiki landscape has nurtured a remarkable generation of Urdu poets. Their rise reveals a fertile contradiction, a land rooted in Saraiki, continually giving Urdu new voices that make the region worth looking at anew. The important question is not why they abandoned one language for another. Many did not. Their relationship with language is less like a border and more like a river, one current feeds another. The region's remarkable range of Urdu voices, include

Aslam Ansari, Mohsin Naqvi, Aitbar Sajid, Athar Nasik, Ghulam Husain Sajid, Qamar Raza Shahzad, Tariq Naeem, Zahoor Chohan and Zia-ul-Mustafa Turk, alongside a younger generation now emerging from Multan, Bahawalpur, Khanewal, Dera Ghazi Khan and adjoining districts. Their styles and generations differ, but their presence makes one thing difficult to ignore, the Saraiki belt's literary fertility does not end with Saraiki. Among the many Urdu poets associated with this Saraiki landscape, Aslam Ansari, Mohsin Naqvi, Ghulam Hussain Sajid, and Qamar Raza Shahzad stand out. Their poetry is different in temperament and technique, but together they suggest how a regional culture can enter a larger language without announcing itself through dialect alone. Few figures illustrate the linguistic complexity of Multan better than Aslam Ansari. Born in Multan in 1939, Ansari's Urdu poetry possesses the refinement of a classical tradition, but its emotional centre is unmistakably human, loneliness, departure, fragility, desire and the Persistent effort to continue. Diware Khastgi houn mujhy haath matt laga mein gir parhoun ga dekh mujhya aasra na de The image is simple, a wall weakened by fatigue, ready to collapse at the slightest touch. Yet the metaphor carries an entire psychology of vulnerability. Elsewhere, he turns the dream into something almost organic: Umr ke aangan mein bailain bun ke phela koi khawb Jesay jeenay ke liye kafi ho tanha koi khawb A dream spreads through the courtyard of life like a vine. —APP

Call for fair investigation in violence cases against women

ISLAMABAD: The National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) on Monday called for swift, transparent and merit-based investigations, effective prosecution and timely justice in every case involving violence against women and girls. Chairperson Noureen Bano Lehri, who chaired a high-level meeting with senior police officials from across the country to review the gender-based violence against women and girls, stressed that every case must be pursued to its logical conclusion without any negligence. The cases of incidents involving Hina Javed, Ayat Noor, Asma Jattak, three-year-old Kulsom Mohammed Qasim, 18-month-old Aizal in Karachi and a nine-year-old girl in Shikarpur, came under discussion. The Commission called for special courts or dedicated judicial mechanisms for gender-based violence to ensure speedy disposal of cases and prevent prolonged delays in justice. The NCSW further directed enhanced police patrolling, surveillance and preventive measures in areas where women and girls faced threats, both inside and outside their homes. Women across Pakistan should be made fully aware of available police services, complaint mechanisms and emergency avenues for seeking protection and immediate relief, it said. The Commission called for effective monitoring of educational institutions to prevent

harassment, abuse and violence, through awareness and prevention programmes for students. Particular emphasis was placed on educating and sensitising boys and young men so that they grow into responsible citizens and protectors of women and girls rather than perpetrators or harassers. The Chairperson directed specialised training and capacity building of police officers, investigation officers, doctors, prosecutors, judicial officers and prison staff for gender-sensitive handling of cases and survivors. All Investigation Officers dealing with cases of gender-based violence must be adequately trained and should not be unnecessarily transferred, removed or burdened with additional duties while critical investigations are underway. The Commission also called for strict action against illegal jirgas and enhanced surveillance to prevent parallel or unlawful mechanisms from undermining women's rights, due process and access to justice. The NCSW directed that case-to-case gender-based violence data be shared and reviewed every month, with all Inspector Generals of Police required to provide updates on investigations, prosecution, pending cases, challenges, capacity-building measures and concrete actions being taken to control the surge in violence against women and girls. —APP

MOST EXPERIENCED
MANUFACTURERS &
EXPORTERS OF
MARTIAL ARTS UNIFORMS
IN
PAKISTAN

WHERE EACH STITCH IS WATCHED

JUDO
KARATE
BOXING
KICKBOXING
TAIKWONDO

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

JUDO
KARATE
BOXING
KICKBOXING
TAIKWONDO

Ashraf

ASHRAF INDUSTRIES (PVT) LTD
127 C, Industrial Estate
Sialkot-51340, Pakistan
Phones: +92-52-3258000 / 3256798
E-mail: info@ashrafnet.pk

China between the Gulf and Iran

ABDULRAHMAN AL-RASHED

THE sole common factor between Saudi Arabia and Iran is China. As the largest buyer of crude oil from both nations, China has also felt the economic sting of the conflict due to supply disruptions and their broader fallout. While domestic gasoline prices have surged by nearly a third and Chinese exports to Arab markets have contracted, China's economy continues to register growth. China is the nation most invested in the Middle East's energy and maritime security, as it stands as the region's primary oil importer. This contrasts sharply with the US, which no longer purchases Gulf oil and has instead emerged as the world's largest producer and exporter. Despite the vast scale of its interests in the region, Beijing pursues a policy vastly different from that of the US, to a degree that we sometimes find difficult to understand.

The US has long maintained a well-defined policy that, specifically since the British withdrawal from "East of Suez," has aligned with its own interests, the protection of energy flows and countering communist expansion. President Richard Nixon adopted a strategy of regionally backing both Iran and Saudi Arabia. This was subsequently followed by the well-known Carter Doctrine, which established a commitment to utilizing military force to protect the Gulf.

The Middle East is crucial to China. However, Beijing does not act as a protector of its own interests there just yet. Despite possessing the world's largest tanker fleet, its vessels sit waiting outside the Strait of Hormuz. Similarly, while China maintains a naval presence in the Gulf of Aden near areas controlled by Yemen's Houthi militia, Chinese forces have refrained from engaging them despite ongoing attacks, leaving its tankers waiting out in the ocean.

Chinese politicians likely prefer to avoid involvement in the US-Iran conflict and it may suit their interests to weaken the Trump administration by refraining from intervening against Iran. Tehran has decided to permit some Chinese vessels to transit the Strait of Hormuz, but this concession arrived late, coming after the Americans established a maritime corridor in the waters of Oman that is less vulnerable to Iranian attacks. This maritime workaround prompted the Iranians to travel to Baghdad last week to convince officials that they would exempt their oil tankers from targeting and that they should use the Iranian sea lane, following the desertion of most tankers from this route in favor of the Omani corridor.

Whether the conflict concludes now or in a year, China will, over the long

IslamabadPOST

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 07 Issue: 06

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-8488394

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



term, adopt the same strategy previously deployed by major global powers like Britain and the US to defend their interests – by constructing a larger fleet, establishing more military bases, forging defense pacts and pursuing a more aligned foreign policy. Despite possessing the world's largest tanker fleet, its vessels sit waiting outside the Strait of Hormuz.

However, this is not imminent. Today, China coexists with American hegemony, primarily because it benefits from the guaranteed, continuous flow of oil and, secondly, because its geopolitical priorities lie elsewhere, specifically in Taiwan, the South and East China Seas, and the Pacific and Indian Oceans. It is for this reason that former US President Barack Obama famously labeled China a "free rider," as it capitalizes on America's protection of international shipping lanes.

China's policy appears somewhat foreign to us. Historically, we have been accustomed to navigating the old international system by aligning with a single camp, whether the French or the British, the Axis or the Allies or the Soviet Union or the US. However, China is rapidly ascending as a superpower and has not yet reached the stage of forcing geopolitical positioning and alignment. This does not imply that Beijing is devoid of alliances or stances, as it maintains its own animosities within its immediate geopolitical periphery. In the Middle East and Africa, Beijing is a "friend" to all, making its policy easy to deal with, yet simultaneously difficult to understand. China appears contradictory; it stands as the largest buyer from the warring Gulf nations and is the premier trading partner for both Saudi Arabia and Iran. Furthermore, China is Israel's second-largest trading partner while also remaining a supporter of the Palestinian cause.

