



Editor in Chief: K.A. Chaudhry
Vol: 27 Issue: 226 Pages: 8 Price: 30 Saturday August 22 2026

PM Vows Equitable Balochistan Development, Calls for Dialogue

Pakistan, UAE Explore Stronger Cooperation on Child Protection and Welfare



CDF says Balochistan, Pakistan share ‘one and forever’ future



Staff Report

Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Field Marshal Asim Munir, said the present and future of Balochistan and Pakistan are “one and forever”, stressing that enduring peace and stability are fundamental to unlocking the province’s economic potential, the military’s media wing said on Friday.

According to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), during an interaction with notables and political leadership of Balochistan, CDF Munir highlighted the province’s “talented, resilient, patriotic and proud people”.

“Clear national narrative and lasting peace and stability were essential for

attracting investment and translating Balochistan’s abundant human and natural resources into tangible prosperity for its people,” he said.

The field marshal said there was no dearth of talent or opportunities among the province’s youth, describing them as “the most vibrant and promising segment of our society”.

“He emphasised that empowering the youth and providing them opportunities to contribute to national progress remains central to sustainable development,” the statement added.

The statement further added that CDF Munir said Fitna al Khawarij and Fitna al Hindustan were foreign-sponsored proxies being employed by hostile elements to

destabilise Balochistan, obstruct its development and create a wedge between the state and its people.

The federal government last year officially designated all terrorist groups operating in Balochistan as ‘Fitna al-Hindustan’, accusing India of sponsoring a proxy war through these outfits. Fitna al-Khawarij is the state-designated term for the banned outfit Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). He reiterated that such “inimical designs” would be defeated through the collective resolve of the nation and an “unwavering, resolute and decisive response” by the state, ISPR said. Field Marshal Munir also appreciated the role of Balochistan’s notables and society leaders in promot-

ing peace, strengthening social cohesion and advancing constructive national discourse. The ISPR also added that he stressed the need to “holistically and without hesitation” counter hostile propaganda, expose false narratives and project the true potential, progress and aspirations of Balochistan and its people.

“The destiny of Balochistan rests only in the hands of the people of Balochistan,” CDF Munir said. “The notables and participants reaffirmed their commitment to peace, development and prosperity in Balochistan and Pakistan. They resolved to stand “shoulder to shoulder” with the state and armed forces against all foreign-sponsored threats to peace and stability,” the statement added.

Pakistan reiterates resolve to combat terrorism, calls for global support to victims

APP- ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday reiterated its unwavering resolve to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, saying the country had rendered unprecedented sacrifices in blood and treasure in the fight against the global menace. In a statement issued by the Foreign Office on the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, Pakistan said more than 90,000 Pakistanis had lost their lives while the country had suffered economic losses exceeding US\$150 billion in the ongoing fight against terrorism. “Pakistan joins nations across the world in observing the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism,” the statement said, adding that the day provided an opportunity not only to commemorate the victims but also to reflect on the sacrifices of their families and renew the resolve for continued vigilance against terrorism. The statement added that terrorism had become increasingly multi-faceted, with terrorists using emerging technologies and cyberspace to expand their outreach and facilitate increasingly sophisticated and lethal attacks. It said Pakistan was also a victim of disinformation and misinformation campaigns, hydro-terrorism and extraterritorial assassination campaigns. “2025 has been among the deadliest Pakistan has faced over a decade,” the statement said, adding that the rising toll reflected a pattern of violence planned, financed and directed from sanctuaries across the border, often with the alleged support of hostile elements from neighboring countries. It said the attacks targeted worshippers, children, women and security personnel without distinction. Despite these challenges, Pakistan remained unflinching in its resolve, and unwavering in its commitment to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, the statement added. On the occasion, Pakistan also paid tribute to and expressed solidarity with the people of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), who continued to face systemic state repression, including draconian laws, enforced disappearances and arbitrary detention.



PM Vows Equitable Balochistan Development, Calls for Dialogue

APP- ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif stated on Friday that the federal government is committed to ensuring Balochistan’s equitable development and prosperity, emphasizing that the province’s legitimate grievances should be addressed through dialogue and mutual consultation rather than violence.

Addressing a question-and-answer session with participants of the Balochistan National Workshop, the prime minister said Balochistan was endowed with vast mineral and natural resources, but their development required investment, expertise, resources and collaboration between the province and the federation.

He stated that the natural resources of Balochistan primarily belong to its people and should be developed in a manner that enables them to benefit first, followed by the rest of the people of Pakistan.

The prime minister said Balochistan’s vast geographical area and the long distances between its population centres presented genuine challenges in providing roads, education, healthcare and other facilities, requiring a fair distribution of available resources.

He recalled Balochistan’s historic decision to join Pakistan, saying the province’s accession was based on conviction and voluntary choice. He said the historical record also carried lessons about resolving differences



through mutual consultation and dialogue.

PM Shehbaz said it was “never too late” to address outstanding issues and called for a grand, frank and meaningful dialogue in which all legitimate concerns could be brought to the table.

He categorically rejected violence and the targeting of innocent people in the name of grievances, saying workers, teachers, engineers and other people contributing to Balochistan’s development could not be made victims of terrorism. Referring specifically to the Karachi-Chaman N-25 project, the prime minister said the federal government had allocated Rs415 billion to transform the road, described as a “khooni sarak”, into a road of peace and development. He said the decision had been taken after consultation with Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and the federal government had retained the provincial share from the reduction in petroleum prices to finance the project. The prime minister said work on the project had already commenced, but warned that terrorism remained a major impediment to infrastructure development. “If Rs200 billion or Rs300 billion are provided, but terrorists continue killing people day and night, not even an inch of road can be constructed,” he said, stressing that development and security must move forward together.



Minister of Home Affairs of Malaysia, Dato' Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail, calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the Prime Minister House.

Security forces kill 49 khwarij in IBOs in KPK, Balochistan:ISPR

APP- RAWALPINDI: Security Forces have killed 49 khwarij terrorists belonging to Indian Proxies Fitna Al Khwarij and Fitna Al Hindustan in series of high tempo joint intelligence operations (IBOs) in various parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces in last few days.

“These operations have yielded major successes, inflicting significant blows to the terrorist networks, killing forty nine terrorists/ Khwarij and effectively thwarting any

attempt to undermine peace and stability,” said a news release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR). In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 12 khwarij belonging to Indian sponsored Fitna Al Khwarij were sent to hell in multiple high tempo intelligence based operations in Bannu, North Waziristan, Orakzai and Khyber Districts. During these operations, a large quantity of explosive, IED detonating remotes, weapons, ammunition and motor cycles were recovered and destroyed, it said.

In Balochistan, 37 terrorists belonging to Indian Sponsored Fitna Al Hindustan were effectively neutralised in ten intelligence based operations in Mastung, Mach, Khuzdar and Panjgur Districts. A significant quantity of weapons, explosive drums and remote detonation equipment were seized and destroyed.

“The Security Forces of Pakistan remain resolute and unwavering in their commitment to defend the nation’s frontiers.



Hon'ble Mr. Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi takes oath as Acting Chief Justice of the Federal Constitutional Court of Pakistan, ensuring continuity in the Court’s judicial and administrative functions and the uninterrupted dispensation of constitutional justice.

CJP Engages Probationary Officers on Governance and Public Service

APP- ISLAMABAD: As part of their mandatory exposure visits to State institutions, a delegation of Probationary Officers undergoing the 54th Common Training Programme (CTP) at the Civil Services Academy (CSA), Lahore, called on the Chief Justice of Pakistan at the Supreme Court Friday. The delegation was led by Farhan Aziz Khawaja, Director General, CSA, and accompanied by faculty members.

During an interactive session, the Chief Justice highlighted the salient features of parliamentary democracy and the trichotomy of powers, explaining the complementary roles of the Legislature, Executive and Judiciary in upholding constitutional governance and the rule of law. His Lordship also apprised the probationary officers of the various tiers of the judicial hierarchy and explained the respective jurisdictions of the various courts.

Practical steps are essential to increase the capacity of journalists, Syeda Amna Batool

Islamabad (Staff Report)

With the mutual cooperation of the National Press Club Islamabad and the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC), a meeting of the Qualification Development Committee was held to grant the status of an institute to the National Press Club, in which the syllabus of five courses - Digital Media, Storytelling, Cameraman, Content Creation and Journalism VAI courses - was finalized. In this regard, the closing ceremony was held at the National Press Club Islamabad, with the special guest being Member of the National Assembly and Focal Person of the Prime Minister's Youth Program Syeda Amna Batool. The closing ceremony was attended by President National Press Club Abdul Razak Sial, Secretary Dr. Furqan Rao, Director General NAVTTTC Dr. Muhammad Ishaq, Senior Program Officer of the International Labor Organization (ILO) Syed Saghir Bukhari, journalists, experts, trainers and other distinguished personalities participating in the training program. Speaking on the occasion, the guest Special Member National Assembly Syeda Amna Batool said that in the present era, the field of journalism is changing rapidly and it has become indispensable for journalists to acquire expertise in modern technology, digital media, artificial intelligence, research, fact-checking and digital journalism, among other fields. She appreciated this joint initiative of the National Press Club and NAVTTTC and said that training journalists according to modern requirements is the need of the hour. Such training programs provide journalists with the necessary knowledge and practical skills to deal with the changing media landscape, modern technology and professional challenges. Syeda Amna Batool said that journalists convey our voice to the world and have a very important role in shap-



ing public opinion. Training and enhancing the capacity of journalists is very important for the improvement of the journalism sector in the country. He said that the government is taking various steps to provide modern skills and training to the youth and professionals and professional training of journalists is also an important link in this chain. He welcomed the program organized in collaboration with the National Press Club and NAVTTTC and said that providing training to journalists according to the requirements of the modern era will further improve the quality of the media and journalists will be able to use modern technology and media more effectively. Addressing the ceremony, President National Press Club Abdul Razak Sial said that along with the welfare of journalists, the National Press Club is also taking practical steps to enhance their professional and technical capabilities. Increasing the professional capabilities of journalists not only improves their individual capabilities but as a result, provision of quality, responsible and authentic information to the public can also be ensured. Continuous training of journalists is the need of the hour and such programs will be continued in the future as well. Secretary National Press Club Dr. Furqan Rao said that now the National Press Club will function as an institution. We are trying to Give training to your jour-

nalists members around, there will be a three-month course, today is the era of AI for which we have to work on improving the financial conditions of our journalist friends, after receiving such training, journalists can improve their financial conditions, work is underway on the promises we made in our manifesto, biometrics are being done for the first time, the website of the Press Club has been created, a digital lab will be created, the Minister of Information should quickly implement his promise, a month-long training of journalists has been conducted earlier and this series will continue in the future too, if we get the opportunity again in the future, we will make the Press Club a professional institution, which will be authoritative at the national and international levels, at the end of the ceremony, the chief guest Syeda Amna Batool distributed certificates among the journalists who successfully participated in the five-day program. The participants appreciated the efforts of the National Press Club and NAVTTTC, describing the program as useful for enhancing journalistic skills and adapting to modern requirements. At the closing ceremony, the program organizers, experts, trainers, and participants expressed their determination to continue organizing such programs in the future to enhance the professional training and capacity of journalists.

