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Kazakh envoy says he cherished his stay in Pakistan

Detailed News On Page-03

UN chief lauds Pakistan efforts for global peace

Detailed News On Page-08



Pak journey for reforms to stabilization

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PM invites Saudi firms to explore Pak markets

While welcoming the Saudi dignitary, the Prime Minister reaffirmed the deep-rooted, fraternal ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia and conveyed his warmest regards for the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud

SAIFULLAH ANSAR / DNA

ISLAMABAD: H.E. Engineer Abdulrahman bin Abdulmohsen Al-Fadley, Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the Prime Minister's House, Islamabad, today. While welcoming the Saudi dignitary, the Prime Minister reaffirmed the deep-rooted, fraternal ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia and conveyed his warmest regards for the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. The Prime Minister said that the recently signed Makkah Joint Defence Agreement, between Saudi Arabia, Turkiye and Pakistan had brought the three countries even closer together and sent a message of unity and peace throughout the region. He underscored that as strategic partners, both Pakistan and the Kingdom must now focus their energies towards deepening economic and agriculture ties to translate their longstanding relationship into a stronger, mutually beneficial trade and investment partnership. He expressed satisfaction at the constructive engagement between the two sides, particularly with regards to export of agricultural products by Pakistan to the Kingdom.

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Field Marshal talks About deep-rooted Saud-Pak relations

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Eng. Abdulrahman Abdulmohsen AlFadley, Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, called on Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces (COAS & CDF), at General Headquarters (GHQ), Rawalpindi. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest were discussed. The COAS & CDF highlighted the deep-rooted brotherly relations between Pakistan and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening the longstanding strategic partnership between the two brotherly countries. The dignitary appreciated Pakistan's positive role in promoting regional peace

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RAWALPINDI: Eng. Abdulrahman Abdulmohsen AlFadley, Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, called on Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces (COAS & CDF), at General Headquarters (GHQ), Rawalpindi. – DNA

Pak extends condolences to China over deadly floods

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has expressed deep sorrow on behalf of the government and people of Pakistan over the tragic flash floods and landslides that struck China's border region, claiming lives and leaving many missing. In a statement shared on his official account, the Prime Minister conveyed solidarity with the Chinese people during this difficult time. "The loss of precious lives and those missing as a result of this tragedy evokes our profound grief and solidarity with the Chinese brethren," he said. He noted that search and relief operations were continuing tirelessly in the affected areas and assured that Pakistan stands ready to extend all

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IMF mission to visit Pak next month

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) review mission is scheduled to visit Pakistan next month to conduct the fourth review of the country's \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF). The review mission will inquire about the proposed legislation on the Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF). The government has introduced the Pakistan Sovereign Wealth Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2026 in the Senate to revise governance and increase fiscal safeguards in order to fulfil IMF conditions.

Continued on Page 06

India signs deal with US to buy Javelin anti-tank missile systems

Agreement creates new opportunities for defence industries of both countries to work together, says US envoy

NEWS DESK

NEW DELHI: The Indian army has signed an agreement with the United States to purchase Javelin anti-tank missile systems, the US embassy in India said on Friday, without disclosing the value of the deal. The medium-range guided missile system, jointly produced by Lockheed Martin and RTX, is designed for use against a range of targets, including armoured vehicles, the embassy said. The missile system is already in service with the US Army and Marine Corps, as well as several international customers, the embassy added. The agreement creates new opportuni-

ties for the defence industries of both countries to work together, US Ambassador Sergio Gor said. "We see tremendous potential for future cooperation that strengthens the defence industrial bases of both countries," he said. New Delhi was not immediately available for comment on the agreement. India and the US signed a 10-year defence framework agreement in October. Although ties between the countries have deteriorated in recent months, with Washington imposing high tariffs on Indian goods, punishing New Delhi for purchasing Russian oil, and engaging closely with India's arch-rival Pakistan, the defence relationship has remained unaffected.

Govt withdraw telecom bill

MEHTAB PIRZADA

ISLAMABAD: The government on Friday withdrew a controversial bill that sought to give telecom licensees sweeping powers to install infrastructure on public and private land, saying it would introduce a new draft of the proposed legislation. The bill, seeking changes to a 1996 act, was originally tabled by Khawaja and approved by the National Assembly on June 11 by a majority vote, a day before the presentation of the federal budget 2026-27. It was then taken up in the Senate, where objections were raised about its clauses. On Friday, a motion to withdraw the Pakistan Telecommunication (Re-organization) (Amendment) Bill, 2026 was moved in the upper house of Parliament by Minister of State for

Interior Tallal Chaudhry on behalf of Information Technology Minister Shaza Fatima Khawaja. The motion was passed by the House as the stipulated 90-day period for the bill's passage was nearing expiry. "Upon expiry of the prescribed period, the bill would have proceeded to a joint sitting of Parliament, the convening of which may not take place in the near future," Ministry of Information Technology said in a statement. "In order to avoid delays and expedite the legislative process, the ministry has decided to introduce a fresh bill, ensuring that the legislative process proceeds in a timely and effective manner, while retaining the essence of the proposed legislation," it said. The bill's statement of objects and reasons said amendments were needed for "swift and coordinated deployment of telecommunication infrastructure".

Briefs

Gilani elected as the new AJK PM

STAFF REPORT

MUZAFFARABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) candidate Ifthikhar Gilani was elected the 17th prime minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) on Friday, securing 30 votes in the legislative assembly. Shopping For Authentic South Asian Apparel Gilani defeated Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) candidate Sardar Mukhtar Khan, who received 14 votes. The PML-N leader was first elected to the AJK Legislative Assembly in 2011. He has also served as AJK education minister. He was elected to the AJK Legislative Assembly on the reserved seat for technocrats. A day earlier, PML-N President Nawaz Sharif nominated Barrister Gilani as the party's candidate for the office of AJK premiership.

PM speaks with Prime Minister of Nepal

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif held a telephone conversation with His Excellency Balendra Shah, Prime Minister of Nepal, this afternoon. During the telephone call, the Prime Minister conveyed heartfelt condolences on the tragic loss of lives and widespread devastation caused by the recent flashfloods and landslides in Nepal.

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While expressing complete solidarity with the Nepali leadership and people on behalf of the Government and people of Pakistan, the Prime Minister offered whatever possible assistance was required at this difficult time.

PIMS fire tragedy

'All involved shall be dealt with an iron hand'

Speaking in the Senate, Kamal said: "No one intends to spare or save anyone. I am saying this on behalf of the prime minister and the entire government that not a single person will be spared"

FAISAL SHEIKH

ISLAMABAD: Health Minister Mustafa Kamal on Friday vowed that "no one will be spared" while talking about the fire at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) that claimed the lives of 14 infants, adding that the country's health sector needed to be reformed. Speaking in the Senate, Kamal said: "No one intends to spare or save anyone. I am saying this on behalf of the prime minister and the entire government that not a single person will be spared". He said that the tragedy cannot be an "episode lasting merely a few days," as he called for accountability and for efforts to prevent such incidents in the future. The minister warned against "suppressing the issue" and invited the House to work towards a way forward. "Look at your resources, management and actions and then involve everyone to suggest a way forward," he said, assuring that the government will support such an approach. "This

is a matter of children's lives, and we are answerable to God for it. The ministry is nothing; we cannot ruin our afterlife for these ministries," he remarked. At the outset of his address, the minister expressed sorrow at the lives lost in the incident. "There can be no explanation for this. I am holding myself responsible, and I have presented myself to be held accountable." He called for a holistic approach toward investigating the incident, urging that any committee formed to probe should not be "time-bound and should remain open". "When you go to investigate this incident, you will find so many things associated with it," he said, pointing to a larger "rot" within the sector. Kamal held that the health sector was not "ideal". "Four hundred thousand children between the ages of one and five die every year, 1,300 die every day; they are all dying preventable deaths," he said. He continued: "It is not possible to bring back the infants who died at Pims, but let us

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Diplomacy can get back on track but no pressure accepted: Iran

With the US having disengaged from talks in favor of an economic pressure campaign, the prime minister of Qatar met senior Iranian leaders in Tehran on Thursday, stressing the importance of returning to the pre-war status of open shipping through an international waterway

NEWS DESK

DUBAI/CAIRO: Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said putting diplomacy back on track was not impossible but hinged on the United States understanding that pressure does not work. In a post on X, Araghchi said he had held what he described as "creative discussions" with Qatar's Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, adding that Washington should build trust, speak respectfully, acknowledge Iran's rights and uphold its commitments. Iran war mediators have placed renewed emphasis on reopening the Strait of Hormuz, with Tehran agreeing to draw up a list of conditions to restore normal traffic after a Qatari emissary pressed the Iranians to respect freedom of navigation. With the US having disengaged from talks in favor of an economic pressure campaign, the prime minister of Qatar met senior Iranian leaders in Tehran on Thursday, stressing the importance of returning to the pre-war status of open shipping through an international waterway. Qatar, a US ally and Gulf neighbor of Iran, and Pakistan helped broker a memorandum of understanding in June that led to a ceasefire and set terms for shipping in the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow stretch between Iran and Oman that before the war was the conduit for 20 percent of the world's oil supply.

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China says dialogue 'only viable way out' of US-Iran conflict

DNA

BEIJING: China on Friday reiterated that dialogue and diplomatic negotiations are the only way to resolve US-Iran tensions, following new US economic sanctions against Tehran, Anadolu reported. On Iran, "dialogue and negotiations are the only viable way out," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian told reporters in Beijing. "China opposes illegal, unilateral sanctions [and] our position is consistent and clear," he stressed.

Pakistan's time ripe to move from stabilization to transformation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Friday said Pakistan's central economic challenge was to convert macroeconomic stability into sustained growth, higher productivity, exports, investment and employment. He expressed these views while addressing a visiting delegation of Harvard Business School (HBS) MBA students, a news release said. Welcoming the delegation to the Ministry of Planning and Development, the minister said Pakistan should not be viewed merely through the prism of its challenges, but through the scale of its underlying potential. With a population of nearly 260 million, a large youth cohort, a strategic geographic location, considerable agricultural and mineral resources, an expanding digital economy and a strong global diaspora, he said the country possessed significant foundations for long-term economic progress. He said Pakistan must break the recurring cycle of "boom, external account pressure, stabilization and slowdown" by restructuring the economy around productivity and exports. "Stabilization is necessary, but stabilization alone is not development. Pakistan cannot austerify its way to prosperity. We have to earn our pro-

perity through productivity, innovation, investment and exports," Ahsan Iqbal said. The minister briefed the delegation on URAAN Pakistan, the government's national transformation framework built around the 5Es: Exports, Enterprise and Employment; E-Pakistan and the digital economy; Environment, Climate Change, Food and Water Security; Energy and Infrastructure; and Equity, Ethics and Empowerment. He said Pakistan had set the ambition of becoming a \$1 trillion economy by 2035, but stressed that the objective was not simply to achieve a numerical GDP target. "The real question is what Pakistan will be capable of producing and selling competitively to the world in 2035 that it cannot produce today. Development is ultimately about building national capabilities," he said. Ahsan Iqbal identified productivity, quality and innovation as critical determinants of Pakistan's future competitiveness. He said the government was seeking to build a national culture around Productivity, Quality and Innovation (PQI) so that "Made in Pakistan" increasingly became associated globally with reliability, quality and value. Highlighting the importance of human capital, he said Pakistan's greatest resource was its people and warned that a young population could become a demographic liability unless supported by education, nutrition,

healthcare, skills and employment. Human capital is our most important infrastructure. The enduring strength of advanced economies lies not only in physical assets but in the intellectual software generated by their universities, research institutions and innovation ecosystems," he said. The minister said artificial intelligence was creating a historic opportunity for developing economies, but countries that failed to develop technological capabilities risked falling on the wrong side of a new global intelligence divide. Pakistan, he added, must become not merely a consumer of emerging technologies but a producer and adapter of technologies in areas such as AI, biotechnology, advanced manufacturing, agriculture and space sciences. Speaking on climate change, he said Pakistan's experience had demonstrated that climate resilience could no longer be treated as a separate environmental issue, as it directly affected fiscal stability, food security, infrastructure, public health and poverty. He also highlighted the evolving role of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, saying that while CPEC's first phase focused substantially on infrastructure and energy, its next phase must increasingly centre on industrial cooperation, technology transfer, agriculture, exports and business-to-business partnerships.



I ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Irfan Neziro lu met with H.E. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar, Chairman of the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC) and discussed ways to further enhance academic and research cooperation between Türkiye and Pakistan. DNA

Empowering youth is key to Pakistan's progress and prosperity

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Law and Justice Barrister Aqeel Malik has called upon all segments of society to play their role in empowering Pakistan's youth, saying that the country's future depends on developing young people who are confident, skilled, responsible and capable of leading from the front. Addressing the National Youth Leadership Summit 2026, jointly organized by the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and the National Youth Leadership Programme (NYLP) he said every stakeholder should support initiatives that provide young people with opportunities for leadership, professional development and meaningful participation in national affairs. He stressed that youth leadership programmes could help bridge the gap between talent and opportunity and prepare young people to take on greater responsibilities in their professional and public lives. He urged the private sector, educational institutions, government departments and civil society to work together to provide young people with skills, mentorship, exposure and platforms for practical engagement. He said that supporting youth was not merely an investment in individuals but an investment in the stability, prosperity.—APP

Rs.31bn surface water project planned for Lahore

ISLAMABAD: The Punjab government has planned a Rs 31 billion project to shift Lahore's water supply from groundwater to surface water by drawing and treating 54 million gallons per day (MGD) from the BRB Canal. The Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) Lahore operates 594 deep tube wells across the city, supplying 329 million gallons of water daily. According to WASA officials, the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) has approved the project's PCI, which will now be submitted to the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) for final approval. "After getting the

final nod, execution of the project will start," WASA Lahore Vice-Chairman Chaudhary Shahbaz Ahmad told Wealth Pakistan. He said the Surface Water Treatment Plant (SWTP) would initially have a capacity of 100 cusecs (54 MGD) and would be established near Bhaini Road. Its capacity would subsequently be expanded to 1,000 cusecs (540 MGD). Shahbaz Ahmad, who is also a member of the Punjab Assembly, said the project would be implemented with financial assistance from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). The SWTP is part of AIIB's \$235 million financing package un-

der the Lahore Water and Wastewater Management Project, which seeks to improve water quality, reduce pollution from untreated sewage and gradually shift the city's dependence from groundwater to surface water. The project also includes laying a trunk sewer from Lareh Colony to Gulshan-e-Ravi using trenchless technology to reduce the burden on stormwater drains in central Lahore. Pakistan's major cities meet their water needs through a combination of surface water from rivers, canals and reservoirs and groundwater extracted through tube wells.—APP

'Climate Change can no longer be ignored'

DNA

LAHORE: Former Governor of Punjab, Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar, said that the damages and potential serious threats caused by climate change around the world can no longer be ignored. In view of the negative effects of climate change on humanity and the global economy, world leaders and experts should play their key role. Experts and professionals from various fields, including geology and atmospheric sciences, should find a sustainable and promising solution through mutual consultation and modern research. The loss suffered by humanity as a result of terrestrial and atmospheric disasters demands a change in the individual and collective priorities of the international community. The loss of hundreds of precious lives as a result of the sudden and devastating floods in Nepal is a global tragedy. Unfortunately, the victims did not even get enough time to move to safe locations. In his statement issued here on Friday, Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar further said that if the global conscience does not awaken despite the heartbreaking deaths of four hundred and seventy people as a result of the worst floods in Nepal, any other country could also fall victim to such a disaster in the future. The international community should use its valuable resources not for the frenzy of war and bloodshed, but to protect humanity from terrestrial and atmospheric disasters, calamities, and deadly diseases.—APP

NA adopts resolution over tragic PIMS incident

SAIFULAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly today passed a resolution expressing its profound grief and sorrow over the tragic loss of innocent infants' lives in the recent fire incident at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), Islamabad. The resolution moved by Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Barrister Danyal Chaudhry strongly con-

demned the incident and expressed grave concern over the sheer negligence resulting into the loss of precious lives. It called upon the government to take strict action against anyone responsible for the negligence or safety lapses in accordance with law. The resolution called upon the government to ensure strict implementation of fire safety and emergency preparedness measures in federal government hospitals, particularly in neonatal and pediatric units to

prevent recurrence of such tragic incidents in future. The resolution extended its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. Speaking in the National Assembly, Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar said an interim report of the committee, constituted by the Prime Minister to probe into the fire tragedy at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) Islamabad, will be presented by this evening. He said the content of the interim report would be shared. He said the committee, headed by former Interior Secretary Shahid Khan, would submit a detailed report on the incident in seven days. The Law Minister said another committee has also been constituted to propose measures for the revamping and improvement of PIMS. The committee would also submit its recommendations in seven days.



ISLAMABAD: People take shelter under passenger's shade at Zero Point Stop during downpour after couples of hot and humid days in the Federal Capital.

CDA launches waste management plan

The CDA Board has also approved the comprehensive and effective solid waste disposal plan, paving the way for its phased approach which is firstly being implementation in Zones IV and V

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA), under the vision of Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi Federal Minister for Interior and leadership of Sohail Ashraf, Chairman CDA, CDA has taken a landmark, practical and Excellent initiative to address one of the longstanding challenges of Islamabad's rural areas by introducing a comprehensive Integrated Operations & Resource Planning System for solid waste management for collection and disposal of solid waste in Zones IV and V. For many years, the rural areas of

Islamabad very neglected very badly in terms of systematic cleanliness and solid waste management. Unlike the developed and central sectors of the Federal Capital, a comprehensive, organized and technology enabled mechanism for regular collection, transportation and environmentally responsible disposal of solid waste was not available across these areas. Recognizing this long standing issue of the citizens of Zones IV and V, CDA Chairman Sohail Ashraf has made cleanliness and environmental sustainability of the rural areas an important priority and has directed to chalked out a comprehensive, workable

and integrated system for solid waste collection and disposal covering 65 Union



Councils in the rural areas of Islamabad. The initiative has been developed in collaboration with a reputed Turkish waste management company, bringing international operational experience, modern machinery and

equipments and technology based monitoring into the solid waste management system of Islamabad. The CDA Board has also approved the comprehensive and effective solid waste disposal plan, paving the way for its phased approach which is firstly being implementation in Zones IV and V. Consequently, rural localities including Bani Gala, Ghuri Town and other surrounding areas will come under Zones IV and V, will have structured and regular solid waste collection and disposal mechanism. A Historic Shift in Focus Towards Rural Areas of Islamabad Zones IV and V are rural areas of Islamabad which constitute a substantial part of Is-

lamabad's eastern, southern, rural and peri urban areas. These areas have historically faced challenges of inadequate sanitation infrastructure, scattered settlements, longer collection routes and the absence of a uniform and integrated solid waste management mechanism. The CDA initiative represents a fundamental transformation in the way sanitation services will be planned and delivered in rural Islamabad. Under the new model, waste management will no longer depend on ad hoc arrangements. Instead, manpower, machinery, collection points, vehicles and routes will be planned according to the actual population.

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

AUGUST

Aug 01/China
Armed Forces Day

Aug 01/Switzerland
National Day

Aug 01/Lebanon
Armed Forces Day

Aug 01 /Syria
Armed Forces Day

Aug 4/Bukino Faso
National Day

Aug 09 /Singapore

Aug 15/DPR Korea
Independence Day

Aug 15/India
Independence Day

Aug 15/Poland
Armed Forces Day

Aug 17 /Indonesia
Independence Day

Aug 24/Ukraine
Independence Day

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Ambassador Yerzhan Kistafin bids farewell to Pakistan

Ambassador Kistafin expressed heartfelt gratitude to the leadership and people of both countries, as well as his team at the Embassy, for their tireless efforts in advancing bilateral relations. “Serving in Pakistan was a great blessing of Allah Almighty. Pakistan has become a second home to me, and I will always cherish its stunning nature, hospitable people, and friendly environment,”

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, H.E. Yerzhan Kistafin, has concluded his five-year mission in Islamabad, marking the end of a period that significantly strengthened bilateral ties between the two brotherly nations During his tenure, Kazakhstan and Pakistan broadened their cooperation agenda, with a series of high-level exchanges underscoring the growing partnership. Among the milestones were the visits of Prime Minister of Pakistan H.E. Shehbaz Sharif to Astana in 2022 and 2024, and the historic first-ever visit of Prime Minister of Kazakhstan H.E. Olzhas Bektenov to Islamabad in 2024. Other landmark visits included Speaker of



the Mazhilis of Kazakhstan's Parliament H.E. Yerlan Koshanov in 2022, Field Marshal H.E. Asim Munir to Astana in April 2025, and Foreign Minister H.E. Murat Nurtleu's official trip to Islamabad in September 2025. Institutionally, six Joint Working Groups were established, while the Joint Intergovernmental Commission and Joint Business Council gained momentum. The culmination of these efforts came in February 2026, when President of Kazakhstan H.E. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev paid the first state visit to Pakistan since 2003. The visit resulted in the signing of a landmark Joint Declaration on Strategic Partnership, outlining priority areas for future cooperation. Ambassador Kistafin expressed heartfelt gratitude to the leadership and people of both

countries, as well as his team at the Embassy, for their tireless efforts in advancing bilateral relations. “Serving in Pakistan was a great blessing of Allah Almighty. Pakistan has become a second home to me, and I will always cherish its stunning nature, hospitable people, and friendly environment,” he said. He emphasized that the end of his mission is not a conclusion but “the beginning of a brand-new chapter in bilateral and regional cooperation.” In his farewell note, he wished the people of Pakistan peace, prosperity, and progress, affirming his belief in the nation's tremendous potential. Closing his message with the words “Kazakhstan and Pakistan Dosti Zindabad,” Ambassador Kistafin highlighted the enduring spirit of friendship between the two nations.

NA unanimously passes resolution

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly on Friday unanimously passed a resolution expressing profound grief and sorrow over the tragic loss of innocent infant lives in the recent fire incident at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), Islamabad. The resolution, tabled by Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Broadcasting, Danyal Chaudhary, strongly condemned the incident and expressed grave concern over the alleged negligence that resulted in the loss of precious lives. The resolution called upon the government to take strict action against anyone found responsible for negligence or safety lapses in accordance with the law. It also called upon the government to ascertain the facts surrounding the incident, fix responsibility for any negligence or safety lapses, and take appropriate action in accordance with the law. The resolution further called upon the government to ensure strict implementation of fire safety and emergency preparedness measures in federal government hospitals, particularly in neonatal and paediatric units, to prevent the recurrence of such tragic incidents in the future. —DNA

MoITT to introduce fresh bill

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MoITT) has initiated the process to withdraw the Pakistan Telecommunications (Re-organisation) Amendment Bill 2026 from the Senate as its stipulated 90-day period is approaching completion. Upon expiry of the prescribed period, the Bill would proceed to a joint sitting of Parliament, the convening of which may not take place soon, said a statement issued by the ministry. To avoid delays and expedite the legislative process, the ministry has decided to introduce a fresh Bill, ensuring that the legislative process proceeds in a timely and effective manner while retaining the essence of the proposed legislation.—APP

Tarar says PIMS fire a deeply painful tragedy

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Azam Nazeer Tarar on Friday described the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) incident as a deeply painful tragedy, saying the entire nation was saddened by the loss of lives. Speaking in the National Assembly, he said Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif had constituted two committees soon after the tragic fire incident to ascertain its causes and recommend measures to prevent such incidents in future. The government was committed to determining the factors and causes that led to the tragic incident, he added. The minister said a former interior secretary, a highly reputed officer, had been entrusted with the inquiry

and given two days to submit an interim report. He said the interim report was expected by Friday evening and its contents would be shared. The committee had also been directed to submit a detailed report to the prime minister within seven days. Based on the committee's recommendations, necessary action would be taken, he added. Tarar said another four-member committee, headed by Dr Azhar Kiyani, had also been constituted to review the overall condition and requirements of PIMS and submit recommendations for its improvement. The committee included a retired professor of medicine, a retired civil servant and another expert, he added. The Law Minister said the body had been

notified as an administrative management oversight committee and would submit its report within seven days. Expressing sympathy with the families affected by the tragedy, the minister said there were no adequate words to express the nation's grief and solidarity with them. He urged lawmakers to rise above political narratives while discussing the incident. Instead, they should present concrete and practical suggestions on the floor of the National Assembly to help prevent such tragedies in future. “We are all Pakistanis and, in one way or another, parents of children,” he said, stressing that the focus should remain on reforms and measures to prevent a recurrence of such incidents.—DNA

Rana Mashhood, Hamza Shehbaz meet

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan on Friday met former Punjab chief minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Vice President Hamza Shehbaz Sharif to discuss government initiatives for youth employment, skills development, entrepreneurship and access to emerging opportunities, with both leaders stressing the need to ensure equal opportunities for young people across all provinces and regions. The meeting focused on strengthening youth-focused policies and programmes in line with local economic needs, skills and employment trends, while improving outreach through modern communication channels and multiple languages. Rana Mashhood said the Prime Minister's Youth Programme was giving special attention to creating employment, developing skills, promoting entrepreneurship and connecting young people with modern opportunities. He said the programme's 4Es

framework, which are Education, Employment, Engagement and Empowerment, is driving various initiatives aimed at improving opportunities and participation for the country's youth. “The priority of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme is not merely to increase employment figures but to create productive employment for young people,” he said. Mr Mashhood said youth were being equipped with modern skills according to the requirements of current and future job markets. He noted that the impact of policies and programmes designed for young people often became visible over time. He said several young people who had benefited from the laptop scheme were now earning in pounds and dollars through freelancing. The chairman said the Prime Minister's Youth Programme had formulated the National Youth Employment Policy, National E-Sports Policy and National Adolescent and Youth Policy to address emerging needs and expand opportunities for young people. He said the Digital Youth Hub had been established to connect youth with opportunities in

the digital age, with more than 850,000 young people already registered on the platform. Mr Mashhood said providing equal opportunities to young people from all provinces and regions remained a priority. Special programmes were being developed by keeping in view their local needs, skills and employment trends, he added. Hamza Shehbaz appreciated the initiatives being taken by Rana Mashhood under the Prime Minister's Youth Programme and stressed the need to ensure equal opportunities for young people from Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and other regions according to their needs, capabilities and local economic opportunities. He also called for the government's message to young people to be delivered effectively through modern communication trends and in different languages to improve outreach. The two sides underscored the importance of expanding access to education, skills, employment, entrepreneurship and emerging opportunities for young people across the country.

