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PM Shehbaz calls for effective measures to create jobs for youth



FM Dar welcomes 'positive momentum' in Islamabad-Moscow relations

SC orders Imran Khan’s transfer to Shifa International Hospital for treatment



STAFF REPORT, ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday ordered that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan be shifted to Shifa International Hospital for treatment for the next few days and directed the government to arrange weekly meetings between him and his family.

The hearing came after a medical board report and a report by the Adiala Jail Superintendent submitted to the SC on Monday recommended more frequent meetings between Imran and his immediate family and spouse to help manage his blood pressure and anxiety, highlighting

concerns over the former premier’s blood pressure (BP).

A three-member bench headed by Justice Shahid Waheed was hearing cases concerning Imran’s access to his sisters and personal physicians, as well as his medical record.

The court further ordered that Imran’s personal physician, Dr Faisal Sultan, be granted access to him and directed the formation of a medical board comprising an eye specialist, a general physician, and a cardiologist along with Dr Sultan.

His sister, Dr Uzma, will also be associated with the newly established medical

board, according to the order. The SC directed that Imran’s family bear the cost of his treatment at the hospital.

The court also instructed Imran’s family and lawyers not to share his medical report with the media, with Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan ordering that the report be kept completely confidential.

“We assure the court that the medical report will remain completely confidential,” PTI Secretary General Salman Akram Raja said. The court further directed that no political activity, media talks or press conferences be held outside the hospital.

“Do not engage in politics outside the hospital,” Justice Afghan said. “There are other patients in the hospital,” he added, stressing that other patients should not be affected.

Raja and PTI Parliamentary Secretary Shahid Khattak assured the court that no political activity would take place outside the hospital. “Our political activities will remain completely separate,” Raja said. The court also directed that arrangements be made for Imran to have telephone conversations with his children.

The SC ordered that Imran’s medical reports not be used for political purposes.

Law minister signals review as cabinet colleague vows to honour SC’s Imran hospital order

STAFF REPORT, An apparent split was seen in the ranks of the federal government on Tuesday over the Supreme Court’s order about former premier Imran Khan, with Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar saying the government would review it while Parliamentary Affairs Minister Tariq Fazal said the government would honour the instructions. The Supreme Court ordered Imran’s transfer to the private hospital for treatment following a hearing on a medical board report and a report submitted by the Adiala jail superintendent on Monday. The reports recommended more frequent meetings between the PTI founder and his immediate family and wife to help manage his blood pressure and anxiety, while also highlighting concerns about his health. Tarar described the Supreme Court’s order to transfer Imran to Shifa International Hospital for treatment as being “beyond the legal parameters”, saying the government had decided to approach the court for a review and appropriate modification of the order in accordance with the law. In a video statement, Tarar said consultations had been held on certain aspects of the order relating to the jail authorities and Islamabad administration, including the direction for Imran to undergo a medical check-up at Shifa International Hospital within two days.



“After reviewing the law, the authorities are of the view that this order does not fall within the legal parameters governing the facilities that can be provided to a convicted person in jail under the law,” he said. He said it had therefore been proposed that the government approach the Supreme Court through a review petition and request an appropriate modification of the order so that Imran could be examined at a tertiary-care government hospital. However, Tarar said medical experts or specialists from other major institutions could be included in the medical board, in accordance with the court’s directions or as the court deemed appropriate. Raising concerns over shifting a prisoner to a private hospital, the minister said allowing such arrangements for medical check-ups could have wider implications for the country’s prison population.

PM Shehbaz calls for effective measures to create jobs for youth



STAFF REPORT, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed the government to ensure coordinated and effective measures to create employment opportunities for young people under the National Youth Employment Policy, with a monthly review meeting to monitor its implementation.

Chairing a meeting to review progress on the policy, the prime minister said providing decent employment to the country’s skilled and talented youth was among the government’s top priorities.

He called for a comprehensive strategy and inter-ministerial coordination to implement the policy, with special focus on equipping young people, particularly women, with skills to access new employment opportunities.

The prime minister also directed that special attention be given to creating employment opportunities for young people in Balochistan and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P).

He said institutional reforms had been introduced in the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) and Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) to align Pakistan’s skilled workforce with domestic and international business and industrial demand.

According to a briefing, NAVTTTC was taking measures to provide workers with international certifications and proficiency in languages required in overseas job markets. Young people were also being trained according to market demand to facilitate employment abroad.

The Digital Youth Hub is providing information on domestic and overseas employment opportunities through a single platform, while Youth Development Cells are being established in educational institutions to provide career guidance, counselling and information about employment and skills development opportunities.

The prime minister also directed an awareness campaign to inform young people about the benefits available under the policy.



Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Sardar Muhammad Yousaf calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif

Tarar calls for political consensus to ensure continuity of counter-terrorism policies

APP- ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar on Tuesday said terrorists had no colour, race or religion and that imposing ideologies through violence was unacceptable under any circumstances.

Pakistan had sacrificed 90,000 precious lives in the war against terrorism, while the Pakistani nation, armed forces and entire society were a strong shield between terrorists and the rest of the world, he said.

Addressing a capacity-building workshop organised by the Sustainable

Social Development Organisation (SSDO) for parliamentarians from Balochistan, Punjab and Sindh on the counter-terrorism framework and legislative responsibilities, the minister said effective measures had been taken to eliminate terrorism through joint efforts of state institutions, federal and provincial governments and the people.

He said terrorism had been eliminated from the country to a large extent by 2017. At that time, he said, the state had introduced the National Action Plan in view of security challenges including the law-and-order situation in

Karachi, terrorist activities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a wave of terrorism in some areas of Balochistan and growing militancy from southern towards central Punjab.

He said all relevant stakeholders responded to the National Action Plan and federal and provincial governments, armed forces and other institutions jointly worked against terrorism, resulting in its elimination to a large extent. An effective narrative also played an important role in the successful struggle against terrorism, he added.



A delegation of Google calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif

2-year transformation plans ordered as Mohsin reviews Interior Ministry reforms

APP- ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday chaired a meeting of heads of all institutions working under the Ministry of Interior, where officials reviewed progress on reforms aimed at improving performance, strengthening coordination, and aligning operations with current requirements. During the meeting, all institutions were directed to submit a 2-year transformation plan, while the ministry reaffirmed its commitment to providing the resources needed to sup-

port institutional development. The minister directed all departments to enhance coordination, cooperation, and information sharing to improve overall performance. He said the Ministry of Interior performs responsibilities that differ from those of other ministries and require a coordinated approach across all affiliated organizations. Mohsin Naqvi said newly established institutions, including the Land Port Authority, would receive full support from the government.

Annual Urs of Bari Imam Sarkar concludes, special prayers for national security and stability

Islamabad (FIR Report)

The three-day annual Urs celebrations of the prominent spiritual elder of the subcontinent, Hazrat Shah Abdul Latif, also known as Bari Imam Sarkar, have concluded. The spiritual and dignified closing ceremony of the Urs was held in Noorpur Shahan. A large number of devotees and pilgrims, including political, social, religious and business figures, attended the ceremony. On the occasion of the closing ceremony, there was an atmosphere of spiritual and religious devotion in the Darbar Sharif and the participants paid rich tribute to Hazrat Bari Imam Sarkar. The ceremony was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Khadim Darbar Bari Imam Sarkar and Baba Kilo Sarkar Raja Sarfaraz Akram, Captain (r) Muhammad Safdar, Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi, Anjum Aqeel Khan, Daniyal Chaudhry, Syed Ziaullah Shah, Syed Zeeshan Naqvi, Raja Hanif Advocate, Chaudhry Qamar, Raja Sohail, Allah Bakhsh Chaudhry, Abdul Majeed, Wasim Abbas, Zamrud Khan, Qaiser Javed, Sohail Bhatti, Abdullah Gul, Aamir Shahzad Khan, Faisal Khan, Raja Javed Ashraf, Chaudhry Wajid



Ayub, Dr. Riaz Shahbaz Janjua, Raja Imtiaz Janjua, Dr. Raja Asif Janjua, Malik Iftikhar Ahmed, Shafiquddin, Qari Obaid-ur-Rehman Satti, Umar Farooq Quddoosi, Syed Bashir Shah, Raja Shahzad Janjua, Dr. Haider Janjua, Abdullah Janjua, Raja Muhammad Ayaz, Ehsanul Haq Mian, Colonel Inam Rabbani and General (Rtd) Abdul Janjua (Sitara Imtiaz) and other important personalities participated. The three-day annual Urs of Hazrat Bari Imam Sarkar continued from August 15 to 17, in which a large number of pilgrims from all over the country participated. During the three days of the Urs, special security arrangements were made by the police and administration in the Darbar and surrounding areas for the safety and convenience of the pilgrims. The administration and related institutions also ensured the provision of langar, parking, security, traffic management, cleanliness and other basic facilities for the pilgrims, so

that the devotees coming from different parts of the country did not face any difficulty. In the closing ceremony, scholars and religious figures highlighted the teachings, spiritual services and the message of humanity, love, tolerance and brotherhood of Hazrat Bari Imam Sarkar. The speakers said that the teachings of the saints are a means of promoting peace, love, tolerance and brotherhood in the society and we should make their message a part of our practical lives. At the end of the ceremony, special prayers were offered for the security, progress and prosperity of the country and nation, the stability of Pakistan, the unity of the Muslim Ummah, mutual brotherhood and lasting peace and stability in the region. The participants expressed their best wishes for the development, prosperity and peace of the country and appreciated the efforts of the administration and security agencies for the successful organization of the auspicious Urs.

Zero tolerance for abuse of authority and poor investigation – RPO Sahiwal Rana Muhammad Ayaz Saleem Khan's big action

Sahiwal (FIR Report)

Three police officers, including a constable, were dismissed from service while two police officers were suspended.

Regional Police Officer Sahiwal Rana Muhammad Ayaz Saleem Khan has made departmental accountability more effective and has taken strictest departmental action against police officers and officials guilty of abuse of power, poor investigation and negligence of duties. During the departmental action, ASI Zahid Hussain was dismissed from service after being demoted by two ranks, Head Constable Ali Sher and Sub-Inspector Owais Safdar were also dismissed from service, Sub-Inspector Afzal Khan was dismissed



from service after being demoted by one rank, while ASI Tariq Mahmood was suspended for being found guilty of abuse of power. Similarly, Sub-Inspector Muhammad Ashfaq was suspended for being found

guilty of poor investigation and abuse of power. RPO Sahiwal Muhammad Ayaz Saleem made it clear in two words that there is no room for abuse of power, poor investigation, negligence of duties and injustice towards citizens in the police force. Any officer or official who acts outside the law There will be no escape from departmental accountability. Strict accountability process will continue without discrimination to ensure merit, transparency and rule of law. Rana Muhammad Ayaz Saleem Khan said that uniform is not an option, it is a responsibility; and negligence in this responsibility is unacceptable. There will be no compromise on the timely provision of justice to the public and the quality of policing.

Jhang Police Register Fraud Case Over Rs5m Land Deal



Jhang (FIR Report):

A case has been registered at Satellite Town Police Station against a man named Kamran Shabbir, who is allegedly accused of taking Rs. 5 million from a citizen in exchange for selling 28 acres of land belonging to the Muslim Auqaf Department.

