

ABC Rectified The Spokesman



A White House official confirmed Thursday that no visit to Pakistan by former U. S. President Donald Trump has been scheduled, refuting claims by several Pakistani media including two Pakistani news channels outlets that he would arrive in Islamabad in mid-September.



Severe rainfall causes destruction in twin cities

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Briefing on Monsoon Rains and Floods

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif is being briefed on measures taken with regard to recent Monsoon rains



PM Shehbaz calls for coordinated plan to tackle cloud burst threats

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has called for formulating a coordinated provinces, to prevent losses in view of growing intensity of cloud bursts in future.

given to him at the National as a result of rains. He said Emergencies Operation Centre all possible equipment and of the NDMA in Islamabad on resources will be provided to the Thursday regarding the existing NDMA to achieve this objec-

Shehbaz Sharif said the Ministries of the Climate Change and the Planning are plan, in consultation with the required to engage in close coordination with the National Disaster Management Authority and provinces to evolve an effec-He was speaking at a briefing tive strategy to mitigate losses

commended the NDMA and effectively undertaking relief and rescue operation in the country. He expressed the confidence that provinces will also upgrade their rescue and relief agencies by providing them with

latest equipment. Earlier, briefing the Prime

seventy percent higher this year provincial governments for as compared to the last year. He said traditionally there are around nine monsoon spells but there will be two to three more spells this year.

The Chairman, however, ruled out any threat of large scale flooding as all the rivers in the country are flowing in Minister, Chairman NDMA normal conditions. Regarding Lieutenant General Inam the losses, he said so far 178 Haider Malik said intensity people have died and around

monsoon rains and flood situative. The Prime Minister also of monsoon rains is sixty to five hundred others injured in

the rain related incident. According to the NDMA, future monsoon seasons will likely begin two weeks earlier, and with increased severity. The coming seven days will remain critical for Punjab, AJK, and northern KP.

Federal Ministers Dr Musadik Masood Malik, Prof Dr Ahsan Iqbal and Attaullah Tarar were also present on the occasion.

Notice issued to

The notice has been issued by the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) and Aleema Khan has been directed to appear at the NCCIA office in Lahore's Gulberg-II area at 11:30AM on July 17 (today), 24NewsHD quoted sources as saying.

According to the notice, Aleema Khan has been summoned to record a statement in her defence. The notice says that proceedings have been initiated against Aleema Khan over her activities on May 27, 2025, under the

The notice says that NCCIA will assume that Aleema Khan doesn't have

The notice says that legal action will be taken against Aleema Khan under Article 174 if she doesn't appear before the investigators.

Pakistan Army launches nationwide rescue and relief operation in floodhit areas



跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Army on Thursday launched a large-scale rescue and relief operation in the flood-affected areas across Pakistan.

Army aviation helicopters took part in rescue operations in most difficult terrains and rescued dozens of people to

Three people were rescued rescue operation.

in Chakri Rajan village and 27 in Chakwal and Khanpur through an air rescue opera-

In the Chak Monju area, rescuers helped 10 people to

In Dhok Badar in Jhelum District, 31 people were rescued through a successful operation, while 38 people were rescued in Darapur through an air

Interior Minister approves civil awards for 71 national heroes

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: In a notable move reflecting the country's appreciation for its true heroes, a high-level meeting was conducted at the Cabinet Division in Islamabad, chaired by Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi.

The meeting focused on reviewing nominations for civil awards aimed at honouring individuals who have exhibited outstanding courage and commitment in defending and serving the nation.

with formal approval of civil awards for 71 individuals, each honored for their exceptional bravery, selfless sacrifices, and unwavering service to the motherland.

The awards reflect the state's gratitude toward those who have upheld national inter- forgotten or go unhonored."



ests above self.

Speaking at the meeting, Interior Minister stressed the moral obligation to recognize the nation's defenders, stating that "These courageous sons of the soil have rendered unparalleled service, showing no fear in the face of danger."

He further emphasized that The meeting concluded the martyrs are the crown of the nation.

"Our Ghazis represent the finest example of courage and dedication," the minister said, while also adding "Their valor fills us with pride, and we will never let the sacrifices of our martyrs and Ghazis be

NDMA issues estimates of losses caused by rains and floods



跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Thursday issued an estimate of the losses caused by flooding in different parts of Pakistan from June 26 to July

According to the NDMA, at least 178 people were killed and 491 injured in rain-related incidents across Pakistan during the aforementioned people. In Punjab alone, 103 people, including 50 children, were killed in rain and flooding and

385 were injured. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 38 people were killed and 57

injured in rain related incidents. Moreover, 20 people were killed and 40 injured in Sindh, 16 people were killed and four injured in Balochistan and one person was killed in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Over the last 24 hours,

NDMA said, 54 people were killed in rain and flooding and 22 of them were children. At least 54 people were killed in rain-related incidents in Punjab and 227 were injured. Rain and floods damaged 88 houses over the last 24 hours. Overall the number of houses damaged in recent rains and floods is 610. In another incident, floodwater swept away a group of 126 cattle.

Pakistan's telecom sector suffers \$1 billion loss in foreign investment amid regulatory and economic challenges

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's telecom sector suffered a sharp decline in foreign direct investment (FDI), losing nearly \$1 billion in just one year. According to a July 2025 report by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), FDI in the sector fell from \$1.67 billion in 2021-22 to just \$750 million in 2022-23.

This steep drop reflects mounting investor concerns over the country's digital infrastructure environment, which is plagued by high taxes, inefficient spectrum allocation, low fiber penetration, and unpredictable regulatory policies. Despite continued growth in mobile internet usewith over 138 million mobile broadband users by late 2024—the overall investment climate has deteriorated, worsened by Pakistan's broader economic instability.

Fixed broadband penetration remains extremely low at 1.3%, and only 14.8% of mobile towers are fiber-connected. This shortfall hampers efforts to meet rising data demand and delays progress toward 5G deployment. While the telecom sector has contributed more than PRs1.28 trillion to the national treasury over the past five years, the report notes that long-



not followed.

The ADB warns that without urgent reforms, the sector risks falling short of its potential as a driver of digital transformation and economic growth.

"The telecom sector in Pakistan has experienced a decline in revenues and foreign investment, which reflects a very challenging business environment," the report states.

One major barrier identified is Pakistan's spectrum auction framework. High reserve prices—set in U. S. dollars—often discourage participation from private operators, stalling the rollout of next-generation technologies.

"The spectrum auction starting prices and commercial conditions need to be reasonable and attractive for operators," term investment in infrastructure has the ADB noted. "This would enable the

timely, cost-effective launch of 5G and foster innovation in the digital economy."

The report also highlights excessive taxation from both federal and provincial authorities, ranking among the highest globally for the telecom sector. Additionally, Pakistan's annual right-of-way (RoW) charges further strain operators-unlike in countries like India, where such fees are minimal and charged only once.

To reverse the investment decline, the ADB recommends several reforms: implementing a stable long-term tax policy, revising spectrum pricing models, and establishing a unified national RoW framework. It also suggests deeper collaboration with provincial governments to create anchor demand for fiber connectivity in schools, hospitals, and other public institutions across smaller cities.

The ADB stresses that telecom should be seen not just as a commercial enterprise, but as critical infrastructure for the country's digital future. Without prompt and coordinated action, it warns, Pakistan risks increasing digital inequality and falling behind in global competitiveness.

"Pakistan's digital infrastructure is dragging down its overall digital readiness and economic performance," the report

Aleema Khan over 'anti-state social media activities'

Court Reporter

ISLAMABAD: A notice was issued to Aleema Khan, elder sister of the jailed former prime minister Imran Khan, over her "anti-state social media activ-

inquiry number 2531/25.

anything to say in her defence if she doesn't appear before the investigators.

NCCIA is an institution working under the Interior Ministry of Paki-

Azad Kashmir PM honors brave soldier who gave life for country

👺 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has paid rich tributes to Major Rab Nawaz Shaheed who embraced martyrdom while fighting bravely against the Fitna-al-Hindustan in Awaran area of Balochistan.

The prime minister said that Major Rab Nawaz Shaheed sacrificed his precious life for the sake of the country.

Lauding the Pakistan armed forces' significant role in combating terrorism and defending the country, he said that the matchless sacrifices rendered by the Pakistan army would always be remembered.

Earlier, the PM attended the funeral prayers of Major Rab Nawaz Shaheed held at Khurshid Hassan Khurshid Ground in his hometown Muzaf-



Speaker Legislative Assembly The funeral prayers were attended Chaudhry Latif Akbar, Diwan by a large number of people as well as Ali Khan Chughtai, Sardar Javed

Muhammad Rashid and others. On this occasion, Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwarul Haq met civil and military officials including Ayub, Syed Bazal Naqvi, Chaudhry the family of Major Rab Nawaz and

offered his heartfelt condolences.

He said that the entire nation was proud of Shaheed Major Rab Nawaz, who sacrificed his life for the country.

Flooded

RAWALPINDI: People wade through flooded Mukha Singh Estate Road during heavy monsoon rain in early morning in the city on Thursday.



AJK PM directs authorities to resolve teachers' issues immediately

MUZAFFARABAD: An extraordinary meeting regarding the "Strengthening and Regionalization of Educational Institutions" was held here today with Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq in the chair. The meeting was attended by Senior Minister General (retd) Wagar Ahmed Noor, Minister for Education Schools Dewan Ali Khan Chughtai, Minister for PDO Chaudhry Rashid, Secretary Inland Revenue Chaudhry Raqib, Secretary for Education Schools Qazi Inayat and others. During the meeting, Minister for Education and Schools Diwan Ali Khan Chughtai and Secretary for



presented a detailed briefing about tional management and the hurdles in the educational institutions and the upgradation of teachers. The Prime Minister was also briefed on the alloca-Education and Schools Qazi Inayat tion of posts, teacher cadres and educa-

the way of systematic administration. Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister issued instructions to authorities concerned to immediately resolve required to fix things properly.

quality education as the constitutional right of the young generation, the PM said that training of the new generation cannot be fully protected without addressing the legitimate grievances of teachers and providing financial security to them. The PM underscored that institutional reforms was a key to improve management and the overall performance of the educational institutions." Effective rationalization and strengthening administration are key to improving standard and quality of education", the PM said. He said that while administrative shortcomings were being addressed, however necessary legislation could be made if

the issue forthwith. Describing right to

DFP concerned over additional troops deployment in IIOJK

Majeed Tahir

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party has strongly denounced the Indian government's move to deploy an additional 20,000 paramilitary troops from its Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in occupied Jammu and Kashmir, terming it as yet another step to fortify its occupation and solidify it's control over the disputed territory.