Rawalpindi CPO Reviews Eid Milad Security, Traffic Arrangements

Staff Report

RAWALPINDI: CPO Hassan Mushtaq Sukhera visited different areas of the city regarding Eid Milad-un-Nabi, CPO visited the route of the procession and reviewed the security arrangements, CPO gave instructions to SSP Operations and other senior officers regarding the best security arrangements, CPO also met the office bearers of the Peace Committee and discussed the security and traffic arrangements, foolproof security and traffic arrangements will be ensured on the occasion of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (peace be upon him), best arrangements will be made for the procession through full coordination with the district administration, CPO Hassan Mushtaq Sukhera According to the details, CPO Hassan Mushtaq Sukhera visited different areas of the city regarding Eid Milad-un-Nabi. The CPO visited the procession route and reviewed the secu-



urity arrangements. The CPO gave instructions to the SSP Operations and other senior officers regarding the best security arrangements. The CPO also met the office bearers of the Peace Committee and discussed the security and traffic arrangements. CPO Hassan Mushtaq

Sukhera said that foolproof security and traffic arrangements will be ensured on the occasion of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (peace be upon him). The best arrangements will be made for the procession through full coordination with the district administration.



A vendor displays handmade wooden bird nests to attract the customers at outside their plants nursery.

Literary ceremony held to honour Dr Inam-ul-Haq Javed

APP- ISLAMABAD: A ceremony was held at the Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) on Friday, to honour renowned poet, scholar, educationist and humorist Professor Dr Inam-ul-Haq Javed for his Kuliyat-e-Mazahiya Shayari (Collected Humorous Poetry).

The event was organized by Bazm-e-Adab Islamabad in collaboration with the Pakistan Academy of Letters and was attended by a large number of writers, poets, intellectuals and literary figures. Federal Minister Aurangzeb Khan Khichi who was the chief guest said poets and writers played an important role in the intellectual and cultural development of society. He said literary activities promoted the concept of "literature for life" and contributed to the betterment of society.

He congratulated Dr Inam-ul-Haq Javed on the publication of his collected works and appreciated Bazm-e-Adab Islamabad and the Pakistan Academy of Letters for organizing the ceremony. Former Inspector General of Police Zulfiqar Ahmed Cheema, the guest of honour described Dr



Javed as a distinguished and courteous humorist. He said Dr Javed's poetry reflected diversity, satire and keen observation of society. He also praised his administrative abilities.

Syed Tahir Shahbaz said a book reflected the personality of its author. He described Dr Javed's nine-book collection as a "rainbow of nine colours" and highlighted his professional and literary journey.

Chairperson Pakistan Academy of

Letters Professor Dr Najiba Arif congratulated Dr Javed and said genuine humour could only be produced by a poet who understood the pain and difficulties of society. She said his poetry combined humour with social awareness and human feelings.

Dr Arshad Mahmood Nashad said humour was a way of dealing with the difficulties of life. He said Dr Javed's poetry was based on his deep understanding of life and wide social observation.

Gujranwala (FIR Report) according to the details:

In compliance with the directions of the Deputy Commissioner, Gujranwala, Additional AC Sadar madam saima khan inspected Main Bazaar QDS to review the desilting of open drains.

Suthra Punjab was directed to ensure the immediate lifting and disposal of the desilted material to keep the main procession route clear ahead of the 12 Rabi-ul-Awwal procession. The display of government-notified rate lists at shops was also checked during the inspection.



Gujranwala (FIR Report) according to the details :

In compliance with the directions of the Deputy Commissioner, Gujranwala, AC City mr, Ashar jamil khan visited the Rabi-ul-Awwal (S.A.W.) procession route along with the organizers, Pir Rafique Ahmad Mujadadi and Saeed Ahmad Siddiqi, Member District Peace Committee. During the inspection, cleanliness arrangements were found satisfactory and white chalking had been completed along the procession route. Identified water-ponding points near the MC Office, Nigar Chowk, and Sheikhpura Mor were referred to WASA for clearance before the procession reaches these locations.



Gujranwala (Beauru Report) On the directions of the Deputy Commissioner, Gujranwala, ADC Social Services conducted a meeting to address complaints regarding overcharging of parking fees at Gujranwala Teaching Hospital (DHQ Hospital) and other government hospitals across District Gujranwala, Wazirabad. The issue was reviewed in detail, and necessary directions were issued to ensure compliance with the approved parking fee rates and to prevent overcharging. Govt of Punjab Commissioner Gujranwala, Division, Gujranwala DHA Health Gujranwala



(*Umar Virk, who was arrested red-handed for taking bribes in Gujranwala Duplicate Branch, was reinstated in the Duplicate Branch, Sahat Amit Khan for Dahitya Commissioner Gujranwala Naveed Ahmed,*)



Gujranwala (Bureau Report)

According to the details, Umar Virk, who was arrested a long time ago by Aunty Corruption red-handed for accepting a bribe of 20,000 in the copy branch, has been reinstated by being put in charge of the same copy branch. As if he had fixed the date of

delivery. And he deliberately says that he will not copy without money, who has removed what he wants to remove. And regularly says that the senior officers posted in the DC office for a long time have a hand over me, the demand of the people from the higher officers is beyond comprehension to restore such a high-ranking

person to the same place where he was arrested red-handed by the Anti-Krahsan while taking bribe. To be in charge of Umar Virk again in Naqul branch is a serious violation of Silen, it will be justice to dismiss such a person from the job. Deputy Commissioner Gujranwala should take immediate notice.



تفصیلات کے مطابق انسپکٹر جنرل آف پولیس اسلام آباد سید علی ناصر رضوی کے خصوصی احکامات کی روشنی میں ایس ایس پی آپریشنز اسلام آباد قاضی علی رضا نے اوپن ڈور پولیس کے تحت شہریوں کے مسائل کی فوری دادرسی کو یقینی بنانے کیلئے اپنے دفتر میں کھلی کچہری کا انعقاد کیا۔ کھلی کچہری میں شہریوں نے اپنے مسائل کے حل کے لئے اپنی شکایات پیش کیں۔ ایس ایس پی آپریشنز اسلام آباد نے شہریوں کے مسائل سننے اور ان کے فوری حل کے لئے متعلقہ افسران کو مارک شدہ درخواستوں پر دینے کے وقت میں قانونی کارروائی کر کے رپورٹ پیش کرنے کے احکامات جاری کئے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ اسلام آباد پولیس خواہ مخواہ اپنی پورے پورے شہر سے زبردستی پولیس پالیسی پر عمل پیرا ہے۔ شہریوں کو ہر ممکن ریلیف دینا کرنا اولین ترجیح ہے۔ قانون کی بالادستی کو ہر صورت یقینی بنایا جائے گا۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ ہر شہری کو سماجی حقوق حاصل ہیں۔ تمام درخواستوں پر میرٹ پر فیصلے کے جائیں گے۔ شہریوں کی جان، مال اور عزت نفس کا تحفظ مقدم ہے۔

انسپکٹر جنرل آف پولیس اسلام آباد سید علی ناصر رضوی کے خصوصی احکامات کی روشنی میں ایس ایس پی آپریشنز اسلام آباد قاضی علی رضا نے نماز جمعہ کے موقع پر فیصل مسجد اور جی سکس امام بارگاہ کا دورہ کیا۔ انہوں نے ڈیوٹی پر تعینات پولیس افسران سے ملاقات کی اور انہیں اپنے فرائض مستعدی اور انتہائی پیکس ہو کر سرانجام دینے کی ہدایت کی۔ انہوں نے افسران کو احکامات جاری کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ وہ ڈیوٹی کے دوران مشکوک عناصر اور جرائم پیشہ عناصر کے خلاف بھرپور کریک ڈاون عمل میں لائیں۔ تمام افسران جرائم کی پیشانی کے لئے اپنی ڈیوٹی ایجا ندری اور دیانتداری سے ادا کریں۔ ہم سب اس شہر اور اس کے باشندوں کی جان و مال کی حفاظت کو یقین بنائیں گے۔ تمام افسران دوران چیکنگ شہریوں کے ساتھ حسن اخلاق سے پیش آئیں۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ ہم شہریوں کو تحفظ کا احساس دلانا ہے۔ شہریوں کی جان و مال کی حفاظت اور جرائم کنٹرول کرنا ہمارا اولین مقصد ہے۔ شہریوں سے گزارش ہے کہ وہ دوران چیکنگ پولیس افسران سے تعاون کریں۔

سپرنٹنڈنٹ آف پولیس انڈسٹریل ایریا زون خالد محمود اعوان کا آئی ٹائن سرکل کے افسران کے ساتھ انسداد جرائم کے حوالے سے اہم اجلاس منعقد ہوا، جس میں تمام آئی ٹائن اور تھانہ بڑی منڈی کے ایس ایچ او، خزانہ اور تفتیشی افسران نے شرکت کی۔ اجلاس کے دوران آئی ٹائن سرکل میں جرائم کی مجموعی صورتحال، مقدمات کی تفتیش، زیر تفتیش کیسز اور جرائم پیشہ عناصر کے خلاف جاری کارروائیوں کا تفصیلی جائزہ لیا گیا۔ ایس پی انڈسٹریل ایریا زون نے افسران کو ہدایت کی کہ جرائم کی روک تھام کے لیے فیملہ پولیسنگ کو مزید متحرک بنایا جائے اور جرائم پیشہ عناصر کے خلاف کارروائیوں میں تیزی لائی جائے۔ انہوں نے زیر تفتیش مقدمات کی میرٹ اور شواہد کی بنیاد پر موثر تفتیش کو یقینی بنانے اور انہیں جلد از جلد منطقی انجام تک پہنچانے کی ہدایت کی۔ انہوں نے مزید ہدایت کی کہ No to Weapon ہم کے تحت غیر قانونی اسلحہ رکھنے، اسلحہ کی نمائش اور ہوائی فائرنگ کے خلاف بلا امتیاز کارروائی عمل میں لائی جائے، جبکہ سابقہ ریکارڈ یافتہ، اشتہاری اور مطلوب ملزمان کی گرفتاری کے لیے موثر اقدامات کیے جائیں۔ ایس پی انڈسٹریل ایریا زون خالد محمود اعوان نے مزید کہا کہ شہریوں کو بروقت ریلیف اور انصاف کی فراہمی، ان کے مسائل کا فوری ازالہ اور پولیس سروسز کے معیار میں بہتری کو ہر صورت یقینی بنایا جائے۔ انہوں نے واضح کیا کہ شہریوں کے جان و مال کا تحفظ اور موثر پولیسنگ اسلام آباد پولیس کی اولین ترجیح ہے۔

