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PM Sharif seeks urgent completion of Islamabad Technology Park

President's Spokesperson holds farewell meeting with outgoing Kazakh envoy

Trump threatens to bomb Oman if it gets in way of Iran deal: Report



MONITORING DESK, US President Donald Trump on Monday threatened to bomb Oman if it “gets in the way” of a deal with Iran on the Strait of Hormuz and called for Iran to surrender.

“If Oman gets in the way, we’ll bomb the s*** out of them,” Trump told Fox News correspondent Trey Yingst, referring to ongoing talks between Oman and Iran on control of the strait, while Washington is also pursuing its own talks.

Iranian and Omani officials have been talking for weeks on future maritime navigation arrangements through the

shipping route, and the foreign ministry in Tehran said earlier on Monday that the two sides were working on a joint declaration.

However, Trump has repeatedly insisted that the strait — which Tehran effectively closed at the start of the Middle East war on February 28 — is under US control despite traffic remaining throttled.

On Friday, Trump claimed that he would even declare the Strait of Hormuz part of US territory, while Iran retorted that the crucial energy waterway it has blockaded “will remain Iranian”.

Prior to the launch of the US-Israeli war against Iran, the strait was considered an open, international waterway. It carries significant portions of global energy shipments, as well as other commodities.

Tehran has used its effective seizing of control over the strait as leverage against the US-led attempts to destroy its military and force it to abandon its nuclear power programme.

Iran’s coast flanks the north side of the Hormuz, and Oman lies on the south.

Trump also said that Iran should “put up the white flag of surrender,” according to Yingst’s post on X on his interview with

the president.

Trump insisted that he was in no hurry to reach a deal despite the deep unpopularity of the war among Americans ahead of November midterm elections in the United States, with opposition Democrats seeking to take control of Congress from Trump’s Republicans.

Trump told Yingst that there is a direct back-channel between his administration and officials of Iran’s Revolutionary Guard. “They’re good poker players, but they’re dying,” he was quoted as saying.

PML-N Wins 25 AJK Seats, Eyes Two-Thirds Majority

APP- ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) (PML-N) has announced that it would form the next government in Azad Jammu and Kashmir after securing the highest number of seats in the recently completed election process.

Addressing a press conference, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah said



PML-N candidates had already won 25 seats and expect their total strength to reach around 33 seats after the allocation of special seats, bringing the party close to a two-thirds majority in the 53-member legislative assembly.

He said the three phases of the election had been completed and voters have given PML-N a mandate to lead the region. According to party estimates, 36 seats were required for a two-thirds majority in the full house. He expressed confidence that upcoming elections on seven remaining seats could help the party achieve that target.

He said elections could not be held earlier on six seats because of the security situation, while voting on one seat was postponed following the death of a candidate and would now take place through a by-election.

PML-N leader linked the election outcome to their campaign message of development and public services. He said party leader Nawaz Sharif had appealed directly to voters in Muzaffarabad and Mirpur, asking them to support PML-N for the future progress of Azad Kashmir and to strengthen its relationship with the federal government. During the campaign, the party also highlighted projects and public initiatives carried out by the Punjab government under Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

PM Sharif seeks urgent completion of Islamabad Technology Park



STAFF REPORT, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has expressed anger over the delay in completing the Islamabad Technology Park and directed authorities to accelerate construction and make the facility operational on a priority basis.

The prime minister chaired a review meeting on ongoing reforms at the National Information Technology Board (NITB) and progress on the construction of the technology park.

The meeting was attended by Federal Ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Ahad Cheema, Mosaddiq Masood Malik and Shaza Fatima Khawaja, along with senior officials from relevant institutions.

PM orders faster digital reforms

Shehbaz directed the NITB to focus on providing citi-

zens with modern, efficient and accessible digital services.

He said all relevant institutions should work together to ensure government services are delivered in a timely, transparent and convenient manner.

The prime minister said facilitating citizens in accessing government services remained a key government priority and directed authorities to improve digital platforms according to current technological requirements. He described the transition of federal ministries to e-office as one of the most important reforms undertaken under the government’s IT and digitalisation agenda.

The prime minister directed authorities to ensure the use of e-office across all subordinate federal government departments and government-owned institutions.

He also ordered officials to accelerate the digitisation of government institutions and make greater use of modern technology.

Islamabad Technology Park to be outsourced

Shehbaz also directed authorities to complete the digitisation of government property records at the earliest.

Expressing dissatisfaction over the delay in completing Islamabad Technology Park, he ordered the relevant authorities to expedite construction and activate the facility as soon as possible.



Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Program Rana Mashood Ahmad Khan called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif

SCP Seeks UK Cooperation for Judicial Training

APP- ISLAMABAD: The Chief Justice of Pakistan on Monday received the Mr. Justice Martin Griffiths, Judge of the High Court of England and Wales (King’s Bench Division), here at the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

Justice Griffiths, who is currently visiting Pakistan, is a member of the International Committee of the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple, United Kingdom, and chairs the Wales Training Committee of the Judicial College. Justice Muhammad Shafi Siddiqui, Justice Miangul Hassan

Aurangzeb, Judges of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, the Director General and Director, Federal Judicial Academy, the President, Supreme Court Bar Association of Pakistan, and the Director, Legal Education, Pakistan Bar Council, were also present on the occasion. The discussions focused on strengthening institutional collaboration between Pakistan and the United Kingdom, particularly in the areas of judicial training, professional development and capacity building. The possibility of developing structured collabo-

ration between the Federal Judicial Academy and the Judicial College of England and Wales for judicial education and training of judges was discussed. The participants emphasised the value of sharing training methodologies, institutional experience and best practices to further strengthen judicial capacity and professional development. The meeting also explored opportunities for collaboration between the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple and Pakistan’s legal profession for capacity building.

Govt believes in technology integration with financial services for cashless economy: Atta Tarar

APP- ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Monday reiterated the government’s commitment for integration of technology and financial services to promote financial inclusion, ensure transparency, and eventually establish a cashless economy.

Addressing the launching ceremony of Z-Wallet, the minister highlighted the government’s vision to provide citizens with accessible, convenient, and integrated financial services driven by modern technology.

He said the launch of initiative with a collaboration between Zindagi, Zong, and JS Bank is a reflection the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif who is leading every way of the step going towards technological integration and cashless economy.

The prime minister has also constituted a high-powered committee on cashless economy, which he chaired by himself, he added. The minister recalled the launch of first IT board in Punjab during the tenure of PM Shehbaz as Chief Minister of Punjab.



Mr. Basir Shamsie, President and CEO of JS Bank, alongside Mr. Noman Azhar, Chief Officer of ZINDIGI – JS Bank, and Mr. Atif Ishaque, Chief Business Officer of ZINDIGI – JS Bank, called on the Minister of State for Finance Bilal Azhar Kayani at the Finance Division



Acting President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Chaudhry Irfan, was congratulated by Chamber Member Raja Zulfiqar Ali Khan and Ajmal Baig of Sialkot. A bouquet was also presented to him on the occasion.

Sathra Punjab is a reflection of the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, there is no compromise on cleanliness standards, the contract will be canceled for poor performance



Gujranwala (FIR Report)

According to the details: Deputy Commissioner Gujranwala Naveed Ahmed has made it clear that negligence or poor performance in providing a clean environment to the citizens under the Sathra Punjab program will not be tolerated, while strict measures will not be avoided if

necessary.

He directed all Sathra Punjab contractors to improve their performance significantly within a week, otherwise steps will be taken to cancel the contract. It was also directed to keep the machinery and cleaning staff fully active, to make the cleaning operation effective in all areas and to empty the dustbins in time.

While reviewing the implementation of the instructions of the Deputy Commissioner, CEO WMC/MD Sathra Punjab Agency Gujranwala Abdul Razzaq Dogar directed the field officers and contractors to immediately improve the quality of sanitation, effective use of machinery and manpower and timely redressal of citizen complaints.

On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Gujranwala Naveed Ahmad, Assistant Commissioner Nowshera Virkan inspected the activities being carried out by various departments under the “One Day One Road” initiative



Gujranawala (Beauru Report)

According to the details, During the visit, the progress of ongoing cleanliness, sanitation, maintenance, encroachment removal, streetlights operationalization and other civic improvement activities

was reviewed. The Assistant Commissioner assessed the performance of the concerned departments and inspected the work being carried out on the designated road.

The concerned teams were directed to ensure effective coordi-

nation, timely completion of assigned tasks and maintenance of cleanliness and civic infrastructure under the initiative. Regular monitoring of field activities was also emphasized to ensure that the objectives of the “One Day One Road” initiative are achieved effectively.

LHC Grants Bail to Former Layyah SHO in Corruption Case

Staff Report, Lahore:

Bail granted to former SHO City Layyah police station in corruption case The Lahore High Court has granted bail to former SHO City Layyah police station Inspector Irfan Iftikhar Bajwa and Lady Sub-Inspector Nadia Riaz in a corruption case. After the court's decision, the two police officers are likely to be released soon. According to sources, a case was registered against both officers on charges of corruption, on which they approached the Lahore High Court for bail. The court has issued an order granting bail to both the accused after hearing the arguments of the lawyers. After the decision, they are expected to be released after the completion of the relevant legal proceedings. Further



proceedings regarding the case will continue as per the legal stages of investigation and hearing in the

court. After the court's decision, the families and relatives of the police officers have expressed satisfaction.

Pakistan-China B2B cooperation to drive investment, technology transfer, export growth: Haroon

APP- ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Prime Minister on Industries and Production and Federal Minister Haroon Akhtar Khan on Monday said Pakistan-China Business-to-Business (B2B) cooperation was opening new avenues for investment, technology transfer, local manufacturing and export growth.

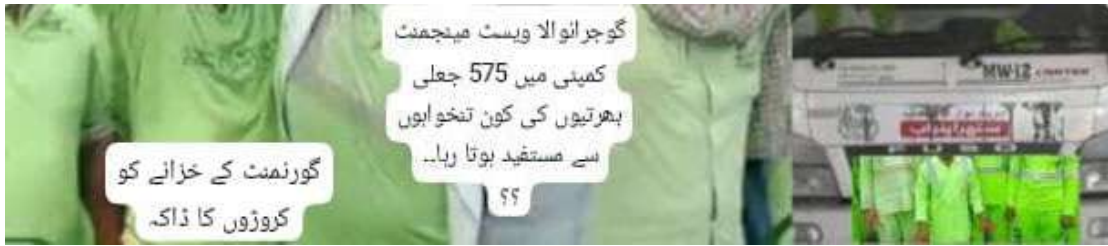
The minister made these remarks while chairing a meeting to review progress on Pakistan-China Business-to-Business (B2B) cooperation and the implementation of Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) signed between businesses of the two countries, said a news release. Senior officials from all relevant ministries, departments, government institutions, and stakeholders attended the meeting.

Speaking on the occasion, Haroon said that the Prime Minister's visit to China and the Pakistan-China B2B conferences had opened new avenues for economic cooperation between Pakistan and China.

He noted that the B2B engagements had resulted in significant progress on multiple MoUs and joint ven-

tures worth hundreds of millions of dollars across various sectors. The advisor emphasized that the prime minister had given clear directions to translate Pakistan-China agreements and MoUs into concrete and actionable projects. “Signing MoUs alone is not enough; the real success lies in translating these agreements into practical initiatives and ensuring the commencement of investments and joint ventures,” he said. Haroon directed that, in accordance with the PM's instructions, continuous follow-up of all MoUs would be undertaken to ensure timely progress and implementation. He reaffirmed that the government was fully committed to transforming Pakistan-China B2B cooperation into tangible investment, joint production, technology transfer, and increased exports. Haroon described the B2B engagements in the lithium-ion battery, agriculture, and pharmaceutical sectors as an exceptional and historic development, adding that the strong participation of Chinese businesses in these sectors represented a significant industrial opportunity for Pakistan.

