



Corruption and institutional decline in KP ...

A grand Women Workers Convention and ceremony marking the victory celebration of "Bunyan-un-Marsoos" was organized under the auspices of the Pakistan Peoples Party Women Wing Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, witnessing a large participation of women workers.

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Rana rips through Pakistan

Bangladesh beat Pakistan by 104 runs in the first match of the two-Test series at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur, Dhaka, on Tuesday. Resuming the final session at 116-3, Pakistan were bowled out for 163 in 52.5 overs.

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The Province

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Quote



With faith, discipline and selfless devotion to duty, there is nothing worthwhile that you cannot achieve. — Muhammad Ali Jinnah

News DIGEST

Qatari LNG tanker successfully crosses Hormuz to Pakistan, shows data



LONDON: A second Qatari liquefied natural gas tanker successfully went through the Strait of Hormuz on Tuesday, days after the first such cargo crossed under an arrangement involving Iran and Pakistan, highlighting how cargoes are crossing the waterway on a case-by-case basis amid ongoing conflict risks.

The vessel, Mihzem, with capacity of 174,000 cubic metres, departed Ras Laffan on Monday and crossed the strait on Tuesday, headed toward Port Qasim in Karachi where it is expected to arrive later in the day, according to LSEG shipping data.

This is the second successful passage through Hormuz for a Qatari LNG tanker since the start of the Iran war.

On Saturday, LNG tanker Al Kharaitiyat started crossing Hormuz via the Iranian-approved northern route and on Sunday it managed to cross the strait. It is currently anchored near Port Qasim, according to LSEG data.

The LNG is being sold by Qatar to Pakistan—a mediator in the US-Israeli war with Iran—under a government-to-government deal, according to two people familiar with the matter on May 9.

They said Iran had approved the shipment to help build confidence with Qatar and Pakistan.

Two more tankers laden with Qatari LNG are expected to head to Pakistan in the coming days, the sources said.

Pakistan has been in discussions with Iran to allow a limited number of LNG tankers to pass through the strait, as Islamabad urgently needs to address its gas shortage, a source briefed on the agreement told Reuters on May 9.

Iran agreed to assist, and the two sides are coordinating the first vessel's safe passage carrying gas supplied under Pakistan's agreement with Qatar, its main LNG supplier, the source added.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding food security and availability of fertilisers in the Federal Capital on Tuesday. — PHOTO: PID

PM vows full support to strengthen LEAs' capacity

Directs reforms in interior ministry institutions and enhanced capacity of police and FIA

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Tuesday, said that all available resources would be utilized to enhance the capacity of law enforcement agencies (LEAs) in order to ensure the protection of citizens' lives and property.

Chairing an important meeting to review the country's law and order situation and matters related to the Ministry of Interior, he also directed strict implemen-

tation of the government's zero-tolerance policy against corruption within law enforcement institutions.

The prime minister asked that recruitments in all departments under the interior ministry, including the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), must be conducted strictly on merit.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Ministers Syed Mohsin Naqvi, Ahsan Iqbal, Muhammad

Aurangzeb, Minister of State Talal Chaudhry, and heads of various law enforcement agencies, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. Emphasizing the need to tackle modern security challenges, the prime minister said security personnel should be equipped with advanced training and modern skills. He further directed authorities to ensure the provision of the best equipment, modern technology and professional resources to law enforcement agencies.

During the briefing, officials informed the meeting that the under-construction jail in Islamabad would become operational in September this year.

Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi briefed the meeting on the performance and future development plans of the FIA, Islamabad Police, National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA), Federal Constabulary, Capital Development Authority (CDA), and other institutions working under the Interior Ministry.

Pakistan weighs fertiliser imports from Central Asia

Farmers around the world facing the second surge in fertiliser prices in four years due to the Iran war

STAFF REPORTER

Islamabad: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed the authorities to ensure timely provision of fertiliser to farmers at all costs and ordered continuous monitoring of fertiliser supplies to safeguard the country's food security.

The prime minister chaired an important meeting on food security and fertiliser reserves, a statement issued by the PM's Office read.

The development came as farmers around the world are facing the second surge in fertiliser prices in four years due to the Iran war. But with grain prices too low to cushion the blow from the deeper supply crunch this time around, many are rethinking planting plans, putting global food production at risk, according to Reuters.

The Middle East is a leading fertiliser production hub, and much of the global fertiliser trade typically passes through the Strait of Hormuz, which has seen traf-

fic brought to a standstill by the conflict. Supplies of urea — a nitrogen-based fertiliser — from the world's largest production facility in Qatar have been halted, and flows of sulphur and ammonia, common inputs for a range of fertilisers, have also been curbed.

The PMO statement quoted the premier as saying that the agricultural sector's requirements were the government's top priority to ensure food security in the country.

He directed the relevant ministries and institutions to formulate plans for alternative fertiliser supplies from Central Asian states in view of possible disruptions in supply chains from Gulf countries.

The prime minister also instructed the authorities to ensure sufficient fertiliser stocks for both Kharif and Rabi crop seasons and emphasised accelerating work on projects aimed at increasing local fertiliser production through the installation of new plants.

Obstruction of meetings with Imran Khan violates constitution: Shafi Jan

Curfew-Like Situation Outside Adiala Jail Reflects Punjab Government's Authoritarian Conduct, CM's aide on information

STAFF REPORTER

Peshawar: Special Assistant to the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Information and Public Relations, Shafi Jan, has stated that today was the schedule day for family members and lawyers to meet PTI founding chairman Imran Khan in accordance with court orders. However, he said that once again no one was allowed to meet him, describing the move as a blatant violation of judicial directives.

He said that repeatedly obstructing meetings with Imran Khan amounts to a violation of the Constitution, the rule of law, and democratic values, calling the situation deeply regrettable and condemnable.

Shafi Jan said that Chief Minister Sohail Afridi, along with members of the National and Provincial Assemblies, was present outside Adiala Jail to express solidarity with Imran Khan and

his family. He added that after being denied permission for the meeting, Chief Minister Sohail Afridi and other elected parliamentarians staged a peaceful sit-in protest outside the jail. He further stated that Chief Minister Sohail Afridi, party leaders, family members, and lawyers have been denied access to Imran Khan for several months. According to him, restrictions on peaceful political activities and repeated hurdles in arranging meetings with Imran Khan are reflective of an authoritarian style of governance.

He emphasized that meetings between Imran Khan and political leaders, family members, and legal counsel are a constitutional and legal right that cannot be denied under any circumstances.

Shafi Jan stated that the federal and Punjab governments, which he said lack a genuine public mandate, have kept Imran Khan in solitary confinement, terming it a serious violation of fundamental human rights and an extreme example of political

victimization. He further said that the imposition of Section 144 in Rawalpindi on the day scheduled for meetings with Imran Khan demonstrates the Punjab government's fear of the incarcerated PTI founder. He described the atmosphere outside Adiala Jail as curfew-like, with roads sealed and heavy restrictions in place, which he said reflected political insecurity within the Punjab government.

He said that despite clear court orders, the Punjab government is continuing to employ underhanded tactics to obstruct meetings with Imran Khan.

Shafi Jan also said that the federal and Punjab governments have deprived both Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi of adequate medical facilities.

He added that the federal and Punjab governments are resorting to political revenge in an attempt to hide their failures in governance. He reiterated that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf is a peaceful and democratic political party that believes in the supremacy of the Constitution and the rule of law.

He concluded by stating that the legal, democratic, and peaceful struggle for constitutional supremacy and the release of Imran Khan will continue.

CM Afridi, PTI leadership denied access to meet Imran Khan at Adiala Jail

Pakistan is currently facing grave challenges, with constitutional and legal supremacy visibly eroding and the national economy descending into deeper crisis

STAFF REPORTER

RAWALPINDI: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Muhammad Sohail Afridi, while speaking to the media outside Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi on Tuesday, stated that Pakistan is currently facing grave challenges, with constitutional and legal supremacy visibly eroding and the national economy descending into deeper crisis.

He noted that the country's internal and external debt burden has surged to Rs. 81 trillion, pushing Pakistan further into economic instability and dependence. The Chief Minister said that the deteriorating

security situation is a direct consequence of the failed policies of the imposed rulers.

Despite 22 major and over 14,000 intelligence based operations, terrorism continues to intensify, clearly demonstrating the ineffectiveness of the prevailing security approach. He further observed that the country's youth are increasingly compelled to leave Pakistan in search of opportunities abroad, while investors are also withdrawing their capital due to uncertainty and instability.

Despite these pressing national challenges, he regretted that the government appears preoccupied not with addressing public welfare, economic recovery, insti-

tutional reform, or the worsening security situation, but rather with restricting access to former Prime Minister Imran Khan. He stated that repeated efforts are being made to prevent meetings between Imran Khan and his family members, legal team, and party leadership, despite court orders and established legal procedures.

He further alleged that access to independent medical consultation is being obstructed, while attempts are also being made to deny him treatment in the presence of his personal physicians and close family members.

The Chief Minister maintained that such actions raise serious concerns regarding transparency, constitutional rights, humanitarian considerations, and adherence to due legal process, particularly at a time when the country requires political stability, institutional credibility, and national cohesion.

Responding to a question regarding



reports of negotiations or a possible political deal, the Chief Minister remarked that those propagating such narratives appear disconnected from the ground realities despite presenting themselves as senior journalists. Replying to a question regarding the health of Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi, the Chief Minister stated that the situation is evident before the entire nation.

He said that where governments disregard the Constitution and law, paralyze institutions, and introduce unconstitutional amendments to eliminate all obstacles in their path, expectations of justice become increasingly difficult to sustain.

He added that when judicial institutions are rendered ineffective or their decisions are not implemented in letter and spirit, ordinary citizens are left with no meaningful forum through which they can seek justice, protection of their constitutional rights, or legal remedy against state excesses.

The SPACE

DC directs to intensify anti dengue drive

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOHAT: Deputy Commissioner Kohat Muhammad Nawaz Wazir chaired a high-level meeting on Tuesday to review emergency measures against the Dengue Virus, directing all relevant departments to accelerate prevention and awareness campaigns across the district.

Officials from the district administration, health, education and municipal departments attended the meeting, where authorities briefed the participants on availability of medicines, spraying equipment and ongoing field operations aimed at containing the spread of Dengue.

The meeting was informed that anti-dengue activities were underway in multiple areas while public awareness efforts would be expanded to educate residents about preventive measures.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the officials to display awareness banners in mosques, union councils and government offices, ensure the cleaning of water tanks and educate schoolchildren about dengue prevention during morning assemblies.

KP housing department holds khuli katcheri

NEWSHERA: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Housing Department held a "Khuli Katcheri" yesterday at the Jalozai Housing Scheme in Nowshera. The event was attended by Additional Secretary Housing Jamshed Khan, the Additional Director General of the KP Housing Authority, and other relevant officials, alongside Jalozai landowners and allottees of the NAPHDA high-rise flats. During the session, attendees voiced their concerns and shared various suggestions and feedback with the authorities. The public lauded the department's initiative and urged officials to hold such hearings every month to ensure their grievances reach a logical conclusion. Jamshed assured the participants that all issues would be resolved through the appropriate forums. He issued directives to the legal team to take timely action regarding constitutional and judicial matters. He further stated that the department is streamlining the process for payments to landowners and is actively working to secure a special grant from the provincial government for this purpose.

Commissioner announces recruitment of 313 health professionals in Dera

MUHAMMAD REHAN

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Commissioner Dera Division Dawood Khan has said that the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is in the final stages of recruiting 153 medical officers, 127 nurses, and 33 dental surgeons to ensure timely and quality healthcare services at Basic Health Units (BHUs) across Dera Division.

Talking to the media in his office, the commissioner said the initiative aims to improve healthcare facilities in rural and backward areas and provide treatment facilities at the doorstep of the public. Assistant to Commissioner (Political and Development) Sajjad Baloch was also present on the occasion.

Commissioner Dawood Khan said that, on the directives of the provincial government, commissioners across the province were appointed as chairmen of recruitment committees to ensure transparent and merit-based hiring. He added that each committee also included seven ad-



ditional members.

He said candidates were provided with proper seating arrangements, a cool environment, and protection from extreme heat during the interview process. Candidates unable to appear physically due to unavoidable circumstances were also facilitated through online interviews to ensure fairness and equal opportunity.