The Chinese neutrality observed today is expected to diminish as its interests expand and occasionally conflict. The Iran war has come to test Beijing's policy. Thus far, China has not been forced to shed its public neutrality, though it may do so if the scope of the conflict broadens and prolongs. This does not deny the fact that Beijing is currently assisting Iran covertly and to a limited extent, without directly defying the American blockade. Beijing wishes to see a defeat for Donald Trump, while simultaneously recognizing that the Tehran regime, by its very nature, fosters chaos that harms Chinese interests.

For its part, Iran considers China its sole ally and seeks its support, while viewing Russia as a temporary friend of convenience due to deep-seated historical grievances. Meanwhile, countries in the Arab region, specifically the Gulf states, have constructed substantial interest-based relations, seeking to win Beijing over or at least neutralize its stance – a strategy that has proven partially successful. China "does not want to be another America" – meaning a hegemonic power – a stance it has repeatedly declared, yet there are ample indications that the "dragon empire" is ascending. It established its first military base in our region in Djibouti, south of the Red Sea, and maintains warships at the gateway of the Red Sea that previously helped in combating Somali pirates. If America were to withdraw, Beijing would find itself compelled to fill the vacuum.

Reversing Age: Humanity's Oldest Dream Nears Reality

Qamar Bashir



Until recently, however, restoring youth to an old body belonged almost entirely to mythology. Medicine could treat individual diseases, exercise could preserve strength and nutrition could reduce health risks, but nothing could instruct an aged cell to become biologically younger. Research into cellular reprogramming has made that possibility scientifically conceivable—although it remains far from proven in human beings. The sequencing of the human genome and advances in molecular biology allowed...

HUMAN beings have always resisted the idea that aging and death are unavoidable. Civilizations created stories about fountains of youth, elixirs of life, resurrection and immortality. Egyptian pharaohs were mummified and buried with possessions needed for the afterlife, although this reflected religious beliefs about spiritual continuity rather than a scientific plan to regenerate their bodies. Modern science fiction transformed the same ancient longing into suspended animation, imagining astronauts sleeping for centuries before awakening unchanged at distant destinations.

Until recently, however, restoring youth to an old body belonged almost entirely to mythology. Medicine could treat individual diseases, exercise could preserve strength and nutrition could reduce health risks, but nothing could instruct an aged cell to become biologically younger. Research into cellular reprogramming has made that possibility scientifically conceivable—although it remains far from proven in human beings. The sequencing of the human genome and advances in molecular biology allowed scientists to study how genes behave as organisms grow older. Contrary to some popular explanations, aging is not controlled by one gene containing a predetermined expiration date. DNA itself can accumulate mutations and other damage, while mitochondrial malfunction, proteins lose their proper form, stem cells become exhausted and senescent cells accumulate. Another important process is epigenetic change. Epigenetic markers act like instructions telling cells which genes to activate or silence. The underlying DNA sequence may remain substantially the same, but cells can become less effective at reading and executing their instructions. Patterns of DNA methylation change predictably enough with age that researchers use them to construct "epigenetic clocks."

Scientists have also observed a remarkable rejuvenation process during reproduction. Although an egg and sperm come from adults, a resulting embryo does not begin life at the biological age of its parents. During early development, many age-associated epigenetic markers are reset. The crucial question is whether part of that resetting process can be activated later in life without erasing a cell's identity or causing cancer. In 2006, Shinya Yamanaka discovered that four genes—Oct4, Sox2, Klf4 and c-Myc—could return mature cells to a state resembling embryonic stem cells. These became known as the Yamanaka factors. The discovery earned him the 2012 Nobel Prize, but applying all four factors inside a living organism can be dangerous. Excessive reprogramming may cause cells to lose their identities or form tumors. Researchers subsequently explored "partial reprogramming": turning back some biological markers of age while allowing cells to remain, for example, functioning skin, muscle or nerve cells.

In a landmark 2020 Nature study, researchers associated with David Sinclair's Harvard laboratory used three factors—Oct4, Sox2 and Klf4, collectively called OSK—on retinal ganglion cells in mice. The treatment restored more youthful patterns of gene expression, promoted nerve regeneration and improved vision in aged mice and mouse models of glaucoma. The experiment supported the extraordinary possibility that old mammalian cells retain recoverable information about their younger state.

Other researchers have reported encouraging results involving muscle, skin and organs in animals. Yet rejuvenating cells in a mouse, or even improving a particular tissue in a primate, is not equivalent to reversing the age of an entire human being. Animal findings frequently fail when transferred to people, and the dangers of gene therapy and uncontrolled cell growth remain serious.

The field crossed an important threshold in 2026. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration cleared Life Biosciences to begin a Phase 1 trial of ER-100, an experimental epigenetic-reprogramming therapy for optic neuropathies, including open-angle glaucoma and non-arteritic anterior ischemic optic neuropathy. This should be described precisely. It is not yet a trial proving that human aging can be reversed, nor is it intended to make participants generally younger. It is an early trial designed primarily to evaluate safety and tolerability in a small number of patients, while also observing whether visual function improves. The eye is a logical starting point because treatment can be delivered locally and monitored closely. A harmful reaction may be easier to contain than it would be after attempting to reprogram the liver, brain or entire body. Even if the therapy restores some vision, years of larger trials would be needed before scientists could establish its effectiveness and understand its long-term cancer risk.

Still, successful rejuvenation of a human tissue would represent a historic medical advance. It could open a route toward treating diseases once considered irreversible rather than immediately producing ageless human beings.

The economic implications could be immense because aging contributes simultaneously to cancer, cardiovascular disease, dementia, diabetes, frailty and many other conditions. A therapy that delayed several diseases together could generate more value than treating each one separately after it appeared. A 2021 study co-written by economists Andrew Scott and Martin Ellison and geneticist David Sinclair estimated that slowing aging sufficiently to add one year to American life expectancy would be worth approximately \$38 trillion; a 10-year gain was valued at \$367 trillion. These figures represent an estimated aggregate social willingness to pay—including the value assigned to healthier and longer lives. A later international study estimated that a one-year improvement in healthy longevity could produce an annual welfare benefit equivalent to roughly 4 to 5

percent of GDP. The benefit would come through healthier workers, longer productive careers, reduced disability, lower demand for expensive late-life care and the intrinsic value people place on living well for longer.

Pakistan offers a different but equally important case. Its population reached approximately 255 million in 2025, life expectancy was about 68 years and nominal GDP was approximately \$407 billion. Only 3.55 percent of the population was 65 or older in the 2023 census, while nearly 56 percent was of working age.

Applying the international estimate mechanically, a one-year improvement in healthy longevity might carry an annual welfare value equivalent to approximately \$16 billion to \$20 billion—4 to 5 percent of Pakistan's present GDP. The potential is enormous for the least developed and developing countries. These countries could retain experienced doctors, teachers, engineers, farmers and entrepreneurs for longer. Families might spend less on chronic illness, while healthier older adults could remain independent instead of requiring full-time care. Reduced disability could also increase household savings and national productivity. Longer lives would also affect employment, pensions, inheritance, housing and population growth. If retirement ages remained unchanged, the fiscal burden could rise. If careers became longer without creating new jobs, younger workers could face blocked advancement. Women might experience new social pressures concerning fertility and caregiving. Religious scholars, ethicists, physicians and legislators would need to consider whether rejuvenation is simply medical treatment or something requiring a new ethical framework. However, where developed countries are already in this crucial race, the third world countries and developing countries should not wait for the technology to arrive. It should strengthen biotechnology research, establish gene-therapy regulations, train geneticists and bioethicists, and negotiate policies ensuring that successful treatments are not restricted permanently to the wealthy. Public investment must continue prioritizing vaccines, sanitation, nutrition and primary care even while preparing for advanced medicine.

