



Parliamentarians pledge inclusive legal reforms

Parliamentarians from the Senate of Pakistan and the provincial assemblies of Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan have pledged to strengthen inter-provincial cooperation to promote inclusive legal reforms and protect the rights of religious minorities and other marginalized communities.

Detailed story on Page 2

Shan lead Pakistan's fightback

Shan Masood and Imam-ul-Haq shared a crucial 155-run partnership as Pakistan recovered from an early setback to reach 199-3 at the close on day two of the first Test against the West Indies, putting the tourists in a strong position despite trailing by 112 runs.

— Story on Page 7

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

Service Chiefs, Armed Forces commemorate 78th martyrdom of Capt Muhammad Sarwar Shaheed



RAWALPINDI: Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, Chief of the Army Staff & Chief of Defence Forces; Admiral Naveed Ashraf, NI, NI (M), T Bt, Chief of the Naval Staff; Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, NI (M), HJ, Chief of the Air Staff and the Armed Forces of Pakistan solemnly commemorate the 78th martyrdom of Captain Muhammad Sarwar Shaheed, Nishan-e-Haider, paying rich tribute to his unparalleled courage, unwavering commitment and supreme sacrifice in the defence of the nation.

On 27 July 1948 during the First Kashmir War at Tilpatra, Azad Kashmir, Captain Muhammad Sarwar Shaheed became the first Pakistani to be recipient of Nishan-e-Haider after embracing martyrdom in the line of duty for freedom of Kashmir. Leading his men from the front, he displayed extraordinary courage, exceptional tactical brilliance and unwavering devotion to duty.

His eternal sacrifice stands as a timeless symbol of courage, resilience and selfless devotion to the nation. The people and Armed Forces of Pakistan pay profound tribute to his enduring legacy with the deepest respect and gratitude. His supreme sacrifice continues to inspire present and future generations to uphold the highest principles of duty, honour and patriotism.

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Sunday criticised the Pakistan Muslim League- Nawaz (PML-N) for portraying publicly funded buses as personal gifts, as he made a final appeal to voters in Mirpur Division to support the party's 'arrow' symbol in the first phase of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Legislative Assembly elections held on Monday (tomorrow).

"These buses are not anyone's gift; they are the people's right," Bilawal said in a



ISLAMABAD: People enjoying picnic during Sunday holiday at Shahdara valley outskirts of the Federal Capital. — PHOTO: ONLINE

Khawaja Asif rejects Indian minister's remarks

India itself was a major source of instability in South Asia: Defence Minister

PROVINCE REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif has strongly rejected recent remarks by Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, saying India cannot alter internationally recognized legal facts through threats or political rhetoric.

In a statement posted on X, Khawaja Asif said Jammu and Kashmir remains an internationally recognized disputed territory, with its final status to be determined under relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

He said India's repeated allegations against Pakistan lacked credibility, alleging that India itself was a major source of instability in South Asia through its aggressive and expansionist policies.

Banned JAAC challenging bond between Pakistan and Kashmir: Khawaja Asif

SIALKOT: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has said banned Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) is challenging the historical bond of Pakistan and Kashmir, and raising the issue of Kashmiri refugees living in Pakistan. Addressing a political rally here on Saturday, Khawaja Asif said he had come in support of the candidate from LA-36 Jammu 3. He said in 1947, millions of refugees crossed the bloodline and reached Pakistan, and about 250,000 people sacrificed their lives, adding these refugees were always treated with hospitality in Pakistan. The Defence minister said that during the last 78 years, differences and contradictions have been emerging in elections, but now the issue of refugees living in Pakistan has been made an important issue by forming a joint action committee. Khawaja Asif said that it is the responsibility of the governments of Azad Kashmir and Pakistan to ensure development work in the affected areas. He alleged that a group blackmailed the PPP government and the Pakistani government to collect Rs25billion, while the same action committee is now challenging the relationship between Pakistan and Azad Kashmir. The minister demanded that immediate and effective measures be taken to address public issues, especially the provision of basic amenities, including drainage. TP Report



The Defence Minister expressed concern over what he described as India's provocative rhetoric, warning that such statements risk increasing regional tensions. He reaffirmed that Pakistan remains committed to peace and dialogue but would firmly safeguard its sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national security.

Khawaja Asif also said the Indian leadership's statements appeared aimed at diverting attention from domestic political challenges and growing public dissatisfaction with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's governance.

MQM-P begins street movement for rights

Party demands greater powers for Karachi as Mustafa Kamal criticises Sindh govt's governance

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KARACHI: The Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) on Sunday launched the first protest demonstration of its announced street movement for Karachi's rights in Shah Faisal Town, with party leaders criticising the Sindh government over civic issues and demanding greater constitutional powers and administrative authority for the city.

Senior MQM-P leaders, including members of the National Assembly and Sindh Assembly, attended the gathering, where senior leader and former Karachi mayor Syed Mustafa Kamal was welcomed by party workers.

Addressing the rally, Kamal alleged that Karachi had been deprived of its due rights for years and accused the Sindh government of failing to address the city's worsening civic conditions.

"People in Sindh are facing genocide. This has been happening for 18 years,"

he claimed, adding that the time had come to decide whether the existing system, under which "our generations are being deprived of their rights", should continue. He said MQM-P was not speaking against Pakistan but was demanding constitutional rights for Karachi and its residents. "We want our rights according to the Constitution of Pakistan. We want rights for our children," he said.

Kamal argued that Karachi's problems stemmed from governance rather than a lack of resources, claiming that the Sindh government had received Rs22,000 billion but had failed to spend the funds on the city. He also claimed that during his tenure as mayor, Karachi had ranked among the world's 12 developed cities after development spending of Rs300bn.

Alleging that the federal government was not withholding funds for Karachi, he accused the Sindh government of failing to utilise the city's allocated resources.

Information minister alleges India-linked propaganda network

Claims banned JAAC had foreign backing

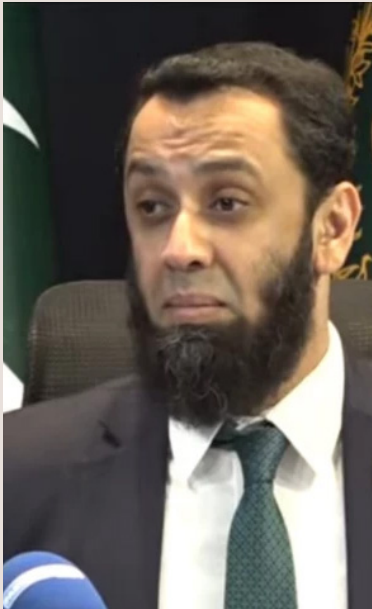
TP REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Sunday shared that an anti-Pakistan social media propaganda network linked to India's intelligence agency has been exposed, claiming the banned Joint Action Committee maintained connections with Indian elements.

In a video statement, Tarar said a co-ordinated campaign had been carried out on social media with the aim of inciting the public against Pakistan's state institutions.

He maintained that individuals associated with the banned Action Committee would have to answer to the nation for their actions, accusing them of participating in activities designed to undermine public trust in state institutions.

The information minister claimed that the network responsible for spreading misinformation and anti-Pakistan narratives had links to India and was intended to create distrust between the public and



state institutions. Tarar further said that if the leaders

PM Shehbaz lauds security forces for foiling terrorist attack in SW



TP REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has commended the security forces for successfully foiling a militant attack on a check post in South Waziristan and praised their professionalism, courage and swift response during the operation.

In a statement, the prime minister lauded the security forces for repelling the attack and killing four militants, describing their timely action as a reflection of their exceptional operational capability.

Shehbaz Sharif said the country's brave personnel had once again thwarted the enemy's designs, reaffirming that Pakistan's security would not be compromised under any circumstances.

He added that the entire nation stands shoulder to shoulder with the armed forces and law enforcement agencies in safeguarding the country's peace and stability.

The prime minister further said the government and security forces would continue operations under Operation Azm-e-Istehkam with full resolve until terrorism is completely eliminated from the country.

of the banned Action Committee were genuinely committed to the interests of Kashmir; they should participate in the democratic process by contesting elections rather than pursuing what he described as movements based on the use of force.

The minister also claimed that security forces had arrested an individual allegedly involved in an anti-Pakistan propaganda campaign while operating under the guise of a digital marketing business.

According to Tarar, preliminary investigations indicated that the suspect had allegedly received content from India, much of it related to the Action Committee's campaign and narratives circulated on social media.

He reiterated that, according to the government's assessment, the misinformation network had links to India and alleged that the banned Action Committee was connected to the same network.

The claims made by the information minister have not been independently verified, and no response from representatives of the Action Committee was immediately available.

Bilawal criticises PML-N over portraying public buses as personal gifts

PPP chairman describes the election as referendum on the rights, development and future of AJK

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Sunday criticised the Pakistan Muslim League- Nawaz (PML-N) for portraying publicly funded buses as personal gifts, as he made a final appeal to voters in Mirpur Division to support the party's 'arrow' symbol in the first phase of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Legislative Assembly elections held on Monday (tomorrow).

"These buses are not anyone's gift; they are the people's right," Bilawal said in a

special message issued from Islamabad on the eve of polling.

Asserting that the PPP had delivered practical development rather than merely making promises, he criticised what he described as politically timed development announcements, saying projects financed through taxpayers' money should not be portrayed as personal gifts by political leaders.