In a statement issued here today, the DFP spokesman advocate Arshad Iqbal said that New Delhi's desperate attempt, aimed at reinforcing its military grip over the disputed territory of Jammu and Kashmir, runs parallel to the normalcy narrative being peddled by the Modi government.

He said that it was quite unfortunate that rather than resolving the longstanding dispute peacefully and addressing the legitimate political grievances of the Kashmiri people the Indian government views it through a security lense and attempts to crush the Kashmiris' genuine demands through heavy militarization.

The spokesman reminded the Indian government that the legitimate political movements with a massive public support cannot be suppressed by the use of military might.

Sardar Attique pays rich tribute to Major Rab Nawaz Tariq's martyrdom

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI/MUZAFFARABAD: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan has expressed his heartfelt sorrow and grief over the unfortunate terrorist incident in Quetta and said that the nation will not be intimidated by the cowardly attacks of the enemies. He expressed deep sorrow and grief over the martyrdom of Major Rab Nawaz Tariq, a brave officer of the Pakistan Army from Muzaffarabad, in this tragic incident and expressed his heartfelt sympathy to the family. Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan said that Major Rab Nawaz Tariq attained the high status of martyrdom by sacrificing his life for the defense of the motherland. His sacrifice will not go in vain, the entire nation salutes his great spirit. The sacrifices of the officers and soldiers of the Pakistan Army are a guarantee of peace and security in the beloved homeland, which will always be remembered. Sardar Attique said that action against anti-national elements should be made more effective and decisive so that such tragedies can be permanently prevented. He also prayed for the elevation of the ranks of martyr Major Rab Nawaz Tariq and for

Information Minister Invites Federal Minister to Visit Azad Jammu and Kashmir

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Minister for Information of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Government, Pir Muhammad Mazhar Saeed Shah, met with the Federal Minister for Religious Affairs, Sardar Muhammad Yousuf. Punjab Parliamentary Secretary for Auqaf Malik Iftikhar Ahmed was also present on the occasion. The Minister for Information of Azad Kashmir, Pir Muhammad Mazhar Saeed Shah, congratulated the Federal Minister for Religious Affairs, Sardar Muhammad Yousuf, on receiving the award from Saudi Arabia for the best arrangements among all the countries involved in the Hajj Mission 2025. In the meeting, it was agreed to work together with the Azad Kashmir Government on religious and sectarian harmony and the new Hajj policy was also discussed. The Minister for Information, Pir Muhammad Mazhar Saeed Shah, formally invited the Federal Minister, Sardar Muhammad Yousuf, to visit Azad Jammu and Kashmir, which he accepted. The Federal Minister, Sardar Muhammad Yousuf, said that the great scholars and great scholars there play an important role in maintaining religious harmony and promoting Islamic values in Azad Kashmir. The government of Azad Kashmir will work together to promote religious and sectarian harmony. Speaking on the occasion, Information Minister Pir Muhammad Mazhar Saeed Shah said that it is an honor for us that the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Pakistan has received the award for the best Hajj arrangements from Saudi Arabia. He also praised the professional skills of Sardar Muhammad Yousaf. The Information Minister of Azad Kashmir said that there is excellent religious and sectarian harmony in Azad Kashmir, and in terms of peace and order, Azad Kashmir is a peaceful region in Pakistan. Thank God, exemplary religious harmony and peace and order were maintained

LHC issues notice to NAB on Elahi's writ petition and suspends the accountability court's decision

Example 2 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Honorable Justice Shahram Sarwar and Justice Sajid Mahmood Sethi of the Lahore High Court Rawalpindi Bench issued notice to NAB on the writ petition of former Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi, suspending the accountability court's decision, and exempting Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi from appearing in the

On Wednesday, Honorable Justice Shahram Sarwar and Justice Sajid Mahmood Sethi of the Lahore High Court Rawalpindi Bench heard the case of former Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi. Court hearing represented by Senior Lawyer Sardar Abdul Raziq Khan Advocate and Aamir Saeed. During the hearing, Sardar Abdul Raziq Advocate took the position that Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi is a senior politician and is undergoing treatment in Lahore due to illness and cannot come to the accountability court on every date.

The trial court has illegally dismissed the application for exemption from personal appearance. Justice Shahram Sarwar asked the NAB prosecutor what NAB's objection is to the exemption from personal appearance of Pervaiz Elahi? To which the NAB prosecutor said that Pervaiz Elahi's illness is not such that he should be given an exemption.

CM Sindh Murad Ali Shah pays detailed visit to rain-affected areas of Hyderabad

👺 Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Chief Minister Sindh Sved Murad Ali Shah conducted a detailed visit to various rain-affected areas of Hyderabad and directed the district Lines, Thandi Sarak, Autobhan administration to ensure immediate relief to the public.

sioner Hyderabad Bilal Ahmed nant rainwater from all low-lying projects on Autobahn Road and

Memon, and Deputy Commissioner Zainul Abideen Memon, the Chief Minister inspected the severely affected locations.

Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah inspected Civil Road Pumping Station, Railway Underpass, Fatah Chowk, Maki Accompanied by provincial Shah Road, Qazi Qayoom Road, ministers Sharjeel Inam Memon and low-lying areas of Qasimabad. and Jam Khan Shoro, Hyderabad He instructed the administration Mayor Kashif Shoro, Commis- to ensure rapid drainage of stag-

areas and accelerate sanitation

During a briefing, Deputy Commissioner Zainul Abideen Memon informed the CM that on July 14, heavy rainfall recorded 107mm in an hour, with 91mm in Latifabad and 55mm in Qasimabad. He added that 90 percent of the city's areas had been cleared of

rainwater within 24 hours. Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah also inspected development

Abdul Sattar Edhi Road. He issued orders to speed up the construction of the Abdul Sattar Edhi flyover and remove encroachments.

The Works and service Department was directed to build roads along both banks of the Pinyari Canal at a cost of Rs 2.2 billion. The road on the right bank will be 7.40 km long, while the left bank road will span 9.80 km. The CM termed the project vital for easing traffic and enhancing city aesthetics.



ence, Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah reaffirmed that Hyderabad, being the second largest resources, service delivery would time.

priority for the PPP government. He assured that despite limited

At the end of the press confer- city in Sindh, remains a top not be compromised and all public interest projects would be completed transparently and on





Namaz Timings ...7:18 pm ... 8:58 pm

EMEDGENCY

EMERCENC I	
Rescue (Police)	. 15
Bomb Disposal	. 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/	
Islamabad1122 &	16 لأ
Emergency Ambulance 112	2&
& Rescue Services 4451	122
Motorway Police92660)44
Motorway Police9270601	-20

Women Police

Statio	NS
Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092
HOSDIT	AIC

CMH	5611111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	9221334-43
CDA	. 9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board .	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropol	itan
Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

COMPLAINTS

G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..9266316 Wapda Islamabad......9217579-80 Sui Gas Complaint..... 119, 9272249 Wasa Water Tank0331-5022125

Nationwide **Protests Planned** Against Electricity Hike and SugarMafia

👺 Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Jamaat-e-Islami has announced nationwide protests today (Friday) against expensive electricity, drastic increase in petroleum product prices and sugar mafia on the call of Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman. Big protests will be held at divisional headquarters on Sunday, July 20. In Faisalabad too, peaceful protests will be held outside the main mosques across the city after Friday prayers, while at 11 am, Jamaat-e-Islami workers led by District Ameer Professor Mehboob-uz-Zaman Butt, Mian Tahir Ayub, Mian Asif Islam, Khalid Mahmood Chaudhry will protest in front of the railway station. Professor Mehboob-uz-Zaman Butt has appealed to the citizens to participate in these protests to achieve their rights, keeping all political affiliations above all else.

PAL holds special session in memory of Syed Patras Shah Bukhari

ISLAMABAD: A special session was organized by the Pakistan Academy of Letters in memory of Syed Ahmed Shah Patras Bukhari, a prolific Urdu writer, humorist, broadcaster and diplomat. The literary event was held at the Academy's headquarters, Patras Bukhari Road, Islamabad, and was presided over by eminent intellectual, writer and Senator Irfan Siddiqui. while Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Mr. Aurangzeb Khan Khichi, was the chief guest.

Ms. Farah Naz Akbar (Parliamentary Secretary for National Heritage and Culture) and Mr. Asad Rehman Gilani (Federal Secretary for National Heritage and Culture) attended the event as guests of honor.

This memorable event was held with the inauguration of the new decohall by Senator Irfan Siddiqui. The guests discussed the art and personality of Patras Bukhari as well as the usefulness of academic and literary

Arif (President, Pakistan Academy of Letters) highlighted the academic, literary and diplomatic services of Patras Bukhari, in which she presented a comprehensive review of his style of satire, intellectual depth and mastery of language and expression.

She thanked the Secretary, National Heritage and Culture Division, whose funds were released for the magnificent renovation of the conference hall.

Senator Irfan Siddiqui presented a comparative analysis of the literary services of Patras Bukhari and Farhatullah Baig in Urdu satire and humor, and also narrated memorable events from the life of Patras Bukhari.

She congratulated the Academy of Letters for the magnificent decoration of the conference hall and for organizing an event in memory of a great writer like Patras Bukhari. She assured the government of the survival of ration of the Academy's conference academic and literary institutions and promised to continue their patronage.

This ceremony of the Academy of Letters had a unique color, two parts of which are especially noteworthy. One was a dramatic production based In her welcome remarks, Dr. Najiba on Patras Bukhari's famous essay was highly appreciated by the partic-special award on the spot. The second



"Swere Jo Kal Aankh Meri Khuli", ipants. which was presented in an artistic manner by the Swang Theater, which was so impressed that he announced a

Federal Minister Mr. Aurangzeb

important part consisted of a dialogue in which Dr. Farrukh Nadeem spoke to Patras Bukhari's grandson Mr. Ayaz

Reconstruction

ISLAMABAD: A view of damage green belt under the newly constructed F-8 Interchange after heavy monsoon rain, in the Federal Capital.



