

Editor in Chief: K.A. Chaudhry
Vol: 27 Issue: 231 Pages: 8 Price: 30 Friday August 28 2026

PM Praises
Saudi Support and
Role in Regional
Peace

Gilani calls for greater
parliamentary unity to
address global
challenges



Islamabad rejects claims CDF Asim Munir visited Tehran as US or Trump’s envoy



STAFF REPORT, The Foreign Office (FO) on Thursday rejected claims that Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Asim Munir visited Iran as an “envoy” of US President Donald Trump, describing the reports as “misleading and factually incorrect”.
CDF Munir visited Tehran on August 24 as part of Pakistan’s diplomatic efforts to help resolve the ongoing US-Iran standoff. Pakistan and Iran held discussions on reopening the Strait of Hormuz and bringing an “expedited termination” of the US-Iran conflict in the Middle East, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said

on Tuesday.
During the visit, Field Marshal Munir called on Iran’s President Masoud Pezeshkian, Iranian supreme leader’s representative on the Supreme National Security Council Mohsen Rezaei, Parliament Speaker Bagher Ghalibaf, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni.
The two sides also exchanged views on regional peace and the ways to arrive at a negotiated settlement to the disputes, it added.
Pakistan has emerged as a key mediator between Tehran and Washington in efforts

to end the conflict that began with US and Israeli strikes on Iran on February 28. Islamabad brokered a two-week ceasefire between the two sides on April 8, bringing six weeks of fighting to a temporary halt, and has since continued to relay messages between Washington and Tehran.
Addressing a weekly press briefing today, Foreign Office Spokesperson Tahir Andrabi termed the reports “misleading and factually incorrect”, stating that the CDF’s Iran visit was undertaken “purely in the context and backdrop of Pakistan’s ongoing role as mediator”.
The spokesperson said CDF Munir vis-

ited Tehran on August 24 as part of Pakistan’s continuing diplomatic efforts to facilitate an end to the US-Iran conflict and renewed efforts to reopen the Strait of Hormuz. “The discussion during the visit focused on regional de-escalation, breaking the military stalemate and exploring a negotiated settlement to restore regional peace and stability,” he added. Andrabi said Pakistan remained engaged alongside its brotherly countries in sincere concerted efforts towards resolving the crisis in the Middle East and the Gulf and “with respect to the standoff between the US and Iran”.

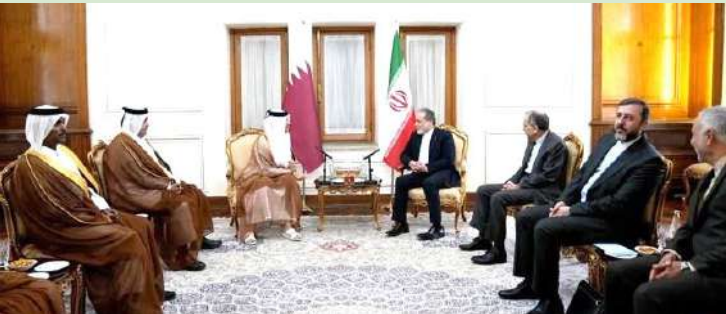
Iftikhar Gilani nominated as PML-N’s AJK premier candidate

MONITORING DESK, Barrister Syed Iftikhar Ali Gilani has been nominated as the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz’s (PML-N) candidate for the office of prime minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). Nawaz directed Gilani to submit his nomination papers for the election of the AJK prime minister, PML-N leader Marriyum Aurangzeb confirmed to Geo News. Aurangzeb said Gilani’s nomination as the PML-N candidate for the AJK premiership was made with Nawaz’s approval. Gilani was elected to the AJK Legislative Assembly on the reserved seat for technocrats as the



PML-N secured six of the eight reserved seats, further strengthening its position in the house. The eight reserved seats included five for women and one each for technocrats, Ulema and Mashaikh, and overseas Kashmiris. The PML-N won three of the five women’s seats, besides securing the technocrat, Ulema and Mashaikh, and overseas Kashmiri seats. The PPP won the remaining two seats reserved for women.
PML-N candidates Seharish Qamar, Maryam Zaman and Maryam Idrees were elected on the three women’s reserved seats, while PPP candidates Farzana Yaqub and Zobia Khurshid won the other two.
In one of the contests, Zobia Khurshid and Rifat Abid secured five votes each, following which Khurshid was declared successful through a draw.
Besides Gilani’s victory on the technocrat seat, PML-N candidate Pir Mazhar Saeed Shah won the reserved seat for Ulema and Mashaikh, while Abdul Rehman Arain was elected on the seat reserved for overseas Kashmiris. The results took the PML-N’s strength in the AJK Legislative Assembly to 31 seats, while the PPP’s tally reached 14. With the support of one member of the Jammu and Kashmir Awami Dast-o-Bazu (JK ADB), the PML-N now has the backing of 32 members.
However, the government formation process is proceeding without seven members, as elections in seven constituencies in Poonch and Sudhnoti districts have yet to be held. The PML-N had already emerged as the largest party in the recently concluded three-phase general elections, securing 25 seats against the PPP’s 11.

Qatar PM visits Tehran to pursue mediation efforts



Hormuz, a chokepoint for global oil supplies that Tehran has used as leverage. A memorandum of understanding reached between the US and Iran in June to end the conflict broke down in part because of differences over the narrow waterway between Iran and Oman where one-fifth of the world’s oil supplies passed before the war began on February 28.
Qatar and Iran discussed a proposed phased framework that includes establishing a temporary joint Iranian-Omani shipping corridor through the strait and carrying out a joint project to clear mines from the waterway, Qatar’s foreign ministry said. The two officials also reviewed the latest developments in the region and efforts to de-escalate tensions and create conditions for dialogue, the ministry said.
“All-out economic war”
Although the strikes have stopped, Washington is now piling on economic pressure by announcing plans to cut Iran off from its trading partners with increased sanctions. Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Ghalibaf on Thursday called for national unity in the face of what he described as “all-out economic war”, warning that internal division was “exactly what the enemy wants”. Ebrahim Azizi, the head of the Iranian parliament’s national security committee, said the sanctions were an “inhumane and hostile act” which nonetheless had lost their effectiveness.

MONITORING DESK, Qatar’s prime minister visited Tehran on Thursday in a bid to relaunch diplomacy after the US and Iran traded recriminations over Washington’s promise to increase economic pressure, a move one Iranian official described as “all-out economic war”.
A Gulf neighbour of Iran and a US ally, Qatar has served as a back-channel negotiator for the warring parties and played a direct role in securing a June ceasefire that briefly led to a cessation of hostilities.
Qatar’s Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, who is also his country’s foreign minister, met Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, according to Iran’s foreign ministry channel on Telegram.
The visit comes as the war nears its sixth month with fighting largely paused but no diplomatic breakthrough in sight. Both sides are at odds over control of the Strait of



Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan, Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki pays a farewell call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif

High-level Kuwaiti defence delegation calls on Field Marshal Asim Munir

APP- RAWALPINDI: A high-level delegation from Kuwait, led by Minister of Defence Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Saleem Al-Sabah, accompanied by Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces of Kuwait Lieutenant General Khalid Darj Saad Al-Shriaan called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ here at General

Headquarters (GHQ) on Thursday. The meeting focused on matters of mutual interest, regional security and bilateral defence cooperation. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing institutional ties and expanding mutually beneficial defence collaboration between the two brotherly countries, said a news release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR). The Kuwaiti delega-

tion appreciated the professionalism, operational excellence and valuable contributions of the Pakistan Armed Forces towards regional peace and stability. The engagement reaffirmed the resolve of Pakistan and Kuwait to further consolidate their historic and brotherly relations into a strong, enduring and mutually beneficial defence partnership, contributing to regional security and stability. Optate

Uzma Khan Urges Immediate Implementation of SC Order



Chairman Senate of Pakistan Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani shakes hands with Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Sen, President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia, during the 2nd Inter-Parliamentary Speakers’ Conference (ISC) in Phnom Penh, Cambodia

STAFF REPORT, ISLAMABAD: A fresh plea has been filed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder Imran Khan’s sister, Uzma Khan, before the Supreme Court, seeking an urgent hearing of a contempt petition concerning his hospital transfer.
The plea came after the top court scheduled the contempt petition for hearing on September 16 before a three-member bench comprising Justice Shahid Waheed, Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan and Justice Shakil Ahmed.

In her application, Uzma said Imran’s health was deteriorating in jail and described the matter concerning his health and life as extremely important.
She contended that the Supreme Court’s August 18 order was deliberately not implemented in its true spirit and that Imran was taken to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims) in violation of the court’s directions for his transfer to Shifa International Hospital.