Launching a political attack on the PML-N, Bilawal said the people of "Kashmir and Kashmore, Mirpur and Mirpur Khas" shared the same spirit of defending their



rights and would not allow anyone to undermine their claim over their land or future.

He claimed that just as the PML-N

had been rejected by voters in previous elections in Kashmir and Kashmore, the electorate would repeat that verdict in the current polls.

Bilawal described the election as a referendum on the rights, development and future of AJK.

He urged voters to give the PPP a strong mandate, pledging that the party would not compromise on the rights of the people of AJK and would continue its struggle to secure what he described as the rights of sovereignty, ownership and employment for Kashmiris.

"The people of Mirpur sacrificed their homes and land for the Mangla Dam and it is because of those sacrifices that much of Pakistan was electrified," he said.

"No one can deny that the people of AJK have an equal stake in the region's resources, decisions and future," Bilawal said, adding that Pakistan owed a debt to

Mirpur for its sacrifices rather than doing it a favour.

He argued that the people of AJK should enjoy the same fundamental rights as every Pakistani citizen, including what he termed the rights of sovereignty, ownership and employment.

Bilawal also called for the immediate establishment of a dedicated compensation fund for those affected by the recent violence, saying such measures would help restore public confidence and normalcy.

He concluded by urging voters in Mirpur Division to stamp the arrow symbol and vote for development, prosperity and the protection of the rights of the people of Azad Kashmir.

Shoaib commends Hamza Foundation's humanitarian work

PROVINCE REPORT

PESHAWAR: District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Peshawar, Shoaib Khan, visited the Hamza Foundation Welfare Thalassaemia and Hemophilia Center in Peshawar on Saturday to review its healthcare and humanitarian services. During the visit, Founder Chairman Hamza Foundation, Ijaz Ali Khan, briefed the DSWO on the organization's welfare initiatives and ongoing efforts to support patients suffering from thalassaemia and hemophilia. Shoaib Khan toured the thalassaemia and hemophilia wards, the digital blood bank, laboratory, blood donation room, reception, doctors' room, nursing department, and store. He also met young patients and distributed gifts and juice among them. The DSWO highly appreciated the Foundation's dedicated services for patients and its commitment to serving humanity.

Ayaz Khan hails Gen Aamer Raza's promotion

PROVINCE REPORT

PESHAWAR: Muhammad Ayaz Khan, Additional Director Public Relations and Media (BS-19), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, has congratulated General Syed Aamer Raza on his promotion to the rank of four-star general. In a congratulatory message, Ayaz Khan described the promotion as a well-deserved recognition of General Aamer Raza's years of dedicated service, professional excellence and unwavering commitment to Pakistan. He praised the general's integrity, courage and exemplary leadership, stating that his achievements are a source of pride for the nation. Ayaz Khan prayed for General Aamer Raza's good health, strength and continued success in his new responsibilities, expressing confidence that he would continue to serve the country with distinction.

Amir Muqam announces major projects for Shangla

SYED SAJID SHAH

SHANGLA: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON, and President of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Engineer Amir Muqam, has said the federal government is committed to public welfare, expressing confidence that inflation will decline significantly and the country's economy will continue to improve. Addressing a ceremony at his residence in Alpuri to welcome new members into the PML-N, Amir Muqam said Pakistan was making progress on the economic, diplomatic and development fronts under the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir. He announced that the federal government had approved the establishment of a Danish School in Shangla and said land acquisition for the project would begin



soon. He also revealed that the Shangla Expressway and several other major development projects had received approval and work would start shortly. The minister directed the relevant authorities to resolve electricity-related issues, including low voltage, outdated transmission lines and other techni-

cal problems, to improve power supply across the district. Amir Muqam also announced several new development schemes for Shangla and urged the newly joined PML-N members to actively serve the people and contribute to the district's development and prosperity.

Karak secures Rs9.7b development package

RAUF KHATTAK

KARAK: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has approved 19 major development projects worth Rs.9.7 Billion for Karak district under the 2026-27 "Prosperous Khyber Pakhtunkhwa" budget, aiming to improve infrastructure, public services and economic activity. The projects were announced following efforts by Special Assistant to the Chief Minister on Livestock Khursheed Khattak, Member of the National Assembly Shahid Khattak and Member of the Provincial Assembly Major (R) Muhammad Sajjad Barakwal. The Annual Development Programme allocates Rs.3.89 Billion for communications, Rs.3.2 Billion for multi-sector development, Rs.866 Million for irrigation, Rs.450 Million for health, Rs.350 Million for livestock, Rs.305 Million for drinking water, Rs.200 Million each for food and local government, Rs.138 Million for sports, Rs.68 Million for home affairs and Rs.60 Million for relief and rehabilitation.

Parliamentarians pledge inclusive legal reforms

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR: Parliamentarians from the Senate of Pakistan and the provincial assemblies of Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan have pledged to strengthen inter-provincial cooperation to promote inclusive legal reforms and protect the rights of religious minorities and other marginalized communities. The commitment came at the conclusion of a two-day Legislative Workshop on Advancing Inclusive Legal Reforms through Parliamentarians' Engagement held in Murree. The event brought together lawmakers, women parliamentarians, parliamentary secretaries, provincial ministers, and representatives of Minorities Caucuses from across the country. The workshop, organised by a coalition of civil society organisations, focused on



enhancing collaboration between parliamentarians and civil society to advance inclusive legislation through parliamentary processes.

Participants discussed key issues affecting minority communities, including protection of religious properties, reforms to personal laws, child marriage legisla-

tion, improved political representation, implementation of minority job and education quotas, access to justice, birth registration, inclusive education, and better protection for sanitation workers. The participants stressed that effective implementation of existing laws is as important as introducing new legislation. They agreed to use parliamentary forums, including Minorities Caucuses, Standing Committees, resolutions, and private members' bills, to promote inclusive governance and safeguard constitutional rights. The workshop concluded with a unanimous commitment to strengthen parliamentary oversight, improve policy implementation, and work collectively for legal reforms that ensure equal rights and opportunities for all citizens, particularly religious minorities and other vulnerable communities.

NEA KP chapter elects Fazalullah as Chief Minister



PROVINCE REPORT

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chapter of the National Education Assembly (NEA) held its oath-taking ceremony in Peshawar, where Fazalullah Daudzai was elected as the Chief Minister of the provincial chapter. The ceremony, hosted by the Superior Group of Colleges, was attended by NEA Founder Chairman Sagheer Ahmad, Central President Nasir Mahmood Samra, Dr. Shahid Raza, Superior Group of Colleges Regional Director Yasir, office-bearers, and education experts from across the province. Addressing the gathering, Fazalullah Daudzai said the Assembly would work

to identify key challenges in the education sector, promote modern educational practices, and formulate practical recommendations to improve the quality of education in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Founder Chairman Sagheer Ahmad and Central President Nasir Mahmood Samra said the National Education Assembly aimed to bring education professionals together to promote reforms, innovation, and a stronger education system across Pakistan. Regional Director Yasir thanked the participants and stressed the importance of collaboration among educational institutions, experts, and policymakers to strengthen the province's education sector.

PESCO issues detailed report on steps taken to restore electricity

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR: Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) has released a detailed report highlighting the efforts undertaken by its field formations to restore electricity across its operational region following the recent monsoon rains. According to the report, heavy rainfall accompanied by strong winds began on Monday night last week and continued for nearly 12 hours across the PESCO region. The severe weather resulted in the tripping of 148 electricity feeders, damage to 23 electricity poles, and the snapping of power lines at numerous locations, causing widespread disruptions to electricity supply. Despite the challenging weather conditions, PESCO had already completed extensive preparedness measures ahead of the monsoon season. PESCO field staff remained in the field throughout the night and as a result of their dedicated efforts, power supply on 42 affected feeders was successfully restored by Tuesday morning. PESCO teams continued restoration work round the clock, repairing or replacing all 23 damaged poles and installing approximately 4,000 meters of new electricity wires.

M&E Report uncovers irregularities in flood-affected school project in Tank

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR: A Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) report of the Planning and Development Department, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, has identified serious irregularities in the reconstruction work of Government Primary School (GPS) Garwaki under the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Human Capital Investment Project (KPHCIP). The project was initially approved at a cost of Rs. 14.712 million; however, the Technical Sanction (TS) was later reduced to Rs. 7.279 million. The report termed this significant reduction questionable and called for a detailed justification of the discrepancy. Furthermore, the original PC-I allocated funds solely for the construction of a boundary wall, but the executing agency altered the scope to include construction of a classroom along with a 65-foot boundary wall. During the site visit on August 29, 2025, the M&E team observed that the classroom under construction deviated from the approved standard design dimensions. The report also highlighted poor workmanship, major structural defects, weak



coordination among stakeholders, lack of supervision, and absence of proper documentation, including site registers and dismantled material records. Meanwhile, local residents and parents have raised serious concerns, stating that more than 250 students are currently enrolled in the school and are facing space constraints due to limited infrastructure. They have demanded a transparent inquiry into the project's inclusion, cost

revisions, and changes in scope, urging the authorities to ensure adequate facilities for the large number of students. The M&E wing has recommended that the Project Director and concerned officials provide written justifications within the stipulated timeframe and ensure strict adherence to approved designs and procedures. It also called for corrective measures and possible disciplinary action if irregularities are confirmed.