Hafiz Muhammad Hamad, the complainant, told a press conference at the Press Club yesterday, along with other individuals, that in 2022 Kamran Shabbir entered into an agreement with him for the sale of 28 acres of leased agricultural land belonging to the Muslim Auqaf Department, located in Chak No. 459/JB, Kot Lakhnana, for Rs. 6.25 million. An agreement was also ex-

cuted on stamp paper, under which the amount was to be paid through cheques in installments, and the land was to be transferred in his name after full payment.

Hafiz Muhammad Hamad stated that after he had paid Rs. 5 million, he came to know that the department had issued an advertisement for the auction of the said land. He then demanded the return of his money from Kamran Shabbir, who subsequently filed a claim in court for the remaining amount of Rs. 1.25 million. During the press conference, a man named Kamran Ahmed Ashraf stated that prior to Hafiz Muhammad Hamad, Kamran Shabbir had also entered into an agreement with him for the sale of 14 acres of the same

land for Rs. 4.5 million and had received Rs. 1 million as an advance, with an agreement executed on stamp paper.

Another citizen, Abdul Ghaffar, who was present at the press conference, also accused Kamran Shabbir of taking Rs. 250,000 from him on the promise of securing him a government job. Abdul Ghaffar said that he had already registered an FIR regarding the alleged fraud at Satellite Town Police Station.

Hafiz Muhammad Hamad and the other complainants demanded that the higher authorities ensure the recovery of their millions of rupees from Kamran Shabbir and take strict legal action against him in accordance with the law.

Renowned educationist Abdul Rasheed Awan promoted to Grade 19

Staff Report

Renowned educationist Abdul Rasheed Awan has been promoted to BS-19. He is currently serving as the Principal of Government Higher Secondary School Malal, Tehsil Fateh Jang, District Attock. Earlier, he had also served as the Principal of Government Higher Secondary School Qutbal. Abdul Rasheed Awan is known as a talented, sincere, dutiful and honest education officer. His promotion to BS-19 is a recognition of his hard work, ability, professionalism, sense of duty and honesty. Officers, teachers and other employees associated with the education department have welcomed his promotion and expressed their heartfelt congratulations to him and expressed



their best wishes for further success and achievements.

Renowned educationist Abdul

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Officers, teachers, and other staff associated with the Department of Education have welcomed his promotion, extended heartfelt congratulations to him, and expressed their best wishes for his continued success.

(*The Big challenge for health department. Death dealer Attai doctor created a new history in medical rap by creating his self-made (chatha injection). At the Chatta Clinic located in Alam Chowk, Aqab Rehmat Hotel, the treatment of stroke and stroke with self-made (Chatha Injection) started for a huge amount of money. Besides Gujranwala, Sheikhpura was given by Dr. Naseer Chatta. Faisalabad. Lahore - Fake clinics have also been set up in Farooqabad. Health Minister Punjab take notice*).



Gujranwala (FIR Report)

According to details: The owner of Chatha Clinic located in Alam Chowk area of Arup police station, Dr. Naseer Ahmad Chatha, who spread death while walking, gave a big challenge to the Health Department of Gujranwala. Created a new history in medical rap by inventing the (Chatha Injection) named after him. According to the details, the so-called Attai doctor prepares Chatha injection in his own house with his own formula for the sake of greed and injects it to the paralyzed patient for twelve to fifteen thousand. And the patients are given drugs worth 10,000 by black-mail. Dr. Naseer Chatta has set up

fake clinics in Gujranwala, Lahore Sheikhpura, Faisalabad, Farooqabad. According to the sources, Dr. Attai also treats 18 patients with his own injection. And he charges lakhs of rupees from each patient for a year in the name of the course. Dr. Attai gives time to the patients through WhatsApp and closes the clinic within an hour by taking money from the patients by injecting them. Dr. Attai only treats patients who come from far away from villages and cities. There have been many cases of patients becoming ill due to injections. According to Dr. Attai, the merchant of death, Chatha makes the injections at home under his own formula. I do not need to take permission from any-

one to make injections or tablets. My Chatha injection is a brand itself. It is not necessary to get it registered. According to the local people, Attai Dr. Naseer Ahmed Chatha is a merchant of death who is not only stealing millions of rupees by telling the simple people in different cities of Punjab that he is a septicist doctor for stroke and stroke, but he is playing with the lives of patients with stroke and stroke. Health Department Gujranwala DCO Gujranwala and law enforcement agencies taking immediate notice. Taking effective action against Attai Dr. Naseer Ahmed Chatta self-imposed Chatta injection should be checked. Health Minister punjab take Notice.

Efforts of Gujranwala Press Club Regime, special facilities in passport office for journalists and their families, Club Regime has crossed another important milestone for the welfare of journalist community



Gujranwala (FIR Report)

according to the details, Gujranwala Press Club President Rana Ansar Shehzad led a high-level delegation of the Press Club Regime met Deputy Director Zonal Head Central Punjab, Regional Passport Office Gujranwala Taj Wali Khan in his office. Senior Vice President Shafqat Imran, Vice President Nauman Rashid Mir, General Secretary Sardar Zeeshan Tahir and Finance Secretary Salihed Bashir Jaral were also present in the meeting. Assistant Director Kashif Saleem and Deputy Assistant Director

Atifam were also present. In the meeting, Press Club Regime informed the members of Gujranwala Press Club and their families about the difficulties faced during the issuance and renewal of new passports. Concrete measures were discussed for the immediate solution of the problems faced by the journalists. Deputy Director Taj Wali Khan while appreciating the efforts of the Press Club Regime issued orders that all the members of the Gujranwala Press Club and all their families including their blood relations will be provided the best and prompt service on priority basis at the Regional Passport

Office Gujranwala. Press Club President Rana Ansar Shahzad and General Secretary Sardar Zeeshan Tahir and other Regimes Deputy Director Taj Wali Khan, Assistant Director Kashif Saleem and the entire team thanked for the facility and called it a great success for the journalist community, on the other hand, President Gujranwala Press Club Rana Ansar Shehzad has informed all the honorable members of the club that they can contact Press Club Regime for availing any facility related to passport. The Regime will provide all possible support for the guidance and support of the members.

Gujranwala (FIRReport) In compliance with the directions of Deputy Commissioner Gujranwala, Additional Assistant Commissioner Sadar Saima Khan sealed illegal decanting shops of LPG. Pumps, vacuum and other refilling material confiscated,



Gujranwala (FIR Report) In compliance with the directions of Deputy Commissioner Gujranwala, Assistant Commissioner City Mr,Ashar Jamil khan visited Rehri Bazar at khayali bypass to inspect rate list and maintenance of bazar. Cleanliness was property maintained. A few encroachments were removed to create uniformity in the bazar.





ایف آئی آر رپورٹ

عمران خان کو ہسپتال منتقل کرنے کا حکم:

سپریم کورٹ میں سماعت کا احوال اور

شرائط پر بیرسٹر گوہر کی یقین دہانی

پاکستان کی سپریم کورٹ نے سابق وزیراعظم عمران خان کو دو روز کے اندر شفا انٹرنیشنل ہسپتال منتقل کرنے کا حکم دیا ہے۔ مگر عدالت عظمیٰ نے واضح کیا ہے کہ پاکستان تحریک انصاف اور عمران خان کے اہل خانہ یہ یقینی بنائیں گے کہ شفا ہسپتال کے احاطے میں کوئی عوامی اجتماع نہیں کیا جائے گا۔

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خیال رہے کہ وفاقی حکومت نے یقین دہانی کروائی ہے کہ عدالت عظمیٰ کے اس فیصلے پر 'من وعین' عمل کیا جائے گا۔ جبکہ پاکستان تحریک انصاف نے اپنے کارکنوں پر زور دیا ہے کہ وہ شفا ہسپتال کے ارد گرد جمع ہونے سے گریز کریں۔

اپنے تحریری حکمنامے میں سپریم کورٹ کے تین رکنی بینچ نے عمران خان کو دو روز کے اندر شفا انٹرنیشنل ہسپتال منتقل کرنے کا حکم دیا ہے۔ تاہم اس کے ساتھ عدالت نے متنبہ کیا ہے کہ اگر سابق وزیراعظم کی میڈیکل رپورٹس یا صحت پر سیاست کی گئی تو یہ سہولت واپس لی جاسکتی ہے۔

عدالت نے حکومت کو ہدایت کی ہے کہ شفا ہسپتال کے گرد مناسب سیورٹی انتظامات کیے جائیں۔ سپریم کورٹ نے فیصلے میں واضح کیا ہے کہ اگر اس سہولت کا غلط استعمال کیا جاتا ہے تو حکومت عدالت سے رجوع کر سکتی ہے جبکہ عمران خان اور ان کے اہل خانہ بھی فیصلے پر عملدرآمد سے متعلق شکایات کے سلسلے میں عدالت کا رجوع کر سکتے ہیں۔

وزیر مملکت برائے داخلہ خلال چوہدری نے نامہ نگار روحان احمد کو بتایا کہ حکومت کو عدالتی فیصلے پر کوئی اعتراض نہیں اور عدالت کو ایسا حکم جاری کرنے کا اختیار حاصل ہے۔ انھوں نے بی بی آئی کو مخاطب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ یہ بات واضح ہو چکی ہے کہ سرکاری بند کرنے اور پرنسٹون احتجاجی مظاہروں سے کچھ حاصل نہیں ہوگا اور کوئی بھی راستہ اداروں سے ہی نکلے گا۔ پاکستانی وزیر کامزید کہنا تھا کہ عمران خان کو اس سے قبل بھی علاج کے لیے ہسپتال لے کر جایا جاتا رہا ہے اور اس مرتبہ بھی ان کی ہسپتال منتقلی یا قیام کے دوران سیورٹی انتظامات کیے جائیں گے۔

دریں اثناء عدالت نے عمران خان کی صحت کے بارے میں ایک میڈیکل بورڈ تشکیل دینے کا حکم بھی دیا ہے اور اس کے ساتھ ساتھ عدالت کا یہ بھی کہنا ہے کہ عمران خان کو ہسپتال منتقل کرنے کے بعد ان کے ذاتی معالج ڈاکٹر فیصل اور ان کی بہن عظمیٰ خان بھی عمران خان کے ساتھ رہیں گی۔ سپریم کورٹ کا کہنا ہے کہ اس میڈیکل بورڈ میں عمران خان کے ذاتی معالج ڈاکٹر فیصل اور ڈاکٹر عظمیٰ خان بھی شامل ہوں گے۔ عدالت نے اپنے حکم میں یہ بھی کہا ہے کہ عمران خان سے ان کے اہل خانہ کی قطع میں ایک بار ملاقات کروائی جائے۔ اس کے علاوہ عدالت نے عمران خان سے ان کی بہنوں کی ملاقاتوں اور