PHP Jhelum ASI Dies During Elite Police Training in Lahore

Staff Report

Another martyr of the law heir force Syed Tsavro Abbas Shah (PHP Jhelum) was selected as Assistant Sub-Inspector through PPSC last year. He was still enjoying the joy of passing out when he was martyred as a result of inhumane training at the Elite Police Training School, Lahore. Shah Sahib was over forty years old but he was also being trained like a twenty-two year old. This morning, in the 4 mile running test, Shah Sahib kept shouting to the instructors that his health was deteriorating but the staff forced him to run continuously. Finally, Shah Sahib fell unconscious inside the staff colony. The only ambulance of the training school arrived after about half an hour and he was shifted to the school dispensary where a number of constables (who only know how to check blood pressure) were present. Instead of giving



first aid, he sarcastically says that he is not cheating on him. Meanwhile, an instructor comes and, ignoring Shah Sahib's extremely critical position, takes the running token out of his pocket and heads back to the



ground. After wasting about an hour, Shah Sahib is referred to a hospital outside, where he becomes dear to Allah. May Karim Malik grant his family patience and solace, Amen.

Gujranwala: All Pakistan Wapda Hydro Electric Workers Union is only playing politics on the matter of privatization of GAPCO, the employees are being misled to strike to collect their donations, the strike protest is not accepted in any case and the company is not good for the employees



Gujranwala (Bureau Report)

According to details: President of GAPCO Hydro Electric Labor Union Iqbal Dar, Regional Chairman Abbas Ali Bajwa and Zonal Chairman of Sialkot Circle Zahid Usman Kamboh addressed the joint press conference and discussed the problems of GAPCO management and employees in detail. So that they can celebrate with their children. He also supported the demand for dangerous allowance for line staff and said that the union will continue to fight for the welfare of workers and their legitimate rights at all levels. Speaking, Regional Chairman Abbas Ali Bajwa

said that after 7-8 months of struggle of GAPCO Hydro Electric Labor Union, deduction of illegal contribution from GAPCO payroll has been stopped, for which he thanked GAPCO management, Chairman Board of Directors and CEO GAPCO. He said that the notification of increase in salaries and allowances and dangerous allowance has been issued by the federal government, which is a big success of the workers.

Abbas Ali Bajwa, while criticizing the ongoing strikes and protests in the institution, said that some elements are resorting to protests only to protect their personal and central positions, while they have also

refused to accept the decisions of the courts. He said that for the betterment of the employees, the issues should be resolved through court or table talk with the government. He demanded from the GAPCO management that strict and strict legal action should be taken against the few miscreants who are spreading chaos in the organization, while no pressure or unilateral action should be taken on the common workers and middle leadership. He clarified regarding privatization that the union is against privatization from day one and the future of employees will be ensured by negotiating with the government of Pakistan.

Gujranwala anti-corruption officials have asked the Buildings Department for the records of the expenditure on construction and repairs in the Central Jail during the last three years

Gujranwala (Bureau Report)

According to the details: Anti-corruption circle officer has summoned former Exxion Buildings Obaidur Rehman, current Exxion Shabbir Ahmed Chadhar, contractor Sami Mughal during the last three years for the alleged bogus payments made under the guise of construction and repair of barracks in the Central Jail in addition to the Central Jail Superintendent's office and government accommodation, while the account of former contractor Sami Mughal. Important evidence has been obtained about the transfer of huge sums to the account of the Superintendent Central Jail Azhar Cheema, according to anti-corruption official sources, Sami Mughal, a contractor of the Buildings Department, spent approximately 25 lakh rupees on the renovation of the office of the Superintendent Central Jail without approval, while millions of rupees



were also spent on the official residence of the superintendent without tender approval. There is a strong possibility

that major revelations of alleged corruptions due to nexus will come to light.

Rawalpindi Police Arrest Four Drug Suppliers, Recover 11kg Hashish



RAWALPINDI (FIR REPORT) On the instructions of CPO Hassan Mushtaq Sukhera, Rawalpindi Police conducted anti-drug operations, including a major drug supplier, 4 drug suppliers were arrested, and 11 kg of hashish was recovered.

According to the details, Taxila Police arrested a major drug supplier and recovered 5 kg 300 grams of hashish, Mandra Police arrested a drug supplier and recovered 2 kg 400 grams of hashish, Race Course Police arrested a drug supplier and recovered

1 kg 700 grams of hashish, Jatli Police arrested a drug supplier and recovered 1 kg 600 grams of hashish and registered separate cases. CPO Hassan Mushtaq Sukhera said that all steps are being taken to eradicate the scourge of drugs.

Departmental action has been initiated against former DMD Khuram Butt, who caused poor performance and disrepute of Gujranwala WASA department. He was also suspended from Gujarat by applying PEDDA Act 2006. The dream of becoming MD WASA was swept away by the monsoon rains



Gujranwala (Bureau Report)

According to the details: DMD Khuram Butt was responsible for the destruction caused by the monsoon rains across the city due to the poor strategy and carelessness of the former DMD Khuram Butt of Wasa Department. On the strong orders of

the Chief Minister Punjab, Khurram Butt was transferred as DMD Gujranwala to Gujarat, but the inquiry is ongoing. According to the source report, former MD Wasa Ahad Dogar According to the statements of I was not a technical officer. Knowledge I have to clear all the arrangements before the monsoon. While before the

monsoon rains, the present DMD Wasa Khurrambutt was involved in all the responsibilities of the strategy and would have carried out his work strategically who was working on a technical seat. DMD Khurram Butt's focus was on every seat to get a bigger seat, which led to a poor strategy in the monsoon rains.

Major action against unhealthy chicken meat, joint action of district administration and Punjab Food Authority on the direction of Deputy Commissioner Gujranwala Naveed Ahmed, 96 kg of unhealthy and substandard chicken meat was exported and taken into custody



Gujranwala (Bureau Report)

According to details: Major operation against unhealthy chicken meat During this time, a detailed inspection of meat quality, hygiene and suitability for human consumption was carried out, while the exported unhealthy meat was destroyed on the

spot. Legal action was also initiated against the elements involved in the sale and delivery of substandard meat.

Deputy Commissioner Naveed Ahmed said that providing quality, safe and healthy food to the citizens is the first priority of the district administration. Actions will be continued

without discrimination under the zero tolerance policy against elements that play with human health.

Under the supervision of ADC Enforcement Fahad Ejaz, the teams of district administration and Punjab Food Authority are continuing field operations against violators of food safety rules.

“The bitter truth, the bitter facts, human rights are equal for all” Episode 2

Islamabad's government hospital Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), government TV, other sources According to our alleged information and the district administration Islamabad, a fire broke out on the third floor of the hospital's MCH ward and there were 16 newborns in it. As a result of the fire, 15 children died. The mother of one child screamed and said that we do not know whether ten children were burnt or twenty were missing. At the time of the fire, not a single nurse was present in the corridor and nursing station. The entire staff was absent. There was no doctor in the gynecology ward either. At such a time of trouble, they were all absent together. Why was the ICU locked? It was supposed to be a guard on duty at the gate. Why was the rescue not informed immediately? Due to late information, the rescue teams also arrived hours late. No emergency was reported from the children's ward of this PIMS hospital with a budget of more than three billion rupees. There was no exit, we had to

break the windows and go inside. Most of the staff were absent. When the fire broke out, there was no one to take the children out. Who saved a child is a matter of concern. The fire in the hospital has been brought under control. Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif expressed his anger at the relevant officers in the emergency over the death of 15 newborns in PIMS Hospital. He has only removed Federal Secretary Health Aslam Ghauri. The heads of all the relevant institutions have also been summoned to the PM House. I don't know how many prayers and supplications these flowers had bloomed. 15 newborns have not yet been able to drink the milk given to them by Allah Almighty from their mothers' breasts, nor have they been able to hear Mamata's lullabies, nor have they been able to see the happy faces of their parents. Just look at these innocent newborns, without seeing the free spaces of their homeland, they have fallen victim to the poor hospital administration for their

uncommitted sins. The rescue ladders brought from outside are being mercilessly taken down by strangers, who do not know if our ashes will be shown to our mothers so that they can smell the fragrance of their hearts and find peace of mind. O our mothers, may Allah bless your lap, may Allah make it green again. Farewell, farewell, O our mothers, we will beg our true owner to meet you in Paradise. Amen.

Human Rights Organization Pak Army Zindabad, strongly appeals to Prime Minister Mian Shahbaz Sharif that such a tragedy is irreparable. A detailed review of the reasons for this incident should be conducted. Those responsible should be identified in the light of their statements according to the list of those who had duties in the hospital and the strictest action should be taken against them.

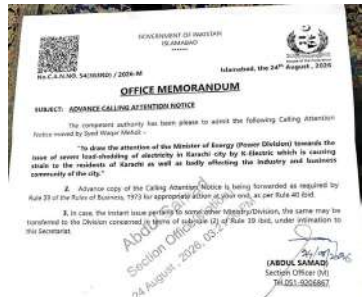
This is a safe and holy land, with the help of Allah, behind it is a uniform.

Chairman Shahabuddin Haider. President Wahid Ali Abbasi.