KMU successfully concludes first-ever computer-based centralized admission test

18,161 candidates registered; more than 18,000 appeared during two consecutive days of computer-based testing

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR: Khyber Medical University (KMU), Peshawar, has successfully concluded its historic Computer-Based Centralized Admission Test (KMU-CAT 2026) for admissions to undergraduate programs, including Pharm-D, Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT), BS Nursing, BS Allied Health Sciences, Public Health, and other undergraduate disciplines. Conducted over two consecutive days (July 25-26, 2026), the examination marked the successful completion of KMU's first-ever fully computer-based, paperless admission test, replacing the conventional paper-based system and setting a new benchmark for transparent, merit-based, efficient, and tech-

nology-driven admissions in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. A total of 18,165 candidates registered for KMU-CAT 2026, while over 18,000 candidates appeared during the two-day examination conducted at 23 fully air-conditioned computer-based examination centres established across Peshawar, Mardan, Swat, Hazara, Swabi, Kohat, Malakand, Dera Ismail Khan, Buner, Chitral, Upper Dir, Parachinar, and Islamabad. Candidates received their results immediately after completing the test through KMU's computerized assessment system. The examination was conducted under stringent security arrangements and comprehensive monitoring. Candidates underwent biometric verification, iden-



tity and document scrutiny, and security screening before entering the examination halls. All centres were equipped with modern computer systems, uninterrupted internet connectivity, CCTV surveillance, backup power facilities, and dedicated technical support teams to ensure the smooth, transparent, and uninterrupted conduct of the examination. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zia Ul Haq, SI (Sitara-i-Imtiaz), congratulated the suc-

cessful completion of KMU-CAT 2026 and appreciated the commitment of the examination, IT, admissions, administrative, and security teams. He stated that the successful implementation of the University's first-ever computer-based admission test reflects KMU's unwavering commitment to merit, transparency, quality, and digital innovation while aligning its admission system with internationally recognized standards.

Advocate Marina opens new legal practice



PROVINCE REPORT

PESHAWAR: Young lawyer Advocate Marina Asif has inaugurated the new office of Marina Asif Law Associates at Phase 3 Chowk, Peshawar, where professional legal and advisory services will be provided to the public. The inauguration ceremony was attended by President of the Peshawar High Court Bar Association Amin-ur-Rehman, KP Bar Council Member Ahmad Farooq, senior lawyers, community representatives, relatives, and friends, who congratulated Marina Asif on her new venture.

Speakers praised Advocate Marina Asif for earning a strong reputation in the legal profession through her professionalism, integrity, and dedication to protecting clients' rights. They expressed confidence that her firm would contribute to promoting access to justice, the rule of law, and constitutional supremacy. Speaking on the occasion, Advocate Marina Asif thanked the guests for their support and reaffirmed her commitment to maintaining the highest standards of professional ethics, integrity, and legal excellence while providing quality legal representation and advisory services.



KOHAT: Residents of Rehmanabad area of Shakardara are shouting slogans during protest in favor of their demands. — PHOTO: ONLINE

News BRIEFS

Asma Butt calls for revival of family theatre



TP REPORT

RAWALPINDI:Renowned director, playwright, and CEO of Dolphin Communication, Asma Butt, said the revival of stage theatre requires quality productions and practical efforts rather than press conferences. She welcomed the Punjab government’s initiatives to revive the film industry and urged similar support for family-oriented stage theatre. Asma Butt said Dolphin Communication has spent the past 19 years promoting quality theatre in Pakistan and abroad while consistently opposing obscenity. She criticized vulgar stage performances for driving families away from theatres and called for an end to unethical content. Inviting theatre artists to stage quality productions at the Rawalpindi Arts Council, she said genuine cultural performances face no institutional barriers.

DSWO Peshawar visits Hamza Foundation, praises welfare services



TP REPORT

PESHAWAR: District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Peshawar, Shoaib Khan, visited the Hamza Foundation Welfare Thalassaemia and Hemophilia Center in Peshawar on Saturday to review its healthcare and humanitarian services. During the visit, Founder Chairman Hamza Foundation, Ijaz Ali Khan, briefed the DSWO on the organization’s welfare initiatives and ongoing efforts to support patients suffering from thalassaemia and hemophilia. Shoaib Khan toured the thalassaemia and hemophilia wards, the digital blood bank, laboratory, blood donation room, reception, doctors’ room, nursing department, and store. He also met young patients and distributed gifts and juice among them. The DSWO highly appreciated the Foundation’s dedicated services for patients and its commitment to serving humanity. At the end of the visit, Founder Chairman Ijaz Ali Khan presented a Hamza Foundation shield to Shoaib Khan in recognition of his visit and support for the organization’s humanitarian mission.

PPP leaders celebrate President Zardari’s birthday

TP REPORT

ISLAMABAD: A special ceremony was held at Zardari House in Islamabad to celebrate the birthday of President Asif Ali Zardari, with senior leaders of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) gathering to extend their greetings and offer prayers for the country’s head of state. The event was attended by prominent PPP leaders from across the country and reflected the party’s unity and solidarity. Pakistan Peoples Party Central Leader and Central President of the Women’s Wing, Faryal Talpur, cut the birthday cake in the presence of party leaders and workers. The ceremony was marked by warm wishes, prayers and expressions of

goodwill for President Zardari. Among those present were Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi, former federal minister Sherry Rehman, Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme Senator Rubina Khalid, Acting President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Latif Akbar, senior PPP leader Chaudhry Riaz and several other party leaders. The participants congratulated President Asif Ali Zardari on his birthday and acknowledged his long political career and services to democracy and the federation. They praised his leadership and expressed confidence in his continued role in strengthening democratic institutions and promoting national unity.



Special prayers were offered for President Zardari’s good health, long life and continued success in serving the nation. The participants prayed for peace, stability and prosperity in Pakistan and reaffirmed their commitment to the vision and principles of the Pakistan Peoples Party. The ceremony concluded in a warm and cordial atmosphere, with party leaders interacting with one another and reiterating their resolve to work together for the country’s progress and democratic development. The event also provided an opportunity for PPP leaders from different regions to exchange views on national issues and emphasize the importance of unity within the party.

Ziauddin Ahmad visits police station, check posts, lauds personnel

MUHAMMAD REHAN

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: District Police Officer (DPO) Dera, Ziauddin Ahmad, visited Hathala Police Station and police check posts on Tank-Dera Road to review security arrangements amid the prevailing security situation. Accompanied by SP Saddar Division Asif Mahmood, the DPO inspected Hathala Check Post, Hathala Police Station, and Tariq Shaheed Check Post. He directed officers to further strengthen security measures in view of existing threats. Addressing police personnel, DPO Ziauddin Ahmad praised their courage and professionalism in tackling the recent wave of terrorism. He assured the officers and jawans that the police leadership stood firmly beside them in the fight against terrorism. The DPO also instructed senior officers to resolve the issues faced by police personnel on a priority basis to ensure their welfare and operational readiness.



Minister directs WSSC to improve sanitation, waste management of Kohat



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Information and Public Relations Shafi Jan on Saturday directed Water and Sanitation Services Company (WSSC) Kohat to further strengthen city’s sanitation and waste management system emphasizing efficient public service delivery and improved municipal facilities. He issued these directives while chair-

ing a performance review meeting of WSSC Kohat. Minister for Law Aftab Alam and Member of the National Assembly (MNA) Shehryar Afridi were also present. The meeting reviewed city’s current sanitation situation, challenges, utilization of resources and plans for future improvements. Information Minister Shafi Jan said

provision of quality municipal services remained one of provincial government’s top priorities. He underscored need for a coordinated strategy to improve sanitation services and address public concerns promptly. The meeting concluded with a commitment to further strengthen sanitation, cleanliness and other municipal services through coordinated efforts.

Saqib leads FIA crackdown on drug network

NADEEM FAISAL BAIGA

FAISALABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Faisalabad has arrested the main absconding suspect in a high-profile drug trafficking case involving Pakistani Umrah pilgrims. According to FIA officials, the accused, Gul Nawaz, was arrested during an intelligence-based operation in Peshawar after evading authorities for several months. He is alleged to have led the criminal network along with previously arrested suspects Saddam Hussain and Israr Khan. Investigators said the group allegedly targeted financially vulnerable individuals by offering free Umrah packages. The pilgrims were reportedly given luggage described as gifts and instructed to hand it over to designated individuals in Saudi Arabia without knowing that narcotics were allegedly concealed inside. The case surfaced in September 2024



when Saudi authorities arrested five Pakistani Umrah pilgrims, including women from Jaranwala, after allegedly recovering drugs from their luggage. The pilgrims were later convicted by Saudi courts, prompting the FIA to launch a comprehensive investigation into the network. FIA officials said the arrest of Gul Nawaz represents a major breakthrough in the investigation. Director FIA Faisalabad Saqib Sultan said the agency remains committed to dismantling organized criminal networks involved in drug trafficking and the exploitation of innocent citizens.

The Power of Giving: A Helping Hand Can Change a Life

LAIBA LARAIB

In a world where many people are struggling with poverty, hunger, illness, and other hardships, helping others has become more important than ever. A small act of kindness can bring hope to someone who is going through a difficult time. Donations and charity are not only about giving money; they are about showing compassion, caring for others, and making our society a better place. Many people around us are unable to afford basic necessities such as food, clothing, education, and medical treatment. Some families struggle every day to provide a meal for their children, while others cannot afford school fees or medicines. For such people, even a small donation can make a meaningful difference in their lives. Donations can take many forms. We can donate money, clothes, food, books, medicines, or other useful items. We can also give our time and skills to help those



in need. Sometimes, simply listening to someone, supporting a struggling family, or helping a student with education can be a powerful act of kindness. Helping others should not be seen as something only rich people can do. Every person can contribute in some way. A small amount given by many people can become a great source of support for someone in need. What matters most is not the size of the donation, but the sincerity behind it.