Gujranwala Solid Waste Management Company has exposed ghost employees on a large scale by cracking down on poor sanitation in Gujranwala city and Saddar areas. 575 employees who were receiving salaries from public exchequer without working have been sacked



Gujranwala (Bureau Report)

According to the details, 575 bogus employees in the Waste Management Company have been sitting at home for a long time, while political and social workers across the city have the same demand. It is the need of the hour to expose the ugly faces and names of those people who shared the salaries of these bogus 575 workers, while 184 employees who came from other departments due to poor performance were also returned to their native departments, has been sent. Due to this illegal process, the

national exchequer was losing two and a half crores of rupees per month.

On receiving the complaints, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Solid Waste Management Company, Abdul Razzaq Dogar, ordered a self-investigation and secret monitoring, which led to the revelation of these ghost employees. While expanding the scope of action, show cause notices were issued to 46 negligent officers and employees, formal warnings were given to 52 and 21 officers and employees were transferred to different union councils and tehsils.

According to CEO Abdul Razzaq

Dogar, indiscriminate action against such elements who are a burden on the department and those working in additional seats will not only save crores of rupees per month but also improve the sanitation system and reduce public complaints significantly. Apart from this, special committees have been formed to streamline garbage collection and disposal which will submit their reports on a daily basis, while at the Union Council level the Sathra Punjab teams have been made more active and put under the strict supervision of officers. Check it out

GB CM Orders Transparent System for Quality Medicines Procurement

GIGAT (FIR Report)

Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Amjad Hussain, while speaking at a high-level meeting held for the purchase of medicines and medical equipment for government hospitals in the province, said that the system for purchasing medicines for hospitals should be improved and made transparent, under which it would be possible to purchase quality medicines and medical equipment from companies. Due to mafias, the public is not getting quality medicines and the national treasury is also suffering. It is an unforgivable crime to buy substandard medicines from the national treasury and give them to patients. We are all accountable before God, we cannot watch the spectacle anymore, we will fix the system. The path of mafias providing substandard medicines should be stopped under the laws. The Chief Minister appreciated the procedure for purchasing medicines and medical equipment for GINOR Atomic Energy Cancer Hospital by Dr. Asma Zaman Malik, Director of GINOR Atomic Energy Cancer Hospital, and said that due to purchasing medicines and medical equipment from



direct companies, the prices of medicines have come down and the availability of quality medicines has become possible. The system for purchasing medicines and medical equipment for GINOR Atomic Energy Cancer Hospital should be reviewed, which will improve it. Work on the same system to make it possible for government hospitals in the province to purchase quality medicines and medical equipment. The Chief Minister has formed a special committee comprising the Secretary Planning and Development, Secretary Health,

Secretary Finance, Secretary Electricity and the Director of GINOR Atomic Energy Cancer Hospital to prepare the RFPs required for the purchase of quality medicines and medical equipment. The process of purchasing medicines and medical equipment should be started under these RFPs. On this occasion, Director of GINOR Atomic Energy Cancer Hospital Dr. Asma Zaman Malik gave a detailed briefing on the procedure adopted for purchasing medicines and medical equipment from companies for GINOR Atomic Energy Cancer Hospital.

GB CM Approves Major Agricultural Reforms, Youth Support Measures

GIGAT (FIR Report)

Gilgit-Baltistan Amjad Hussain has approved several important decisions on the occasion of a high-level meeting held to promote the agricultural sector in the province, provide employment opportunities for the youth and strengthen the rural economy. Addressing the meeting, he said that economic activities will be taken forward in all rural areas with the support of the local community, under which the value chain will be developed according to the vision of One Village One Product. Raising the standard of living of the people in rural areas is one of the top priorities of the government and for this purpose, a suitable officer of the province has been appointed as secretary in the Agriculture and Livestock Department. To effectively implement agricultural reforms, the Chief Minister has approved the establishment of a special and empowered steering committee. This high-level committee will include the Secretary Agriculture and Livestock, Secretary Planning and Development, Secretary Finance, Secretary IT, as well as representatives of GBRSP, AKRSP, WWF, ETI and Water and Irrigation. This committee will hold its meetings on a monthly basis for the development of sectors like agriculture, livestock, dairy and poultry.



In addition, an “ALF Reforms Unit” will also be established within the next three months to bring modern reforms in the agricultural sector. It has been decided to provide concessional loans and training to attract youth and local farmers towards agriculture and livestock. Special training and financial assistance will be given to the local community to establish fodder and silage units at the rural level for the improvement of livestock, while various projects will also be started under public-private partnership. To promote wheat cultivation, quality and certified seeds will be provided to local farmers at a cost of Rs 300 million and strict measures will be taken on a priority basis

to prevent the sale of substandard seeds in the market. Technical cooperation will also be sought from the provincial governments of Punjab and Sindh as well as the governments of Central Asian states and the Chinese regions of Xinjiang and Jiangsu to introduce modern agricultural technology. Along with this, community nurseries will be established in all rural areas. The Chief Minister has directed the GBRSP officials to prepare recommendations regarding the implementation of “One Village One Product” and access of local commodities to the global and national markets as soon as possible and present them at the relevant forum.

On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Gujranwala Naveed Ahmad, Additional Assistant Commissioner (Sadar) Madam Saima Khan conducted an enforcement operation against an illegal LPG decanting shop



Gujranwala (Beauru Report)

According to the details, During the operation, the illegal decanting shop was sealed, while the decanting

pump and LPG refilling material were confiscated. The action was taken to prevent unauthorized and hazardous LPG handling activities and to ensure compliance with safety

regulations. The concerned authorities have been directed to continue strict enforcement against illegal decanting and other activities posing a threat to public safety.



ایف آئی آر رپورٹ

نئی عالمی درجہ بندی: بیرون ملک رہنے کے لیے دنیا کے بہترین ممالک کونسے؟

پاکستان کا نیا ڈیجیٹل والٹ 'زی والٹ' کیا ہے، صارفین کو کیا سہولیات ملیں گی؟

بیرون ملک جا کر نئی زندگی شروع کرنے کے خواہش مند افراد کے لیے سال 2026 کی نئی عالمی درجہ بندی سامنے آگئی ہے جس میں پاناما کو دنیا بھر میں تارکین وطن یا بیرون ملک مقیم افراد کے لیے بہترین ملک قرار دیا گیا ہے جبکہ میکسیکو دوسرے، تھائی لینڈ تیسرے اور متحدہ عرب امارات چوتھے نمبر پر رہا۔ بین الاقوامی ادارے انٹرنیشنل 2026 کے 'ایکسپٹ انسائڈر' سروے میں 31 ممالک کو معیار زندگی، مقامی لوگوں سے گھلنے ملنے میں آسانی، بیرون ملک کام کے مواقع، ذاتی مالی معاملات، رہائش اور ڈیجیٹل سہولیات سمیت مختلف عوامل کی بنیاد پر پرکھا گیا۔

رپورٹ کے مطابق اس سال کی کامیاب درجہ بندی میں مقامی لوگوں کی دوستانہ طبیعت اور زندگی کے نسبتاً کم اخراجات نے اہم کردار ادا کیا۔ مجموعی طور پر ٹاپ 10 میں شامل 7 ممالک

پانامالوجی پلیٹ فارم اور صارفین تک رسائی فراہم کر رہا ہے جبکہ زندگی کے ذریعے زی والٹ کو مالیاتی اور بینکاری انفراسٹرکچر حاصل ہوگا۔ یہ سروں اسٹریٹ بینک آف پاکستان کے ریکولیٹری فریم ورک کے تحت پیلے ہی استعمال ہو رہا ہے؟

کچھ کے مطابق زی والٹ کے سافٹ لائچ کے دوران ابتدائی طور پر قریباً 22 ہزار تصدیق شدہ وائس فعال کیے گئے، جبکہ 12 ہزار سے زیادہ ٹرانزیکشنز بھی مکمل ہوئیں۔ کچھ کا کہنا ہے کہ یہ ابتدائی نتائج اس بات کی نشاندہی کرتے ہیں کہ صارفین میں ٹیلی کام ایپ کے اندر ہی آسان اور مربوط مالیاتی

رپورٹ کے مطابق اس سال کی کامیاب درجہ بندی میں مقامی لوگوں کی دوستانہ طبیعت اور زندگی کے نسبتاً کم اخراجات نے اہم کردار ادا کیا۔ مجموعی طور پر ٹاپ 10 میں شامل 7 ممالک بیرون ملک مقیم افراد کے لیے مقامی معاشرے میں گھلنے ملنے کے اعتبار سے بھی بہترین قرار پائے جبکہ 5 ممالک ذاتی مالی معاملات کے حوالے سے نمایاں رہے

سہولیات حاصل کرنے کی طلب موجود ہے۔ پاکستان میں 'ایمبیڈڈ فنانس' کا نیا رجحان زی والٹ کا آغاز پاکستان میں Embedded Finance کے بڑھتے ہوئے رجحان کی بھی عکاسی کرتا ہے۔ اس ماڈل میں صارفین کو بینکاری خدمات حاصل کرنے کے لیے لازمی طور پر کسی روایتی بینکاری پلیٹ فارم پر جانے کے بجائے وہی مالیاتی سہولیات ان ایپس اور ڈیجیٹل پیٹ فارمز پر فراہم کی جاتی ہیں جنہیں وہ پہلے ہی استعمال کر رہے ہوتے ہیں۔ زونگ اور زندگی کا یہ اشتراک اسی تصور کے تحت صارف کے روزمرہ ڈیجیٹل تجربے میں مالیاتی خدمات کو شامل کرتا ہے۔

زی والٹ صرف ایک نئی ادائیگی کی سہولت نہیں بلکہ زونگ کی اپنے کاروبار کو روایتی ٹیلی کمیونیکیشن سرویسز سے آگے بڑھانے کی حکمت عملی کا حصہ بھی ہے۔ کچھ ایپ کیپٹلیٹی کے ساتھ ساتھ مالیاتی خدمات، ڈیجیٹل پراڈکٹس، مصنوعی ذہانت اور دیگر ٹیکنالوجی سرویسز کو اپنے ڈیجیٹل اکاؤنٹ میں شامل کرنے پر توجہ دے رہی ہے۔ یوں زی والٹ پاکستان میں ٹیلی کام اور بینکاری کے امتزاج سے بننے والے ایک ایسے ڈیجیٹل ایکوسیٹم کی جانب قدم ہے جس میں صارف کو موبائل، ادائیگی اور بنیادی مالیاتی خدمات ایک ہی ایپ کے اندر فراہم کرنے کی کوشش کی جارہی ہے۔

پاکوئل منسل ہونے والے گھنٹ میٹنگ کے مطابق برازیل کے لوگوں نے انہیں اچھی سمجھ نہیں ہونے دیا۔ ان کے بقول کسی شخص سے پہلی مرتبہ ہجرات کو ملاقات ہو اور فقط تک اسے گھر میں باربی کیو پر مدعو کر لیا جائے، تو یہ وہاں کے لوگوں کے دوستانہ رویے کی بہترین مثال ہے۔ برازیل میں پرانگی زبان کا عام ہونا بھی بعض بیرون ملک مقیم افراد کے لیے مثبت تجربہ ثابت ہوا۔ میٹنگ کے مطابق انگریزی کا محدود استعمال انہیں پرانگی زبان سیکھنے پر مجبور کرتا ہے، جس سے وہ زبان زیادہ تیزی سے سیکھ سکے۔ ساؤ پاؤلو میں 12 سال گزارنے والے کرس کوئل کے مطابق برازیل میں سب سے زیادہ متاثر کن چیز وہاں کے مقامی لوگ ہیں۔ ان کے بقول برازیلی باشندوں نے انہیں باہر سے آنے والا شخص سمجھنے کے بجائے شروع ہی سے معاشرے کا حصہ محسوس کرایا۔