Humanity is not yet approaching immortality. It may, however, be approaching the ability to repair particular tissues by restoring some of their youthful biological instructions. If that achievement expands safely from eyes to other organs, it could transform medicine and economics. The greatest challenge will not only be making a longer, healthier life possible—but ensuring that its benefits belong to humanity rather than to a privileged minority.

– Press Secretary to the President (Rtd)
Former Press Minister,
Embassy of Pakistan to France
Former Press Attac

Iran between Resistance and Diplomacy

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



WARS rarely end when the guns fall silent. Their consequences remain in the calculations of states, in the fears of societies and, most importantly, in the doctrines that shape future policy. For Iran, the wars of the past four decades have produced a particularly enduring lesson: survival depends on resisting American and Israeli pressure while avoiding a confrontation in which Iran's military disadvantages become decisive. That lesson took shape during the Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s. Tehran came to see Iraq's war effort not simply as an Iraqi undertaking but as part of a wider struggle against the Islamic Republic. Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini famously described the conflict as "America's hand coming through Saddam's sleeve". For the Iranian leadership, the war became proof that the United States was ultimately interested in changing the political order in Tehran.

Three conclusions followed. First, Washington could not be trusted as a neutral actor. Second, Iran could not depend entirely on outside powers for its security. Third, a direct war with the United States or Israel would carry enormous risks. Iran therefore developed a foreign policy that sought to compensate for conventional military disadvantages through missiles, asymmetric warfare, regional alliances and armed partners. For years, this approach served Tehran reasonably well. Hezbollah in Lebanon, Iraqi militias, Hamas and later the Houthis became important elements of what Iran described as an "axis of resistance". The purpose was not simply to expand Iranian influence. It was also to keep potential adversaries uncertain about where,

when and how Iran might respond to an attack. The central question facing Tehran is no longer whether it can operate through regional partners. It is whether reliance on those partners alone can provide adequate protection when Israel and the United States are prepared to strike targets inside Iran directly. The experience since the Hamas attack on Israel in October 2023 has been especially important. Israel demonstrated that Iranian territory, senior officials and military assets could become direct targets. The old distinction between Iran and the forces operating in its name consequently became less useful. Tehran could no longer assume that strategic distance and the activities of allied militias would keep the conflict away from Iranian soil. Iran is likely to place greater emphasis on its own missiles and drones and on its ability to impose costs directly on its adversaries. The Strait of Hormuz will remain an important part of this calculation. Tehran does not necessarily need to close the waterway permanently to make its strategic value felt. The possibility of disruption alone can affect oil markets, shipping insurance and the calculations of Gulf states and Western governments.

This is not conventional warfare in the traditional sense. Iran cannot expect to defeat the United States in a prolonged contest of aircraft carriers, advanced aircraft and precision weapons. Its objective is more limited: to make the political and economic cost of continued war sufficiently high that its adversaries reconsider further escalation. There is, however, a danger in this strategy. A policy based on deterrence through escalation can also produce miscalculation. Once missiles are flying and military commanders are responding under pressure, the distinction between deterrence and uncontrolled escalation can disappear quickly.

The Islamic Republic is unlikely to retreat completely into isolation. Its economic difficulties make such a policy impractical. Years of sanctions, damaged infrastructure, inflation and declining purchasing power have placed considerable pressure on the Iranian economy. The leadership may continue to speak the language of resistance, but economic realities will demand engagement with neighbours and wider markets. Nor is a dramatic transformation on the model of Vietnam particularly likely in the short term. Iran is unlikely to

abandon its long-standing security doctrine simply because war has imposed heavy costs. Political systems do not change their basic assumptions overnight, especially when their leaders believe those assumptions have been repeatedly confirmed by events.

Iran may seek better relations with the Gulf Arab states while maintaining military pressure on Israel and the United States. It may offer trade, border security and regional cooperation while continuing to develop missiles and drones. It may talk to Washington indirectly while insisting that it does not trust Washington. The Gulf states have their own reasons for reconsidering their strategic position. They watched Iranian missiles threaten the region, but they also watched the United States struggle to provide an entirely predictable security environment. Their dilemma is not whether to abandon Washington. Rather, it is whether dependence on one external power remains sufficient in a region where another major power, Iran, cannot simply be wished away. This could create space for a new form of Gulf diplomacy. Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar and other states have already demonstrated that dialogue with Tehran is possible even amid profound disagreements. The wars could strengthen the argument for maintaining channels with Iran rather than closing them.

The easiest response would be to strengthen military containment: more weapons for Israel, stronger defences for Gulf allies and greater economic pressure on Tehran. Such measures may provide short-term reassurance, but they could also reinforce the Iranian belief that Washington's ultimate objective is regime change. That belief matters because Iranian leaders are unlikely to interpret each American action separately. Sanctions, the withdrawal from the nuclear agreement, the killing of Qassem Soleimani and subsequent military confrontations are viewed in Tehran as parts of a single historical confrontation. Diplomacy, therefore, cannot begin with the expectation that decades of distrust will disappear around a negotiating table.

The more realistic objective would be narrower: reduce the incentives for escalation and establish rules that make miscalculation less likely. Agreements on maritime security, missile restraint, prisoner exchanges, nuclear monitoring and regional communication may appear modest, but modest arrangements can sometimes achieve more than grand

declarations. The United States also needs to distinguish between deterring Iranian aggression and seeking to transform Iran's political system. If Tehran believes every negotiation is merely another route towards regime change, compromise will remain extremely difficult.

Iran, for its part, faces an equally serious choice. It can emerge from the wars convinced that only greater military strength will guarantee survival. Or it can conclude that military power must be accompanied by regional accommodation and economic engagement. The first course could produce a more heavily armed but permanently insecure Iran. The second would not require Tehran to abandon its political system or all of its regional ambitions. It would simply recognise that security cannot be achieved through missiles alone.

The real legacy of the wars of 2025 and 2026, therefore, may not be found in the amount of infrastructure destroyed or the number of weapons fired. It will be found in the lessons that Tehran and Washington take from them. Iran believes it has spent decades fighting one long struggle for survival. The United States believes pressure can eventually change Iranian behaviour. Neither assumption has produced a durable settlement. The next phase will depend on whether both sides continue to interpret the past as a justification for confrontation or begin to use it as a reason for restraint. Iran may emerge from the latest wars more suspicious, more heavily armed and more willing to confront its enemies directly. But it may also be more conscious of the limits of military power and the necessity of economic and regional diplomacy.

The choice before Iran is not simply between resistance and surrender. There is a third possibility: resistance combined with diplomacy, military deterrence combined with regional accommodation. Whether that combination produces stability or merely postpones the next war will depend not only on Tehran's choices but also on Washington's response. The next war, if it comes, will be shaped by the lessons of the last one. The greater challenge is to ensure that those lessons do not become a permanent blueprint for another conflict.

– The writer is Assistant Professor Pakistan Studies Imperial College of Business Studies Lahore
muhammad.akram@imperial.edu.pk

Briefs

The Hague court orders India to...

FROM PAGE 01
according to a press statement issued by the court. The court examined India's April 2025 decision to hold the Indus Waters Treaty "in abeyance" following an attack in IIOJK, finding that such a decision could only mean India was claiming the treaty was either suspended or terminated. The court examined all potential grounds on which India could take such action, including those cited in India's own public statements, and found unanimously that none of them could justify suspension or termination of the agreement. "Accordingly, the Indus Waters Treaty remains fully in force, and India must observe its obligations under the treaty, including those relating to the design and operation of its hydro-electric projects on the western rivers," the court said. On Pakistan's separate request for interim measures, the court considered whether construction work at the Ratle Hydroelectric Plant should be limited pending the neutral expert's decision on whether the plant's design complied with the treaty.

Iran attacks US military targets in...