Manghopir Faces Up to 20-Hour Daily Power Outages

Karachi (Report: Pir Bakhsh Noonari)

Normal life is disrupted due to power outages lasting up to 20 hours a day in different areas of Manghopir Town, Karachi. Patients are facing severe difficulties in government and private hospitals. There is intense anger among the local people. The situation in the area is tense. According to details, despite Senator Waqar Mehdî's attention notice regarding the ongoing load shedding in Karachi in the Senate meeting, the worst and longest load shedding of electricity in different areas of Manghopir Town, Karachi, especially PS-118 and UC-14, has made the lives of citizens unbearable. Normal life is disrupted due to power outages lasting up to 20 hours a day in different areas. Patients are facing severe difficulties in government and private hospitals. There is intense anger among the local people. Protest demonstrations were held by consumers in many areas. In this regard, according to the residents of the area, power outages of up to 20 hours a day have become the norm in many areas, due to which normal life has come to a standstill, business activities and domestic affairs are being badly



affected. Due to prolonged power outages in the intense heat, children, women and the elderly are facing severe difficulties. Citizens say that action against electricity thieves is necessary, however, punishing the people of the entire area for alleged electricity theft of a few consumers or areas is not acceptable in any way. Action should be taken against the elements involved in electricity theft according to the law, but consumers who pay electricity bills regularly should not be punished collectively. There is strong public anger against the prolonged power outage, and protest demonstrations were also held yesterday. Pakistan Peoples Party UC-9 President Jamshed

Khan Amazai has demanded that K-Electric and the relevant authorities take immediate notice of the prolonged load shedding in Manghopir Town and provide relief to the citizens without delay. Jamshed Khan Amazai said that electricity theft is a crime and action should be taken against it, but wherever electricity is stolen, action should also be taken there; punishing the people of the entire area is not appropriate in any case. He demanded that the duration of load shedding be reduced immediately and the series of undeclared load shedding be ended. On this occasion, social workers Pir Bakhsh Noonari, Gulam Muhammad Magi, Kifayat Hassanzai, Afsar Khan Amazai and senior leader Muhammad Magi also expressed serious concern over the problems of the citizens. They said that the 20-hour power outage has paralyzed business activities and domestic life. Residents of the area have demanded from higher authorities and K-Electric to immediately improve the power supply in PS-118 and UC-14 Manghopir Town, end the 20-hour load shedding and not deprive citizens of the basic facility of electricity.



اسلام آباد کے پمز ہسپتال کی نرسری میں آگ لگنے سے 15 نومولود جاں بحق

نئے پھوگا آگ کے شعلوں میں جھلس گئے، ماؤں کی چیخ و پکار نے دل دہلا دیے

یہ پندرہ گھروں کے چراغ بجھنے کا سانحہ ہے۔ پندرہ ماؤں کی گودیں اجڑنے

کا المیہ ہے۔ پندرہ باپوں کی آنکھوں سے مستقبل چھن جانے کی داستان

ہے۔ اور شاید سب سے بڑھ کر یہ ہمارے اجتماعی ضمیر کا امتحان ہے

ہم اپنے بچوں کو ہسپتال اس امید پر لے کر آتے ہیں کہ وہاں زندگی محفوظ ہوگی۔ مگر اگر علاج گاہ ہی موت کا دروازہ بن جائے

اگر جس جگہ زندگی بچانے کی ذمہ داری ہو وہی جگہ حفاظتی غفلت کا شکار

ہو جائے، تو پھر سوال صرف انتظامیہ سے نہیں، پوری قوم سے ہے

آسمان سے فرشتے اترنے کی روایت تو ہم نے بہت سنی ہے، مگر آج دل یہ

سوچنے پر مجبور ہے کہ کہیں ہمارے آسمان ہی تو دھوئیں سے بھر نہیں گئے؟

یہ ننھے وجود کسی فہرست کے نمبر نہیں تھے، یہ کسی ماں کی دعاؤں کا جواب تھے، کسی

باپ کی امید تھے، کسی گھر کا مستقبل تھے، کسی خاندان کی پہلی خوشی تھے

یہ وہ پھول تھے جو کھلنے سے پہلے ہی مسل دیے گئے، اور شاید آج

آسمان بھی ہم سے پوچھ رہا ہے، میں نے تمہیں فرشتے عطا کیے تھے، تم

نے انہیں محفوظ کیوں نہ رکھا؟



بریگیڈیئر صادق راہی
ستارہ امتیاز (ملٹی) ریٹائرڈ

کہتے ہیں آسمان سے فرشتے اترتے ہیں، نور کے پیکر، رحمت کے پیامبر، محبت میں لپٹے ہوئے۔

مگر ہم کتنے بد قسمت ہیں کہ آج ہمارے آسمان سے فرشتے اترے تو ان کے پر سلامت نہیں تھے۔ وہ نور میں لپٹے ہوئے نہیں بلکہ دھوئیں میں گھرے ہوئے تھے۔ وہ پھول بن کر دنیا میں آئے والے تھے، مگر ہمیں ان کے ننھے وجود کا کھ میں لپٹے ملے۔

یہ صرف پندرہ بچوں کی موت نہیں۔ یہ پندرہ گھروں کے چراغ بجھنے کا سانحہ ہے۔ پندرہ ماؤں کی گودیں اجڑنے کا المیہ ہے۔ پندرہ باپوں کی آنکھوں سے مستقبل چھن جانے کی داستان ہے۔ اور شاید سب سے بڑھ کر یہ ہمارے اجتماعی ضمیر کا امتحان ہے۔

ہم اپنے بچوں کو ہسپتال اس امید پر لے کر آتے ہیں کہ وہاں زندگی محفوظ ہوگی۔ مگر اگر علاج گاہ ہی موت کا دروازہ بن جائے، تو پھر سوال صرف انتظامیہ سے نہیں، پوری قوم سے ہے۔ کیا ہمارے اداروں میں ذمہ داری ابھی زندہ ہے؟

آسمان سے فرشتے اترنے کی روایت تو ہم نے بہت سنی ہے۔ مگر آج دل یہ سوچنے پر مجبور ہے کہ کہیں ہمارے آسمان ہی تو دھوئیں سے بھر نہیں گئے؟

کہیں ہماری غفلت، ہماری بے حسی، ہماری کاغذی کارروائیاں، ہماری ناقص نگرانی اور ہماری ذمہ داری سے فرار نے اس آسمان کو آگ تو نہیں لگا دی؟

ای لے آج ہمیں آسمان کی طرف دیکھتے ہوئے صرف یہ دعا نہیں کرنی چاہیے کہ ہمارے فرشتے سلامت اتریں۔ ہمیں زمین پر ایسا نظام بھی بنانا ہوگا جو ان فرشتوں کو زندہ رہنے کا حق دے۔ کیونکہ یہ ننھے وجود کسی فہرست کے نمبر نہیں تھے۔

یہ وہ پھول تھے جو کھلنے سے پہلے ہی مسل دیے گئے۔ اور شاید آج آسمان بھی ہم سے پوچھ رہا ہے: میں نے تمہیں فرشتے عطا کیے تھے، تم نے انہیں محفوظ کیوں نہ رکھا؟

اس سوال کا جواب صرف تحقیقات، کمیٹیوں اور تعزیری بیانات سے نہیں دیا جاسکتا۔

اس کا جواب ہمیں اپنے اداروں کو بدل کر، اپنی ذمہ داریاں نبھا کر اور ہر اس غفلت کا احتساب کر کے دینا ہوگا جو ایک انسانی جان کو خطرے میں ڈال سکتی ہے۔

ورنہ خوف یہ ہے کہ اس قوم کے آسمانوں سے فرشتے آئندہ بھی اتریں گے مگر ان کے پر جھلنے ہوئے ہوں گے۔

America facing a growing terror threat from within

DALIA AL-AQIDI

The US is being tested by a threat that is no longer distant, organized in foreign camps or directed solely from abroad. It is increasingly diffuse, harder to detect and more dangerous precisely because it grows from within. The rise in terrorist plots and attacks inspired by radicalism and extremism should alarm every American — not only because of their frequency but because of the conditions that allow them to take hold.

This is not speculation. It is the conclusion of America's own intelligence community.

The 2026 Annual Threat Assessment, released last week by Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard, shows that the biggest terrorist risk America is facing today comes from individuals or small groups acting on their own, driven by extreme beliefs. These attackers are often not directly tied to larger organizations or guided by foreign groups. But they are still influenced by dangerous ideas that make violence seem justified and even necessary in response to what they see as injustice.

This shift represents a profound evolution in the threat landscape. Groups such as Daesh and Al-Qaeda may have lost much of their ability to carry out large-scale, coordinated attacks. But their ideological reach remains intact. In some ways, it has expanded. They no longer need to plan every attack. They only need to inspire one. The results are visible across the country. Two weeks ago in New York, two young men attempted to detonate improvised explosive devices outside the mayor's residence. According to federal prosecutors, they were motivated by Daesh-inspired ideology and sought to carry out an attack of devastating scale. The devices failed to detonate but the intent was unmistakable.

In Michigan, a Lebanese American male drove his vehicle into a synagogue while children were inside, turning a place of worship into a scene of fear. Investigators say the attacker held extremist views and deliberately chose his target, using his vehicle as a weapon to spread harm and intimidation. It was not just an attack on a building but on an entire community and its sense of safety.