انسپکٹر جنرل آف پولیس اسلام آباد سید علی ناصر رضوی کے خصوصی احکامات کی روشنی میں ایس ایس پی آپریشنز اسلام آباد قاضی علی رضا نے نماز جمعہ کے موقع پر فیصل مسجد اور جی سکس امام بارگاہ کا دورہ کیا۔ انہوں نے ڈیوٹی پر تعینات پولیس افسران سے ملاقات کی اور انہیں اپنے فرائض مستعدی اور انتہائی پیکس ہو کر سرانجام دینے کی ہدایت کی۔ انہوں نے افسران کو احکامات جاری کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ وہ ڈیوٹی کے دوران مشکوک عناصر اور جرائم پیشہ عناصر کے خلاف بھرپور کریک ڈاون عمل میں لائیں۔ تمام افسران جرائم کی پیشانی کے لئے اپنی ڈیوٹی ایجا ندری اور دیانتداری سے ادا کریں۔ ہم سب اس شہر اور اس کے باشندوں کی جان و مال کی حفاظت کو یقین بنائیں گے۔ تمام افسران دوران چیکنگ شہریوں کے ساتھ حسن اخلاق سے پیش آئیں۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ ہم شہریوں کو تحفظ کا احساس دلانا ہے۔ شہریوں کی جان و مال کی حفاظت اور جرائم کنٹرول کرنا ہمارا اولین مقصد ہے۔ شہریوں سے گزارش ہے کہ وہ دوران چیکنگ پولیس افسران سے تعاون کریں۔

اسلام آباد پولیس عوام کی خدمت کے مشن پر گامزن

ایس ایس پی آپریشنز اسلام آباد قاضی علی رضا کا اوپن ڈور پالیسی کے تحت شہریوں کے مسائل کے فوری حل کے لئے کھلی کچہری کا انعقاد۔ شہریوں کی شکایات سن کر متعلقہ افسران کو فوری حل کے احکامات جاری کئے

ایس ایس پی آپریشنز اسلام آباد قاضی علی رضا کا نماز جمعہ کے موقع پر فیصل مسجد اور جی سکس امام بارگاہ کا دورہ

ایس ایس پی آپریشنز اسلام آباد نے ڈیوٹی پر موجود پولیس افسران کو مستعدی سے اپنے فرائض سرانجام دینے کی ہدایات جاری کیں، مشکوک عناصر اور جرائم پیشہ عناصر کے خلاف بھرپور کریک ڈاون کے احکامات جاری کئے

ایس پی انڈسٹریل ایریا زون خالد محمود اعوان کا آئی ٹائن سرکل کے افسران کے ساتھ انسداد جرائم کے حوالے سے اہم اجلاس

جرائم کی روک تھام، مقدمات کی موثر تفتیش، اشتہاری و سابقہ ریکارڈ یافتہ ملزمان کے خلاف کارروائی اور غیر قانونی اسلحہ کے خلاف کریک ڈاون مزید تیز کرنے کی ہدایت

اسلام آباد پولیس کے افسران و جوانوں کی استعداد کار اور ذہنی صلاحیتوں میں بہتری کے لیے سائیکولوجیکل ٹیسٹ کا سلسلہ جاری

سائیکولوجیکل ٹیسٹ کے ذریعے افسران و جوانوں کی ذہنی صلاحیتوں، پیشہ ورانہ رویوں، دباو میں کام کرنے اور مختلف صورتحال میں بروقت و موثر فیصلہ سازی کی صلاحیتوں کا جائزہ لیا جا رہا ہے



اطلاع دیں تاکہ پولیس اور عوام کے باہمی تعاون میں شہر کو جرائم سے پاک کیا جاسکے۔ انسپکٹر جنرل آف پولیس اسلام آباد سید علی ناصر رضوی کے خصوصی احکامات کی روشنی میں اسلام آباد پولیس کا وفاقی دارالحکومت میں جرائم کے انسداد اور جرائم پیشہ عناصر کی سرکوبی کیلئے مختلف علاقوں میں گریز کوٹنگ ایجنٹز آپریشنز جاری ہے۔ اس کے سربج آپریشنز اسلام آباد قاضی علی رضا کا علاقوں میں گریز سرچ اور کوٹنگ آپریشنز کے سربج آپریشنز کے دوران 387 افراد، 136 گھروں، 31 دکانیں، چار ہتھیاروں، 180 موٹر سائیکلوں اور 61 گاڑیوں کو چیک کیا گیا جبکہ چانچ پڑا ہل کیلئے چار مشکوک افراد اور 16 موٹر سائیکلوں کو مختلف تھانہ جات منتقل بھی کیا گیا۔ ایس ایس پی آپریشنز اسلام آباد قاضی علی رضا کا علاقوں میں گریز سرچ اور کوٹنگ آپریشنز کے سربج آپریشنز کے دوران 387 افراد، 136 گھروں، 31 دکانیں، چار ہتھیاروں، 180 موٹر سائیکلوں اور 61 گاڑیوں کو چیک کیا گیا جبکہ چانچ پڑا ہل کیلئے چار مشکوک افراد اور 16 موٹر سائیکلوں کو مختلف تھانہ جات منتقل بھی کیا گیا۔ ایس ایس پی آپریشنز اسلام آباد قاضی علی رضا کا علاقوں میں گریز سرچ اور کوٹنگ آپریشنز کے سربج آپریشنز کے دوران 387 افراد، 136 گھروں، 31 دکانیں، چار ہتھیاروں، 180 موٹر سائیکلوں اور 61 گاڑیوں کو چیک کیا گیا جبکہ چانچ پڑا ہل کیلئے چار مشکوک افراد اور 16 موٹر سائیکلوں کو مختلف تھانہ جات منتقل بھی کیا گیا۔

مصرف عمل ہے۔ اسلام آباد پولیس کی No Weapon ہم کے تحت غیر قانونی اسلحہ رکھنے، اسلحہ کی نمائش اور ہوائی فائرنگ کے خلاف بھرپور کارروائیاں کرنے، سابقہ ریکارڈ یافتہ اشتہاری مجرمان کی گرفتاری اور شہریوں کو فوری انصاف کی فراہمی کے لئے بھرپور اقدامات کئے جارہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے شہریوں سے گزارش کی کہ وہ کسی بھی مشکوک سرگرمی کے متعلق متعلقہ تھانہ یا ایئرڈیویزیون یا ایئرڈیویزیون کے ذریعے اطلاع دیں۔

عدد پستول معہ ایندھن برآمد کئے گئے۔ گرفتار ملزمان کے خلاف مقدمات درج کر کے مزید تفتیش جاری ہے جبکہ مجرمان اشتہاری، سابقہ ریکارڈ یافتہ اور مغضوبان کی گرفتاری کیلئے چلائی جانے والی خصوصی ہم کے دوران 32 مجرمان کی گرفتاری عمل میں لائی گئی۔ ایس ایس پی آپریشنز اسلام آباد قاضی علی رضا نے کہا کہ اسلام آباد پولیس وفاقی دارالحکومت میں شہریوں کی جان و مال کے تحفظ کو یقینی بنانے کیلئے ہمہ وقت

علی ناصر رضوی کے خصوصی احکامات پر اسلام آباد پولیس کا وفاقی دارالحکومت میں شہریوں کی جان و مال کے تحفظ کو یقینی بنانے کیلئے جرائم کے انسداد اور جرائم پیشہ عناصر کی سرکوبی کے لئے مزید کریک ڈاون جاری ہے۔ اس سلسلے میں اسلام آباد پولیس ٹیموں نے منشیات فروش اور غیر قانونی اسلحہ رکھنے میں ملوث 25 ملزمان کو گرفتار کر لیا۔ گرفتار ملزمان کے قبضہ سے 485.2 گرام آئس، 530 گرام چرس، 10 بولٹ شراپ اور مختلف بور کے 14

بہتری، کارکردگی کے معیار کو بلند کرنے اور ان کی استعداد کار میں اضافے کے لیے ضروری اقدامات کیے جارہے ہیں۔ اسلام آباد پولیس کی جانب سے فوس کی پیشہ ورانہ صلاحیتوں کو فروغ دینے، ذہنی و عملی استعداد کار بڑھانے اور جدید پولیسنگ کے تقاضوں سے ہم آہنگ کرنے کے لیے مختلف تربیتی، فلاحی اور پیشہ ورانہ اقدامات کا سلسلہ بھی جاری ہے۔

انسپکٹر جنرل آف پولیس اسلام آباد سید

Starmer has chance to right a historical wrong

CHRIS DOYLE

Feverish debate over recent months has centered on whether the UK and France will recognize the state of Palestine. French President Emmanuel Macron said in February that recognition was “not a taboo.” France and Saudi Arabia were due to hold a conference on the two-state solution in New York in June, but it was delayed by Israel’s aggression against Iran. Instead, it is being held this week. But the UK’s position has been far from clear? Will Prime Minister Keir Starmer agree to join in or will he delay?

No country in the world has more of a history of grappling with the issue of Palestine than Britain. It was, after all, the author of the 1917 Balfour Declaration, in which it pledged support for a Jewish homeland in Palestine. It did not mention a second state in that declaration. London had to grapple with this as the mandatory power all the way up to 1947, when it handed the issue over to the newly formed UN to resolve. In November of that year, the UN General Assembly voted for partition. The UK abstained on that resolution.

However, its exit from Palestine was one of the low points of its Middle Eastern colonial era. It made little or no attempt to thwart the war that started even before its troops had left.

Palestinians argue that, given all this, Britain has a particular historic responsibility toward Palestine. It should, many argue, be in the vanguard of pushing for the creation of that second state.

It was not until the Venice Declaration of 1980 that European powers including the UK committed to acknowledging the Palestinian right to self-government. Even after that, it was many years before Britain had any formal relationship with the Palestine Liberation Organization as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Successive governments acted merely as backing vocalists to the US position on most aspects of the Palestinian question.

With the Oslo Accords of 1993, the expectation that a peace process would lead to a Palestinian state grew. Britain and other donor states invested heavily in this option and aid to the fledgling Palestinian Authority

grew as a result. It was all under the rubric that this would lead to a two-state solution, a secure Israel side by side with a state of Palestine based on the 1967 borders.

The Palestinian leadership shifted its strategy after the Second Intifada to pushing for recognition. The UNGA approved the de facto recognition of the sovereign state of Palestine in 2012 and the state of Palestine also started applying for membership of international institutions, including the International Criminal Court.

In 2014, the UK government’s position was outlined by then-Foreign Secretary William Hague, who said that London “reserves the right to recognize a Palestinian state bilaterally at the moment of our choosing and when it can best help bring about peace.”

On Oct. 13, 2014, a debate took place in the House of Commons with a votable motion: “That this House believes that the government should recognize the state of Palestine alongside the state of Israel.” The result of the vote was 274 to 12, a majority of 262 in favor of recognition. This was not binding on the government of the time but was a clear signal of

parliamentary opinion. The low number of opponents to the motion indicated that few politicians were willing to oppose it in public.

Significantly, this motion was backed by the leader of the Labour Party at the time, Ed Miliband. He said that recognition was “right, just, fair and in line with the values” of his party. This tied Labour to supporting recognition. Contrary to widespread belief, it was not his pro-Palestinian successor, Jeremy Corbyn, who first made this move.