FGEHA Identifies Top Priority Projects for Q1 2025

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA), under the chairmanship of Director General Captain (R) Muhammad Zafar Iqbal. The meeting was attended by the Chief Engineer, Director Admin, Director Staff, Director Finance, and all relevant technical staff, including all Project Directors and Project Engineers.

All Project Directors, Engineers, and concerned departments provided detailed briefings on the progress of their respective projects. The Director General instructed the technical staff to expedite the finalization of financial and technical matters related to the projects and present them for



Board approval without delay. The PC-1s for three key housing

13 UET faculty members promoted to Associate Professor Rank



E City Desk

LAHORE: Following the approval of the UET Syndicate, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir has issued promotion orders for 13 Assistant Professors to the rank of Associate Professor at the University of Engineering and Technology (UET), Lahore. Congratulating the newly promoted faculty members, the Vice Chancellor commended their achievement as a significant milestone in their academic careers. These promotions span across UET's Main Campus, Faisalabad Campus, New Campus, and RCET Gujranwala. The appointment ceremony was attended by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Shoaib, President of the Teaching Staff Association, and Mr. Muhammad Asif, Registrar of the University. University officials expressed confidence that the promotion of these experienced teachers will enhance the quality of teaching and research across all LIFT campuses. The newly promoted Associate Professors thanked the Vice Chancellor for upholding the principles of merit and transparency in the promotion process and paid tribute to his leadership.

Government fulfill its promises of public relief by reducing the prices of petroleum: Ansari

S Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The Establishment of the Punjab Enforcement and Regulatory Authority (PERA) is a welcome development. But there is a need for the performance of PERA to be seen in practice, in which issues like inflation and land grabbing mafia are resolved on merit without discrimination. He said that artificial inflation has made it impossible for white-clad families to live and despair has surrounded the poor. PERA officers should be empowered to take action and hear cases that violate relevant laws, keeping in mind public welfare, and take administrative and extrajudicial enforcement measures so that the poor people can be saved from the vortex of inflation.

These views were expressed by Civil Society Forum Chief Coordinator Shahid Mahmood Ansari, social leader and intellectual Gul Nasreen, Vice Chairperson PUWF Shahida Pirzada Shehgi and Chairperson Hope Alive Imrana Syed while addressing a special press conference expressing public sentiments regarding the establishment of the Punjab Enforcement and Regulatory Authority (PERA) and the prevention of inflation. Social leaders said that first of all, practical action should be taken to save the people from the looting of bakeries, chicken pieces, hotels and fruit and vegetable vendors, the illegal profiteering and looting of market intermediaries and grocery stores and big malls.

KOICA's Support, UN Women Launches Digital Startup Roundtable to Uplift Young Women in Tech

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: With the support of the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), UN Women Pakistan launched the first event of its Digital Startup Roundtable Series in Islamabad. The event convened thought leaders, innovators, policy experts, development partners, and aspiring young women entrepreneurs to explore the transformative power of digital skills in driving women's economic empower-

Under the Digitalization for Women's Economic Empowroundtable served as a dynamic dialogue, and innovation. The projects that empower women growth. Women's participation in

to promote gender equality and inclusive development through technology and entrepreneurship. It focused on the unique challenges and opportunities faced by young women in Pakistan's digital ecosystem and emphasized the importance of fostering an enabling environment for their participation and leadership in the tech sector.

Echoing this sentiment, Sodam Baek, Deputy Country Director, KOICA Pakistan emphasized KOICA's long-term commitment to promoting sustainable develerment (D4WEE) project, the opment through inclusive innovation in these words, "KOICA platform for collaboration, is committed to investing in

event aligned with the shared and promote sustainable developvision of UN Women and KOICA ment. Our collaboration with UN Women is rooted in our belief that technology, when made accessible and inclusive, can be a powerful equalizer. Through this partnership, we aim to equip young women with the tools they need to succeed in the digital economy."

Adding a national perspective, Sayyed Ahmad Masud, National Incubation Centre Islamabad highlighted the importance of women's participation in shaping the country's digital future.

"Digital skills are the cornerstone of progress in today's world. By empowering women to embrace technology, we are not only enabling individual success but also fostering national

the digital sector is vital to Pakistan's future," he stated.

The event featured two key thematic sessions addressing barriers and opportunities for women in the digital economy. The first session focused on policy and infrastructure, bringing together policymakers, digital experts, and development practitioners to discuss the structural challenges that limit women's access to technology. Participants explored ways to strengthen digital infrastructure, integrate gender-responsive indicators into national e-governance reforms, and expand access in underserved

The Digital Startup Roundtable Series is organized as part of the KOICA-funded Digitalization



for Women's Economic Empowaims to enhance the participation of women aged 18 to 35 in the technology sector through

Implemented across Lahore, Peshawar, and Swabi, the project landscape.

digital skills training, mentorship, seeks to bridge the digital divide erment (D4WEE) project, which and private sector engagement. in Pakistan and ensure women have equal access to opportunities Faisalabad, Multan, Mardan, in the country's evolving digital Group Chairman/Chief Editor: Almass Ayoub Sabir Vice Chairman:

Naveed Ahmad Khan Editor: Head Editorial Advisory Board: Amjad Mehmood Bureau Chief Karachi: Khurram Jaffrani (jaffrani@adpluse.pk Bureau Chief Lahore: Syed Afraz Ali Nazish

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CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif directs all stakeholders to remain alert during monsoon in Punjab

ain highways have been cleared after heavy rain in Rawalpindi. Water has been drained from Murree Road, Raja Bazaar and adjacent connecting roads of the central city. After more than 200 mm of rain in Rawalpindi and flooding in Nala Lai, the administration, Rescue 1122, PDMA and other relief agencies remained fully active and alert to cope with any untoward situation. The water flow in Nala Lai has reduced from 21 feet to five feet.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif paid tribute to the administration, relief agencies and the Pakistan Army for carrying out a successful and timely rescue and relief operation. She congratulated Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi Hassan Waqar on the timely completion of the water drainage process from most of the roads in Rawalpindi city. She directed the administration to continue the rescue and relief operation. She directed to ensure continuation of round-the-clock surveillance and relief activities in the areas affected by torrential rains across Puniab.

She directed to utilize all possible resources so as to protect the lives and property of the people. She directed to utilize machinery to the maximum extent for drainage purposes. Rescue operations have proved to be successful and people have been timely shifted to safe places. Warning systems have been activated in the flood situation and will remain active till the situation normalizes. She directed all stakeholders to carry out continuous monitoring in view of torrential rains and flooding in the rivers and canals.

The Chief Minister commended the personnel of the Pakistan Army and the rescue team for carrying out excellent rescue services. She also directed to ensure continuous announcements being made through sound sirens in the rain affected areas so as to timely avert the dangers of passing of flood torrent. She also appealed to the citizens to stay away from the rivers and canals and follow safety instructions given by the

Earlier, Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has directed all Deputy Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners, Rescue 1122, and related agencies to remain fully prepared and alert at all times.

She has also appealed to the public to strictly implement precautionary measures during the monsoon season so as to protect themselves from any untoward incident, adding that protecting the lives of citizens is the government's foremost priority as well as responsibility, and "we will fulfill our duty

She emphasized that every life is precious and all available resources will be utilized to ensure safety of all and sundry.

America's Sanctions Spiral

edge of conflict, the United States' expanding use of sanctions has taken a dangerous and unprecedented turn. What began as a tool to deter rogue actors has now become a blunt instrument of coercion—wielded not only against adversarial governments and corporations, but shockingly, against international institutions and even human rights defenders. This shift signals a collapse of diplomatic norms and a troubling rise in unilateral aggression cloaked under the guise of legality.

The recent imposition of U.S. sanctions on Francesca Albanese, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, illustrates the depth of this crisis. Her sole offense was the publication of meticulously documented reports that highlighted Israeli war crimes in Gaza and the West Bank. Her findings contributed to the International Criminal Court's issuance of arrest warrants against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant for crimes against humanity and ethnic $clean sing. \, Rather \, than \, supporting \, these \,$ legal processes, the United States retaliated—not against the alleged perpetrators, but against those seeking justice.

The history is long and revealing. Russian President Vladimir Putin has faced personal sanctions since 2014, intensified after the invasion of Ukraine. Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, accused of corruption and democratic erosion, has been subjected to sweeping sanctions. Former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi were first sanctioned, then militarily removed. Iran's have all found themselves targeted by

But the reach doesn't stop with political figures. Business tycoons like Russian oil magnate Gennady Timchenko, Zimbabwe's Kudakwashe Tagwirei, and Iranian frontmen like Elyas Nirumand Tumaj have been blacklisted. Global firms— Chinese tech giant Huawei, Iranian and Venezuelan oil companies, and

even Swiss-based intermediaries-have seen their operations strangled under U.S. directives. Sanctions have cut off access to financial systems, disrupted supply chains, and destroyed livelihoods across continents.

Qamar Bashir Even entire nations reel under U.S. economic siege. Iran, Venezuela, Syria, North Korea, Russia, and Afghanistan face restrictions that devastate their economies and isolate their populations. China, while not under full-spectrum sanctions, endures targeted restrictions on its semiconductor, telecom, and defense sectors. Sectoral bans and export controls are calibrated not for security but to contain rivals and maintain technological dominance.

The hypocrisy is staggering. The U. S.—self-proclaimed guardian of democracy—has sanctioned a UN official for defending human rights, judges for enforcing international law, and students for exercising free speech. During Congressional hearings, Senator Marco Rubio chillingly defended the arrests of university students protesting Israeli actions in Gaza. He declared bluntly that "whoever opposes Israel or demonstrates against it will be dealt with." Protesters leaders, Syria's officials, North Korean have been arrested by masked agents. diplomats, and even Afghan institutions Faculty members supporting them have been fired. Even academic institutions

forming universities into battlegrounds for political conformity.

This crackdown directly contradicts the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which guarantees freedom of speech, expression, and peaceful assembly. By criminalizing dissent, particularly when it challenges Israeli policies, the United

States reveals the depth of its subservience to foreign agendas. It is no longer just international justice that is under assault—it is the American soul itself.