The commissioner clarified that all appointments are being made strictly on merit through a transparent process. He added that after the completion of these recruitments, the shortage of doctors, nurses, and dental surgeons at BHUs and other health centres would largely be overcome, enabling the public to receive timely and quality medical care.

PESCO admin issued orders in response to the charter of demand presented by the Wapda Hydro Union

PESHAWAR: The PESCO administration has issued formal written orders on the spot, while implementing the charter of demand presented by the union. According to the details, the PESCO administration, in the best interest of the welfare of the workers and the consumers, has decided to provide scholarship, marriage grant, and HHU allowance for the meter readers community under the leadership of Director General H. Arsiyab Ahmed, Chief Engineer PMU Habib-ur-Rehman Marwat, Manager HR Zahoor-ur-Rehman Marwat, Director Finance Yasir Naseem, and Al-Pakistan WAPDA Hydro Electric Workers Union Central Vice President and Provincial Chairman Haji Muhammad, Central Chairman Gohar Taj, Provincial Secretary Noor-ul-Amin Haiderzai, Vice Chairman Yasir Kamran.

Corruption and institutional decline in KP caused serious public hardships, says Rubina Khalid

Pakistan Peoples Party Women Wing KP Hold Women Workers Convention, Celebrates Victory of "Bunyan-un-Marsoos": Senator Rubina Khalid

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR: A grand Women Workers Convention and ceremony marking the victory celebration of "Bunyan-un-Marsoos" was organized under the auspices of the Pakistan Peoples Party Women Wing Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, witnessing a large participation of women workers.

The event was attended by Senator Rubina Khalid, Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme and President of PPP Women Wing Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, as the chief guest.

Members of the Provincial Assembly, including Vice President Women Wing KP Ashbar Jadoon, Mehr Sultana, Shazia Tahmas, and other speakers addressed the convention and paid tribute to the Pakistan Peoples Party's political struggle, commitment to women's rights, and services for national stability.

Addressing the convention, Senator

Rubina Khalid said that the Pakistan Peoples Party has always taken practical steps for the empowerment of women. She stated that the Benazir Income Support Programme is a revolutionary initiative for women's economic independence, through which financial assistance is being provided to millions of deserving women across the country.

She added that, in line with the vision of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, empowering women economically remains a top priority of the Pakistan Peoples Party. She said that PPP is the only political party that has given women a strong role not only in politics but also in the economic sector. She further noted that the Benazir Income Support Programme has become the country's largest social protection initiative, serving as a ray of hope for poor and deserving women.

During the event, the victory anniversary of "Bunyan-un-Marsoos" was also celebrated with great enthusiasm.



Speakers termed the achievement a symbol of national unity, strong defense, and public confidence in the country's political and military leadership. They said the entire nation takes pride in this success and reaffirmed their commitment to continue working for national development, democratic stability, and public service.

Senator Rubina Khalid said that the growing international confidence in Pakistan's political and military leadership is a continuation of the achievements associated with "Bunyan-un-Marsoos," and added that the nation stands united

to carry this journey forward. She also criticized the governance situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, stating that during the past thirteen years, poor governance has weakened institutions and promoted corruption. She said that public institutions have lost efficiency, resulting in serious difficulties for the people.

At the conclusion of the convention, Senator Rubina Khalid thanked the party workers and the public, stating that PPP workers are the real strength of the party and their struggle forms the foundation of its success and continued public support.

KP Law Officer Welfare Association shows concern over worsening law & order

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Law Officer Welfare Association while expressing its grave concern over the rapidly worsening law and order situation in the southern districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, has demanded of the government to deal with the anti state elements with an iron hand. The Association condemned the recent terrorist attacks in Bannu Division, Lakki Marwat, Tank, and Dera Ismail Khan. The Association notes with grave concern that the persistent incidents of terrorism, targeted attacks, and violence have created an atmosphere of fear and insecurity among the people, severely affecting normal civil life and the smooth functioning of the state institutions. The Association termed such acts as heinous crime against humanity and asked the government for an early and decisive response. The Association calls upon the Federal Government, the Provincial Government, and all concerned law enforcement and security agencies to adopt urgent, coordinated, and effective measures to restore lasting peace, strengthen security, and ensure the protection of life and property in the affected districts. The writ of the state must be established without any further delay, the Association maintained. The Association further appealed to all members of the legal fraternity, law officers, and attorneys across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to stand united and pray for lasting peace and stability in the province, for the martyrs who lost their lives in these tragic incidents, and for the speedy recovery of the injured. Staff Reporter

Work on Jabbi road starts through funds of Shafi Jan



OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOHAT: Construction work on the Jabbi Road in Kohat has formally been started under the development funds provided by the Special Assistant to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister on Information and Public Relations Shafi Jan and Member of the National Assembly Shehryar Afridi.

Authorities described the road project as a long-standing public demand, adding that its completion is expected to significantly improve the transportation and reduce travel difficulties faced by residents, particularly patients, students and elderly citizens.

Local residents welcomed the launch of the project, calling it an important step

toward resolving persistent infrastructure problems in the area.

In a separate development, a solarization project at Government Girls Degree College Usterzai has also been completed through the same development funds, ensuring uninterrupted electricity supply to the institution.

College administration said the initiative would help eliminate the impact of power outages and improve the academic environment, enabling students to continue educational activities more effectively.

Residents and parents termed both the projects positive developments and expressed the hope that similar initiatives in education and infrastructure would continue in the future.

Integrated Health Project employees' salaries will be paid soon: Secretary Health

HEALTH REPORTER

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Secretary Shahid Ullah Khan encouraged all employees of the Integrated Health Project Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and said that their salaries would be paid soon. He urged them to avoid any negative propaganda and continue performing their duties diligently. He clarified that the provincial government is very serious about paying the salaries of all Health Department employees on time, but sometimes certain difficulties and complications arise that affect employees. However, this does not mean that the Health Department is neglecting its responsibilities.



After rising accidents

Aftab orders immediate fixes on Kohat-Gumbat bypass

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister on Law and Parliamentary Affairs Aftab Alam has on Tuesday ordered immediate corrective measures on the Kohat-Gumbat Bypass after a series of traffic accidents, warning contractor of strict action over what he described as serious technical flaws and poor safety arrangements.

During a detailed inspection of the Bypass alongside former Gumbat Chairman Sajid Iqbal and local administrative officials, the Minister reviewed the road's construction quality, traffic flow and safety measures. He expressed strong displeasure over deficiencies in the project and directed the contractor to remove all technical faults without delay.

"Human lives cannot be put at risk because of poor planning and negligence," Aftab Alam said during the visit, adding that recurring accidents on the bypass



reflected substandard construction and inadequate safety precautions.

The Minister warned that failure to address the identified flaws would result in strict action against those responsible. He also directed the authorities to ensure immediate installation of safety measures on the road to prevent further loss of life.

Local residents also raised concerns over frequent accidents on the Bypass during the visit, urging the government to take urgent steps. In response, the Minister assured the public that complaints would be addressed on priority basis and all shortcomings in the project would be rectified promptly.

Condolence reference held by Karwan-e-Hawa in memory of Shamim Fazal

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR: Shamim Fazal Khaliq, an executive member of Karwan-e-Hawa Literary Forum and a distinguished writer, poet, and fiction author, held a unique place in the literary world due to her scholarship, grace, and admirable human qualities. She began writing at a young age and continued serving literature through her pen until her last breath. News of her sudden passing cast a deep shadow of grief across literary circles.

In recognition of her literary contributions, Karwan-e-Hawa Literary Forum organized a condolence reference yesterday. The event was presided over by the Forum's Chairperson and Presidential Award-winning writer, Bushra Farrukh. Office-bearers, members of the forum, and the family of the late Shamim Fazal Khaliq attended the gathering and paid tribute to her personality, literary services, and memorable qualities.

Bushra Farrukh said that Shamim Fazal Khaliq was a simple, gracious, and



unassuming woman. According to her, Shamim was not only an outstanding writer but also an exceptionally refined and sincere human being.

Narjis Afroz Zaidi described her as a saintly soul and remarked that one could never tell from meeting her that she was such a great writer.

Shamshad Nazli said that in all the years of their companionship, she never found a single flaw in Shamim Fazal Khaliq, calling her a personification of virtues.

Shahida Sardar, in an emotional voice, said that her heart still refused to accept

that Shamim Fazal Khaliq was no longer among them. She added that Shamim was a beautiful person both inwardly and outwardly.

Dr. Roshan Kaleem shared that Shamim Fazal Khaliq always cared deeply about her friends and, even during illness, did not want anyone to worry about her.

Faiza Shehzad said that she had always addressed her as "Shamim Apa," and that Shamim treated her with the affection and kindness of an elder sister. Her humility, modesty, and warmth, she said, would always be remembered.

Samina Qadir said that throughout their long friendship, Shamim Fazal Khaliq never spoke ill of anyone. She was a truthful, genuine, and dignified woman.

Nilofar Sami noted that she could not recall Shamim Fazal Khaliq ever hurting anyone's feelings or engaging in an unpleasant argument. She always dealt with others with sincerity and affection.

Shaheen Amin said that Shamim Fazal Khaliq was not only a beautiful personality but also a woman of exceptional character who always met others with love and warmth.

Tabinda Farrukh offered prayers for the departed soul, while at the conclusion of the event, Bushra Farrukh recited a few verses from her ghazal dedicated to Shamim Fazal Khaliq's daughter, Andaleeb Fazal Khaliq.

At the end of the condolence reference, all participants prayed for the elevation of Shamim Fazal Khaliq's ranks in the hereafter and for patience and strength for her family. They then returned home with heavy hearts.

AC visits Tehsil Press Club Takht Nusrati

RAUF KHATTAK

KARAK: Newly appointed Assistant Commissioner Takht Nusrati, Shamim Ullah paid a special visit to Tehsil Press Club Takht Nusrati located at Ambiri Kallah, where President Rauf Khattak, General Secretary Lal Siddiq and other office-bearers and members warmly welcomed him. On this occasion, the distinguished guest was presented with floral garlands and greeted with enthusiastic slogans of welcome.

During the visit, Assistant Commissioner Shamim Ullah was given a detailed briefing regarding the various sections, offices, and journalistic activities of the Press Club. President Rauf Khattak highlighted the overall performance of the Press Club, the facilities being provided to journalists, and the initiatives taken for the promotion of regional journalism.

On this occasion, President Rauf Khattak presented a special ceremonial "Sword" to Assistant Commissioner



Shamim Ullah as a souvenir of his visit to the Press Club. The Assistant Commissioner thanked the President and cabinet members for the honor and warm hospitality, describing it as a beautiful reflection of local traditions, respect, and brotherhood.

Assistant Commissioner Shamim Ullah appreciated the building, discipline, cleanliness, and management of Tehsil Press Club Takht Nusrati and stated that journalists are the eyes and ears of society, playing a vital role in highlighting public issues and bringing them before the authorities. He further emphasized that positive cooperation between the district administration and the journalist community is the need of the hour.



ABBOTTABAD: Students of the Government Primary School in Majhot, which was destroyed in the earthquake of October 8, 2005, are still studying under the open sky. PHOTO: ONLINE

News BRIEFS

Kohat administration on high alert as anti-dengue drive intensifies

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOHAT: Deputy Commissioner Kohat Muhammad Nawaz Wazir chaired a high-level meeting on Tuesday to review emergency measures against the Dengue Virus, directing all relevant departments to accelerate prevention and awareness campaigns across the district.

Officials from the district administration, health, education and municipal departments attended the meeting, where authorities briefed the participants on availability of medicines, spraying equipment and ongoing field operations aimed at containing the spread of Dengue.

The meeting was informed that anti-dengue activities were underway in multiple areas while public awareness efforts would be expanded to educate residents about preventive measures.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the officials to display awareness banners in mosques, union councils and government offices, ensure the cleaning of water tanks and educate schoolchildren about dengue prevention during morning assemblies.

Assistant commissioners were also directed to launch special awareness campaigns in their respective areas and ensure coordinated action among all departments to curb the spread of virus effectively.

Every child vaccinated brings Pakistan closer to a polio-free future



OUR CORRESPONDENT

KARACHI: "Every child vaccinated today brings Pakistan one step closer to a polio-free future," said Ayesha Raza Farooq, the Prime Minister's Focal Person on Polio, during her visit to a school in District South Karachi on Tuesday as part of the ongoing polio booster dose campaign.