FROM PAGE 01
The ministry affirmed that the armed forces remain on a high state of readiness to respond to any threats that may arise, in a manner that safeguards the UAE's sovereignty, security and stability. In a separate statement, the UAE said its air force engaged a drone over its territorial waters that had come from Iran. It did not provide further details on the drone, including whether it was shot down or its intended target. The army said the attack targeted locations where US forces and helicopters were stationed at the base. It said the attack was in response to the killing of Iran's Revolutionary Guards and Iranian civilians on Larak Island. The strikes came after the United States said on Sunday it had attacked Iranian rocket launchers on a small island in the Strait of Hormuz. Washington said its attacks were aimed at preventing Iran from launching more sea mines into the strait, days after it announced it had completed clearing explosives from the strategic waterway. "US forces took limited, precise action against IRGC (Iran's Revolutionary Guards') minelaying forces posing an imminent threat in the Strait of Hormuz," the US Central Command wrote on X.

Iran FM accuses Israel's...

FROM PAGE 01
"In English, he praises POTUS' leadership. Serpent," he added. War broke out between Iran and the United States on February 28 with US-Israeli strikes killing the Islamic republic's supreme leader Ali Khamenei along with senior military officials. Iran retaliated with attacks across the region as the conflict continued to spread. An April ceasefire put an end to the most intense fighting, but sporadic attacks mainly near the Strait of Hormuz have dimmed prospects for a final peace agreement, and the US recently shifted toward a campaign of what it calls "economic asphyxiation" of Iran. The US struck the Iranian island of Larak late Sunday, its first such attack in a month. In response, Iran says it launched attacks on bases in Jordan and the UAE used by the US military. Last week, Netanyahu dismissed any prospect of an Iran-US deal and called Iran's leaders "savages." Netanyahu has long been skeptical of diplomacy with Iran, openly campaigning against a 2015 nuclear deal brokered by then US president Barack Obama, but he has been publicly careful not to criticize Trump while he sought a negotiated settlement.



BRUSSELS: Victorious German hockey team holding World Cup trophy after it defeated Spain in the final 2-1. – DNA

After Lord's defeat, Pakistan 'weigh major changes' ahead of Birmingham Test

PCB may investigate Imam's injury; red-ball coach Sarfaraz Ahmed's position comes under threat, say sources

DNA

LORDS: Pakistan are weighing major changes ahead of the third and final Test against England following their 194-run defeat at Lord's, with changes to the squad and coaching set-up under consideration, sources said on Monday. England defeated Pakistan by 194 runs on the fourth day of the second Test at Lord's on Sunday to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series. The third and final Test will be played at Edgbaston Cricket Ground in Birmingham from September 9 to 13. Following the defeat, an emergency meeting was held at the Pakistan team's hotel, where possible changes ahead of the final Test were discussed, the sources said. Wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan and Test opener Imam-ul-Haq are likely to be sent back to Pakistan, while Saim Ayub and Arafat Minhas are expected to be called up for the Birmingham Test, they added. The PCB is also likely to send Imam back to Pakistan on the first available flight from London and may launch a high-level inquiry into his calf injury, the sources said. The 30-year-old opener complained of discomfort in his calf on the opening day of the Lord's Test and subsequently did not bat in Pakistan's second innings. His absence was also felt as Pakistan were bowled out for



110 in their first innings at Lord's. The development comes amid media speculation over the nature of Imam's injury, with some former cricketers questioning its authenticity and describing it as fake. Against this backdrop, the cricket board is expected to assess the left-handed batter's injury and look into the reasons behind his withdrawal from the match. Several PCB officials have also previously expressed concerns over issues relating to Imam's injuries, they added. In March 2025, a PCB inquiry committee found Imam responsi-

ble for misrepresenting an injury during Pakistan's tour of New Zealand, the sources said. The committee found no medical basis to declare him unfit after an X-ray showed no fracture or dislocation in his toe. It concluded that Imam had exaggerated his injury symptoms and misled medical staff, recommending a ban on his representing Pakistan across all formats and levels. The inquiry also alleged that Imam wanted to avoid opening on New Zealand's fast and challenging pitches, describing his actions as deliberate and misleading.

Meanwhile, the future of red-ball coach Sarfaraz Ahmed is also facing serious uncertainty following Pakistan's defeat at Lord's. White-ball coach Mike Hesson is set to become involved in the Test team's affairs and is expected to join the squad for the third and final Test in Birmingham, according to reports. Hesson had initially travelled to London with Director High-Performance Centre Aqib Javed to attend a dinner hosted by Prince Charles. He is now expected to oversee matters relating to the Test team and could also be present in the dressing room during the forthcoming Birmingham Test. His involvement has fuelled speculation that Hesson could eventually take charge of the Test side after already overseeing Pakistan's ODI and T20 teams. The reported arrangement has not been officially confirmed by the PCB. There is a strong possibility that Sarfaraz could be removed as red-ball coach following the conclusion of Pakistan's England tour, with the PCB expected to review the coaching structure after the team's disappointing performance. The Lord's defeat ended Pakistan's 16-year unbeaten run at the venue and gave England an unassailable 2-0 lead in the series. The defeat also leaves Pakistan with more Test losses than victories for the first time since 1987, with 154 defeats against 153 wins from 473 matches. The remaining 166 Tests have ended in draws.

Govt Graduate College for Women wins top position in Provincial Athletics

SARGODHA :A ceremony was held at Government Graduate College for Women, Farooq Colony, Sargodha, under the supervision of Principal Madam Muntaha, in honour of the college's athletics team and their coach, Madam Sabahat Baloch, following their outstanding performance at the provincial level here on Monday. According to details, students of Government Graduate College for Women, Farooq Colony, Sargodha, demonstrated exceptional performance in the Third Sports Events organized under the ADP/BS Higher Education Department, securing several gold, silver and bronze medals. The college team secured first position in athletics at the provincial level, while Rabab Shakeel was declared "Athlete of the Year 2026" for her outstanding performance. In the 100-metre race, Maryam Shehzadi won a gold medal, while Rabab Shakeel secured a gold medal in the 800-metre race. – APP

Pak, Saudi Arabia, Turkiye hold first defence pact meeting

THE inaugural meeting of the Strategic Political and Defence Committee, established under the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement, began in Istanbul, Turkiye, on Monday. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) and Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir are representing Pakistan at the high-level trilateral huddle. – APP

Pakistan failed to capitalise on 'favourable' conditions, admits Babar

LORDA: Pakistan captain Babar Azam acknowledged that his side failed to capitalise on "favourable" conditions with the bat despite making a strong start with the ball in a second Test that ended in defeat for Green Shirts. Speaking during the post-match presentation, Babar reflected on his side's disappointing performance after they suffered a 194-run defeat to England in the second Test of the three-match series at Lord's on Sunday. The 31-year-old praised Mohammad Abbas for his outstanding bowling display and lauded Saud Shakeel for showing resilience and determination during Pakistan's second-innings collapse. "We tried to utilise

the conditions. Then, the batting was not up to the mark. Second innings again, bowling... Abbas was outstanding. Batting again collapsed. I think Saud played [well], showed class and determination," Babar said. Babar admitted that Pakistan tried to stick to their plans and build partnerships, but their inability to establish meaningful stands proved costly. "We just followed our plans and tried to build partnership, but unfortunately, we didn't have partnerships." He also described Abbas' five-wicket haul at Lord's as a memorable achievement while stressing that the team continued to work on improving both their batting and bowling. – AAP

Pearl Harbor: A Tactical Victory, a Strategic Disaster



TANVEER HUSSAIN

DURING the Second World War, Japan had become a major military power. It had occupied several areas of Manchuria, China, and Southeast Asia. The United States was concerned about Japan's growing military power and its expansionist policies; therefore, it imposed economic sanctions on Japan. In particular, the stoppage of oil supplies dealt a major blow to Japan, because its war machine was largely dependent on imported oil. To resolve this problem, the Japanese planned to occupy the oil-rich areas of Southeast Asia, particularly Indonesia. However, this was not easy because of the presence of the American fleet in the Pacific.