This obsessive alignment with Israel, particularly under

Netanyahu's leadership, is the common thread linking many of these punitive actions. Whether in Libya, Iraq, Syria, or Iran, nearly every military or economic intervention by the U.S. over the past two decades has mirrored the strategic calculus of Tel Aviv. Any regime perceived as hostile to Israeli dominance is painted as an existential threat—and then systematically undermined through sanctions, subversion, or war.

Netanyahu has made no effort to hide his ambitions. By turning Gaza into a killing field and ignoring every international plea, Israel has openly defied the United Nations, the Muslim world, and even U.S. public opinion. His administration's policies, grounded in racial supremacy and territorial expansion, have reduced Palestinian territories to rubble, desecrated the very notion of international law, and created a humanitarian catastrophe that history will not

And yet, rather than restraining these excesses, the U.S. has become their chief enabler. From military aid packages to

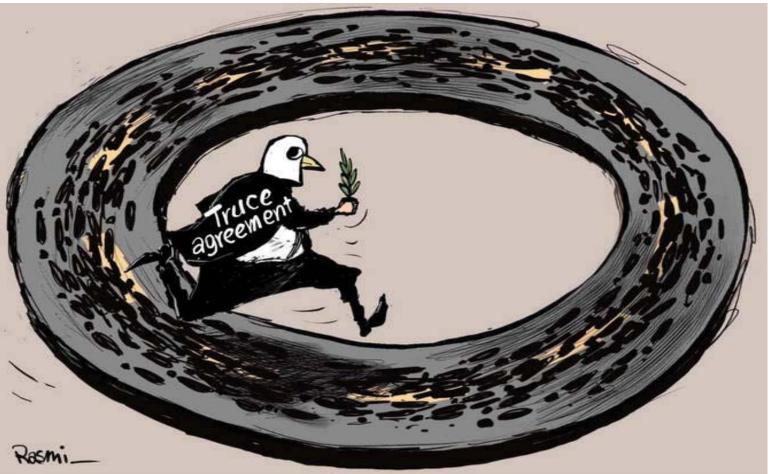
diplomatic cover at the UN, Washington has placed Israel above reproach. But the tide is beginning to turn. Western nations-once unwavering alliesare now imposing sanctions on Israel. Major global corporations are severing ties with Israeli firms. Public opinion across Europe and America is shifting rapidly, with campus protests and media commentary reflecting growing outrage.

This backlash is not just a reaction to Israeli actions-it's a response to America's complicity. Weaponizing sanctions to silence critics, intimidate allies, and crush dissent is no longer a sustainable policy. The credibility of U. S. leadership is eroding, and its moral standing is collapsing under the weight of its double standards.

It is time for urgent recalibration. The United States must de-link its foreign policy from Netanyahu's destructive vision and return to principles rooted in international law, justice, and diplomacy. Sanctions should be tied to human rights violations—not wielded as tools to shield those committing them. Engagement, not economic strangulation, should define America's approach to the world.

A nation that once inspired the world through its Constitution, civil liberties, and democratic ideals must not descend into a caricature of repression and hypocrisy. To restore its standing, the U.S. must recommit to its founding principlesliberty, justice, and respect for the rule of law. Otherwise, it risks becoming not a leader of the free world, but a hostage to the whims of one regime, isolated and feared for all the wrong reasons.

The writer is Press Secretary to the President (Rtd), Former Press Minister, Embassy of Pakistan to France and Former MD, SRBC | Macomb, Michigan, USA



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi. (Courtesy of Asharq Al-Awsat)

Pakistan's Successful Civil-Military Hybrid Model - II

n agriculture, which remains Marshal Syed Asim Munir thus signicentral to Pakistan's economic fied a pivotal chapter in Pakistan's politcentral to Pakistan's economic structure, the Green Pakistan Initiative—a flagship program iointly led by Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Munir—aimed to revitalize the sector through modernization and large-scale investment. With projected funding between \$30 billion and \$50 billion, the initiative focused on improving

productivity, enhancing irrigation infrastructure, and generating employment in rural areas. The military's logistical expertise and disciplined execution proved instrumental in constructing storage units, canals, and transportation routes, while civilian leadership provided policy design, market access, and regulatory oversight.

usher in a second green revolution and address long-standing issues of food insecurity and agrarian underdevelopment.

From a broader governance perspective, the civil-military hybrid framework provided institutional stability amid intense political polarization. During periods of street agitation, electoral disputes, or legislative deadlock, the military played a discreet but effective role in maintaining calm, facilitating backchannel dialogues, and ensuring the uninterrupted functioning of government services. It proved that the military's role, when exercised within constitutional limits and in support of the civilian administration, contributed to national continuity and public confidence.

Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field also enabled the country to make mean-

ical evolution. Their partnership moved beyond traditional institutional rivalry, fostering a constructive dynamic where military discipline and strategic depth were effectively paired with civilian policymaking and developmental vision. The results were visible: improved border security, revitalized economic sectors, restored investor trust, and

enhanced state It is important to emphasize that the military leadership in Pakistan has consistently demonstrated its neutrality and **Abdul Basit Alvi**

non-involvement This comprehensive approach aimed to in political affairs. This position has been reaffirmed on multiple occasions by senior figures, including the Field Marshal, the Director General of ISPR, and other high-ranking officials within the military establishment. The baseless rumors suggesting that the Field Marshal intends to assume the role of President of Pakistan are nothing more than deliberate misinformation being spread by anti-state elements. These narratives appear to be part of a malicious propaganda campaign aimed at undermining national unity and

destabilizing the state. Such elements are evidently frustrated by the growing harmony between the civilian and military leadership, and the impressive level of cooperation currently being witnessed. This synergy has not only The collaborative leadership of Prime contributed to political stability but has

ingful progress on several fronts. In light of this mutual understanding and coordination, it is perplexing why anyone would wish to disrupt the existing setup.

The notion of a "hybrid model" is often misunderstood and misrepresented. It must be clearly stated that this model does not imply that either the civilian or military leadership seeks dominance over the other. Rather, it reflects a framework of collaboration, where both institutions are united by a common objective; to serve the nation's interests and navigate the country through its challenges. Both leaderships have shown mutual respect, and there is no indication of friction or attempts to undermine one another's roles or respon-

The false narrative of a power grab is a self-serving fabrication by those whose politics are rooted in discord and disruption. The prevailing civil-military cooperation, far from being problematic, is a strength that should be preserved and encouraged in the greater interest of

national progress and stability. As Pakistan continues to grapple with internal and external challenges, the success of this hybrid model has fueled public expectations for even closer civil-military collaboration. While the long-term sustainability of such a model will depend on transparency, constitutional adherence, and democratic accountability, the current phase demonstrated that when aligned in purpose, Pakistan's civil and military leadership can offer a powerful blueprint for national progress. The hybrid model has not only delivered tangible gains but also rekindled hope for a more stable and forward-looking governance trajectory.

Major Rab Nawaz Gilani's Martyrdom and Kashmir's **Unwavering Loyalty to Pakistan**

n the rugged mountains of Balochistan, where the battle against terrorism continues to rage, Major Rab Nawaz Gilani, a valiant officer of the Pakistan Army, laid down his life in defence of the nation. Hailing from Muzaffarabad, the capital of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, his martyrdom is not merely a moment of national grief—it is a shining testament to the enduring spirit of loyalty, courage, and ideological conviction that defines the Kashmiri identity.

Major Gilani confronted the enemy with unflinching resolve, embodying the very essence of what it means to be a soldier, a son of the soil, and a believer in the idea of Pakistan. His sacrifice rekindles the eternal pledge that Kashmiris live—and are ready to die-for Pakistan.

This sacrifice is not an isolated incident but a powerful continuation of a proud history. Since even before Pakistan's creation in 1947, Kashmiris have been at the forefront of the nation's defence—whether

through voluntary accession to the state or serving valiantly in Pakistan's armed forces. The sons of Azad Kashmir have stood shoulder to shoulder with the rest of the country in every battle-ideological, geographical, and now, asymmetrical.

is under his leadership that the armed forces have declared zero tolerance for divisive agendas and have redoubled efforts to shield Pakistan from both visible and invisible enemies. Today, Kashmiris are not only defending the frontlines;

they are commanding them. Lieutenant General Syed Imdad Hussain Gillani and Lieutenant General Shahid Imtiaz, both hailing from Azad Kashmir, currently head two of the Army's premier corps. Recently, Brigadier Sardar Asif Aziz and Brigadier Sardar Tariq Khan were elevated to the rank of Major General-joining over a dozen Kashmiri generals who now hold key positions across Pakistan's strategic, operational, and administrative military echelons. This is not simply a matter of promotion. It is a reflection of trust, capability, and the

intellectual stature of Kashmiris within the military system. Their presence speaks to Pakistan's national integration and Kashmir's unshakable role in it.

While certain martyrs are publicly known, comprehensive records of Kashmiri soldiers who laid down their lives in the war against terrorism are not yet available. This underscores the need for institutions like ISPR to compile and publish a separate register honouring the martyrs of Azad Kashmir-both as a tribute and as a

record of national pride. History bears witness that Kashmiris have shed blood for Pakistan across generations. From 1947 to the present, their sacrifices span every battlefield-from the icy peaks of Siachen to the deserts of Balochistan. Their lovalty has never wavered. Their commitment never dulled.

But today, this tribute belongs especially to Major Rab Nawaz Gilani Shaheed of Muzaffarabad. His sacrifice is not just the story of a fallen officer—it is the anthem of a motherland that finds itself protected by sons like him. Muzaffarabad, long a symbol of patriotic resilience, has once again gifted the nation with a hero whose blood is a covenant of eternal loyalty. Major Gilani's martyrdom is a beacon of national unity, a testimony to Kashmir's love for Pakistan. and a message to all enemies—within and beyond—that the soil of Kashmir produces men who do not flinch, who do not retreat, and who never betray their pledge to this country. His face has become an emblem of pride for his family, his city, and his people. His blood waters the tree of national identity. His name will echo wherever the story of Pakistan's steadfast sons is told.