She interacted with children, teachers, parents, and frontline polio workers, and reviewed campaign activities aimed at strengthening immunity among children up to 10 years of age in selected Union Councils of Karachi from May 12 to May 24.

Speaking on the occasion, Ayesha Raza Farooq said Karachi's dense population and constant movement of people make it essential to further strengthen children's immunity against poliovirus through the booster dose campaign. "The booster dose campaign is an important step towards protecting children and closing immunity gaps, especially among older age groups who can also carry and transmit the virus," she said. She urged parents to fully cooperate with vaccination teams and ensure all eligible children receive the booster dose during the campaign. The PM's Focal Person appreciated the dedication and hard work of frontline polio workers, supervisors, and social mobilisers participating in the campaign.

"Our frontline workers continue to serve communities with commitment and courage. Their efforts are critical in protecting children from lifelong disability," she said. Ayesha Raza Farooq also acknowledged the support of schools, teachers, and education institutions for helping create awareness among parents and communities.

Media Workers' exploitation sparks announcement of nationwide protest movement

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR: A crucial meeting was held at the Peshawar Press Club under the auspices of the Khyber Union of Journalists, in which severe concern and anger were expressed over the continuous dismissal of working journalists, video journalists, and other media workers across the country, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, along with non-payment of salaries, forced resignations, and financial exploitation

of media workers.

The meeting was attended by office bearers of the Khyber Union of Journalists and the Peshawar Press Club, along with a large number of senior journalists and media workers. The participants unanimously decided to launch a province-wide protest movement starting Friday, which will include demonstrations, rallies, and other forms of peaceful protest.

The meeting demanded that government advertisements issued by the Information Department be



linked to media organizations that are not paying salaries to their employees or are illegally terminating them. Participants said that

such media houses should be immediately stopped from receiving government advertisements, and the reinstatement of dismissed

journalists along with payment of outstanding dues must be ensured. Among other demands, the

immediate implementation of the Journalists Protection Bill, its enforcement in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and the withdrawal of all cases registered against journalists under the PECA Act were also highlighted.

The meeting also demanded the immediate posting of an I.T.N.E judge in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to facilitate resolution of legal issues faced by journalists and media workers, noting that many cases are pending due to its absence.

KP Govt plans strict security, facilitation measures ahead of Eid-ul-Adha

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR: Comprehensive arrangements have been directed across the province for security, cleanliness, traffic management, tourist facilitation, emergency response and timely disposal of sacrificial animal waste during Eid-ul-Azha 2026.

According to directives issued from the office of the Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, all Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, Police, Rescue 1122, local government bodies, Health Department, Livestock Department, Tourism Department and other relevant institutions have been instructed to ensure special arrangements before and during Eid holidays.

Authorities have been directed to make strict security and crowd management arrangements at Eidgahs, mosques, Imambargahs, markets and cattle markets in all districts.

Only officially approved cattle markets will be allowed to operate, while action will be taken against illegal cattle markets set up on roads, bridges and in residential areas. Major cattle markets will be

provided with parking facilities, drinking water, shade, lighting and complaint redressal services.

The Livestock Department will ensure inspection, vaccination and disease prevention measures for sacrificial animals, while public awareness campaigns will also be launched regarding identification of sick animals and precautionary measures.

Strict monitoring of transport fares, action against profiteering, hoarding and underweight selling have also been directed. Hotels, bakeries, sweet shops and other food outlets will also be inspected.

Local government institutions and Water and Sanitation Services Companies have been instructed to launch special cleanliness campaigns during Eid days for timely collection and safe disposal of animal waste and offal. Dumping of waste in canals, streams and public places will be prohibited.

Police have been directed to remain on high alert before and during Eid at markets, tourist destinations and public gatherings. Special action will be taken against one-wheeling, aerial firing, over-

speeding and motorcyclists riding without helmets.

In tourist districts, authorities will ensure implementation of traffic plans and availability of fuel, food and drinking water, while help desks will also be established at key tourist spots. Strict implementation of safety SOPs at rivers, lakes and dams has been ordered, and boating without life jackets will not be allowed.

The Health Department has been directed to keep emergency services, X-ray units, pharmacies, ambulances and trauma facilities operational round the clock in all hospitals.

District administrations have also been instructed to establish 24/7 control rooms and widely publicize helpline numbers through media and social media platforms.

The Information Department has been tasked with running awareness campaigns regarding Eid arrangements, traffic diversions, tourist advisories, emergency numbers, cleanliness and public safety, while immediate rebuttal of fake and panic-spreading news on social media has also been directed.

Smuggling network busted in Keamari

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KARACHI: Police operations against smuggling networks, illegal transportation and organized crime continue across the city, Keamari Police carrying out a major crackdown on smuggling activities. During ongoing coordinated operations against illegal trade and contraband movement, investigators have uncovered the use of unconventional methods by smugglers attempting to evade law enforcement agencies.

According to police officials, Mochko Police acting on confidential intelligence intercepted a cash delivery van belonging to a private security company near the Mochko Check Post. During a thorough search of the vehicle, authorities recovered a large consignment of smuggled foreign cigarettes concealed inside the van.

Police said that approximately 8,000 packets of foreign cigarettes were seized. The estimated value of the confiscated cigarettes runs into millions of rupees. In addition to the contraband, police also recovered cash amounting to 1 Crore, 48 lac and 24 thousand rupees from the vehicle. Initial investigations revealed that the smuggled cigarettes were being transported from Hub, Balochistan to Karachi.



The driver, supervisor and security guards present inside the vehicle were taken into custody. The seized cigarettes, cash and the vehicle have been taken into police possession and handed over to Customs authorities for further legal proceedings.

Sindh Interior Minister Zia ul Hassan Janjar praised Keamari Police for the suc-

cessful operation, stating that smugglers are now adopting new tactics to avoid detection but Sindh Police will continue to foil their attempts. He said the use of a private security company's vehicle for smuggling posed a serious challenge for law enforcement agencies, adding that the timely action by Keamari Police had exposed a major smuggling network.

National unity rally held by National Youth Parliament Pakistan to celebrate victory of "Bunyan-un-Marsoos"; strong solidarity expressed with Pakistan Army

Patriotic rally marches from Assembly Chowk to Qila Bala Hisar with massive participation of youth

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR: National Youth Parliament Pakistan organized a grand National Unity Rally to celebrate the anniversary of the victory of "Bunyan-un-Marsoos." The rally started from Peshawar Assembly Chowk and concluded at Qila Bala Hisar, drawing a large number of youth, social activists, and citizens from different walks of life.

The rally was led by Chairman Danish Ahmad Khan, Chief Organizer Ehsan Elahi, Youth Speaker Burhanuddin, Youth Opposition Parliamentary Leader Mangal Khan Mohmand, Organizer Peshawar

Rahman Khan, HAMDAD AHMED and Youth MNA of National Youth Parliament Pakistan, Ameenullah.

Participants carried national flags and chanted slogans in support of the Pakistan Armed Forces. During the rally, rich tribute was paid to the brave soldiers of Pakistan, the defenders of the homeland, and the historic achievements that brought pride to the nation.

Addressing the participants, speakers stated that the success of "Bunyan-un-Marsoos" symbolizes national unity, stability, and strong defense, adding that the entire Pakistani nation takes

pride in this achievement. They said Pakistan is emerging as a strong, dignified, and secure state in the world due to its strong institutions and visionary leadership.

Chairman National Youth Parliament Pakistan, Danish Ahmad Khan, paid glowing tribute to Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal General Syed Asim Munir for his leadership qualities, courageous decisions, and services for national security. He said the Pakistani nation is proud of its brave armed forces and military leadership.

He further stated that under the visionary leadership of Field Marshal General Syed Asim Munir, Pakistan has become stronger not only in defense but has also gained greater respect and recognition at the international level.



Speakers emphasized that Pakistan is currently in strong and secure hands, and the entire nation stands shoulder to shoulder with its military and national leadership. They reaffirmed their commitment to continue working for national development, democratic stability, national security, and public service.

They further added that the youth of National Youth Parliament Pakistan will always stand with the armed forces, national security institutions, and the motherland, and will continue to play their role alongside national institutions during every challenging time.

The rally remained peaceful, organized, and full of patriotic spirit, while participants raised enthusiastic slogans in favor of Pakistan's security, unity, and stability.

Mirage of Security

ATTIYA MUNAWER

Terrorism incidents have been increasing in Pakistan over the past few years. There are several causes for the rise in terrorist events, of which the establishment of the Taliban interim government in Kabul and the Taliban regime's soft corner for the TTP are the biggest reasons. Its effects are visible in the form of an increase in terrorist incidents in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. Both these provinces are lagging behind in development compared to the rest of the country and are suffering from resource deprivation. This is also seen as a trigger for terrorist incidents. That is why the Prime Minister says that peace and development in Pakistan will be possible only when all four provinces are equal partners in the race for economic development and fight terrorism together.

Certainly, the target of terrorism is Pakistan, the sanctuary is Afghanistan and the financier is India, while our actions against terrorism have been less in practice and more in words. Due to this, Pakistan ranked second in the Global Terrorism Index 2025 with a score of 8.374. There is much talk about combating terrorism, unifying against it and eliminating it, yet the causes of terrorism are not addressed, nor are actual efforts made to avoid it. Both Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan have been hardest hit by terrorism, as well as the most vulnerable to unemployment, poverty and social backwardness. No national security strategy can be successful until steps are taken to create employment opportunities in these underprivileged areas and improve the economic, educational and social conditions of the people. It is believed that terrorists can be eliminated through operational actions by the security forces, but to uproot extremism from society, people will have to be developed economically, socially and educationally. The main objective of merging the Federally Administered Tribal Areas into the province was to link these areas along the Afghan border with the province economically, politically and administratively, and for the provincial government to directly oversee the affairs of these areas. However, the objectives of merging FATA into the province could not be achieved. The education, health and employment opportunities that were desperately needed could not be provided in such areas.

The federal government and other provinces have certainly pledged to contribute from the distributable revenue to the development of the tribal belt, but what was necessary to bring the development of the tribal belt and this important strategic, mineral resource-rich region at par with the rest of the country has not been accomplished or is not being done. There is a dire need for strong and effective governance, public facilities and development opportunities in the tribal belt to prevent infiltration from Afghanistan. This will prove to be the country's first strong line of defence against terrorism. Despite this, little is being thought of or done. So how can infiltration be stopped and how can terrorism be eradicated?

There is no doubt that combating terrorism and extremism is possible through national unity and solidarity. In this regard, political parties need to think and act beyond differences on matters of national importance. Whatever the nature of the political differences between the provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the federal government, it is imperative for the province and the federation to be on the same page to deal with the security challenges and terrorism in the province. But all leadership, institutions and the public will be on the same page only when they all sit together and formulate and adopt a common strategy. If, on one side, there is talk of an operation against terrorists and, on the other side, there is talk of not conducting an operation, then how will unity emerge and how can terrorism be fought unitedly? In such a scenario, there is no need for either side to be egoistic or show stubbornness. If it is a matter of national affairs, then decisions and actions need to be taken that rise above personal interests. There is a dire need for a conciliatory attitude to confront the challenges of terrorism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which has not been seen so far. Therefore, it is important that the new strategy to be developed for counterterrorism should not be limited to the use of force alone, but should also take into account political aspects and public opinion. Political stability is essential for success against terrorism, as the Prime Minister has also expressed, and this can only be established by bringing all stakeholders together on a single platform. Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has taken a good step in this regard. The Punjab Chief Minister has not only promised to ensure full implementation of the National Action Plan in collaboration with other provinces, but has also announced an operation against terrorists and their facilitators in her province. Only through such practical steps can terrorism be eradicated and peace established in the country.

Pak-US Deepen Diplomatic Coordination

Ishaq Dar met US Chargé d'Affaires Natalie A. Baker to review bilateral relations

JUNAID QAISER



“Pakistan's parallel diplomatic engagement with Saudi Arabia further underlines Islamabad's balancing approach. Dar's contact with Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud showed that Gulf countries also recognize the dangers of renewed instability around the Strait of Hormuz

Pakistan and the United States held high-level discussions in Islamabad on Monday as Deputy PM and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar met US Chargé d'Affaires Natalie A. Baker to review bilateral relations, regional developments and ongoing diplomatic efforts linked to Iran. According to official details, the meeting focused on the evolving regional situation and the broader Pakistan-US bilateral relationship amid growing diplomatic activity in the Middle East and South Asia. The discussions also covered matters of mutual interest and the wider security environment in the region.