پاکستانیوں کے لیے اس فہرست میں سب سے دلچسپ ملک کون سا؟ اس عالمی درجہ بندی میں متحدہ عرب امارات کا پچھتے نمبر پر آنا پاکستانی تارکین کے لیے خاص طور پر قابل توجہ ہے۔ پاکستان سے بڑی تعداد میں لوگ روزگار اور کاروبار کے لیے متحدہ عرب امارات کا رخ کرتے ہیں اور دہلی، ایونٹین اور دیگر شہروں میں پاکستانی کمیونٹی بھی نمایاں ہے۔ رپورٹ سے یہ بھی ظاہر ہوتا ہے کہ بیرون ملک بہتر زندگی کا فیصلہ صرف زیادہ آمدنی کی بنیاد پر نہیں ہوتا۔ محفوظ ماحول، رہائش، روزگار کے مواقع، مقامی لوگوں کا رویہ، زندگی کے اخراجات، صحت اور روزمرہ سہولیات بھی اس فیصلے میں اہم کردار ادا کرتے ہیں۔ البتہ کسی ملک کی مجموعی عالمی درجہ بندی کا یہ مطلب نہیں کہ وہ ہر شخص یا

متحدہ عرب امارات نے مجموعی طور پر پچھتی پوزیشن حاصل کی اور روزگار کے مواقع، کیریئر کے امکانات، ویزا اور دیگر ضروری سہولیات کے شعبوں میں نمایاں کارکردگی دکھائی۔ سروے کے مطابق متحدہ عرب امارات میں بیرون ملک سے آنے والے افراد کے لیے نئی زندگی شروع کرنا اور کیریئر بنانا نسبتاً آسان ہے۔ دہلی اور امریکا کے درمیان رہنے والی ایچ کسلنٹ مشیل اسٹرلنگ کے مطابق دہلی میں روزمرہ زندگی انہیں زیادہ محفوظ، آرام دہ اور نسبتاً کم خرچ محسوس ہوتی ہے۔ رواں سال لندن سے دہلی منتقل ہونے والی کلینیا اور کوئٹی کا کہنا ہے کہ متحدہ عرب امارات میں بیرون ملک مقیم افراد کے لیے دوستانہ ماحول ابھی اسے پرکشش بناتا ہے۔ ان کے

مطابق ایسے وقت میں جب کئی ممالک ایگریگیشن قوانین سخت کر رہے ہیں متحدہ عرب امارات میں بیرون ملک سے آنے والے افراد کے لیے ماحول اب بھی نسبتاً سازگار ہے۔ وہ سننے آئے والوں کو مشورہ دیتی ہیں کہ دہلی کو صرف اس کی بلندو بالا عمارتوں، میٹھے بوتلوں اور گلوٹری مراکز سے نہ دیکھیں بلکہ میٹرو میں رش کے اوقات میں سفر کریں، بردہ اور دیرہ کے روایتی علاقوں کا رخ کریں، دہلی کریمک پر روایتی شہتی میں سفر کریں اور مقامی بھارتی، فلپائن یا لیبانی ریسٹورانوں میں کھانا کھا لیں۔ ان کے مطابق بچی دہلی کی وہ عام اور روزمرہ زندگی ہے جو اس شہر کے عالمی اور پرکشش تاثر سے کہیں مختلف ہے۔

برازیل جی بی رٹاپ 5 میں برازیل جی بی مرتبہ اس فہرست کے ٹاپ 5 ممالک میں شامل ہوا اور 5 ویں پوزیشن حاصل کی۔ برازیل کو خوشی، مقامی لوگوں سے دوستانہ تعلقات، ثقافت اور سننے آئے والوں کے لیے معاشرے میں جگہ بنانے کے حوالے سے بہترین نمبر ملے۔ بارباڈوس سے ساؤ



تیسرے نمبر پر رہا اور یہاں رہنے والے بیرون ملک مقیم افراد کو سروے میں دنیا کے سب سے زیادہ خوش افراد قرار دیا گیا۔ تھائی لینڈ میں 86 فیصد افراد نے بیرون ملک اپنی زندگی کے اطمینان کا اظہار کیا جبکہ 85 فیصد نے وہاں زندگی کے اخراجات کو مثبت قرار دیا۔ برطانیہ سے سنہ 2024 میں اپنے تھائی شہر کے ساتھ تھائی لینڈ منتقل ہونے والی جیمین پیرا پیچہ کا کہنا ہے کہ بنگاک میں ان کا پہلا اسٹریٹ فوڈ کھانا 4 افراد کے لیے تقریباً ایک ڈالر میں ہو گیا تھا۔ ان کے مطابق وہ ایک سال کے لیے وہاں رہیں تھیں لیکن صرف 2 ہفتوں میں انہیں اخراجات انہیں میکسیکو کے شہر پورٹو اسلائی سے۔ 31 ممالک میں اسے اس شعبے میں 25 ویں پوزیشن ملی۔ صرف 68 فیصد بیرون ملک مقیم افراد نے اپنی ذاتی سلائی کو مثبت قرار دیا جبکہ عالمی اوسط 81 فیصد ہے۔

تھائی لینڈ: خوش ترین تارکین وطن اور کم اخراجات تھائی لینڈ مجموعی درجہ بندی میں

پاناما کے کیریئین ساحل پر منتقل ہونے والے ایریل باریوڈ کا کہنا ہے کہ وہاں پہنچنے کے بعد ان کی نیند بہتر ہو گئی اور وہ خود کو زیادہ پرسکون اور موجودہ لمحے سے بڑا ہوا محسوس کرنے لگے۔ ان کے مطابق پاناما میں زندگی کی رفتار نسبتاً سست ہے۔ وہ سمندر کے قریب وقت گزارتے، باغ میں چہل قدمی کرتے اور پرندوں کی آوازیں سنتے ہیں۔ ان کا کہنا ہے کہ یہی سادہ معمول انہیں روزانہ یاد دلاتا ہے کہ انہوں نے پاناما میں رہنے کا فیصلہ کیوں کیا۔

کینیڈا سے رواں سال پاناما منتقل ہونے والی رضا کے مطابق وہاں گھر اور مشترکہ کام کی جگہوں پر انٹرنیٹ کی سہولیات اچھی ہے جبکہ ڈالر استعمال ہونے کی وجہ سے بینکاری بھی آسان محسوس ہوتی ہے۔ تاہم پاناما میں زندگی ہر لحاظ سے بے مثال نہیں۔ جزییرے پر سنان کی ترسیل میں تاخیر اور اچانک تبدیلیاں ہونے والا موسم بعض اوقات مشکلات پیدا کرتا ہے۔ اس کے باوجود باریوڈ کا کہنا ہے کہ زندگی کی نسبتاً رفتار اختیار کرنے کا فیصلہ انہیں آج بھی

بیرون ملک مقیم افراد کے لیے مقامی معاشرے میں گھلنے ملنے کے اعتبار سے بھی بہترین قرار پائے جبکہ 5 ممالک ذاتی مالی معاملات کے حوالے سے نمایاں رہے۔ بیرون ملک رہنے کے لیے ٹاپ 10 ممالک پاناما، میکسیکو، تھائی لینڈ، متحدہ عرب امارات، برازیل، اسپین، سنگاپور، پرتگال، ملائیشیا اور کیمبرگ شامل ہیں۔ پاناما: مسلسل تیزی یافتہ ریاست پاناما نے مسلسل تیسرے سال دنیا کے بہترین ممالک برائے بیرون ملک مقیم افراد کی فہرست میں پہلی پوزیشن حاصل کی۔ اسے بیرون ملک کام کرنے اور ذاتی مالی معاملات کے دونوں شعبوں میں پہلی پوزیشن ملی۔ سروے میں پاناما میں مقیم 87 فیصد افراد نے کہا کہ وہ بیرون ملک اپنی زندگی سے خوش ہیں جبکہ عالمی سطح پر یہ رائے دینے والے اوسطاً 70 فیصد ہے۔ اسی طرح 90 فیصد افراد نے کہا کہ وہاں رہائش تلاش کرنا نسبتاً آسان ہے۔ اگرچہ انہوں نے 8 سال قبل

پاناما نے مسلسل تیسرے سال دنیا کے بہترین ممالک

برائے بیرون ملک مقیم افراد کی فہرست میں پہلی پوزیشن حاصل کی۔ اسے بیرون ملک کام کرنے اور ذاتی مالی معاملات کے دونوں شعبوں میں پہلی پوزیشن ملی۔ سروے میں پاناما میں مقیم 87 فیصد افراد نے کہا کہ وہ بیرون ملک اپنی زندگی سے خوش ہیں جبکہ عالمی سطح پر یہ رائے دینے والے اوسطاً 70 فیصد ہے

ایپ کے اندر شامل کیا گیا ہے۔ مائی زونگ ایپ کے ماہانہ 2 کروڑ 20 لاکھ سے زیادہ فعال صارفین ہیں، جبکہ ہر ماہ 5 لاکھ سے زیادہ نئے ڈاؤن لوڈز بھی رپورٹ کیے گئے ہیں۔ اس طرح زونگ پہلے سے موجود اپنے بڑے ڈیجیٹل صارفینہ ورک کو مالیاتی خدمات کے لیے استعمال کرے گا۔ 'زندگی' کا کیا کردار ہے؟ زی والٹ کے پیچھے ہے ایس بینک کا مالیاتی پلیٹ فارم 'زندگی' کے اشتراک سے زی والٹ (Z-Wallet) متعارف کرا دیا ہے۔ 'زی والٹ' بنیادی طور پر ایک ایسا ڈیجیٹل مالیاتی پلیٹ فارم ہے جس کے ذریعے صارفین کو بینکاری اور ادائیگیوں

Two years of sheer hell, and it is not finished

YOSSI MEKELBERG

At last, negotiators in Sharm El-Sheikh have agreed an end to this period of the most horrific bloodshed in the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict since 1948. Albeit it will only be a long haul toward a return to normality. Yet aside from indulging in some cautious optimism, it is perhaps also time for some initial reflection within both societies. How did they get into such a catastrophic nightmare? Benjamin Netanyahu's recent triumphalist speeches and statements, often utterly contradictory, are the legacy of his long, much too long, time as Israeli prime minister. It is a legacy that will take years to overcome and rectify, not only for the Palestinians and others in the region, but also for Israel and its own people. Netanyahu's premiership is not over yet but is nearing its end; it is just a matter of time, and how much more damage he is prepared to inflict on everything and everyone within his orbit, until he exits the political stage for good. If anything should have hastened the end of his career, it was the utter failure to anticipate and prevent the Hamas-led attack on Oct. 7,

2023, and his reported paralysis for the first few days that followed it as he realized that the greatest security failure in Israel's history had taken place on his watch. But neither he nor his lieutenants in this worst-ever government in Israeli history have been of a mind even to acknowledge their colossal failure, never mind apologize for it, do the decent thing by resigning, and subject themselves to the judgment of the people by calling a general election and establishing an independent inquiry into Oct. 7. At no previous point in Israel's history has the nation been so internally divided and so internationally isolated, as it stands accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity. It will take more than a single general election to rectify the damage caused by the increasingly reckless actions of this sixth Netanyahu government. It began its term in office by legitimizing the most abhorrent elements in Israeli politics, the ultranationalist-messianic groupings, resulting in an unabated attack on the very foundations of Israel's democracy. Moreover, to appease the settler elements in his government, the prime minister allowed settlements to expand and

settler violence to run rampant with impunity. This government has left Israeli society divided, battling not external enemies but those who are trying to destroy the soul of the country from within. It has also delivered to Israel's enemies a message of weakness, mixed with no hope for ending the occupation of Palestinian land, which proved to be a lethal combination.