At a time when Pakistan faces both external threats and internal subversion, the leadership of Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir has proven to be a critical anchor. Under his command, the Pakistan Army has responded forcefully to Indian hostilities along the Line of Control and neutralized diplomatic isolation attempts on global forums. Yet, the more dangerous battlefield today lies within. Field Marshal Munir has boldly confronted the hybrid warfare and proxy networks operated by India inside Pakistan. His emphasis on internal stability, state authority, and civil-military unity reflects a doctrine not just of deterrence, but of ideological clarity. It

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B Diplomatic Community Bids Farewell to Austrian Envoy

Welcomes New Ambassadors at Elegant Islamabad Gathering

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: A graceful farewell was hosted in honour of Her Excellency Mrs. Andrea Wicke, Ambassador of the Republic of Austria to Pakistan, marking the conclusion of her distinguished diplomatic tenure. The event, which also served as a reception for newly appointed envoys, was organized by Mr. Fazal Elahi, Editor-in-Chief of Diplomatic Focus Magazine, at the Islamabad Club.

In recent months, Pakistan's diplomatic landscape has undergone a notable transition, with several foreign envoys completing their assignments or departing due to political changes back home. Among them is Ambassador Andrea Wicke, a widely respected figure whose term in Pakistan has been marked by excellence and cultural diplo-

The event was attended by a diverse gathering of ambassadors, diplomats, and business figures. Prominent among them were Ambassador Atadjan Movlamov, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and Turkmenistan's envoy to Pakistan; Ambassador Hamid Asghar Khan, Additional Foreign Secretary (Africa); and Mian Mobeen Akhtar, JHL International Ambassador to the European Union.

In her farewell address, Mrs. Wicke shared highlights from her diplomatic journey, which began after completing her studies at Vienna University and Vienna Music University. She joined the Austrian Foreign Service and served in various capacities across cities including Zagreb, Prague, Sofia, Vilnius, and Kuala Lumpur, as well as in key roles within the Austrian Ministry for Europe,

Integration and Foreign Affairs. Adding a personal touch, she revealed her lesser-known talents as an actor, director, singer, and musician. She credited her







tion throughout her career.

Welcoming guests, Mr. Fazal Elahi remarked, "This evening, we bid farewell to a distinguished envoy, Her Excellency Mrs. Andrea Wicke, as she concludes her illustrious diplohusband, Mr. Venzislav Wicke, for matic journey and enters the wellhis constant support and inspira- earned chapter of retirement." He the newly arrived ambassa- and enduring partnerships," he the Jordanian Ambassador to

acknowledged her contributions to strengthening Austria-Pakistan ties in sectors ranging from economy to culture and presented her with the Award of Excellence 2025 as a token of appreciation for her remarkable service.

Mr. Elahi also warmly greeted



dors and high commissioners, expressing hope for continued friendship and cooperation. "Pakistan offers not just a strategic platform for diplomacy, but also rich history, warm hospitality,

media cooperation from Diplomatic Focus Magazine.

A notable highlight of the evening was a prize draw organized by Flydubai, during which



stated, assuring them of full Pakistan is Dr. Maen Khreasat a lavish dinner, followed by the and Ambassador of Myanmar to presentation of special gifts to the Pakistan, Wunna Han were the ambassadors, a gesture symbollucky winners of complimentary izing friendship, continuity, and tickets to Dubai, much to the mutual respect among nations. delight of the attendees.

The evening concluded with 📙 Photos by Ramzan Mughal

Iran's Right to Self-Defense and the Israeli **Aggression: A Wake-Up Call for the** International Conscience

👺 Muhammad Aziz Ur Rehman

n June 2025, the Middle East was once again thrust into chaos as the Israeli regime launched a series of coordinated and unprovoked attacks on Iran. These strikes went far beyond military targets, hitting academic institutions, hospitals, residential areas, cultural centers, the Red Crescent, and even state media outlets. The result was devastating: over 1,100 people lost their lives—including 56 children—and more than

5,800 were injured. In response, the Islamic Republic of Iran exercised what it asserts is its inherent right to self-defense, enshrined in Article 51 of the UN Charter. Iran's countermeasures were calibrated and focused exclusively on Israeli military and security installations. Civilian harm, Iran maintains, was incidental—largely a consequence of Israel's own missile defense systems. Tehran underscored that it used only a limited portion of its military capability, carefully avoiding esca-

conflict was the dual role played by the United States. While it maintained the appearance of ongoing diplomatic negotiations, President Donald Trump allegedly gave Israel full operational coordination and later ordered strikes on

Iranian nuclear facilities. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu publicly admitted the military operations were executed with Washington's full knowledge—contradicting U. S. claims of neutrality. This duplicity raises critical questions about the integrity of international diplomacy and whether such negotiations were merely a façade to mask premeditated aggression.

This blatant double standard has further eroded the credibility of international institutions that are supposedly tasked with safeguarding peace and justice.

Israel and its intelligence agency Mossad miscalculated the outcome of their aggression. The assumption that decapitating Iran's nuclear and military leadership would trigger internal collapse proved false. Iran quickly filled the gaps in leadership, and a remarkable sense of national unity emerged in response to the assault. Missile strikes launched by Iran caused significant concern within Israeli defense circles, and within days, Israel was forced to reassess its strategy. By the eighth day, Tehran's measured but effective retaliation had debunked Israel's One of the most troubling aspects of the mythofinvincibility. Facing internal dissent and increasing international pressure, Netanyahu's government had little choice but to consider ceasefire options.

On June 21, a ceasefire initiative was put forward by France, Germany, and the United

Kingdom. Even French President Emmanuel Macron-who initially supported Israel-shifted to advocating diplomacy. Iran, in turn, agreed to the ceasefire on the strict condition that Israel completely halt all aggressive actions and provide verifiable guarantees against future violations of Iranian sovereignty.

Tehran's stance is clear: Iran does not seek war but will not compromise on its independence and territorial integrity. Any further aggression will be met with even stronger and more deci-

This conflict raises a crucial moral and legal question for the international community: Will the world continue to ignore the unlawful behavior of a nuclear-armed state that operates outside global treaties? Or will the global system finally uphold the rule of law, equality among nations, and the right of every sovereign state to defend itself?

Iran's resistance has not only reinforced its own national unity, but has also sparked a wave of Pan-Islamic solidarity, with countries like Pakistan standing firmly beside it.

In a world teetering on the brink of a broader regional war, the time has come to reject state-sponsored aggression and uphold justice without exception. Failure to do so may cost more than just credibility—it could cost

Digital Terrorism and Its Impact on Pakistan

n the modern age of technology and inter-

emerging dangers in the digital domain. Digital terrorism-also referred to as cyberterrorism-has become a grave concern for national security, political stability, social harmony, and economic integrity in the country. Digital terrorism includes the

use of information technology by extremist groups to spread propaganda, radicalize youth, incite violence, hack government databases, disrupt crit-

ical infrastructure, and manipulate public opinion. It ranges from simple social media campaigns to complex cyberattacks on financial systems, defense networks, and media platforms.

Pakistan, with increasing digitalization and widespread internet penetration, is now more exposed than ever. Terrorist outfits have adopted digital platforms to promote extremism. Hate speech, fake news, and online recruitment through encrypted apps and dark web forums pose major challenges to law enforcement.

One of the most alarming consequences is the radicalization of youth. Online platforms are used to spread extremist ideologies camouflaged in religious or political content. It exploits emotional narratives to recruit young minds, many of whom become silent sympathizers or active participants in anti-state agendas.

Pakistan has faced multiple cyber intrusions connected networks, Pakistan faces not targeting institutions like NADRA, FIA, banks, and only conventional security threats but also even military-related servers. Moreover, disinforma-

tion campaigns sponsored by hostile agencies have aimed to destabilize Pakistan's image internationally and create internal unrest.

Cybercrime affects investor confidence, compromises business data. and increases the cost of digital security. On the diplomatic front, allegations of state-sponsored cyber activity or failure to control digital terrorism can isolate Pakistan and invite inter-

- Strengthen cyber laws and ensure implementation. - Establish a national cyber command unit equipped with AI and cybersecurity experts. - Collaborate internationally for intelligence sharing.

- Launch public awareness campaigns about online misinformation.

-Monitor digital spaces without infringing on civil liberties. Digital terrorism is an invisible warfront, yet its

consequences are deeply real. For Pakistan to secure its sovereignty in the digital age, proactive policies, technical infrastructure, and societal resilience are essential. The state must not only defend its borders but also its bytes.

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Kashmir Crisis: London Conference condemns India's 'Belligerence' and 'Nuclear Brinkmanship'

Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON: Under the patronage of Raja Najabat Hussain, Sitara-e-Pakistan, a historic All Parties Kashmir Parliamentary Conference was held in London, UK. The conference raised grave concerns over India's escalating belligerence and nuclear brinkmanship, which, in the aftermath of the Pahalgam tragedy—where 26 innocent lives were lost—has pushed the region dangerously close to full-scale war. The declaration of the conference strongly urged the United Nations to conduct an impartial investigation into the incident and deter-

mine its real perpetrators. Held at the British Parliament, the event saw the participation and diaspora figures such as

dignitaries, including Barrister Imran Hussain, Chair of APPG on Kashmir, Tahir Ali, Senior Vice Chair, Debbie Abrahams, former Chair, MPs Dr Afzal Khan, Richard Burgon, David Williams, Dr Alison Clarkson, Connor Rand, Kate Dearden, Dr Zubair Ahmed, Barrister Mohammad Ayub, Mohammad Yasin, UK Head of Trade for Pakistan, Senator Dr Humayun Mohammad, Lt Gen (R) Abdul Qayyum, Chair Ex-Pakistan Army, Onaza Ehsan Butt, former MNA, Zafar Bakhtawari, Secretary General UBG and leading businessman and Mohammad Suleman, Assistant Director PIPS Kashmiri community leaders

JK Right to Self-Determination Movement UK), Zeeshan Arif (Youth Wing Head), Barrister Shehzada Hayat, and many others also participated.

Speakers condemned Indian PM Narendra Modi's ideology-driven Hindutva extremism and systematic human rights violations against minorities in India. They accused the BJP-RSS regime of pursuing the fascist goal of Akhand Bharat while spreading state terrorism, including cross-border attacks on Kashmiri and Sikh activists through RAW operatives.

Ayub Thakur, Rehana Ali Advo-

cate, Nadia Jafri (Chairperson,

India's unilateral suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty was

of a large number of MPs and Prof. Shahid Iqbal, Muzzammil described as water terrorism. The speakers also highlighted the rise of over 19 separatist movements within India-across Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Manipur, Nagaland, Assam, and the South-indicating internal instability.