The meeting came at a time of heightened international attention on diplomatic engagement between Washington and Tehran, with Pakistan highlighting its role in facilitating communication between the United States and Iran. During the talks, Ishaq Dar underlined Islamabad's efforts in supporting diplomatic channels aimed at reducing tensions and promoting dialogue. At a moment when the region is once again standing dangerously close to another cycle of confrontation, Pakistan appears determined to present itself not as a spectator, but as a responsible diplomatic actor trying to prevent the situation from spiraling further.

There is a reason why Islamabad's role matters. The current tensions between Washington and Tehran are not confined to two capitals alone. Every escalation in the Gulf immediately affects oil markets, maritime security, regional economies and political stability across Asia. Countries like Pakistan cannot afford another prolonged crisis in the Middle East. Economic uncertainty, rising energy prices and security disruptions have consequences far beyond the battlefield rhetoric dominating international headlines.

Dar's remarks reflected a pragmatic understanding of this reality. Pakistan is not attempting to impose itself as a power broker, but rather as a state willing to keep communication channels alive when direct trust between larger actors continues to erode. In modern diplomacy, that role is often more valuable than dramatic public statements. Sometimes preventing silence between rivals becomes the first step toward preventing conflict itself.

The timing of the diplomatic engagement is also significant. President Donald Trump's rejection of Tehran's latest response to a proposed settlement framework has deepened fears that negotiations may once again collapse under political pressure and strategic mistrust. Trump's remarks describing the ceasefire as being on "massive life support" only reinforced the perception that both sides remain deeply divided, not just over policy details but over the broader direction of future relations.

Pakistan's continued engagement suggests there is still

recognition among several countries that escalation is neither inevitable nor beneficial. Islamabad's contacts with Gulf capitals, the United States and international stakeholders indicate a broader effort to keep diplomacy alive even as military pressure and political tensions continue to rise.

The meeting between Ishaq Dar and Natalie Baker also reflected another important reality: Pakistan-US relations are evolving beyond old frameworks. For years, the relationship was narrowly viewed through the lens of security cooperation and Afghanistan. Today, however, regional diplomacy, economic coordination and strategic stability are becoming increasingly central to bilateral engagement. The discussions in Islamabad highlighted that both countries still see value in maintaining communication despite shifting geopolitical priorities.

Equally noteworthy was Dar's appreciation of American assistance in facilitating the repatriation of Pakistani and Iranian seafarers through Singapore. While overshadowed by larger geopolitical developments, humanitarian cooperation often reveals the practical side of diplomacy that rarely receives enough attention. In periods of regional tension, even limited coordination on humanitarian matters can help maintain a minimum level of trust between states.

Pakistan's parallel diplomatic engagement with Saudi Arabia further underlines Islamabad's balancing approach. Dar's contact with Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud showed that Gulf countries also recognize the dangers of renewed instability around the Strait of Hormuz. Maritime security remains a shared concern because any disruption there would immediately affect global trade and energy flows. Pakistan's effort to remain engaged with all sides reflects a foreign policy increasingly focused on stability rather than alignment politics.

What Islamabad is doing goes way beyond just routine diplomacy. In a world where major powers are stuck in a cycle of confrontation and distrust, Pakistan has stepped up as a crucial player, actively working to keep the lines of communication open and negotiations alive between Iran and the United States. No doubt it's a serious regional initiative aimed at preventing another dangerous escalation in the Middle East. By facilitating dialogue, collaborating with Gulf partners, and keeping channels open with both Washington and Tehran, Pakistan is positioning itself right at the heart of efforts to ease tensions and guide the crisis toward conversation instead of conflict.

In many ways, Ishaq Dar's message was simple: continued engagement is better than confrontation, and communication remains essential even when political differences seem impossible to bridge. In a region exhausted by wars, sanctions and instability, that may be the most sensible position any country can take today.

Compute Is the New Oil

BILAL BIN SAQIB

Oil. Natural gas. Rare earths. Each one followed the same trajectory. Physical scarcity first. Then commodity pricing. Then futures markets. Then institutional allocation at scale. The cycle compressed each time. What took a century, gas did in 40 years. Rare earths in 20. Compute is on the same path. We are, right now, at the inflection point between commodity and futures. The window to build the infrastructure layer for that transition is open. It will not stay open for long.

That is not a software company scaling on zero marginal cost. That is a physical resource becoming industrial. The same revenue trajectory appeared in oil in the early 1970s, in rare earths in the early 2000s. The pattern is the same. The compression is faster.

The four largest hyperscalers spent a combined ~\$410 billion on capital expenditures in 2025. 2026 guidance has now surged to \$700-725 billion (Microsoft ~\$190B, Amazon \$200B, Alphabet \$175-185B, Meta \$125-145B). Goldman Sachs now models \$765 billion in annual AI CapEx in 2026, scaling to \$1.6 trillion annually by 2031 (cumulative ~\$7.6 trillion from 2026-2031).

In 2023, the lead time for a single NVIDIA H100 GPU was 8 to 11 months. Spot prices reached \$40,000 per unit against a list price of \$30,000. Supply rationing. Premium pricing. Queue jumping. This is exactly what oil looked like in the early 1970s.

As recently as May 5, 2026, Larry Fink, CEO of BlackRock, managing \$13.89 trillion in assets, stated publicly that surging demand for computing power could create an entirely new asset class centered around compute futures—specifically that “a new asset class will be buying futures of compute,” citing shortages in power, chips, and compute capacity.

Fink has form here. He was early on bond ETFs.

He was early on ESG as a capital allocation framework. When he speaks publicly about an emerging asset class, he is describing a product pipeline, not an opinion.

The oil futures market took 10 years to form after the 1973 OPEC supply shock. NYMEX crude oil futures launched in 1983. That market now trades \$1.5 to \$2 trillion in daily volume. The infrastructure around it, the exchanges, the derivatives desks, the storage operators, the financing vehicles, created more sustained wealth than many of the oil producers themselves.

Compute already has its 1973 moment. The H100 shortage of 2023 was a supply shock. The futures contracts are the next step. The exchange that lists them does not exist yet.

The rare earths lesson is the clearest parallel. China controls 60% of rare earth mining and 85% of global processing capacity. In 2010, in a territorial dispute with Japan, China cut rare earth exports. Japanese manufacturers were paralysed within weeks. The strategic logic was identical to the 1973 oil embargo: whoever controls the resource controls the leverage.

The United States applied the same logic to compute in October 2022, imposing chip export controls on China's access to advanced AI accelerators. Those controls were expanded in 2023 and again in 2024. This is resource denial policy. The same strategic framework that shaped 50 years of oil geopolitics is being applied to silicon within a single decade.

These are not technology investments. They are sovereign resource strategies. The countries building compute infrastructure today are making the same structural bet the Gulf states made on oil in the 1970s. They are acquiring the resource before the futures market forms, before the institutional allocation cycle begins.

TSMC manufactures approximately 92% of the world's advanced foundry capacity below 10 nm (and the overwhelming majority below 7 nm / 3 nm). The entire fabrication capacity sits in Taiwan. That concentration risk makes OPEC

“The countries and builders who move now will not just participate in what comes next. They will own the rails it runs on.

look diversified.

Financial markets do not wait for permission. The infrastructure of a futures market for compute is being assembled without a central exchange.

AWS, Azure, and Google Cloud already operate what is functionally a spot market. Prices fluctuate by the hour. Buyers time purchases around demand cycles. Supply is rationed during peak load. The mechanism of a futures market is present. The standardised contract and the exchange are missing.

CoreWeave went public in March 2025, the first pure-play GPU cloud infrastructure company to list. It reported \$1.9 billion in revenue for 2024 (growing to an estimated \$5.1 billion in 2025) and priced at a \$23 billion valuation at IPO. The market priced it as infrastructure, not software. Infrastructure companies trade on long-term contracted cash flows. The market is telling you what it thinks compute is.

From the other direction, decentralised compute networks are also running early experiments in tokenised compute. Fragmented and early, but directionally correct. They are building price discovery mechanisms for a resource that does not yet have a standardised futures contract. This is what proto-markets look like before the exchange arrives.

There is a second-order dynamic that makes the compute case more urgent than the oil parallel suggests.

When oil demand grew, it grew at human speed. Cities expanded. Transport networks scaled. Consumption moved with population. Compute demand is now growing at machine speed.

AI agents do not sleep. They do not have office hours. As autonomous systems proliferate, agents managing workflows, executing transactions, building other systems, the demand for compute decouples from human activity entirely. Machine-to-machine work runs continuously. The demand curve loses its nights and weekends.

Every significant deployment of agentic AI adds persistent, continuous compute consumption. The energy and infrastructure requirements scale with

the number of agents in operation, not the number of humans using them. The projections being made today, including Goldman's \$1 trillion figure, are almost certainly underestimates of where the demand curve goes when autonomous systems are the primary consumers.

Anyone building at the infrastructure layer right now is sizing a market that will look fundamentally different by the time their infrastructure is operational. The demand projections being cited today are almost certainly the floor, not the ceiling.

Every commodity cycle creates two kinds of wealth. The first comes from owning the resource. The second, and larger, comes from building the infrastructure that prices, trades, moves, and finances it. The oil services industry created more sustained wealth than many of the oil producers themselves, because they owned the layer beneath the commodity through every price cycle.

Compute is at the same juncture. The financial layer does not exist at scale. No standardised compute contracts. No hedging instruments for companies running large inference workloads. No capacity markets letting buyers lock in future access the way airlines lock in jet fuel. No sovereign compute reserves.

Each of those gaps is a construction opportunity. But the more important dimension underneath all of it is labour. Hundreds of millions of people in markets like Pakistan, Nigeria, and Indonesia built real livelihoods on digital platforms. AI agents are going to absorb a significant share of that task-based work. The question is not whether that happens. It is whether the countries affected own any of the infrastructure that replaces them, or whether they watch the productivity gains accumulate somewhere else.

The first internet made that mistake. The value creation was global. The value capture was not. Compute infrastructure is the chance to build differently. The builders who see it clearly are not betting on a technology. They are making a structural call on the most strategic resource of the next decade.

'Iran very much under control,' Trump asserts

'I don't think we need any help with Iran. We'll win it one way or the other, peacefully or otherwise,' Trump says

WASHINGTON: United States President Donald Trump said on Tuesday he will have a long talk with Chinese President Xi Jinping about the war in Iran during his upcoming trip to China, but added that he does not think he needs Xi's help.

"I don't think we need any help with Iran. We'll win it one way or the other, peacefully or otherwise," Trump told reporters when departing the White House for China.

The leaders of the world's two largest economies will hold their first face-to-face talks in more than six months as they try to stabilise ties strained by trade, the US and Israeli war with Iran and other areas of disagreement.

Trump is heading to China amid an unresolved Iran war, with diplomatic negotiations to end it at an impasse. Beijing maintains ties with Iran and remains a major consumer of its oil exports.

Trump has been leaning on China to use its influence to push Tehran to make a deal with Washington and end the conflict that began when the US and Israel launched strikes on Iran in late February. The Republican president is scheduled

to arrive in Beijing on Wednesday, ahead of talks set to take place Thursday and Friday. It will be his first trip to China since 2017.

Trump later told reporters: "We have a lot of things to discuss. I wouldn't say Iran is one of them, to be honest with you, because we have Iran very much under control."

US defence chief says Iran ceasefire remains 'in effect'

Earlier, US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth said that a ceasefire between the US and Iran was active, even as lawmakers pressed him on whether a formal written agreement existed between the two sides.

Hegseth made the remarks alongside Joint Chiefs of Staff Chair General Dan Caine during testimony before a House Appropriations subcommittee reviewing the Trump administration's proposed 2027 defence budget, and discussing developments in the conflict with Iran.

The sharpest exchange came when Representative Pete Aguilar questioned Hegseth about last month's testimony in

which the Pentagon chief said the ceasefire effectively paused the 60-day clock under the War Powers Resolution.

"Who were the parties to the ceasefire?" Aguilar asked.

"Well, right now we are in that same ceasefire, as of right now," Hegseth replied.