On the same day in Virginia, a gunman

with a prior terrorism conviction opened fire in a university classroom while shouting religious slogans. Students who had come to learn found themselves in the middle of a violent, ideology-driven attack. The fact that the attacker was already known to authorities raises serious concerns about how such threats are monitored and contained.

In each case, the attackers did not act in isolation from ideas. Their actions were shaped over time by beliefs that frame violence as justified, even necessary. These are not isolated incidents but part of a pattern.

According to FBI Director Kash Patel, US authorities disrupted 640 planned terrorist attacks in the past year alone. At the same time, the FBI is investigating about 1,700 domestic terrorism cases. Many of these involve individuals driven by what officials describe as "nihilistic violent extremism" — a mindset rooted in hatred of society and a desire to create chaos. This is what terrorism in America looks like today: scattered, driven by ideology and much harder to detect and stop. But addressing this threat requires more than law enforcement. It requires honesty

about how people become radicalized — and how public narratives can speed up that process. Because terrorism does not start with violence, it starts with ideas.

It begins with the idea that a person's identity is under attack, their faith is under siege and the society around them is hostile and irredeemable. Once that belief takes hold, the path to radicalization becomes far shorter. This is why rhetoric matters.

When political figures suggest that the US is fundamentally hostile to a particular religion, they are not merely engaging in debate, they are shaping perceptions, especially among the young — impressionable individuals who may already feel alienated. Among the most prominent voices advancing this narrative is Rep. Ilhan Omar, who has repeatedly framed criticism of extremist ideologies as an attack on Muslims more broadly. This framing is deeply irresponsible. It blurs the line between protecting religious freedom and confronting extremist ideas. Washington must defend the first, but it cannot ignore the second. When criticism is dismissed as bigotry, harmful ideas go unchallenged, gain acceptance and

can push some individuals to see violence as justified. Such a pattern has been observed repeatedly, both in the US and abroad.

Policy needs to adapt to this threat.

The US should focus more on stopping radicalization early, especially online, and work with trusted voices in communities to push back against extremist ideas. Law enforcement also needs better tools, coordination and support to track lone attackers, who are harder to detect. At the same time, immigration and citizenship policies should reflect the seriousness of terrorism, with clear consequences for those who turn to violence. And most importantly, key security agencies must be fully supported, without political disruptions, so they can do their job effectively and keep the country safe. Finally, there must be a renewed commitment to clarity in public discourse. America is not at war with a religion. It is confronting an ideology that distorts faith, exploits grievance and justifies violence. Failing to make that distinction clear does not promote tolerance. It creates confusion — and that confusion is precisely what extremist groups rely on.

—Arab News

Africa is forging its own green future

ELIAS KAGUMYA

The Belem Package — the set of climate finance and adaptation measures adopted at last year's COP30 UN Climate Change Conference in Brazil — was limited in scope. Still, by acknowledging that the world can no longer design climate solutions for Africa without meaningful African input, it marked a profound shift in policymaking.

Despite accounting for less than 4 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, Africa is bearing the brunt of the climate crisis. As a result, the continent has in recent years moved from the periphery of the climate finance debate to the forefront. Much of the world now recognizes that Africa's path to net-zero emissions must foster development, not constrain it. Rather than replicating old patterns of dependency, African countries must industrialize, trade and grow while forging a low-carbon future.

The inaugural environmental, social and governance report by the African Export-Import Bank, known as Afreximbank, released during COP30, reflects this shift. It finds that instead of waiting for external solutions, African institutions are already taking the necessary steps to support the continent's economic development and climate ambitions. But to unlock climate finance at scale, African multilateral institutions must act as a coordinated force promoting a shared continental vision. The Afreximbank report highlights a range of practical instruments, such as the Climate Change Adaptation Finance Facility, which could help mobilize sustainable investments. Whether supporting solar projects in Cameroon or providing Nigerian businesses with stable power, these instruments demonstrate how decentralized clean energy can underpin Africa's industrialization and economic competitiveness.

Similarly, facilities such as the Africa Trade Transformation Fund can help address the continent's twin challenges of a heavy debt burden and climate vulnerability. The innovative Africa Trade Trust Fund, in particular, exemplifies the kind of project-driven instruments that will be critical to scaling up climate investment.

Effective climate action in Africa is inseparable from economic sovereignty and trade. Localizing green value chains, building low-carbon manufacturing hubs and investing in climate-resilient infrastructure are not merely climate initia-

tives, they are also nation-building projects crucial to a just transition.

The question now is whether the global financial system can adjust to this new reality. As Africa builds the necessary institutions for a sustainable future, advanced economies must honor their commitments by fully funding the Loss and Damage Fund, easing access to concessional finance and treating Africa not as an aid recipient but as an equal trading partner. Far from an act of charity, supporting Africa's green transition is the only viable path to global climate resilience and equitable growth. As COP30 made clear, the continent's financial institutions are already shifting toward clean energy on their own terms.

Africa's economic transformation will depend on technology transfer and capacity building, both of which are essential to the projects Afreximbank and its partners are financing. Consider solar farms. Beyond installation, this generating capacity becomes part of a future electricity grid, stimulates local component manufacturing and helps train a new generation of engineers.

Nigeria's Aba Integrated Power Project illustrates this holistic approach. By delivering stable, clean gas power to small businesses, it simultaneously tackles emissions, boosts productivity and strengthens local value chains.

The resulting multiplier effect reinforces the case for treating climate finance as development finance. Doing so answers a key question raised by many COP30 attendees: How can economies become both climate-resilient and globally competitive? The answer lies in integrated projects that link environmental progress with economic strength.

Make no mistake: systemic obstacles remain. Africa faces a staggering financing gap of \$1.6 trillion to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, underscoring the persistent misalignment between the global financial system and the continent's needs. The Belem Package, which acknowledges that imbalance, is a step in the right direction. Correcting distorted risk perceptions and the resulting high credit spreads, however, will be key to unlocking private capital at concessional rates.

Encouragingly, African institutions are already responding by developing de-risking tools and blended finance models, including concessional windows and trust funds, to attract private capital.

—Arab News

The US and Israel have different goals in the war on Iran

CON COUGHLIN

Donald Trump's claim that he knew nothing about Israel's attack on Iran's main gas field suggests that significant tensions exist between the US president and Israel over how best to prosecute their joint military campaign against Iran. Ever since Trump launched Operation Epic Fury more than three weeks ago, questions have been raised about the precise nature of the cooperation between the US military and its Israeli counterpart.

While Trump has suggested his main priority is to destroy, once and for all, Iran's ability to develop a nuclear weapons arsenal, the Israelis, who have dubbed their effort Operation Roaring Lion, appear determined to wage their campaign until regime change has been achieved in Tehran.

To this end, Israel's Mossad intelligence service has ruthlessly targeted key figures in the Iranian regime, with Israel said to have been heavily involved in last week's assassinations of Ali Larijani, Iran's national security chief, and Intelligence Minister Esmail Khatib.

There have even been reports of Mossad agents directly calling Iranian police officers and threatening to kill them in an attempt to secure defections. Leaked documents and recordings have revealed a wide-scale Israeli effort to scare lower-ranking officials in the hope of enabling a popular uprising in Iran, while also assassinating senior regime figures. By contrast, the US military has mainly been targeting Iran's nuclear and military sites, especially the country's ballistic missile launch pads that have been used to attack neighboring Gulf countries. While Trump has indicated he would like to see the war ultimately result in regime change in Tehran, he does not appear as committed to such an outcome as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has specifically said that

he wants Israel's military attacks on Iran to result in regime change.

One crucial difference in the prosecution of the war by the Americans and the Israelis has been an unwillingness on the part of the Americans to target key Iranian infrastructure, especially its energy sector — at least so far.

Trump's approach was clear during the recent US military attack on Kharg Island, the narrow strip of Iranian territory in the Gulf that is responsible for about 90 percent of Iran's oil exports. While the US attacked a number of military bases operated by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, it avoided attacks on the island's oil facilities, with Trump declaring that he had deliberately left them untouched. By contrast, Israel appears to have no qualms about attacking key Iranian infrastructure targets, with Israeli warplanes launching an attack on the South Pars gas field on Wednesday.

While Israel insists that key Iranian infrastructure presents a legitimate target in its war against the regime, the attack on South Pars has exposed tensions between Israel and the Trump administration, with the American president insisting that he knew nothing about the Israeli attack, stating that Israel had "violently lashed out" by attacking the gas field. In an attempt to draw a red line over which targets should and should not be attacked in the war, Trump insisted that Israel would not conduct any more attacks against Iran's energy sector unless the Iranians continued their attacks on energy targets in the Gulf.

"Israel, out of anger for what has taken place in the Middle East, has violently lashed out at a major facility ... in Iran," Trump wrote on Truth Social. "No more attacks will be made by Israel pertaining to this extremely important and valuable South Pars field unless Iran unwisely decides to attack a very innocent, in this case, Qatar.