The events of Oct. 7 were horrific and inexcusable but they cannot justify, in any shape or form, Israel's appalling response. Great leaders bring out the best in their societies and make them better places to live. Populist leaders of Netanyahu's breed exploit the weaknesses, fears, and prejudice among their own people to create the worst possible version of their societies, thereby allowing them to control the narrative even as, in the case of the Israeli prime minister, the narrative keeps changing to suit personal needs. Unsurprisingly, the attack by Hamas traumatized Israelis, and some kind of response to it was inevitable and justified. But nothing can justify the nature of a response that has left more than 67,000 people dead, most of them

civilians and many of them children, and a territory of scorched earth, razed to the ground. The war in Gaza has raged for two years, not out of any strategic considerations but to ensure Netanyahu's political survival and prevent his corruption trial from concluding. In pursuit of this goal he has been prepared to prolong the war indefinitely, sacrificing the hostages and his soldiers, and ensuring that the self-proclaimed notion of the Israeli military the "most moral army in the world" rings more hollow than ever.

This has all been said many times before, but when the war comes to an end, the question for Israelis will be how they will climb out of the deep, dark abyss. There is no magic formula for this, but part of the necessary soul searching must be to admit that there are trends within Israeli society that have weakened it as a liberal democracy, and that there has always been a tension, though not one that could not be resolved, between the concepts of being Jewish and being democratic. The occupation of Palestinian land and depriving its people of their political and human rights has not yet eroded the idea of

what Israel aspires to be. But the occupation and the daily oppression of Palestinians has led to the country being held captive by a small group of settlers: messianic, delusional extremists with autocratic tendencies who believe the answer to all security challenges lies in the use of force and force alone. The resultant conditions of constant insecurity have been exploited by a populist-opportunistic leader who has presented himself as a savior.

As an initial part of the healing and reflection process, a state inquiry into the failures of Oct. 7 must be established. It must have the power to investigate all aspects of the events leading up to that disastrous day, and everything that followed, including all ministerial decisions. It must not tolerate any cover ups. Only when this groundwork allows the truth to emerge can Israel also begin to start asking itself how it allowed a government of extremists and incompetents to lead it into a war that was more about revenge and the political survival of a ruling coalition, than ensuring the failures of Oct. 7 can never happen again.

—Arab News

What if Israel breaks the ceasefire?

DR. DANIA KOLEILAT KHATIB

Israel and Hamas agreed to a ceasefire during talks with American, Turkish, Qatari, and Egyptian mediators. The first phase involves Israel stopping the bombing and withdrawing from Gaza to an agreed line. Hamas, in turn, will return all hostages within 72 hours of the agreement. The question we must ask ourselves now is what prevents Israel from resuming its bombing campaign once the hostages are returned? And what can Arab and Islamic countries do to prevent such a scenario, which some might say is probable? From the Hamas point of view, the hostages are the only card the group holds that provides leverage over Israel. It is also important to note that two years of war has greatly weakened the group. However, the situation on the ground pushed everyone to converge on US President Donald Trump's plan; Gaza was undergoing a genocide, people were starving, and an immediate solution was needed. There is little reason to believe that the ceasefire will successfully progress to the next phase, however. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu needed to accept the ceasefire because the pressure on his government was increasing, not only internationally but domestically as well, with the plight of the hostages providing fuel for opposition parties. However, we should not forget that during the past two ceasefire agreements, Israel recovered some of the hostages and then resumed its genocide.

We have also to remember that once the war ends, Netanyahu will face accountability. There has been no proper investigation into the Hamas-led Oct. 7 attacks. Some news outlets have recently alleged that forces surrounding Gaza were ordered to stand down at the time. If this is true, and if Netanyahu really allowed all this to help him avoid his own domestic woes, what will happen to him?

In addition to the potential repercussions of Oct. 7 there is the matter of the corruption charges he faces. There is also the issue of his fragile coalition government, which is torn between those who believe that Orthodox Jews, who currently are exempt from the national military service most Israelis are obliged to complete, should be conscripted and those who believe they should not. The war pushes all such issues into the background. Once he gets the hostages back, scoring a point against the opposition and appeasing the Israeli public, will he

resume the war in Gaza? Maybe. Maybe he will return to pounding the territory. Or maybe he will open another front in the West Bank. Or Lebanon. Or Iran.

Whatever might happen, the most important thing right now is to make sure the ceasefire holds in Gaza, and to that end Trump is expected to maintain the pressure on Netanyahu to move beyond the first part of the agreement. When Trump was asked about this, he said the most important issue was to get the hostages home, and "then we will see." This, however, prompted a sense of déjà vu; ceasefire agreements in November 2023 and January 2025 proved to be short-lived. In addition, pressure is not equivalent to guarantees. Israel can apply counterpressure to the US. It has a powerful political lobby working at full steam. This raises the question of what should Arab and Islamic countries be doing? What is their Plan B? What kind of pressure can they exert on Israel to ensure Netanyahu does not stray from the ceasefire?

Turkiye has already said it will send forces to monitor the early stages of the truce. However, there are still no details about subsequent phases. Arabs and Muslims should heed the advice of Colombian President Gustavo Petro, who in a speech to the UN General Assembly last month, called for the creation of an international force in Gaza through the General Assembly Resolution 377, also known as the "Uniting for Peace" resolution. Israel should be made aware that if it does not comply with the peace plan and withdraw from Gaza, Arab and Islamic countries will push for action under Resolution 377, which potentially can override the power of veto held by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council by taking a resolution to the General Assembly for a vote on collective measures, including the use of armed force when necessary.

There might be pushback to the suggestion. Israel might react to such a threat with cynicism. United for Peace had been effective in the past when backed by a superpower, either the Soviet Union or the US. Here, Arab countries might allude to China, which seeks to play a bigger role in the Middle East and was the mediator and the security guarantor for the Saudi-Iran deal. Would the US like to see its allies increasingly warm to China? Not really. Empty threats will not work. Arab and Islamic countries need to start organizing.

—Arab News



So that what happened in Gaza never happens again

FAISAL J. ABBAS

By any measure, the recent developments in Gaza mark a pivotal moment in the region's long and painful history. And while cynics may scoff and skeptics may roll their eyes, it is time to acknowledge what must be said plainly: US President Donald Trump deserves credit for his bold and determined efforts to broker peace in Gaza.

Two years after countless failed initiatives, the current US-led push — chaired personally by the president as head of the newly formed Board of Peace — seems to be not just another diplomatic gesture with a fancy name. It has all the attributes of a serious, high-stakes undertaking that, if supported and sustained, could finally begin to reverse the devastation that has plagued the Gaza Strip and the Palestinian people.

Is the plan perfect? Far from it. Could it fail? There is definitely a high risk, given the many spoilers. With an extremist, trigger-happy Israeli government still in power, and a not-so-encouraging track record of Hamas, the road ahead is treacherous. But perfection is not the measure of progress. And repeating the same failed UN mechanisms while expecting different results is, as the famous quote says, the definition of insanity. I say this while fully and wholeheartedly wishing that the reality was otherwise. The reality is, unfortunately, that this is more a case of the Arabic proverb which says "and so cure it with what caused the illness to start with."

In other words, this is a matter of resorting to America precisely because President Trump is the dealmaker that he is, Washington has the leverage and the trust of Israel, and that everything else has failed so far. My point is having a plan, with all its faults, is far better than allowing the killing to continue as a result of having no plan. Besides, pleasing everyone is an illusion and a recipe for failure in itself.

Even within the same political camps, reactions are and will continue to be divided. In Israel, some see the initiative as a lifeline for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu — a way to climb down from a tree he has been perched on for far too long. Others argue it unjustly rewards Hamas, whose refusal to surrender has come at the expense of thousands of innocent lives and the near-total destruction of Gaza.

On the Palestinian side, the sentiment is understandably bitter. For many, this effort feels like "too little, too late." After tens of thousands of

deaths, widespread famine and what a UN agency has now labeled genocide, the scars are deep and trust is thin. Yet among Hamas ranks, the narrative is spun as a victory — proof that they have not capitulated. This, of course, ignores the staggering human toll of their obstinance.

But these debates, while important, must not distract from the larger truth: Trump is not just paying lip service, but is now fully invested as the chairperson of this peace initiative. That matters. It matters because it places real pressure on all parties, including Israel, to honor commitments. And it matters because it limits Netanyahu's ability to maneuver or escape accountability under the guise of security concerns.

Arab and Muslim nations have, to their credit, rallied behind the initiative. Their support is both morally necessary and strategically wise. But let us not be lulled into premature celebration. The war is not over. The suffering is not over. And the peace is far from being won.

Labeling this effort as anything less than sincere and serious would be a disservice to the cause of peace. Yes, it is fresh. Yes, it is fragile. But that fragility demands our full support — not just in words, but in action. Humanitarian aid must flow freely. Food, shelter, and medical supplies must reach those in need before winter deepens the crisis. This is not the time for political posturing or ideological purity tests. It is the time for pragmatism, compassion, and rapid resolve.

If we are truly committed to ensuring that what happened in Gaza never happens again, then talk of a two-state solution must follow immediately. Not eventually. Not "when the time is right." But now — as that is the only logical and just way to safeguard against another future atrocity.

The horrors of Oct. 7 and the Israeli genocide committed since must serve as a wake-up call. The region cannot afford another cycle of vengeance and victimhood. The international community must push for a viable, just, and enforceable resolution that guarantees security for Israelis and protection, statehood, and dignity for Palestinians.

President Trump's initiative may not be perfect, but it is a start. And in a region where starts are rare and hope is often fleeting, that alone is worth applauding. The question now is whether Israel and Hamas will rise to meet this moment — or squander it, as they have so many times before. Let us hope, for the sake of Gaza and for the future of the region, that they choose wisely.

—Arab News

The great potential for North Africa in future global supply chains

HAFED AL-GHWELL

North Africa is undergoing a quiet yet profound economic realignment. The region, traditionally a crossroads of civilizations, is swiftly repositioning itself as a central hub for the next chapter of global industry, fueled by the worldwide demand for critical minerals.

While sub-Saharan Africa dominates mineral production, accounting for 70 percent of the world's cobalt and significant shares of platinum and manganese, North Africa's power lies not in the volumes of its own reserves but in its unparalleled geographic and strategic positioning. It is an indispensable link between the mineral-rich south, the manufacturing and refining centers of Asia, and the insatiable consumer markets of Europe.

Africa today is no longer a silent partner in global trade and critical minerals dialogue but an assertive architect of the continent's own resource destiny. The Democratic Republic of Congo's export bans on raw cobalt, and Zimbabwe's levies on unprocessed lithium, for instance, are some of the ways in which Africa is moving away from simple extraction to the creation of local value.

Such strategic moves create a wealth of opportunities for North Africa that are likely to be harnessed via sophisticated economic gateways already being built in the region. Thus, with an estimated \$266 billion in critical mineral exports from Africa in 2024, and likely more than that in the future given accelerating demand, the logistical race to transport, process, and ship these resources is intensifying.