Charity also brings people together. When communities work together to help those who are less fortunate, they become stronger and more caring. A society that supports its vulnerable members is a society built on humanity, kindness, and hope. However, it is important to donate responsibly. People should try to support trustworthy charities and organisations that genuinely work for the welfare of others. Donations should reach the peo-

ple who need them most and should be used honestly and effectively. We should remember that one day, any of us may need help. Life can change unexpectedly, and the person who needs support today may be the person who helps us tomorrow. This is why kindness and generosity should be a part of our daily lives. A donation may seem small to one person, but it can mean food for a hungry family, education for a child, treatment for a sick patient, or hope for someone who feels forgotten. By helping others, we do not only change their lives. We also make our own world more compassionate. In the end, true success is not measured only by what we achieve for ourselves, but also by what we do for others. If each of us gives whatever we can, with a sincere heart, together we can create a brighter and more caring future. A little kindness can go a long way. Sometimes, the smallest act of giving can become someone’s greatest hope.

Pakistan Will Continue to Build Bridges

JUNAID QAISER



As we navigate a world increasingly shaped by geopolitical tensions, military conflicts, and a growing sense of mistrust, the role of diplomacy often gets sidelined. However, history teaches us that even the most deeply rooted disputes eventually need dialogue to find resolution. The recent news that Pakistan is seeking to revive discussions between the United States and Iran highlights a reality that many in the region have long understood: peace isn't something that can be achieved through confrontation alone. The talks happening in Islamabad, which include senior Pakistani officials, Iran's Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni, and military leaders, are important not because they guarantee a breakthrough, but because they show that diplomatic channels are still open. In a time when regional security, energy markets, and international trade routes are under strain, maintaining these lines of communication is an achievement worth celebrating.

Pakistan's involvement in these efforts is neither new nor surprising. Over the past several years, Islamabad has increasingly sought to position itself as a facilitator of dialogue rather than a participant in regional rivalries. Whether dealing with neighboring countries, Gulf partners, or major global powers, Pakistan has consistently advocated engagement over escalation. This approach reflects both principle and pragmatism. Pakistan understands better than most countries that instability in the Middle East does not remain confined to the region. Disruptions in the Gulf affect energy prices, trade flows, investment, and economic confidence across the world. For countries like Pakistan, which maintain strong ties with both the Gulf states and Iran, peace is not merely a diplomatic aspiration—it is a strategic necessity.

China's apparent support for renewed mediation efforts further highlights the international significance of the issue. Beijing has substantial economic interests in the Gulf and relies heavily on uninterrupted maritime trade routes. Any prolonged disruption in the Strait of Hormuz or the Red Sea would have consequences far beyond the Middle East. It is therefore understandable that China views regional stability as a priority and welcomes efforts aimed at reducing tensions. At the same time, the challenges facing any renewed diplomatic process should not be underestimated. The conflict between the US and Iran is rooted in decades of mistrust, competing interests, and unresolved grievances. Even when diplomatic openings emerge, they are often fragile and vulnerable to setbacks.

The June 2026 MoU between Washington and Tehran, achieved through mediation efforts involving Pakistan and Qatar, was a notable development. For a brief moment, it appeared that both sides were prepared to explore a path toward a broader settlement. The agreement created hope that diplomacy might gradually replace confrontation. That optimism, however, has yet to translate into lasting progress. Continued hostilities and regional tensions have slowed momentum and complicated efforts to move forward. Reports that Pakistan has urged Iran to halt attacks on Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries before new negotiations can begin illustrate the difficult realities facing mediators. Trust cannot be rebuilt while military actions continue to fuel uncertainty. Yet setbacks should not be mistaken for failure. Successful diplomacy rarely follows a straight path. Most major peace processes encounter periods of stagnation, disappointment, and renewed tensions before meaningful breakthroughs occur. What matters is whether communication survives during those difficult moments. This is where Pakistan's role remains important. Islamabad enjoys relationships with a diverse range of regional and international actors. It has maintained dialogue with Iran while also preserving strong ties with Saudi Arabia, China, the Gulf states, and the United States. Few countries possess the ability to communicate effectively with so many stakeholders simultaneously.

That diplomatic reach carries responsibility. Pakistan cannot solve every dispute, nor can it impose peace on others. What it can do is create opportunities for engagement, encourage restraint, and help prevent misunderstandings from escalating into larger crises. In a region where mistrust often dominates decision-making, even these modest contributions can have considerable value.

The broader objective should be clear. No country benefits from a prolonged conflict that threatens shipping lanes, destabilizes energy markets, and increases the risk of wider confrontation. The Middle East has already endured enough turmoil. Regional and global actors alike have a shared interest in reducing tensions and creating conditions for meaningful negotiations. Pakistan's efforts should therefore be viewed within a larger context. They are not about taking sides or seeking diplomatic headlines. They are about preserving the possibility of dialogue when alternatives appear increasingly dangerous. In many ways, that has been the defining feature of Pakistan's recent diplomatic engagement: maintaining communication where others see only division. Whether the current exploratory contacts eventually lead to formal negotiations remains uncertain. The obstacles are real, and expectations should remain realistic. Nevertheless, the willingness of various parties to continue talking suggests that diplomacy has not been abandoned.

The world does not need more conflict. It needs more countries willing to facilitate conversations, build trust, and search for common ground. Pakistan has demonstrated a readiness to play that role, and the latest developments indicate that it intends to continue doing so.

In a region often defined by walls of suspicion, Pakistan will continue to build bridges. And in today's uncertain world, those bridges may prove more valuable than ever.

Shocks and Aftershocks

Oil prices have again become uncontrollable

MUHAMMAD MOHSIN IQBAL



Each fresh tremor in the Gulf sends another wave through our foreign exchange reserves, our transport sector, and the fragile purchasing power of the common citizen

In the autumn of 2005, the earth rose in wrath against the ancient hills of Kashmir. On the eighth day of October, a violent convulsion of 7.6 magnitude tore through the region, its epicentre lying a mere 19 kms northeast of Muzaffarabad. The tremor was felt far beyond Pakistan's borders, reverberating through Afghanistan and Tajikistan, across the valleys of India, and even into the remote expanses of Xinjiang. It proved one of the deadliest natural disasters of that decade, claiming thousands of lives and reducing entire villages to rubble. For months the ground refused to rest; careful records later counted no fewer than 497 aftershocks between October and the following March. During such uncertainty a sobering lesson emerged; buildings erected with care and strength stood firm against the repeated tremors, while those raised hastily or without conscience crumbled into dust and despair.

A parallel drama of sudden upheaval and lingering aftershocks has unfolded more recently, though this time the forces at work have been those of human conflict rather than nature's blind fury. Late in February 2026, long-simmering tensions between Iran and USA erupted into open warfare, with Israel joining the fray in decisive fashion. Large-scale aerial and missile assaults struck hundreds of targets across Iran, homing in upon military bases, nuclear facilities, and centres of leadership. The loss of Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in the opening strikes sent shockwaves through the region and beyond. Tehran responded with barrages of missiles and swarms of drones that lit the night skies and struck at targets across several countries. For several weeks in March and April the fighting intensified, leaving thousands dead—most of them in Iran and Lebanon—and threatening to engulf wider circles of involvement involving Hezbollah and other actors. Shipping in the Strait of Hormuz, that vital artery of global energy, faced grave peril, and the world watched anxiously as oil supplies trembled on the edge of disruption.

A measure of relief arrived around the middle of June when a MOU was concluded between the United States and Iran. The accord promised a halt to major combat operations, the reopening of the strait to peaceful navigation, and the beginning of serious negotiations concerning Iran's nuclear program. For a brief season hope flickered that reason might yet prevail. Yet by the seventh and eighth of July the ceasefire had fractured. Iranian forces struck at merchant vessels in the Hormuz passage; the United States answered with fresh waves of airstrikes and the reimposition of a naval blockade. Iran, in turn, launched retaliatory attacks upon American and coalition positions in Bahrain, Kuwait, Jordan, and elsewhere. As July draws toward its close, the pattern of nocturnal American strikes and Iranian counter-blows continues, holding the Gulf in a state of restless tension.

Though the principal theatre of war lies distant from our frontiers, its aftershocks have travelled with merciless swiftness to the streets and bazaars of Pakistan. The initial convulsion in global oil markets followed hard upon the early phase of hostilities. Petrol prices in Pakistan surged to an unprecedented four hundred and fifty-eight rupees and forty-one paise per litre on the third of April—a record born of disrupted supplies and fevered speculation. Diesel climbed still higher, touching five hundred and twenty rupees and thirty-five paise. The consequences touched every corner of national life; transporters raised their fares,



farmers faced higher costs for machinery and transport, and ordinary households tightened their belts as inflation rippled outward. For a time, as diplomatic channels—including Pakistan's own quiet mediation efforts—bore fruit and the strait began to function once more, prices eased and a measure of stability returned. Yet the renewed outbreak of fighting in July has shattered that fragile calm. Oil prices have again become uncontrollable, climbing under the pressure of uncertainty and fresh speculation. The government, its options narrowed by heavy reliance on international loans and a vulnerable economy, has found itself compelled to adjust domestic fuel rates almost daily, basing decisions as much upon forecasts of future trouble as upon present realities.