پاکستان کی سپریم کورٹ نے سابق وزیراعظم عمران خان کو دو روز کے اندر شفا انٹرنیشنل ہسپتال منتقل کرنے کا حکم دیا ہے۔ مگر عدالت عظمیٰ نے واضح کیا ہے کہ پاکستان تحریک انصاف اور عمران خان کے اہل خانہ یہ یقینی بنائیں گے کہ شفا ہسپتال کے احاطے میں کوئی عوامی اجتماع نہیں کیا جائے گا

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یہ سن کر کہ عدالت میں موجود ایڈیشنل ایٹارنی جنرل اور اسلام آباد کے ایڈووکیٹ جنرل رولڈ پرائے اور کہا کہ ان درخواستوں پر انھیں سنا ہی نہیں گیا اور نہ ہی انھیں کوئی نوٹس جاری ہوا ہے جس پر اس تین رکنی بینچ کے سربراہ جسٹس شاہد وحید نے انھیں مخاطب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ بی بی نیوز یعنی 'من وعین' درجہ اولیٰ میں درج ہوئی تو درخواست گزار اور عمران خان کی بہن عظمیٰ خان کے وکیل عزیز بھٹنڈاری نے عمران خان کی صحت سے متعلق خدشات کا اظہار کیا۔ انھوں نے دعویٰ کیا کہ جیل میں ان کی دیکھ بھال اس طرح نہیں کی جارہی جس طرح آئین اور قانون میں درج ہے۔ انھوں نے کہا کہ بطور سابق وزیراعظم عمران خان کو علاج معالجے کی ویسی سہولتیں فراہم نہیں کی گئیں جس کے وہ حقدار ہیں۔ انھوں نے عدالت سے استدعا کی کہ سابق وزیراعظم کو اسلام آباد کے جیل ہسپتال شفا انٹرنیشنل میں منتقل کر دیا جائے۔ اس پرنسٹون کے سربراہ کی جانب سے استفسار کیا گیا کہ اس مخصوص ہسپتال میں ہی سابق وزیراعظم کو کیوں منتقل کیا جائے جبکہ اسلام آباد میں سرکاری ہسپتال بھی موجود ہیں۔ اس پروکیکل وزیر بھٹنڈاری کا کہنا تھا کہ عمران خان کو ایک بیماری ایسی ہے جس کا ہیٹلٹ ڈاکٹر جہاز میں موجود نہیں ہے۔ بینچ کے سربراہ نے استفسار کیا کہ اگر سابق وزیراعظم کو شفا انٹرنیشنل ہسپتال منتقل کر دیا جائے تو وہاں پر سیکیورٹی کی کیا انتظامات ہوں گے؟ اور کیا وہاں پر امن و امان کی صورت حال تو پیدا نہیں ہو جائے گی؟

ہیں۔ عدالت کا یہ بھی کہنا تھا کہ یہ بھی بتایا جائے کہ سابق وزیراعظم کتنے مقدمات میں سزا یافتہ ہیں؟ کتنے مقدمات میں انھیں سزا ہوئی؟ اور کتنے مقدمات ابھی تک مختلف عدالتوں میں زیر التوا ہیں؟

سابق وزیراعظم عمران خان کی صحت اور ان سے ملاقاتیں نہ کروانے کے بارے میں دائر کی گئی درخواستوں پر سماعت مختصر وقت کے بعد دوبارہ شروع ہوئی تو درخواست گزار اور عمران خان کی بہن عظمیٰ خان کے وکیل عزیز بھٹنڈاری نے عمران خان کی صحت سے متعلق خدشات کا اظہار کیا۔ انھوں نے دعویٰ کیا کہ جیل میں ان کی دیکھ بھال اس طرح نہیں کی جارہی جس طرح آئین اور قانون میں درج ہے۔ انھوں نے کہا کہ بطور سابق وزیراعظم عمران خان کو علاج معالجے کی ویسی سہولتیں فراہم نہیں کی گئیں جس کے وہ حقدار ہیں۔ انھوں نے عدالت سے استدعا کی کہ سابق وزیراعظم کو اسلام آباد کے جیل ہسپتال شفا انٹرنیشنل میں منتقل کر دیا جائے۔ اس پرنسٹون کے سربراہ کی جانب سے استفسار کیا گیا کہ اس مخصوص ہسپتال میں ہی سابق وزیراعظم کو کیوں منتقل کیا جائے جبکہ اسلام آباد میں سرکاری ہسپتال بھی موجود ہیں۔ اس پروکیکل وزیر بھٹنڈاری کا کہنا تھا کہ عمران خان کو ایک بیماری ایسی ہے جس کا ہیٹلٹ ڈاکٹر جہاز میں موجود نہیں ہے۔ بینچ کے سربراہ نے استفسار کیا کہ اگر سابق وزیراعظم کو شفا انٹرنیشنل ہسپتال منتقل کر دیا جائے تو وہاں پر سیکیورٹی کی کیا انتظامات ہوں گے؟ اور کیا وہاں پر امن و امان کی صورت حال تو پیدا نہیں ہو جائے گی؟

سماعت سے قبل تمام ریکارڈ جمع کروایا جائے اور جو چیز عدالتی ریکارڈ کا حصہ بنے گی 'وہ خفیہ نہیں رہے گی۔ عدالت نے استفسار کیا کہ عمران خان سے ان کی بہنوں کی ملاقات کیوں نہیں کروائی جارہی۔ اس پر اسلام آباد کے ایڈووکیٹ جنرل کا کہنا تھا کہ اگر کوئی قانون کی خلاف ورزی کرے گا تو ملاقات نہیں ہوگی۔ اس پر تین رکنی بینچ کے سربراہ نے ایڈووکیٹ جنرل کو مخاطب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ اگر کوئی غیر قانونی کام کرے گا تو کیا آپ بھی غیر قانونی کام کریں گے؟

انھوں نے کہا کہ اپنی بہنوں سے ملاقات کرنا سابق وزیراعظم کا بنیادی حق ہے اور ملاقات کرنا کوئی احسان نہیں کیا جا رہا۔ انھوں نے کہا کہ ریاست کا یہ کام نہیں ہے کہ وہ قانون کی خلاف ورزی کرے۔ اس تین رکنی بینچ میں شامل جسٹس فہیم اختر افغان نے اسلام آباد کے ایڈووکیٹ جنرل کو مخاطب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ 'آپ کی رپورٹ میں لکھا ہوا ہے کہ سابق وزیراعظم کی انجیوگرافی کرائی ہے تو کیا جیل میں انجیوگرافی ہو سکتی ہے؟' جس پر عدالت کو بتایا گیا کہ انجیوگرافی جیل سے باہر ہسپتال میں ہی ہو سکتی ہے۔

جسٹس شاہد وحید نے ریمارکس دیے کہ عمران خان کی صحت سے متعلق میڈیکل رپورٹ کی جو عمری عدالت میں پیش کی گئی ہے اس کے مطابق ڈیٹس ناٹل سے اور نہ ہی دل۔ جبکہ میڈیکل رپورٹس کے مطابق ان کے وائٹل آرگنز متاثر ہونا شروع ہو گئے ہیں۔ عدالت نے اسلام آباد کے ایڈووکیٹ جنرل سے عمران خان کے خلاف مقدمات کی تمام تفصیلات طلب کی

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Africa pays a high price for dollar dependence

HAFED AL-GHWELL

Governments across Africa are rightfully questioning the wisdom of anchoring their countries' futures to the US dollar. The instinct grows from patterns that have shaped the continent's financial stability, trade resilience, and growth prospects for decades.

A currency that once promised predictability now functions as a vehicle for volatility that African policymakers never signed up for. Each Federal Reserve rate hike, for instance, tightens African credit conditions as if Washington were running monetary policy for Nairobi, Accra, and Lusaka.

Dedollarization — reducing reliance on the US dollar for trade, reserves, and financial transactions — speaks to a desire for insulation, bargaining power, and policy autonomy in an era where external shocks arrive with unprecedented regularity.

While talk of dedollarization is not exactly new, it has gained traction in recent years, after several African currencies lost nearly half of their value against the dollar. Such depreciations erode tax bases, inflate debt

burdens, and push countries toward International Monetary Fund programs that come with significant political costs.

Moreover, roughly 70 percent of Africa's external debt is dollar-denominated. As the dollar strengthens, debt service costs balloon without any new borrowing. In one year alone, African governments paid more than \$60 billion in interest on external debt, and a third of that stemmed from dollar appreciation rather than fundamentals.

A continent seeking structural transformation cannot tolerate a global monetary system that amplifies domestic vulnerabilities. Naturally, leaders see a mismatch: African economies are diversifying, yet currency arrangements still resemble the 1980s. The dollar's dominance magnifies inflation pass-through because the region's import dependence makes exchange rate shocks automatically inflationary even where fiscal discipline is relatively decent. Food imports alone cost Africa more than \$35 billion annually, so a stronger dollar can quickly turn a food security issue into a macroeconomic crisis.

Thus, the heightening pursuit of dedollarization is an attempt to negotiate from a position of less fragility rather than an outright rejection of global markets. Consider this: When Kenya pays for imported crude in Kenyan shillings or when Nigeria explores yuan settlements for infrastructure deals, the goal is strategic hedging. Policymakers want to reduce single-currency exposure in the same way investors diversify portfolios. Russia's removal from dollar-based clearing systems, for example, demonstrated how geopolitical tremors can easily spill into Africa's trade channels even when the continent is not a party to any conflict. Some African governments are also reading the room. Global south partners, from Brazil to Indonesia, are experimenting with local currency settlement mechanisms. BRICS expansion invited African countries into a club openly discussing non-dollar settlement infrastructure.

Moreover, China accounts for more than a fifth of Africa's trade, and yuan-denominated transactions are rising from a small baseline. The share is still marginal, yet the direction signals Africa's turn toward a multipolar currency environment before one emerges fully without them.

The Africa Continental Free Trade Area adds another layer. A continent-wide free trade area needs frictionless payment channels to make intra-African commerce more attractive than sourcing from Europe or Asia. To date, roughly 15 percent of Africa's trade is intracontinental. One reason is the cost and complexity of using a third currency for African-to-African trade. A Ghanaian processing firm buying Kenyan tea, for instance, often settles in dollars, even though neither economy uses the currency domestically. That situation makes African trade more expensive by an estimated \$5 billion annually in transaction and hedging costs.

The Pan-African Payment and Settlement System, or PAPSS, launched with AfCFTA support, attempts to rewrite this by enabling instant cross-border settlements in local currencies. Dedollarization gives PAPSS a fighting chance. Without efforts to reduce dependence on the dollar, AfCFTA risks importing the very structural weaknesses it aims to correct. After all, regional supply chains cannot gain traction if currency swings routinely

erase profit margins. Clearing trade in local currencies might not be a silver bullet, but it is a meaningful step toward normalizing African-to-African transactions. However, skeptics point out that African currencies lack depth, stability, and convertibility, making rapid dedollarization risky. The statement is valid, but incomplete. African policymakers are not proposing to replace the dollar with a patchwork of volatile currencies overnight. Instead, they are reducing exposure in incremental steps: expanding swap lines, piloting common payment platforms, and signing bilateral agreements that allow settlement in mutually accepted currencies. Some argue that dedollarization could also alienate the US. However, a more resilient Africa ultimately aligns with US interests. Fragile currencies reduce Africa's capacity to buy American goods, service American-held debt or collaborate in security partnerships. A region forever one shock away from default cannot be a reliable counterweight to growing external influence or as a steady partner in global governance.