Keir Starmer inherited this stance when he became Labour leader after the election defeat in 2019. But he made a significant change in Labour’s position prior to the 2024 election. The manifesto committed the party to recognizing a Palestinian state, but only as part of a peace process. It stated: “We are committed to recognizing a Palestinian state as a contribution to a renewed peace process which results in a two-state solution with a safe and secure Israel alongside a viable and sovereign Palestinian state.” The lack of clarity was deliberate. The decision on timing would be in the hands of the prime minister.

Debate endured as to whether these posi-

tions meant that Israel had veto power. Linking recognition to the state of a peace process, when the official Israel government policy was not to enter into negotiations, meant this was, in effect, exactly the case.

Everything changed after Oct. 7, 2023. As Israel’s genocide has progressed, pressure has grown on European governments, including the UK, to get tough with Tel Aviv. This has included a drive to recognize Palestine. In May 2024, Ireland, Norway and Spain recognized Palestine. Israel withdrew its ambassadors from those states. Larger European states such as the UK rejected the opportunity to join this move. This brings us to the present. Faced with Macron’s announcement that France will recognize a Palestinian state in September, the focus returns to Starmer. He is facing considerable pressure to make the move immediately. Cabinet ministers are reported to have lobbied Starmer on recognition. They include Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner and Home Secretary Yvette Cooper. Foreign Secretary David Lammy is also likely to have been backing this move.

—Arab News

Expo memoir highlights Dubai’s legacy of innovation

CHARLES PAPPAS

When Dubai hosted Expo 2020, it became the first country in the Middle East and North Africa region to hold the event, redefining the possibilities of a World Expo. Historically, these global gatherings, stretching back to 1851, have been dynamic showcases of experimental architecture, international collaboration and technological advancement. Yet, for almost two centuries, women were largely absent from their production and focus.

Dubai notably changed this narrative, largely due to the formidable leadership detailed in “When Ground Shifts,” the insightful new book by Reem Al-Hashimy, the UAE minister of state for international cooperation and the visionary behind Expo 2020. As Expo 2025 Osaka passes its halfway point, it continues to build on this rich history, while the anticipation for Expo 2030 Riyadh further underscores the region’s commitment to this global platform for innovation and collaboration.

Al-Hashimy’s book is far from a mere chronicle of milestones; it is a candid, first-hand account of the immense personal and international challenges she navigated — from being appointed a minister at 29 to delivering Dubai’s final presentation in Paris while heavily pregnant and repeating her mantra of “hope is not a method.” The anecdotes reveal the tireless effort required to deliver a World Expo.

Her book illuminates the relentless dedication that transformed a patch of untouched desert into a showplace for more than 190 countries and 24 million visitors. Expo 2020 visitors were captivated by the falcon-like UAE Pavilion; the majestic “energy trees” surrounding Terra — The Sustainability Pavilion; and the immense Al-Wasl Plaza, the planet’s largest 360-degree projection surface. Significantly, they were moved by the Women’s Pavilion, inspired in part by a vintage Cartier bracelet. Her expo understood style as much as it did substance. Having had the privilege of witnessing Expo 2020 as a writer, a speaker for the US pavilion and as a member of the fair’s Visitor Experience department, what I saw, and what Al-Hashimy’s book powerfully conveys, is that a grand undertaking thrives from the top down.

The meticulous attention to detail, the open-minded willingness to seek expertise from every corner of the globe, the pervasive feeling that everyone involved could contribute something, and the daring that was not just tolerated but actively sought all flowed from Al-Hashimy and the cast of

several thousand characters she assembled like a Marvel superhero team. Her profound understanding of what she calls “barakah” — the ability to find those who can ease your burdens and solve your problems — is a core theme in “When Ground Shifts,” and it was palpable on the ground. “Inspiration is a guest that does not willingly visit the lazy,” Tchaikovsky said. The Expo 2020 site went from zero to a fully realized 4 sq. km city with mind-bending speed. Each problem was a domino falling to her steady, relentless effort. Perhaps no obstacle was greater than the COVID-19 pandemic. While the 1873 Vienna World’s Fair saw a cholera epidemic slash its expected turnout, Expo 2020 came within a hair’s breadth of meeting its goal of attracting 25 million visitors, despite a year-long delay due to the lockdowns. Drawing the largest number of countries ever for a World Expo, the event was cosmopolitan yet grounded in the Middle East. Indigenous gha and palm trees provided shade, while dozens of calligraphy benches, which resembled abstract art but spelled out words in Arabic like “vision,” “dignity,” “hope” and “dream,” offered respite from the 20,000 or so steps visitors would easily rack up in a day. These details, far from mere decorative elements, were integral to the event’s cultural tapestry.

“When Ground Shifts” could easily have been a dull humblebrag. Instead, it is alive with grace and pride. The self-described “little on the nerdy side” student who found deep meaning in the Lincoln Memorial and the American experiment built an expo where, for the first time, every country had its own pavilion. She also built Expo Live, which channeled \$100 million to pioneering social projects that embodied the expo themes of mobility, opportunity and sustainability. This commitment to equitable participation and impactful legacy is a cornerstone of the book’s message.

Until 1970, most world expos were held in cities such as London, Paris, Philadelphia, Chicago and New York. But with Expo ’70 in Osaka, Japan, world’s fairs began trending toward non-Western locations, realizing their singular soft power. Expo 2020 propelled the UAE onto a world stage and into the top 10 countries in the Brand Finance Global Soft Power Index 2023. It was a nation’s coming of age on the global stage.

All of that is an astonishing heritage. As the spotlight shifts to Expo 2025 Osaka and continues with significant anticipation for Expo 2030 Riyadh, that spirit of global collaboration and innovation remains a powerful guiding force.

—Arab News



Gaza famine a death sentence delivered by global inaction

HANI HAZAIMEH

Famine in Gaza is no longer a speculative threat, nor is it merely a rhetorical tool to shame the international community into action. It is now a brutal, undeniable fact. The situation has evolved from a humanitarian crisis into a full-blown catastrophe and the numbers speak for themselves. According to the UN, 96 percent of Gaza’s population faces acute food insecurity. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification warns that at least 500,000 people are living under “catastrophic” conditions — one step before mass starvation.

These are not projections. They are the present realities. Gaza, already strangled by an 18-year blockade, is now walking barefoot into famine under the shadow of total siege and relentless bombardment. The current Israeli assault, which began in October 2023, has not only flattened entire neighborhoods and displaced more than 1.7 million people, it has also systematically targeted the infrastructure that makes survival possible: bakeries, food distribution centers, water facilities and even the UNRWA aid warehouses that once formed the backbone of humanitarian relief.

Hospitals are collapsing. Children are dying — not only from bombs, but from hunger. Videos and photographs released by health workers in Khan Younis and northern Gaza show toddlers with protruding ribs, skeletal arms and lifeless eyes. Mothers have been filmed weeping as they try to feed their children with boiled grass and stale bread mixed with animal feed. These are not isolated cases — they are the norm in a place where malnutrition is spreading faster than any ceasefire can catch up. In previous conflicts, Gaza’s suffering was often buried under the weight of geopolitical calculations and narratives of moral equivalence. This time, the truth has become too grotesque to ignore. The UN has repeatedly stated that Gaza is on the brink of famine. In June, the World Food Programme declared that 100 percent of Gaza’s population is “food insecure” — a statistic unprecedented in modern times. In March, famine was declared in northern Gaza by multiple humanitarian agencies, citing more than 30 children dying of starvation in just two hospitals. The rest of the deaths go undocumented, with bodies buried under rubble or in makeshift graves. To continue treating Gaza’s starvation as a “pressure tactic” used by Palestinian officials or international nongovernmental organizations is to participate in a lie that masks a genocide in progress.

What we are witnessing is not a food crisis born of natural disaster or logistical failure. It is manufactured. It is the deliberate denial of food, water and medicine as a weapon of war — what international law classifies as collective punishment and, in some interpretations, genocide.

Let us call it what it is: engineered starvation. And it is working. The scenes unfolding in Gaza are reminiscent of the worst famines in modern history: Ethiopia in the 1980s, Sudan’s Darfur and the besieged cities of Syria. But there is one critical difference: never has the international community had such real-time access to the suffering — drone footage, eyewitness testimonies, satellite images — and still failed to meaningfully intervene. We cannot say we did not know. We know everything and yet we are doing nothing. Or worse — we are enabling.

The Biden administration continued to send military aid to Israel, including bombs and surveillance technologies, despite multiple reports from Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and even former UN officials calling for arms embargoes. European leaders offer lukewarm appeals for “humanitarian pauses” while failing to impose any meaningful consequences.

This is no longer about political alliances, strategic partnerships or counterterrorism narratives. Standing with Gaza is no longer a political choice or a symbolic gesture — it is an existential test of our humanity. In the face of children starving to death on live television, neutrality becomes complicity. Silence becomes endorsement.

What is more, supporting Gaza today is not a matter of political affiliation or ideological alignment. It is not reserved for Muslims, Arabs or left-leaning activists. It is a universal moral imperative. Every human being who still believes in dignity, in life, in the right of a child to eat and sleep safely, has a role to play. This is not about Hamas. This is about humanity. The flood has reached its limit. The time for cautious statements and deferred action is over. The international system, including the UN Security Council and major humanitarian agencies, is facing a crisis of legitimacy. If these bodies cannot prevent the slow death of an entire population by hunger, what are they for? What is the value of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights if it cannot be applied to Gaza? What purpose does international law serve if starvation tactics are used with impunity?

—Arab News

Europe can build its own social media

SEBASTIAN VOGELSANG

When I built my first website back in 1998, the internet felt expansive. You could publish something in Berlin and someone in Boston or Belgrade might stumble on it within seconds. But today, as a small number of tech monopolies Hoover up attention and strange innovation, that spirit of connection has been lost. Through their powerful platforms, social media giants control a large share of the digital world’s underlying architecture. Meta, which owns Facebook and Instagram, X and others operate as walled gardens and their algorithms discourage users from leaving by deprioritizing posts with outgoing links. People end up stuck on one platform, scrolling mindlessly — an outcome diametrically opposed to the early vision of the internet as a web of interlinked sites and communities.

Europe should recognize this for what it is: a systemic dependency that threatens the continent’s digital sovereignty. Just as the EU seeks to reduce its reliance on external providers for semiconductors, cloud computing and artificial intelligence, it must do the same for social media. The dominant platforms extract value from European users by capturing their attention and selling their data, while paying little in taxes and skirting regulations. Their proprietary infrastructure increasingly shapes our lives, from the news we see to the way we speak online.

While European policymakers have long expressed concern about the concentration of corporate power among the big social media companies, and their outsized influence on society and politics, last year’s US presidential election should be sounding alarm bells across the continent. Tech billionaire Elon Musk weaponized X, the platform formerly known as Twitter that he acquired in 2022, to help Donald Trump win reelection by promoting content favorable to him. He has since threatened to interfere in European elections.

One solution is to invest in EU-based

alternatives. But time and again, policymakers trot out the same excuse that there are no viable options. The European Commission’s new International Digital Strategy is likewise skeptical that the bloc can wean itself off Big Tech, instead calling for collaboration with the US to address its dependency.