Islamabad's communities embracing Rabi-ul-Awwal

ISLAMABAD: As the sacred month of Rabi-ul-Awwal is underway, communities across the federal capital are embracing its spirit of compassion and generosity by organizing free meal distributions for underserved and underprivileged communities. In suburbs of the capital, local mosques, community welfare organizations and youth volunteer groups have joined hands to commemorate the birth month of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) through service-oriented initiatives. Daily distribution of free meals is among the prominent activities being organized in different areas, reflecting the values of charity, empathy and inclusiveness associated with the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). From Sectors G-7 to I-10, underserved people, including Bykea riders, labourers and low-income families, can be seen gathering at food distribution points, where volunteers serve freshly prepared meals, including rice, lentils, bread and sweet drinks. The meals are served to people regardless of their religion or background, highlighting a message of unity, compassion and humanity. Talking to APP, Jia, a university student and volunteer with a youth-led Non Government Organization, shared her experience of participating in meal distribution activities during Rabi-ul-Awwal. “The smile on a child's face when they receive a hot, nutritious meal is absolutely priceless. This month is not just about celebration; it is about action-helping, feeding and serving,” she said. Talha, an organizer of a meal drive in Sector G-9, said Rabi-ul-Awwal provided an opportunity to reflect on the life and teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), particularly his emphasis on caring for the poor and marginalized. “This is our way of honoring that legacy-by feeding those in need and bringing the community closer together,” he said. In some parts of the capital, families have also taken the initiative to prepare extra food at home and distribute it at public places. Children and teenagers are participating in the activities by packing and distributing meals. Zara, a resident of Sector G-7, told APP that she and her daughters had made it a family tradition to cook and distribute free meals during Rabi-ul-Awwal.—DNA

Balanced diet essential: Expert

ISLAMABAD :Muhammad Sarfaraz, Executive Director, Technical Operations at Innovita Nutrition on Friday stressed the need for a balanced and nutritious diet to address micronutrient deficiencies, clarifying that malnutrition did not merely mean a lack of food but also included deficiencies of essential vitamins and minerals. Talking to a private news channel, Sarfaraz said that adequate food intake did not necessarily ensure proper nutrition, as many diets remained deficient in essential micronutrients such as zinc and iron, which are vital for brain and overall body development. He said the first 1,000 days of a child's life were particularly important for ensuring proper nutrition for both the mother and baby. Sarfaraz called for greater attention to maternal nutrition during pregnancy, saying nutritional deficiencies among mothers could adversely affect the health and development of their babies. The expert emphasized the importance of including fruits, vegetables and other nutrient-rich foods as part of a properly balanced diet. He advised people to consult qualified nutritionists to understand their individual nutritional requirements and obtain guidance according to their specific needs. “Instead of relying unnecessarily on supplements, people should focus on obtaining essential nutrition through a regular, balanced and nutritious diet,” he said. He also urged consumers to develop the habit of checking product labels before purchasing nutritional products, particularly the expiry date and ingredients to better understand what they were consuming. He said greater public awareness about balanced diets, micronutrients and responsible food choices was essential to improve nutritional outcomes, particularly among mothers and children.—DNA

PC Board Prequalifies 10 Interested Parties for FESCO Privatisation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Privatisation Commission (PC) Board, at its 258th meeting held today, approved the prequalification of Interested Parties (IPs) for the privatisation of FESCO. The meeting was chaired by Mr Muhammad Ali, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Privatisation and Chairman, Privatisation Commission. The Board was informed that 12 Expressions of Interest (EOIs) had been received for FESCO. Following evaluation of the submissions against the approved prequalification criteria, the Financial Adviser recommended 10 Interested Parties (IPs) for prequalification and progression to the next stage of the transaction. The Board approved the following prequalified Interested Parties for FESCO's privatisation: i. Aktor Elektrik Enerji Yatirimlari San. Ve Tic. A.S. ii. Genvera Enerji A.S. iii. Cengiz Enerji Sanayii Ve Ticaret A.S. iv. Engro Energy Limited v. Sapphire Fibres Limited vi. Hub Power Holdings Consortium (Lucky Cement, Kohat Cement and Metro Ventures) vii. Shirazi Investments (Pvt) Limited viii. Maple Leaf Cement Factory Limited Consortium (Kohinoor Textile Mills) ix. Pakgen Limited Consortium (Nishat Mills, Nishat Power, Nishat Chunian, Lalpur, Pak Elektron and Kohinoor Energy) x.Artistic Milliners (Pvt) Limited The prequalified parties will now proceed to the next stage of the transaction in accordance with the approved process, including access to the Virtual Data Room (VDR) for detailed buy-side due diligence. The Board also approved the reconstitution of its Audit and Risk, Human Resources, Investment, and Legal Committees. The Board reaffirmed its commitment to advancing the Government's privatisation programme through transparent, competitive and professionally managed transactions, with a focus on accountability and value maximisation for the Government and the people of Pakistan.



Briefs

Pervaiz Ashraf calls for parliamentary probe

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister and PPP leader Raja Pervaiz Ashraf on Friday called for a thorough parliamentary investigation into the tragic fire incident at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), in which newborn babies lost their lives. Speaking in the National Assembly, Ashraf urged the National Assembly speaker to constitute a parliamentary committee comprising members from both the government and opposition to investigate the incident. Earlier, the motion was passed to discuss the PIMS fire tragedy by suspending the retinue agenda of the house. He also proposed that the committee visit PIMS, examine the situation on the ground and hear from the hospital administration, parents of the deceased babies, nurses, doctors and other staff. Ashraf said the committee should determine whether any doctor, nurse or security official was injured while 14 newborn babies lost their lives. He stressed that Parliament should ensure a complete and impartial investigation and bring the facts before the nation. Ashraf said the committee should include experts, including those with expertise in hospital safety, electrical installation and fire hazards. He said the incident was deeply heartbreaking and had left the entire nation in mourning. Ashraf stressed that the PIMS tragedy required a serious review of the entire healthcare and safety system to prevent such incidents in the future.

PPP leader questioned how a fire could break out in a nursery and why, even after three days, the authorities had not determined how it started. He asked whether any staff member was present with the babies when the fire broke out and what steps were taken to rescue them. He also questioned reports that doors, including an emergency exit, were closed, saying such arrangements required a proper investigation. —DNA

NA suspends routine business

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly on Friday suspended its scheduled business to discuss the tragic fire incident at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), in which newborn babies lost their lives. The motion was moved to suspend the Orders of the Day, Question Hour and other business for August 28, 2026. The move provided an opportunity for all members to discuss the tragic PIMS incident and express their views on the loss of precious lives. Earlier, PPPP MNA Shazia Marri requested the Deputy Speaker to suspend the routine business of the House to discuss the PIMS fire tragedy. —APP



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting regarding FBR reforms. Islamabad.. DNA

IRM Smart STEP celebrates graduation of Christian women

The ceremony celebrated a group of young Christian women who successfully completed the fully funded programme, gaining practical, future-ready skills in digital marketing and e-commerce. Many of the graduates come from underprivileged and marginalized backgrounds, including orphaned and vulnerable girls, for whom access to quality digital education and economic opportunities can often remain out of reach

DNA

ISLAMABAD: IRM has celebrated the successful completion of its IRM Smart STEP Digital Marketing & E-Commerce Training Programme through a graduation ceremony titled "The Power of Possibility", held at the IRM Complex, Islamabad. The ceremony celebrated a group of young Christian women who successfully completed the fully funded programme, gaining practical, future-ready skills in digital marketing and e-commerce. Many of the graduates come from underprivileged and marginalized backgrounds, including orphaned and vulnerable girls, for whom access to quality digital education and

economic opportunities can often remain out of reach. A key highlight of the ceremony was the sharing of success stories by young women entrepreneurs who had previously completed the programme, said a press release issued here on Friday. The entrepreneurs spoke about their journeys from acquiring digital skills to launching and growing their own businesses, sharing firsthand experiences of how the training had enabled them to generate income and move towards greater financial independence. They also shared their earnings and business achievements, providing tangible examples of how skills, opportunity, and determination can translate into sustainable livelihoods. The event was attended by

distinguished guests, including senior executives from Oil and Gas Development Company Limited, representatives of the U.S. Embassy, VSO, and Norwegian Church Aid, as well as senior representatives of the Church and Christian community. Their participation highlighted the importance of collective efforts to advance inclusion, skills development, and equal economic opportunities for young people from marginalized communities. Speakers emphasized the transformative power of education and digital skills in enabling young women to participate meaningfully in the digital economy and build independent livelihoods. The graduates were recognized not only for completing their training but also for their resilience,

determination, and commitment to creating better futures for themselves and their families. "The Power of Possibility" was more than a graduation ceremony; it was a celebration of resilience, human potential, and the impact of providing meaningful opportunities to young women. The event also marked the beginning of a new chapter as another cohort of young Christian women commenced their journey towards skills development, confidence, entrepreneurship, and economic empowerment. Through IRM Smart STEP, IRM continues to create pathways for young women to transform skills into opportunities, and opportunities into sustainable livelihoods.

Rawalpindi police vows strict action to curb child abuse

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Police have launched a special awareness campaign and intensify a crackdown against physical and sexual abuse of children. On the directives of City Police Officer (CPO) Hassan Mushtaq Sukhera, the police will step up efforts to protect children from physical and sexual violence and take strict action against those involved in such offences. As part of the initiative, special awareness campaigns will be conducted in different areas of the district, while action will also be taken against individuals involved in child labour and violence against children. According to police spokesperson, several suspects allegedly involved in cases of child sexual abuse in Rawalpindi were arrested during the past month and legal proceedings were initiated against them. The police are also continuing measures for child protection in coordination with the Child Protection Welfare Bureau (CPW). Meanwhile, police have taken notice of the death of nine-year-old madrasa student Muhammad Faizan, who allegedly died after being subjected to violence within the limits of Kallar Syedan Police Station. A case has been registered and three suspects have been taken into custody for questioning. —DNA

Pakistan's kinnow targets China's retail market

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is stepping up efforts to expand its Kinnow exports to China as the country's horticulture sector seeks stronger access to one of the world's largest consumer markets. The Pakistan Horticulture Development & Export Company (PHDEC) facilitated a business-to-business meeting between leading Pakistani citrus exporters and Freshippo, an Alibaba-affiliated grocery retail chain operating more than 1,000 outlets across China. The meeting focused on exploring new opportunities for supplying fresh Pakistani Kinnow directly to the Chinese retail market, Gwadar Pro reported on Friday. Discussions centred on key requirements for international buyers, including product quality, consistency, reliable supply, competitive pricing and efficient logistics. Pakistan produces approximately 2.4 million tonnes of citrus annually, with Kinnow representing a major share of the country's citrus production and exports. During the meeting, Pakistani exporters highlighted their sourcing networks, grading and packing facilities, cold-chain infrastructure and experience in international markets. Freshippo described the engagement as highly productive and agreed to hold a follow-up meeting in November 2026. The next round of discussions is expected to finalize quality specifications, supply volumes, pricing arrangements and logistics ahead of the export season, which is scheduled to begin on December 1, 2026. —APP

SECP removes barriers

ISLAMABAD, Aug 28 (DNA):The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has introduced a unified digital investor onboarding framework to make entry into Pakistan's capital market faster and easier by reducing repetitive verification, simplifying documentation and setting clear timelines for opening investor accounts. The framework particularly aims to facilitate first-time and digital investors, with Sehl/Sahulat accounts to be processed within one working day and Normal Accounts within two working days. Applicants will receive tracking IDs, while any deficiencies will be communicated within the prescribed timeframe and reasons for rejection provided in writing, said a press release issued here on Friday. The initiative is part of SECP's broader drive to expand retail participation, particularly among young Pakistanis, and increase the country's capital-market investor base to 2.5 million. "Our focus is to remove entry barriers and use technology to make the investor journey simpler, faster and more accessible. The objective is to unlock the significant untapped potential of Pakistan's capital market by broadening participation, particularly among the youth, and building a deeper and more inclusive market," said SECP Chairman Dr. Kabir Ahmed Sidhu. Issued through Circular No. 19 of 2026, the framework standardizes onboarding requirements across securities brokers, asset management companies, insurers and other regulated intermediaries, creating a more consistent investor experience across the regulated financial sector. A key feature is the elimination of repetitive customer verification. Where prescribed verification has already been completed by an eligible regulated financial institution or notified third party, intermediaries can rely on that verification instead of requiring the investor to repeat the process. The framework also enables API-based straight-through processing and digital onboarding, including instant UIN issuance and opening of CDC sub-accounts, reducing paperwork and manual intervention. —DNA