— Arab news

Tripoli deserves better than its current leaders

DR. DANIA KOLEILAT KHATIB

A building collapse in Tripoli, Lebanon, last week killed 14 people. The building was in Bab Al-Tabbaneh, one of the poorest neighborhoods in Tripoli, which is in turn one of the poorest cities in Lebanon and even in the Eastern Mediterranean.

The fall of the building makes us ask the question: Why did this happen to these people? Many do not know the rich history of the precious city. Tripoli was once a capital of trade, culture, and art in the Ottoman Empire. Why this degeneration? And who is responsible?

The building collapse in Tripoli was not an accident, nor was it the first tragedy this year to take innocent lives. It was the predictable outcome of years of neglect by local authorities and successive governments. The dangers posed by these buildings are widely known, yet no preventive action has been taken. Lebanon has a proven record of corruption. Lebanese officials have always acted with impunity. Relying on the blind allegiance of their constituencies, the welfare of the people has never been their primary concern.

According to Raymond Mitri, an activist who heads Lebanon's anticorruption task force: "The justice system also bears primary responsibility, as those in power have grown accustomed to acting with impunity." He added: "This culture of no accountability has enabled repeated failures and avoidable deaths." It is time for the prosecutor general to open a thorough investigation and hold the heads of the relevant authorities accountable for this week's tragic incident. Without real consequences, this tragic pattern will continue and more lives will be lost.

The collapse of the building in Tripoli is the result of decades of negligence. It is the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the city's problems. I went to Tripoli a few years ago and I was shocked by the poverty, lack of infrastructure, and lack of employment. The city's inhabitants face huge health risks because of unregulated trash dumps that also pollute the Mediterranean Sea. Tripoli mirrors the problems of Lebanon. In Tripoli, however, they are more concentrated and more severe. Historically, the city has not been lucky with its leadership. In fact, Lebanon as a whole has not been lucky with its political class, but Tripoli has suffered particularly badly. During the civil war,

various Islamist factions coalesced and created Harakat Al-Tawhid (the Islamic Unity Movement), which controlled the city. The state has been barely present. Each neighborhood has a "kabaday" (strongman) running the show. There is no real law enforcement in the city.

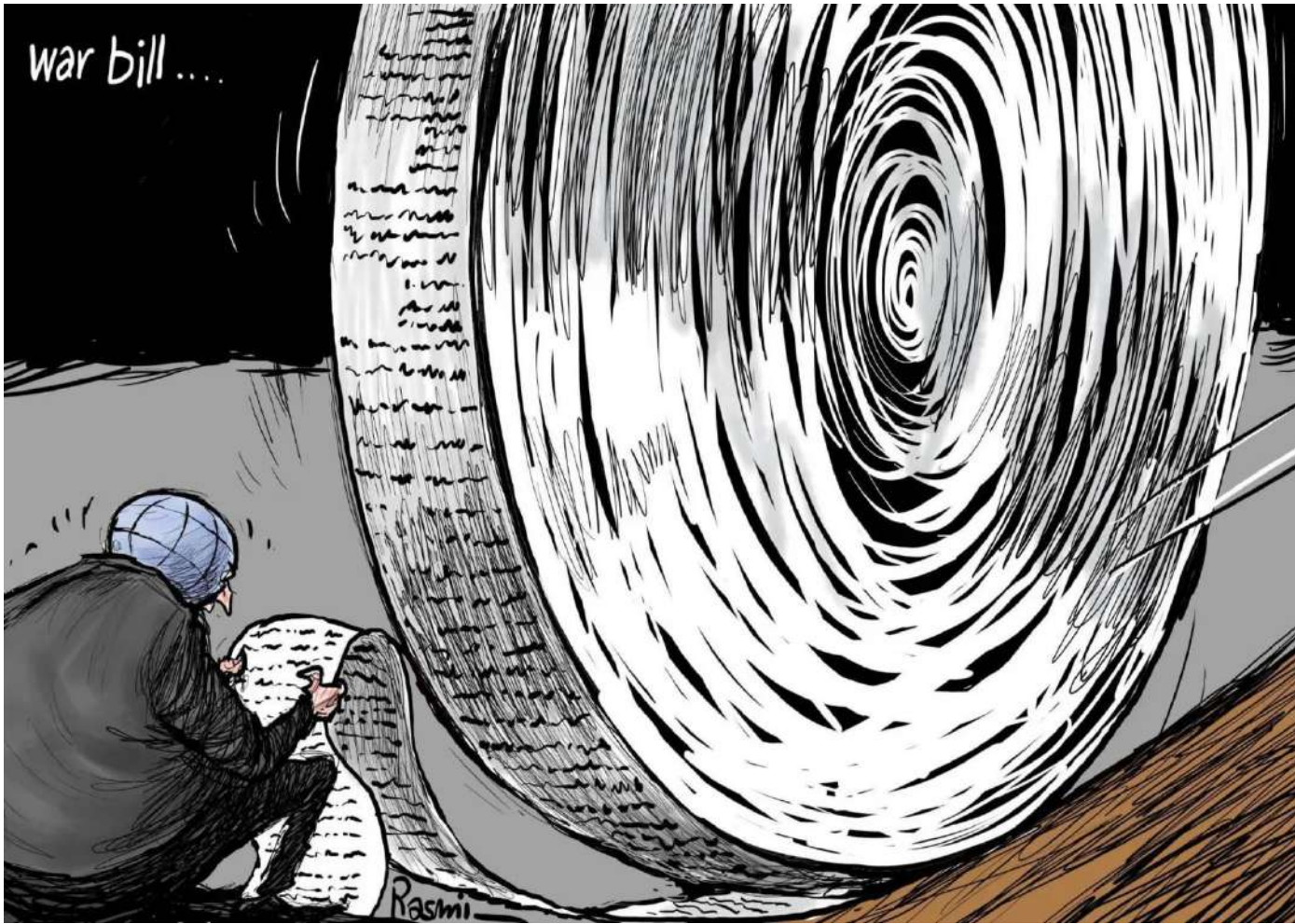
According to a lawyer friend of mine, the city is run by mafia-like organizations. The most important people are those who control the power generators. The generators' owners divide the areas among themselves. Citizens of each neighborhood are thus compelled to buy electricity from the designated generator owner for that specific area. It is sad to see this historic city languishing. It is sad to see its historic monuments unattended. It is sad to see the kind, generous, and skilled people of Tripoli struggle with poverty and a lack of opportunity.

The irony is that Tripoli is home to some of the wealthiest people in Lebanon and even the entire Arab world. The political class is rich and prosperous and it surrounds itself with fences to protect itself from the ire of the people that it controls. According to Amine Bashir, a lawyer and political activist from Tripoli, members of the city's traditional political class do not care about the people. On the contrary, it is in their interest to keep the people poor. The poorer they are, the cheaper it will be to buy their vote on election day. They use the people as an "election reservoir."

At the end of the day, it is not only Tripoli in this situation. Unfortunately, the Lebanese political elite looks at the people as a means to control the country and its resources. The people are a ladder that will allow them to reach the summit of power. Following last week's building collapse, the state sent the army to Tripoli to protect the politicians from the wrath of the people. This situation made me ask myself: When will the state use its capabilities to protect the people from the corruption of the political class?

Tripoli has suffered from negligence and impunity — this week's tragedy is a warning that this needs to stop. The people in power need to be held accountable. The people of Tripoli deserve that. They need to rise and the system governing the city needs to fall. If the system does not fall, more buildings like the one in Bab Al-Tabbaneh will do so instead.

— Arab news



Jordan's growing role in Turkish foreign policy

DR. SINEM CENGİZ

Turkiye and Jordan were significantly affected by the Syrian civil war that lasted more than a decade. Now, with the collapse of the Bashar Assad regime in December 2024, a new dynamic has emerged along Türkiye's southern and Jordan's northern borders — one that calls for closer coordination between the two states.

Jordan, a relatively small state known for its neutral regional policy, has not traditionally occupied a prominent place in Turkish foreign policy. But its geopolitical importance is far too significant to neglect. It has crucial potential when it comes to countering shared regional security challenges. Recent high-level meetings between Ankara and Amman, therefore, merit a closer look to better understand the possibility for Turkish-Jordanian cooperation.

Jordan's King Abdullah paid an official visit to Türkiye last week at the invitation of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who received him at the Dolmabahçe Palace in Istanbul. King Abdullah's last visit to Türkiye took place in February 2019. Back then, the regional picture looked very different. Now, the region has been reshaped by a series of major events — from the Oct. 7 attacks to the Iran-Israel war and the fall of the Assad regime — that have fundamentally shifted the political and security dynamics surrounding these two countries.

With the fall of the Assad regime, Jordan has emerged as a key partner in Türkiye's regional policy, particularly regarding Syria and Gaza. For Türkiye, Jordan represents both a stabilizing actor on its southern periphery and a practical partner in managing the post-Assad regional order. Amman and Ankara have found themselves on the same page in regard to regional crises. Jordan therefore became part of a regional cooperation mechanism established between Türkiye, Syria, Iraq and Lebanon, which is aimed at coordinating responses to shared security challenges. Amman has hosted high-level regional security meetings led by Türkiye, bringing together foreign ministers, defense ministers and intelligence chiefs to discuss counterterrorism efforts and broader regional threats. It was through Jordanian-Turkish cooperation that a joint mission to support Syria's fight against terrorist organizations, particularly Daesh, was established. At the request of the new leadership in Syria, this joint mission was set up to operate in Damascus,

marking a concrete step toward institutionalized regional security cooperation. Jordan and Türkiye are also part of US President Donald Trump's Board of Peace, further highlighting their shared role in the Gaza peace process. In their joint statement, King Abdullah and Erdogan underscored the importance of preserving the territorial integrity, sovereignty and national unity of all regional states. This emphasis reflects a shared outlook. Jordan has long pursued a status quo-oriented foreign policy, prioritizing stability along its borders. Türkiye's support for a centralized and territorially unified Syria closely aligns with Jordanian interests in this regard. Both countries view fragmentation and instability in Syria as a direct threat to their security, making their policy convergence not only strategic but also necessary.

Jordan was also chosen to host NATO's first liaison office in the Middle East. This opened last September, underscoring the country's geopolitical importance. Jordan has been a member of NATO's Mediterranean Dialogue since 1995. As a NATO partner, Türkiye views the alliance's cooperation with Amman as increasingly significant, as its presence in the country will help strengthen the regional security architecture. Amman not only occupies a key position in terms of security cooperation, but also in economic coordination. Jordan and Türkiye, along with Syria, are working on a joint initiative to restore the historic Hejaz railway, focusing on the segment linking the three countries as part of efforts to rebuild regional transport and trade networks disrupted by years of conflict and border closures. Officials from the three countries have agreed on preliminary terms to draft a memorandum of understanding covering the restoration of damaged railway lines.