But this stance ignores the emergence in recent years of social media sites built on decentralized, open protocols. These new platforms are fundamentally different, in principle and design, from American behemoths such as Instagram and X. They restore control to users, reduce gatekeeping and encourage innovation.

Perhaps the best example is the AT Protocol, which serves as the foundation for Bluesky, a fast-growing platform that has amassed almost 36 million users. Designed for interoperability, the AT Protocol allows users to own their data and control the algorithms that curate their feeds. Anyone can develop apps on the decentralized system — which means that no single company can dominate — and users can easily move between platforms, taking their followers and content with them. That means they never have to start over from scratch.

This dedication to pluralism helps break Big Tech’s monopoly power over social media, which has stifled European innovation for decades. Europe-based firms have already used the AT Protocol to create platforms such as SkyFeed and Grayscale.

Others are trying to protect and build out this social ecosystem free from Big Tech’s grip. The Free Our Feeds campaign is working to ensure that the underlying infrastructure continues to be governed in the public interest. Eurosky is a new pro bono effort by a group of European technologists, including myself, to create tools, such as built-in content moderation aligned with EU laws, and infrastructure on the AT Protocol that help European developers build and scale platforms that can rival the social media giants.

—Arab News

Letters to the Editor

Medical miscommunication

There is a huge problem that uneducated people are facing in private hospitals due to untrained doctors. Firstly, most people from the rural areas of Sindh and Balochistan are not educated and face language barriers. They are often misguided during doctor’s visits as they are unable to comprehend the doctor’s or medical staff’s instructions properly. When doctors prescribe them tests, they are further misguided by the staff meant to answer their questions. And when they do ask questions, the staff tends to misbehave. This even occurs at counters established for receiving test reports where the counter staff, agitated due to a rift in communication, misguide patients about the details of their tests. This leads to a myriad of problems when patients revisit their doctors for follow-ups. Not only that, but the environment is so hostile that patients often get into verbal fights with each other while standing in lines. I urge health departments and the provincial governments to encourage hiring translators at hospitals tending to patients from rural areas. Hospitals must also encourage a code of conduct and establish professional ethics.

M Ashraf
Hub

Nuclear-powered dystopia

Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan once said, “It is possible that an atomic power country has no electricity.” Sadly, this bitter truth reflects the current state of Pakistan. We are a nuclear-armed nation, a symbol of strength and scientific achievement, yet our people still cry, pray and fight for something as basic as electricity. This contradiction should shake our conscience. If we can build atomic bombs, why can’t we power our cities, hospitals and homes? Why are the people of Pakistan still suffering from hours of load-shedding every day? Why are the voices of students, patients and small business owners being ignored? Whenever we raise our voice and ask for a solution, we are told the same excuse: “There’s electricity theft in your area”. But I ask: is that our fault? Should we catch the thieves ourselves? Should we beat them up while the government stands by and watches? No! It’s the job of the authorities to act — to fix the system, punish the wrongdoers and ensure honest citizens get what they rightfully deserve. Let us not forget that even an atomic bomb cannot function without power. So, let’s light up our homes before we shine on the world stage.

Muhammad Sufian Arif
Mardan

Reimagining Bhutto’s legacy

In recent weeks, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Jr has been seen actively engaging with students, artists and civil society across Karachi. During a Gaza solidarity event, several of my university colleagues met him and found his presence compelling, not because of his famous surname, but because of his humility, empathy and attentiveness. In a political landscape often shaped by arrogance and detachment, his approach felt refreshingly human. What distinguishes Bhutto Jr is not rhetoric but action. He has long championed environmental and human rights causes, be it protecting the Indus River and the endangered Indus Blind Dolphin or standing with marginalised communities. His refusal to participate in international cultural events as a protest against injustice shows a rare moral clarity. In an age where political gestures are often shaped by calculation rather than conscience, this stands out. In reimagining what the Bhutto name can mean today, Zulfikar Jr is carving a path rooted not in inheritance, but in integrity.

Dr Intikhab Ulfat
Karachi



Laborers busy in sorting out quality onions at outside the Singpura Fruit and Vegetable Market in the Provincial Capital.

More rain, thunderstorms expected in upper, central parts during weekend

APP- ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecast more rain-wind/thunderstorm, with isolated heavy falls, for upper and central parts of the country on Saturday.

The monsoon currents continue to penetrate the upper and central areas, while a westerly wave is also present over the upper parts. According to the PMD, rain-wind/thunderstorm with isolated heavy falls is expected in Kashmir on Saturday, particularly in Neelum Valley, Muzaffarabad, Rawalakot, Poonch, Hattian, Bagh, Haveli, Sudhanoti, Kotli, Bhimber and Mirpur, with occasional gaps. In Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, rain-wind/thunderstorm with isolated heavy falls is expected in Dir, Chitral, Swat, Kohistan, Malakand, Nowshera, Charsadda, Swabi, Shangla, Battagram, Buner, Kohat, Hangu, Kurram, Bajaur, Mohmand, Khyber, Orakzai, Mansehra, Abbottabad, Haripur, Peshawar, Mardan, Karak, Tank, Lakki Marwat, Dera Ismail Khan, Bannu and Waziristan, with occasional gaps. In Islamabad and upper Punjab, rain-wind/thunderstorm with isolated heavy falls is expected in Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Murree, Galliat, Jhelum, Chakwal, Talagang, Attock, Sialkot, Narowal, Mandi Bahauddin, Gujrat, Gujranwala, Hafizabad, Wazirabad, Lahore, Kasur, Okara, Sheikhupura and Nankana Sahib during the day, with occasional gaps. Rain-wind/thunderstorm is also expected in Sargodha, Khushab, Mianwali, Noorpur, Faisalabad, Jhang, Toba Tek Singh, Layyah, Bhakkar, Sahiwal, Pakpattan and Dera Ghazi Khan on Saturday. In Gilgit-Baltistan, rain-wind/thunderstorm is expected in Diamir, Astore, Ghizer, Skardu, Hunza, Gilgit, Ghanche and Shigar, with occasional gaps. Most parts of Sindh and Balochistan are expected to remain hot and humid. However, rain-wind/thunderstorm is likely in Musakhel, Barkhan, Zhob, Kalat and Khuzdar on Saturday.

ICT Police put minds to the test to sharpen officers' professional performance

APP- ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police have continued psychological testing of officers and personnel to strengthen their mental capabilities, professional performance and overall efficiency under the directives of IGP Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi.

An official told APP on Friday that the initiative is aimed at assessing and further improving the psychological preparedness and professional capabilities of police personnel.

The psychological tests are being used to identify areas where officers can further improve their performance and develop the mental skills required to handle professional responsibilities effectively.

The initiative forms part of ICT Police efforts to enhance the capacity of its workforce and bring further improvement in professional policing through better-trained and mentally prepared personnel.

Karachi-Hyderabad motorway project to be completed by 2028: NA told

APP- ISLAMABAD: Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Communications Gul Asghar Khan on Friday informed the National Assembly that the government had accorded top priority to the Karachi-Hyderabad motorway project and expected it to be completed by 2028.

Responding to questions during Question Hour, he said the government had reviewed the reasons behind the delay in the project, which had remained stalled for nearly three decades. The project had been divided into five sections of around 50 kilometres each to facilitate investment. The parliamentary secretary said the project required an investment of more than \$400 million.

However, no investor had previously been willing to finance it, while the government also lacked sufficient funds for

the purpose.

He said all five sections were floated internationally to attract investment. Three sections had attracted investment through different financing arrangements, including the Islamic Development Bank, while the procurement process for some sections was nearing completion.

Gul Asghar said the Frontier Works Organization (FWO) had shown interest in two sections. He added that all five sections were expected to be completed by 2028. He said the existing M-9 would continue to serve as an expressway, while the government was working on a new motorway, M-10, to provide a direct Karachi-Hyderabad connection.

The feasibility work for the M-10 had been completed, he said, adding that the government was working to bypass the existing route and establish a direct motor-



way link between Karachi and Hyderabad.

Gul Asghar said the National Highway Authority (NHA) was also maintaining the N-145 route from Chitral City to Dora Pass. He said the 82.5-kilometre route started from Chitral City at km 0+000, passed through Garam Chashma and ter-

minated at Dora Pass at km 82+500.

He said the route had been federalised a few years ago after being transferred from the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Communication and Works Department. The parliamentary secretary said the N-145 was an extremely narrow road. Much of it comprised an earthen track and was highly prone to landslides during rainfall. He said the road section from km 0+000 to 82+000 would be maintained through eight routine maintenance contracts at an estimated cost of Rs44.145 million. He added that improvement work on the existing road section from km 15+000 to 45+000 was in progress under a contract worth Rs219 million. Gul Asghar said the 153-kilometre Chitral-Booni-Mastuj-Shandur Road (N-140) had been approved for construction under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP).

NUST hosts largest-ever cohort of international interns; Rector interacts with participants



APP- ISLAMABAD: Rector, Dr Muhammad Zahid Latif, interacted with participants of the NUST Internship Programme for International Students (NIPIS-2026) during an interactive session. The interaction was also attended by Pro-Rector (RIC), Dr Rizwan Riaz.

Speaking to the interns, Rector highlighted the value of international student engagement in building people-to-people connections, promoting cross-cultural understanding and encouraging academic collaboration.

He shared that initiatives such as NIPIS contribute to NUST's growing international footprint by bringing together talented students from around the world and creating opportunities for academic and cultural exchange.

Dr Zahid also spoke about NUST's knowledge ecosystem, its academic and

research landscape and the University's vision for the future.

The session concluded with a candid interaction, during which the interns shared their experiences at NUST, reflected on their academic journeys and engaged with Rector on a range of topics related to higher education, research and their future academic pursuits.

A flagship international internship initiative of NUST, NIPIS has been hosting students from friendly countries since 2018, providing them with opportunities to gain academic and research exposure while experiencing Pakistan and its rich cultural heritage.

This year, the programme is hosting its largest cohort since inception, bringing together 51 international interns from 15 countries for a unique academic, research and cultural experience at NUST.

Govt allocates Rs. 800 million for development of National Botanical Garden; Senate told

APP- ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Climate Change and Environment Coordination, Dr Shezra Mansab Ali Khan Kharal on Friday said that Rs. 800 million has been allocated under the Up-scaling Green Pakistan Programme for development of the National Botanical Garden.

In a written reply, she said that a consultant has prepared the master plan, detailed designs, drawings, management plan, business plan and PC-I for Phase-I, which is under process for endorsement by the Planning Division. She added tender documents have also been finalized. Upon approval of the PC-I and creation of the requisite posts, dedicated watch and ward staff will be hired for effective surveillance and security of the boundary wall of National Zoo-cum-Botanical Garden (ZCBG). She said that the area of Botanical Garden Islamabad is 725 acre while the construction of the boundary wall, pillars and grills were started in January 2018 and completed in June 2019.



A vendor preparing traditional chicken roast for customers outside his restaurant at Railway Station Road.