—Arab News



A Gulf lesson in crisis management

ARNAB NEIL SENGUPTA

For residents of Dubai, Feb. 28 was a normal day until the unfamiliar sounds of missile interceptions drowned out the background noise of speeding cars and construction activity. Those following the news at that very moment were perhaps the only ones who guessed what those sounds were. For the vast majority, however, it was a rude awakening. The country across the Gulf had suddenly begun hurling massive missiles and combat drones at key urban centers across the Arabian Peninsula in retaliation for a combined military assault by Israel and the US. The initial booms were possibly mistaken by many residents for rockets crashing into nearby buildings; in reality, they were the sounds of ballistic missiles being neutralized by state-of-the-art interceptors. Citizens and expatriates alike remained safe because these systems were so precise as to unfailingly find their targets high in the stratosphere. This has largely been the story for Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar over the past few weeks. If there were ever a defining moment of clarity for the denizens of the Gulf, this is it.

With the US-Israeli campaign to destroy Iran's missile infrastructure and military sites now in its fourth week, people here have become acutely aware of both the significant geopolitical risks and the structural advantages of the region. There are no scary sirens triggering panicked runs to bomb shelters. Instead, residents receive automated, localized alerts on their smartphones, informing them of threats and again when the "coast is clear." The precision is such that if a ballistic or cruise missile's trajectory poses no threat to a specific area or district, no alert is even sent, preventing unnecessary mass anxiety.

Underpinning this calm amid the tension is a master class in crisis management that should be taught in public-policy courses in the years to come. Governments across the region have maintained high levels of liquidity, ensuring that ATMs remain stocked and the financial system stays buoyant in spite of the market turbulence.

On the ground, the efficiency of civil defense has been nothing if not remarkable. Fires caused by falling shrapnel from successful interceptions are extinguished within minutes and the few injuries resulting from debris are handled with almost clinical speed. Furthermore, by quickly engaging with partners like Ukraine to integrate battle-tested anti-drone

technologies, the Gulf states are expected to eventually close the asymmetric threat gap opened up by the Iranian regime and its proxies. Critical to this stability has been the speed and transparency of official communication. By providing real-time updates and debunking misinformation within minutes, governments have effectively neutralized the rumor mills that usually thrive in conflict zones — and increasingly so in the age of politically motivated social influencers and artificial intelligence tools. This transparency has been instrumental in building and maintaining a sense of trust that keeps the social fabric intact in a region where non-citizens outnumber citizens in quite a few countries.

The physical evidence of this stability is everywhere. So far, there has not been a hint of a shortage: fresh food, cooking gas and electricity remain constant. Even flower shops are stocked with fresh imports from across the globe despite airspace being closed over many cities and the threats faced by ships using the Gulf. The sight of supermarkets brimming with dairy and other produce feels almost surreal during a conflict. Admittedly, many foreigners have temporarily relocated in response to embassy warnings, but the streets remain active. Delivery services, in particular, are busier than ever, with motorcycle riders crisscrossing cities day and night. Reports in Western publications suggesting a "flight of capital" or a mass exodus of the wealthy seem either agenda-driven or detached from reality. However, a nagging worry persists: the fear that Washington might declare a unilateral ceasefire or strike a deal with the regime in Tehran without seeking ironclad security guarantees for its Gulf partners. President Donald Trump's penchant for cavalier remarks — "a little excursion," "winding down" and "the war is very complete, pretty much" — does little to inspire confidence in a long-term American commitment, which is vital for the restoration of stability. Despite four weeks of bombardment, Iran's arsenal — and its network of proxies from Iraq to Yemen — remains a potent "known unknown," to use the NASA insider jargon made famous by US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld in 2002 ahead of the invasion of Iraq. Debates occasionally erupt on social media over whether on-air segments from cities like Dubai or Riyadh constitute reporting from a "war zone." Technically, the region is in a state of war, though not by its own choosing.

—Arab News

Letters to the Editor

Women's safety

The pressing issue for women in society is their safety. Many women do not feel safe when they walk in public, especially when they go to school, the market or their workplaces. This fear limits their freedom and participation in daily activities. Due to this fear, they are forced to stay at home, and they are not allowed to participate in any activities. But women's contributions have an immense role in keeping communities progressive and healthy. To improve safety in our community, I kindly request the installation of CCTV cameras and streetlights across the city. In our society, there are no streetlights which increases the risk of incidents. I also urge the provincial government and the Balochistan Commission on the Status of Women (BCSW) to take immediate measures for their safety.

Tamana Hanif
Hub

Underdeveloped institute

Turbat, a city that is already considered underdeveloped in many aspects, is facing serious challenges in the field of education — especially technical and vocational training which is essential for the progress of any nation. In our city, there is an institution called the Technical

Training Centre. Although the building exists and the department is officially established, it is not functioning properly. There is no effective system of education, and the centre appears active only in name. Several serious issues have been observed. Students are not receiving proper training and, in some cases, certificates are reportedly issued without merit. There is little to no supervision from the concerned authorities. Staff members are often absent from their duties, and the stipends meant for students are allegedly not reaching them. This institution has the potential to play a vital role in developing skills among the youth of the area. If managed properly, it could help young people become self-reliant and contribute positively to society and the economy. I respectfully request the district administration and the Government of Balochistan to take immediate action to make this department fully functional. Proper monitoring, accountability and sincere management are urgently needed so that this centre can truly serve its purpose and help produce skilled individuals who can stand on their own feet.

Mehrullah Ali
Turbat

Educational capabilities

Children have different IQ levels, and they per-

ceive events around them in their own unique ways. It is true that even mediocre students can present wonderful results if the concepts are explained to them effectively. Students with lower IQ levels can also excel in their studies if they are properly guided and given due attention. The environment also equally affects the performance of children. The education department should focus on the factors that hinder students from excelling in their studies. A good teacher considers the abilities and weaknesses of students and takes steps accordingly to bring improvement in their academic progress. Education is not something that can be ignored; it requires serious attention from authorities and the government if they truly want their nation to progress and achieve technological development. Often, if a student does not perform well in lower classes, teachers in higher classes label them as slow. The same perception is then often reinforced by parents. But the success of most students depends upon the behavior, hard work and dedication of teachers as well as parents to keep them on the right track. This is, no doubt, a huge responsibility, and it brings great respect to both teachers and parents. The need of the hour is to make sincere efforts to strengthen the nation by imparting quality education to the new generation.

Muhammad Iqbal Awan
Mianwali



Labourers work on the construction of an embankment wall along the Indus River at Latifabad Unit No. 4 as part of a development project aimed at protecting local communities

Bar leaders meet Law Minister to discuss issues of legal fraternity

APP- ISLAMABAD: Office-bearers of various Bar Associations and leaders of the legal fraternity on Thursday met Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar and discussed issues faced by lawyers, professional matters and matters concerning Bar Associations.

The meetings also focused on promoting cooperation between the Ministry of Law and Justice and the legal community.

Those who met the Federal Minister included President High Court Bar Association Rawalpindi Syed Yousaf Khan, Secretary General Qasim Mahmood Malik, President District Bar Association Rawalpindi Tariq Mahmood Sajid Awan, President Lahore High Court Bar Association Bahawalpur Bench



Samina Qureshi, Pakistan Bar Council Member Syed Qalb-e-Hassan Shah, Punjab Bar Council Member Rao Sultan Ahmad Khan, President District Bar

Association Khanewal Mehr Muhammad Rafiq Malana, General Secretary Ghulam Mustafa Pahore and Mehr Afzal Malana, Advocate.

President Bar Association Kabirwala Chaudhry Azam Hussain Hanjra, General Secretary Chaudhry Waseem Tariq Pannu and former President Tehsil Bar Association Jahanian Chaudhry Saeed Iqbal Goraya also met the Minister.

The lawyers' representatives apprised the Federal Minister of various professional issues and matters relating to Bar Associations.

Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar welcomed the representatives and stressed the importance of addressing the concerns of the legal community through effective engagement with Bar Associations.

He said the legal fraternity played an important role in ensuring effective delivery of justice and strengthening the legal system.

Pakistan makes effective representation at ISPCAN 2026 global child protection conference

APP- LAHORE: Pakistan made an effective representation at the ISPCAN 2026 Global Conference on Child Protection held in Melbourne, where a Pakistani delegation participated in discussions on strengthening child rights and protection systems through international best practices and global cooperation. The delegation comprised Chairperson Child Protection and Welfare Bureau Punjab Sara Ahmed, Secretary Human Rights Abdul Khaliq Sheikh and Director Human Rights Dr. Arif. They represented Pakistan in the international dialogue on child rights, protection mechanisms and institutional responses to challenges confronting children, said a press release issued here on Wednesday.

During the conference, the Pakistani delegation held meetings with international child protection experts and practitioners and reviewed effective child protection systems, international models and best practices. Discussions focused on global challenges relating to child protection, effective institutional mechanisms and ways to benefit from international experience. Chairperson Child Protection and Welfare Bureau Punjab Sara Ahmed said the Prime Minister and the Government of Pakistan were making concerted efforts to ensure effective protection of children's rights across the country.