At present, Morocco, Egypt, and Algeria are accelerating their strategic investments in an attempt to capture this flow. Morocco's Tanger Med port, for example, now one of the most advanced in Africa, is handling trade volumes that increasingly rival those of southern European hubs. Simultaneously, Egypt is transforming the Suez Canal Economic Zone into a magnet for foreign capital,

targeting a place in the global hydrogen market and capitalizing on its position as a maritime crossroads.

Algeria, meanwhile, is linked to Mauritania's vast untapped potential for lithium, manganese, uranium, phosphates, and rare-earth elements via the Tindouf-Zouerate Highway infrastructure project. Algiers also remains the sole Mediterranean node of the Trans-Saharan Highway, which links six African countries that together represent more than a quarter of Africa's total gross domestic product and population.

These developments are part of a wider infrastructure rush that includes projects such as the Trans-Maghreb highway, connecting Morocco to Egypt via Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya, as well as new road corridors designed to bind North Africa into a cohesive and efficient trade network ready for the demands of the economies of the future. This transformation has not gone unnoticed by global powers. The US depends entirely on imports of 12 critical minerals, and outsources more than half of its supplies for another 28. Washington perceives this reliance, particularly on China, as a structural weakness, driving a search for secure alliances. China, which processes 85 percent of the world's critical minerals and more than 90 percent of rare earths, is entrenching its influence through direct investments in projects such as lithium operations in Mali and copper ventures in Zambia, backed by decades of strategic engagement across 44 African countries.

Saudi Arabia has committed \$10 billion to African mining over the next five years, while the UAE is channeling capital into port and processing assets in copper-rich Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo. In this contest, North Africa emerges as a strategic intersection, a zone in which all these external ambitions meet, providing access and opportunity without yet falling under the control of a single power.

—Arab News

Inadequate healthcare

The residents of Dasht-Mazanbad are facing a serious problem in the form of inadequate healthcare facilities. Hospitals are a basic necessity, yet people in this area are suffering due to the shortage of medical centers and trained doctors. Even for minor illnesses, such as coughs or fevers, it is difficult to find proper medical assistance. The absence of nearby hospitals leads to delays in treatment, which often worsens health conditions and increases the risk of death, especially in emergencies such as accidents, childbirth, or severe illnesses. Residents are forced to travel long distances to access healthcare, spending large amounts on transport and losing valuable time and income in the process. It is the responsibility of the government to establish hospitals and healthcare centres in Dasht-Mazanband and ensure the presence of qualified doctors. Such measures would bring much-needed relief and significantly improve the overall quality of life in the area.

M Asif
Dasht

Improving welfare

Policies and welfare programs often begin with the best of intentions. They are meant to

ease people's hardships, uplift communities and open doors to a better life. The Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) is one such initiative. Launched in 2008, it provides financial assistance to millions of low income families across Pakistan, with the aim of helping them meet their basic needs. For many households, these funds have been a lifeline. However, even the most well-meaning policies can face unexpected challenges if they do not consider human behaviour. History gives us a striking example through the Cobra Effect. It is believed that during British rule, officials in Delhi offered rewards for every dead cobra to reduce their numbers. At first, the plan seemed to work. But soon, some locals began breeding cobras just to claim the reward. When the scheme ended, the breeders released their snakes, and the population grew even more. The lesson is simple: policies shape not just outcomes but also people's responses to incentives. Similarly, while BISP has helped countless families, there have been instances where the support has not produced the long-term impact it was meant to. In some cases, people have found ways to stay eligible without genuinely improving their situation. Others have spent the money on things that do not really help lift their families out of poverty.

These challenges do not make the program bad, they simply show that good intentions need thoughtful planning and constant improvement.

One practical way to make BISP more effective is to combine financial aid with skill development, especially for women. Instead of only handing out cash, women beneficiaries can be enrolled in vocational training centers where they can learn to produce handicrafts or other marketable skills. Once they acquire these skills, the financial support can be linked to their participation and progress. This approach would not only empower women economically but also help families become self-reliant over time.

When people are given both support and opportunities, they respond with dignity and determination. By refining the structure of BISP in this way, ensuring transparency, monitoring usage of funds, and focusing on capacity building, the program can move beyond temporary relief and become a tool for lasting change. By anticipating these behaviours and designing smart, human-centred strategies, initiatives like BISP can truly transform lives rather than create unintended problems.

Sajjad Hussain Cheehani
Agra, Sindh



A vendor is filling a basket with corn to sell to customers at the Fruit Market.

No unjustified challans to be issued by Motorway Police: Aleem Khan

APP- ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan on Monday assured goods transporters that no unjustified challans would be issued by the Motorway Police, while stressing strict compliance with axle-load, speed and other prescribed traffic regulations.

Addressing a reception hosted by the All Pakistan Goods Transporters Alliance in his honour following the successful conclusion of negotiations between the government and transporters, the Federal Minister said all commitments made to the transporters would be fulfilled at all costs, said a press release.

No unjustified challans to be issued by Motorway Police: Aleem Khan

The transporters accorded a warm welcome to Abdul Aleem Khan upon his arrival at the reception, showering flower

petals and chanting slogans in his support. President of the Goods Transporters Alliance Malik Shehzad Awan presented him a traditional Sindhi Ajrak and thanked the government for accepting their demands.

Addressing the reception, Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had assigned him the special task of chairing the Committee constituted to resolve the transporters' issues which had successfully completed its mandate. Abdul Aleem Khan appreciated the sincerity and sense of responsibility demonstrated by the leadership of the Goods Transporters Alliance. He said that negotiations continued for 9 days, with the two sides holding discussions for several hours each day and ultimately reaching a



successful agreement. He termed the successful negotiations a highly commendable development.

Federal Minister for Communications said that transporters play a vital role in the national economy and that their cooperation is essential for the country's development. Abdul Aleem Khan assured the transporters that not a single unjustified challan would be allowed by the Motorway Police. He said that if a vehicle was not violating any traffic rules, there was no question of issuing a challan.

He added that compliance with prescribed limits regarding vehicle weight, speed and other regulations would be ensured at all costs. He urged transporters to strictly comply with the axle-load policy, saying that adherence to the prescribed limits was in their own interest.

Civil Services Academy delegation visits FCCP

APP- ISLAMABAD: A 23-member delegation from Group 10 of the 54th Common Training Programme of the Civil Services Academy, Lahore, visited the Federal Constitutional Court of Pakistan (FCCP) on Monday as part of its study tour of Islamabad.

During the visit, the delegation was shown a documentary highlighting the establishment of the Federal Constitutional Court, its constitutional role and jurisdiction, institutional evolution, administrative structure, and measures being undertaken to ensure the transparent, effective and expeditious delivery of constitutional justice. Later, heads of various wings and directorates of the court briefed the participants about their respective areas of work, official responsibilities, administrative procedures, technological developments and ongoing activities.

The participants were also briefed on the role of judicial administration, information technology systems, research and legal assistance, media and public relations, human resource management and other support departments.

The briefings provided the delegation with a comprehensive understanding of the court's organisational structure and working procedures.

The participants appreciated the comprehensive nature of the programme, institutional discipline, professional standards and modern administrative practices of the court. They also expressed gratitude to the Registrar and the court administration for the hospitality extended to them during the visit.

PML-N delegation visits Barrister Gohar's residence to condole death of his mother

APP- ISLAMABAD: A high-level delegation of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), led by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, on Monday visited the residence of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan to offer condolences over the death of his mother.

The delegation included Prime Minister's Adviser on Political Affairs Rana Sanaullah, Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, PML-N Azad Kashmir President Shah Ghulam Qadir and other leaders.

Senator Anusha Rahman, MNA Anjum Aqeel Khan and other prominent leaders were also part of the delegation.

Dr Tariq said the PML-N delegation expressed condolences to Barrister Gohar over the death of his mother.

The delegation prayed for the forgiveness of the deceased, elevation of her ranks in the hereafter and patience for the bereaved family.

He said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had sent the delegation to convey a clear message that political differences were confined to the political arena.

111-Point Parliamentary Agenda Issued; BAC to decide session duration



APP- ISLAMABAD: Both houses of the Parliament will meet here on Monday to deliberate on crucial legislative and public interest matters.

A comprehensive 111-point agenda has been issued for the concurrent sessions of the National Assembly and the Senate.

Prior to these important sessions, a crucial meeting of the National Assembly's Business Advisory Committee has also been summoned to discuss the business of the lower house, the duration of the session, and other key matters.

Business Advisory Committee Meeting Ahead of the regular National Assembly session, the Business Advisory Committee will meet at 4:00 p.m. in the Speaker's Lounge, chaired by the Speaker. The committee will determine the duration of the current National Assembly session, finalize the business to be conducted in the House, and consider other relevant matters with the permission of the Chair. Key government and opposition figures have been invited to attend the meeting. A

42-point agenda has been issued for the National Assembly session, scheduled to commence at 5:00 p.m. According to the agenda, lawmakers will present calling attention notices regarding the growing water scarcity in Islamabad, the need for water purification plants, and the inordinate delay in the allotment of land for the construction of the National Museum at Shakarparian. The House will introduce several new amendment bills, including the Employees' Old-Age Benefits, Natural Gas Development Surcharge, and Gas Infrastructure Development Cess bills.

Furthermore, standing committees on Commerce, Defense, Privatization, and Maritime Affairs will present their reports on various bills, including the Insurance Bill and the Copyright (Amendment) Bill. Bills seeking amendments to the Travel Agencies Act, Pakistan Tourist Guides Act, and Motion Pictures Ordinance, which have already been passed by the Senate, will also be laid before the House for final approval.

RDA inflows rise to \$13.647 bn in July 2026

APP- ISLAMABAD: The inflow of remittances under Roshan Digital Account (RDA) has risen to US \$13.647 billion by the end of July 2026 as compared to US \$13.365 billion by June (2026) end. The data showed that the inflows of remittances during July 2026 were recorded at US\$ 282 million as compared to US\$ 306 million in June and US\$ 312 million in May 2026, according to the latest data released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

These accounts provide innovative banking solutions to millions of Non-Resident Pakistanis (NRPs), including Non-Resident Pakistan Origin Card (POC) holders, seeking to undertake banking, payment, and investment activities in Pakistan.

The number of accounts registered under the programme also rose by 10,589 to 956,790 in July 2026 from 946,201 accounts in June 2026.

By the end of July, overseas Pakistanis have invested US \$684 million in Naya Pakistan Certificates, US \$1,316 million in Naya Pakistan Islamic Certificates, and US \$151 million in Roshan Equity Investment.

Jhang Hosts Divisional Archery Championship for 100 Young Archers



Jhang (Bureau Report)

The Independence Cup Faisalabad Division Inter-District Archery Championship was organized in Jhang through a collaboration between the Divisional Sports Office Faisalabad and the CM Punjab Archery Academy Jhang. Around 100 archers from across the division showcased their skills.

MPA Abida Bashir officially inaugurated the championship by cutting the ribbon, while former MPA

Mehr Khalid Mahmood Sargana and SDO WAPDA Athara Hazari Ghulam Abbas, among other distinguished personalities, attended as special guests.

The championship featured exciting archery competitions across a total of 16 categories, including eight categories each for boys and girls. Young archers demonstrated great enthusiasm and passion while displaying impressive accuracy and skill.

The players and coach Amanullah

Shan welcomed the organization of the championship and thanked the Divisional Sports Office. They said that holding such competitions regularly is essential to provide young people with opportunities to showcase their abilities in the field of sports.

At the conclusion of the championship, former Additional Secretary Sports and CSP officer Malik Sanaullah distributed prizes among the players who demonstrated outstanding performances.

TNVR program launched to control stray dog population in Gilgit

Gilgit (FIR Report)

The Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Release (TNVR) program was formally launched in Gilgit city to control the stray dog population in a humane and scientific manner.