Thus, the nation has endured a great initial shock followed by persistent aftershocks, much like the Kashmir earthquake two decades earlier. Each fresh tremor in the Gulf sends another wave through our foreign exchange reserves, our transport sector, and the fragile purchasing power of the common citizen. Industries dependent upon steady fuel supplies have curtailed operations; the cost of everyday commodities has risen in sympathy; and the burden has fallen most heavily upon those least able to bear it. Pakistan's economy, long accustomed to navigating external storms while standing upon borrowed foundations, feels these disturbances with particular acuity.

Even in these challenging times, the dry wit of everyday Pakistanis remains unshaken. One recalls an incident from the days when the Daily Pakistan newspaper was under the ownership of Akbar Bhatti. A reporter rushed into the newsroom one afternoon declaring that Bhatti Sahib's car had met with an accident. Before concern could fully form, another veteran journalist remarked with a knowing smile that this surely meant salaries would not arrive on time that month. The quip, though light, spoke volumes about the precariousness of life and livelihood when those at the helm encounter misfortune.

Pakistan has passed through many such seasons of trial—political upheavals, economic tempests, and natural calamities alike. Each time the nation has gathered its scattered strength, mended what could be mended, and pressed onward. The present difficulties arising from the conflict in the Gulf, with their daily toll upon fuel prices and economic confidence, constitute yet another test of our collective endurance. The strong institutions and resilient spirit of the people have served as anchors in the past; they remain our surest hope today. God willing, this too shall pass, and Pakistan shall emerge from these aftershocks steadier and more united, its foundations reinforced by hardship and its future secured by the unyielding will of its citizens.

Heinous Narrative Targeting Pak Army

ABDUL BASIT ALVI



Noreen Niazi, sister of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder Imran Khan, made controversial remarks in a widely circulated podcast that drew widespread criticism across Pakistan. She alleged that the military confrontation with India, referred to in Pakistan as Marka-e-Haq (Battle of Truth), was a staged event rather than a genuine act of national defence and claimed there was a secret understanding between the Pakistan Army and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to mislead the Pakistani public. She further alleged that Israel and the United States were behind the conflict, claiming India acted under Israeli influence to pressure Pakistan into recognizing Israel through the Abraham Accords, that Pakistan's government and military had secretly contacted Israeli officials, and that praise from US President Donald Trump for Pakistan's leadership was part of this alleged agenda. She admitted she had no official information or evidence for these claims and had reached them through her own reasoning, prompting critics to dismiss the allegations as baseless misinformation that undermined the Pakistan Army, the country's foreign policy, and the sacrifices of its soldiers.

Her remarks triggered legal and politi-

cal condemnation. The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency issued her a legal notice and summons, accusing her of spreading false, offensive, and inflammatory content intended to defame state institutions, harm national unity, and warning of legal consequences under Section 174 of the Pakistan Penal Code if she failed to comply. Political leaders, including Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari, condemned the remarks, linked them to Imran Khan's political outlook, argued they were contrary to Pakistan's national interests and achievements, and warned they could be exploited by hostile foreign media to damage the country's image. Her allegations about Israel were also rejected as inconsistent with Pakistan's longstanding foreign policy, which supports the Palestinian cause, rejects recognition of Israel until an independent Palestinian state is established on the pre-1967 borders with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital, and was reaffirmed by Defence Minister Khawaja Asif in May 2026. Pakistan's passport, which remains invalid for travel to Israel, was also cited as evidence contradicting claims of secret normalization efforts.

The Marka-e-Haq operation itself was a monumental moment for Pakistan that redefined the country's military strategy and deterrence capability. The operation was not just a simple skirmish but a carefully planned and executed response to aggression that showcased the exceptional capabilities of the Pakistan Army and the Air Force. The armed forces, through coordinated leadership and superior tactics, successfully foiled any Indian attempts to escalate the conflict. The entire operation demonstrated Pakistan's resolve to defend its borders at all costs and highlighted the nation's advancements in modern warfare and technology. The Director General of the Inter-Services Public Relations provided a detailed briefing to

The Marka-e-Haq operation itself was a monumental moment for Pakistan that redefined the country's military strategy and deterrence capability.



the nation, outlining the ten strategic outcomes of the Marka-e-Haq. He explained how the operation transformed the nature of warfare and re-established a balance of power in the region. The entire Pakistani nation, from the northern areas to the southern coast, united in support of its military and celebrated the professionalism and bravery displayed by the armed forces. This unity was a source of immense strength and sent a clear message to the international community about the resilience of the Pakistani nation. It is this very success and the strengthening of national unity that act as a major irritant for the country's enemies, both internal and external. Those who seek to destabilize Pakistan and weaken its military understand that a strong and confident army is the biggest obstacle to their nefarious plans. Therefore, they continuously resort to such malicious propaganda, attempting to create divisions and lower the morale of the forces. The false narratives propagated by individuals like Noreen Niazi are thus seen as a direct tool of these enemies to achieve their destabilizing objectives.

The Pakistani nation, with its rich history of resilience and unwavering patriotism, has categorically rejected these heinous and baseless narratives. The people of Pakistan are not naive, and they are fully capable of distinguishing between truth and falsehood, especially when it concerns the defence and integrity of their homeland. The anger

expressed on social media and in public gatherings shows that the public is fully aware of the sacrifices made by the armed forces. They recognize that the soldiers serving on the borders are the nation's heroes and that any attack on them is an attack on the country itself. This widespread public condemnation has actually served to strengthen the bond between the people and the military. The false narratives, instead of creating doubt, have opened the eyes of the nation even further and have made it easier for the average citizen to differentiate between those who work for the country's prosperity and those who, driven by selfish political interests, are willing to jeopardize the nation's security for their own gain. The people are demanding that strict action be taken against all such elements, regardless of their political background or connections. They believe that the law must take its course and that such individuals must be held accountable for their words and actions. The unity and resilience of the Pakistani nation remain unshakable, and such cowardly attempts to create discord and spread lies will only serve to strengthen the resolve of the people to defend their motherland and its institutions. The state is determined to protect its ideological and geographical frontiers, and with the full backing of its patriotic populace, it will successfully thwart all such attempts to undermine its stability and sovereignty.

آئیے مل کر تھیلیسیا اور ہیمنوفیلیا کے خلاف جنگ لڑیں

حمزہ فاؤنڈیشن

ویلفیئر ہسپتال اینڈ بلڈ ٹرانسفیوژن سروسز

(رجسٹرڈ قلمی ادارہ)

آپ کا مالی تعاون ان غریب
اور نادار مریضوں کی زندگیوں
کے چراغ روشن رکھنے میں
مددگار ثابت ہوگا۔

2006ء سے اب تک، تھیلیسیا اور ہیمنوفیلیا
کے مرض میں مبتلا ہزاروں مستحق بچوں کو
خالصاً انسانی ہمدردی کی بنیاد پر صحت مند،
اسکرین شدہ خون اور خون کے اجزاء مل
طور پر مفت فراہم کیے جا رہے ہیں

امراض خون
میں مبتلا معصوم
بچوں کی زندگی
بچانے کیلئے
اپنی زکوٰۃ
حمزہ فاؤنڈیشن
کو دیتے۔

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Cotton Body reviews varieties to boost yield

MULTAN: The first meeting of the committee monitoring cotton varieties, constituted on the special directives of Punjab Agriculture Secretary Iftikhar Ali Sahu, was held here on Sunday at the Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture.

Director General Pest Warning and Quality Control of Pesticides Punjab, Dr. Amir Rasool, presided over the high-level meeting.

During the meeting, participants presented comprehensive recommendations regarding new cotton varieties, testing methodologies, and the establishment of a more effective research framework. The forum reaffirmed its firm commitment to promoting modern agricultural research and ensuring that its practical outcomes reach farming communities effectively.

The delegation thoroughly reviewed research activities, experimental fields, and candidate cotton varieties currently under trial. During the visit, key factors including yield potential, resistance to pests and diseases, and overall performance under varying weather conditions were closely assessed.

Speakers during the session underscored that the National Cotton Varietal Trials programme plays a fundamental role in approving high-yielding varieties, ensuring the steady availability of quality seeds, and ultimately boosting the country's overall cotton production.— APP

APBF calls for swift implementation of MSME reforms to unlock potential

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF) has welcomed the government's renewed commitment to strengthening the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sector, saying the announced initiatives have the potential to accelerate industrial growth, employment generation and exports, provided they are implemented effectively and without bureaucratic delays.

In a joint statement, APBF President Syed Maaz Mahmood and APBF Chairman Ibrahim Qureshi said the government's focus on MSMEs reflects the importance of the sector, which remains the backbone of Pakistan's economy by contributing significantly to GDP, exports and employment. They said sustained support for small businesses is essential to achieving inclusive economic growth and improving the country's industrial competitiveness.

They observed that access to affordable finance continues to be the biggest challenge facing SMEs despite recent improvements in lending. While appreciating the increase in SME financing and the establishment of the Rs30 billion SME Development Fund, they stressed that easier access to credit, simplified loan procedures and lower financing costs are critical for enabling entrepreneurs to expand their businesses.