Senate seeks time-bound probe

ISLAMABAD: The tragic fire at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) came under scrutiny in the Senate on Friday, as lawmakers called for a time-bound parliamentary inquiry to fix responsibility and examine the hospital's emergency exits, rescue response, fire-safety arrangements and earlier warnings about potential hazards. Soon after the proceedings commenced, the Leader of the Opposition sought suspension of the Question Hour

to allow the House to discuss the tragic incident at PIMS. Sherry Rehman of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) moved an adjournment motion to discuss this tragic incident. She said that members across the House were deeply saddened by the loss of lives and the matter required the Senate's immediate attention. She proposed formation of a House committee to investigate the incident within a fixed timeframe of around 40 days, saying the exercise should lead to accountability and concrete measures rather than another report that was eventually shelved. She said the committee should examine critical questions, including whether emergency exit gates were open, how long rescue teams took to respond, whether the hospital possessed the required fire NOC and why earlier warnings about deficiencies in its fire-safety system were not acted upon. —APP

EAD minister calls for revising DRAP regulatory framework

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Establishment Division, Senator Ahad Cheema, has directed the Ministry of National Health Services and the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) to urgently revise the regulatory framework governing drug pricing, including changes to the Hardship Policy and composition of the authority's Policy Board. He stressed that there should be a clear focus on protecting consumers from unjustified price increases while ensuring the availability of essential medicines. Senator Ahad Cheema expressed dissatisfaction with DRAP's existing formula for determining increases in medicine prices, observing that the current mechanism requires a comprehensive review to ensure that any price revision is transparent, evidence-based and fully justified, said a release issued here on Friday. He directed DRAP to review and strengthen the price-increase formula, with greater scrutiny and independent checks to ensure that cost pressures are not automatically passed on to consumers through higher medicine prices. Chairing a meeting on drug pricing, Senator Ahad Cheema directed the Secretary National Health Services and CEO DRAP to finalise and present revised rules governing the Hardship Policy at the earliest possible opportunity so that they could be placed before the relevant forum for approval without delay. He stressed that the revised framework must ensure that hardship provisions provide relief only in genuine cases and do not become a mechanism for transferring disproportionate commercial costs to patients. The Federal Minister also directed that the composition of the DRAP Policy Board be revised to strengthen expertise and evidence-based decision-making. —DNA

Ali reviews refinery modernisation, energy security, supply resilience

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik on Friday held meetings with the managements of Pakistan's five oil refineries to review progress on implementation of the Brownfield Refinery Upgradation Policy, the financial and operational performance of the refineries, and measures to strengthen Pakistan's energy security. The minister met with Pak Arab Refinery Limited (PARCO), Pakistan Refinery Limited (PRL), National Refinery Limited (NRL), Cnergyico and Attock Refinery Limited (ARL), said a news release. The managements of all five refineries reaffirmed their readiness to sign agreements under the Refinery Upgradation Policy, with the agreements expected to be signed early next month. The agreements are expected to unlock approximately \$6 billion in investment in Pakistan's refining sector. The federal minister highlighted that refinery upgradation was essential for the long-term sustainability of the country's refining sector. He said the planned upgrades would enable refineries to produce Euro 5-compliant fuel products in Pakistan. Producing these products domestically would help reduce reliance on imported petrol and diesel and could also help bring down their prices compared to imported products. The minister stressed that timely signing of the agreements was imperative for taking forward the upgradation programme. He said the government would continue to facilitate the refineries in addressing any issues related to implementation of the policy. During a separate meeting with PARCO management, the minister was briefed on the company's financial and operational performance, along with its broader plans for strengthening Pakistan's energy security. The minister appreciated PARCO for managing its operations effectively during the Strait of Hormuz crisis. He said Pakistan successfully managed the crisis and ensured that the country's petroleum supply system did not run dry. —APP

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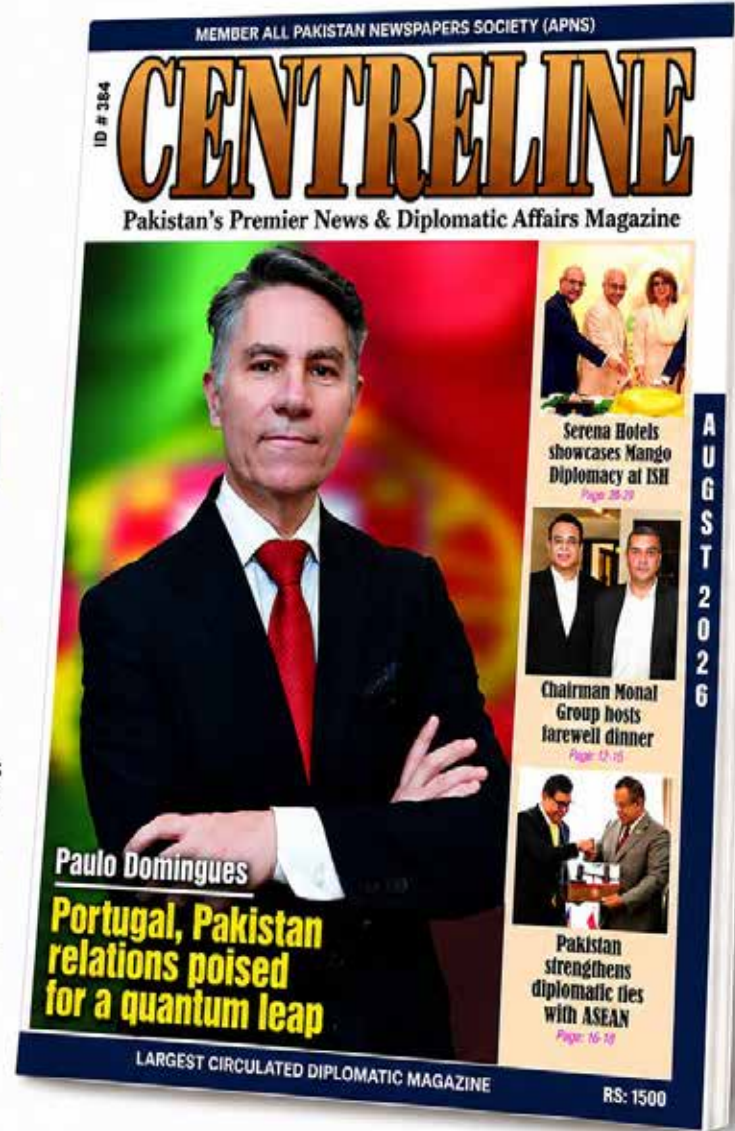
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In the AI gold rush, the cloud reigns supreme

CECILIA RIKAP

WHEN Google's parent company Alphabet reported its latest quarterly results on July 22, investors balked at its negative free cash flow and increased capital expenditures on data centers. But Google is not like OpenAI or Anthropic, both of which are still trying to find a profitable business model as they burn through cash; it remains a cloud-computing giant, and the results of its cloud division for the second quarter were nothing short of extraordinary. Google Cloud's revenues grew by 82 percent year on year and are now equivalent to 40 percent of the revenues generated by Google Search. Its operating margin was equally impressive, rising by 15 points to hit 36 percent. The era in which Google generated profits exclusively from advertising is long gone. Artificial intelligence is the Trojan Horse for these cloud giants; more AI hype means more cloud usage, which expands their businesses. Two other tech giants, Microsoft and Amazon, are in a similar boat. Microsoft's cloud business is its fastest-growing division, generating record profits in 2026. Net sales by Amazon Web Services have jumped by 37 percent year on year, in what the company described as the fastest increase in 18 quarters. Operating income at AWS grew even more, by over 60 percent compared with the same quarter in 2025. Just like Google, Amazon's free cash flow turned negative during this period. Given its other results, however, this is not a signal of weakness but of a quest for future growth. Artificial intelligence is the Trojan Horse for these cloud giants; more AI hype means more cloud usage, which expands their businesses. Because they own the cloud, they control the whole digital stack. Everything from data and software to semiconductors and frontier AI models is offered through the cloud, which is the indispensable supermarket for those developing or deploying (consuming) digital technologies. Because third parties offer digital technologies as services, too, they expand the appeal of the cloud as a one-stop shop. The result is a vast network of thousands of companies – including other giants such as SAP, Oracle and IBM – that offer their technologies through platforms owned by Amazon, Microsoft or Google. Thus, the cloud is where digital technologies are co-produced by the many for the disproportionate benefit of the few. Controlling the

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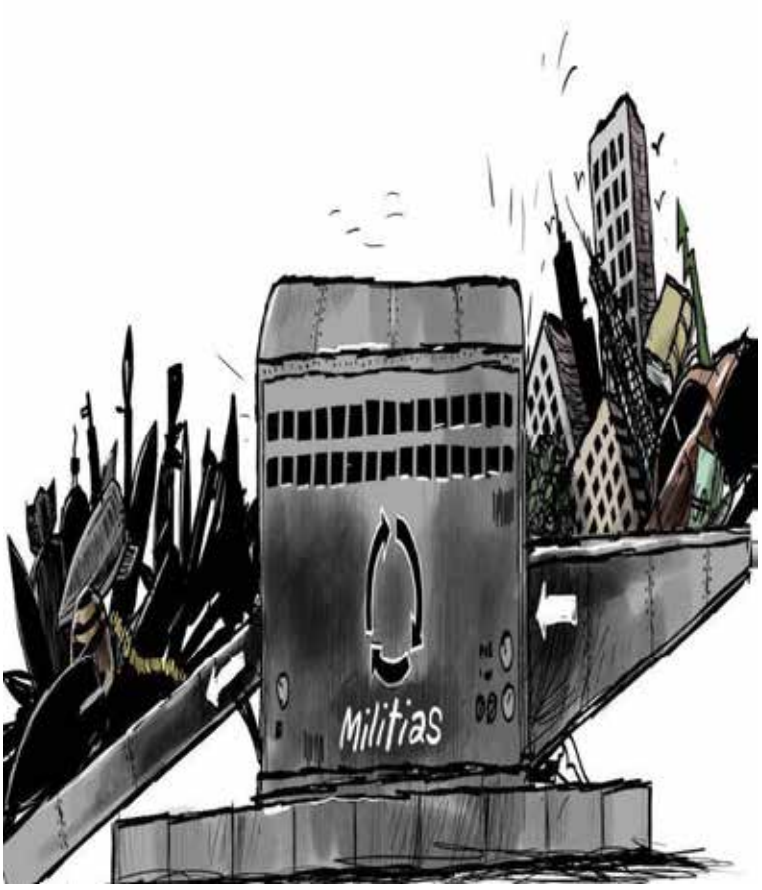
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cloud has distinguished Amazon, Microsoft and Google even among other massive tech companies such as Oracle and Nvidia, whose own advantages depend narrowly on AI – although Nvidia, a chokepoint for chip design, has more leeway within the AI value chain, whereas Oracle is trying to reinvent itself as an AI infrastructure provider after deciding in 2023 that it would operate its cloud infrastructure services on Microsoft's data centers. Similarly, Meta's recent infrastructure investments mostly reflect its AI ambitions. Unlike Oracle or Meta, the cloud giants are investing in data centers not only to train and run AI models, but also to bring more clients into their existing ecosystems. Companies from every industry, along with governments and even international organizations, rent vast, bespoke suites of digital services from Amazon, Microsoft and Google. These services include storage on virtual servers, content-delivery networks, cybersecurity software, technology for routing user traffic, and hundreds of others. This much more diverse business explains why the cloud giants are less exposed to AI-industry risks than Oracle, Nvidia or Meta, not to mention companies such as OpenAI and Anthropic. For the cloud hegemony, AI is just one more feature to integrate into an existing suite of thousands of other cloud services. If the promise of AI fails, it is companies such as Oracle and Nvidia that will feel the squeeze. The greater the competition between AI models, the stronger the cloud giants will become. More AI models means more development and consumption of digital technology, and thus more cloud businesses. Because AI labs such as OpenAI and Anthropic suffer every time a Chinese or US startup releases a competitive open-weight model, they cannot pursue a strategy independent of the cloud giants. They must focus all their time and attention on releasing even more advanced models, which pushes them to consume more cloud services. If the promise of AI fails, it is companies such as Oracle and Nvidia that will feel the squeeze. Given the growing discontent over data-center construction and the increasingly suspect narrative about AI's return on investment, these companies have good reason to worry. But Amazon, Microsoft and Google would emerge as strong as ever, perhaps even stronger, owing to their greater financial leeway and more diversified business. The companies and public bodies migrating to the cloud out of a sense of AI "FOMO" (fear of missing out) will remain cloud-bound even if the AI investment boom turns out to be a bubble. Digital architecture is increasingly the backbone of most organizations and activities, and building similar systems outside of the cloud hegemony's ecosystems would be incredibly costly and challenging, if not impossible. Regardless of what happens with AI, the cloud giants' control over our economies and societies will only grow, becoming unaccountable accretions of private power that no democracy can accept. With all eyes on AI, we risk failure to see the forest for the trees.