At one time, the railway was referred to as the "Iron Silk Road" due to its economic, social and political importance. The railway is "a relic of the bygone dream of regional unity before wars, borders and more advanced modes of transportation rendered its services obsolete." Today, the three nations see its revival as both symbolic and strategic to restore regional connectivity, boost trade and contribute to postwar reconstruction. Another key cooperation between Ankara and Amman involves boosting the overland freight route from Jordan's Aqaba Port to Türkiye and onward to Eastern Europe through trilateral cooperation agreements.

— Arab news

Starmer is learning the lessons of politics the hard way

YOSSI MEKELBERG

Few could have foreseen that merely 17 months after Keir Starmer led the Labour Party to victory in the UK general election, winning a 174-seat majority in Parliament, that he would find himself fighting for his job.

While the British prime minister must take much of the blame for being in this situation — and in his defense, he does admit responsibility — the underlying difficulties of UK politics and society go far beyond one leader's shortcomings. The country has had six prime ministers in the past decade, which is hardly a sign of a functioning political system. Part of the predicament that Starmer finds himself in is how he sees his role; part of it has to do with the way British politics is conducted; and, more generally, the unforgiving nature of modern politics, which in an age of instant communication, constant scrutiny, and unbearable impatience, means that governments can be judged too harshly and too quickly.

The latest storm that threatens to unseat the current British prime minister is not unjustified, as his decision to appoint Peter Mandelson as ambassador in Washington was a total lapse of judgment. There was never any doubt that Mandelson's political skills and wealth of experience in government, including on the international stage, would stand him in good stead in dealing with a major and challenging ally. Yet this was also someone who was nicknamed the "Prince of Darkness." He was also one of the original spin doctors in British politics, and was twice forced to resign from government for failing to live up to the ethical standards of public life.

For a prime minister whose election campaign relied heavily on a promise to rid the country of years of Conservative sleaze, appointing Mandelson was extremely unwise. The resignation of Starmer's chief of staff, Morgan McSweeney, the mastermind behind Mandelson's appointment, has given the prime minister breathing space. Yet, in

the fast-paced world of modern politics, he still might be only a misstep or two away from losing his job. With Labour lagging far behind Reform in the polls and only just edging the even less popular Conservatives, and the prime minister's approval ratings plummeting, he has his work cut out to convince the electorate that they should still trust him as leader. In the short term, he must convince those Labour MPs who can decide his future almost instantly.

It is a truism that nothing genuinely prepares a person for the most powerful job in the country, a position that depends on learning extremely fast, a strong sense of direction and values, and healthy political instincts. Winning an unassailable election victory should have given Starmer the self-belief and confidence to go against his cautious nature.

For many Labour MPs, more than half of whom have been elected for the first time, the impressive showing at the ballot box created the expectation of a radical Labour agenda — not unreasonable in light of voters comprehensively rejecting the legacy of the Conservatives' 14 years in power. Moreover, for the more left-leaning of the Labour Party, Starmer and his policies were too middle-of-the-road to begin with, and he was not their first choice to lead the party, let alone the country. However, Labour's decisive victory left them with little ammunition to criticize those who masterminded it, including their ideological arch-nemesis McSweeney. Yet they still held high expectations for a new, radical agenda, only to be disappointed or, possibly, to have their suspicions confirmed.

To be sure, successive Conservative governments left a difficult legacy, with deep divisions over Brexit and immigration, underinvestment in public services, and a rocketing cost of living. For the new government and its leader it has not been enough to blame their predecessors for all the country's ills; they needed to make an immediate impact while incorporating changes into their long-term strategies.

— Arab news

Letters to the Editor

ECE classrooms

The School Education & Literacy Department, Sindh, issued comprehensive directions regarding the functioning of Early Childhood Education (ECE) classes in government schools. The circular clearly mandates well-equipped ECE classrooms with essential facilities and a strict regulatory structure. But in many schools, ECE classrooms are neither properly equipped nor child friendly. Basic facilities such as learning corners, age-appropriate furniture, play materials, storybooks, floor mats and visual aids are either missing or inadequate. In several cases, ECE sections are functioning in shared or overcrowded rooms. The prescribed age limit of 3–5 years is also not being strictly observed, undermining developmentally appropriate learning. Similarly, the notified class strength of 25–30 students is frequently exceeded, affecting individual attention. The circular further emphasises that ECE classes should ideally have two teachers (a teacher and an assistant), yet many schools operate with a single teacher, placing undue burden on staff and compromising quality. Moreover, despite clear instructions, ECE teachers are often assigned duties in higher classes, which directly violates the policy framework. The provision allowing dedicated preparation time for ECE teachers and strict adherence to the approved timetable and syllabus also appears neglected in

practice. Issuance of progressive circulars is commendable but without effective monitoring, physical inspections by higher authorities and accountability mechanisms, these policies remain confined to official documents. The government must ensure strict enforcement of its own directives to strengthen early childhood education in Sindh.

Ali Hussain
Karachi

School under construction

As a citizen of Turbat, I have observed that the Sheikhani Bazar School has a building under construction that has been left incomplete since 2013. This long delay has created serious concerns among students. Students are forced to study in overcrowded classrooms, and their studies are disrupted due to lack of space. This incomplete structure portrays a negative image of the school and the education system overall as well. Moreover, it limits the school's ability to introduce new classrooms and facilities such as laboratories and a library. Education is the foundation of any nation, and such delays directly affect the future of students. It is deeply disappointing that a project meant to improve an educational facility has instead become a symbol of neglect and delay. Therefore, I strongly request the concerned authorities to take immediate action and complete the construction work as

soon as possible. The future of our students depends on proper educational facilities.

Zeebjan Akther
Chasar, Turbat

Inexperienced invigilators

Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa's examination boards, beginning with BISE Swat, have decided to appoint fresh graduates for invigilation and marking — a move presented as reform. While the intent to engage youth is commendable, the policy raises serious concerns about examination credibility. Invigilation is not a routine clerical task; it requires authority, classroom control and the experience to enforce rules under pressure. Expecting new graduates to manage crowded halls overlooks the reality of organised cheating networks. Even senior teachers, backed by institutional authority, often face intimidation. It is unrealistic to assume temporary appointees can withstand such pressure without similar safeguards. Moreover, temporary staff operate without a clear legal framework to ensure accountability in cases of malpractice. If K-P boards wish to involve young professionals, they should adopt a hybrid model — pairing them with seasoned invigilators.

Manzar Hassan
Peshawar



A poster is being displayed on the wall of a school in connection with the upcoming Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) in the Federal Capital

Minister urges youth to drive climate, water action

APP- ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadik Malik on Tuesday called for greater youth participation in country's climate and water policy, saying young people could help bridge the gap between policy decisions and implementation on the ground.

Addressing a National Youth-Led Policy Roundtable on Water Resilience and Climate Action in Pakistan, organised by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination in collaboration with WaterAid Pakistan, the minister said youth could contribute to policy formulation, implementation, monitoring and accountability.

"Green skills, Climate University, start-ups, this is how the ministry is turning

the idea of youth partnership into lived reality," Dr Malik said, highlighting initiatives aimed at creating opportunities for young Pakistanis to contribute to the country's climate agenda.

He stressed the need for stronger partnerships between the government, youth, academia, research institutions and the private sector to promote evidence-based policymaking and innovation.

The minister said young people's presence in communities across Pakistan positioned them to monitor implementation, identify gaps and provide evidence



to policymakers.

He also called for women's empowerment and the inclusion of vulnerable and marginalised groups in climate and water policies and projects.

Referring to the 18th Constitutional Amendment, Dr Malik said important areas of water management and service delivery fell within provincial jurisdiction, requiring greater provincial institutional, technical and human capacity alongside federal leadership and coordination.

He said climate and water challenges differed across regions and policies must therefore respond to local needs and vulnerabilities. Indigenous and community knowledge, he added, should be used alongside scientific and technical expertise.

The minister said the focus must now shift from policy commitments to "visible and measurable results" on the ground.

Two dams to be completed in Islamabad to address water needs: Talal Chaudhry

APP- ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry informed the National Assembly on Tuesday that two new dams would be completed within four years to help address Islamabad's growing water shortage. Responding to a calling-attention notice on water scarcity and the need for water purification and recycling plants in Islamabad Capital Territory, he said the capital needed 240 million gallons of water a day. However, only 80 million gallons were currently available. He said feasibility studies for the Shahdara and Dohara dams were being conducted through the Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda).

The minister said the two projects would be completed within three to four years. They would meet Islamabad's water needs for the next 30 to 40 years, he added. The minister said the government had amended laws to promote rainwater harvesting. Rainwater wells were also being built, while building plans would not be approved without provisions for rainwater harvesting. He said old water pipelines in Islamabad's sectors would be replaced within one and a half years. A PC-I for the project had already been prepared, he added. The minister also expressed concern over the poor recovery of water bills. He said even residents of affluent sectors such as F-6 did not pay their monthly bill of Rs240.

Women Political Leaders Mentorship Programme orientation held in Islamabad

APP- ISLAMABAD: A district-level orientation session of the Pakistan Women Leaders Mentorship Programme was held in Islamabad to introduce women from diverse political, professional, media, business, civil society, and legal backgrounds to the mentorship journey ahead.

The session was organized by the Sustainable Social Development Organization (SSDO) at its head office in Islamabad, following the launch of the Pakistan Women Leaders Mentorship Programme last month.

The initiative is funded by the European Union (EU) and jointly implemented by UN Women Pakistan and the Trust for Democratic Education and Accountability (TDEA), through its partners, including SSDO in Islamabad. The orientation provided participants with an overview of the mentorship programme and its objectives, with a particular focus on strengthening women's leadership capacities, expanding professional and political networks and creating opportunities for women to contribute more effectively to public and political life.

The programme brings together women from different sectors and backgrounds with the aim of supporting the development of the next generation of women leaders in Pakistan.

MicroCerts, Pakistan-China Institute join hands to launch HSK-aligned Chinese language certifications



APP- ISLAMABAD: MicroCerts, Pakistan's national digital skills certification platform and a subsidiary of AXI Systems (SOE), inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Pakistan-China Institute (PCI), a non-governmental, non-partisan think tank dedicated to strengthening Pakistan-China people-to-people ties, with a focus on youth, women, education, diplomacy, defense, energy, economy, and environment.

MicroCerts, Pakistan-China Institute join hands to launch HSK-aligned Chinese language certifications

Under the partnership, PCI will provide expert academic review of four HSK-aligned Chinese language certification modules developed by MicroCerts, ahead of their nationwide rollout through the platform, said a press release on Tuesday.

The MoU was signed by Imran Bhatti, Chief Executive Officer, MicroCerts, and Mustafa Hyder Sayed, Executive Director, Pakistan-China Institute, at a ceremony held at MicroCerts' office in Islamabad.

MicroCerts has developed four Chinese language certification modules aligned with the HSK proficiency framework: HSK 1 (Foundation Mandarin), HSK 2 (Elementary Mandarin), HSK 3 (Intermediate Mandarin), and HSK 4 (Upper-Intermediate Mandarin). The modules are designed to provide Pakistani learners with structured, standards-aligned Mandarin language credentials and support their academic and professional aspirations.