Pakistan Tech Forum, Lahore Chamber sign MoU to promote entrepreneurship

APP- LAHORE: Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) and Pakistan Tech Forum (PTF) here Friday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at promoting technology-driven business growth, entrepreneurship, international market access, investment opportunities and collaboration between Pakistani businesses and global technology ecosystems. The MoU was signed by LCCI President Faheem-ur-Rehman Saigol and Pakistan Tech Forum Co-Founder Farhan Saleem at the signing ceremony. Mudassir Naeem, Usman Akbar, Hamad Pervaiz, Ayesha Zaman, Co-Founder Pakistan Tech Forum, Imran Rashid and Abdullah Ali were also present.

Under the agreement, both organizations will collaborate to promote business growth, entrepreneurship, foreign investment, trade development and international market expansion oppor-



tunities for Pakistani businesses. They will also jointly organize seminars, workshops, conferences, webinars, business forums, networking events and awareness sessions covering areas including company formation, international business expansion, taxation, compliance, legal frameworks, invest-

ment opportunities and entrepreneurship development. Addressing the ceremony, LCCI President Faheem-ur-Rehman Saigol said that Pakistan's technology sector has enormous potential to contribute to exports, investment, employment generation and sustainable economic growth.

PCJCCI, EU-China Commission sign strategic MoU to strengthen cooperation

APP- LAHORE: Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) Friday signed a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the EU-China Commission to promote trade, investment, business collaboration and knowledge exchange, marking an important step toward strengthening international economic cooperation. The joint chamber's Vice President Amir Ali signed the MoU on behalf of PCJCCI.

The agreement aims to establish stronger institutional linkages and facilitate greater interaction among businesses, investors and industry stakeholders.

Speaking on the occasion, Amir Ali said the MoU would provide a valuable platform for expanding business-to-business linkages and creating new opportunities for

Pakistani and Chinese enterprises. He emphasized that enhanced cooperation could help businesses explore new markets, attract investment and develop mutually beneficial commercial partnerships.

A Chinese representative from EU China Commission said, the agreement reflected a shared commitment to strengthening economic and commercial cooperation. He highlighted the importance of closer engagement among businesses, investors and institutions and expressed confidence that the partnership would create new avenues for trade, investment and knowledge sharing.

Salahuddin Hanif, Secretary General PCJCCI, said the MoU would help transform institutional cooperation into practical business opportunities.



A view of the street decorated with colorful lights near by the Faizan-e-Madina Masjid connection with the Rabi-ul-Awal celebrations in the Provincial Capital.



Joint Statement by Foreign Ministers of Eight Arab-Islamic States

The Ministers reaffirm that the two-State solution, in accordance with international law and relevant United Nations resolutions, remains the only viable path towards a just, comprehensive and lasting peace. They warn that actions aimed at undermining this solution risk further escalating tensions, threatening regional and international peace and security, and jeopardizing prospects for lasting peace and stability in the region.

In this context, the Ministers support all efforts aimed at ensuring accountability, including through appropriate international measures and sanctions against entities and individuals responsible for illegal settlement activities, including the "E1" settlement plan, as well as those supporting, facilitating or implementing policies of settlement expansion and annexation. They further call for an end to any support or financing that contributes to the establishment, expansion or entrenchment of illegal settlements. They stress that lack of accountability contributes to the continuation of violations and further undermines prospects for a just and comprehensive peace.

The Ministers call for immediate action to halt the "E1" settlement plan, rescind all measures taken in connection with it, and cease all settlement activities and other measures aimed at altering the geographic and demographic character of the Occupied Palestinian Territory. They further call upon the United Nations Security Council, all States and relevant international actors to uphold their responsibilities under international law and take urgent and effective measures to halt illegal settlement expansion, and to ensure the protection of the Palestinian people, safeguard their inalienable rights, including their right to self-determination, and realize their independent State, in accordance with international law and relevant United Nations resolutions.

Islamabad
August 21, 2026
22/7/2026

Joint Statement by Foreign Ministers of Eight Arab-Islamic States

The Foreign Ministers of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Turkey, the Republic of Indonesia, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the State of Qatar, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates unequivocally condemn Israel's continued illegal settlement policies in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and categorically reject the "E1" settlement plan and related settlement activities east of occupied East Jerusalem. They further reiterate their condemnation of the violations and acts of violence perpetrated by settlers, with the support of the Israeli occupying authorities, against the Palestinian people and their property. They stress that such acts in no way diminish the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and constitute violations of international law and relevant United Nations resolutions, while posing a serious threat to regional and international peace and security.

The Ministers warned that the "E1" settlement plan constitutes a dangerous escalation that further advances settlement expansion and annexation and undermines the geographical contiguity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly between the West Bank and East Jerusalem, thereby threatening the viability and realization of an independent, contiguous Palestinian State based on the 1967 lines with East Jerusalem as its capital. Such actions constitute a direct challenge to international efforts aimed at achieving peace, foremost among them President Donald Trump's Comprehensive Plan, including its unequivocal rejection of annexation and forced displacement, and the mechanisms envisaged for its implementation, including through the Board of Peace, as well as President Trump's firm commitment to not allow annexation of the West Bank, with a view to achieving stability and bringing the conflict to an end.

نگر میں ایڈیشنل ضلع اور سیشن جج کے طور پر کام کر رہے ہیں۔
جج روی کار دیو اکر گڈش چند مہیوں میں دیے گئے اپنے سخت فیصلوں سے زیر بحث رہے ہیں۔ وہ سنگین نوعیت کے مجرمانہ معاملات کی تیزی سے سماعت کرنے اور ان میں اکثر قصورواروں کو موت کی سزا سننے کے لیے مشہور ہو گئے ہیں۔ بعض ججوں کے مطابق مظفرنگر سے چلے جہ وہ بریلی میں جج کے طور پر مامور تھے تو انھوں نے وہاں بھی 13 قصورواروں کو موت

ہے۔ جہاں قانون کے مطابق ان کی سماعت مکمل کی جائے گی۔ تاہم ان مقدموں کو ری کال کرنے کا کوئی واضح سبب نہیں بتایا گیا ہے۔ ججوں کے مطابق ری کال کیے گئے گئے مقدموں میں قتل کے کچھ مشہور مقدمے بھی شامل ہیں۔
ایک سرکاری وکیل نے خبر سرائے ایجنسی بی بی سی کو بتایا کہ ان مقدمات کو جن میں جرائم کی سزا موت یا عمر قید ہو سکتی ہے انھیں ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ اور سیشن جج روی کار دیو اکر کی عدالت

کے خاتمے اور پائیدار امن کی جانب پیش رفت کے لیے شدہ اقدامات پر عملدرآمد ضروری ہے۔
انڈیا کی ایک فاسٹ ٹریک سیشن کورٹ کے جج روی کار دیو اکر کی عدالت سے قتل اور دیگر سنگین جرائم کے تقریباً سو زریعہ سماعت مقدمات واپس لے لیے گئے ہیں اور ان مقدمات کو سماعت کے لیے دوسری عدالتوں میں منتقل کر دیا گیا ہے۔ یہ فیصلہ سامنے آنے کی وجہ یہ ہے کہ ایڈیشنل ضلع و سیشن جج روی کار دیو اکر نے گڈش چند چار مہینوں میں 10 مختلف مقدمات میں 22 افراد کو موت کی سزا سنائی ہے۔ انہی بڑی تعداد میں موت کی سزا سنائے جانے سے دھکا اور موکلوں میں تشویش بڑھ رہی تھی۔
جج روی کار دیو اکر نے جن مقدمات میں موت کی سزا سنائی ہے ان سبھی میں قتل کا ارتکاب کیا گیا تھا۔ جن 22 افراد کو موت کی سزا سنائی گئی ہے ان میں 2019 کے قتل کے ایک معاملے میں ایک خاتون اور ان کے تین بیٹے بھی شامل ہیں۔ فاسٹ ٹریک عدالتیں سنگین نوعیت کے جرائم کی تیز رفتار سماعت اور فیصلے کے لیے قائم کی گئی ہیں۔
یہ معاملہ ریاست اتر پردیش کے مظفرنگر شہر کی فاسٹ ٹریک کورٹ کے

سرگرمیاں ختم کرنے کا مطالبہ کیا۔ انہوں نے اقوام متحدہ کی سلامتی کونسل، تمام ریاستوں اور متعلقہ عالمی فریقوں پر زور دیا کہ وہ بین الاقوامی قانون کے تحت اپنی ذمہ داریاں پوری کریں اور غیر قانونی آباد کاری کی توسیع روکنے کے لیے فوری اور موثر اقدامات کریں۔ مشترکہ بیان میں فلسطینی عوام کے تحفظ، ان کے ناقابل تنسیخ حقوق، بالخصوص حق خودارادیت، کے تحفظ اور بین الاقوامی قانون و اقوام متحدہ کی متعلقہ قراردادوں کے مطابق آزاد فلسطینی ریاست کے قیام کے لیے عملی اقدامات پر بھی زور دیا گیا۔ یہ پیش رفت ایسے وقت میں سامنے آئی ہے جب اس سے قبل اقوام پاکستان سمیت انہی 8 مسلم ممالک نے غزہ تنازع کے خاتمے کے لیے امریکی صدر ڈونلڈ ٹرمپ کے جامع منصوبے پر عملدرآمد مکمل کرنے کے روڈ میپ کو مسترد کرنے کے اسرائیلی اعلان کی بھی مذمت کی تھی۔
مشترکہ بیان میں مسلم ممالک کے وزرائے خارجہ نے اسرائیل کی جانب سے امریکی منصوبے کے روڈ میپ کو مسترد کرنے کے ساتھ ساتھ فلسطینی ریاست کے قیام کی مخالفت پر بھی تشویش کا اظہار کیا تھا۔
بیان میں اس منصوبے کو اقوام متحدہ کی سلامتی کونسل کی قرارداد 2803 کی توثیق حاصل ہونے کا حوالہ دیتے ہوئے کہا گیا کہ غزہ میں تنازع



خارجہ نے ایک بار پھر واضح کیا کہ بین الاقوامی قانون اور اقوام متحدہ کی متعلقہ قراردادوں کے مطابق 2 ریاستی حل ہی منصفانہ، جامع اور پائیدار امن کے لیے قابل عمل راستہ ہے۔ انہوں نے خبردار کیا کہ 2 ریاستی حل کو کمزور کرنے والی کارروائیوں سے خطے میں کشیدگی مزید بڑھنے، علاقائی و عالمی امن کو خطرے میں ڈالنے اور دیر پا امن و استحکام کے امکانات کو نقصان پہنچنے کا خدشہ ہے۔ مشترکہ بیان میں غیر قانونی آباد کاری کی سرگرمیوں میں ملوث افراد اور اداروں کے خلاف مناسب عالمی اقدامات اور پابندیوں کے ذریعے جواب دہی یقینی بنانے کی حمایت کی گئی۔
وزرائے خارجہ نے کہا کہ