On the first day of the program, the Municipal Corporation Gilgit, under the supervision of AC/Administrator, Gilgit Metropolitan Municipality Captain (R) Adil Ali, caught four stray dogs and handed them over to the Livestock Department as per the requirements and prescribed procedure of the

Livestock Department.

The Livestock Department will conduct medical examination, sterilization and vaccination of the said dogs, after which they will be released back to the relevant areas as per the prescribed procedure.

According to the officials, the main objective of the TNVR program is to control the stray dog population on humane and scientific grounds, reduce the incidence of dog bites and ensure the prevention of the spread of other diseases including rabies.

Under the program, the relevant agencies will complete various

stages through mutual communication and cooperation. The Gilgit Municipal Corporation will capture the stray dogs, while the Livestock Department will carry out their medical examination, vaccination, sterilization and subsequent release.

Officials have expressed hope that the success of the program will help control the breeding of stray dogs and reduce their number in the future. This program, launched in collaboration with the Gilgit Municipal Corporation and the Animal Husbandry Department, is being described as the first of its kind in the area.

Skardu Court Sentences Two to 10 Years in Drug Case

Skardu (Press Releases)

District and Sessions Judge Skardu, while pronouncing the verdict in the drug seizure case, sentenced two accused to 10 years imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 100,000 each.

According to the court decision, action was taken against the accused under the relevant provisions of the Narcotics Control Act 1997 under case number 31/2025 registered at the City Skardu Police Station. According to the case, during a routine check at the police check post Spadar, a Toyota Fielder vehicle number NCP-3016 was stopped and searched, during which 3 kg 746 grams of hashish was recovered



from the vehicle.

After a detailed review of the evidence on record, seizure, forensic report and other materials, the court found both the accused guilty in the case. The court sentenced each accused to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 100,000.

The verdict has stated that in case of non-payment of the fine, each accused will have to undergo another 6 months of imprisonment. The court also issued instructions to destroy the drugs recovered during the trial according to the law.

The verdict in the case was announced by the court of District and Sessions Judge Skardu.



Fishermen catching the fish after water level in the Indus River is continuously rising due to the rains across the country.

ایف آئی آر رپورٹ

افغانستان میں طالبان کے ایک عہدیدار نے بتایا ہے کہ بدخشاں میں حالیہ ہفتوں میں طالبان کے خلاف لڑنے والے مقامی کمانڈر جمعہ خان فتح نے بغیر کسی معاہدے کے فورسز کے سامنے سرینڈر کر دیا ہے۔ تاہم نہ ظاہر کرنے کی شرط پر عہدیدار نے بتایا کہ جمعہ خان فتح کو بلی کا پٹر کے ذریعے بدخشاں کے دارالحکومت فیض آباد منتقل کیا گیا ہے۔

خیال رہے گذشتہ ہفتے افغانستان کی طالبان کے زیر انتظام وزارت دفاع نے کہا تھا کہ اس کا ایک بلی کا پٹر شمال مشرقی ہے چین صوبہ بدخشاں میں بجلی کے پائلوں سے گرا کر حادثے کا شکار ہو کر تباہ ہو گیا۔ لیکن اسی حوالے سے برطانیہ میں قائم افغانستان انٹرنیشنل نے 13 اگست کو رپورٹ کیا تھا کہ مقامی ذرائع کے مطابق باقی طالبان کمانڈر جمعہ خان فتح کی وفادار فورسز نے ضلع نسی میں طالبان فوجی بلی کا پٹر کو مار گرایا ہے۔ اسی طرح، نجی بشت صباح نے اسی دن رپورٹ کیا کہ یہ حادثہ جمعہ خان فتح کے جنگجوؤں اور طالبان حکام کے درمیان جاری جھڑپوں کے دوران ہوا۔ افغانستان کی وزارت دفاع نے ایک بلی کا پٹر کو اس وقت نقصان پہنچا جب اس کے بلیز بجلی کے پائلوں سے ٹکرائے، لیکن واقعے میں کوئی زخمی نہیں ہوا۔ لیکن جمعہ خان فتح اور ان سے شملک جنگجو وہ واحد گروہ نہیں جنہوں نے افغانستان میں طالبان کی حکومت کے خلاف ہتھیار اٹھائے ہوئے ہیں۔ اس سے پہلے 13 اگست کو افغان ملکی میڈیا نے تصدیق کی ہے کہ شمال مشرقی صوبہ بدخشاں کے صوبائی دارالحکومت فیض آباد میں طالبان کے میزبانیک دھماکے میں ہلاک ہو گئے ہیں۔

غیر جہادی ریسرچس فرنٹ (این آر ایف) کے مسلح گروہ نے دعویٰ کیا تھا کہ اس کے جنگجوؤں نے میزبانی گاڑی کو نشانہ بنایا، جس میں وہ اور ان کے باؤی گاڑی ہلاک ہوئے۔ طالبان کے چیف ترجمان، ذبیح اللہ مجاہد، نے پہلے باقی گروہوں کی سرگرمیوں کی رپورٹس کو محض پروپیگنڈا قرار دے کر مسترد کر دیا تھا۔ یاد رہے کہ پانچ سال قبل اگست 2021 میں دوبارہ اقتدار میں آنے کے بعد طالبان حکومت کے خلاف مزاحمت کی کئی وجوہات بتائی گئی ہیں جن میں خواتین کی تعلیم اور ملازمتوں پر پابندیاں، سخت شرعی قوانین اور طالبان کی جانب سے جسمانی سزاؤں پر عوامی طور پر عمل درآمد دوبارہ شروع کرنا بھی شامل ہے۔

13 نومبر 2022 کے بعد عوامی سزاؤں کی تعداد میں نمایاں اضافہ ہوا، جب طالبان رہنما بہت اللہ خونخوارہ نے گروہ کے عدالتی اداروں کو ہدایت دی کہ وہ مزمان کے مقدمات کا احتیاط



سے جائزہ لیں اور اسلامی سزائیں نافذ کریں۔ ان تمام مقدمات میں کوڑے مارنے کی سزا شامل تھی، اور بعض جرموں کو قید کی سزا بھی دی گئی۔ طالبان سپریم کورٹ کے شائع کردہ اعداد و شمار کے مطابق، 2024 میں کم از کم 241 افراد، جن میں 210 مرد اور 31 خواتین شامل تھیں، مختلف جرائم پر عوامی طور پر سزا دی گئی۔ 2025 میں یہ تعداد بڑھ کر 395 افراد ہو گئی، جن میں 317 مرد اور 78 خواتین شامل تھیں۔

عوامی سزا کے تمام واقعات طالبان سپریم کورٹ کی ویب سائٹ اور سرکاری اعلانات میں ریکارڈ یا شائع نہیں کیے جاتے، اس لیے ایسی سزاؤں کی اصل تعداد غالباً اس سے زیادہ ہے۔ طالبان کو افغانستان میں اقتدار میں آنے پانچ سال تک مل ہو گئے ہیں۔ تاہم اب ملک میں مسلح مزاحمتی گروہوں کی بڑھتی ہوئی تعداد افغانستان پر طالبان کے کنٹرول کے دعوے کو چیلنج کر رہی ہے۔ اس مضمون میں جن گروہوں کا ذکر کیا گیا ہے وہ سب غیر



میں سے بیشتر جنوبی صوبوں قدحدار اور بلند میں کیے گئے تھے۔ سنج سادات کا کہنا ہے کہ ان کا گروہ کی ہم میں طالبان کے جنگجوؤں، عسکری تنصیبات اور اعلیٰ رہنماؤں کو نشانہ بنانا شامل ہے۔ انہوں نے سابق سکیورٹی اہلکاروں اور دیگر افغان شہریوں سے بھی اس ہم میں شامل ہونے کی اپیل کی ہے۔ اس گروہ نے طالبان کو اقتدار سے ہٹانے کے لیے غیر ملکی فوجیوں کی مدد اخلاص کا مطالبہ نہیں کیا، تاہم اس کا کہنا ہے کہ انہیں بین الاقوامی سیاسی اور مادی حمایت کی ضرورت ہے۔

روند سبز افغانستان یا افغانستان گرین ٹریڈز - اسے جی ٹی کی قیادت افغانستان کے سابق نائب صدر اور نیشنل ڈائریکٹوریٹ آف سکیورٹی (این ڈی ایس) کے سابق سربراہ امر اللہ صالح کر رہے ہیں۔ یہ گروہ دیگر گروہوں سے اس لحاظ سے مختلف ہے کہ اس کا آغاز ایک مسلح تنظیم کے بجائے ایک سیاسی تحریک کے طور پر ہوا تھا۔ 2011 میں قائم ہونے والی اس تحریک نے جمہوریت حامی اقدامات، بدعنوانی کے خلاف مہمات اور اطلاعاتی سرگرمیوں کے ذریعے شہرت حاصل کی، اور طالبان کے اقتدار سنبھالنے کے بعد جلا وطنی میں ایک اپوزیشن پلیٹ فارم بن گئی۔ اس کا مسلح جنگ جتنے گرین سکیورٹی اداروں میں اہم عہدوں پر فائز رہ چکے ہیں اور بظاہر امریکہ سے بھی ایک نیا اور نسبتاً غیر معروف گروہ ہے۔ یہ (انٹرنیشنل رول اوپلاٹ ہیں۔ بعض مبصرین کا خیال ہے کہ اگست 2026 میں اپنی پہلی مسلح کارروائیوں کے آغاز سے قبل اسے یو ایف او امریکہ کی حمایت یا کم از کم منظوری حاصل تھی۔ تاہم اس حوالے سے تاحال کوئی قابل تصدیق ثبوت سامنے نہیں آیا ہے۔

16 اور 17 جولائی کو یہ گروہ مختصر مدت کے لیے ضلع نیش کے ہیڈ کوارٹر پر قبضہ کرنے میں کامیاب ہو گیا تھا۔ طالبان کے اقتدار سنبھالنے کے بعد یہ پہلا موقع تھا کہ کوئی طالبان مخالف مسلح گروہ کسی مقامی مرکز پر قبضہ کرنے میں کامیاب ہوا ہو۔ اطلاعات کے مطابق اس گروہ کی قیادت قیوم ملنگ کر رہے ہیں، جو افغانستان کی سابق نیشنل فورسز

کئی حملوں ذمہ داری قبول کرنے کے دعوے بھی کیے ہیں، جس کے نتیجے میں طالبان مخالف گروہوں میں اس کی اہمیت اور شناخت میں اضافہ ہوا ہے۔ اسے ایف ایف ایف اپنی کما ل طالبان حکومت کے خلاف ایک قومی آزادی کی جدوجہد کے طور پر پیش کرتا ہے۔ اس گروہ کے مطابق ان کی مزاحمت کی بنیادی وجوہات میں خواتین پر عائد پابندیاں، نسلی امتیاز اور ان کے بقول انتہا پسند نظریہ شہرانی شامل ہے۔ اس کے ترجمان داؤد ناہی نے بھی کہا تھا کہ اپوزیشن گروہوں نے نئی برس تک سیاسی کوششوں کی ناکامی کے بعد نتیجہ اخذ کیا ہے کہ 'طالبان صرف طاقت کی زبان سمجھتے ہیں اور توئی مالے پر یقین نہیں رکھتے'۔

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طالبان مخالف کمانڈر جمعہ خان فتح نے 'سرینڈر' کر دیا: کیا دیگر مسلح گروہ دفاعان حکومت کے لیے مشکل پیدا کر سکتے ہیں؟

جمعہ خان فتح کو ہیلی کاپٹر کے ذریعے بدخشاں کے دارالحکومت فیض آباد منتقل کیا گیا ہے