Carney's Call for Unity Against Great-Power Coercion

Qamar Bashir



Pakistan and many developing economies face a different vulnerability. Their dependence may be financial rather than military: external financing, international institutions, export markets, technology, energy or foreign investment can narrow the space available for genuinely independent decision-making. The larger truth is more important: excessive dependence on any external center of power creates leverage, and leverage can eventually become coercion. Here China provides an instructive contrast, though not a flawless model

MARK Carney's remarkable address at Davos earlier this year was more than a Canadian response to a changing world. It amounted to an intellectual challenge to the assumptions upon which much of the post-war international system was built. His central proposition was unsettling: the world is experiencing not merely a transition but a "rupture," in which great powers like the United States increasingly use tariffs, finance, supply chains and economic integration as instruments of leverage. Countries that continue believing accommodation will automatically purchase security may therefore be living inside what Carney called a "pleasant fiction." For decades, Europe, Asia, the Middle East and many developing countries organized significant parts of their security and economic policies around an American-led international system. The problem was not the partnership itself. The danger arose when partnership became dependency, dependency encouraged complacency, and complacency was mistaken for permanent security. Europe offers perhaps the clearest warning. For decades it relied heavily upon American military power while concentrating its own resources on economic and social development. Yet Washington is now explicitly pressing Europeans to assume greater responsibility for defending their continent. More dramatically, European governments were confronted with American pressure over Greenland and tariff threats against allies that resisted Washington's position. Britain publicly called such tariffs against allies "wrong," while European leaders insisted that Denmark and Greenland's sovereignty was non-negotiable. This is precisely the kind of contradiction Carney wants middle powers to recognize. An alliance can remain valuable without being treated as an insurance policy against every future contingency. Friendship between states is ultimately governed by interests, and interests change. Canada learned the same lesson with exceptional severity. Few relationships appeared more permanent than that between Canada and the United States. Their economies became deeply integrated, their defense structures intertwined and their border one of the most economically consequential in the world. Yet Canada is currently confronting substantial American tariffs and escalating commercial confrontation. In August, Washington imposed 50% tariffs on roughly \$20 billion of Canadian goods after negotiations failed; Canada subsequently prepared equivalent retaliation. Carney's response has therefore been not to sever relations with America but to reduce Canada's vulnerability to any single relationship. Canada is seeking new trade arrangements, investing in strategic industries and building coalitions with other middle powers. His government says Canada is pursuing links between the European Union and the Trans-Pacific partnership that could encompass 1.5 billion people. The lesson travels far beyond the Atlantic. Middle Eastern states historically dependent upon American security guarantees must also reassess what sov-

eighty requires in an era when regional wars, sanctions and great-power confrontation can impose enormous costs upon countries that did not design those conflicts. Pakistan and many developing economies face a different vulnerability. Their dependence may be financial rather than military: external financing, international institutions, export markets, technology, energy or foreign investment can narrow the space available for genuinely independent decision-making. The larger truth is more important: excessive dependence on any external center of power creates leverage, and leverage can eventually become coercion. Here China provides an instructive contrast, though not a flawless model. China spent decades building the economic, industrial, technological and military foundations that allow it to negotiate with Washington from a fundamentally different position. It developed enormous manufacturing capacity, infrastructure, foreign-exchange resources, technological capabilities and increasingly sophisticated armed forces. It did not achieve autonomy by isolating itself; paradoxically, it used global integration to accumulate national strength. Consequently, when Washington pressures Beijing, China possesses instruments with which to respond. It means sovereignty becomes more credible when backed by capability. Iran demonstrates another, much harsher version of strategic autonomy. Whatever judgment one makes about its government or policies, decades of sanctions and confrontation forced Tehran to develop a considerable capacity to operate without the degree of Western economic and security integration enjoyed by many regional states. The costs to Iranian society have been substantial. Yet its experience illustrates the same principle from another direction: independence has a price, but dependence carries risks of its own. The objective for other countries should therefore not be to become China or Iran. Nor should they simply replace Washington with Beijing. Changing masters is not strategic autonomy. The real objective should be diversified sovereignty. A country that depends upon one state for defense, another single market for exports, one financial network for transactions, imported energy for survival and foreign technology for critical infrastructure possesses formal sovereignty but limited strategic freedom. Carney captures this brutally when describing middle powers negotiating individually with a hegemon: they negotiate from weakness, compete to become the most accommodating and eventually perform sovereignty while accepting subordination. That observation should resonate across Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Countries must begin measuring national strength differently. Military capability matters, but so do food security, energy, technological capacity, industrial production, critical minerals, financial resilience, educated human capital and diversified trade. A nation unable to feed itself, fuel itself or defend itself, Carney warns, has few options when international rules cease protecting it. Building these capabilities inevitably demands sacrifice.

Governments must invest in education, research, infrastructure, domestic manufacturing, energy, agriculture, artificial intelligence and defense. They must mobilize their human resources instead of allowing talent to remain underdeveloped. Above all, citizens must understand that sovereignty cannot indefinitely be outsourced while independence is simultaneously expected. But no middle power can realistically reproduce the scale of China or the United States. That is why Carney's second prescription is as important as the first: middle powers must combine their strength. His memorable warning that countries absent from the negotiating table risk finding themselves "on the menu" captures the predicament perfectly. Great powers possess the markets, militaries and financial leverage to act alone. Most other states do not. Their answer must therefore be coalitions—on trade, technology, critical minerals, energy, finance, maritime security and defense—constructed around common interests rather than blind allegiance. This is where his invocation of Václav Havel acquires extraordinary relevance. Systems of domination survive not simply because the powerful impose them but because others participate in rituals they privately know to be false. Carney's metaphorical instruction to middle powers is therefore to stop performing the ritual—to "take the sign out of the window." The wiser conclusion is: never make another country indispensable to your survival. Donald Trump's transactional approach has merely made this structural reality harder to ignore. Alliances, markets and security guarantees remain useful, but none substitutes for national capability. Protection granted by another power can be renegotiated; market access can be restricted; financial infrastructure can become leverage; yesterday's strategic assumption can become tomorrow's vulnerability. The choice confronting middle powers is therefore not between America and China, East and West, submission and isolation. It is between dependency and strategic autonomy. Build strength at home. Diversify abroad. Cooperate with others without surrendering decision-making. Defend international law consistently. Develop citizens capable of accepting the costs of genuine independence. And never confuse the favor of the powerful with permanent security. That is the deeper significance of Carney's speech. The era in which countries could outsource their strategic destiny and call the resulting comfort sovereignty is fading. The nations that recognize this early will endure the rupture with dignity. Those that continue competing for the favor of great powers may eventually discover the cruelest truth of international politics: A security umbrella belongs to the country holding the umbrella—and it can close it whenever it chooses.

– Press Secretary to the President (Rtd)
Former Press Minister,
Embassy of Pakistan to France
Former Press Attaché to Malaysia
Former MD, SRBC | Michigan, USA

The Limits of Civil Justice in America

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



The US Seventh Circuit confronted part of this issue in 2021. It held that the lower court had gone too far when it treated the question of whether AMP and the other defendants were alter egos as a jurisdictional issue and dismissed the case. The appeals court said the federal court had jurisdiction under the Anti-Terrorism Act and that the case should proceed on its merits. It did not, however, rule that AMP was legally...

MORE than three decades after the killing of 17-year-old David Boim in Israel, a long-running American court battle is again raising difficult questions about accountability, the limits of civil judgments and the legal identity of organizations that emerge after earlier groups have disappeared. David Boim was killed in 1996 by Hamas gunmen while he was in Israel. His parents, Stanley and Joyce Boim, subsequently pursued legal action in the United States against organizations and individuals whom they alleged had supported Hamas. In 2004, a US jury awarded the family \$156 million under the Anti-Terrorism Act. The judgment was later upheld on appeal. Yet securing a judgment and collecting it proved to be two very different matters. The organizations against which the judgment had been entered eventually became defunct, leaving the family with only a small portion of the award. The Boims did not accept that the closure of those organizations should bring the matter to an end. In 2017, they brought another case against American Muslims for Palestine (AMP), Americans for Justice in Palestine Educational Foundation and several individuals. Their argument is essentially that the newer organizations are successors or "alter egos" of organizations that were previously found liable and that the unpaid judgment should therefore remain enforceable against them. AMP and the other defendants reject that claim. This distinction is central to the case. The court is not simply being asked to revisit the killing of David Boim or the judgment entered more than two decades ago. The question is whether a legally separate organization can be made responsible for an old judgment because of alleged continuity in leadership, purpose, activities or other organizational links. That is a serious legal question. Organizations change names, leadership and structures. New organizations can emerge from old political, religious or charitable networks without necessarily being the same legal entity. If every new organization inherited the liabilities of an earlier organization merely because some people, ideas or activities overlapped, the consequences for civil society would be considerable. But the opposite principle carries its own dangers. If an organization can escape a lawful judgment simply by closing down and reappearing under another name, civil judgments could become little more than pieces of paper. The law would then reward organizational restructuring rather than accountability.

The US Seventh Circuit confronted part of this issue in 2021. It held that the lower court had gone too far when it treated the question of whether AMP and the other defendants were alter egos as a jurisdictional issue and dismissed the case. The appeals court said the federal court had jurisdiction under the Anti-Terrorism Act and that the case should proceed on its merits. It did not, however, rule that AMP was legally responsible for the earlier judgment. That remains a matter to be established through the evidence. The distinction is important because allegations are not findings of fact. In a 2022 ruling, the district court allowed the case to continue after rejecting motions to dismiss. It noted that the Boims had made allegations concerning such matters as overlap in leadership, similarity of organizational purpose and operations, and possible efforts to avoid liability. But the court expressly cautioned that at that stage it was not determining the objective truth of those allegations. That is how a functioning legal system should work. A painful history may explain why a lawsuit was brought, but it cannot replace evidence. Equally, an organization's political or religious identity should not by itself determine its legal liability. The question must be whether the evidence establishes the legal connection alleged by the plaintiffs. There is also a wider issue here. Civil litigation arising from terrorism has increasingly become an important avenue through which victims and their families attempt to obtain some measure of accountability. Criminal prosecutions may focus on perpetrators and their immediate networks, while civil cases can examine financial relationships and institutional responsibility. The Anti-Terrorism Act has provided American victims with one route to pursue such claims. Yet a judgment of \$156 million means little to a family if the defendants have no accessible assets or cease to exist. The Boim case therefore illustrates an uncomfortable weakness in the enforcement of civil judgments: legal victory does not necessarily produce practical justice. The case also raises questions about the responsibilities of charitable and advocacy organizations. In a democratic society, organizations must have the freedom to campaign, raise awareness and advocate political causes. At the same time, that freedom cannot provide protection against proven involvement in unlawful conduct. The challenge for courts is to draw that line carefully. For AMP, the stakes are equally serious. The organization disputes the Boims' claims and argues that it is an

independent organization rather than a continuation of the entities involved in the earlier litigation. Its position deserves to be tested through evidence rather than political argument. The case should not become a contest in which public opinion substitutes for judicial examination. The wider significance of the dispute therefore extends beyond one American family and one organization. If the Boims ultimately succeed, the judgment could strengthen the ability of terrorism victims to pursue alleged successor organizations when the original defendants have disappeared. If they fail, the case could reinforce the principle that a new legal entity cannot be held responsible for another organization's judgment without sufficiently strong evidence establishing the required legal connection. There is a further lesson for policymakers. Terrorism financing is rarely confined to the battlefield. Money, institutions, charities, political networks and informal relationships can cross borders long before governments recognize their significance. Legal systems therefore need mechanisms capable of following financial and organizational trails without abandoning the fundamental principles of due process. The Boim family's persistence is understandable. They lost a teenage son and obtained a substantial judgment, only to find that much of it remained uncollected. But justice cannot be measured solely by the size of a damages award. It also depends on whether the courts can establish responsibility fairly, distinguish evidence from allegation and enforce their decisions within the limits of law. That is ultimately what makes this case important. It is not simply about an old judgment or a long-running family grievance. It is about whether legal responsibility can survive organizational disappearance, and how far the courts should go in tracing continuity from one organization to another. The answer should neither be dictated by politics nor by sympathy alone. It must come from evidence, law and a careful examination of the facts. For the Boim family, the coming proceedings represent another attempt to turn a judgment into something tangible. For the defendants, they represent a defence against being held responsible for liabilities they say belong to organizations that no longer exist. For the wider legal system, the case presents a much larger test: whether accountability can endure when institutions change their names, structures and identities.

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Briefs

PM invites
Saudi firms
to explore
Pak markets

FROM PAGE 01

Both sides also exchanged views on enhancing agricultural productivity in Pakistan, through the use of technology, research & development and more efficient use of water resources. The Prime Minister also announced that a delegation of agricultural experts from Pakistan would soon visit Riyadh to carry forward these discussions with a view to realize the full potential of this partnership. The Saudi Minister thanked the Prime Minister for the warm hospitality extended to him and his delegation and reaffirmed the Kingdom's commitment to deepening cooperation with Pakistan across the agriculture, water and food security sectors. The meeting was attended by a number of Federal Ministers including Rana Tanveer Hussain, Mr. Mohammad Aurangzeb, Mr. Atta Tarar, Jam Kamal Khan, Dr. Musadik Malik, Mr. Junaid Anwar Chaudhry, Dr. Syed Tauqir Shah, Mr. Bilal Azhar Kiyani, SAPM Tariq Fazmi, as well as senior government officials.

Diplomacy
can get back
on track...