کارروائیاں امن کے لیے جاری ہیں الاوامی کوششوں کو براہ راست چیلنج کر رہی ہیں۔
وزرائے خارجہ نے امریکی صدر ڈونلڈ ٹرمپ کے غزہ تنازع کے خاتمے سے متعلق جامع منصوبے کا حوالہ دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ اس میں الحاق اور جبری بے دخلی کی واضح مخالفت کی گئی ہے۔ بیان میں منصوبے پر عملدرآمد کے لیے تجویز کردہ طریقہ کار، بشمول 'بورڈ آف چین' کا بھی ذکر کیا گیا۔ بیان کے مطابق صدر ٹرمپ نے مغربی کنارے کے الحاق کی اجازت نہ دینے کے غزم کا اظہار کیا ہے، جس کا مقصد خطے میں استحکام پیدا کرنا اور تنازع کے خاتمے کی راہ ہموار کرنا ہے۔
8 مسلم ممالک کے وزرائے

بڑھتا ہے اور مقبوضہ فلسطینی علاقے کے جغرافیائی تسلسل کو متاثر کرتا ہے۔ بیان کے مطابق 'ای-1' منصوبہ خصوصاً مقبوضہ مغربی کنارے اور مشرقی یروشلم کے درمیان جغرافیائی رابطے کو نقصان پہنچا سکتا ہے، جس سے 1967 کی سرحدوں کی بنیاد پر ایک آزاد اور متصل فلسطینی ریاست کے قیام کے امکانات کو شدید خطرہ لاحق ہے۔
مسلم ممالک نے زور دیا کہ مشرقی یروشلم کو دارالحکومت بنانے والی قابل عمل فلسطینی ریاست کے قیام کے امکانات کو متاثر کرنے والی ہر کوشش خطے میں کشیدگی کو مزید بڑھا سکتی ہے۔ مشترکہ بیان میں کہا گیا کہ اسرائیل کی آباد کاری اور الحاق کی

دفتر خارجہ کی جانب سے جاری اعلامیے کے مطابق پاکستان، مصر، ترکیہ، انڈونیشیا، اردن، قطر، سعودی عرب اور عرب امارات کی جانب مشترکہ بیان میں خاص طور پر 'ای-1' یہودی آباد کاری منصوبے کو خطرناک پیش رفت قرار دیا گیا

کی سزائیں سنیں۔ اس طرح انھوں نے مجموعی طور پر 35 افراد کو موت کی سزا سنائی ہے۔
کسی سزائے قتل کو کھنڈ ڈلی عدالت سے سزائے موت ہونے سے موت کی سزائیں دی جاتی۔ اس کی سزایں توثیق ہائی کورٹ سے ہونا لازمی ہے جس کے خلاف سزایا فی شخص سپریم کورٹ میں اپیل کرنے کا حجاز ہوتا ہے۔ روی کار دیو اکر پہلی بار اس وقت روٹن میں آئے تھے جب وہ 2022 میں بنارس میں سول جج کے عہدے پر مامور تھے۔ اس وقت انھوں نے بعض ہندو عرشی گزاروں کی درخواست پر بنارس کی تاریخی کمان واپی مسجد کے احاطے کا ویڈیو ریکارڈ سروس کرنے کی اجازت دے دی تھی۔
اس میں مسجد کے وسط میں واقع وضو خانہ بھی شامل تھا جس میں بیٹے ہوئے ایک قدیم فورے کو ہندو عرشی گزاروں نے شیش لنگ ہونے کا دعویٰ کیا تھا۔ بعد میں سپریم کورٹ نے اس کیس کو روی کار دیو اکر کی سول کورٹ سے لے کر ضلع کورٹ کو منتقل کر دیا تھا۔

مسلم ممالک نے زور دیا کہ مشرقی یروشلم کو دارالحکومت بنانے والی قابل عمل فلسطینی ریاست کے قیام کے امکانات کو متاثر کرنے والی ہر کوشش خطے میں کشیدگی کو مزید بڑھا سکتی ہے

46 برس کے روی کار دیو اکر کا تعلق لکھنؤ سے ہے۔ انھوں نے بی بی سی اور ایل ایل امریکی ڈگری حاصل کی ہے۔ دیو اکر نے 2009 میں عظیم گڑھ میں ایڈیشنل سول جج کے طور پر اپنے کرئیر کا آغاز کیا۔ 2015 میں وہ سلطان پور میں سول جج کے طور پر مامور کیے گئے۔ پانچ مہینے بعد ہی انھیں جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ کے عہدے پر ترقی دے دی گئی۔ نومبر 2025 سے وہ مظفر

سیشن جج روی کار دیو اکر کی عدالت کا ہے۔ ان کی عدالت سے سنگین نوعیت کے مقدمات واپس لینے کا فیصلہ ضلع سیشن جج پر بندر کارنگھ کے حکم پر کیا گیا ہے۔ گڈش چند جج ضلع اور سیشن جج کی عدالت سے جاری کیے گئے ایک بیان میں کہا گیا تھا کہ فاسٹ ٹریک عدالت میں جو بھی کیسز زریعہ سماعت ہیں ان کی فائل واپس لے کر مظفرنگر کے ضلع اور سیشن کورٹ میں منتقل کی جا رہی

England crush Pakistan at Headingley



SPORTS DESK, Pakistan suffered a heavy defeat on Friday as England completed an innings and 103 runs victory in the first Test at Headingley, taking a 1-0 lead in the three-match series after dominating with bat and ball.

England had resumed the third day on 366 for eight, holding a 195-run lead over Pakistan's first-innings total of 171. They added 43 runs to reach 409 before being bowled out, extending their advantage to 238.

Jofra Archer, unbeaten on 23 overnight, added only a few more runs before Pakistan wrapped up the England innings. Ali Usman was Pakistan's most successful bowler, finishing with five wickets for 95 runs.

Pakistan's second innings quickly turned into another struggle. Archer removed Imam-ul-Haq for a duck and Azan Awaais for nine, leaving the visitors 13 for two.

Shan Masood made 29 and Abdullah Shafique 15, but Pakistan were unable to establish a substantial partnership. Josh Tongue and Ollie Robinson continued to trouble the batting order as wickets fell at regular intervals.

Mohammad Rizwan provided the only significant resistance, scoring 41 from 39 balls with five fours. His attacking innings briefly delayed England's victory, but he was eventually bowled by Gus Atkinson. Pakistan were dismissed for 135 in 37.3 overs, with

Robinson, Archer and Tongue taking three wickets each. Atkinson also claimed one wicket while conceding only 11 runs from his eight overs.

The defeat completed a disappointing match for Pakistan, who had been bowled out for 171 in their first innings after England won the toss and elected to field.

Ollie Robinson and Josh Tongue had taken five wickets each in that innings, while Abdullah Shafique top-scored for Pakistan with 61. Imam-ul-Haq contributed 42 but the rest of the batting order failed to provide sustained resistance.

England then built a commanding total of 409. Jordan Cox struck a solid 73,

while captain Joe Root made 66. Harry Brook fell nine runs short of a century after scoring 91 from 93 balls, and Dan Lawrence added 51.

The result gives England a strong start to the series and leaves Pakistan needing a significant improvement in their batting in the next Test.

For England, the victory was a comprehensive team performance, with their bowlers exploiting Pakistan's weaknesses and their batsmen making the most of the opportunity to build a sizeable first-innings lead. Pakistan will now look to regroup before the second Test as they attempt to level the series. In the Test Pakistan never were seen retaliating.

Shadab stars as Falcons sink Patriots

SPORTS DESK, Antigua and Barbuda Falcons held their nerve to beat St Kitts and Nevis Patriots by three wickets in a Caribbean Premier League (CPL) clash at Sir



Vivian Richards Stadium in North Sound on Thursday.

Put into bat, Patriots posted 187-6 as Dasun Shanaka produced a stunning late assault, smashing an unbeaten 49 from just 17 balls. Shanaka struck five fours and four sixes to provide the impetus after Kyle Mayers had made 34 off 18 balls at the top of the order. Jason Holder added 27 from 25, while Andre Fletcher contributed 20.

Shamar Springer took two wickets for Patriots while Shadab Khan, Jayden Seales and Moeen Ali claimed one apiece.

Falcons lost wickets regularly in the chase but stayed within reach of their target. Evin Lewis anchored the innings with 48 off 38 balls, including five sixes, while Hasan Nawaz made 33 from 28. With the required rate climbing, Shadab changed the course of the chase with a blistering 30 from 12 balls, hitting two fours and three sixes.

Sri Lanka reshuffle squad for Colombo Test

SPORTS DESK, Sri Lanka have made changes to their Test squad ahead of the second match against India, calling up batter Kamil Mishara and all-rounder Sahan Arachchige as the hosts seek to level the two-match series after a heavy defeat in Galle. Sri Lanka were beaten by 165 runs in the opening Test, leaving them with little margin for error in the second match, which begins in Colombo on August 23. The squad changes come as Sri Lanka contend with a series of injuries that have depleted their batting resources. Coach Gary Kirsten confirmed that Kusal Mendis, Dinesh Chandimal and Pathum Nissanka will all miss the second Test, leaving Sri Lanka without three experienced members of their batting order. Mendis has been ruled out with a severe hamstring injury, while Nissanka is continuing his recovery from wrist surgery. Chandimal, who suffered a concussion on the fourth day of the Galle Test, must complete a mandatory seven-day stand-down period under concussion protocols and is therefore unavailable for the Colombo match.

Australia seek revenge on Bangladesh



SPORTS DESK, Bangladesh face a fierce Australian response in the second Test after their historic nine-wicket victory in Darwin, with the hosts reshuffling their batting line-up to bounce back in the second Test which will begin in Mackay on Saturday.

The stunning triumph was Bangladesh's first Test win on Australian soil and gave them a significant psychological advantage ahead of the next encounter.

Bangladesh laid the foundation for their victory with a superb bowling display in the first innings. Fast bowler Hasan Mahmud ripped through Australia's batting line-up, taking 6-55 as the hosts were bowled out for 198.

The visitors then produced an equally impressive response with the bat, posting 426 to secure a huge

first-innings lead.

Tanzid Hasan led Bangladesh's batting effort with a composed 101 for his maiden Test century. Najmul Hossain Shanto added 84, while Mehidy Hasan Miraz struck 65 as Bangladesh put Australia's bowlers under sustained pressure.

Josh Hazlewood was Australia's best bowler, finishing with 6-89, but his efforts could not prevent Bangladesh from taking control.

Australia fought back in their second innings, with Cameron Green scoring a determined 104 to help the hosts reach 284. But Bangladesh were left with a modest target of 57, which they chased comfortably after losing one wicket.

Mehidy Hasan again proved decisive with the ball, claiming 5-68.

Australia have responded by bringing Matthew Renshaw into the

side for the second Test, replacing opener Jake Weatherald, who managed only 23 runs in the first match.

Renshaw is expected to open alongside Travis Head, while veteran spinner Nathan Lyon has retained his place despite captain Pat Cummins earlier suggesting Australia could consider a four-man pace attack.

Renshaw, 30, last played a Test in 2023, but Cummins has backed him to make a successful return.

"We just want his best," Cummins told reporters.

Bangladesh coach Phil Simmons, meanwhile, warned his players not to expect the same Australia they faced in Darwin.

"The only thing I had to say to them and I will repeat it anyway, is that Australia is going to come harder," Simmons said.