گذشتہ ہفتے افغانستان کی طالبان کے زیر انتظام وزارت دفاع نے کہا تھا کہ اس کا ایک ہیلی کاپٹر شمال مشرقی بے چین صوبہ بدخشاں میں بجلی کے پائلوں سے ٹکرا کر حادثے کا شکار ہو کر تباہ ہو گیا

دوبارہ اقتدار میں آنے کے بعد طالبان حکومت کے خلاف مزاحمت کی کئی وجوہات بتائی گئی ہیں جن میں خواتین کی تعلیم اور ملازمتوں پر پابندیاں، سخت شرعی قوانین اور طالبان کی جانب سے جسمانی سزاؤں پر عوامی طور پر عمل درآمد دوبارہ شروع کرنا بھی شامل ہے

قلم بھی ان کارروائیوں کی کڑی معلوم ہوتی ہیں۔ ان حملوں نے افغانستان کے بہت سے لوگوں بشمول پشتون برادری کے بعض حلقوں میں یہ امید پیدا کر دی ہے کہ طالبان شاید اسے بھی طاقتور نہیں جتنے ابتدا میں سمجھے جاتے تھے۔ کئی تجزیہ کاروں نے خبردار کیا ہے کہ طالبان کی جانب سے پانچ برسوں تک سخت گیر اور غیر لگداز پالیسیاں اپنانے جانے کے بعد اب مسلح مزاحمت کے زور پکڑنے کا امکان بڑھتا جا رہا ہے۔ مزاحمتی گروہوں کے بیشتر رہنما نسبتاً نوجوان ہیں، جبکہ کئی سابق فوجی اور سکیورٹی اہلکار بھی ان کے ساتھ شامل ہیں۔ تاہم ان طالبان مخالف گروہوں کے درمیان رابطہ کاری محدود ہے اور ان کی کارروائیاں اب بھی منتشر ہیں۔ محفوظ پناہ گاہوں کی کمی اور محدود وسائل کی صورت میں ان گروہوں کو مشکلات کا سامنا ہے۔ اس کے علاوہ علاقائی حمایت کا فقدان بھی ایک مسئلہ ہے تاہم اس ضمن پاکستانی طور پر ایک استٹا ہو سکتا ہے۔ نیشنل ریسرچس فرنٹ (این آر ایف) طالبان مخالف مسلح گروہوں میں سب سے پرانا گروہ سمجھا جاتا ہے۔ این آر ایف نے اگست 2021 میں اس وقت وجود میں آئی جب طالبان کے اقتدار سنبھالنے کے بعد احمد مسعود نے وادی مظفر میں مزاحمت کو منظم کیا۔ احمد مسعود کے والد احمد مسعود طالبان کے خلاف بے مزاحمت اتحاد ناظرین ایس ایف ایف اتحاد کے سربراہ تھے۔ اس سے قبل انہوں نے افغانستان پر سوویت قبضے کے

Babar fitness clouds Pakistan’s England opener



SPORTS DESK, Pakistan face a late selection decision over Babar Azam ahead of the opening Test against England at Headingley on Wednesday, with the captain's availability in doubt after he was struck on his injured right hand during a warm-up match in Kent while batting. Babar had sustained the hand injury during Pakistan's second Test against the West Indies, which Pakistan won to level the two-match series. The batter was subsequently hit on the same hand after scoring five runs for Pakistan against the Professional Cricket Club (PCC) Select XI. He left the field after the blow and, as a precaution, did not take any further part in the match. Pakistan nevertheless completed a comfortable preparation victory, with Saud Shakeel scoring a determined century and Imam-ul-Haq contributing a solid half-century.

The setback has prompted Pakistan's selectors to delay their final decision on the team for the first Test as they assess whether Babar will be fit enough to take his place in the side. "Whether he will play or not will be decided on the match day. But today he has done little of throw-down batting practice and medical team is working with him," Pakistan pacer Mohammad Abbas told reporters at Headingley on Monday. Babar did take part in training at Headingley on Monday and, according to witnesses, he appeared to be moving and batting without obvious discomfort. His condition will nevertheless be closely monitored before Pakistan settle on their playing XI. The 31-year-old remains one of Pakistan's most important batters and his presence would provide considerable experience to a side looking to make a strong start to the three-match series in England. Should Babar be ruled out, Saud Shakeel and Awaiz Zafar are among those in contention for a place in the batting order. Zafar made his Test debut in Pakistan's second match against the West Indies, while Saud missed that series altogether. Saud has, however, made a strong case for inclusion after scoring an impressive century against the Select XI in the warm-up fixture. Pakistan will also welcome the return of Shan, who is expected to be available for the first Test after recovering from a fractured finger suffered during the West Indies tour. The injury had kept Shan out of the second Test, but sources said he has been training well and is feeling fit ahead of the England series. For Pakistan, the immediate priority will be to establish Babar's fitness and settle the batting combination before the Test begins at Headingley. England, meanwhile, will be looking to exploit home conditions and put early pressure on a Pakistan side that has had an interrupted build-up because of injuries.

With Pakistan leading 3-2 and less than 10 minutes remaining, Wales were facing the prospect of defeat despite having overturned an early deficit. But Furlong again came to Wales' rescue. The captain scored his second goal in the 53rd minute to restore parity at 3-3 and set up a tense finish. Both sides pressed for a winner in the closing stages, but neither could produce the decisive goal. Pakistan had opportunities to regain the lead, while Wales continued to threaten on the counter, but the final whistle confirmed a share of the points. Pakistan finished with eight penalty corners and converted one, while Wales earned six and also scored once from a penalty corner. Pakistan were shown two green cards and one yellow, while Wales received two green and two yellow cards. For Pakistan, the draw will feel like both an opportunity missed and a lifeline. They surrendered a 1-0 lead before fighting back from 2-1 down, but their failure to hold the advantage after Shahid's goal prevented them from taking maximum points. Meanwhile in the other vital group game England conquered India 4-2 to progress to the next stage. Now India, who have three points, will play a big game against Pakistan on Wednesday which will decide their fate.

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Sabalenka survives Gibson scare

SPORTS DESK, CINCINNATI: World number one Aryna Sabalenka needed six match points to subdue Talia Gibson on Sunday and join reigning Grand Slam champions Elena Rybakina and Mirra Andreieva in the third round of the Cincinnati Masters. Australia's Gibson saved five match points in the 12th



game of the second set before Sabalenka came through in the tiebreaker, managing a final winner to get the job done 6-2, 7-6 (7/2) in just under two hours on a wind-swept Grandstand Court. "I'm super tired, this is crazy weather," Sabalenka said. "Talia played great tennis and was more aggressive in the second set. "She put more pressure on my service games. I'm glad I stayed calm and pulled it out in straight sets." Sabalenka won Cincinnati in 2024 and is hoping for a deep run to carry her into the US Open, where she'll be seeking her first Grand Slam title of the year. The Belarusian has won three titles in 2026, but none since Miami in March. She advanced along with Australian Open winner Rybakina and Roland Garros champion Andreieva, who powered on in convincing style.

Seifert powers Super Giants to Hundred title

SPORTS DESK, Tim Seifert smashed 72 from 38 balls as Manchester Super Giants beat Trent Rockets by five wickets with two balls remaining to win the 2026 Hundred men's title at Lord's on Sunday. Seifert, named player of the match and player of the series, struck four fours and seven sixes as Super Giants chased 159, finishing on 162 for five from 98 balls. After Jos Buttler elected to field, Seifert and Paul Walter launched the chase with a 66-run opening partnership from 31 balls. Walter made 22 from 14 balls, with two fours and a six. Seifert reached his 50 from 23 balls, having already hit four fours and five sixes. Buttler added 23 from 14 balls, including three sixes, as Super Giants reached 100 from 54 balls. Seifert was dismissed for 72 at 136, ending a 36-run third-wicket stand. Leus du Plooy then steadied the chase with an unbeaten 27 from 18 balls, hitting four fours.

Wales hold Pakistan in World Cup thriller



SPORTS DESK, Pakistan's hopes of reaching the second stage of the FIH Hockey World Cup remained alive after they were held to a 3-3 draw by Wales in a dramatic Group D encounter at the Wagener Hockey Stadium on Monday. Pakistan had been expected to bounce back after losing 4-1 to England in their opening match, but Wales proved equally determined and twice fought back from behind to earn a point. The draw leaves Pakistan needing a strong result against arch-rivals India in their final group match on Wednesday at the same venue. India had beaten Wales 3-1 in their opener. Pakistan made the brighter start and took the lead in the third minute when Abdul Rehman finished an attacking move to put the Green Shirts 1-0 ahead. The early goal settled Pakistan and they continued to apply pressure, earning several penalty corners as Wales struggled to establish a rhythm. Pakistan, however, were unable to extend their advantage despite creating opportunities. Wales gradually worked their way back into the contest and turned the game around in the second quarter. Gareth Furlong levelled for Wales in the 25th minute before Rhys Bradshaw struck a minute later to give the Welsh side a 2-1 lead. Pakistan tried to respond before halftime but Wales held firm, protecting their advantage and forcing Pakistan to chase the game. The third quarter produced no goals, although the intensity increased as both sides battled for possession and territory. Pakistan continued to search for an opening while Wales defended their lead. The contest burst into life again in the final quarter. Pakistan levelled in the 49th minute when Sufyan Khan

converted a penalty corner to make it 2-2. The goal shifted momentum back towards Pakistan and they quickly completed the turnaround. Hannan Shahid scored in the 51st minute to put Pakistan ahead for the second time in the match. With Pakistan leading 3-2 and less than 10 minutes remaining, Wales were facing the prospect of defeat despite having overturned an early deficit. But Furlong again came to Wales' rescue. The captain scored his second goal in the 53rd minute to restore parity at 3-3 and set up a tense finish. Both sides pressed for a winner in the closing stages, but neither could produce the decisive goal. Pakistan had opportunities to regain the lead, while Wales continued to threaten on the counter, but the final whistle confirmed a share of the points. Pakistan finished with eight penalty corners and converted one, while Wales earned six and also scored once from a penalty corner. Pakistan were shown two green cards and one yellow, while Wales received two green and two yellow cards. For Pakistan, the draw will feel like both an opportunity missed and a lifeline. They surrendered a 1-0 lead before fighting back from 2-1 down, but their failure to hold the advantage after Shahid's goal prevented them from taking maximum points. Meanwhile in the other vital group game England conquered India 4-2 to progress to the next stage. Now India, who have three points, will play a big game against Pakistan on Wednesday which will decide their fate.

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Kari Knotts (1st R) of the United States spikes the ball during the final match between the United States and Türkiye at the FIVB Volleyball Girls' U17 World Championship in Santiago, Chile.

Rasooli to lead Afghanistan at Asian Games

SPORTS DESK, Afghanistan have entrusted Darwish Rasooli with the captaincy for the 2026 Asian Games after naming a youthful squad containing six uncapped players. The 15-man squad features only a small core of experienced internationals, with Rasooli, Karim Janat and Najibullah Zadran expected to guide a group dominated by emerging players. All-rounder Nangeyalia Kharote is the only other member of the squad with more than 10 international appearances and is set to play a key role in Afghanistan's spin attack. National selectors have heavily rewarded performances in the Shpageeza Cricket League, with several standout performances earning places in the squad. Batter Mohammad Akram secured selection after finishing as the second-leading run-scorer in the most recent edition of the tournament, while Khalid Taniwal's aggressive batting, which produced the competi-



tion's second-highest strike rate, also earned him a call-up. Ismat Alam, one of only a handful of players with previous international experience, returns after an exceptional domestic campaign. The seam-bowling all-rounder was named Player of the Tournament in the Shpageeza Cricket League after scoring 294 runs and taking nine wickets. Promising youngsters Faisal Shinozada and Hassan Eisakhil were also included. Shinozada attracted attention with a century against India in the Under-19 World Cup semi-final earlier this year, while Eisakhil follows in the footsteps of his father, Afghanistan veteran Mohammad Nabi.