Aguilar interrupted, saying, "That wasn't the question. Who are the parties to the ceasefire?" "That would be the United States and the regime in Iran," Hegseth responded. The Democrat from the state of California then pressed for details on the agreement, asking whether the ceasefire had written terms or formal documentation.

"How many pages is the ceasefire? What deal points? How do we know that the ceasefire is active or not active without any documentation?" Aguilar asked.

"We know," Hegseth said. "It's evident, and the ceasefire is in effect."

Aguilar continued questioning whether lawmakers were simply expected to trust the administration's assessment without seeing a formal framework.

"You just trust that the president knows

that the ceasefire is active or not inactive?" Aguilar asked.

"As you know, for the most part, a ceasefire means the fire is ceasing, and we know that has occurred while negotiations occur," Hegseth replied.

The US and Israel launched strikes against Iran on February 28, triggering retaliation from Tehran against Israel as well as US allies in the Gulf, along with the closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

A ceasefire took effect on April 8 through Pakistani mediation, but talks in Islamabad failed to produce a lasting agreement. The truce was later extended by Trump without a set deadline.

Earlier in the hearing, Hegseth defended the administration's broader military posture and the proposed \$1.5 trillion defence budget, calling it "a fiscally responsible budget" and "a war-fighting budget".

"We are rebuilding a military that the American people can be proud of," Hegseth said. "One that instils nothing less than the unrelenting fear in our adversaries and confidence in our allies. We fight to win in every scenario."

1 Palestinian child killed every week in West Bank since January 2025: UNICEF

GAZA: At least 70 Palestinian children have been killed in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, since the beginning of 2025, averaging roughly one child per week, UNICEF said on Tuesday.

Speaking to reporters in Geneva, James Elder, spokesperson for the UNICEF, said 93% of the children were killed by Israeli forces, while another 850 children were injured, most by live ammunition.

"Children are paying an intolerable price for escalating militarised operations" and Israeli occupier attacks across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, Elder said.

He warned that the violence was not limited to direct attacks but also involved the "steady dismantling" of systems children depend on to survive and grow, including homes, schools, water infrastructure, and healthcare access.

According to UNICEF, more than 2,500 Palestinians, including 1,100 children, were displaced in the first four months of 2026 alone, exceeding the total displacement recorded during all of 2025.

Elder also cited a sharp increase in attacks affecting education, with 99 documented education-related incidents in 2026, including killings, injuries, detentions, school demolitions, and denial of access to schools.

"Schools, which should be places of safety and stability, are increasingly becoming sites of fear," he said.

China reiterates opposition to US arms sales ahead of Trump visit



BEIJING: China on Tuesday reiterated its opposition to US arms sales to Taiwan ahead of US President Donald Trump's visit to China.

China's "firm opposition to US arms sales to China's Taiwan region is consistent and clear," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun told reporters in Beijing.

Trump said on Monday that he plans to discuss US arms sales to Taiwan with Chinese President Xi Jinping during his visit to Beijing this week.

According to The New York Times, a bipartisan group of senators has urged Trump to move ahead with the delayed \$14 billion weapons package for Taiwan, which has been stalled at the State Department for months.

Guo added that during Trump and Xi's summit in Beijing, the two leaders will have an "in-depth" exchange of views on China-US relations and other major issues concerning world peace and development.

Israel sent Iron Dome batteries, personnel to UAE: US official

'There's an extraordinary relationship between the UAE and Israel,' says US envoy to Israel

TEL AVIV: Israel sent Iron Dome air defence batteries and personnel to operate them in the United Arab Emirates during the war with Iran, the United States ambassador to Israel said on Tuesday.

"Can I say a word of appreciation, deep appreciation and admiration for the United Arab Emirates?" Mike Huckabee said during a conference at Tel Aviv University.

"They were the first Abraham Accords member but look at the benefits that they have had as a result. Israel just sent them Iron Dome batteries and personnel to help operate them. How come? Because there's an extraordinary relationship between the UAE and Israel based on the Abraham Accords," he said.

The batteries, which typically include radars and missile launchers, were sent to the UAE to help it defend against Iranian attacks, a source briefed on the matter told Reuters.

There was no response from Abu Dhabi until 0900GMT regarding the claims by Huckabee.

The US and Israel launched strikes against Iran on February 28, triggering

retaliation from Tehran against Israel as well as US allies in the Gulf, along with the closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

More than 3,300 people were killed and tens of thousands displaced in Iran, while at least 13 US servicemen were killed and dozens of others wounded during the conflict.

A ceasefire took effect on April 8 through Pakistani mediation, but talks in Islamabad failed to produce a lasting agreement. The truce was later extended by Trump without a set deadline.

Iran targeted the UAE more than any other country during the war. Despite a ceasefire, the UAE has since reported multiple missile and drone attacks from Iran.

The oil-rich UAE is a top US ally in the region and among the Arab nations with official ties to Israel after signing the Abraham Accords during US President Donald Trump's first term in 2020.

Israel has also supplied air defence systems to the UAE in the past. Senior Emirati official Anwar Gargash, an adviser to the country's president, said on March 17 that Iranian attacks on its Arab

neighbours would strengthen relations between Israel and those Arab states that have diplomatic ties with Israel.

West Bank attacks

Huckabee, speaking in Tel Aviv, was also asked about violent attacks carried out by Israelis against Christians in Jerusalem's Old City and by Jewish settlers against Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

An Evangelical Christian who has long supported Israel, Huckabee responded that "terrorism is terrorism. It doesn't matter who does it, it's what is done that is the crime."

Huckabee also said many of the Israelis committing violence in the West Bank, which he referred to as Judea and Samaria, the biblical name used by Israel's government, did not live there.

He said that they may live in Tel Aviv, a city that is generally perceived as more liberal than other parts of the country. But after some in the crowd jeered, Huckabee added: "But they probably don't."

"But wherever they live, when they commit an act of terror or crime, then what they have done, I feel like, is a dishonour to the state of Israel and to the Jewish people, and it should be condemned," he said, which was met with applause.

RSS lobbies groups abroad to counter minority rights criticism

RSS general secretary says he has been addressing gatherings in the US, Germany and Britain, with more planned

NEW DELHI: A powerful Hindu group from which Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's party emerged said on Tuesday it had organised foreign visits, including to the United States, to counter perceptions it was a paramilitary outfit involved in attacks on minority communities.

The outreach by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), or National Volunteer Organisation, came after the US Commission on International Religious Freedom said in a report in November that it "has been involved in acts of extreme violence and intolerance against members of minority groups for decades".

The commission is a bipartisan body of the US federal government that monitors religious freedom around the world and makes policy recommendations to the president, the secretary of state and the US Congress.

Modi joined the RSS in his youth, and the rise of his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to near-national dominance is widely attributed to the RSS's vast network of

volunteers, during a period marked by a hardening Hindu-Muslim political divide in the officially secular country where Hindus are a majority.

RSS banned several times The RSS says it is a "Hindu-centric civilisational, cultural movement" whose goal is to "carry the nation to the pinnacle of glory", including by uniting Hindus and protecting the religion.

It has been banned several times since its inception in 1925, including after a former member assassinated independence hero Mahatma Gandhi in 1948.

Indian opposition leaders, particularly Rahul Gandhi of the main opposition Congress party, have repeatedly accused the RSS of promoting a divisive, majoritarian ideology that he says threatens India's secular fabric and fuels intolerance towards minorities.

RSS General Secretary Dattatreya Hosabale said he had been addressing gatherings in the US, Germany and Britain, with more planned, to "dispel certain misgivings and misconceptions

about the RSS".

He said the main accusations against the RSS included that it was "pulling society backwards", that it was a "paramilitary organisation", that it promoted "Hindu supremacist things" and that "others have become second-class citizens".

"The fact is entirely different," Hosabale told a rare briefing for foreign media in the group's newly built 12-floor building in Delhi.

Met policymakers and business leaders Hosabale met academics, policymakers and business leaders in his visits.

He said RSS leaders would visit more countries in Europe, Southeast Asia and other regions to raise awareness about the organisation.

Modi has already delivered on two key agenda items for the RSS: building a temple to the Hindu god Ram on the site of a mosque razed in 1992, and revoking the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, formerly India's only Muslim-majority state.

The other key goal is to end discrimination based on Hindu caste, Hosabale said.

India's opposition successfully leveraged concerns among underprivileged castes to hand Modi a rare setback in the 2024 national election, when his party fell short of a majority and was forced to rely on allies.

Starmer defies calls to quit as two ministers resign in protest of leadership

Jess Phillips and Zubir Ahmed resigned over Starmer's way of governance

LONDON: British Prime Minister Keir Starmer defied calls to resign on Tuesday, telling ministers he would get on with governing despite a "destabilising" 48 hours of growing calls to set out a timetable for his departure after a drubbing in local elections and the resignation of a junior minister.

Britain's safeguarding minister Jess Phillips and health department minister Zubir Ahmed resigned from government in protest at Starmer's leadership, adding to pressure on the prime minister after a poor performance in last week's local elections.

At a meeting of his cabinet, Starmer, in the top job for less than two years, repeated that, while he took responsibility for one of his Labour Party's worst election defeats, there had been no official move to trigger a leadership contest. Several loyal ministers expressed their support for him.

It was the latest pledge from Starmer to press on with a premiership dogged by scandal and policy U-turns since he won a large majority at a national election in 2024, and leaves the leader and Labour rebels in something of a stalemate.

Support in the wider Labour Party has also started to ebb away.

Phillips, a well-known Labour lawmaker and women's rights campaigner, became one of three junior ministers to resign, joining more than 80 lawmakers who have publicly called on Starmer to set a timetable for leaving office.

All eyes were on a clutch of senior party figures, such as health minister Wes Streeting, who has made little secret of his ambition to become prime minister one day, to see whether they would move to challenge Starmer directly.

Borrowing costs rise

In a nod to a surge in borrowing costs to their highest in nearly 30 years over fears of another bout of political instability in Britain, Starmer said the "past 48 hours have been destabilising for government and that has a real economic cost for our country and for families".

"The Labour Party has a process for challenging a leader and that has not been triggered," Starmer told his cabinet, according to his Downing Street office.

"The country expects us to get on with governing. That is what I am doing and what we must do as a cabinet."

Leaving Downing Street, several senior ministers offered Starmer their support, with pensions minister Pat McFadden telling reporters that no one had challenged the prime minister at cabinet.

Others who are thought to want Starmer to go, including Streeting and interior minister Shabana Mahmood, either left without comment or did not leave via Downing Street, where reporters were gathered.

In her resignation statement,



Phillips, a junior minister not in the cabinet, said Starmer's timid style and incremental approach would not deliver the change the country needed, adding her name to those who want a new leader installed in an orderly manner.

Much-promised stability evaporates

It was a long way from when Starmer first became Labour leader in 2020, inheriting the party after its worst national election showing since 1935 under his predecessor, veteran left-winger Jeremy Corbyn.

He was then seen as a safe pair of hands able to drag Labour more towards the centre ground.

At the 2024 election, he won one of the largest majorities in modern British history for Labour with an offer of stability after years of chaos under the Conservatives, who oversaw five prime ministers in eight years.

Now, he is fighting for his political survival.

Bond markets have been sensitive to any suggestion that Starmer and his finance minister, Rachel Reeves,

could go.

Investors are worried that a more left-wing replacement would push for more spending at a time when Britain's finances are already stretched, with borrowing costs the highest among the Group of Seven advanced economies.

Hard to remove labour PM

"I can't see how he gets through the day," one Labour lawmaker told Reuters on the condition of anonymity.

But it is generally harder for Labour lawmakers to remove a prime minister than the opposition Conservative Party. While dozens of Labour lawmakers might have expressed their dissatisfaction with Starmer, 81 of them need to rally behind one single candidate to trigger a contest.

Of those who have called for him to go, about half of them are on the left of the party, while just over a quarter are more centrist, according to a Reuters tally. That would suggest no one candidate commands the numbers yet.

UK safeguarding minister resigns

British health department minister Zubir Ahmed and safeguarding minister Jess Phillips resigned amid the political chaos in the UK.

"The desire not to have an argument means we rarely make an argument, leaving opportunities for progress stalled and delayed," Phillips said in a scathing resignation letter to Starmer, which was first reported by Sky News.

"I want a Labour government to work ... but I'm not seeing the change I think I, and the country expect, and so cannot continue to serve as a minister under the current leadership."