Islamabad: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, holding a meeting with a World Bank Group delegation led by Mamta Murthi, Vice President for Human Development, to discuss human capital development, skills, health outcomes and technology-led service delivery at the Finance Division in Islamabad. Photo: PID

Pakistan aims to double exports to Libya

LAHORE: The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry hosted a seminar titled "Enhancing Pakistan-Libya Trade and Economic Cooperation", attended by Major General (Retd.) Mumtaz, Ambassador-Designate of Pakistan to Libya. The seminar was presided over by LCCI President. Among those present were Vice President Khuram Lodhi, Executive Committee Members Nadeem Ansari, Rana Shouban Akhtar, Waqas Aslam, and Firdos Nisar, Convener, LCCI S/C on Pakistan-Libya Trade Promotion, Sami as well as chamber members including Kamal Amjad Mian, Irfan Sohni, Malik Riaz Iqbal, Javed Iqbal, Amad Butt, Murtaza Nadeem, and Shafiq.

In his welcome address, LCCI President emphasized the longstanding friendly relations between Pakistan and Libya and highlighted the need to transform strong political ties into robust economic part-

nerships. He noted that despite significant trade potential, bilateral trade remains far below its true capacity. Addressing the participants, Major General (Retd.) Mumtaz, Pakistan's Ambassador-Designate to Libya, described his new assignment as a mission to serve Pakistan by reconnecting businesses with a market that offers considerable untapped opportunities.

He emphasized that his primary role would be that of a facilitator and connector between Pakistani and Libyan stakeholders. Stressing the importance of chamber-to-chamber engagement, he encouraged organized business delegations and institutional cooperation to strengthen commercial ties.

The Ambassador-Designate informed participants that Libya presents significant opportunities despite perceptions about instability. He highlighted positive develop-

ments toward national reconciliation and noted that a market of over seven million people, with considerable purchasing power and reconstruction needs, offers promising prospects for Pakistani businesses.

Major General Mumtaz revealed that Pakistan already maintains a strong presence in Libya through defense cooperation and expressed optimism about expanding economic engagement across multiple sectors. He also shared encouraging news that Lucky Cement is in the final stages of establishing a cement plant in Libya, describing it as a positive signal for Pakistani investment in the country.

He further pointed out the decline in Pakistani manpower in Libya from approximately 80,000–90,000 workers in previous years to around 15,000–20,000 currently. He stressed the need to reverse this trend and increase Pakistani work-

force participation in the Libyan market. The Ambassador-Designate announced ambitious targets for his tenure, aiming to double Pakistan's exports to Libya within the next two years and increase the number of Pakistani workers in Libya from approximately 20,000 to 40,000.

He assured the business community that he would actively pursue solutions to challenges including banking channels, market access, and visa-related issues. Encouraging Pakistani entrepreneurs to explore opportunities in Libya before competitors capture emerging market share, he underscored that trade and commerce thrive on cooperation and partnership. He assured participants that the Embassy of Pakistan in Libya would remain fully accessible to support genuine business initiatives and facilitate commercial engagement. — DNA

Khurram Schehzad outlines reform agenda, budget priorities

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, on Sunday, outlined Pakistan's improving macroeconomic outlook, the government's structural reform agenda, key priorities of the FY2026-27 Budget, and the rollout of the country's New Tax Operating Model (NTOM).

The advisor was addressing the four-day National Tax Seminar, jointly organized by the Pakistan Tax Bar Association (PTBA) and the Lahore Tax Bar Association (LTBA) at Murree.

Schehzad said Pakistan had made significant progress in restoring macroeconomic stability through prudent fiscal management and the implementation of difficult but necessary structural reforms.

He noted that improving fiscal discipline, rebuilding external buffers, strengthening debt management and restoring investor confidence have enabled the country to transition from stabilization towards sustainable, private sector-led economic growth.

He said these reforms are increasingly being recognized through improved

sovereign credit ratings, successful IMF programme reviews, renewed access to international capital markets, growing investor confidence and positive assessments by international financial institutions, reflecting the strengthening fundamentals of Pakistan's economy.

The advisor said the budget for fiscal year 2026-27 was a balanced, responsible and pro-growth budget that supports investment, exports, industrial development and employment while maintaining fiscal discipline.

He noted that the budget provides meaningful relief to the salaried class, introduces measures to enhance business competitiveness and support exporters, advances tariff reforms, encourages documentation of the economy and reinforces the government's commitment to broadening the tax base rather than placing additional burden on existing compliant taxpayers.

He also highlighted the reform agenda encompassing tax administration, public debt management, privatization, state-owned enterprises, pension reforms, energy sector reforms, Digital Pakistan

initiatives, capital market development and improved access to finance, noting that these reforms are strengthening institutions, improving governance, enhancing productivity and creating a more competitive and investment-friendly economy.

He said also spoke about the New Tax Operating Model, which represents a structural shift from an officer-driven system towards a data-led, technology-enabled, faceless and accountable tax administration.

He explained that the reform separates audit, assessment and field operations into specialized functions while leveraging digital technologies, centralized data analytics and risk-based compliance to reduce discretion, minimize physical interaction, strengthen taxpayer rights and improve transparency, consistency and efficiency in tax administration.

Dr. Nadeem Ul Haque delivered the keynote address on tax policy reforms, while FCA Muhammad Rehan Siddiqui presented on faceless jurisdiction and the digitalization of tax administration.

PFC urges national strategy to unlock Pakistan's digital export potential

LAHORE: Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) Chief Executive Officer Mian Kashif Ashfaq on Sunday stated that Pakistan's rapidly expanding gig economy presents a historic opportunity to significantly increase export earnings by leveraging its large pool of skilled technology professionals and freelancers.

Chairing a meeting of the PFC Board of Directors, he emphasized that young entrepreneurs should move beyond conventional freelancing and focus on developing value-added digital products, software solutions, and technology-based businesses to generate higher export revenues.

He stressed the need to facilitate secure digital payment systems, improve access to international freelancing platforms, and promote technology startups to further strengthen Pakistan's digital exports.

Mian Kashif Ashfaq urged policymakers to formulate a comprehensive national digital economy strategy anchored in public-private partnerships, expanded digital literacy programmes, and greater investment in innovation, research, and development. Such measures, he noted,



would help Pakistan emerge as a leading exporter of digital services while ensuring sustainable economic growth.

He added that Pakistan boasts the world's fourth-largest freelance workforce, providing a robust foundation for expanding the export of digital services. He pointed out that rising global demand for software development, artificial intel-

ligence, cybersecurity, cloud computing, digital marketing, graphic designing, content creation, and virtual assistance offers immense opportunities for Pakistani professionals.

The CEO highlighted that the digital economy has become one of the fastest-growing sectors globally and can play a pivotal role in strengthening Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves, generating employment, and promoting inclusive economic growth. He described the country's youthful population as its greatest asset, capable of driving innovation and economic transformation with appropriate policy backing.

Furthermore, he called for close coordination among the government, private sector, and educational institutions to equip young people with market-oriented digital skills, advanced technical training, and entrepreneurial capabilities. He added that investment in digital infrastructure, uninterrupted high-speed internet connectivity, and innovation-friendly policies would enable Pakistani freelancers to compete more effectively in global markets. — APP

Pakistan can save billions by boosting domestic food production: FPCCI

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE: Convener of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Regional Committee on Food, Shahid Imran, on Sunday said that Pakistan could save billions of dollars in foreign exchange annually by bringing more cultivable land under sugarcane, pulses and wheat cultivation, thereby reducing dependence on costly food imports.

Talking to a delegation of women entrepreneurs led by Nida Tariq Ch, he stressed the need for a comprehensive strategy to increase domestic production of essential food commodities, improve crop yields, and ensure the efficient utilization of agricultural land.

He said the country should focus on modern farming practices, high-yielding and climate-resilient seed varieties, efficient irrigation systems, mechanization, and the timely availability of quality agricultural inputs. He also underlined the importance of strengthening agricultural research and extension services to



help farmers adopt profitable cropping patterns.

Shahid Imran noted that Pakistan

spends a substantial amount of foreign exchange on importing pulses, wheat, and other food items to bridge the gap

between domestic production and consumption. He said coordinated efforts by the government, the private sector, and the farming community could enhance food security, conserve valuable foreign exchange, and strengthen the national economy.

Speaking on the occasion, delegation leader Nida Tariq Ch stated that Pakistan's food import bill rose to \$9.1 billion in FY2025-26, driven largely by higher imports of sugar and edible oil.

She said palm oil accounted for the largest share of food imports, followed by pulses, tea, soybean oil, and sugar. Citing official trade data, she noted that Pakistan imported 309,545 tonnes of sugar during FY2025-26, compared to only 3,508 tonnes in the previous fiscal year, while the import value surged to \$175.182 million from \$3.508 million.

She added that pulse imports declined by 18.13 percent to \$832.038 million from \$1.016 billion, whereas soybean oil imports dropped by 68.41 percent to \$108.683 million during the outgoing fiscal year.

Hamzoni traders reject propaganda against protection wall



TP REPORT

PESHAWAR: Chairman of the Hamzoni Traders' Association, Malik Sanaullah Hamzoni, has rejected what he described as misleading propaganda on social media regarding the under-construction protection wall, saying the claims being circulated are contrary to the facts.

Speaking to the media, he said the protection wall is being constructed to safeguard the lives and property of local residents. He added that while some people have expressed concerns about flooding, it is inappropriate to blame a single project for natural disasters.