The American fleet stationed at Pearl Harbor was a major threat to Japan's planned advance. To deal with this threat, Japan decided to destroy the American fleet and dispatched a secret naval mission under the command of Admiral Chūichi Nagumo. The Japanese fleet quietly crossed the Pacific, and on the morning of December 7, 1941, approximately 350 Japanese aircraft launched a surprise attack on the American naval base at Pearl Harbor. The Americans were completely unprepared for the attack. The Japanese targeted American warships, airfields, and other military installations. America's greatest loss was the destruction of the battleship USS Arizona. A massive explosion occurred in the ammunition aboard the ship, killing a large number of American military personnel. Since the Americans had not expected such a surprise attack, they suffered heavy losses. In the attack, several American naval vessels and 188 aircraft were destroyed, while approximately 2,403 Americans were killed in total. Japanese losses were very small in comparison, which led Japan to regard the at-

tack as a major military victory. Although the attack came as a major surprise to the United States, the Japanese chose to withdraw rather than continue the operation. At the time, the United States' major aircraft carriers were not present at Pearl Harbor and therefore escaped the Japanese attack. These aircraft carriers later proved to be extremely important weapons of American naval power in the Pacific War. The large fuel reserves maintained for the American fleet at Pearl Harbor also remained largely intact. At that time, approximately 4.5 million barrels of oil were present at Pearl Harbor, which survived the attack. Had the Japanese also destroyed these reserves and the important repair facilities, it could have taken considerable time for the United States to restore its naval fleet and replenish such a large quantity of fuel. This is why one of the major shortcomings of the Japanese planning for the Pearl Harbor attack is considered to be the failure to completely target the American aircraft carriers and the important fuel and repair facilities. This decision later proved

extremely costly for Japan. Immediately after the attack, American President Franklin D. Roosevelt addressed Congress and requested a declaration of war against Japan. Following Congressional approval, the United States formally entered the Second World War. America's entry into the war completely changed its course. Within a few days, Germany and Italy also declared war on the United States. Japan celebrated the partial success of Pearl Harbor with great enthusiasm. Afterward, Japan occupied several areas, including the Philippines, Malaya, Singapore, Burma, Hong Kong, and Indonesia, as well as other parts of Southeast Asia. However, the United States was a major industrial, economic, and military power. Using its enormous resources, it recruited millions of soldiers and produced large numbers of warships, aircraft, tanks, and other weapons. Gradually, the United States, together with the Allies, turned the tide of the war in its favor against Germany and Japan. After Germany was defeated in Europe, the United States turned its attention toward the Pacific. The American Navy captured important islands

across the Pacific, crippling Japan's ability to launch attacks. The United States also recaptured the Philippines from Japan. By 1945, Japan had become almost helpless. The United States dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima on August 6 and Nagasaki on August 9. At the same time, the Soviet Union also launched an attack against Japanese forces in Manchuria. For Japan, it had now become almost impossible to continue the war. Finally, on August 15, 1945, Japan's Emperor Hirohito announced Japan's surrender. Later, on Japan formally signed the instrument of surrender September 2, 1945, bringing the Second World War to an end. The Pearl Harbor incident proved to be a turning point in history that completely changed the direction of the war. Japan inflicted severe damage on the United States in a single attack, but the most significant consequence of the attack was that the world's greatest industrial power entered the war against Japan with its full strength. The attack that Japan considered a great military success ultimately became the foundation of its defeat.

PM stresses building on Islamabad MoU for...

FROM PAGE 01

towards enduring peace in the region. The prime minister made the remarks during his meeting with Iranian President Dr Masoud Pezeshkian in Bishkek today, on the sidelines of the SCO Council of Heads of State (CHS) Meeting in the Kyrgyz Republic. The prime minister emphasised the importance of restraint and sustained diplomatic engagement to achieve lasting peace and stability in the region. On June 18, the US and Iran reached a 14-point interim agreement, titled the "Islamabad MoU", aimed at halting the Middle East war. During the warm and cordial meeting, the two leaders reaffirmed the close and longstanding ties between both countries and emphasised the need to further strengthen bilateral relations across all areas of mutual cooperation, in line with decisions taken during the visit of President Pezeshkian to Pakistan in June this year, read a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office.

Two terrorists killed during Washuk IBO

FROM PAGE 01

particularly in its KP and Balochistan provinces, since 2021, when the Afghan Taliban came into power. According to a report by the Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS), the two provinces remained the country's main hotspots for violence during the second quarter of 2026, with KP emerging as the worst-affected region. The report stated that KP and Balochistan together accounted for nearly 96% of all violence-related fatalities recorded during the quarter. Of the total deaths, more than 61% (475) were reported in KP, while Balochistan accounted for 34% (265). KP also recorded the highest number of violent incidents, with 151 cases, representing 57% of the nationwide total. Balochistan followed with 94 incidents, or 35%, underscoring the concentration of militant activity in the two provinces.

Seven players two coaches...

FROM PAGE 01

The other four replacements are left-arm fast bowler Mohammad Imran Jnr, wicketkeeper-batter Saad Baig, right-arm pace-bowling all-rounder Mohammad Imran – also known as Imran Randhawa – and right-arm pace-bowling all-rounder Razaullah. Saad Baig was the Player of the Tournament in the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 2025-26. The newly named players will join the Pakistan squad ahead of the third Test against England in Birmingham. Additionally, Sarfaraz Ahmed and Umar Gul have also been released and will be replaced by Mike Hesson and Ashley Noffke in the backroom staff. Updated Pakistan Test squad for Birmingham

Pakistan, Uzbekistan chart a...

FROM PAGE 01

A key highlight of the discussion was the shared goal of raising bilateral trade to US\$2 billion by 2029, a target seen as achievable through enhanced cooperation and mutual trust. Reiterating regional connectivity as a shared priority, the Pakistani Prime Minister emphasized the transformative potential of the Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan Railway. He noted that the project would serve as a vital link between Central and South Asia, facilitating Uzbekistan's access to Pakistan's seaports and opening new avenues for economic integration across the region. The meeting reflected the growing convergence of interests between Pakistan and Uzbekistan, particularly in the areas of trade corridors, energy cooperation, and people-to-people exchanges. Both sides agreed that their partnership is not only strategic but also deeply rooted in shared history, culture, and aspirations for regional peace and prosperity.

Briefs

PSX loses over 720 points

ISLAMABAD: The benchmark KSE-100 Index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned bearish on Monday, losing 720.83 points, a negative change of 0.41 percent, to close at 176,975.68 points against 177,696.51 points recorded in the previous trading session. The ready market witnessed a trading volume of 937.270 million shares, compared to 658.327 million shares traded in the previous session, while the traded value surged to Rs39.134 billion from Rs31.454 billion. Market capitalisation decreased to Rs19.830 trillion from Rs19.885 trillion recorded a day earlier. Out of 503 companies that traded in the ready market, 169 posted gains, 302 suffered losses, while 32 remained unchanged, reflecting a downward trend in the market. Cnergyco PK led the volume chart with 293.181 million shares, followed by Waves Home (R) with 71.228 million shares and Bank of Punjab with 52.290 million shares. Among the top gainers, Unilever Pakistan Foods Limited surged by Rs143.62 to close at Rs25,674.98, while Attock Refinery Limited advanced by Rs93.41 to settle at Rs1,197.49.—APP

Gold price declines by Rs1,800 per tola

ISLAMABAD: Gold prices decreased in the local market on Monday, with the price of 24-karat gold falling by Rs1,800 to Rs466,136 per tola, according to rates issued by the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association. Similarly, the price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold declined by Rs1,543 to Rs399,636, whereas 10 grams of 22-karat gold decreased by Rs1,414 to Rs366,346. In the international market, the price of gold fell by \$18 to \$4,436 per ounce, the association reported. Meanwhile, the price of silver per tola increased by Rs67 to Rs7,179, while the price of 10 grams of silver rose by Rs57 to Rs6,154. The price of silver in the international market increased by \$0.67 to \$67.00 per ounce, the association added.—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 277.47, compared to the previous day's closing of Rs 277.50. According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market were recorded at Rs 277.60 and Rs 278.55, respectively. The price of the Euro against the rupee decreased by Rs 1.31 and closed at Rs 321.85 against the previous day's closing of Rs 323.16, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs 1.73, whereas the exchange rate of the British Pound witnessed a decrease of Rs 1.22 and closed at Rs 375.80 compared to the previous day's Rs 377.02. The exchange rate of the mirate Dirham remained stagnant at Rs 75.55, while the Saudi Riyal came down by 01 paise and closed at Rs 73.90.—APP

Govt to widen SME access to global markets

Aurangzeb said the government's objective was to break with that past pattern by ensuring that future growth was driven primarily by exports and the private sector. "The main challenge for us is not the growth, it's the sustainability of that growth," he said, emphasizing that export-led and private-sector-led growth were the two essential ingredients for long-term economic stability.