Concrete roadmap established to resolve issue of religious seminaries' bank accounts

APP- ISLAMABAD: In a breakthrough, a concrete roadmap has been established after consultation with all stakeholders to resolve the long-standing and complex issue of opening bank accounts for religious seminaries.

The progress was made during a joint meeting of religious educational boards and seminaries hosted by the Directorate General of Religious Education (DGRE), Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, chaired by Director General Major General (Retd) Dr. Ghulam Qamar. The event brought together top leadership from seminary boards nationwide, university heads, and senior officials from the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) alongside representatives from various commercial banks. The participants conducted a detailed review of the administrative, legal, and operational obstacles hindering seminaries from opening bank accounts. Through mutual consultation, coordination, and consensus among the DGRE, the SBP, and religious board leaders, a concrete roadmap was established. It was agreed that the process of opening bank accounts for religious seminaries will commence immediately in the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), where the necessary legal and administrative formalities have been completed.

Jazz becomes first operator to reach 1,000 5G sites; network expands to 10 cities, Jazz targets 2,500 sites by year-end



APP- ISLAMABAD: Jazz, Pakistan's leading connectivity provider from JazzWorld, has expanded its 5G network to 1,000 live sites, marking the fastest 5G rollout in Pakistan and establishing the country's largest 5G network footprint and Jazz aimed to increase this to 2,500 sites by the end of 2026.

The milestone builds on Jazz's initial 5G launch across close to 180 sites in Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, Quetta, Multan and Faisalabad. The rollout has since expanded across these markets while extending to Sialkot and Gujranwala, taking Jazz's 5G presence to 10 cities nationwide.

President, Jazz GSM, said Kazim Mujtaba said "Reaching 1,000 5G sites at this pace reflects our determination to bring the benefits of 5G to more Pakistanis, faster. As we scale to 2,500 sites by year-end, our focus is on delivering a better digital experience through greater capacity, faster speeds and more reliable connectivity, while enabling new services and use

cases as 5G adoption grows."

He said Jazz was the only satellite operator to make significant investment across multiple spectrum bands, explaining that its strategy was designed to support 5G, 4G capacity, satellite connectivity and rural coverage. He said other operators that acquired spectrum had largely taken the minimum required to operate their networks. In comparison, the operator invested across several bands based on its assessment of future business requirements. With the additional spectrum, Jazz's total spectrum holdings have increased from 94.4 MHz to 284.4 MHz, nearly tripling its previous spectrum capacity.

The newly acquired spectrum includes 20 MHz in the 700 MHz band, 50 MHz in the 2300 MHz band, 70 MHz in the 2600 MHz band and 50 MHz in the 3500 MHz band. The spectrum portfolio will support both the expansion of 5G services and additional 4G capacity, enabling the operator to increase network capacity and coverage simultaneously.

PTA and NCCIA conduct joint raid against illegal SIM-Based recharging setup in Gilgit

APP- ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), Zonal Office Gilgit, in close coordination with the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA), Gilgit, conducted a successful raid against an illegal setup involved in the recharging of mobile balance through illegally issued SIMs at residential premises located behind NLI Market, Gilgit.

Following information regarding the misuse of SIMs for the remote recharging of mobile accounts to exploit the tax-exempt status of Gilgit-Baltistan, the raid was conducted. Such illegal activity not only undermines the regulatory framework governing the issuance and use of SIMs but also results in significant revenue losses to the government and the public exchequer, said a news release.

During the raid, one suspect was apprehended, while 75 mobile phones and 600 active SIMs were recovered and taken into custody as evidence.



Free food are being distributing among the people participating in main procession of Eid Milad-un-Nabi, the birth anniversary of Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) at M.A Jinnah Road near Numaish Chowrangi

Renaming of US Pacific Command reflects shift in strategic priorities: Speakers

APP- ISLAMABAD: The renaming of the US Indo-Pacific Command as the US Pacific Command reflects a shift in Washington's strategic priorities and indicates that India may no longer hold a central position in US grand strategy in the region, said experts at a discussion organized by the Consortium for Asia-Pacific and Eurasian Studies (CAPES).

The discussion, titled "From Indo-Pacific Back to Asia-Pacific: Rethinking India's Place in US Grand Strategy," was held at the CAPES office here, said a press release issued on Thursday.

The discussion brought together academics and students from Pakistan and Indonesia. With the change in nomenclature from US Indo-Pacific Command to US Pacific Command, India no longer occupies a central position in US Grand Strategy, said Dr. Saira Aquil, Vice President of CAPES and Assistant Professor in the Department of Defence and Strategic Studies, Quaid-e-Azam University. She stated that changing the name of the US Command is more than sym-



bolism. It reflects the changing strategic priorities of the US. Changing the name to Indo-Pacific back in 2018 signaled to China that India occupied a central position in US Grand Strategy, as a counterweight to China.

But the reversal of this change signifies that the US no longer considers India a central pillar of its Asia-Pacific

strategy. She highlighted the fact that this change occurred because India pursued its own self-interest, which raised concerns in Washington about India's reliability as a partner in the region. She remarked that the US renaming the Pacific Command was coupled with its moving strategic assets out of the region.

Gilgit-Shandur Road Project Stalls for Five Years, Tourism Hit

Ghizer (Reporter FIR)

The Gilgit-Shandur road expansion project has not been completed despite the passage of 5 years. The road has been turned into ruins, which has completely affected the tourism of the area. According to sources, the journey that used to take 2 hours now takes 10 hours. Due to the dilapidated condition of the

road, tourist traffic has become non-existent, which has caused serious damage to local businesses and the hotel industry.

On the other hand, the owners of the lands affected by the project have stopped work as compensation has not been paid yet and are forced to protest on the roads. The public circles of Ghizer have demanded that the federal

and provincial governments complete the construction of the under-construction road as soon as possible and pay immediate compensation to the owners of the affected lands so that tourism can be promoted in the area and travel facilities can be provided to the people. The people say that if immediate steps are not taken, they will be forced to expand the scope of the protest.



An illuminated view of a mosque during Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi celebrations, the birthday of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

ایف آئی آر رپورٹ

تفصیلات کے مطابق انٹیکر جنرل آف پولیس اسلام آباد سید علی ناصر رضوی کی خصوصی ہدایت پر اسلام آباد پولیس نے 12 ربیع الاول عید میلاد النبی صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم کے موقع پر مسجد، مذہبی اجتماعات اور مرکزی جلوس کے مرکزی جلوس جامع مسجد الرضا، جی سیون سے شروع ہو کر مقررہ راستوں سے گزرتا ہوا دربار خیمہ محمود بادشاہ، آجاردہ میں پراسن طور پر اختتام پذیر ہوا۔ جلوس کے دوران اسلام آباد پولیس کے تین ہزار سے زائد افسران و جوانوں نے سکیورٹی کے فرائض انجام دیے۔ ذیل ایس بی، ایس ڈی پی اور ادرائس ایچ اور نے اپنے اپنے علاقوں میں سکیورٹی انتظامات کی نگرانی کی، جبکہ سینٹر پولیس افسران بھی مختلف مقامات اور جلوس کے راستوں کا دورہ کر کے سکیورٹی انتظامات کا جائزہ لیا۔ جلوس اور مذہبی اجتماعات کے دوران SWAT اور DELTA فورسز کے کمانڈوز، سی ڈی، کینیکل پٹرول یونٹ، خواتین کمانڈوز، مسلح اور سادہ لباس پولیس افسران و جوانوں نے اپنے فرائض ایتھائی ذمہ داری اور مستعدی سے انجام دیے۔ اسلام آباد ٹریفک پولیس نے ٹریفک کی روانی کو برقرار رکھنے کے لیے خصوصی انتظامات کیے، جبکہ جلوس کے راستوں اور داخلی راستوں پر سخت چیکنگ کا عمل جاری رکھا گیا۔ شہریوں کی سکیورٹی کو یقینی بنانے کے لیے واک ٹھروٹیں اور مشل ڈیٹیکٹر کے ذریعے چیکنگ کی گئی، جبکہ ایم ڈیپول اسکواڈ نے مقررہ علاقوں کی مکمل سرچ اور سوچینگ بھی کی۔ اسلام آباد پولیس کی مربوط حکمت عملی، موثر نگرانی اور تمام متعلقہ اداروں کے باہمی تعاون سے 12 ربیع الاول عید میلاد النبی صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم کا مرکزی جلوس اور دیگر مذہبی اجتماعات پراسن ماحول میں کامیابی کے ساتھ اختتام پذیر ہوئے۔ اس موقع پر سینٹر پولیس افسران نے شہریوں کے اسلام آباد پولیس کے ساتھ تعاون کو بھی سراہا اور کہا کہ شہریوں کے جان و مال کا تحفظ اور امن وامان کا قیام اسلام آباد پولیس کی اولین ترجیح ہے۔