Particular outrage was expressed over the use of rape as a weapon of war by Indian forces in occupied Kashmir, calling it a gross violation of international law. Reference was made to US travel advisories warning about risks to women in India.

Participants demanded the immediate release of Kashmiri freedom leaders including Yasin Malik, Dr Qasim Faktoo, Shabir Shah, Khurram Parvez, Asif Sultan, Sajad Gul, Asiya Andrabi,



It was emphasized that "The Simla Agreement of 1972 is void, as the people of Jammu & Kashmir were not a party to it. India is violating international laws, including UN Resolutions 47, 51, and 91, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the 1949 Geneva Conventions. Raja Najabat Hussain, Chairman of JK Self-Determination International UK, urged House of Lords members to raise

nuclear threat, and India's treaty violations in today's debate (July 17), especially in light of extremist Hindutva policies.

a 6-point declaration, calling for "A UN-supervised plebiscite in Jammu & Kashm A ban on Irresponsible nuclear behavior extremist organizations and actions. Immediate action against a united pledge that Jammu & uranium smugglingAccounta- Kashmir will achieve freedombility of India for war crimes. Global support for imprisoned Kashmiri leadersh. Interna-

The participants demanded global sanctions on India for Weaponizing sexual violence. The conference concluded with Extrajudicial killings and disappearances, Harassment of journalists, Defying UN resolutions,

no matter what.

The conference closed with

The event was hosted by British MP James Frith.

Friday, July 18, 2025



Index Fluctuation			
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index			
Current Prev. Close			
138,665.49	136,379.96		
Day's High	Day's Low		
138,943.47	136,674.98		
Index Value	Change		
26,392,690,975	+2285.53		
Percentage	Time		
+1.68%	17 Jul, 2025 4:30 pm		
Europe: FTSE 100 Index			
Index Value Change			
8,972.64	+46.09		
Percentage	Percentage Time		
-0.52%	17 Jul, 4:35 pm GMT+1		
USA: Dow Jones I	ndustrial Average		
Index Value	Change		
44,373.99	+119.21		
Percentage	Time		
+0.27%	17 Jul, 1:07 pm GMT-4		

+0.21/0	GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
39,901.19	+237.79	
Percentage	Time	
+0.60%	17 Jul, 3:45 pm GMT+9	

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	_)	_

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	186	191
Bahrain Dinar	763	773
Canadian Dollar	210.50	215.50
China Yuan	39.28	39.68
Danish Krone	44.27	44.67
Euro	334.50	338.5
Hong Kong Dollar	35.91	36.26
Indian Rupee	3.22	3.31
Japanese Yen	1.9150	2.0150
Kuwaiti Dinar	931.8	943.80
Malaysian Ringgit	66.5	67.10
NewZealand \$	167.36	169.36
Norwegians Krone	27.53	27.83
Omani Riyal	747.70	757.70
Qatari Riyal	77.43	78.13
Saudi Riyal	76.85	77.5
Singapore Dollar	222	227
Swedish Korona	29	29.30
Swiss Franc	352.88	355.63
Thai Bhat	8.57	8.72
U.A.E Dirham	78.60	79.5
UK Pound Sterling	386.50	390.50
US Dollar	288.30	288.60

SECP Transforms Public Offering Regime to Drive Innovation

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has approved amendments to the public offering regime. The revised framework, finalized after wide-ranging stakeholder consultations, is designed to enhance competition, leverage technology, improve transparency, and introduce a more robust and inclusive price discovery mechanism in the capital market.

The public offering regime—comprising the Public Offering Regulations, 2017 and the Public Offering (Regulated Securities Activities Licensing) Regulations, 2017, governs the public offering of equity securities, debt instruments, and units of Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) Schemes. The amendments aim to address both demand- and supply-side challenges for initial public offerings (IPOs), eliminate duplication in listing and prospectus applications, and facilitate issuers in achieving faster and more cost-efficient access to capital markets.

The role of CTI has been strengthened to ensure more rigorous evaluation of issuers and offering documents. Banks and DFIs are permitted to act as CTIs for equity offerings. If a bank/DFI fails to establish a separate subsidiary for the CTI function within five years, it may only act as CTI in consortium with another securities broker licensed as a CTI. Secondary offerings and public issuance of debt are facilitated through rationalized disclosures and optional CTI appointments. A standardized due diligence certificate format has also been introduced.

To broaden the investible universe, a separate chapter has been added for REIT offerings and a framework introduced for general public participation in GEM Board listings. Amendments also include a revised process for approval of supplement to the prospectus in shelf registration and provide a framework for issuance and listing of equity securities outside Pakistan. To promote transparency and improve digital access, amendments have been made to strengthen disclosure requirements, mandate the use of QR codes, allow electronic signatures, facilitate online filings through the PRIDE portal and discontinue physical applications from September 1, 2025

SCAN or SCAM?

Kaspersky experts warn of the risks hidden behind QR codes

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: In today's digital world, QR codes are placed on almost everything-from restaurant menus to museum exhibits, and even utility bills and parking lots. People use them to open websites, download apps, collect loyalty program points, make payments and transfer money, and even for charity donations. The accessible and practical technology is convenient for many, including cybercriminals, who have already rolled out a variety of QR-based

Kaspersky experts have identified the top security risks when scanning QR codes, QR codes can direct users to fraudulent websites designed to steal personal or financial information, such as passwords and credit

legitimate sites, such as banks or streaming services, and trick users into entering their credentials. Some QR codes can trigger the download of malicious applications that holiday sales, a fake QR code can redirect users

especially if it is not protected against unauthorized installation.

card numbers. Attackers can impersonate compromise the security of the user's device, to make payments to fraudulent accounts. AQR if you're not completely sure of the origin of the code can also automatically connect the user to QR code. Install a cybersecurity solution with Wi-Fi networks controlled by cyber attackers, During special events or sales periods like allowing them to intercept their communications. Kaspersky Premium, on all vour devices; it will

tial manipulation, especially as they appear in various everyday contexts such as receipts, flyers, and signage. Attackers have nearly endless possibilities to exploit them. As these codes have already become an integral part of our daily lives, it is essential for users to know how to use them safely and responsibly," says Seifallah Jedidi, Head of Consumer Channel for META at Kaspersky.

In order to not fall for a scam when scanning a QR code, Kaspersky experts recommend users to scan QR codes only from trusted and known sources. Avoid scanning codes in public places that may have been tampered with. If you really need to scan a publicly available code, verify that the web address it directed you to is legitimate before taking any action on this website.

Avoid entering sensitive information anti-phishing and anti-fraud protection, such as "QR codes are a fertile ground for poten- alert you to any danger timely."

Trade Exchange conference

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain visits the exhibition held during the China-Pakistan Economic and Trade Exchange Conference on Thursday.



Summer Sorted: Dubai Delivers, **Emirates Elevates**

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: As summer temperatures rise, Emirates invites travellers to reimagine their plans with Dubai-a city purposebuilt for comfort, discovery, and world-class experiences all year round. With exclusive benefits for Emirates passengers and seamless connections through the airline's extensive global network, Dubai is not only a rewarding summer destination, but also an ideal stopover for travellers.

Dubai is one of the few global cities engineered for year-round travel. With widescale air-conditioning, temperature-controlled pools, and an abundance of indoor entertainment, visitors can explore, unwind, and spend time comfortably-even during peak summer. From indoor theme parks and immersive museums to shopping festivals, live events, and family-friendly experiences, Dubai offers more than just a place to stay-it's a city that thrives in every

Emirates customers can also take their planning to the next level with Dubai Experience, Emirates' intuitive booking platform that lets them create customised itineraries including flights, hotels, attractions, and transport, all in one place.



Arriving into Dubai International (DXB), Emirates customers enjoy fasttrack connections and direct access to the city's modern, climate-controlled transport network, ensuring the journey continues with ease on the ground. For travellers

planning a longer holiday, Dubai offers a full spectrum of indoor leisure, shopping, culture, and dining. For those breaking up long-haul journeys, it provides a smooth, value-packed stopover that combines rest

Standard Chartered Connects Pakistan's **IT Sector with Global** Growth through Foreign Exchange Solutions

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Standard Chartered Bank hosted a focused client engagement event in Karachi, bringing together leading technology and IT-enabled service providers to explore strategic approaches to managing cross-border growth.

The discussion focused on how tailored foreign exchange (FX) solutions can support businesses in navigating international markets with greater confidence and efficiency. Pakistan's tech exports are one of our most promising economic stories and we're The IT sector has emerged as a key contributor to national we enable clients to access for software development, streamline their currency back-office support, and transactions. Our FX solu digital services continuing tions are designed to meet the

is uniquely positioned to support this growth. With a presence in over 50 markets, the Bank offers deep market insight, end-to-end FX execution capabilities, and competitive pricing—enabling clients to optimise their global operations and reduce transaction friction.

Commenting on the event, Saadya Riaz, Head of Wealth and Retail Banking said "Technology companies in Pakistan are reaching new international frontiers, and we're proud to support them with the tools and insights they need to manage global complexity. By combining only scratching the surface. our global network strength with local understanding, exports, with global demand markets, manage risk, and needs of fast-growing, glob-Chartered ally connected businesses."

Daraz Pakistan and Jubilee General Insurance launch device protection to safeguard your gadgets

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: As digital devices become indispensable to everyday life, Daraz Pakistan has partnered with Jubilee General Insurance to launch a seamless Device Insurance solution that safeguards customers' investments from unexpected risks. This new offering is designed to provide customers with complete peace of Pakistan. "By integrating mind when purchasing device insurance directly into electronic devices online by protecting their investment a service that supports our from unforeseen and sudden customers beyond the point risks. This initiative reflects of purchase and reinforces Daraz's continued commit- our commitment to their ment to customer-centric



innovation and post-purchase care.