The certifications are particularly aimed at students and scholarship aspirants preparing to study in China, as well as professionals seeking opportunities on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects and in other China-related sectors. The collaboration with PCI will add an expert academic review layer to the certification modules, helping ensure that the content is relevant, rigorous, and aligned with the learning requirements associated with the HSK framework.

India backing BLA terrorists to fuel terrorism in Balochistan: Tariq Fazal

APP- ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry on Tuesday told the Senate that India was providing resources and support to BLA terrorists operating as its proxies in Balochistan, stressing that Pakistan would continue to confront and eliminate every terrorist threatening the country's peace and security.

Responding to points of order, the minister said the government and security agencies had no desire to conduct operations in Balochistan, but the state could not remain indifferent when terrorists targeted its people and security personnel. He said security forces and police personnel were laying down their lives on a daily basis to protect the country and its citizens from terrorism.

Dr Tariq Fazal said it was well known that the BLA was acting as a proxy and India was investing in and providing resources to elements involved in terrorist activities in Balochistan. He said preventing such activities and eliminating terrorists from Pakistani soil was a fundamental responsibility of the state.



Labourers busy loading cargo boxes onto a delivery truck reflect the daily commercial hustle outside Bohar Gate

FATA, PATA sales tax remains below standard 18pc rate: Senate told

APP- ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Finance Bilal Azhar Kayani on Tuesday informed the Senate that the sales tax rate applicable to the erstwhile FATA and PATA had been increased from 10 per cent to 12 per cent under a gradual taxation plan, but remained well below the standard 18 per cent rate applicable elsewhere. Responding to a Calling Attention Notice raised by Atta Ur Rehman about the withdrawal of exemption of taxes for the merged districts of erstwhile FATA and PATA in the Federal Budget 2026-2027, the minister said that the taxation arrangement had been introduced after extensive political consultations with representatives and stakeholders of the areas concerned.

He said the process began ahead of the June 2025 budget when detailed consultations were held with representatives from FATA,

PATA and other parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The consultation process, he said, was led by Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political and Public Affairs Rana Sanaullah Khan and also involved Federal Minister Engineer Amir Muqam and senior officials of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR).

Kayani said following the consultations, it was decided last year to introduce sales tax at 10 per cent, with an understanding that the rate would subsequently be increased by two percentage points annually.

Accordingly, he said, the rate had enhanced to 12 per cent following the current year's budget, while still remaining preferential compared with the standard 18 per cent rate.

The minister said business community operating in other parts of the country had raised concerns about misuse of exemptions, adding

that in certain cases production and business activities originating outside the eligible areas had been shown as originating from FATA and PATA to obtain tax benefits.

He said such practices amounted to abuse of the exemption regime and, in certain cases, fraud, creating an uneven playing field for businesses elsewhere in the country.

Kayani reaffirmed that the welfare, prosperity and development of the people of the erstwhile FATA and PATA remained a priority for the government.

Speaking on occasion, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political and Public Affairs Rana Sanaullah Khan said representatives and prominent business figures from FATA and PATA, as well as representatives of the Peshawar Chamber and other business bodies, had participated in the consultation process.



A vendor preparing Beverage (Lassi) for the customers in a local market of Federal Capital

NA Committee on Privatization emphasises timely, effective implementation of its recommendations

APP- ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Standing Committee on Privatization Tuesday emphasized the need for timely and effective implementation of its recommendations and directed the concerned quarters to ensure the prompt provision of complete, accurate, and updated information, along with necessary follow-up action.

The committee met here under the chairmanship of Muhammad Farooq Sattar, MNA and reviewed the implementation status of its previous recommendations and sought updates from the concerned ministry/departments, and organizations.

The Committee was given a comprehensive briefing on the current status and proposed course of action regarding Zarai Taraqiati Bank Limited (ZTBL).

The Committee was informed that the Federal Cabinet

had approved the inclusion of ZTBL in the Privatisation Programme (2024-29) on August 13, 2024, following which the Privatisation Commission Board classified ZTBL as a Major Privatisation and initiated the process for its privatization. The committee also considered matters relating to the proposed privatization of Distribution Companies (DISCOs) and sought detailed information on the progress, process, and related developments.

The committee underscored the importance of transparency, due diligence, and strict adherence to prescribed rules and procedures throughout the privatization process. It further recommended that, in the event of privatization, the employment status, service rights, and legitimate interests of existing employees be fully protected in accordance with the applicable



ایف آئی آر رپورٹ

ٹرمپ نے 'مکہ معاہدے'

کی حمایت کیوں کی؟

امریکی صدر ڈونلڈ ٹرمپ کی جانب سے پاکستان، سعودی عرب اور ترکی کے درمیان مشترکہ دفاعی 'مکہ معاہدے' کا خیر مقدم کیا گیا ہے لیکن اس پیغام کے بعد خطے میں سلامتی کے لیے امریکی کردار کا مستقبل کیا ہوگا، اس حوالے سے مختلف آرا پائی جاتی ہیں

7 اگست کو دستخط کیے جانے والے اس سہ فریقی معاہدے کے تحت کسی ایک رکن ملک پر حملہ سب پر حملہ تصور کیا جائے گا۔ ترک وزارت دفاع نے گذشتہ ہفتے کہا تھا کہ پاکستان، ترکی اور سعودی عرب اس معاہدے کے تحت سیاسی اور فوجی نظام تشکیل دیں گے۔ وزارت دفاع نے مزید کہا تھا کہ یہ اتحاد دفاعی صنعت کے شعبے میں تعاون کو بھی مزید گہرا کرے گا۔

اب امریکہ کی طرف سے پہلی بار اس معاہدے پر براہ راست رد عمل دیا گیا ہے۔ امریکی صدر ڈونلڈ ٹرمپ نے پاکستان، سعودی عرب اور ترکی کے درمیان حال ہی میں طے پانے والے دفاعی معاہدے کے حوالے سے ٹرڈھ سوشل پر لکھا کہ 'یہ بڑا، دلیرانہ اور اہم پہلا قدم ہے۔' اس کے جواب میں پاکستان کے وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے ٹرمپ کا ٹھٹھ پر اد کرتے ہوئے لکھا کہ پاکستان، سعودی عرب اور ترکی مل کر 'اپنے اور پورے خطے کے دفاع کو یقینی بنانے میں تعمیری کردار ادا کرتے رہیں گے۔'

سوشل میڈیا پلیٹ فارم ایکس پر پوسٹ میں شہباز شریف نے مزید لکھا: 'میں ایک بار پھر صدر ٹرمپ کی جرات مندانہ اور فیصلہ کن قیادت کو سراہتا چاہوں گا، جس نے جنوبی ایشیا میں ایک جہری تباہی کو ٹالنے اور لاکھوں جانیں بچانے میں مدد دی۔'

ڈسٹینیل مارکی امریکی تھنک ٹینک سٹینسن سینٹر سے وابستہ ہیں اور وہ جنوبی ایشیائی امور پر گہری نظر رکھتے ہیں۔ انھوں نے بتایا کہ صدر ٹرمپ بین الاقوامی سلامتی کے معاملے میں 'بوجھ کو تقسیم کرنے' میں دلچسپی رکھتے ہیں اور مکہ معاہدہ اس سے مطابقت رکھتا ہے۔ ان کے مطابق ٹرمپ 'علاقائی طاقتوں کو اپنے اپنے خطوں میں استحکام برقرار رکھنے میں زیادہ بڑا کردار ادا کرنے کی ترقیب دینا چاہتے ہیں، بجائے اس کے کہ یہ توقع کی جائے کہ امریکہ مستقل فوجی موجودگی برقرار رکھے گا۔'

ہم نے ان سے یہ بھی پوچھا کہ ایران کے خلاف جنگ کے بعد مشرق وسطیٰ میں امریکی سیوری کردار کو محدود کرنے کا تاثر کیوں پایا جاتا ہے؟ اس پر ان کا کہنا تھا کہ یہ تاثر امریکہ کی اس حکمت عملی پر مبنی ہے جسے مشرقی ایشیا اور بحر الکاہل کے خطے کی جانب توجہ کی منتقلی یا ازسرنو توازن قائم کرنا کہا جاتا ہے تاکہ چین کے ساتھ بھڑا انداز میں مقابلہ کیا جاسکے۔ ان کے بقول اس منطق کے مطابق امریکی کی مشرق وسطیٰ اور یورپ میں مصروفیات ہنگی ثابت ہوئیں جن کے باعث چین کو اپنی صلاحیتوں میں اضافے کا موقع ملا جبکہ امریکہ لانگے تنازعات میں الجھا رہا۔ بات کرتے ہوئے سابق پاکستانی سفیر اور اسلام آباد میں قائم سینٹر فار انٹرنیشنل سٹریٹجک سٹڈیز کے ایگزیکٹو ڈائریکٹر علی سردار نقوی نے کہا کہ مجموعی تصویر یہ ہے کہ اس خطے میں سیوری، تحفظ اور دفاع کا مکمل نظام بدل رہا ہے۔ اس میں امریکہ کا کردار کم ہو رہا ہے۔ (اس کی بجائے) اس خطے کے علاقائی ممالک اس خلا کو پُر کر رہے ہیں۔ اس سوال پر کہ کیا مکہ معاہدے امریکی مفادات سے مطابقت رکھتا ہے، انھوں نے کہا کہ 'یہ ضروری نہیں کہ مشترکہ دفاع کا یہ معاہدہ امریکی مفادات سے مطابقت رکھے۔ یہ اس خطے کے اہم مسلم ممالک سعودی عرب، ترکی اور پاکستان نے مل کر معاہدہ طے کیا ہے۔' امریکہ میں سابق پاکستانی سفیر حسین حقانی کی رائے میں ٹرمپ کا پیغام خطے میں سلامتی کے حوالے سے امریکی



ان میں سے ہر ایک ملک ٹرمپ انتظامیہ کے ساتھ مضبوط تعلقات برقرار رکھنے کا خواہاں ہے۔ 'اسی مقصد کے پیش نظر، تینوں ملکوں کی جانب سے معاہدے کے بارے میں عوامی رسائی سوچ سمجھ کر کی گئی ہے۔ اس میں اس بات پر زور دیا گیا ہے کہ یہ معاہدہ کسی خاص ملک کو نشانہ بنانے کے لیے نہیں ہے۔' غالباً اس کا مقصد پہلے ہی سے امریکہ کی اس ممکنہ تشویش کو دور کرنا ہے کہ یہ معاہدہ اسرائیل کے خلاف جارحانہ یا دیگر دشمنی پر مبنی مقاصد کے لیے استعمال کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ کوئٹہ نے اس صورتحال میں موجود دلچسپ تضاد کا بھی ذکر کیا۔ ان کے مطابق اگرچہ یہ معاہدہ واشنگٹن کے لیے قابل قبول ہو سکتا ہے، لیکن اس کے حصول کی ایک بڑی دھڑلہ واشنگٹن کے بارے میں پائے جانے والے خدشات تھے۔ یہ معاہدہ ان تینوں ممالک کے اس موقف کی عکاسی کرتا ہے کہ مغربی ایشیا میں اب امریکی صلاحیتوں پر انحصار نہیں کیا جاسکتا۔ وہ کہتے ہیں کہ 'واشنگٹن ایران کو باز رکھنے میں کام رہا ہے جبکہ وہ اسرائیل کو باز رکھنے کے لیے آمادہ نہیں۔۔۔ آنے والے مہینوں میں اسرائیل، ایران یا وسیع تر خطے کے بارے میں ٹرمپ انتظامیہ کا لائحہ عمل کیا ہوگا، اس بارے میں کوئی واضح اشارہ موجود نہ ہونے کے باعث تینوں ممالک نے معاملات اپنے ہاتھ میں لینے کا فیصلہ کیا۔'