سینٹر ہینڈلڈ آف پولیس آپریشنز اسلام آباد قاضی علی رضا نے منقہات ہونے والے ایس ایس پی سکیورٹی / ایڈمنسٹریشن اور ایس بی کینیکل پٹرول یونٹ کپٹن (ر) سردار محمد شہر یار خان سے ملاقات کی۔ ملاقات کے دوران شہریوں کے جان و مال کے تحفظ، سکیورٹی انتظامات کو مزید موثر اور مربوط بنانے، اہم مقامات کی سکیورٹی اور پولیسنگ کے مختلف امور کا تفصیلی جائزہ لیا گیا۔ اس موقع پر دارالحکومت میں پٹرولنگ کے نظام کو مزید فعال اور نتیجہ خیز بنانے، جرائم پیشہ عناصر کے خلاف موثر کارروائیوں اور جرائم کی روک تھام کے لیے متعلقہ شعبوں کے درمیان باہمی رابطہ کاری اور کوارڈینیشن مزید مضبوط بنانے پر بھی تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ ایس ایس پی آپریشنز اسلام آباد قاضی علی رضا نے کہا کہ اسلام آباد پولیس شہریوں کو محفوظ، پراسن اور سازگار ماحول فراہم کرنے کے لیے تمام دستیاب وسائل بروئے کار لاری ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ جرائم کی روک تھام، امن وامان کے قیام اور شہریوں کے تحفظ کے لیے موثر فیلڈ پولیسنگ، فعال پٹرولنگ اور مربوط حکمت عملی بنیادی اہمیت رکھتی ہے۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ پولیس کی موثر موجودگی، بروقت رسپانس اور مختلف آپریشنز میں کے درمیان مضبوط رابطہ کاری کے ذریعے جرائم کی روک تھام اور شہریوں کے تحفظ کو مزید بہتر بنایا جاسکتا ہے۔ اس موقع پر کپٹن (ر) سردار محمد شہر یار خان نے بھی شہریوں کے جان و مال کے تحفظ اور وفاقی دارالحکومت میں امن وامان برقرار رکھنے کے لیے ہر ممکن تعاون، باہمی رابطہ کاری اور پیشہ ورانہ اقدامات کو مزید موثر بنانے کے عزم کا اظہار کیا۔ ملاقات کے اختتام پر دونوں افسران نے اس عزم کا اعادہ کیا کہ باہمی تعاون، موثر کوارڈینیشن اور مربوط حکمت عملی کے ذریعے سکیورٹی اور پٹرولنگ کے

اسلام آباد پولیس کے عید میلاد النبی صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم پر بہترین سکیورٹی انتظامات

12 ربیع الاول عید میلاد النبی صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم کا مرکزی جلوس پراسن طور پر اختتام پذیر۔ اسلام آباد پولیس کے عید میلاد النبی صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم کے موقع پر کیے گئے جامع اور موثر سکیورٹی انتظامات کے باعث مرکزی جلوس پراسن اور بخیریت اختتام پذیر ہو گیا

ایس ایس پی آپریشنز اسلام آباد قاضی علی رضا کی نئے تعینات ہونے والے ایس ایس پی سکیورٹی / ایڈمنسٹریشن اور ایس بی کپٹن

پیٹرولز یونٹ کپٹن (ر) سردار محمد شہر یار خان سے ملاقات

ملاقات میں اسلام آباد میں امن وامان کی صورتحال کو مزید بہتر بنانے کے حوالے سے تفصیلی تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا

اسلام آباد پولیس تھانہ ترنول پولیس ٹیم کی بروقت کارروائی

انواء برائے تاوان کی بڑی واردات ناکام۔ 10 کروڑ روپے تاوان کی خاطر ایبٹ آباد سے

انواء کیے گئے 12 سالہ بچے عبداللہ ابراہیم کو اسلام آباد پولیس نے بحفاظت بازیاب کروالیا

سی ڈی اسلام آباد میں خصوصی تربیتی کورسز مکمل کرنے والے افسران و جوانوں میں اسناد، میڈلز اور انعامات تقسیم

پولیس کا شکر یہ ادا کیا اور پولیس کی بروقت کارروائی کو سراہا۔ ایس ایس پی آپریشنز اسلام آباد قاضی علی رضا نے کہا کہ شہریوں کے جان و مال کا تحفظ اسلام آباد پولیس کی اولین ترجیح ہے۔ جرائم پیشہ عناصر کے خلاف بلا امتیاز اور موثر کارروائیاں جاری رکھی جائیں گی اور شہریوں کے تحفظ کو بروقت یقینی بنایا جائے گا۔ کاؤنٹر ٹیرورزم ڈیپارٹمنٹ کپٹن اسلام آباد میں جیک سائیکل کورس، ایٹمی نیرسٹ ٹریننگ اور کلوز پروٹیکشن کورسز کا کامیاب ٹریننگ کے موقع پر تقریب کا انعقاد کیا گیا، جس میں تربیتی کورسز مکمل کرنے والے افسران و جوانوں کی پیشہ ورانہ صلاحیتوں کو سراہا گیا۔ تقریب میں ایس ایس پی ڈی سیو خان نے خصوصی تربیتی کورسز کو سراہی سے مکمل کرنے والے افسران و جوانوں میں اسناد تقسیم کیں، جبکہ کورس کے دوران نمایاں کارکردگی کا مظاہرہ کرنے والے افسران و جوانوں کو میڈلز اور انعامات سے نوازا گیا۔ اس موقع پر ایس



جبکہ بچے کے انواء میں میڈٹور پلٹ مرکزی ملزم اور اس کے دو ساتھیوں سمیت تین ملزمان کو گرفتار کر لیا۔ گرفتار ملزمان میں مغربی بچے کا چچا زاد بھائی بھی شامل ہیں۔ ایس ایس پی آپریشنز اسلام آباد قاضی علی رضا نے کہا کہ ترنول پولیس ٹیم معمول کی چیکنگ کے دوران ایک مشکوک گاڑی کو روک کر چیک کر



اہم ہے۔ انہوں نے افسران و جوانوں پر زور دیا کہ وہ دوران تربیت حاصل کی گئی مہارتوں کو عملی فرائض میں موثر انداز میں بروئے کار لائیں اور مزید محنت و فرض شناسی، نظم و ضبط اور پیشہ ورانہ صلاحیتوں کو سراہتے ہوئے کہا کہ جدید تربیت پولیس افسران کی عملی استعداد کا مٹر ہے اور بدلتے ہوئے سکیورٹی چیلنجز سے موثر انداز میں نمٹنے کے لیے ایتھائی دیں۔ ایس ایس پی ڈی سیو خان نے مزید کہا کہ



Shaan Shahid calls for original storytelling in Pakistani cinema



SHOWBIZ DESK, Shaan Shahid has called for a fundamental shift in how Pakistani cinema defines itself, arguing that the industry must stop recycling familiar formulas and instead invest in original, locally grounded storytelling.

Speaking during a joint interview with Meera, he said the industry cannot continue imitating external models or relying on predictable romantic comedies. “Invest in talent, not in building property or chasing safer business ventures,” he said, stressing that filmmakers must take creative risks if the industry is to grow.

He added that Pakistani cinema needs to develop its own cultural voice. “We cannot keep recycling romantic comedies or presenting ourselves as a budget imita-

tion of Bollywood. The industry needs its own content, its own identity, told in the context of modern Pakistan,” he noted.

Meera echoed the sentiment, pointing to her upcoming work as an example of experimentation within local cinema. “People ask why we do not make films on topics like Hollywood, why we are not exploring different ideas. To them, the answer is my film *Psycho*, where Shaan has addressed a subject closer to Hollywood and a genre different from the usual,” she said.

She added that such projects represent an effort to broaden the scope of storytelling in Pakistan and push audiences towards new genres.

Building on this creative direction,

Shaan revealed that a new film is currently in development titled *English Minglish*, with Meera in the lead role. He has written the script, screenplay, and is directing the project himself.

“The pipeline ahead features a comedy film, and its name is *English Minglish*,” he said. “It stars Meera, and her character’s task in the movie is that she has to learn English in three months.”

When asked about casting the male lead, Shaan said he is considering a different actor this time, preferring to remain behind the camera. “I really enjoy being behind the camera. I feel I can define and shape a story much better if I don’t carry the full responsibility of acting on my shoulders.”

Meera said she is excited about collaborating again with Shaan on the project and is also working on *Psycho 2*.

The conversation then shifted to the challenges faced by artists in the industry and the way public perception often overshadows creative effort. Shaan noted that audiences tend to focus more on negativity than the work itself, particularly in the case of public figures.

Reflecting on Meera’s journey, he said her return to films came at a difficult time. “When Meera decided she wanted to do a film again, I felt here is an actress, a woman, struggling to define herself and find her domain. My effort is to develop an ecosystem of scripts around her,” he said.

Ryan Gosling goes solo in space

SHOWBIZ DESK, LOS ANGELES: Much of Ryan Gosling’s journey in the upcoming film ‘*Project Hail Mary*’ unfolded in near solitude.