"Trust is at the heart of any successful online shopping experience," said Ehsan Saya, Managing Director, Daraz our platform, we are offering

AkzoNobel Pakistan partners with WCLA to revitalize Lahore's iconic Food Street

Commerce Desk

stan the maker of Dulux ative Let's Colour Food Street infusing colour, vibrancy, and paints has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Walled City of Lahore Authority (WCLA) Omar, Chief Executive to revitalize the historic Fort Officer, AkzoNobel Pakistan Road Food Street located in Limited.

the heart of old Lahore. Gracing the MoU signing

LAHORE: AkzoNobel Paki- ceremony of this transforminitiative were Ms. Maleeha Rashid, Director General of WCLA, and Mr. Mubbasher

"AkzoNobel is proud to collaborate with the Walled City of Lahore Authority in renewed life into the centuries-old facades and bustling alleys of the famed Food Steet. Through this latest



Lahore while enhancing its Nobel Pakistan Limited. visual appeal and supporting local tourism by giving visitors an unforgettable experi-Let's Colour initiative, we aim ence," said Mubbasher Omar, a significant step towards

Adds Ms. Maleeha Rashid, Director General of WCLA, "This partnership marks

heritage and promoting sustainable tourism. By beautifying the Fort Road Food Street, we aim to create a vibrant space that attracts to preserve the spirit of old Chief Executive Officer, Akzo- preserving our cultural both locals and tourists alike."

Friday, July 18, 2025

POA constitutes National Youth Games Council

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Olympic Association (POA) has established the National Youth Games Council (NYGC) as the key body to organize and supervise the first ever National Youth Games.

According to a notification issued here, the decision to establish the council was taken during the Executive Committee Meeting of the

The council will serve as the principal body overseeing the policy-making, strategic direction, and organizational vision of the National Youth Games.

The Chairman of the Prime Minister Youth Programme (PMYP) Rana Mashood Ahmed has been appointed as the Chairman of the NYGC, while the President of the Pakistan Olympic Association Arif Saeed will serve as secretary of NYGC the Co-Chair and Secretary Khalid Mehmood will act as provincial sports bodies, including Federal Secretary stan Sports Board (PSB) Yasir opment in Pakistan.



The council includes repre- key stakeholders from across dination (IPC) Mohyuddin General POA Muhammad sentatives from federal and Pakistan's sports landscape Wani, Director General, Paki-

Army sports directorates, and for Inter-Provincial Coor-

Pirzada, Senior and Lady Vice Presidents of POA Fatima Lakhani, Director General Fitness & Sports Directorate, Pakistan Army, Director General Sports from Punjab, Sindh, KP, Balochistan, AJK, and Gilgit-Baltistan, Chief Commissioner Islamabad Capital Territory, Director Sports of Higher Education Commission (HEC), Presidents of the Provincial Olympic Associations, Representa-tives from the POA Athletes Commission and POA Sports Commission, Treasurer and Associate Secretary General POA while Aisam ul Haq, Associate Secretary General POA, will act as Coordinator.

The notification highlights that the committee is entrusted with the responsibility to act as the principal body overseeing the planning and execution of the National Youth Games, ensuring the strategic direction aligns with the vision of promoting youth sports devel-

Sports Board Punjab will organize Azadi Family Fun Races to celebrate Independence Day in a befitting manner: DG Sports

Example 2 Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry has announced that Sports Board Punjab will organize Azadi Family Fun Races to celebrate the Independence Day in a befitting manner.

Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Azadi Family Fun Races will be Afzaal Chaudhry made this organised under three categoannouncement while presiding ries-Boys U-14, Girls U-14 & over an important meeting at and Women Open with no age the National Hockey Stadium limit. "All the three races will be on Thursday.

During the meeting, the Boys and Women's Family Fun position holders". Race were reviewed in detail.

tors of the Nishtar Park Sports Complex attended the meeting in person while Divisional and District Sports Officers of Bahawalpur, Multan and Rawalpindi participated in the meeting through video link.

Addressing the meeting, Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Director General Sports and Afzaal Chaudhry said that organised separately and cash prizes of millions of rupees will preparations of U-14 Girls & be distributed among the top

Director General Sports Director General Sports and and Youth Affairs Punjab Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry said Afzaal Chaudhry also inspected that thousands of citizens and the route of Family Fun Race. athletes will participate in the Director Admin Dr M Azadi Family Fun Races. "The Kaleem, Director Sports Rana male and female students from Nadeem Anjum, Deputy different schools, colleges and Director Chand Perveen, athletes from various clubs have Yasmeen Akhtar, all administra- been invited to participate in the



grand event. The online registration for Azadi Fun Races has begun and in this regard, registration booths are being set up at several locations of the city".

Sharing more details of the mega event, Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry said that the winners and runners up in all three categories will be awarded cash prizes of Rs 50,000 and Rs 30,000 respectively while the 3rd and 4th position holders in all three categories will pocket cash prize of Rs 20,000 each. "The position holders from 5 to 20 will be given gift hampers".

Director General Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry said that one km Family Fun Race will start from Nishtar Park Sports Complex while the prize distribution ceremony will be held at Punjab Stadium. "Family musical programme will also be organized at the same venue at the conclusion of races".



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD:: The Pakistan Iran in a hard-fought 3-1 victory. team delivered another sensational performance in the 2nd land, proved to be one of the release.

The match, held in Thai-

Asian U16 Men's Volleyball most exciting contests of the Championship, overpowering tournament so far as Pakistan team beat Iran by 25-23, 25-19, 22-25, 31-29, said a press

Pakistan outplays Iran in Asian Volleyball Championship

The match's climax came in Saran. the fourth set, which turned into a fierce battle of nerves and skills. Both teams played point-for-point in an intense exchange, but Pakistan emerged victorious with an epic 31-29 finish securing the win and stamping their authority in Asian youth volleyball.

Irfan, Wahab, Abdullah and semifinal on Friday.

This victory not only sends Pakistan into the semifinals. but also reinforces their place among Asia's elite youth volleyball teams. The team's teamwork, composure, and fighting spirit have been commendable throughout the tournament.

Pakistan will now face their The key performers included traditional rivals India in the

Asadullah Hamza and Wahaj Riaz Shine in PCB Regional Inter District Senior (Karachi Region) Cricket



😂 Sports Desk

KARACHI: The 4th round of three day PCB Regional Inter District Senior (Karachi Region) begains at various Grounds

The highlights of the 1st day was deadly bowling by Zone-IV Medium Pacer Asadullah Hamza capturing 7 Wickets for 42 and Zone-II off spinner Wahaj Riaz 5 for 44.

Scores in Brief:

At KCCA Stadium Zone-VII 1st Innings 125 all-out in 38.3 overs. Qadir Khan 28, Asir Mehmood 22. Asadullah Hamza (mf) 7/42, Afnan Khan (sla) 2/32.

In reply Zone-IV close of play 181/4 in 49 overs. M. Afzal 65 9x4 1x6 not out, Imran Shah 31, Yasir Mushtaq 36 not out, Arsalan Farzand 29.

In the 2nd Match at UBL Sports Complex Zone-I $201/9\,$ in 75 overs. Malik Zain ul Abadeen 63 10 x4 not not, Ahmed Alman Shafiq 25, FarmanAhmed 22. Saifullah (ob) 3/15.

Zeeshan Zameer (mf) 2 for 36. In reply Zone-VI 30/3 Muhammad Raza (mf) 3/6.

In the 3rd Match at Bagai Cricket Ground Zone-V 179 all-out in 51.2 overs. Muhammad Abiss 43 7x4, Muhammad Ali Butt 39, Shoaib Khan 34, Muhammad Hassan Iqbal 27. Wahaj Riaz (ob) 5/44, Asad Akhtar (mf) 2/31.

In reply Zone-II 185/4 in 38 overs. Hassa Jaffri 51 9x4, zeahaj Riaz 44 6x4, Ali Hasan 36 Omar Farooq 25 both not out.

Pak cueists Asif, Hasnain qualifies for IBSF World Masters Snooker C'ships semis



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD:: Pakistani cueists Muhammad Asif and Hasnain Akhtar has qualified for the semifinals of masters and U17, of the IBSF World Masters, U17, U21 & Men 6Red Snooker Championships 2025, respectively at Manama, Bahrain.

According to details, in the Master quarterfinal, Asif beat Habib Sabah (Bahrain) 4-0 (68(68)-8, 57-37, 68(68)-8, 40(40)-8). Earlier in the Pre quarterfinals, Asif defeated Mohamed Shehab (UAE) 4-2 (56-68, 21-72, 57-21, 80(80)-0, 68-45(43),

In U17 quarterfinals, Hasnain outplayed Krzysztof Czapnik (Poland) 3-1 (1-78(57), 92(46)-1, 67(60)-45, 58-16). Earlier in the Pre quarterfinals he beat Mutasim Al Saadi (Oman) 3-0 (75-41, 56(37)-31, 81-06).

Bangladesh name T20I squad for Pakistan series

DHAKA: Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has named an unchanged squad for the upcoming three-match T20I series against Pakistan, starting July 20 at the Shere-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur.

The selectors have opted for continuity, retaining the same group of players that recently clinched a 2-1 series win over Sri Lanka on their home turf. Explaining the decision, BCB's Chairman of Cricket Oper-

ations, Najmul Abedeen Fahim, said the board is prioritising stability in the lead-up to the ICC T20 World Cup.

"It's a different matter if changes are absolutely necessary, but till the World Cup, we want consistency and to avoid unnecessary experimentation," Fahim stated.

"It's important to have stability in the squad."

Pogacar retakes Tour de France lead in crushing mountain win

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Tadej Pogacar reclaimed the leader's yellow jersey at the Tour de France with an imperious stage 12 triumph on the Hautacam mountain in the Pyrenees on Thursday.

Pogacar skipped away on an 11km solo ascent of the fabled climb to finish 2min 10sec ahead of key rival Jonas Vingegaard while overnight leader Ben Healy wilted to a 13min deficit on the

French president Emmanuel Macron was on hand at the mountaintop finish to congratulate the

Slovenian Team UAE rider. Olympic champion Remco Evenepoel dug deep after being reacts after a crash. It wasn't so

climbs to claw back level, before eventually losing 3min 35sec on the day's 180.6km ride from Auch, finishing seventh.

In the overall standings Pogacar now leads the Tour de France by 3min 31sec over Denmark's Vingegaard while Evenepoel is

third at a daunting 4min 45sec. Pogacar said after the race his team had been secretly targeting this stage for some time.