ٹرمپ کی طرف سے مکہ معاہدے کا خیر مقدم کیا کسی ملک کے لیے خطرے کا تھنسی ہے؟ سٹینسن سینٹر سے وابستہ ڈسٹینیل مارکی کا خیال ہے کہ یہ پیغام 'انڈیا اور اسرائیل دونوں کے لیے ایک دھچکا ہے۔ انڈیا خود کو مشرق وسطیٰ میں جنوبی ایشیا کے تہجی شراکت دار کے طور پر پیش کر رہا تھا جبکہ اس کے ساتھ عرب کے ساتھ بھی تعلقات مضبوط ہو رہے تھے۔ انھوں نے بتایا کہ انڈیا یہ امید بھی رکھتا تھا کہ وہ اپنے غرض 'امریکہ فرنٹ' سے ہے۔ وہ اس جانب اشارہ کرتے ہیں کہ ٹرمپ کی بار یہ واضح کر چکے ہیں کہ وہ امریکہ کے اندر کے معاملات پر زیادہ دھیان دینا چاہتے ہیں اور وہ باہر کی دنیا میں اس کی زیادہ اہمیت نہیں دیتا چاہتے۔ تاہم اس بارے میں تجویز یہ کہ براہِ حق کا خیال ہے کہ ٹرمپ کے پیغام سے واضح ہوا ہے کہ مکہ معاہدے سے پیدا ہونے والا دفاعی اتحاد اسرائیل یا انڈیا کے خلاف نہیں۔ وہ کہتے ہیں کہ مجھے پورا یقین ہے کہ وہ (ٹرمپ) کسی ایسی چیز کی حمایت نہیں کریں گے جو اسرائیل یا انڈیا کی سلامتی کو نقصان پہنچا سکے۔'

واشنگٹن میں ٹڈل ایٹ پالیسی کونسل کے سینیٹر ریڈ ہیڈن فیلو ڈاکٹر کارمن بخاری نے بتایا تھا کہ تینوں ممالک کے درمیان مشترکہ معاہدہ 'امریکی آشر باڈ' کے بغیر ممکن نہیں تھا۔ ان کے مطابق 'اب امریکہ چاہتا ہے کہ یہاں واقع ممالک اپنی سیوری کی ذمہ داری خود لیں، اس سے امریکہ کا خرچہ بھی کم ہوگا اور خطے میں موجود خطرات میں بھی کمی آئی گی۔' یعنی امریکہ کہہ رہا ہے کہ اپنی سلامتی کی ذمہ داری خود لیں، اس سے امریکہ اس پیغام کے بعد مزید ممالک مکہ معاہدے میں شامل ہو سکتے ہیں؟ اس بارے میں ڈسٹینیل مارکی کا کہنا تھا کہ 'ٹرمپ کے اعلان سے یہ بات واضح ہو جاتی ہے کہ دیگر ممالک بھی اس میں شامل ہونے کے لیے آزاد ہیں۔' ان ممالک کے لیے، جو بظاہر ابھی فیصلہ کرنے کی پوزیشن میں نہیں ہیں، مثلاً مصر، یہ (پیغام) فیصلہ کن ثابت ہو سکتا ہے۔'



Pakistani dramas are moving beyond romance as new storytelling trends emerge



SHOWBIZ DESK, For decades, Pakistani television dramas have followed a familiar pattern: love triangles, family feuds, forced marriages, and emotional misunderstandings centered on who ends up with whom. While this formula has produced many memorable hits, audience expectations are clearly shifting.

Today's viewers, exposed to global storytelling through streaming platforms and international content, increasingly demand narratives that go beyond romance and explore deeper social, emotional, and structural realities.

Recent dramas such as *Shamsher*, *Raja London Ka*, and *Bhanwar* reflect this shift where romance is still present, but it is no longer the central focus. Instead, it exists alongside themes like identity, ambition, resilience, and pressing social issues.

Shamsher departs from the traditional domestic format by placing sports, legacy, and personal redemption at its core.

It follows a once-celebrated national hockey player, played by Farhan Saeed, who has been forgotten by the society he

once inspired.

Rather than romantic tension, the drama focuses on failure, dignity, and the struggle to regain respect.

The hockey backdrop offers a refreshing change from routine household conflicts, with Hareem Farooq, Umer Aalam, and Behroze Sabzwari in supporting roles. In *Raja London Ka*, romance exists but does not dominate. The story is driven by emotional complexity, shifting loyalties, and ambition.

The central conflict lies in the choices

characters make and their consequences, rather than a predictable romantic outcome. It explores identity and self-worth through the rivalry between *Raja*, played by Samar Jafri, a street-smart figure from *Lunda Bazaar*, and *Adil Sultan* played by Zaviyar Nauman Ijaz, an elite heir.

Ameema Saleem plays Rani, adding depth to the character dynamics and excellent on-screen chemistry with Jafri.

Bhanwar: Bringing contemporary social issues to television

Hania Aamir jokes about ‘fake wedding’ amid marriage rumours

SHOWBIZ DESK, Pakistani actress Hania Aamir has stirred fresh debate on social media after a viral video showed her joking about getting married, amid ongoing speculation linking her with singer Asim Azhar.



In the widely shared clip posted on Instagram, Aamir is heard saying: “Everyone wanted us to get married, so we had a fake wedding.” The remark appeared to be made in a light-hearted tone.

The video surfaced as rumours continue to circulate online about a possible wedding between Aamir and Azhar, with some social media users claiming the pair could tie the knot during the holy month of Ramadan. Responding to a question from a follower about whether her supposed nikah would take place after sehri or iftar, Aamir replied jokingly: “Friday afternoon”.

‘Wuthering Heights’ makes a big splash on Valentine’s Day

SHOWBIZ DESK, *Wuthering Heights* is already proving to be a strong Valentine’s Day draw, launching its theatrical run with an impressive \$3 million in Thursday preview screenings as it heads into the holiday weekend.

The romantic drama, directed by Emerald Fennell and starring Margot Robbie and Jacob Elordi, is expected to dominate the frame, with early projections pointing to a \$50 million-plus domestic opening. The strong preview turnout signals that audiences are turning out in force for the film’s sweeping love story, perfectly timed for the February 14 corridor.

Industry analysts say the film’s early numbers reflect both strong pre-release buzz and strategic counterprogramming, as it positions itself as the go-to choice for couples and romance fans over the Valentine’s Day weekend. Following behind are two wide releases aiming to capture different segments of the audience. The animated sports comedy *GOAT*, produced by Stephen Curry, is targeting families and younger viewers, while Amazon MGM’s crime thriller *Crime 101*, starring Chris Hemsworth, Halle Berry and Mark Ruffalo, is expected to appeal to adult audiences looking for a darker alternative.

In Karachi, sober raves offer Gen Z a new kind of nightlife

SHOWBIZ DESK, KARACHI: Under neon lights at an indoor sports club in Karachi, twenty-somethings drifted between glowing courts and a DJ booth, dancing with coffee cups and iced tea in hand.

No alcohol. No drugs. And the music ended promptly at 10pm.

In Pakistan, a growing number of Gen Z are opting for “sober socialising”, joining a global trend as young people increasingly opt for healthier lifestyles. Here, though, the shift carries an added appeal: Drinking alcohol is illegal for Muslims, who make up the vast majority of Pakistan’s population.

Partying without the pour

They are increasingly turning their backs on the party scene of the past, which often involved underground venues because of the presence of alcohol and drugs, and the risk of running afoul of authorities.

“In Karachi, we don’t have many places to just exist socially,” said Zia Malik, a software entrepreneur attending the event. “This gives you that without having to hide.”

“I have visited some underground parties,” he added. “You cannot feel secure.” At the sports club, crowd numbers were capped. Between breaks in dancing, revellers played padel, a cross between squash and tennis popular in Pakistan.

The event’s organiser, experiential platform 12xperience, had local government approval to host a public party without alcohol.

Creating a safe space

Cameras - both wall-mounted and on drones - monitored the crowd to enforce the no-alcohol policy and to



deter fights or harassment, organisers said. “Without guardrails, you’re just recreating the same risks people are trying to escape,” said Mohammed Usman, founder of 12xperience. “This is about creating a space where people feel safe,” he said. “Without alcohol, without drugs, without chaos.” Events like this are popping up across the city of nearly 19 million in growing numbers, mainly at sports facilities and coffee shops, but also at venues such as art galleries and co-working spaces. Euromonitor data shows Pakistan’s soft drinks market grew more than 27% between 2020 and 2025, and hot drinks - a category that includes coffee - expanded by a similar margin. While that mirrors a global trend in young people drink-

ing less, Pakistan’s shift has outpaced mature markets such as the United States and Britain, where non-alcoholic beverage volumes have grown only modestly.

Partying within Islamic boundaries

Sociologist Kausar Parveen said the change shows how young Pakistanis have put a modern spin on adapting to the country’s Islamic norms, rather than being a sign they are rejecting them.

“They are not going beyond religion, but reframing how social life happens,” said Parveen, an associate professor at the University of Karachi. Women-only events are also increasing in popularity, in a country where gender mixing carries cultural stigmas.



Lion dance performers interact with a Kazakh child during a Chinese New Year cultural event at the Almaty International Airport in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Shahid calls for support for film industry

SHOWBIZ DESK, KARACHI: Veteran Pakistani film actor Shahid has said that government support is essential for the revival and growth of Pakistan’s film industry, stressing that strong directors, producers and writers are key to producing quality cinema. Speaking to media representatives during a visit to the Karachi Press Club, Shahid said that Karachi feels like home to him and credited the press for supporting his film career throughout the years. He emphasised that the film industry cannot progress without institutional backing, recalling that in the past, official support helped sustain cinema culture across the country. “Cinema halls were once vibrant because institutions stood behind the industry,” he said.



Sharpasand: Nosy neighbours and moral policing, why Pakistani dramas love the gali watchdog

SHOWBIZ DESK, Pakistani dramas have long mastered the art of the whisperer. In countless neighbourhoods — the tight alleys and shared rooftops — there’s always that one character: usually an aunty. The one who knows all, spreads all, and subtly shapes the moral climate of the entire street. The self-appointed guardian of ‘respectability’: the gossip queen.

But Sharpasand changes that.

In the hit drama, produced by iDream Entertainment for ARY Digital, the role of the gali whisperer is handed to a man — Farasat Ali, played by iconic Pakistani actor Nauman Ijaz. That single casting decision transforms the entire narrative dynamic. The title plays on Urdu wordplay: “sharp” and “pasand” loosely suggest someone agreeable and respectable on the surface, yet sharp-edged, calculating and mischievous.