FROM PAGE 01

After the US and Israel launched the war six months ago, Iran threatened to strike any vessel transiting the strait without its authorization, driving down traffic and sending up the price of oil, providing Iran with leverage in the bargain. In his mission to Tehran on Thursday, Al-Thani said on X that he underscored to senior Iranian officials "the importance of respecting freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz in accordance with international law." Mohsen Rezaei, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, later said Iran was preparing a list of conditions for reopening the strait after mediators asked Tehran to set them out. Speaking through an interpreter in an Al Manar TV interview, Rezaei said Iran had agreed with Oman on a shipping corridor through the strait, with parts of the route in Omani waters and parts in Iranian waters. Ships would use a designated central channel if the US met Iran's conditions, he said. In the past Iran's conditions have included an end to the US blockade on Iranian ports, compensation and removal of sanctions. It remained unclear whether Iran intended to amend those demands in a way that might be acceptable to the Americans. Tehran and Washington have exchanged little more than bellicose statements in recent weeks, leaving the diplomacy to third parties. So far Iran has insisted on returning to the June memorandum of understanding that established a ceasefire within a 60-day window for negotiations. But that deal quickly fell apart over differing interpretations of Iran's authority over shipping arrangements, and Trump declared the MOU was "over" three weeks after it was signed. Iran's Revolutionary Guards said on Wednesday that Iran and Oman had agreed in principle on administering traffic in the strait and sharing revenues, but a senior Iranian source later said the two countries were still working on the details of an agreement. Meanwhile, US military commanders say American forces have cleared sea mines from the strait that had been laid months ago by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

Field
Marshal
talks About
deep-rooted
Saud-Pak...

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and stability and expressed his desire to enhance cooperation between the two brotherly countries, particularly in the areas of agriculture and environmental sustainability.

PCB lodges complaint with
UK broadcaster over Imran
Khan's sons interview: report

Cricket board contacted Sky Sports ahead of the lunch break on Day 1 to protest the interview, says report

LONDON: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has reportedly objected to a British broadcaster airing an interview with the sons of jailed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and former prime minister Imran Khan during the Lord's Test on Thursday. The PCB contacted Sky Sports ahead of the lunch break on Day 1 to protest the interview, threatening that Pakistan players would not return to the field after lunch if it aired, according to ESPN Cricinfo. As talks with the cricket board continued, Sky delayed the interview before eventually airing the 18-minute clip. The first day of the second Test saw Pakistan's bowlers striking at regular intervals to leave England reeling at 248/9 with lower-order batters Gus Atkinson and Josh Tongue, unbeaten on 34 and one, respectively. Khan's family and party have long raised concerns about his health, claiming he has been kept in solitary confinement at Adiala jail. Last week, the Supreme Court ordered authorities to transfer Khan to Shifa International Hospital for medical assessment and treatment. However, he was taken to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims), where doctors from Shifa were also present, according to Information Minister



Attaulah Tarar. The PTI founder's medical examination was conducted in the presence of his sister and his doctors, he said. During the Sky interview – conducted by former England captain Mike Atherton – Khan's sons, Suleiman and Kasim Khan, raised alarm over their father's health, saying they feared for his life, according to the report. Pakistan were preparing to return

to the field to resume the second session by the time the interview ended, it said. The development comes days after several former international cricket captains renewed their appeal to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for the medical treatment of the jailed PTI founder, in line with the Supreme Court's directives. At least 21 former international cricket

captains wrote a letter to PM Shehbaz that stated: "Pakistan's Supreme Court ordered that Imran Khan be transferred to hospital for examination by a medical board that was to include his own personal physicians and his sister, Dr Uzma Khan." However, the cricket legends said Khan's hospital stay lasted only a few hours. "He was examined by a state-appointed team rather than the board the Court had directed, declared 'medically fit', and returned to Adiala Jail before that board could complete its work. His family and legal team say this falls short of what the Court ordered," they claimed in the letter, cited by Cricinfo. Khan's former wife, Jemima Goldsmith, also urged the UK government earlier this week to step in and not remain silent over the alleged treatment being meted out to her ex-husband. "Prime Minister @andynunham and Foreign Secretary @Ed_Miliband: how much longer will Britain remain silent?" Jemima, the former wife who shares two sons with the ex-prime minister, wrote in a post on X. Jemima said that the PTI founder has been "brutally penalised by his political opponents", claiming he has "endured 3 years of solitary confinement". – APP

Uefa asks US court for
Fifa documents in planned
Swiss case against Infantino

DNA

MANCHESTER: Uefa has asked a US federal court for permission to obtain testimony and documents from Fifa entities in Florida for use in a planned criminal complaint in Switzerland against Fifa President Gianni Infantino, according to a court filing. In an ex parte application filed under US law, European soccer's governing body said it is considering criminal proceedings against Infantino and potentially other Fifa officials and advisers over a now-abandoned plan to transfer commercial rights linked to men's and

women's World Cups and the Club World Cup into a new subsidiary called Fifa Forward Enterprise (FFE). Uefa alleges Infantino developed the proposal in secret with a small group of advisers and investors, bypassing Fifa's normal governance processes and failing to consult Fifa's Council, regional confederations or member associations. The filing seen by Reuters asks a US court to authorise discovery from Fifa (AMERICAS), Inc. and FWC2026 US, Inc., two Florida-based Fifa entities. Uefa said the organisations may possess documents and witnesses relevant to how the

FFE transaction was conceived, structured, valued and approved. Reuters has contacted Fifa for comment. Infantino previously called FFE a "golden opportunity" to increase football development funding, saying it was only a proposal and would require majority support from Fifa's 211 member associations and approval from the Fifa Council. Uefa said it and other interested parties were preparing claims in Switzerland against Infantino for alleged criminal mismanagement under Article 158 of the Swiss Criminal Code. The filing alleges that Infantino and a small group of advisers and inves-

tors developed the plan for more than a year without consulting Fifa's Council, regional confederations or the 211 member associations before it was unveiled on July 28. Uefa said Fifa statutes give the Council sole authority to decide how Fifa's commercial rights are promoted. According to the filing, Infantino designated Thrive Eternal, an investment vehicle controlled by Joshua Kushner and affiliated with Thrive Capital, to lead an investor group. Uefa alleges that the investors stood to acquire a permanent financial interest in Fifa's commercial arm. Reuters has contacted Thrive for comment.

SL draw second
India Test to avoid
series sweep

DINUSHA remained unbeaten on 133 as Sri Lanka declared their second innings at 429-9 in the final session of the fifth day, leaving India without enough time to force a result. The players shook hands with the mandatory 15 overs still to be played, India, who won the opening Test, took the two-match series 1-0. The draw was set up by an extraordinary fightback from Sri Lanka, who had resumed the final day on 229-6, holding a lead of only 16 runs with four wickets remaining. Dinusha, unbeaten on seven overnight, and Keshara Nuwantha, on three, frustrated India throughout the morning session before adding 112 runs for the seventh wicket. The partnership was finally broken shortly after lunch when left-arm spinner Manav Suthar had Nuwantha caught at second slip for 46. Prabath Jayasuriya then fell to Ravindra Jadeja for two, leaving Dinusha to bat with the tail. Lahiru Kumara provided crucial support, facing 90 balls for his 12 as Dinusha continued to dominate the bowling. He defended with assurance and attacked the spinners with well-controlled sweeps as India struggled to find a way through on a pitch offering little assistance. Dinusha's unbeaten 133 was his second century of the match, following his 103 in Sri Lanka's first innings, and his third century in four innings. The 25-year-old, playing only his fifth Test, became the eighth Sri Lankan to score hundreds in both innings of a Test. – DNA

Savio scores on
debut as Spurs set
up League Cup tie
with Liverpool

SPURS, four-times winners of the League Cup, started their Premier League season with a humiliating 3-0 loss away to Brentford last weekend. But it was a different story at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, with two goals in four minutes late in the first half from Mikey Moore and Dominic Solanke leaving the hosts in command. Substitute Kevin Danso scored with his first touch, meeting a free-kick with a flicked header in the 67th minute. Brazilian winger Savio, who joined Spurs for a reported initial fee of 75 million (\$102 million) from Manchester City, came off the bench and started to repay some of that outlay when he ran inside and beat two defenders before letting fly with an 82nd-minute shot inside the near post. Barely three minutes later the player formerly known as Savinho paved the way for his side's fifth goal when his shot deflected in off Spurs captain Ben Davies's thigh. Second-tier Charlton did manage a consolation goal against their London rivals when defender Lloyd Jones headed in from a corner. "Yes, it is a perfect day for him," De Zerbi said of Savio. "I spoke with him and we put the goal on 10 or 12 goals (target) because we need 10 or 12 goals from the wingers. – APP



LONDON: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, during his official visit to the United Kingdom, held delegation-level talks with British Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband. – DNA

It takes more than talent to reach the top,
says NBA legend Vlade Divac

The prospects in Istanbul are taking part in athletic testing, movement efficiency work, skill development stations, 3-on-3 competitions, life-skills seminars and 5-on-5 games

DNA

DUBAI: When Vlade Divac entered the National Basketball Association NBA in 1989, international players were still a relative rarity. More than three decades later, some of the NBA's biggest stars are international, from Nikola Jokic and Luka Doncic to Victor Wembanyama. And this week, in Istanbul, Divac has had an up-close look at some of those hoping to form the next generation. The Serbian NBA legend is among the current and former players and coaches mentoring 78 leading high-school-age prospects from 44 countries and territories across six continents at the inaugural Men's Basketball Without Borders Next Up camp, which runs from Aug. 26-29 at Istanbul's Basketbol Gelismis Merkezi. "There is obviously a lot of talent out here, so it's exciting to work with participants to give them a lead and make sure that they're ready one day to hopefully become a part of the NBA," Divac told DNA News. But for the Hall of Famer, talent will only take a young player so far. "Talent is always the number one thing, but besides that, you can't just rely on talent," he said. "You have to work hard, you

have to work every day and you have to create an environment around you of coaches and teammates and even family members. They all have to be supportive of your journey. Additionally, you have to be smart enough to stay out of trouble and focus on the game." It is advice rooted in Divac's own journey. Drafted 26th overall by the Los Angeles Lakers, he went on to spend 16 seasons in the NBA, also playing for the Charlotte Hornets and Sacramento Kings, and was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2019. Young international players today have far more opportunities to learn from and connect with the NBA than when Divac entered the league in 1989. The prospects in Istanbul are taking part in athletic testing, movement efficiency work, skill development stations, 3-on-3 competitions, life-skills seminars and 5-on-5 games. They are also learning directly from NBA players, coaches and legends, including Kenny Atkinson, Brook Lopez, Khristi Middleton, Jalen Suggs, Danilo Gallinari and Divac. "I think it's very important for them to be in touch with real NBA coaches, NBA players and ex-players and for them to get the feeling of what they have to work on and how far they can get in their career," Divac

said. The global makeup of the camp also includes young players from the Middle East, such as Bahrain's Hassan Oshobuge Abdulkadir and Qatar's Ameer Hausawi and Azam Yakan. Divac believes the region has the potential to become a bigger part of basketball's international growth. "I've been visiting the region over the last five to 10 years and I've seen a big development in sports particularly," he said. "I'm from basketball so I want to see basketball grow there more." Divac pointed to Dubai Basketball competing in the EuroLeague as an important step in bringing elite competition closer to young people in the region. "In the UAE, Dubai has their own team that is part of the EuroLeague, so that's part of the first step of promoting big leagues and giving the kids locally an opportunity to see the players," he said. He has also witnessed the NBA's growing presence in the region firsthand: "I was also part of the NBA Games in Abu Dhabi a couple of years ago. That was huge!" Divac cited Qatar's hosting of the FIFA World Cup as another example of how major sporting events can inspire younger generations. "Four years ago, there was the FIFA World Cup in Doha, so that gives another push for

local kids to pursue that path," he said. The Istanbul camp, organized by the NBA, International Basketball Federation (FIBA) and the Turkish Basketball Federation, marks the debut of the BWB Next Up format as Basketball Without Borders celebrates its 25th anniversary. Since its launch in 2001, the program has reached more than 4,900 participants from 149 countries and territories, with 155 former campers advancing to the NBA or WNBA. More than 50 BWB alumni were among the record 135 international players on NBA opening-night rosters last season. Among them was Shaq Gilgeous-Alexander, who participated in BWB Global in 2016 and has since gone on to become a two-time NBA MVP and NBA champion. The new BWB Next Up format is designed to continue that pathway, with annual camps for leading male and female prospects from outside the US. Top performers will progress to BWB All-Star camps around future NBA and WNBA All-Star events. For Divac, who once belonged to a generation helping establish international players in the NBA, the scene in Istanbul offers a glimpse at how far the game has come and, perhaps, where its next generation of stars could come from.

Peace
committee
member
killed in KP

NEWS DESK

UPPER SOUTH WAZIRISTAN: One peace committee member was killed while eight others were injured when an improvised explosive device (IED) exploded in Makeen Bazaar in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Upper South Waziristan district on Friday, police said. Dera Ismail Khan Regional Police Officer (RPO) Ghulam Mubashir Makin told Dawn that the IED had been attached to a motorcycle by unidentified people. He said the device exploded at around 10:45am, injuring nine people in the busy market. He said three peace committee members – Inayatullah, Sharat Khan and Bangi Khan – were among the nine injured in the blast. The injured peace committee members were taken to the Razmak Hospital for further treatment, while the rest of the injured were taken to a local health facility for medical assistance, he said. Later, Deputy Superintendent of Police Hidayatullah told Dawn that Inayatullah had died after being taken to the hospital.