"The plan was to win this stage," he said. "I'm super happy to take time

and win on this particular climb," said the 26-vear-old who fell heavily on stage 11. "You don't know how your body

dropped on the first of three bad. The team did a super job," he said. The champion had kind words

for Irishman Healy, who had a bruising day himself. "Healy tried, he showed big

spirit. It was hard for everybody today," said Pogacar.

He also dedicated this win to Italian junior cyclist Samuele Privitera who died aged 19 following a fall at this week's Tour of the Aoste Valley-Mont Blanc

"I was thinking of him in the final kilometre. This sport can be so hard. It's so sad," Pogacar

Friday's stage 13 could shake up the standings again as it is an unforgiving individual time trial, mainly uphill, that the Slovenian

has been looking forward to.

"The race isn't over, just look at the next few stages and then there's next week too," said

Pogacar also took over the polka dot king of the mountain jersey while Jonathan Milan has the green sprint jersey and Evenepoel the best under-25's white jersey.

Overnight leader Healy took a beating on his second day defending the yellow jersey. The EF rider slipped off the pace on the first climb while doggedly trying to limit his losses.

Having described his time in vellow as a "whirlwind", Healy is now eleventh, over 13 minutes behind Pogacar.

There were three mountains on



the menu Thursday as the peloton 11.8km at 7.3 percent. entered the Pyrenees with the

A shorter Col de Borderes 3km first the Col de Soulor climb with ascent at 7.7 percent preceded

Pogacar's awesome attack on the fabled Hautacam, 13.6km at 7.8

The Spokesman

Call on

KABUL: On the sidelines of the signing ceremony for the Framework Agreement on Joint Feasibility Study of the UAP Railway Corridor, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar called on the Afghan Prime



JF-17s Thunder as PAF takes part in UK Royal Air Show

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: A contingent of the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) comprising state-of-theart JF-17 Thunder Block-III fighter aircraft and the C-130 Hercules transport aircraft, has landed at the Royal Air Force Base Fairford, United Kingdom, to participate in the prestigious Royal International Air Tattoo - 2025.

capability and the indigenous strength of its aviation



According to an ISPR state- significance of this interna- bilities and the proficiency ment released on Thursday, tional deployment, Pakistan of its air and ground crew in proven capabilities and advanced fighter aircraft and PAF's participation in RIAT, Air Force's JF-17 Thunder conducting extended opera-operational excellence have artistically painted C-130 tary airshows, underscores successful air-to-air refuelling

Adding to the operational long-range operational capa- airpower application in the has been adorned with an

one of the world's largest mili-Block-III fighters executed tions beyond national borders. Pakistan Air Force's commit-operations en route to United EASA Radar and Long ance at RIAT a highly anticment to showcasing its profes- Kingdom with the support of Range BVR equipped 4.5 ipated highlight in the aero- aviation experiences and sional excellence, operational a PAF IL-78 aerial refuelling generation multi-role fighter space and defence community. enhancing PAF's image as aircraft which is capable of The intricate refuelling undertaking wide variety of tradition of themed artistic advanced air force contriboperation demonstrated PAF's combat missions bolstering displays, PAF C-130 Hercules uting to global peace and

face of contemporary challenges thereby strengthening national security

There is a palpable sense of enthusiasm across the United Kingdom following the recent Pakistan India conflict, as aviation enthusiasts and defence observers were eagerly looking forward to the arrival of the Pakistan Air Force's JF-17 Thunder Block-III.

The aircraft's combatgarnered significant global JF-17 Block-III is an attention, making its appear- aimed at fostering mutual

exclusive livery inspired by this year's theme, "Eyes in the Skies.

The captivating design symbolizes vigilance, situational awareness and the technological edge maintained by modern air forces in ensuring global security. The striking artwork is expected to be a centre of attraction, reflecting Pakistan Air Force's creativity and operational heritage.

The participation of PAF's Hercules in RIAT-9095 is understanding, In line with RIAT's annual a modern, technologically

Dar, Afghan FM agree to maintain momentum of bilateral relations

Spokesman Report

KABUL: Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar and Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi on Thursday agreed to maintain the momentum of bilateral relations and achieve the full potential of regional economic development.

The consensus was achieved during Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar's day-long visit to Kabul.

Federal Minister for Railways Hanif Abbasi was also present during the meeting.

The two foreign ministers agreed to maintain the momentum of bilateral relations, with the meeting emphasizing strong efforts to expand cooperation in trade, transit, and security.

The two sides also agreed to tary of railways.

achieve the full potential of regional economic development, while also agreeing to complete inter-regional connectivity projects.

Earlier, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar reached Kabul where he was welcomed by Afghan deputy foreign minister. Pakistan's ambassador Abur Rehman Nizamani was also present on the occasion.

According to a Foreign Office spokesperson, during the visit, the foreign minister will sign an agreement on a joint feasibility study for the Pakistan, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan railway line.

According to the spokesperson, Ishaq Dar is accompanied by a highlevel delegation, including the special representative for Afghanistan, the minister of railways, and the secre-

IHC chief justice says he has taken measures for speedy delivery of justice

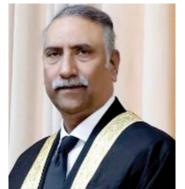
Court Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court (IHC) Chief Justice Sardar Sarfraz Dogar says he has taken measures for speedy delivery of

Addressing a ceremony in Islamabad on Thursday, Justice Dogar thanked the hosts and the participants who arrived from abroad. After taking oath as chief justice of the Islamabad High Court, he said, he formed different committees and set up special benches to solve the problems faced by the overseas Pakistanis. He said that IHC was short of staff as well as judges

IHCBA President Wajid Gilani also addressed the ceremony and welcomed Justice Dogar and other

Dogar for bridging the gap between the judges and the lawyers. He said ceremony.



he salutes Justice Dogar because he dismissed terrorism cases against

Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kiani, Justice Sardar Ijaz Ishaq Khan, Justice Saman Riffat Imtiaz, Justice Tariq Mahmood Jahangiri, He said that credit goes to Justice Justice Babar Sattar and Justice Muhammad Asif did not attend the

Aleem directs to expedite work on M-6, M-10, Kaghan & Naran highways

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan has directed the National Highway Authority (NHA) to accelerate construction work on five key infrastructure projects across the country, including the M-6 Sukkur-Hyderabad Motorway, M-10 Northern Bypass, and Kaghan-Naran roads.

Chairing a high-level



four provinces are of equal said a press release. importance and NHA must complete its developmental

The minister announced that Rs. 100 billion has been meeting on Thursday, the initiatives in line with national allocated this year for develated the performance of the minister emphasized that all priorities without any delay, opment work in Balochistan officers of NHA and issued fence in the G-B province.

on N-25 and other key road year. projects in the province. He directed that new Motorways should be constructed under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model and that projects nearing 90% completion must be finalized with specific deadlines to enable inauguration by the Prime Minister.

Highlighting the significant increase in NHA revenue, Abdul Aleem Khan appreci-

with swift action to commence new targets for the next fiscal

He directed the NHA to invest Rs. 150 billion collected from its own resources into the construction of new Highways. Aleem Khan also approved recommendations for development schemes in all four provinces and given sanction all the proposed new projects for Gilgit-Baltistan (G-B). He issued directives for the construction of wider roads, waiting areas and protective

Emergency Cabinet session to address grave consequences of continued withholding of Palestinian funds

News Desk

RAMALLAH: Communication Center - The Council of Ministers will convene an emergency session this evening, Thursday, 17 July, to discuss the risks to stability, security, and the unprecedented and serious challenges arising from the continued withholding of Palestinian clearance revenues by the Israeli occupation authorities.

The session will address the grave meeting.

repercussions this policy is having on the ability of Palestinian state insti-Government tutions to deliver essential public services, as well as on the delays in disbursing public sector salariesdevelopments that pose significant protection of the Palestinian people's resources and national institutions.

Following the session, the Cabinet will issue a statement outlining the decisions and outcomes of the

European Union and Pakistan hold 10th Political Dialogue

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The 10th Political Dialogue between the European Union (EU) and Pakistan took place on 17 July in Brussels. The Dialogue covered key issues of the to further deepen cooperation in all EU-Pakistan bilateral cooperation, as well as regional and international issues, including multilateral cooperation. Both sides agreed to deepen dialogue and discussions on security related issues.

The EU delegation was headed by Olof Skoog, Deputy Secretary General of the European External Action Service and the Pakistani delegation by Amna Baloch, Foreign both sides also exchanged views on

Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs of Pakistan. The EU and Pakistan reaffirmed their commitment to the implementation of Strategic Engagement Plan (SEP) signed in 2019. Both sides aim areas covered under the SEP. The two sides reiterated their resolve to continue close engagement under the GSP+ framework. They acknowledged the meaningful cooperation on various aspects of migration, aiming to hold the third Comprehensive Migration and Mobility Dialogue later in 2025.

Besides bilateral cooperation,



regional and global issues.

The EU and Pakistan acknowledged the importance of multifaceted cooperation on security matters, including counter-tercondemned all forms of terrorism. agreements/treaties.

Both sides agreed on the need for efforts based on dialogue and diplomacy in order to solve contentious issues and underscored the importance of upholding international rorism and counter-narcotics. They law and the sanctity of international

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Ghee mill owners threaten to close factories indefinitely

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABD: The Pakistan Vanaspati Manufacturers Association (PVMA) on Thursday criticised the recent federal government decisions and threatened to observe an indefinite strike if their demands were

Speaking to the media, Association President Sheikh Umar Rehan opposed the Federal Board of Revenue's (FBR) decision to deploy officials at ghee mills.

Umar Sheikh said the decision has caused immense pressure on the industry and created an atmosphere of fear in the business community.

He also criticised Section 37A of the mandatory transactions of more consumers.

than Rs2 lakh through banks were unacceptable to the industry.

Umar Rehan warned that if the government does not accept PVMA's demands, ghee mills across the country will be closed for an indefinite period after Friday. He said the strike will not be just

for a day but for an indefinite period, and if the talks fail, the supply of ghee and oil across the country will be completely stopped.

The association demanded that the government immediately withdraw these conditions and adopt a business-friendly policy.

Any disruption in the ghee and cooking oil sector will not only increase inflation but also affect the the Sales Tax Act, the requirement supply chain, the effects of which for digital invoices, and said that will directly reach the common