Malik Sanaullah urged people not to use the issue for political purposes, recalling that even a strong protection wall built during the British era was washed away by severe floods.

Expressing satisfaction with the ongoing work, he said the contractor was constructing the wall in accordance with quality standards and engineering requirements.

Tribal elder Malik Sunat Khan and other Hamzoni elders were also present on the occasion. They stressed the need for unity and cooperation to ensure the timely completion of the project in the public interest.

Shan, Imam lead Pakistan’s fightback in opening Test

Imam-ul-Haq and Shan Masood stitched together a fluent 155-run partnership for the second wicket

TAROUBA: Shan Masood and Imam-ul-Haq shared a crucial 155-run partnership as Pakistan recovered from an early setback to reach 199-3 at the close on day two of the first Test against the West Indies, putting the tourists in a strong position despite trailing by 112 runs at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy on Sunday.

The visitors will resume their first innings on day three, trailing by 112 runs, with Shan unbeaten on 88 from 137 deliveries, including 11 fours. Salman Ali Agha was at the other end on nought from nine balls.

Pakistan’s reply got off to the worst possible start when opener Azan Awaish was clean bowled by Kemar Roach for a nine-ball duck. Roach produced a superb delivery that crashed into the stumps to hand the hosts an early breakthrough.

The visitors responded impressively as Imam-ul-Haq and Shan Masood stitched together a fluent 155-run partnership for the second wicket.

Masood eased the pressure by finding the boundary regularly, while Imam provided solid support at the other end as the pair helped Pakistan regain control of the innings.

The left-handed Masood played a pivotal role in Pakistan’s fightback, frustrating the West Indies attack alongside Imam while bringing up his 15th Test half-century.



Resuming after the tea interval, Imam and Shan continued to pile on the runs, extending their partnership beyond 100 as Imam reached his 11th Test half-century. The pair continued to dominate the bowlers, taking Pakistan’s total and their second-wicket stand past the 150-run mark with a series of well-timed boundaries to put the West Indies under sustained pressure.

However, the 155-run stand was finally

broken when Shamar Joseph dismissed Imam for a gritty 63 off 102 deliveries, an innings featuring seven fours, leaving Pakistan on 156-2 in 33.3 overs.

Returning captain Babar Azam then joined Shan at the crease and settled in confidently as the pair added 41 runs, keeping the scoreboard ticking while Pakistan looked to erase the first-innings deficit.

The stand was eventually ended by

Jayden Seales, who dismissed Babar for a composed 23 off 38 deliveries, including three fours, reducing Pakistan to 197-3 in 46 overs.

Earlier, after electing to bat first, West Indies were bowled out for 311 in 98.5 overs in their first innings, thanks to fighting half-centuries from Kevlon Hodge and wicketkeeper-batter Shai Hope.

However, Pakistan pacer Mohammad Ali dashed their hopes of posting a commanding total with an outstanding four-wicket haul.

Hope top-scored for the hosts with a fluent 92 off 182 deliveries, hitting six fours and a six, while Hodge made a resilient 84 from 183 balls, including nine fours.

Shamar Joseph also entertained with a quickfire 23 off just 13 deliveries, striking four fours and a six. Openers Tagenarine Chanderpaul and Amir Jangoo chipped in with 21 runs apiece, while Brandon King made 12 off 29 balls, including one four.

Justin Greaves contributed 15 from 31 deliveries, hitting three fours, while captain Roston Chase added 10 off 19 balls, including two fours.

Ali was the standout performer with figures of 4-50 in 21.5 overs. Mohammad Abbas claimed 3-65, Khurram Shahzad took two wickets, while Aamer Jamal picked up one as Pakistan’s disciplined bowling attack kept the West Indies batting line-up under constant pressure.

Dolat Pura Kings cruise to 63-run victory



PROVINCE REPORT

PESHAWAR: Dolat Pura Kings produced an outstanding all-round performance to defeat Dolat Pura Galdeter by 63 runs in an exciting cricket match.

Batting first, Dolat Pura Kings posted a competitive total of 143 runs. Chasing a target of 144, Dolat Pura Galdeter were bowled out for 80 runs, falling well short of the required score.

Dolat Pura Kings’ batting was led by Ibrahim Shah, whose valuable contribution helped his side reach a challenging total. In reply, the team’s bowling attack was spearheaded by Ali Lifti, who bowled with discipline and accuracy to keep the opposition under constant pressure throughout the innings.

Players and supporters celebrated the comprehensive victory, praising the team’s excellent performance in both batting and bowling. Cricket fans also appreciated the success, describing it as another memorable achievement for Dolat Pura Kings.

The victory was dedicated to the efforts of the team’s owner Raja Umair, captain Abdul Rehman, Anaz Gul, and the entire squad, whose teamwork and determination ensured an impressive win.

Ijaz ur Rehman tops Pre-Azadi Cup qualifiers



PROVINCE REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Four players qualified for the next round of the ITBA Pre-Azadi Cup 2026 Tenpin Bowling Tournament after impressive performances at the Leisure City Bowling Club, Safa Gold, F-7 Markaz.

President of the Pakistan Tenpin Bowling Federation, Ijaz ur Rehman, inaugurated the two-day tournament. Around 50 bowlers from Islamabad and Rawalpindi participated in the opening phase.

The qualifiers included Ijaz ur Rehman (762 points), Faheem Akbar (719), Ayzaz ur Rehman (714), and Muhammad Hussain Chattha (713). Each player competed in four games.

The next round will be held at the Jacaranda Bowling Alley, DHA Phase-II, Islamabad.

The Azadi Cup Tenpin Bowling Championship 2026, organised by the Pakistan Tenpin Bowling Federation, will be held from August 8 to 14 at the Leisure City Bowling Club, with men and women players from across the country expected to participate.

PCB’s new Quaid-e-Azam Trophy format to boost domestic cricket; says ex coach Sabih Azhar

RAWALPINDI: Former national coach and first-class cricketer Sabih Azhar on Sunday lauded the Pakistan Cricket Board’s (PCB) decision to introduce Gold and Silver groups alongside a promotion and relegation system in the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy, terming it a significant step toward boosting and making domestic first-class cricket more competitive and high-yielding.

In an exclusive talk with APP, Sabih Azhar explained that under the new structure, the bottom two teams of the Gold group at the end of each season will be relegated to the Silver group, while the

top two teams from the Silver group will earn promotion to the Gold group. He said that this system has long been an effective mechanism in leading sports leagues worldwide to maintain peak performance standards.

“The new format will ensure every match carries weight. Gold group teams will strive to retain their standing, while Silver group teams will battle for promotion, leading to tougher, highly engaging and quality encounters”, Sabih said.

He highlighted that a consistently competitive environment fosters mental



toughness, pressure handling, and professional acuity among players—attributes critical for succeeding at the international level.

To a question he said that the promotion-relegation framework promotes meritocracy and transparency, forcing teams to perform consistently each season while giving lower-tier teams an equal opportunity to advance through merit.

He expressed hope that if sustained transparently, the initiative will elevate the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy’s standard and produce a more balanced first-class setup.

Nasir Iqbal wins challenger Squash Championship

PROVINCE REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan’s Nasir Iqbal produced a commanding performance to win the Jansher Khan-BARD-Markhor Challenger Squash Tournament 2026, defeating Anas Ali Shah in straight games at the Mushaf Squash Complex, Islamabad.

Nasir dominated the final from the outset, securing an emphatic 3-0 victory with scores of 11-1, 11-3, 11-2 in just 15 minutes. His outstanding display of speed, precision, and court control left little opportunity for his opponent to mount a challenge.

The championship victory highlighted Nasir Iqbal’s excellent form and reinforced his status as one of the country’s leading squash players. Spectators witnessed an impressive all-round performance as he maintained complete control throughout the final.

The tournament, held under the Jansher Khan-BARD-Markhor Challenger banner, featured talented players competing for top honours, with the final providing a fitting conclusion to the event.



Rafiq Khan praises players’ dedication and coaches’ efforts

PROVINCE REPORT

ABBOTTABAD: A grand ceremony was held in Abbottabad to honour the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Micro Futsal team for winning the National Championship.

The event was presided over by KP Micro Futsal President Rafiq Khan and attended by Malik Zahoor and sports reporter Shaukat Hussain, along with players and sports enthusiasts.

Speaking on the occasion, Rafiq Khan credited the team’s success to the players’ hard work, determination, and the dedicated efforts of the coaching staff.

He expressed confidence that with continued commitment and discipline, the team would achieve even greater success in future competitions.

The ceremony concluded with a dinner hosted by Rafiq Khan in honour of the champions. The players thanked him for recognising their achievement and supporting the promotion of futsal in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



Commonwealth Games 2026

Australia dominates as day two delivers thrilling action in Glasgow

SHAKEEL UR REHMAN

GLASGOW: The second day of the 23rd Commonwealth Games 2026 witnessed high-quality competition across swimming, gymnastics, boxing, netball, lawn bowls, para powerlifting and 3x3 basketball, with Australia continuing its impressive start to strengthen its position at the top of the medal standings.

Swimming once again provided the biggest highlights of the day as Australian swimmers maintained their dominance by adding more gold medals to the nation’s tally. Several pool records were challenged, while leading stars comfortably advanced to the finals, confirming Australia’s status as the team to beat in Glasgow.

In gymnastics, qualification rounds and the women’s team competition produced several outstanding performances.