‘All involved
shall be dealt
with an
iron hand’

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look at it as a test from God and prevent the next kid from dying." Kamal maintained that there was "no point" in making speeches if the government failed to learn from the incident. "Start from me," Kamal said, offering himself up for accountability. "Sit with us and save the next from dying. I am putting the entire ministry at your disposal; every person will be answerable to you," he said. He noted that the system was "rotten" and went on to say: "Where do I find a better person after removing an incompetent one?"

Pak extends
condolences
to China...

FROM PAGE 01

possible support and assistance. The Prime Minister emphasized that Pakistan's thoughts are with the bereaved families and offered prayers for the swift recovery of the injured and the safe return of those missing. The message underscores the close ties between Pakistan and China, often described as "iron brothers," and highlights Islamabad's readiness to provide humanitarian assistance in times of crisis.

IMF
mission to
visit Pak
next month

FROM PAGE 01

The authorities have submitted a draft SWF Law amendment to parliament. These amendments clarify the legal mandate of the SWF as a holding company, strengthen SWF governance, ensure that SWF-owned SOEs remain under the same high-quality governance structures and accountability standards as all other SOEs, require transparent and competitive procedures for divestment and procurement, and introduce key fiscal safeguards. Most commercial SOEs have published business plans, statements of corporate intent and IFRS-compliant financial statements, in line with recent manuals and guidelines. It is critical that the Central Monitoring Unit, which is now fully staffed, exercises close surveillance over the quality of this reporting. Progress is under way on preparing and incorporating the public service obligation agreements for the seven largest SOEs in the FY27

Briefs

ICE signs \$16.7m deal

DNA

WASHINGTON: US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has approved a \$16.7 million procurement contract for 6,000 pairs of electrically activated gloves, adding a new pain-compliance device to the range of equipment available to officers involved in arrests, detainee transfers, and crowd-control operations. The contract covers not only the gloves themselves but also associated equipment, technical support, and related services. The procurement is expected to be carried out over a period of approximately six months. Unlike conventional protective gloves, the devices are designed to operate in two modes. During routine use, they function as ordinary patrol gloves. An officer can, however, activate an electrical function that allows the glove to deliver a painful electrical stimulus when it comes into direct contact with a person's skin.—DNA

Taliban govt slammed by HR bodies

KABUL: Human Rights Watch slammed on Thursday the "ruthless effort to suppress all dissent" by the Taliban government, after a new police law banned demonstrations across Afghanistan. The 84-page legislation published by the justice ministry outlines a series of changes to law enforcement nationwide, including the rule that "all types of protests are banned". Elaine Pearson, Asia director for Human Rights Watch, said the measure is "another step in the Taliban's ruthless effort to suppress all dissent". "The Taliban authorities fear any dissent and so they are escalating their repression," she said in a statement. The Afghan government did not respond to requests for comment on protests being outlawed through the legislation, which was made public this month. Demonstrations have been rare during the Taliban administration's five years in power. At least two people were killed in June when security forces allegedly opened fire at a women's rights protest in Herat, a group of UN experts said. Amnesty International described the police law as "another sweeping assault on human rights in Afghanistan", with the protest ban "among its most egregious provisions".—APP

Gold prices remain unchanged at Rs483,036 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The prices of gold remained unchanged in the local market on Friday, with the price of 24-karat gold per tola holding steady at Rs483,036, according to rates issued by the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association. Similarly, the price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold remained unchanged at Rs414,125, whereas 10 grams of 22-karat gold also stayed unchanged at Rs379,628. In the international market, the price of gold remained unchanged at \$4,605 per ounce, the association reported. Meanwhile, the price of silver per tola remained unchanged at Rs7,509, while the price of 10 grams of silver also stayed unchanged at Rs6,437.—APP

SPI-Inflation slightly up by 0.05pc

ISLAMABAD: The Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI)-based weekly inflation slightly increased by 0.05 percent during the week ended on August 27, 2026, for the combined consumption group, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday. According to PBS data, the SPI for the week under review rose to 361.07 points from 360.90 points recorded in the previous week. On a year-on-year basis, the SPI increased by 9.04 percent. The weekly SPI, with base year 2015-16=100, covers 17 urban centres and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups. However, the SPI for the lowest consumption group (up to Rs 17,732) decreased by 0.17 percent to 349.42 points from 350.03 points. Likewise, the SPI for consumption groups of Rs 17,733-22,888, Rs 22,889-29,517, and Rs 29,518-44,175 decreased

Uzbekistan govt seeks to transform SCO partnerships

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Uzbekistan is actively working to deepen its economic ties within the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) as the organization approaches its 25th anniversary in 2026, marking a new phase of regional integration and development. Since its inception in 2001, the SCO has grown significantly, now comprising 10 member states China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan, Iran, and Belarus and 17 partner countries. Covering over 65 percent of Eurasia and home to approximately 3.4 billion people, the SCO has become a major economic platform, with a combined nominal GDP exceeding US\$ 26 trillion and a share of over one-third of global Gross Domestic Product based on purchasing power parity. The trade among SCO countries has surged in recent years, nearly doubling from US\$ 271 billion in 2015 to US\$ 674 billion in 2024. For Uzbekistan, the organization has become central to its foreign economic strategy. According to the article written by Ziyoda Rizaeva, Center for Economic Research and Reforms, Uzbekistan's trade volume with SCO nations increased 3.1 times between 2017 and 2025, rising from US\$ 12.9 billion to US\$ 40.6 billion. Exports grew from US\$ 5.8 billion to US\$ 10.65 billion, while imports soared from

US\$ 7.1 billion to nearly US\$ 30 billion. By 2025, roughly half of Uzbekistan's foreign trade was with SCO members, with China, Russia, and Kazakhstan remaining its primary partners. Trade with China alone reached US\$ 17.2 billion, highlighting the strategic importance of these relationships. Uzbekistan exports a variety of products to SCO markets, including fruits, vegetables, textiles, electrical goods, and automotive parts, while its imports mainly consist of machinery, industrial equipment, raw materials, and food products. The rapid growth in trade is paving the way for deeper economic integration based on investment and industrial cooperation. In 2025, foreign investment and loans in Uzbekistan's fixed capital totaled US\$ 33.5 billion, with manufacturing accounting for a third of this figure. During the same year, SCO member states invested US\$ 17.5 billion in Uzbekistan, with China contributing the largest share at US\$ 13 billion, followed by Russia with US\$ 2.6 billion. Looking ahead, Uzbekistan aims to move beyond traditional trade towards joint ventures, technology transfer, industrial partnerships, and raw material processing. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasized these priorities at the 2025 SCO summit in Tianjin, advocating for the development of production and logistics chains, harmonization of standards, and a new "SCO Invest" forum to promote direct business cooperation. Practical steps followed in 2026 with the organization of the

SCO Investment and Business Forum in Bishkek, focusing on innovation, digital economy, artificial intelligence, and new industrialization. Transport connectivity is another critical area of cooperation. Due to its strategic geographic location, Uzbekistan serves as a transit hub connecting major Eurasian trade routes. Freight transportation between Uzbekistan and SCO countries increased by 40 percent over the past five years, reaching 33.5 million tonnes in 2025. The country's Ministry of Transport estimates this could rise to 47 million tonnes by 2030. Notable projects include the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway, which began construction in December 2024 and is expected to shorten transit distances by around 900 kilometers and reduce delivery times by a week or more. Another significant project is the Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan railway, for which a feasibility study is underway following a framework agreement signed in 2025. These corridors aim to create a seamless transport network linking China with Central Asia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Indian Ocean ports. Beyond trade and transport, SCO's economic agenda is expanding into technology, energy, environment, agriculture, and tourism. Uzbekistan has proposed establishing an "SCO Network of Innovation and Technology Hubs" to promote AI, big data, robotics, and alternative energy solutions. Energy cooperation is gaining momentum, with SCO countries reaching a renewable capacity of over 2.3

billion kilowatts by 2024. Uzbekistan has also proposed an SCO Energy Consortium and regional platforms for climate adaptation and decarbonization. Environmental initiatives focus on ecosystem monitoring, water resource management, and restoration efforts in the Aral Sea region, alongside agricultural cooperation to improve food security. Humanitarian and tourism initiatives are also part of Uzbekistan's broader economic vision. These include proposals for an online SCO university campus, innovation competitions, cultural dialogues, and tourism corridors, aimed at fostering regional cooperation and cultural exchange. The 2025 Tianjin Summit marked a key milestone with the adoption of the SCO Development Strategy through 2035 and the proposal to establish an SCO Development Bank. This new financial institution aims to fund infrastructure and industrial projects across the organization, though its mechanisms are still being developed. The next phase of SCO economic cooperation will focus on translating political agreements into tangible projects, emphasizing technological advancement, industrial localization, and transport infrastructure. For Uzbekistan, leveraging the organization's expanding institutional framework could significantly bolster its position as a regional trade and transit hub, contributing to sustainable development and regional stability.

Minister reaffirms Support for Energy Security



DNA

KARACHI: Pakistan State Oil (PSO), the nation's largest energy company, today welcomed the Federal Minister for Petroleum, Mr. Ali Pervaiz Malik, to its Head Office for high-level strategic and operational deliberations. The Minister was accompanied by Secretary Petroleum, Mr. Hamed Yaqoob Sheikh, and Additional Secretary (Policy), Mr. Zafar Abbas. The delegation was received by PSO Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Jawwad Ahmed Cheema, together with members of the executive management team. The visit reflects the Government of Pakistan's sustained commitment to strengthening national energy readiness at a time of heightened global uncertainty, and PSO's central role in securing the country's fuel supply. Mr. Cheema briefed the delegation on PSO's financial results, recent operational milestones and plans for the years ahead. The Minister reviewed the company's work on energy security and retail modernization, and commended PSO for its exceptional resilience in maintaining an uninterrupted nationwide fuel

supply chain amid complex geopolitical headwinds. Discussions addressed the evolving international environment, including volatile global fuel prices and disruptions to key maritime corridors. The Minister and PSO leadership explored a coordinated set of measures to safeguard the domestic market, including proactive international procurement, long-term diversification of supply sources, and the strengthening of strategic buffer reserves. Responding to the operational updates, the Minister assured PSO of the Government's full support in fostering a balanced energy ecosystem that places consumer interest and economic stability at its core. He reaffirmed the Government's commitment to expanding storage infrastructure, accelerating digitization and automation, enhancing supply chain resilience, and continually elevating the customer experience. The Minister emphasized that all sector stakeholders must work together under a shared vision to build a modern, resilient energy sector for Pakistan. PSO, as the country's national oil marketing company, remains committed to raising industry standards and delivering reliable, sustainable energy to support Pakistan's growth.

PM for timely implementation of tax reforms

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday directed the authorities concerned to ensure the implementation of reformative measures in the tax system within the stipulated timeframe and accelerate effective action against tax evasion, smuggling, and illegal businesses. The prime minister, chairing the weekly review meeting on FBR reforms here, directed a third-party audit of reforms to bring transparency, effectiveness, and sustainability to the process, saying that digitalisation, production monitoring, and automated systems were key pillars of the FBR reforms. During the meeting, the prime minister, who was briefed on the restructuring of PRAL, said that the government's efforts to introduce tax reforms were aimed at the development of the country. He said that the deployment of reputed goods evaluators in the FBR was a welcome step and appreciated the efforts of the Board's chairman and his team in this regard. He also instructed that the implementation of reforms should be ensured to modernise and strengthen the tax system, increase revenue collection, and completely eradicate smuggling. The participants of the meeting were given a detailed briefing on the ongoing reforms in the FBR, particularly the restructuring of PRAL, the digitalisation of the tax system, and the measures taken to curb smuggling. It was informed that step-by-step work was underway on IRIS 3.0, a new tax operating model, and a central data hub to make the tax system modern, integrated, and data-driven, as international consultants have also been hired to design IRIS 3.0. Swift work was underway on a project under IRIS 3.0 to make the tax system more effective, pilot auto-taxation, and utilise artificial intelligence and machine learning in the future to improve tax collection. The participants were told that new senior-level appointments have been made in PRAL across various sectors, including technology, data security, operations, and the tax domain.—APP

Trump renames Lake Ontario 'Lake America'

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump renamed Lake Ontario "Lake America" on Thursday, escalating a feud with Canada that has already spawned tariffs on tens of billions of dollars in cross-border trade. Trump's executive order on Lake Ontario, one of the five Great Lakes of North America, applies to US federal use of the lake and does not govern what Canada, international bodies or other organisations call the lake. Within hours of Trump's statement, the prime minister of Canada and the Democratic governor of New York State said they would not be changing the name, which is more than 400 years old. New York borders the lake on the US side. "We're going to be changing the name of Lake Ontario effective immediately to Lake America," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office. "The lake change, the Lake of America, was something I've been thinking about for a long time, actually." Trade talks between the US and Canada collapsed last week with each side blaming the other for derailing three days of intensive negotiations. Facing the lowest public approval of his term, Trump - who campaigned on a pledge to avoid starting new foreign wars and fight inflation - is struggling to resolve both the trade war his administration initiated with Ottawa as well as the war the US and Israel began against Iran six months ago. Both have played a role in driving up the cost of living for Americans. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said the lake's name predates both Canada and the US as nations. "We know that America is changing. Their trading relationships, their foreign policies, their national monuments, their hydronyms," Carney said on social media. "Canadians also know that naming reality means calling it Lake Ontario - then, now and always. About 52% of the surface area of Lake Ontario is in Canada, with the remainder in New York. New York Governor Kathy Hochul responded on social media: "New York won't be calling it that.—DNA

Archbishop Dr. Joseph Arshad expresses deep grief

ISLAMABAD: The Archbishop of twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad, Dr. Joseph Arshad here on Friday expressed deep sorrow and grief over the tragic loss of precious lives of newborn babies in the fire incident at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS). In a statement issued here, he said the tragic deaths of innocent newborn babies had deeply saddened everyone. He expressed solidarity with the bereaved families and conveyed his heartfelt condolences over their irreparable loss. He said Pope Leo, the spiritual leader of the Christian community worldwide, had also expressed deep sorrow over the tragic incident and conveyed his closeness and prayers to the bereaved families. Pope Leo offered special prayers and solidarity for the affected families, the injured and all those affected by the tragedy. Arshad prayed that Almighty God may grant eternal rest to the departed innocent children, give strength and courage to their grieving parents and families to bear this irreparable loss. He also appealed the government and relevant authorities to conduct a thorough investigation into the incident and ensure that safety and security arrangements at hospitals were further strengthened to prevent such tragic incidents in the future.