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday said the government was focused on building a comprehensive ecosystem to support sustainable, private-sector-led and export-driven growth. He described the launch of the Export Development Fund's SME Risk Pool and a reinsurance partnership with the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC) as an important milestone in translating the government's export strategy into practical action. Addressing the signing ceremony of the ICIEC Reinsurance Agreement and launch of the EDF's SME Risk Pool, organized under the aegis of the Export-Import Bank of Pakistan (EXIM Bank), the minister said Pakistan had moved from stabilization towards growth, but the key challenge now was to ensure its sustainability. He said the economy had record-

ed around 3.7 per cent Gross Domestic Product growth in the last fiscal year and the government hoped to take it beyond four per cent this year, adding that the country could no longer afford the boom-and-bust cycles associated with import dependency and balance of payments pressures. Aurangzeb said the government's objective was to break with that past pattern by ensuring that future growth was driven primarily by exports and the private sector. "The main challenge for us is not the growth, it's the sustainability of that growth," he said, emphasizing that export-led and private-sector-led growth were the two essential ingredients for long-term economic stability. He said the government's role was to provide the necessary enabling ecosystem and was utilizing the fiscal and external-account space available to advance the export agenda. The recently approved federal budget, he added, had provided a

clear direction for supporting export-oriented growth. The minister highlighted a number of measures taken by the government, including reduction in super tax, with the rate reduced to zero for companies exporting more than 80 per cent of their output, abolition of advance tax and efforts to make energy costs more competitive. He also pointed to the availability of export financing at 4.5 per cent, saying the government had effectively addressed concerns regarding the competitiveness of financing for exporters in the region. Aurangzeb said EXIM Bank had a critical role in channeling export refinance and long-term financing facilities enabled through the budget, while stressing that access to concessional financing should extend beyond large exporters to small and medium enterprises forming an integral part of export value and supply chains. He said a specific allocation had been made for

SMEs to ensure that businesses supplying larger exporters could also benefit from subsidized financing. Such support, he added, was essential for expanding the country's export capacity and enabling more enterprises to participate in international markets. The minister emphasized that Pakistan also needed to diversify its export base in terms of products, services and markets, rather than relying solely on traditional export sectors. Referring to the ICIEC reinsurance partnership, he said it would bring international expertise in credit and political-risk mitigation to EXIM Bank, enhancing its capacity, confidence and credibility. He said Pakistan should benefit from international best practices rather than "reinventing the wheel", adding that such partnerships would help accelerate the country's institutional development in export financing and risk management. The minister said the EDF's shared

risk pool would strengthen domestic risk-sharing mechanisms, particularly for SMEs, and enable the fund to serve its intended purpose of supporting the country's export base. Aurangzeb termed the event an important milestone because it addressed the "how" of export-led growth after years of discussion about its need and objectives. He said no single institution could deliver the required transformation on its own, stressing the need for an integrated ecosystem comprising exporters, commercial banks, EDF, EXIM Bank, the State Bank of Pakistan and the government. "This has to be the entire ecosystem," he said, underlining the need to build institutional capacity as well as expand the quantum and quality of exports. The minister noted that Pakistan's IT exports had already shown significant progress, reaching around \$4.6 billion, while freelancers were contributing about \$1.7 billion.—DNA

Turkiye's economy grows 2.3% in 2nd quarter

BAKU: Türkiye's economy grew 2.3% year-on-year in the second quarter of 2026, Anadolu Agency reported, citing official data. Gross domestic product (GDP) expanded 1.1% from the previous quarter on a seasonally and calendar-adjusted basis, according to the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat). Agriculture, forestry and fishing recorded the strongest annual growth among economic activities, with value added rising 13.3% in the April-June period. Information and communication grew 8.6%, followed by public administration, education, human health and social work activities at 4%. Value added increased 3.2% in other service activities, 2.4% in industry, and 2.1% each in financial and insurance activities and real estate. Professional, administrative and support services expanded 2%, while trade, transportation, accommodation and food services posted growth of 0.5%. Construction was the only major sector to contract, falling 1.9% from a year earlier. At current prices, Türkiye's GDP rose 36% year-on-year to 19.87 trillion Turkish liras (\$438.35 billion) in the second quarter. Household final consumption expenditure increased 3.5% annually in volume terms, while government consumption declined 1.8%.—APP

Aoun seeks Greek backing for full Israel agreement implementation

LONDON: Lebanese President Joseph Aoun on Monday called for the full and nonselective implementation of a US-backed framework agreement with Israel, saying that both sides must meet their commitments to end hostilities along the border. Speaking after talks with Greek President Konstantinos Tasoulas during an official visit to Athens, Aoun said that Lebanon was pursuing a diplomatic resolution to its conflict with Israel. "Lebanon and its people are tired of wars, and the goal of negotiations with Israel is to end the state of hostility," he said, according to a video statement posted by the Lebanese Presidency on X. He urged Greece to use its influence "to the extent possible" to help ensure that the agreement is implemented "by both sides, without selectivity." "We are determined to end the state of hostility, and the solution lies in diplomacy, not war," Aoun said. He also thanked Greece for its political, humanitarian and military support and said that Beirut hoped to deepen bilateral relations "at all levels in a way that serves their common interests." "Lebanon's stability is essential to the stability of the region and Europe and any instability there would have broad negative repercussions," he said. "We always look forward to the support of our friends, foremost among them Greece." His appeal came as fighting intensified along the Israel-Lebanon border. Since March Israel has carried out extensive strikes in southern Lebanon after the Iran-backed Hezbollah group fired rockets into Israel in response to joint Israel-US strikes on Tehran that killed Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei.—APP



BISHKEK: A meeting between President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan was held in Bishkek.—DNA

PSO honours dealer network

KARACHI: Pakistan State Oil (PSO) hosted the PSO Excellence Awards 2026 to recognise its top-performing dealer partners and reaffirm their role in ensuring uninterrupted fuel supplies across the country. The ceremony was attended by PSO Chief Executive Officer Jawwad Ahmed Cheema, Chief Commercial Officer Amir Zaib Khan, senior management, dealer partners and employees, said a news release issued here on Monday. Addressing the event, Jawwad Ahmed Cheema said PSO, as the country's national oil company, had a responsibility to ensure fuel availability across Pakistan, particularly during periods of high demand, supply constraints and challenging conditions. "Our dealers are the cornerstone of Pakistan's energy security," he said, adding that PSO's commitment to keeping the country fuelled was delivered at more than 3,600 retail outlets through its dealer network. The CEO said the fuel retail market was changing rapidly, with new entrants, formats and evolving customer expectations. He said PSO intended to regain lost market share through improved sites, service, standards and technology. He stressed the importance of accurate fuel volumes, uncompromised quality and safety standards, clean forecourts and trained staff to ensure a consistent customer experience. Mr Cheema said the awards were not merely a recognition of commercial performance but also reflected the partnership between PSO and its dealers. He thanked dealers for maintaining service standards and keeping the country's transport and economic activity moving, often under challenging circumstances. Awards were presented to top-performing dealers from across the country for commercial achievements, operational excellence, health, safety and environment (HSE) standards, customer service and adoption of best practices. Members of PSO's commercial team were also recognised for their contributions to strengthening the retail network and supporting dealer performance. The company said its retail business was entering an ambitious phase of transformation, including new site development, modernisation and rebranding of existing outlets, automation, tank-gauging, digital and loyalty initiatives and an enhanced non-fuel retail offering.—DNA