People visit a lantern fair at a park in Xinghua City, east China’s Jiangsu Province.



Managing Director of the National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE), Dr. Noor Amna Malik presents shield to Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training, Ms. Wajha Qamar during the opening ceremony of the 'Strategic Planning and Leadership Excellence Programme' for Vice Chancellors and Pro-Vice Chancellors at NIBAF.

Hepatitis C screening to be made mandatory nationwide: Kamal

APP- ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Health Syed Mustafa Kamal on Tuesday announced a nationwide expansion of Hepatitis C screening under the Prime Minister's Programme for the Prevention of disease, urging every eligible Pakistani to undergo screening for the potentially life-threatening disease.

Talking to the media after inaugurating Hepatitis C screening for Ministry of Health officials, the minister said screening had been made mandatory for all employees of the ministry.

He said measures were also being taken to make screening mandatory for employees of all federal ministries, adding that letters were being sent to all ministries in this regard.

The minister said 17 screening points had been established in Islamabad, while

private hospitals would also be provided with screening kits and digital gadgets to facilitate screening. The programme would subsequently be expanded across the country.

"Every Pakistani will have to undergo screening," he said, adding that screening of people aged above 12 would be prioritised. Kamal said around 11 million people in Pakistan were currently Hepatitis C positive, describing the disease as dangerous because it often remained undetected until serious complications developed.

"If Hepatitis C is not diagnosed and treated in time, it can develop into liver



cancer," he warned, stressing the importance of early screening and treatment.

He said medicines costing around Rs68,000 would be provided free of charge to patients under the Prime Minister's programme and urged people to avail themselves of the free screening and treatment

facilities.

The minister said screening would also be conducted in Gilgit-Baltistan and Islamabad. He said people deported and returning to Pakistan would be required to undergo screening, while all flights would also be subjected to the screening process for three months.

He said the government was using gadgets provided by the Bureau of Statistics along with census software, while the system had been connected with NADRA records to facilitate identification and tracking of individuals.

Kamal said the government was considering linking Hepatitis C screening with the Computerised National Identity Card (CNIC), while screening could also be made mandatory before travelling abroad.

India is a global terrorist: Sherry Rehman

APP- ISLAMABAD: Vice President Pakistan Peoples Party Senator Sherry Rehman has strongly rejected the allegations levelled against Pakistan by Indian Home Minister Amit Shah, terming them yet another attempt by the Modi government to manufacture an anti-Pakistan narrative and shift attention away from its own internal security and political failures.



"India's latest accusations follow the same tired pattern: make allegations against Pakistan, provide no credible evidence, and use the narrative for domestic political consumption. Pakistan will not become a convenient scapegoat for India's own security challenges. Bharat is a global terrorist", Senator Sherry Rehman said. She said the Indian government's claims regarding the arrest of more than 200 alleged "terror operatives" across 14 Indian states, and its attempt to establish a Pakistani connection, must be viewed with scrutiny in the absence of verifiable evidence. "India cannot simply attach a Pakistani label to arrests made within its own territory and expect the world to accept the claim as fact.

Procurement Reforms to Boost Transparency, Efficiency: Azam Nazeer

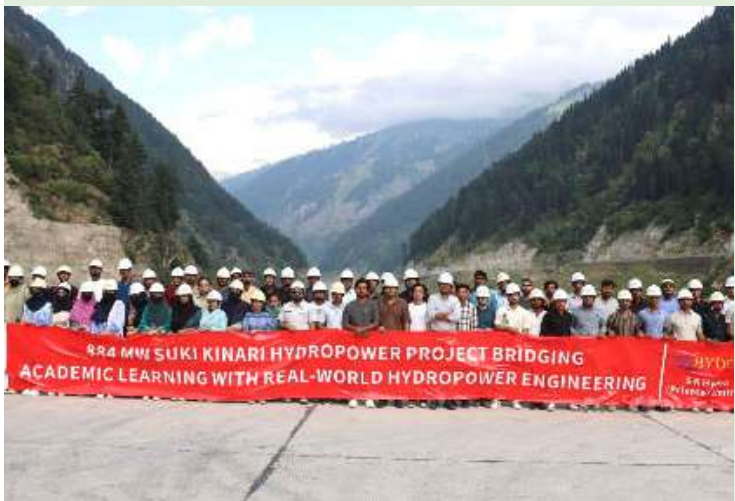
APP- ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law & Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar has said that transparency, institutional independence and effective accountability must be ensured in the public procurement process, while public procurement reforms will further improve transparency and efficiency in the government purchasing system.

He expressed these views while addressing a meeting of the Cabinet Committee for Disposal of Legislative Cases (CCLC) here on Tuesday.

The meeting of the Cabinet Committee for Disposal of Legislative Cases (CCLC) was held at the Cabinet Division and reviewed important legislative and regulatory matters relating to various sectors.

The meeting held detailed discussions on the proposed amendments to the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) Ordinance, 2002, and the draft Public Procurement Rules, 2025. The Federal Minister said that the existing legal framework for public procurement requires greater clarity, responsibility and effective accountability mechanisms. He emphasized the need for an effective mechanism for independent grievance redressal and prevention of conflicts of interest in the public procurement process. He said that transparency, accountability and effective oversight in the public procurement system must be further strengthened to improve institutional confidence and efficiency in government procurement.

UET Lahore students visit SK Hydropower Project for academic, technical exchange



APP- ISLAMABAD: More than 70 students and faculty members from the Civil Engineering Department of the University of Engineering and Technology (UET) Lahore, Narawal Campus, visited the underground powerhouse and damsite of the Suki Kinari (SK) Hydropower Project as part of an academic exchange and on-site study programme.

As the project owner, S K Hydro (Private) Limited extended a warm welcome to all visiting teachers and students, and made thorough preparations in advance including route planning, on-site technical briefings and safety awareness trainings, said a press release issued on Tuesday.

During the visit, the Project's technical experts Masab Ali gave comprehensive and detailed pres-

entations combining practical project conditions, covering the core technologies of the hydropower station, overall project profile, construction techniques and standardized operation and management systems, delivering professional and thorough on-site explanations for the visitors.

The visiting teachers and students spoke highly of the project's mature and advanced construction schemes especially underground powerhouse, 23.1 KM headrace tunnel, Surge shaft, penstock and intelligent operation & maintenance management system, and fully commended the efficient coordination and excellent teamwork of Chinese and Pakistani on-site staff.

In addition, the SK Hydro displayed its achievements in ecological protection, livelihood public

welfare and other corporate social responsibility initiatives, vividly demonstrating the central enterprise's sense of responsibility rooted in the local area, boosting regional development of Pakistan and safeguarding the ecological environment of the river basin.

The delegation expressed sincere gratitude for the thoughtful reception and professional technical sharing provided by the project team. They stated that this on-site study made up for deficiencies in classroom theoretical learning, effectively broadened their academic horizons in civil engineering and improved their practical engineering capabilities. Meanwhile, they gained an intuitive understanding of the crucial driving role of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects in advancing the development of clean energy and green low-carbon transformation across Pakistan. SK Hydropower Station is mainly invested, constructed and operated by China Energy Overseas Investment Co., Ltd., who also serves as the major shareholder of S K Hydro (Private) Limited. The Project officially commenced commercial operation on September 14, 2024. To date, it has produced more than 5.35 billion kilowatt-hours of clean electricity. As a flagship green energy project under CPEC, it has continuously underpinned Pakistan's economic growth and energy security. Going forward, the project will further deepen cooperation with local community and prioritize talent training.



A worker paints road signs along Jail Road as part of routine maintenance work in the city

From one OPD to first Kidney Transplant: Razi Hospital marks New milestone with Wife's 'Gift of Life'

APP- ISLAMABAD: For a 33-year-old handmade shoemaker struggling to earn bread for his children while battling kidney disease, a new chance at life came from the person closest to him — his 26-year-old wife, who happily donated one of her kidneys to her life partner, helping Alkhidmat Raazi Hospital Rawalpindi achieve a historic milestone with its first successful kidney transplant.

The complex procedure was successfully performed by the hospital's kidney transplant team, led by Consultant Nephrologist and Transplant Physician Dr Zahid Nabi and Transplant Surgeon Dr Muhammad Nawaz. Both the recipient and his wife, the living donor, are recovering well.

From one OPD to first Kidney Transplant: Razi Hospital marks New

milestone with Wife's 'Gift of Life'

For the young couple, the transplant has brought hope after a difficult period. The patient earns his livelihood by making handmade shoes, but kidney disease had badly affected his ability to work, making it increasingly difficult to provide for his children and meet daily household expenses. At a time when illness was threatening both his health and livelihood, his 26-year-old wife stepped forward and willingly donated a kidney to her husband. Hospital officials praised her decision as an inspiring example of love, sacrifice and companionship, saying her gesture had not only given her husband a chance at a healthier life but also offered a powerful example of standing beside a life partner in difficult times. The operation also marks a new chapter in

the journey of Alkhidmat Raazi Hospital, which began in 2006 with a small outpatient department and has since grown into a 250-bed not-for-profit healthcare facility serving Rawalpindi, Islamabad and surrounding areas. The hospital is part of Alkhidmat Foundation's healthcare network. Chairman of the hospital's management, Abu Umair Zahid, told APP that the achievement belonged to the doctors, staff, board members and donors who had supported the institution over the years.

A retired chief engineer of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, Zahid has been voluntarily leading the hospital for around 10 years. When he took over the responsibility, the hospital had 37 beds; today its capacity has reached 250 beds, while further expansion is continuing.

Northern areas at rising GLOF risk till Aug 24

APP-ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), through its National Emergencies Operations Centre (NEOC), has issued a multi hazard alert for possible Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs), flash floods, landslides and rising river flows till Aug 24, warning authorities and residents in vulnerable mountainous areas of Gilgit Baltistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and parts of Punjab to remain on high alert amid continued monsoon rains, rapid snow and glacier melt and rising temperatures. The alert said sensitive mountainous areas of Gilgit Baltistan, KP and AJK could face sudden flooding and debris flows from Aug 18 to 23 due to glacier and snow melt, elevated temperatures and monsoon rainfall.

Ghizer, Hunza, Nagar, Shigar, Gilgit, Rondu, Tangir, Darel, Diamer, Astore, Skardu, Ghanche, Kharmang, Neelum Valley and adjoining areas have been identified as particularly vulnerable.

Several glacier systems and valleys, including Budsawat, Ishkoman, Hunarchi, Tersat Hindur, Ultar, Chanter, Gupis, Yasin, Sust, Arandu, Roshan, Haks, Chati Boi, Thalo 1 and 2, Reshun, Brep, Boni, Sardar Gol, Lasht, Pandoro Chat, Khaplu, Hisper Hopper, Gilgit, Gilmen, Batura, Shishper, Songhor, Roshan and Shimshal, have also been declared sensitive.

The NEOC has separately warned of landslides and rockfalls across vulnerable mountainous areas of Gilgit Baltistan from Aug 22 to 24.



Parliamentary Secretary for Livestock Sardar Muhammad Asim Sher Maken inaugurating X-ray & Surgical Facilities at Civil Veterinary Hospital Noori gate