Advertisement for Hamza Foundation featuring Urdu text and a blood drop graphic. Text includes: 'آئیے مل کر تھیلیسیا اور ہیمو فیلیا کے خلاف جنگ لڑیں', 'حمزہ فاؤنڈیشن', 'ہیڈ کوارٹرز: ایف 10/100/20404', 'IBAN: PK 28MUCB0095701010020404', 'Ph: 0957-19149980', '0333-9149980', '0335-9366121', '0301-5525063'.

Revenue Officials briefed on effective Public Service Delivery under RTS Act 2014

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR: An official meeting of the Revenue Staff of District Peshawar was held on Tuesday at the Conference Room of the Deputy Commissioner Office, Peshawar, to review and strengthen the implementation of the Right to Public Services framework and improve governance mechanisms across revenue-related public offices. The meeting was jointly conducted by Tashfin Israr, District Monitoring Officer (DMO), Right to Public Services Commission, and Ms. Anam Mehmood, Additional Assistant Commissioner (Headquarters). The session was attended by Tehsildars, Naib Tehsildars, In-charge Service Delivery Centres (SDCs), Sub-Registrars, In-charge Arms License Branch, and In-charge Domicile Branch officials of District Peshawar. During the meeting, Mr. Tashfin Israr delivered a comprehensive presentation on the Right to Public Services (RTS) Act, 2014, highlighting its important provisions, key sections, and the legal framework aimed at ensuring transparent, timely, and citizen-centric public service delivery. The presentation further elaborated on the service delivery process flow chart, Section 9 of the RTS Act concerning the mandatory display of notified services, and the significance of maintaining and reviewing monthly performance data related to notified public services.

CCP clears share acquisition in PCRCL by United Ethanol

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved the acquisition of shareholding in Pakistan Corporate Restructuring Company Limited (PCRCL) by United Ethanol Industries Limited following a Phase-I competition assessment conducted under the Competition Act, 2010.

Pakistan Corporate Restructuring Company Limited is a public limited company licensed by the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) to operate as a restructuring company. PCRCL primarily undertakes the acquisition, management, restructuring and resolution of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs), as well as the restructuring, reorganization, revival and liquidation of distressed commercial or financially troubled businesses, said a release issued here on Tuesday.

The acquirer United Ethanol Industries Limited is a public limited company engaged in the manufacture and sale of ethanol and related industrial products.

The company operates within the broader agribusiness and industrial sector and is involved in the production of fuel-grade and industrial-grade ethanol through value-added processing of agricultural raw materials.



RAWALPINDI: A vendor is displaying school bags outside his shop at Iqbal Road in the city. — PHOTO: ONLINE

Mideast war poses 'significant risks' to macroeconomic outlook, warns SBP

Hike in energy prices, supply chain disruptions could significantly weigh on macroeconomics, says central bank

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Tuesday warned of significant risks to the country's economic outlook due to the conflict in the Middle East, saying increased energy prices and supply chain disruptions could weigh on macroeconomics.

The central bank made the observations in its Half Year Report 2025-26, showing that Pakistan's macroeconomic stability strengthened in the first half of the fiscal year despite uncertainty on the global stage. However, the report said that "increases in energy prices, the supply chain disruptions, and increase in freight charges and insurance premium could significantly weigh" on the country's macroeconomic outlook during the fiscal year 2026. The SBP noted that the surge in international energy prices was immediately transmitted to domestic inflation despite the government's deci-

sion to initially absorb the majority of the increase. However, its impact on overall economic activity is not expected to be significant in the FY2026, it said.

The central bank expected real GDP growth to remain close to the lower bound of the projected range of 3.75% to 4.75%. It said that the increase in production of food crops and limited export opportunities due to regional conflicts are likely to moderate food inflation.

However, the SBP warned that energy inflation is set to increase after the government passed on the surge in international oil prices following the outbreak of the war in the Middle East.

"Oil price shocks also pose significant upside risks to core inflation via increased cost pressures, second-round effects and inflation expectations," it said.

National inflation likely between 5% to 7%

The developments, the central bank said,

suggested that the national CPI inflation is likely to remain above the upper bound of the medium-term target range of 5% to 7% in the remaining months of FY26 and in FY27. Similarly, the sharp increase in energy prices and increased insurance and freight charges are also expected to inflate Pakistan's import bill and freight service payments, it added.

However, the government's decision to pass on the impact of an increase in oil prices to domestic energy prices alongside the fuel conservation measures is likely to help contain domestic demand and thus reduce energy import volumes.

The central bank further expected a decline in liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports to reduce energy imports.

Exports are also expected to remain weak due to the possibility of slower global economic growth, multi-year low rice prices, closure of Pakistan's western border, and realignment of global trade flows due to ongoing tariff adjustments, the SBP said.

Workers' remittances may also be impacted in the fourth quarter of FY26, considering that remittances from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries contributed around 55% of total remittances

between FY21 and FY25. However, remittances are expected to remain strong in FY26 on a full-year basis, which would partially offset the widening in the trade deficit. Consequently, the current account deficit in FY26 is projected to remain close to the lower bound of the range of 0 to 1% of GDP.

Likely impact on PDL collection

The war and surge in energy prices have implications for tax and non-tax revenue, and the government's discretionary spending, the SBP said.

"In particular, the adjustment in domestic fuel prices vis-à-vis a surge in global oil prices is likely to increase energy subsidies. Moreover, the PDL collection may also be impacted due to reduced POL sales (volume effect) following the increase in POL prices and implementation of energy conservation measures," it added.

According to the SBP, the government's decision to reduce the development budget could somewhat cushion the impact.

SBP, in its report, expected the fiscal deficit within the range of 3.5% to 4.5% of GDP.

Amin Babar elected unopposed as President of KP Jewelers Association



PESHAWAR: Haji Amin Hussain Babar has been elected unopposed as the President of the Sarafa Zargaran, Gems, Jewelers, Traders, and Exporters Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, while Haji Fayyaz Durani has been elected as the General Secretary. According to the former Secretary of Information, Shahid Khan, the Chief Election Commissioner Haji Meher Ali, along with commission members Noman Bangash, Tauseef Ishtiaq, Haji Nisar Khalil, Syed Sada Qayyum, Noorzada, Fida Muhammad, and Shah Wazir, officially announced the unopposed victory of both candidates yesterday. The Election Commission noted that no rival group or candidate submitted nomination papers or even collected the forms. This uncontested election is seen as a strong testament to the unity and harmony within the KP Jewelers Association and reflects the deep-seated confidence the community places in both leaders. Haji Amin Hussain Babar is regarded as one of the country's most prominent traders.

Traders demand end to 'smart lockdown'

OUR CORRESPONDENT

MARDAN: Markazi Tanzeem Tajran Zahir Shah Group organized a protest rally against the smart lockdown, what they termed as unfair FBR taxes, tobacco tax and excessive taxes included in electricity and gas bills. The rally started from Mardan Chamber and marched towards Kachehri Chowk, where it turned into a large procession.

The rally was led by Muhammad Kashif Chaudhry, President Markazi Tanzeem Tajran Pakistan, and Zahir Shah Provincial General Secretary Khyber Pukhtunkhwa along with other traders' representatives. Among those present on the occasion were Waqar Ali Bacha, Ghulam Sarwar Saraf, Sahibzada, Waheed Gul, Tariq Khan, Wahab Yousafi, Asad Jamal, Bakht Munir, Asad Khan, Asif Iqbal, Abid, Murad, Malik Najeebullah, Faqir Saraf, Shamsir Khan, Arif, Fazal Waheed, Ghulam Qadir, Nasir Lala, Wajid, Amjad, Farhad and others.

The protesters demanded that the smart lockdown imposed across the country be immediately lifted until Eid-ul-Adha. Addressing the rally, Muhammad Kashif Chaudhry said that traders across the country had purchased goods worth



billions of rupees for Eid-ul-Adha, but due to the lockdown they were unable to sell their merchandise.

He alleged that under the guise of FBR reforms, traders were being harassed through point-of-sale systems, fines, and arrests. He further said that the continuous increase in petroleum prices, electricity tariffs, additional taxes, inflated utility bills and the harsh attitude of para forces had made life extremely difficult for traders.

Zahir Shah stated that the current policies of both the federal and provincial governments were creating severe hardships for the business community. He said that evening lockdown restrictions were preventing customers from visiting markets, while traders had already made

heavy investments for Eid-ul-Adha.

He warned that if the situation continued, thousands of small traders would face financial ruin. Criticizing FBR policies, he said that in the name of reforms and restructuring, traders were being unnecessarily harassed. Small shopkeepers' businesses were being sealed under the point-of-sale policy, fines were being imposed and arrests were also being made.

According to him, the entire process had given rise to a new system of bribery and corruption. Muhammad Kashif Chaudhry further said that the increase in petroleum prices had triggered massive inflation, while additional taxes in electricity bills and capacity payments to IPPs were becoming an extra burden on the public and traders alike.

Auction of personalized marks to be held on May 18 at Nishtar Hall

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR: The Excise, Taxation and Narcotics Control Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will hold an open auction of personalized marks (choice number plates) on May 18, 2026 at 11:00 AM at Nishtar Hall, Peshawar.

According to details shared by the department, the auction will feature a range of special and choice registration numbers based on personal and regional identities. The process will be conducted through an open bidding system.

The prominent personalized marks scheduled for auction include: Sethi 1, Chaudhry 1, Kormang 1, Khan Qila 1, Khan Qila 5, Buttar 1, Veera 1, Par Hoti 1, Par Hoti 5, Abdulkhel 1, Malik 1, Baloch 1, Tank 1, Chitral 1, Bacha 1, Pir 1, Shabqadar 1, Charsadda 1, EsaKhel 1, Safi 1, Bhattani 1, Mughal 1, UtmanKhel 1, Hashtnaghar 1, Achakzai 1, Ahmadzai 1, Bangash 1, Toori 1, Sardar 1, Sherani 1, Chughtai 1, Lodhi 1, Qalandar 1, Popalzai 1, Surani 1, Mandani 1, Toru 1, Kundi 1, Tanoli 1, Khudukhel 1, Yarakhel 1.

Interested bidders may submit their



applications along with the prescribed security fee by May 16, 2026 (12:00 noon) in the name of the Director General Excise, Taxation and Narcotics Control Department. Similarly, successful bidders will be allotted number plates in accordance with rules and regulations.

The department stated that the auction will be conducted in a fully transparent manner under the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (KPPRA) Rules 2012 and the Provincial Motor Vehicle Rules.

Provincial Minister for Excise, Taxation and Narcotics Control, Syed Fakhar Jehan, said that the auction of personalized marks provides citizens with a unique opportunity to obtain their preferred registration numbers.

He added that under the vision of the founding chairman and in line with the leadership of the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the department is committed to modern reforms and citizen-friendly initiatives to enhance public facilitation.

The Minister further stated that the transparent auction process will not only ensure the availability of desired number plates to citizens but will also contribute to increased government revenue.

He urged citizens and interested participants to take advantage of this unique and public-friendly initiative and participate in the auction to obtain their desired personalized registration numbers.

Kundi praises AH Group's real estate innovation & contribution towards economic growth, employment & youth empowerment during official visit

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, visited the Head Office of AH Group of Companies along with its flagship projects, 091 Mall and Florenza Mall & Residencia, where he was warmly received by the Group's Chairman Yasir Ali, CEO Muhammad Haseeb Khattak, Director AH Shah Fahad, Chief Financial Officer Muhammad Umair Zeb, Head of HR Humayun Gul, Director GR Liaqat, Director Finance Amir Ali, and members of the management and staff.

According to Umair Zaib, during the visit, the Governor was given a comprehensive briefing regarding the company's ongoing and upcoming projects across different parts of the country. The management highlighted the growing public interest in the company's projects located in Peshawar, Islamabad, Dera Ismail Khan, Murree, and Hangu, along with the modern residential and commercial facilities being provided to customers. The Governor was informed about the Group's vision of promoting quality

infrastructure, sustainable urban development, and customer-focused housing solutions in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and beyond. The briefing also covered the company's contribution towards employment generation, economic activity, and investment opportunities in the region.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Faisal Karim Kundi emphasized that the provision of quality residential facilities is the need of the hour and plays a vital role in improving living standards. He stated that gaining and maintaining public trust is essential for the success and sustainability of the business community.