England, Wales, Australia and Canada remained among the strongest contenders, while a number of young gymnasts booked places in the individual finals after impressive routines.

Boxing also began with exciting preliminary bouts. Scotland’s Nicholas Devlin delighted the home crowd by securing victory in his opening contest, while several medal favourites from England, India and Australia advanced comfortably to the next stage.

Netball action saw defending champions Australia overpower Tonga with a commanding 99-38 victory, while England produced another dominant display by defeating Northern Ireland 83-34 to remain unbeaten in the tournament.

The 3x3 basketball competition continued with fast-paced encounters as England’s men’s team recorded successive victories over Jamaica and Fiji to



strengthen its chances of reaching the knockout rounds.



Lawn bowls and para sports also attracted considerable attention, with several closely fought group-stage matches keeping medal hopes alive for a number of nations. Fiji, Wales and Scotland were among the teams producing encouraging performances.

One of the emotional moments of the day came when Scotland’s star distance runner Eilish McColgan withdrew from the Games because of a toe injury, ending hopes of competing before her home supporters.

By the end of the second day, Australia remained firmly on top of the medal table after another outstanding all-round performance, while England, Canada and Scotland also enjoyed productive sessions. The competition is expected to intensify over the coming days as medals in athletics, cycling and several other major disciplines come into play.



Olivia sparks Spider-Man soundtrack rumors

ISLAMABAD: Pop sensation Olivia Rodrigo has sent both music fans and Marvel enthusiasts into a frenzy following a series of mysterious social media posts. The cryptic updates have fueled intense speculation across online communities that the 23-year-old Grammy-winning singer-songwriter is set to contribute an original song to the soundtrack for an upcoming Spider-Man film project.

The rumor mill gained momentum after Rodrigo shared a series of visually striking teasers on her social platforms. Observant fans immediately began connecting several distinct clues pointing toward a potential superhero movie collaboration:

Upside-Down Imagery: Rodrigo posted photos featuring inverted compositions, a visual motif closely associated with Spider-Man's iconic hanging pose. **Producer Teases:** Longtime collaborator and producer Dan Nigro mentioned working on an unreleased track—describing it as one of his favorite creations—to which Rodrigo teasingly replied, “More on that later.”

Cast Connections: Fans noticed increased social media interactions between Rodrigo and key Marvel figures, including Spider-Man stars Zendaya and Sadie Sink.

Official Account Activity: Official Marvel channels fueled the speculation further by sharing fan edits utilizing Rodrigo's music alongside playful captions referencing the web-slinging hero.



DI KHAN: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi visited the injured personnel at CMH Dera Ismail Khan. PHOTO: TP

Kundi visits DI Khan, pays tribute to martyred personnel

Calls for united action against terrorism, vows support for martyrs' families

MUHAMMAD REHAN

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi visited Dera Ismail Khan and said more than 1,300 kilograms of explosives were used in the terrorist attack on the Manjhi Khel check post, reflecting the scale of the militants' planning.

Speaking to the media at the Regional Police Office, he said a Pakistan Army soldier, a police official, and a Forest Department employee embraced martyrdom in the attack, paying tribute to their sacrifices.

The Governor said Pakistan's Armed Forces and security agencies, under the leadership of Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, were effectively combating terrorism. He reiterated full support for the armed forces, police, and other security



institutions, adding that such attacks could not weaken the nation's resolve.

Faisal Karim Kundi visited the injured personnel at CMH Dera Ismail Khan, met the families of the martyrs, and distributed financial assistance among the heirs and injured officials. He assured that recommendations for improved compensation packages would be taken up with the federal and provincial governments.

He stressed the need for intelligence-based operations across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and called for close coordination between the federal and provincial governments to eliminate terrorism.

Earlier, the Governor was presented a guard of honour at the Regional Police Office and received a security briefing on the Manjhi Khel attack from senior police officials.

Rubina rallies PPP workers for AJK polls

PROVINCE REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and President of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Women Wing Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Senator Rubina Khalid, visited the election office of PPP's candidate for Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly constituency LA-43 (Valley-4), Javed Butt, in Rawalpindi.

During the visit, Senator Rubina Khalid met Javed Butt, party office-bearers and workers. The meeting reviewed preparations for the upcoming AJK elections, the election campaign, public outreach and the overall political situation in the constituency.

She urged party workers to remain active and take the PPP's message of public service, democracy and development to every household.

Rubina Khalid said the PPP represents democratic values and the vision of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, express-



ing confidence that the people of Azad Kashmir would support politics of public welfare and development.

She described Javed Butt as a capable, sincere and people-friendly candidate, expressing hope that he would secure victory with the support of party workers and the electorate.

Javed Butt thanked Senator Rubina Khalid for her visit and said the guidance of the party leadership and the commitment of workers would further strengthen the election campaign. He pledged to prioritise development projects, public services and the resolution of local issues if elected.

SSP Rozia Altaf highlights commitment to professional policing

Senior police officer shares experiences, achievements, & vision for public service

AMEER MAUVIA

PESHAWAR: SSP Rozia Altaf, currently serving as SSP Traffic Headquarters Peshawar, has reaffirmed her commitment to professional, transparent, and people-friendly policing, stating that integrity, discipline, and public trust remain the foundation of effective law enforcement.

In an interview, SSP Rozia Altaf reflected on her diverse policing career, saying each assignment had strengthened her professional skills and enhanced her ability to serve the public with dedication.

She highlighted her service in the Motorway Police, SP Investigation City Peshawar, Police Commandos/Elite Force, Special Security Unit (CPEC), and SP Training at the Police Training College, Hangu. She said her experience in criminal investigations, police training, traffic management, and operational policing had equipped her to handle challenging responsibilities effectively.

Speaking about her tenure at the Police Training College Hangu, she said training young police officers was one of the most rewarding assignments of her career. As Head Lecturer, she focused on

discipline, professionalism, ethical policing, and respect for human rights.

SSP Rozia Altaf also discussed her role as SSP Complaints at CPO Peshawar, where she supervised the resolution of public grievances within the prescribed timeframe. She noted that a large number of complaints were successfully addressed, helping strengthen public confidence in the police.

She further highlighted her additional responsibilities in human rights, her role as a member of the Rapid Action Task Force (RATF), and her work as a Referral Service Provider for the Ombudsperson Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Recalling her election duties in the sensitive district of Karak, she said maintaining peace and ensuring a secure electoral process required



close coordination, vigilance, and professionalism.

Currently serving as SSP Traffic Headquarters Peshawar, Rozia Altaf said her priority is to improve traffic management, promote road safety, and enhance public services through modern policing practices and community engagement.

She encouraged young women to pursue careers in law enforcement, emphasizing that dedication, honesty, and hard work are the keys to success.

Throughout her distinguished career, SSP Rozia Altaf has received numerous awards and commendations in recognition of her outstanding professional performance, commitment to public service, and contributions to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police.

Spot ON

PML-N believes in performance: Talal

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Interior Senator Talal Chaudhry said the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) would secure public support on the basis of its performance, development initiatives, and service delivery. Speaking to a private television channel, he said the PML-N had made significant investments in Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) to improve public welfare.

He added that the party had taken its development-focused agenda to AJK to convince voters ahead of the upcoming elections, which he said should be conducted in a free, fair, and transparent manner.

Chenab swells, NDMA warns of critical 48 hours

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Saturday warned of rising flood risks across several parts of Pakistan as monsoon rains continue to swell rivers and streams, with medium level flooding reported at key points along the Chenab River and flash flood threats looming over northern Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the hill torrents of Dera Ghazi Khan during the next 24 to 48 hours.

WWF committed to develop skill workforce

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Workers Welfare Fund (WWF) is committed to developing a skilled workforce, enhancing the technical capabilities of youth, and supporting the country's industrial growth. This was stated by Secretary WWF Zulfikar Ahmed during his visit to the FFC Learning and Development Centre, Fauji Fertilizer Company Limited, at Goth Machhi, Sadiqabad, according to a press release received here on Sunday. Earlier on his arrival, he was received by Manager FFC Learning and Development Centre, Asif Shafi.

Former PAEC Chairman passes away

ISLAMABAD: Former Chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), Mr. Parvez Butt, NI, HI, SI, passed away on Sunday at the age of 84. Mr. Parvez Butt was the former Chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission and one of the founding members of Pakistan's Strategic and Nuclear Programme. A distinguished mechanical engineer, scientist and administrator; he devoted over four decades of his life to strengthening Pakistan's nuclear science, technological and strategic capabilities. His visionary leadership, technical expertise and unwavering commitment to national service left an enduring imprint on the country's scientific and technological development.

Tariq condemns terror attacks, honours martyrs

Says KP government remains committed to eradicating terrorism and ensuring lasting peace

TP REPORT

PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to the Chief Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs Tariq Saeed Marwat on Friday strongly condemned the terrorist attacks in Lakki Marwat, Bajaur and Waziristan, paying tribute to the martyrs, including FC soldier Bilqiaz Khan, who embraced martyrdom in the line of duty.

In a statement, Marwat termed terrorism a crime against humanity, saying terrorists represent neither any religion

nor any nation. He said such cowardly attacks targeting innocent people could not shake the nation's resolve.

He said the sacrifices of the martyrs would never be forgotten and that the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa stood firmly with the police, security forces and all law enforcement agencies in the fight against terrorism.

Expressing condolences to the bereaved families, he prayed for the departed souls, the speedy recovery of the injured and patience for the grieving families.