"We have to either keep that level of performance or get a little bit better." Bangladesh could make a change to their attack, with left-arm pacer Shoriful Islam pushing for selection after returning from a hamstring injury. Simmons, however, appeared reluctant to disrupt a winning combination.

"I'm one, who hardly likes to change winning teams. So it's a possibility, but I can't really say," he said.

Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto expects more bounce at Mackay but believes his batters are prepared. "In these conditions, there will be a little more bounce than in Darwin," Shanto said. "Over the last couple of days, the batters have worked on their skills in the nets, and I believe they will cope well with the extra bounce."



Fatemeh Khalili Chermahini (1st R) of Iran spikes the ball during the pool A volleyball match between Iran and Chinese Taipei at the AVC Women's Volleyball Continental Championship in Tianjin, China,

Alcaraz confirms US Open return

SPORTS DESK, LONDON: Carlos Alcaraz will return to competitive tennis at the US Open, ending a more than four-month absence caused by a wrist injury, in a bid to defend his title in New York.

The seven-time Grand Slam champion confirmed on Thursday that he will play the August 30-September 13 tournament after withdrawing from the Barcelona Open in April and missing the French Open, Wimbledon and the North American hard-court events in Toronto and Cincinnati.

Alcaraz had initially targeted Cincinnati, where he won last year, for his comeback. But he opted to give his wrist more time to recover.

He has gradually increased his workload in recent weeks and trained with Denmark's Holger Rune



in Murcia as he tested the injury at higher intensity. His return was also given a football-style announcement on Instagram by transfer reporter Fabrizio Romano, who posted "Here we go!" alongside confirmation that Alcaraz would be back at the US Open. New York holds particular significance for Alcaraz. He

won his first Grand Slam title at Flushing Meadows in 2022, becoming the youngest player to reach world number one in the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) rankings.

Alcaraz became the youngest man to complete the career Grand Slam in January with his triumph, at age 22, at the Australian Open. He added the ATP hard court title in Doha in February. But after withdrawing in Barcelona he pulled out of tournaments in Madrid and Rome before withdrawing from Roland Garros, where he was the two-time reigning champion. He also missed Wimbledon, where rival Jannik Sinner prevailed for the second year in a row on the London grass, beating French Open winner Alexander Zverev in the final.

Renshaw returns as Australia retain Lyon for second Bangladesh Test

SPORTS DESK, Matthew Renshaw will return to the Test side for the first time in more than three years after Australia confirmed their XI for the second World Test Championship match against Bangladesh in Mackay on Friday. Renshaw replaces Jake Weatherald at the top of the order and will open alongside Travis Head, while veteran spinner Nathan Lyon retained his place after captain Pat Cummins had earlier suggested Australia could field a four-man pace attack.

Scott Boland and reserve wicket-keeper-batter Josh Inglis miss out.

Renshaw, 30, last played a Test in 2023 but Cummins backed the left-hander to make a successful return.

"We just want his best," Cummins told reporters.

"I think some of the kind of chat about Renner's in the past is he can look different from day to day.

"I think now, when you get to your back half of your career as a batter, you want to really know what you look like at your best and I think he does that." Australia's XI



is: Matthew Renshaw, Travis Head, Marnus Labuschagne, Steve Smith, Cameron Green, Alex Carey (wicketkeeper), Beau Webster, Pat Cummins (captain), Mitchell Starc, Nathan Lyon and Josh Hazlewood.



Crvena Zvezda's Osman Bukari (R) vies with Viktoria's Cheick Souare (L) during the UEFA Europa League play-offs first leg football match between Crvena Zvezda and Viktoria Plzen in Belgrade, Serbia.



A vendor displaying flags and other stuff to attract the customers in connection with Eid Milad-un-Nabi (PBUH) celebrations.

Gilani calls for further strengthening of Pakistan-Malaysia relations

APP- ISLAMABAD: Minister of Home Affairs of Malaysia, Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution bin Ismail, along with a delegation called on the Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, at Parliament House on Friday.

During the meeting, the Chairman Senate warmly welcomed the Malaysian Interior Minister and underscored the historical, brotherly and cordial relations between Pakistan and Malaysia, rooted in shared religious, cultural and historical bonds and strong people-to-people contacts.

The Chairman recalled his longstanding association with Malaysia through his visits in different capacities, including as former Prime Minister, former Speaker of the National Assembly and current Chairman Senate, said a news release.



He further recalled his recent visit to Malaysia as Chairman of the Senate, during which he participated in the Global Muslim Business Forum and was designated as its Patron-in-Chief.

He noted that these interactions had contributed to strengthening parliamentary and bilateral ties between the two countries.

The Chairman also recalled his association with the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC) and appreciated that Dato' Seri Johari Abdul, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Malaysia, had recommended his name to serve as ISC Founding Chairman.

Chairman of the Senate highlighted the contribution of Pakistani students and

the Pakistani diaspora in Malaysia, noting that around 5,000 Pakistani students are currently pursuing higher education in Malaysian universities. He said that the Pakistani community in Malaysia was an asset and was contributing positively to the country's economic and social development.

Recalling the visits of Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim to Pakistan in 2024 and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's visit to Malaysia in 2025, the Chairman said that the frequent exchange of high-level visits had imparted renewed momentum to bilateral relations. He described the Malaysian Interior Minister's visit as another important milestone in the continuing high-level engagement between the two brotherly countries.

Surge in armed resistance across Afghanistan challenges Taliban control

APP- ISLAMABAD: Resistance activity against the Taliban regime has intensified sharply during the past week, exposing growing pressure on its security apparatus across multiple provinces of Afghanistan.

The National Resistance Front (NRF), Afghanistan Freedom Front (AFF), and Afghanistan Liberation Front (ALF) carried out targeted attacks and direct clashes in Baghlan, Kunduz, Badakhshan, Helmand, and Kandahar, challenging Taliban positions, security installations, and military centers, according to the media reports.

On August 16, NRF targeted Taliban forces in Firing district, Baghlan, killing one and wounding two personnel. On August 15, NRF struck the Taliban's Seventh Police Zone in Kunduz, killing three personnel and destroying a military vehicle.

Meanwhile, AFF launched attacks on Taliban positions in Zebak, Badakhshan, on August 16, killing six and wounding eight. The group reported that Taliban forces were forced to withdraw from several locations, with some positions and trenches coming under resistance control.

Balochistan completes 4km desilting of Pat Feeder Canal

APP- ISLAMABAD: Balochistan has completed desilting over a four-kilometre stretch of the Pat Feeder Canal as work progresses on Package-I of the canal system's remodelling project.

According to documents available with Wealth Pakistan, Package-I of the Remodelling of Pat Feeder Canal System, Balochistan, was awarded at a cost of Rs15.750 billion.

The documents show that desilting has been completed over four kilometres, with obstacles also removed from the canal bed. Concrete lining has been completed over a one-kilometre stretch, while canal banks have been prepared over 2.3 kilometres. Canal diversion work is currently in progress over a seven-kilometre stretch, marking another ongoing component of construction activity under the package. Several preparatory activities have also been completed. These include the joint survey and pre-construction survey, provision of initial accommodation facilities, establishment of laboratories and issuance of drawings for the project's main components. The land acquisition survey has also been completed, while the award process is in progress, according to the documents. More than 200 houses identified as encroachments within the canal's right-of-way have been demolished as part of measures to clear the area for project works. The ongoing activities form part of Package-I of the broader Remodelling of Pat Feeder Canal System being undertaken by the Irrigation Department of the Government of Balochistan.

Khawaja Asif says PTI founder in good health, urges against politicising illness



APP- ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Friday said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder was in good health and urged the PTI not to politicise his health issues for political gains.

Responding to a point raised by the PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan in the National Assembly, the minister said PTI founder's sister had recently met him in jail and could testify about his health condition.

He said the former prime minister's personal physician had also been given access to information regarding his health.

Khawaja Asif said PTI founder had some minor blood-pressure and other age-related health issues, but there was no indication of any serious health threat. He said the former prime minister had also been examined by doctors and was recovering.

He said reports regarding PTI

founder's health would also become public and there was no need for unnecessary concern.

The minister said health issues should not be used as a political tool, recalling that political leaders across parties had faced imprisonment and health-related difficulties in the past.

Khawaja Asif also referred to his own experience in prison, saying that when he required surgery, he was taken to a government hospital and did not demand treatment at a private facility.

He criticised the politicization of health issues in the past, saying political opponents had mocked genuine illnesses of political leaders, including former prime minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif.

The minister said PTI should not adopt selective standards on such matters and should show greater political maturity and restraint.

He said the issue of PTI founder's

health should not be exploited to gain political leverage.

He prayed for PTI founder's continued health and long life, adding that there was currently no serious health concern regarding him.

The minister also stressed the need for political leaders to maintain consistent principles and avoid using health-related issues selectively for political purposes.

Earlier, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan said the party had also directed its workers, supporters and leaders not to go to Shifa International Hospital. They had also been told not to make videos or create any situation that could affect PTI founder's treatment or inconvenience other patients.

He said PTI's political and core committees had held meetings and directed workers to respect the Supreme Court's order and maintain a peaceful environment around the hospital.

Barrister Gohar said PTI had stood with the state on important national issues, including Israel, Iran and tensions with India.

He urged all sides to consider the matter in the interest of democracy. He said PTI remained committed to democratic and constitutional processes.

Barrister Gohar also appreciated PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for supporting the position that PTI founder should receive necessary medical treatment.

He said PTI wanted the issue to be addressed through legal, parliamentary and democratic means.



Chairman Zakat and Ushr Rana Munawar Ghaus leads a prayer as the Sandal Express prepares to depart from Sargodha for Multan following its restoration after six years.

DPM/FM Dar reviews preparations for upcoming diplomatic engagements in Pakistan

APP- ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Friday chaired a meeting to review Pakistan's forthcoming high-level diplomatic engagements scheduled in the coming weeks.

During the meeting, the deputy prime minister underscored key substantive priorities and provided guidance on advancing Pakistan's diplomatic objectives through these engagements.

He also reviewed the preparations and emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts for the successful conduct of these engagements.



Foreign Secretary Ambassador the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Amna Baloch and senior officials attended the meeting.

Aurganzeb, ICCD discuss expanding cooperation in Islamic finance, halal markets

APP- ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Development (ICCD) on Friday discussed ways to expand economic cooperation, promote halal markets and strengthen Islamic finance and private-sector collaboration. Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, held a meeting with Secretary General, Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Development (ICCD), Shaikh Yousef Hassan Khalawi to discuss the opportunities for cooperation. The ICCD Secretary General was accompanied by CEO, Al Baraka Bank Pakistan, Muhammad Atif Hanif and Director, International Relations of ICCD, Ms. Aalia Jaffar, according to press release issued by finance ministry.

On the occasion, the finance minister underscored the importance of strengthening linkages between Pakistan's business community and international busi-



ness networks. He highlighted the potential for greater engagement and collaboration through the Chamber's global outreach and platforms. Khalawi briefed the finance minister on the expanding international outreach of the Islamic Chamber and its engagement with business communities, including those in non-OIC countries.



Residents waded through knee-deep floodwater as heavy rains submerge streets near Imam Bara Chowk.