The Governor appreciated the efforts of business organizations and their managements that continue their operations despite challenging circumstances in the province. He remarked that such institutions are playing a commendable role in strengthening the provincial economy, creating opportunities for the youth, and promoting a positive image of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa through investment and development initiatives. Governor Faisal Karim Kundi also held

an interactive question-and-answer session with the management and staff members of AH Group. During the session, he engaged directly with employees, appreciated their professionalism, and encouraged the young workforce to continue contributing positively towards economic growth and national development.

The Governor expressed pleasure over the fact that more than 600 employees are currently working with AH Group of Companies, with a significant majority belonging to the younger generation. He appreciated the organization for creating employment opportunities for youth and empowering them through professional growth, training, and career development.

He also acknowledged the company's active participation and sponsorship of various national events, describing such initiatives as a positive contribution towards promoting social engagement, business confidence, and constructive activities for the younger generation.

The Governor further appreciated AH Group's unique concept of high-rise development projects in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa,



particularly the company's innovative ROI (Return on Investment) model designed to provide long-term value and sustainable investment opportunities for the public. He termed such modern real estate concepts as a positive step towards urban development, investment promotion, and

economic progress in the province.

During his visit, the Governor also toured various departments of the Head Office and interacted with the sales staff. He listened to their views, answered different questions, and encouraged the team for their professional dedication

and commitment towards excellence in customer service.

Pakistan Peoples Party Deputy General Secretary Abrar Saeed Swati and PPP Dera Ismail Khan District General Secretary Malik Abid Awan also accompanied the Governor during the vi-

Rana rips through Pakistan to seal win

Pakistan crumble under pressure despite Abdullah Fazal's 66; Nahid Rana bags five wickets for Bangladesh

DHAKA: Bangladesh beat Pakistan by 104 runs in the first match of the two-Test series at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur, Dhaka, on Tuesday. Resuming the final session at 116-3, Pakistan were bowled out for 163 in 52.5 overs while chasing Bangladesh's 268-run target courtesy of an exceptional five-wicket haul by Nahid Rana.

The visitors suffered an early setback when Taskin Ahmed struck in the opening over, removing Imam-ul-Haq for just two runs off five deliveries. Despite the early blow, Azan Awaiz and Abdullah Fazal steadied the innings with a crucial 50-run partnership for the second wicket, easing pressure and rebuilding momentum.

However, the stand ended at 54 when Azan was dismissed for 15 off 33 balls after striking one boundary off Mehidy Hasan Miraz, leaving Pakistan struggling at 57-2 in 12.1 overs. The situation worsened soon after when Nahid Rana removed skipper Shan Masood cheaply for two runs off five balls.

Tajjul Islam struck early and got rid of Abdullah Fazal who was dismissed LBW after playing an outstanding knock of 66 off 113 deliveries comprising 11 fours



and ending the 51-run stand alongside Salman Ali Agha. In the very next over, Taskin Ahmed struck and picked up his crucial second wicket by dismissing Salman Agha for 26 off 39 deliveries including one four, leaving the team struggling at 121-5 in 32.4 overs.

Mohammad Rizwan and Saud Shakeel came to bat and piled up crucial runs from their bats and helped form a solid stand as they took the team's total past the 150-run mark as well. However, it was Nahid Rana with the ball who picked up his second wicket

of the match and dismissed Saud after scoring 15 off 32 deliveries, chipping in with two fours, leaving the team sitting at 152-6 in 44.3 overs.

Pakistan were in all sorts of trouble as Rana struck again and brilliantly clean bowled Rizwan after scoring 15 off 46 deliveries including one four. Wickets continued to fall for Pakistan as Tajjul struck again and removed Hasan Ali LBW for one off seven deliveries. Nahid Rana then claimed his fourth wicket by dismissing Noman Ali for four runs. Rana wrapped up the innings by taking the wicket of Shaheen Afridi for a duck.

Nahid Rana starred with figures of 5/40 in 9.5 overs. Tajjul Islam and Taskin Ahmed picked up two wickets while Mehidy Hasan Miraz chipped in with one wicket as well. Resuming the final day at 152-3 in 50.3 overs, Bangladesh continued to extend their advantage, adding 88 more runs while losing six wickets before declaring at 240-9, setting Pakistan a target of 268.

Captain Najmul Hossain Shanto once again led from the front with a composed 87 off 150 deliveries, hitting seven boundaries. Mominul Haque supported with a solid 56 off 120 balls, including four fours.

Wani given additional charge as DG PSB



STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has assigned additional charge of Director General, Pakistan Sports Board (PSB), to Secretary Inter Provincial Coordination (IPC) Division, Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, following the repatriation of Muhammad Yasir Pirzada to his parent department, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR).

According to separate notifications issued by the Establishment Division, Wani, a BS-22 officer of the Pakistan Administrative Service, will perform the duties of Director General PSB in addition to his existing responsibilities.

The appointment has been made for a period of three months or until the posting of a regular incumbent. The post has been upgraded as personal to him with immediate effect and until further orders.

Meanwhile, Yasir Pirzada, a BS-20 officer of the Inland Revenue Service, has been repatriated to the FBR with immediate effect.

Pirzada had been serving as Director General PSB under the IPC Division on a deputation basis. His repatriation was made following a request conveyed by the IPC Division earlier this year.

Hamzooni expressed serious concerns over transfer of North Waziristan Sports Officer Noorullah



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: Chairman of the trader community, Malik Sanaullah Hamzooni, has expressed serious concerns over the transfer of North Waziristan Sports Officer Noorullah Wazir. He stated that Noorullah Wazir is a hardworking, honest, and competent officer who played an important role in promoting sports activities across the district and encouraging youth towards positive activities.

He said that the politically motivated transfer of such a dedicated officer is not only regrettable but also an injustice to the youth. Malik Sanaullah Hamzooni demanded that the Provincial Minister for Sports and Culture and other high authorities immediately revoke the transfer order of Noorullah Wazir so that sports activities are not affected.

He warned that if the decision is not withdrawn, the trader community and local elders will be compelled to launch strong protests, the responsibility for which will lie with the concerned authorities.

Pakistan inflict 153-run defeat on Zimbabwe in T20I series opener

Ayesha Zafar's century, Fatima Sana's three-wicket spell power Pakistan to record victory

KARACHI: Pakistan secured a record 153-run victory over Zimbabwe following Ayesha Zafar's unbeaten century and Fatima Sana's three wickets during the first T20I at Karachi's National Bank Stadium on Tuesday.

Set to chase a daunting 238-run target, the touring side could accumulate 84 before getting bowled out in 18.2 overs and thus registered their third-lowest total in the format.

Right-handed batter Natasha Mtomba remained the top-scorer for Zimbabwe with her 20-ball 24, while Adel Zimunu (18) and Beloved Biza (10) were the only other batters to breach double figures against the disciplined Pakistan bowling

attack. Captain Fatima spearheaded Pakistan's bowling charge with economical figures of 3/7 in her three overs, followed by Sadia Iqbal and Natalia Pervaiz with two scalps each, while Rameen Shamim chipped in with one.

Opting to bat first, the home side piled up 237/5 in their 20 overs, which was their highest in the format, surpassing the previous best of 181/4, which they achieved against South Africa in 2024.

The hosts got off to a briefly flamboyant start to their innings as their openers Muneeba Ali and in-form Gull Feroza put together 23 runs until the former was dismissed by captain Nomvelo Sibanda

on the penultimate delivery of the second over.

Following Muneeba's dismissal, Ayesha joined Feroza in the middle, and the duo shared a brisk 34-run partnership for the second wicket before Precious Marange gave Zimbabwe a vital breakthrough by dismissing the opener, who walked back after scoring a 19-ball 37, laced with eight fours.

Ayesha was then involved in two brief partnerships with debutant Saira Jabeen (five) and Natalia Pervaiz (nine) until eventually finding subtle support from the other end by Riaz.

The duo batted dominantly against the Zimbabwean bowling attack and put Pakistan on course to breach the 200-run barrier by putting together 67 runs in just 35 deliveries.

Beloved Biza eventually broke the



threatening stand on the third delivery of the 16th over by getting Aliya stumped, who fell agonisingly short of a well-deserved half-century as she made a quick-fire 48 off 23 deliveries with the help of four sixes and as many fours.

Ayesha then joined forces with captain Fatima Sana, and the duo ensured retaining the flow of runs for Pakistan at the backend with an unbeaten 70-run partnership.

Ayesha Zafar remained the top-scorer for Pakistan with an unbeaten 102 off just 47 deliveries, studded with 15 fours and two sixes, while their captain Fatima made 21 not out from 13 balls.

Captain Sibanda was the pick of the bowlers for Zimbabwe as she took two wickets for 59 runs in her four overs, while Michelle Mavunga, Biza and Marange could pick up one apiece.

Commissioner presents shield to rising cricket star Usman Tariq

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR: Commissioner Peshawar Division, Riaz Khan Mehsud on Tuesday presented a special shield to talented national cricket team off-spin bowler Usman Tariq during his visit to the Commissioner Office, in recognition of his outstanding performance and for bringing pride to Peshawar at the national level.

The ceremony was also attended by renowned first-class cricketers Bilal Marwat and Aslam Qureshi, along with Assistant Commissioner Town Azeem Ullah Mehsud.

Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner Riaz Khan Mehsud praised Usman Tariq's talent and expressed hope that he would continue to elevate the name of Pakistan cricket through his unique bowling skills and exceptional performances in the future.

"The honor is not only a moment of pride for Usman Tariq but also an encouraging message for the young athletes of Peshawar that hard work, dedication and determination can help achieve every goal."

"Peshawar is proud of its heroes," said Commissioner Riaz Khan Mehsud.



Noman Ali becomes oldest player to complete 100 Test wickets

Left-arm spinner also equals Fazal Mahmood's record of reaching milestone in same number of matches



DHAKA: Pakistan left-arm spinner Noman Ali completed 100 Test wickets, becoming the oldest player in history to reach the milestone during the first Test against Bangladesh at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium on Tuesday.

He claimed the milestone by dismissing Mehidy Hasan Miraz, joining

an elite group of Pakistan bowlers and becoming the ninth spinner and 20th overall to achieve the feat.

The left-arm spinner also picked up the crucial wickets of Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto and Tajjul Islam.

At 39 years and 217 days, Noman became the oldest player in Test history to

reach the 100-wicket milestone. He surpassed former England spinner Bobby Peel, who reached the mark in 1896 at the age of 39 years and 180 days.

The 39-year-old also reached another landmark by becoming the joint fourth-fastest Pakistan bowler to claim 100 Test wickets, achieving the feat in his 22nd Test match.

England great George Lohmann holds the world record for the fastest to 100 Test wickets, having reached the milestone in just 16 matches, while several Pakistan bowlers also feature among the quickest to the landmark.

Oldest players to reach 100 Test wickets

Noman Ali (Pakistan) – 39y 217d
Bobby Peel (England) – 39y 180d
Ray Illingworth (England) – 39y 30d
Clarrie Grimmett (Australia) – 39y 22d
Sydney Barnes (England) – 38y 310d

Fastest Pakistani bowlers to 100 Test wickets

Yasir Shah – 17 matches
Saeed Ajmal – 19 matches
Waqar Younis – 20 matches
Mohammad Asif – 20 matches
Noman Ali – 22 matches*
Fazal Mahmood – 22 matches
Saqlain Mushtaq – 23 matches

Sinner sets up derby with Pellegrino

World number one beats Popyrin in straight sets 6-2, 6-0 to reach last 16

NEWS AGENCY

ROME

Jannik Sinner set up a David v Goliath clash with countryman Andrea Pellegrino in the last 16 of the Italian Open after demolishing Alexei Popyrin in straight sets 6-2, 6-0 on centre court on Monday.

The world number one easily won his 25th straight match, taking just over an hour to see off Australia's Popyrin and give qualifier Pellegrino his moment on the big stage on Tuesday afternoon.

Pellegrino, 29, who beat 20th seed Frances Tiafoe 7-6 (10/8), 6-1, is ranked

155 in the world and before this week had never played in the main draw of a Masters 1000 tournament.

"It's fun to play a derby in Italy, he's having an incredible tournament with a lot of victories against some really good opponents," Sinner told reporters.

"We've played each other a long time ago (in 2019 in an ITF tournament), but he was a different player, and I was a different player."