PM expresses deep grief over passing of Norway's King

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the passing of King Harald V of Norway. "On behalf of the Government and people of Pakistan, I extend our heartfelt condolences to the Royal Family and the people of Norway", the prime minister said in a post on his official X handle. He said as Norway mourned this profound loss, the people of Pakistan stood in solidarity with the bereaved family and our Norwegian friends. "His Majesty will be remembered for his lifetime of dedicated service to his nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Norway at this difficult time," the prime minister added.—APP

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Briefs

China halts
rescue at
Tibet disaster
epicenter
over flood risk

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping chaired a meeting of top leaders about rescue operations in Tibet on Friday, two days after a landslide hit the Nepal-China border.

"All efforts must be made to search for and rescue missing people inside and outside of the country," officials of the Chinese Communist Party's Politburo said at the meeting, according to Xinhua News Agency.

"There are still many hidden dangers of glaciers, ice lakes and geological disasters in the surrounding area, and rescue is facing great difficulties," Xinhua reported the leaders saying, adding that China was considering emergency aid to Nepal and "international relief cooperation."

Nepal issued a warning on Friday to move to higher ground after a dam upstream in Tibet was reported to have burst, two days after a glacial collapse caused deadly flooding.

"Information has been received that a water dam has burst again on the Tibetan side," police said in a statement. "All security personnel, rescue workers, and the general public deployed in rescue and relief operations are requested to remain alert and immediately move to a safe location/report the incident." China paused a rescue operation on Friday citing the high risk of renewed flooding in Tibet, where hundreds remain missing two days after a deadly mudslide, state media said. — APP

Strikes in
Gaza kill 4,
including
2 children

DEIR AL-BALAH: Palestinian residents of war-battered Gaza fled homes and businesses as Israeli strikes and tank fire killed at least four people Monday, including two children, hospital officials said, a week after a US delegation asked Israel to draw down attacks.

After evacuation warnings by Israel's military, a strike hit a building in the Bureij refugee camp in central Gaza. One family was unable to flee and a 4-year-old child was killed, according to Awda Hospital, where he was taken. His mother and sister were wounded. There was no Israeli military comment.

Israeli strikes hit three other buildings across the territory after residents said they received evacuation warnings. Some people sprinted away, with mothers carrying children, while others moved amid the rubble in wheelchairs or with canes. Smoke rose over the already devastated landscape.

Israel's military said it carried out strikes in the Shati refugee camp in Gaza City and in Deir Al-Balah after issuing warnings, targeting what it described as two Hamas weapons storage facilities inside mosques. — APP

Rescuers scour Nepal flood
debris as death toll crosses 460
Thousands remain cut off in remote towns and
valleys as officials warn of further flooding

KATHMANDU: Rescue teams using heavy machinery dug through mud and debris in Nepalese towns devastated by a flash flood two days ago, as hopes of finding survivors faded and officials worked to reduce the risk of further catastrophic flooding. The confirmed death toll in Nepal rose to 469 people early on Friday, with almost 1,000 more missing there and in neighbouring Tibet, near where a glacier collapse on Wednesday morning sent a huge torrent of rock, ice, mud and debris cascading through Himalayan mountain river systems.

The flood ripped through villages and valleys, destroying power stations, roads and bridges along a route that links Kathmandu with Lhasa in Tibet and is popular with trekkers and pilgrims. Of those missing, at least 540 are foreigners. Authorities in Nepal used helicopters to search for survivors and drop emergency supplies to thousands cut off in towns and valleys, while emergency services — some using sniffer dogs — recovered dozens of bodies swept down into the plains. Dibga Tamang was among the last people rescued from the hard-hit town of Rasuwa on Thursday, airlifted along with three others to an army camp in Nuwakot.

"All of our people have gone. They are dead," Tamang said. "I have no one left waiting for me. Everything and everyone is gone. The end." The sheer amount of water and debris stirred up now risks triggering a further disaster.

Nepal's disaster management authority warned that a lake formed by debris blocking the Bhotekoshi River was rising

and at risk of bursting, while on the other side of the border China said that some three million cubic metres of water — the equivalent of about 1,200 Olympic-sized swimming pools — was expected to flow into an already dammed lake over the next three days. There is a high risk the lake could breach, with peak flow expected around September 1, Chinese state media said, citing the water resources ministry. Chinese authorities have mobilised an eight-member engineering team to conduct aerial surveys and 3D modelling of the barrier lake, but accessing it was challenging. "After the glacier collapse created the lake, many isolated cliffs and steep cliffs appeared along it," one of the engineers, Chen Hanzhao, told CCTV. Chen said the general approach to reducing the lake's threat is to excavate a drainage channel at a lower point of the dam but the width and depth of that channel needed calculations based on how fast the water will flow and how quickly the lake will fill.

Their next tasks were to monitor the lake and collect data from the lake floor, as well as weather. Chinese rescuers had yet to reach the worst-hit area on the Chinese side of the border, the Gyirong border crossing, by Thursday evening, state media reports indicated, as crews worked to clear debris from the key access road leading to the area. Dramatic footage on Wednesday showed enormous torrents of muddy water and debris tearing through structures in the border crossing area within seconds and engulfing people trying to flee. — Agencies

CDF Asim Munir stresses fact-based thinking among youth

Field Marshal Munir, Harvard Business School students discuss Pakistan's efforts for global peace, says ISPR



DNA

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Asim Munir has stressed the need for youth to adopt fact-based analysis to play a meaningful role in society, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Friday. CDF Munir made the remarks during an interaction with a delegation of students from Harvard Business School during their visit to Pakistan, the military's media wing said in a statement.

The delegation from Harvard Business School consisted of students from multiple countries, it added. The interaction focused on the regional and global developments, Pakistan's security outlook and its efforts to promote peace, stability and prosperity in the region and beyond. "The COAS and CDF highlighted the importance of education, skill development, entrepreneurship and applying fact-based analytics amongst young people to contribute meaningfully in an increasingly volatile world, prone to social media and propaganda," the ISPR said. During the meeting, the students from

Harvard Business School appreciated the "openness and warmth of the people of Pakistan" as well as the tremendous potential and opportunities that Pakistan possesses. The army chief's remarks come amid Pakistan's renewed push for a lasting end to the war in the Middle East. CDF Munir visited Tehran on August 24, where he called on Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian, Iranian supreme leader's representative on the Supreme National Security Council Mohsen Rezaei, Parliament Speaker Bagher Ghalibaf, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Interior Min-

ister Eskandar Momeni. Pakistan and Iran held discussions on reopening the Strait of Hormuz and bringing an "expedited termination" of the US-Iran conflict in the Middle East, the ISPR said on Tuesday. Pakistan has emerged as a key mediator between Tehran and Washington in efforts to end the conflict that began with US and Israeli strikes on Iran on February 28. Islamabad brokered a two-week ceasefire between the two sides on April 8, bringing six weeks of fighting to a temporary halt, and has since continued to relay messages between Washington and Tehran.

India
recovers
7 bodies

LUCKNOW: Indian authorities recovered seven bodies from rivers flowing from Nepal, believed to be victims of devastating floods, officials said Friday, underscoring the scale of the deadly disaster. The bodies were found floating in rivers in the Maharajganj and Kushinagar districts of Uttar Pradesh state, which borders Nepal's southern flood-hit Chitwan region. "Four unidentified bodies were recovered in the district on Thursday," Maharajganj district magistrate Gaurav Singh Sogarwal told AFP. "We think they have been swept into India from Nepal following flash floods there." Three more bodies were recovered in Kushinagar district, around 70 kilometers (43 miles) downstream from the frontier, a police official confirmed. — APP

Resident
urged to
flee Russian
attacks

KYIV: A drone attack early Friday killed one man in Kherson, hours after authorities urged residents to leave as intensifying Russian attacks on the southern Ukrainian city risk cutting power supplies ahead of the long winter. Russian forces are positioned on the opposite bank of the Dniro River, which borders the city briefly occupied by Moscow in 2022, making it particularly vulnerable to shelling. The drone attack early Friday in Kherson's Korabelnyi district killed a 61-year-old man who was taken to hospital with a "penetrating chest wound," Yaroslav Shanko. — APP

Norway's King
Harald V dies at 89

STAVANGER: King Harald V of Norway, who went into exile in the United States as a child during the Nazi occupation of his homeland and refused a string of European noblemen in order to marry his school sweetheart, has died. He was 89.

The palace announced his death Friday morning. Harald was Europe's oldest monarch. The popular king modernized the royal house but refused to follow in the footsteps of other aging monarchs who have abdicated in recent times. His son now automatically becomes King Haakon VIII.

Like other royal houses in Europe, the Norwegian monarchs serve a largely symbolic role, enjoying celebrity status while real power in the democracy of 5.5 million rests with an elected parliament. Harald was crowned king after his British-born father, King Olav V, died in January 1991, and reigned during an oil-and-gas-driven economic boom in his country. Harald was born in 1937 in Asker, near Oslo, becoming the first Norwegian prince to be born in the country since King

Olav IV in 1370. In the following centuries, Norway didn't have a king of its own until Harald's grandfather, Haakon VII, was elected king following the 1905 dissolution of the union between Sweden and Norway.

Harald was 3 years old when the Nazis occupied Norway at the start of World War II. To avoid capture, his mother fled with him and his sisters, Ragnhild and Astrid, first to Sweden and then by boat to the US, while Harald's father and grandfather went into exile in Britain with Norway's government. Haakon's refusal to go along with German demands garnered respect among his people. During their time in the US, the Norwegian royals were often guests at the White House. Harald was 6 when he carried out his first official duty, christening new warplanes at a Norwegian air base in Canada. The family was reunited in Norway in June 1945, shortly after the end of the war. Harald attended public schools, the Norwegian military college and Oxford University.

Like his father — an Olympic champion sailor in 1928 — Harald loved the sea and sailboats. He represented Norway at several Olympics, and in 1987 he skipped his yacht to gold in the World Championships. As a young man, Harald was urged to find a bride among the princesses of Europe. For nine years he shunned a series of noblemen, holding out until he finally won his father's permission to marry his school sweetheart, Sonja Haraldsen, the daughter of a successful businessman. King Olav had feared the marriage would weaken Norway's still-young monarchy. Instead, Norwegians greeted the Aug. 29, 1968, wedding with jubilation, and later embraced Sonja as their queen. The couple had two children, Haakon and his older sister, Märtha Louise. — APP

While the 11th-place finish might not be the podium finish fans had hoped for, the win carries significant weight in the world rankings. Prior to the tournament, Pakistan was ranked 12th in the FIH World Rankings

AMSTELVEEN: In a tense classification match at the FIH Hockey World Cup 2026, the Pakistan hockey team clinched the 11th position by defeating South Africa in a dramatic penalty shootout Wagener Hockey

Pak secures 11th place
in World Cup hockey

Stadium, Amstelveen (NED) today. Pakistan Army deployment

The match, which was a battle for the 11th/12th place playoff, ended in a stalemate during regular time, forcing the contest to be decided from the penalty spot. Displaying remarkable composure under pressure, the Pakistani players held their nerve to outperform the South Africans in the shootout, securing a crucial victory.

While the 11th-place finish might not be the podium finish fans had hoped for, the win carries significant weight in the world rankings. Prior to the

tournament, Pakistan was ranked 12th in the FIH World Rankings. Today's victory over South Africa has provided a much-needed boost, propelling the Green Shirts up one position to claim the 11th spot in the official world standings.

The shootout victory not only ends Pakistan's World Cup campaign on a winning note but also represents a small but positive step forward in their quest to climb back among the top-tier hockey nations. The team will look to build on this momentum as they prepare for future international fixtures. — DNA



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