Israeli fire kills five people in Gaza

CAIRO: Israeli airstrikes killed at least five Palestinians in the Gaza Strip on Monday, health officials said. Medics said two people were killed and several others wounded when one strike hit a crowd near the municipal public park in Gaza City, an area packed with displaced families. Later on Monday, another Israeli airstrike hit a vehicle in the Tel Al-Hawa neighborhood in western Gaza City, killing at least three people, medics added. The Israeli military said the two attacks targeted Hamas militants, without giving further information. At Al Shifa Hospital, the enclave's largest medical facility, relatives and friends paid their last respects to two of the five men killed on Monday before carrying the white-shrouded bodies to the cemetery to bury them. "There is no ceasefire. There is not one good day in Gaza since October 7 (2023)," said Amjad Abu Abdo, a relative of one of the people who died in the first strike on Monday. "I swear, we do not sleep from the sound of drones. You sleep scared of being hit," Abu Abdo added.—APP

Uzbekistan, Korea expand coop in tourism

Uzbekistan is becoming an increasingly sought-after destination for international travel. From January to July 2026, the country welcomed around 7.75 million foreign tourists – up 22.6 percent year-on-year. Over the same period, tourism service exports reached roughly \$3.9 billion. Against this backdrop, the Republic of Korea remains one of the leading long-haul markets for Uzbekistan's tourism industry. Interest among Korean travelers in Uzbekistan continues to grow. In January–July 2026, Korea ranked third among long-haul markets by number of tourists visiting Uzbekistan, behind only China and Turkey. During this period, 26,500 tourists arrived from the Republic of Korea. Current figures already exceed pre-pandemic levels: Uzbekistan was visited by 35,500 Korean citizens in 2019, 41,300 in 2024, and 46,300 in 2025 – almost a third more than in 2019. Behind this growth lie concrete changes. Korean travelers don't need to arrange a visa in advance: a 30-day visa-free regime has been in place for them since February 2018. Uzbekistan and the Republic of Korea are connected by direct flights. Together, visa-free travel and direct air links make trips between the two countries considerably more accessible and convenient. But accessibility is only one side of the equation. To encourage more travelers to choose Uzbekistan, the country needs a real presence on the Korean tourism market itself – working with tour operators, clear itineraries and offers, destination promotion, and service that meets guests' expectations. That's why direct ties between the tourism businesses of the two countries are becoming increasingly important. In October 2024, the Uzbek-Korean Tourism Forum in Seoul brought together more than 100 industry representatives. Uzbekistan presented its cultural heritage and tourism potential, while Uzbek tour operators and airlines showcased routes and offers for the Korean market. B2B meetings were a central part of the program, allowing companies from both countries to discuss trip organization to Uzbekistan directly. This work is set to continue through closer engagement with the Korea Association of Travel Agents (KATA). Initiatives under consideration include joint events involving the tourism business community and promotion of Uzbekistan as a tourism destination in the Republic of Korea. In turn, Korean companies are expected to be drawn more actively into the Tashkent International Tourism Fair (TITF). There's also a less visible but no less important part of the cooperation – service quality. To work with the Korean market, Uzbekistan needs specialists who speak the language and better understand guests' needs. Currently there aren't enough such guides, which is why expanding their training has been singled out as a separate area of future work. Here, the Republic of Korea could become not just a source of tourists but a partner in developing the industry itself. Together with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), plans under discussion include bringing Korean experts into Uzbekistan's tourism education institutions, training and experience exchange, and organizing training programs for specialists in the Republic of Korea. It has also been proposed to open a Korean language and culture center at the International University of Tourism and Cultural Heritage "Silk Road" in Samarkand. This kind of professional exchange is already underway. In May of this year, representatives of Uzbekistan's Tourism Committee took part in the KOPIST High-Level Tourism Policy Forum organized by the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism.—APP



Ambassador of Uzbekistan H.E. Alisher Tukhtaev and Chief Editor Daily Islamabad POST/DNA News Agency Ansar Mahmood Bhatti exchanged documents.

DAIY ISLAMABAD POST/DNA AND
UZBEKISTAN OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY "DUNYO" JOIN HANDS

STRONGER TOGETHER:
BUILDING BRIDGES OF INFORMATION
AND FRIENDSHIP

Daily Islamabad POST/Diplomatic News Agency (DNA) and Uzbekistan's official news agency "DUNYO" join hands to promote accurate reporting, cultural understanding, and stronger diplomatic relations.

Islamabad POST
A Credible Daily Newspaper
CENTRELINE
Largest Diplomatic Magazine

DNA
DIPLOMATIC NEWS AGENCY

DUNYO
UZBEKISTON MILLIY
AXBOROT AGENTLIGI

Briefs

President Zardari felicitates Malaysia

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday conveyed his warm felicitations to the Government and people of Malaysia on the occasion of Merdeka Day, marking the country's 69th Independence Day. In his letter to Sultan Ibrahim, the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia, the President said that Merdeka Day marks the historic occasion of Malaysia's independence and reflected the vision of its founding fathers, the leadership of the nation and the dedication of its people. The president said that Pakistan and Malaysia enjoy close and friendly relations founded on shared values, common faith, mutual trust and cooperation. He noted that bilateral collaboration has continued to strengthen in areas including trade and investment, education, defence, culture and people-to-people exchanges. President Asif Ali Zardari expressed confidence that cooperation between Pakistan and Malaysia would continue to deepen for the mutual benefit of the two countries. He also conveyed his best wishes for the good health and happiness of the Malaysian leadership and for the continued peace, progress and prosperity of the people of Malaysia.

President felicitates Kyrgyz counterpart

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday conveyed his warm felicitations to President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Zhaparov and the brotherly people of Kyrgyzstan as they celebrate their Independence Day, annually observed on August 31. In his letter to President Zhaparov, the president said that Pakistan highly valued its close and friendly relations with the Kyrgyz Republic, founded on shared history, cultural affinity, mutual trust and close cooperation. Recalling his visit to Kyrgyzstan in July 2026, he said that the visit had revived cherished memories of his earlier visit to the country in 1995 and provided another valuable opportunity to further strengthen bilateral relations. He also fondly recalled President Sadyr Zhaparov's visit to Pakistan in December 2025. The president said that productive discussions during both occasions had reaffirmed the shared commitment of Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan to expanding cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

Gilani calls for enhanced Pakistan-Italy cooperation

Italian Ambassador Ugo Ciarlatani, who recently assumed his responsibilities in Islamabad, said that his priorities during his tenure would be to further improve bilateral relations and increase Italian investment in Pakistan



SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani has called for further strengthening Pakistan-Italy relations, particularly in trade, investment, agriculture, labour mobility and people-to-people exchanges. Talking to Ambassador of Italy Ugo Ciarlatani, who called on him at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Mr Gilani said Pakistan at-

taches great importance to its longstanding and friendly relations with Italy, based on mutual respect and expanding cooperation in diverse fields. He expressed confidence that Ambassador Ciarlatani would contribute to further strengthening bilateral relations during his tenure. Mr Gilani said Pakistan looks forward to welcoming Italy's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs to Pakistan, noting that this visit would provide

opportunities to further advance bilateral cooperation. Highlighting the economic relationship, Mr Gilani said there is considerable potential for further expanding bilateral trade and investment. He welcomed the presence of Italian companies in Pakistan and encouraged greater Italian investment in areas of mutual interest. He also congratulated Ambassador Ciarlatani on the completion of Italy's new diplomatic mission in Islamabad.