Sinner meanwhile is trying to extend his own record-breaking run of overall victories in the ATP's top-ranked events after having won his last five.

The 24-year-old joins Novak Djokovic

as the only player to win a year's first 25 Master 1000 matches, with the Serbian tennis icon's record run stretching to 31 matches in 2011.

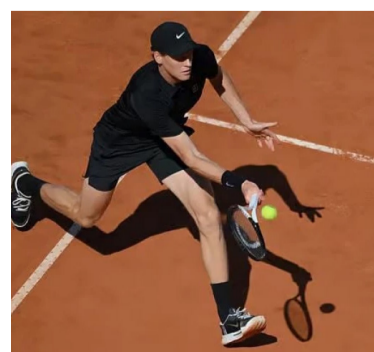
Popyrin was suffocated by Sinner and made 23 unforced errors on his way to a comprehensive defeat.

The world number 60 only got 48 percent of first serves into play and that allowed Sinner to break five times and close out a match which was barely a contest.

Should Sinner prevail at the Foro Italico he will be the first Italian to win there since Adriano Panatta 50 years ago, and would complete his collection of Master 1000 tournaments.

"Sinner is different to everyone else at the moment, he is a class above," said Pellegrino.

"I'll try to give my best out there and above all enjoy the atmosphere out on



the court."

With great rival Carlos Alcaraz out injured and Novak Djokovic eliminated early, Sinner will be red-hot favourite as he builds towards completing the career Grand Slam at the French Open which starts next week.

Former Rome champion Daniil

Medvedev gets his tournament underway by winning an entertaining match with Pablo Llamas Ruiz 3-6, 6-4, 6-2, setting up a clash with Thiago Agustín Tirante who beat 10th seed and Rome native Flavio Cobolli 6-3, 6-4.

Swiatek back to best?

Iga Swiatek will face Jessica Pegula on the quarter-finals of the women's tournament after making short work of Naomi Osaka, beating the Japan star 6-2, 6-1 and looking more like the player that won four French Open titles.

Pole Swiatek hasn't won a clay court tournament since claiming her most recent title at Roland Garros two years ago, with personal problems a factor in her poor performances on her favoured surface.

But she looked back to her old self on Monday, giving Osaka nowhere to turn

as she scurried around the court and finished off the match in just one hour and 22 minutes.

Osaka, a four-time Grand Slam winner, is yet to get beyond the last 16 of any tournament this year after also being knocked out of Indian Wells and the Madrid Open at the same stage by Aryna Sabalenka.

Coco Gauff survived a scare against Iva Jovic, coming back from a match point to win 5-7, 7-5, 6-2 and reaching the women's quarter-finals.

American star Gauff, who is reigning French Open champion and reached the final in Rome last year, won a draining match on windy centre court which took the best part of three hours.

Gauff was so annoyed with herself shortly after saving a match point against the serve at 5-4 down in the second set that she smacked herself in the head.



Mouni Roy And Suraj fuel separation chatter

ISLAMABAD: Whispers around Bollywood actor Mouni Roy and her husband Suraj Nambiar have suddenly picked up pace online, and this time it isn't because of a public appearance or a glamorous vacation post. What really got people talking was Suraj Nambiar quietly disappearing from Instagram altogether, right after social media users noticed that he and Mouni Roy were no longer following each other. For many fans, that was enough to spark separation rumours. Then came another detail that added to the noise. Before deleting his account, Suraj Nambiar was reportedly seen removing pictures linked to his wedding with Mouni Roy, something eagle-eyed followers caught onto almost instantly. What makes the situation more interesting is that Mouni Roy hasn't erased everything connected to the marriage. Despite unfollowing Suraj Nambiar herself, her Instagram still carries several memories from their wedding ceremonies and honeymoon days. Those posts remain untouched for now, which has only deepened speculation instead of calming it. Then there's Disha Patani, whose social media activity became part of the conversation almost immediately. People noticed that Disha Patani, known to be extremely close to Mouni Roy, had also unfollowed Suraj Nambiar before his profile vanished. Online discussions quickly ran with the details, especially because Disha has been part of Mouni Roy's inner circle for years and even attended the couple's wedding celebrations in 2022. The relationship between the Naagin actor and Suraj Nambiar goes back to 2018, when they reportedly met in Dubai through mutual friends during a New Year gathering.



LAKKI MARWAT: People gather at the site of the blast near Naurang police station in Lakki Marwat district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tuesday. — PHOTO: TP

Nine killed, over 33 injured in Sarai Naurang blast

Security forces cordoned off the area after the explosion, launched a search operation

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR: At least nine people, including two traffic police officials and a woman were killed and more than 33 others were injured when a heavy explosive planted in a motorcycle went off in the main market of Sarai Naurang tehsil in Lakki Marwat district on Tuesday.

According to initial police report, the blast occurred in a crowded area of the town's main bazaar. Two traffic police officials, identified as LHC Rahatullah and LHC Adil Jan, were killed on the spot. Several injured victims later succumbed to their wounds, raising the death toll to nine.

Officials from Rescue 1122 said that

CM terms Lakki blast highly tragic, seeks prompt report

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Suhail Afridi on Tuesday termed the bomb blast in Lakki Marwat a highly tragic incident and directed authorities to ensure the best possible medical treatment for the injured while ordering police to complete the investigation promptly. Muhammad Suhail Afridi took immediate notice of the bomb explosion that occurred in Phatak Bazaar, Sarai Naurang, a tehsil of Lakki Marwat district and sought a detailed report from the Inspector General of Police. The Chief Minister expressed deep sorrow over the martyrdom of two traffic police personnel and civilians in the incident. He stated that the provincial government stands with the families of the martyrs in this difficult time. He also instructed the relevant authorities to guarantee the provision of the best healthcare facilities to those injured in the blast. Furthermore, the Chief Minister directed the police and concerned institutions to provide full cooperation at the scene and complete the investigation into the incident as soon as possible. STAFF REPORTER

all injured and deceased were shifted immediately to the Tehsil Headquarters Hospital in Sarai Naurang.

Tehsil Headquarters Hospital authorities declared an emergency and called in additional medical staff to handle the situation.

Tehsil Headquarters Hospital officials said several critically injured victims were referred to hospitals in Bannu and Peshawar for advanced treatment. They added that the death toll may further rise as some of the injured were in critical condition.

Security forces cordoned off the area after the explosion and launched a search operation to investigate the nature of the blast and identify those responsible.

KP govt taking steps to strengthen primary, secondary healthcare

PESHAWAR: Provincial Minister for Health, Khaliq ur Rehman has said that the provincial government is taking comprehensive measures to strengthen primary and secondary healthcare facilities across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

In a statement, he said that steps are being taken to address shortages of doctors, nurses and paramedical staff on an emergency basis to ensure timely and quality medical services for the public at nearby health centres.

The minister said the government is implementing a complete system under a new health policy aimed at improving basic healthcare infrastructure.

He added that modern medical equipment is being provided and monitoring mechanisms are being strengthened to enhance service delivery.

Khaliq ur Rehman said the reforms would ensure better, accessible and reli-

able healthcare facilities for the people, enabling them to receive quality treatment without unnecessary delays.

He reiterated the government's commitment to improving the health sector and ensuring that citizens benefit from upgraded healthcare services across the province.

Oncology ward inaugurated at RMI

Provincial Minister for Health Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Khaliq Ur Rehman on Tuesday inaugurated the newly established modern Oncology Ward and patient care facilities at Rehman Medical Institute (RMI).

Chief Executive Officer RMI Shafiq Ur Rehman, Chief Operating Officer, Tariq, Head of Oncology Department Dr Fawad Ul Qamar and other senior officials of the institute were also present on the occasion.

KKH blocked in Lower Kohistan after flash floods trigger landslides

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOHISTAN: The Karakoram Highway (KKH) was blocked for all kinds of traffic in Lower Kohistan at Gloos Banda after heavy rainfall in the teg triggered flash floods and landslides in different areas along the highway.

According to local sources, massive landslides and debris fell onto the road following heavy rain and flash flooding, suspending vehicular movement from both sides of the highway.

A large number of passenger vehicles, goods transport trucks, and travelers were stranded due to the sudden closure of the vital route linking northern areas with the rest of the country.

Officials said the affected portions of the highway suffered heavy blockage after

mud, stones, and floodwater swept onto the road, creating dangerous travel conditions. The situation worsened due to continuous rainfall in mountainous regions, increasing the risk of further landslides.

Soon after the incident, the district administration of Lower Kohistan, along with teams of the National Highway Authority, launched an operation to restore traffic on the highway. Heavy machinery, including excavators and bulldozers, was moved to the affected areas to remove debris and clear the blocked sections of the road.

Authorities stated that efforts were continuing on an emergency basis to reopen the highway at the earliest possible time.

However, officials warned that ongoing bad weather and intermittent rainfall could delay restoration work and pose

additional threats in vulnerable mountainous areas. The administration has advised passengers and transporters to avoid unnecessary travel on the route until weather conditions improve and the highway is fully cleared for traffic. Rescue and emergency teams remain on alert to deal with any further emergency situation caused by rain or flooding.

Traffic suspended on Karakoram Highway

Karakoram Highway has closed at three points due to continuous rains in various areas of the Shangla on Tuesday.

According to details, the Karakoram highway has been suspended for traffic in Jeejal and Patan due to flooding in local streams, creating problems for travelers.

The road has also been closed due to landslides in areas of Khidarnala and



Sablomor: The closure has affected traffic, while reports have poured in about damage to vehicles travelling on road. Meanwhile, local administration and

National Highway Authority have started work to reopen the road for traffic and to evacuate people stranded on roads due to closure.

People have also been urged to avoid unnecessary travelling and acquire information about the road situation before starting a journey.

Spot ON

Abbasi recommends Sitara-e-Shujaat for martyred Railway employee

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi Tuesday attended the funeral prayers of Pakistan Railways employee, martyr Liaquat Ali at Police Lines Attock and paid glowing tribute to the deceased for his extraordinary bravery and sacrifice in the line of duty.

The minister also met the bereaved family and expressed heartfelt condolence, assuring them of the government's full support.

NDMA warns of flash floods, hailstorms till May 17

ISLAMABAD: The National Emergencies Operation Centre (NEOC) of the National Disaster Management Authority on Tuesday issued a detailed weather outlook for May 12 to 17, warning of widespread rain, thunderstorms, hailstorms, flash floods and landslides in several parts of the country, while directing provincial and district authorities to remain on high alert and ensure emergency preparedness measures. According to the NDMA, the current weather conditions are consistent with the seasonal forecast issued by the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) three to four months earlier for the April-June period.

Anti-Pakistan conspiracies to fail, Senate told

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Tariq Fazal Chaudhry on Tuesday said that elements hatching conspiracies against Pakistan would never succeed in their nefarious designs.

Responding to a point raised by opposition members in the Senate, the minister said the entire nation stood united against the menace of terrorism. He said the Pakistan Armed Forces and other law enforcement agencies were carrying out intelligence-based operations to eliminate terrorists across the country.

Suicide bomber killed after attack near KP-Punjab border

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOHAT: The security forces said they had foiled a suicide attack near the border of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab provinces, killing the attacker before he could reach a security checkpoint. The official sources said the bomber drove an explosives-laden vehicle towards the Mankur check post, a key installation overseeing movement between the two provinces. The security personnel opened fire after identifying the vehicle as suspicious, triggering a premature explosion.

KDA seals 10 illegal buildings in Kaghan

STAFF REPORTER

KAGHAN: The Building Control Unit of Kaghan Development Authority (KDA) sealed 10 illegally constructed buildings during an operation in different parts of Kaghan Valley.

According to officials, the raid was carried out on the directives of Director General KDA Rahmat Ali. Inspection teams visited Batakundi, Jhapran, and Rajwal areas to review ongoing construction activities and check compliance with approved building plans and KDA regulations.

During the operation, 10 under-construction buildings were found violating KDA laws and approved maps, after



which they were sealed by the authorities. The concerned individuals were warned that breaking official seals or continuing illegal construction activities could lead to legal action, including a fine of up to Rs1.5 million and imprisonment for up to three years.

Officials of Kaghan Development Authority said the crackdown against illegal constructions would continue without discrimination to preserve the natural beauty, environmental balance, and organized tourism system of Kaghan Valley.