Root's return as Test captain a sign of England's problems

SPORTS DESK, LONDON: England's decision to reappoint Joe Root for a second spell as full-time Test captain, starting with this week's opener against Pakistan, is an obvious move but arguably an indictment of the lack of leadership in their set-up. Root, one of the best batsmen of his generation, has already led England in a national record 65 Tests, mainly during a five-year spell from 2017-2022. He initially stood down as skipper following a dire run of one win in 17 Tests. "The last couple of years, it (the captaincy) sucked the life out of me," he said a few months later on a podcast. "I was a shadow of the person I wanted to be... Once I'd made the decision it was a real relief." But, despite a modest return of 27 wins, 27 defeats and 11 draws as Test captain, Root is putting himself through it all again. England have no realistic alternative after former skipper Ben Stokes's dramatic announce-



ment during the third Test at home to New Zealand in June that he was retiring from international cricket. Harry Brook, vice-captain under Stokes, is already the skipper of England's white-ball teams and it may have been too much to expect him to lead the side in all three formats. It was Brook's altercation with a nightclub bouncer in New Zealand in November last year which led England to impose a midnight curfew. When Stokes and fast bowler Gus Atkinson were omitted from the second Test against New Zealand after breaking that curfew in a London bar, Root was installed as acting captain. None of England's other batsmen besides Brook are certain of their place and none of the bowlers are candidates to be captain, not least because of fitness issues. Ollie Pope, back in the squad for the first Test against Pakistan at Headingley, has previously been England's vice-captain.



Wang Zhiyi of China competes during the women's singles round of 64 match against Beiwen Zhang of the United States at the 2026 BWF World Championships in New Delhi, India.



A 23-member delegation of Group No. 10 of the 54th Common Training Programme of the Civil Services Academy, Lahore, visiting Islamabad as part of a study tour, visited the Federal Constitutional Court of Pakistan.

Forest Protection, Plantation Vital to Fight Climate Change

APP- ISLAMABAD: Speaker of National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has said that trees are indispensable for environmental protection, maintaining ecological balance and ensuring a clean, healthy environment and the survival of life on earth.

Pakistan is facing serious challenges, including climate change, rising temperatures, water scarcity, environmental pollution and floods. To effectively address these challenges, promoting tree plantation and increasing forest cover must be made a national priority.

He expressed these views in his message on the occasion of National Plantation Day, observed across the country on August 18 every year.

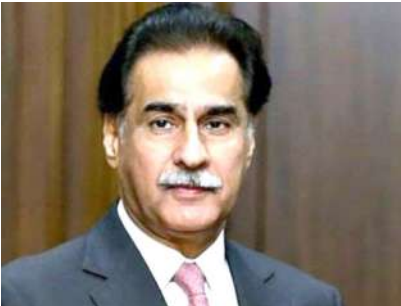
Ayaz Sadiq said that trees not only help keep the air clean, provide oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide, but also play a vital

role in preventing soil erosion, facilitating the absorption of rainwater into the ground, protecting water resources and promoting biodiversity.

He said that unchecked deforestation and the reduction of green cover adversely affect the land's capacity to absorb water, consequently increasing the risk of flooding during heavy rains.

Ayaz Sadiq stressed that protecting forests, safeguarding rivers and natural waterways, and undertaking large-scale plantation are essential measures to reduce flood risks and strengthen ecosystems.

The Speaker emphasized that plantation is not merely about planting trees; ensuring their proper care, protection and healthy growth is equally important. He urged the public, particularly the youth, to actively participate in plantation cam-



paigns and consider the protection and care of planted saplings a national responsibility.

Ayaz Sadiq stressed the need to further strengthen the measures being taken by the government for environmental protection, promotion of forests and mitigation of

the impacts of climate change.

He said that the success of plantation campaigns requires the federal and provincial governments, local governments, educational institutions, the private sector and civil society to work together through a coordinated and joint strategy.

He emphasized that, alongside increasing forest cover, integrated measures are essential to protect existing forests, restore natural waterways and ensure effective water management in order to address the impacts of climate change and secure a safe environment for future generations.

Ayaz Sadiq said that Parliament is committed to legislation aimed at protecting the environment, addressing the impacts of climate change and ensuring the effective and sustainable use of natural resources.

PTI founder receiving best available medical treatment: Rana Sanaullah

APP- ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political and Public Affairs, Senator Rana Sanaullah Khan on Monday informed the Senate that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder was being provided the best available medical treatment and that there had been no negligence in addressing his health concerns while in judicial custody.

Responding to a point of order raised by Leader of the Opposition, Raja Nasir Abbas, the adviser said responsibility for the health and treatment of a person in judicial custody rested with the authorities concerned as well as the court under whose orders the person was confined.

He said that if any negligence occurred in providing medical treatment to a person in custody, the authorities responsible for his custody and care would be answerable under the law. Brushing aside the impression that the PTI founder was not getting proper medical treatment, Rana Sanaullah said that the information available regarding his health, including his blood pressure, did not support the concerns expressed by the opposition leader.

MoS/SAPM Fahd Haroon congratulates Riyadh Air on inaugural flight to Pakistan

APP- ISLAMABAD: Minister of State / Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Digital Media, Fahd Haroon has congratulated Riyadh Air on the commencement of its operations in Pakistan, with the airline's inaugural flight from Riyadh arriving in Islamabad on August 14.

Fahd Haroon warmly welcomed Riyadh Air to Pakistan, describing the new air link as an important milestone in the enduring brotherly relationship between Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. "Riyadh Air's arrival in Pakistan is more than the launch of a new airline. It is another bridge connecting our two brotherly nations and a reflection of the ever-deepening ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia," he said. He said the new connectivity would create greater opportunities for people-to-people contact, business, tourism, investment and cultural exchange, while further strengthening the links between the two countries. Fahd Haroon also conveyed his warm congratulations and appreciation to His Excellency Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Malki, Ambassador of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to Pakistan, for his support and efforts in facilitating this important milestone. He also acknowledged the teams in Islamabad and Riyadh, including the leadership and team of Riyadh Air, the relevant Pakistani and Saudi authorities, and the respective diplomatic missions, whose efforts and coordination contributed to the successful launch of the new service.

ISSI-PAIDAR marks Morocco's Enthronement Day, underscores strong bilateral ties

APP- ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East & Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), in collaboration with Pakistan Africa Institute for Development and Research (PAIDAR), on Monday organized an event to commemorate Morocco's Enthronement Day.

The Chief Guest on the occasion was Mohamed Karmoune, Ambassador of Morocco to Pakistan, and the Guest of Honor was Ambassador Hamid Asghar Khan, Additional Foreign Secretary (Africa), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, President PAIDAR; Syed Adil Gillani, Ambassador of Pakistan to Morocco; Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman, BoG, ISSI; Ambassador Moin Ul Haque, Director General ISSI; and Dr. Amina Khan; Director, CAMEA also spoke on the occasion, said a press release.

In his welcoming remarks, Ambassador Moin ul Haque highlighted the rich history and long-standing friendship between Pakistan and Morocco. He also acknowledged Morocco's rich civilizational heritage and its remarkable transformation and modernization under the visionary leadership of His Majesty King Mohammed VI.

Ambassador Mohamed Karmoune highlighted Morocco's remarkable economic and social progress under the leadership of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, particularly in industry, tourism,



renewable energy, and investment. He also underscored the historic and brotherly Morocco-Pakistan relationship, built on more than seven decades of mutual respect, trust, and cooperation. He noted the growing political and institutional engagement between the two countries, including high-level exchanges and coordination at international forums, and reaffirmed Morocco's commitment to further strengthening bilateral cooperation and advancing shared development goals. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed highlighted the historic and enduring bonds between Pakistan and Morocco, recalling Pakistan's support for Morocco's independence struggle and Morocco's pivotal role in the establishment of the OIC. He also praised Morocco's rich history, cultural heritage and renowned hospitality, reaffirming the strong and

lasting friendship between Pakistan and Morocco.

Ambassador Syed Adil Gillani highlighted the historic and brotherly Pakistan-Morocco relationship, noting the growing momentum in bilateral ties through high-level exchanges in 2026 and expanding cooperation in trade, agriculture, investment, education, security, and tourism. He emphasized Morocco's important regional and African role and its significance for Pakistan's 'Engage Africa' policy, while underscoring close coordination between the two countries at multilateral forums. Ambassador Hamid Asghar highlighted Morocco's successes in peace and security, tourism, FDI and infrastructure, especially highlighting the success of its tourism sector with 18 million tourist arrivals and \$14 billion tourism revenue last year.



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Dr. Syed Muhammad Anwer, Chief Justice Federal Shariat Court of Pakistan inaugurated the E-library in Federal Shariat Court Head Office

PM's dialogue offer to opposition still stands: Tariq Fazal

APP- ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry on Monday informed the Senate that the government was ready for dialogue with the opposition, saying Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's offer for talks still stood and had not expired.

Responding to a point of order raised by Senator Mohsin Aziz, the minister said dialogue within Parliament remained the only viable way to resolve political differences and move the democratic system forward. He recalled that during this year's budget session, the prime minister had personally approached the Leader of the Opposition and proposed that the government and opposition should sit together and discuss their differences. Following the prime minister's initiative, he said, Adviser to



the Prime Minister on Political and Public Affairs, Rana Sanaullah Khan, the government's parliamentary leadership and he himself had visited the opposition leader's chamber to take the process forward. Tariq Fazal said discussions were held over identifying a mutually acceptable venue where the prime minister, his team and repre-

sentatives of the opposition could meet. He said the government had offered a venue in Parliament and also conveyed to the opposition that it could suggest any place of its choice within the Parliament House.

The minister said there was no pre-condition or pre-determined agenda for the proposed talks. He urged the opposition to develop consensus within its own ranks, nominate its representatives and decide a time and venue so that the dialogue could proceed. He said previous protests in the federal capital had created difficulties for residents and disrupted normal life. While acknowledging the opposition's constitutional right to peaceful protest, he said exercise of that right should not infringe upon the constitutional rights of other citizens.

PM Shehbaz thanks Trump for remarks supporting Makkah Defence Agreement

APP- ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday appreciated President of the United States Donald Trump for his remarks in support of the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement recently signed between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye.

"Deeply appreciate President Donald Trump's kind words of support on the signing of the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement," the prime minister wrote on his X timeline responding to President Trump's post on his social media platform Truth Social.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said that together with the brotherly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Turkiye, Pakistan would continue to play a constructive role in ensuring the defence of our own countries

as well as the entire region. The prime minister reiterated the appreciation for President Trump for his "courageous and decisive" leadership, which helped avert a nuclear catastrophe in South Asia and saved millions of lives during the Pakistan-India war in May last year. "Durable peace is the most essential prerequisite for a bright and prosperous future for our peoples," he remarked. Earlier, President Trump said in a post that he was "very happy" to see that Saudi Arabia, Turkiye, and Pakistan had recently and finally signed the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement. He said that the Agreement showed how the Middle East was coming together, and how countries would finally be able to defend themselves in a more meaningful way.



Prof. Dr. Shakeel Ahmed Roshan presents a shield to Advisor to the Chief Minister Balochistan on Environment, Naseem-ur-Rehman Malakhail, during the Second International Seerah Conference, Quetta Session, organized by Alhamd Islamic University.