Gilani acknowledged Italy's cooperation in technical and vocational fields, including the Pakistan-Italy Textile Centre in Faisalabad and the Footwear Centre in Lahore, as well as cooperation in scientific and environmental fields. He welcomed the educational opportunities available to Pakistani students in Italy and highlighted the importance of the Pakistan-Italy MoU on workforce, labour migration and mobility in facilitating safe, orderly and legal migration. He also welcomed the recruitment of 10,500 skilled workers from Pakistan by Italy over the next three years, saying that labour mobility would further strengthen people-to-people ties between the two countries. Gilani thanked Italy for its support for Pakistan's election as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the 2025-26 term and said Pakistan looks forward to continued coordination with Italy at the United Nations and other multilateral fora. Italian Ambassador Ugo Ciarlatani, who recently assumed his responsibilities in Islamabad, said that his priorities during his tenure would be to further improve bilateral relations and increase Italian investment in Pakistan. He said he is pleased to have taken up his assignment in Pakistan at a time when Pakistan is playing an important role in promoting security and peace in the region. He noted that around 300,000 people of Pakistani origin are living, working and studying in Italy and are contributing to promoting stronger relations between the two countries.

G20 countries should consider more trade barriers with China

ASHEVILLE: North Carolina: US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said on Sunday he will encourage G20 members to re-examine terms of trade with China to shrink global imbalances and press Beijing to rebalance its economy away from exports and toward domestic consumption. Bessent said in an interview ahead of a G20 finance leaders meeting that the current flood of exports from China was unsustainable, even though the US direct trade position with China was "rapidly improving." "The world cannot have a China with a \$1.2 trillion trade surplus," Bessent said. "In China, the economy is quite weak, and they are trying to export their way out of it, and they need to rebalance their economy." Bessent's push to mobilize a coordinated trade response to China comes as legal setbacks force the US to rebuild its tariff policy, which had sharply reduced imports from China but led to an influx of Chinese imports elsewhere, especially to Europe and Latin America. The US has walled off its economy from many Chinese goods with high tariffs and outright bans on some products including autos. Bessent said he told other industrial economies last year they would face pressures from the China import surge and that "now they are confronted with some very stark choices." He said it will be up to other countries to give China an incentive to shift away from exports and strengthen its chronically weak domestic demand. "The rest of the world is going to have to examine their terms of trade with China," Bessent said. Community members gather in response to the G20 presence in Asheville before finance ministers and central bank governors from G20 countries meet in Asheville, North Carolina, US, August 30, 2026.

The US is pushing for a G20 joint statement on reducing trade and current account imbalances. China's embassy in Washington could not immediately be reached for comment on its view of the effort. Tariffs imposed since US President Donald Trump returned to office in 2025 have helped cut the US trade deficit with China for the first six months of 2026 by a third from the same period of 2025, to \$73.9 billion, according to US Census Bureau data. Some acceleration of Chinese imports occurred in January of the year-earlier period as importers tried to beat anticipated tariffs. Although some economists and European leaders have called for a coordinated effort to strengthen China's yuan, Bessent questioned the effectiveness of such a move. The International Monetary Fund has assessed the yuan to be undervalued by as much as 21 percent. Suggestions that a new "Plaza Accord" - the 1985 agreement to strengthen currencies against the dollar - was the answer to reducing imbalances are misguided, he said, calling this "an easy way to get around dealing with the real trade problem," which he said was excessive Chinese industrial subsidies and weak domestic demand. Bessent said it was unclear whether he would meet with his Chinese counterpart, Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng, in person ahead of a White House meeting between President Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping slated for late September. Ahead of the summit, US and Chinese officials will press forward with dialogues on potential tariff reductions on non-strategic goods and artificial intelligence guardrails aimed at keeping powerful AI models from falling into the hands of non-state actors, Bessent said. - Agencies

Moroccan govt not responsible for Ceuta incident: Spanish PM

NEWS DESK

MADRID: Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez on Monday ruled out any responsibility by Moroccan authorities for the sudden influx of migrants into the Spanish enclave of Ceuta a month ago, saying the incident remained under investigation. At least 70,000 people crossed into Spain's North African enclave from Morocco over several days in July, triggering a Europe-wide migrant alert. Although the vast majority returned to Morocco within hours, thousands remain in the territory, many living rough on the streets. "No intelligence service with which the Spanish government normally cooperates" had suggested "any ... involvement in one way or another of the Moroccan authorities," Sanchez said. "We must be aware that this crisis can only be resolved through co-

operation and not through distrust toward Morocco," he added, promising an additional 168 million euros (\$195 million) in aid for Ceuta to respond to the crisis. Sanchez also denounced "fake information" spread by the "ultra-right" over the influx. "After July 30 and 31, rumors and disinformation spread on social networks linked to Russia and Israel, and to an ultra-right international that always uses migration to attack both Spain and Europe and divide it," Sanchez told Cadena Ser radio. Residents of Ceuta, which is just 18 square kilometers (seven square miles) in size and has a population of 80,000 people, have held regular demonstrations over what they say are security and hygiene problems linked to the migrant influx. Spain's left-wing government has said between 3,500 and 7,000 migrants remain in the territory, including unaccompanied minors. Ceuta's right-wing leaders allege it is at least 10,000.

War not in anybody's interest, says Iranian president

DNA

BISHKEK: Kyrgyzstan: Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said Monday continuing the war with the United States was not in his country's interest, following a fresh military flare-up between the two countries. "We continue to strive for a path of agreement and understanding, and we believe that continuing the war is neither in our interest, nor in the interest of the region," Pezeshkian said during a meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi ahead of a Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in Kyrgyzstan. "We believe that the solution to the existing problems is dialogue and cooperation, and all capacities must be used to prevent the spread of insecurity and conflict," he added, according to a statement from the Iranian presidency. His remarks came after US forces attacked Iran's Larak island, the first exchanges of fire in a month between Iran and the United States around the strategic Strait of Hormuz. Tehran responded with strikes on bases in Jordan and the United Arab Emirates that it said were used by the US military.

Syria hails Tripoli embassy reopening

TRIPOLI: Syria's Foreign Minister Asaad Al-Shaibani hailed on Sunday the reopening of his country's embassy in the Libyan capital Tripoli, which had been closed for more than a decade. Shaibani was welcomed by Prime Minister Abdulhamid Dbeibah, who leads the UN-recognized administration in Tripoli, and held talks with Taher Al-Baour, Libya's acting foreign minister. "Today, this embassy returns to reaffirm the importance and value of the Syrian-Libyan relationship," Shaibani said. Last year, a delegation from Damascus symbolically reopened the embassy, which was shut in 2012, but it did not immediately resume consular services. Relations between the two countries had been upended by Syria's civil war and the chaos that followed the fall of longtime Libyan ruler Muammar Qaddafi. - APP

Turkiye's Victory Day celebrated at the GHQ



DNA

RAWALPINDI: A ceremony to commemorate 104th anniversary of Turkish Armed Forces Victory Day was held at General Headquarters (GHQ), Rawalpindi. Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan Irfan Neziroglu graced the occasion as Guest of Honour. The ceremony highlighted the enduring bonds of brotherhood and close bilateral relations between Pakistan and Türkiye, rooted in shared values, mutual re-

spect and a history of unwavering support for each other. On the occasion, participants paid tribute to the valour and sacrifices of the Turkish Armed Forces and reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening the longstanding defence and strategic partnership between Pakistan and Türkiye. The event was attended by military officers and officials of the Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye and other distinguished guests. The ceremony concluded with warm expressions of goodwill for the people and Armed Forces of the Republic of Türkiye.