The ‘*La La Land*’ star spent long stretches filming alone on set — or acting opposite an alien creature his character, Dr Ryland Grace, dubs Rocky. “A lot of times I’d be locked into the set for hours on end with an earwig,” Gosling told Reuters. “The directors would talk to me through the mic, ready to explore. There’s an experimentation process that keeps it from being a typical blockbuster — it’s not overwhelmed by its own scale.” Directed by Spider-Verse franchise duo Philip Lord and



Christopher Miller, ‘*Project Hail Mary*’ opens in US theatres on Friday (today). The science-fiction drama is adapted from Andy Weir’s bestselling novel. It follows mild-mannered science teacher Grace, who wakes up alone on a spacecraft and gradually remembers that he is humanity’s last hope to stop the sun from dying.

Oscars spotlight turns unforgiving

SHOWBIZ DESK, A moment of political expression on one of Hollywood’s most-watched stages has spilled into a fierce online debate, with social media users sharply criticising Priyanka Chopra over her reaction during a pro-Palestine remark made at the Academy Awards. Spanish actor Javier Bardem, while presenting the Best International Feature award, delivered a brief but pointed message, saying “no to war, and free Palestine”, drawing applause inside the venue and immediate traction across digital platforms worldwide. However, attention quickly shifted to Chopra, who was standing alongside Bardem during the announcement, as clips circulating online prompted users to dissect her facial expressions and body language, with many alleging visible discomfort and a muted response. Many viewers noted that Chopra appeared visibly caught off guard, with fans suggesting her immediate smile felt “evidently fake” or forced. The moment sparked a wave of comparisons on social media, where critics contrasted Bardem’s long history of outspoken activism with Chopra’s more reserved public stances. Posts on X and Instagram ranged from measured criticism to outright mockery, with some users questioning her past role as a UNICEF goodwill ambassador.

Celebrities urge joy, compassion as nation celebrates Eidul Fitr



SHOWBIZ DESK, KARACHI: As Eid festivities sweep across Pakistan, celebrities have shared heartfelt messages and personal traditions, highlighting the spirit of togetherness, gratitude and compassion associated with the occasion.

Speaking with Express Tribune Actor Hira Mani offered a candid glimpse into her Eid routine, emphasising the importance of family time after a busy Ramadan. “Mehendi, bangles, sheer khurma, that’s my Eid festival. Please don’t disturb me,” she said humorously, adding that she looks forward to spending the day with both her in-laws and her own family. Reflecting on societal perceptions, she remarked, “People say Eid is for a certain age, but Eid has nothing to do with maturity. We should

celebrate it with happiness.” She also shared a lighthearted take on marriage, saying she enjoys seeing couples shop together. “Husbands holding bags while wives shop, there’s no better scene than that.”

Mani started her career as a video jockey before moving on to hosting. She co-hosted the Hum 2 Hamara Show on Hum TV with Mani, which earned her critical recognition, and they both followed it with the Hira Mani Show (2010). Hira made her acting debut along with her husband Mani in ARY Digital’s Meri Teri Kahani (2012). The show was inspired by the American series Curb Your Enthusiasm. Both (Mani and Hira) appeared as fictionalized versions of themselves. Model and entrepreneur Nadia Hussain high-

lighted the simple joys of Eid, saying the day revolves around family gatherings and visiting loved ones. “It’s all about meeting family, a typical Eid atmosphere,” she said, adding that preparations from mehendi to bangles, pick up pace after iftar, with Chand Raat marking the start of festivities. She was born in the United Kingdom. At the age of four, she came to Karachi. Hussain started her career in modelling in 2000, just after she had completed her A-levels. She was the only Pakistani model to have been chosen by Rizwan Beyg for the Sarajevo Fashion Week.

Adding to the fashion conversation, actor Ilma Jaffery shared how trends like Kashmiri bangles and farshi kurtas dominated this Eid season. “At first, I wasn’t planning to buy bangles, but since it became such a strong trend, I went for it too, fashion should be taken as fashion,” she said.

Speaking about her Eid routine, she added, “Chand Raat itself feels like Eid we get dressed up, apply mehendi and celebrate. On Eid day, we visit my mother-in-law’s house, take pictures, meet family and enjoy food together.” Highlighting the festive spirit, she remarked that Eid should be celebrated wholeheartedly: “Eid comes once and it’s a gift from Allah, so we shouldn’t be stingy, everyone should celebrate according to their means.” Veteran actor Adnan Siddiqui used the occasion to spread a message of unity and forgiveness. “Eid Mubarak to everyone, it’s a time of happiness, so end your grievances and celebrate together,” he said.



A scene of a folk show staged on the Liangma River in Beijing, capital of China.

No Eid is complete without dessert: Classic treats reimaged from around the world

SHOWBIZ DESK, Eidul Fitr arrives as a moment of reward, a celebration granted after a month of patience, reflection, and fasting. It marks not just the end of Ramadan, but the beginning of shared joy, where homes open up to neighbours, friends, and family, and tables are laid out with care. There’s a certain warmth in the air, laughter carries a little longer, gatherings feel a little fuller, and the act of coming together becomes the highlight of it all. And somehow, no celebration feels complete without something sweet. Desserts hold a quiet significance on Eid, adding that final touch of indulgence to an already festive spread. Whether it’s passed around after a meal or served as the centrepiece of a gathering, it brings an extra layer of



sweetness not just to the table, but to the moment itself. Here are some traditional desserts that are celebrated around the world, now eaten with a

slight twist: Peshawari kheer often takes the spotlight on Eid mornings in many Pakistani homes, especially after returning from Eid namaz.

Shiraz, Muskan bring Eidi joy to village children

SHOWBIZ DESK, Pakistan’s popular child YouTubers, Muhammad Shiraz and Muskan, have returned to their village after visiting Karachi, where they participated in Ramadan show.

The sibling duo, known for their organic content and portrayal of their culture, travelled back to their hometown to celebrate Eid. In a recent Instagram post, they showed themselves sharing their celebrations with local children by distributing Eidi brought from Karachi, bringing smiles to youngsters in their village.

Shiraz and Muskan are also known for engaging in charitable activities and sharing their success with others rather than keeping it to themselves. Their gesture received praise online, with users appreciating their humility despite growing fame and their continued connection to their roots. Social media users said the act of sharing Eidi with village children reflected their grounded nature and described the gesture as heartwarming. Hailing from Ghursay, a small village of about



2,000 people on the foothills of Siachen, Shiraz gained global attention through vlogs capturing stony streets, Persian-style houses, local festivals and everyday life.



Staff members perform among snapdragon blossoms at a scenic area in Jiti Village of Ersheng Town, southwest China's Chongqing.



A large number of people participating in main procession of Eid Milad-un-Nabi, the birth anniversary of Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) at M.A Jinnah Road near Numaish Chowrangi

Gilani calls for greater parliamentary unity to address global challenges

APP- ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, on Thursday called for greater parliamentary unity and collective action to address global challenges, including armed conflicts, terrorism, climate change and economic inequality.

Addressing the inaugural session of the 2nd Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC) in Phnom Penh, in the presence of Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet and President of the Senate of Cambodia Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Sen, he lauded the participation of Prime Minister Hun Manet as a strong symbol of Cambodia's commitment to parliamentary dialogue and cooperation.

Welcoming the Cambodian leadership,



Chairman Gilani thanked the King of Cambodia for his message and expressed appreciation to the Senate and people of Cambodia for hosting the conference.

He also acknowledged the leadership and hospitality of Samdech Hun Sen in bringing parliamentary Speakers together on a common platform.

Speaking on the theme, "Solidarity for Peace and Shared Prosperity - Strengthening International Law and Resolving Conflicts Peacefully," Gilani called for greater parliamentary unity and collective action to address global challenges, including armed conflicts, terrorism, climate change and economic inequality.

He stressed that parliamentary diplomacy must move "from commitment to action, from dialogue to delivery, and from promises to results."

He proposed that the ISC develop mechanisms for rapid parliamentary responses

to emerging crises and strengthen adherence to international law as the foundation for peace and stability.

Citing Pakistan's experience, he said parliamentary diplomacy could create new avenues for dialogue when traditional channels faced limitations. He also highlighted Pakistan's cooperation with Saudi Arabia and Türkiye for regional peace and stability.

Quoting Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, Chairman Gilani said leadership for peace required courage and conviction, and urged parliamentarians to lead with unity and vision.

Earlier, Chairman Gilani led the participating Speakers and delegates on a courtesy call on Samdech Hun Sen, President of the Senate of Cambodia.

Sherry Rehman Moves Senate to Discuss PIMS Tragedy, Demands Comprehensive Probe

APP- ISLAMABAD: Vice President of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Senator Sherry Rehman has submitted an adjournment motion in the Senate over the tragic deaths of 14 newborn babies at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), calling for an immediate and comprehensive investigation into the incident.

Senator Sherry Rehman said the loss of 14 newborn lives at a major government hospital in the federal capital is a matter of grave public concern and cannot be treated as a routine incident.

"The failure of essential safety arrangements at the capital's central government hospital is unacceptable. The reported non-functioning of several safety protocols at PIMS raises serious questions that must be answered," she said. She stressed that the deaths of 14 newborn babies constitute a matter of urgent and significant public importance, warranting an immediate discussion on the floor of the House. Senator Rehman called for the Senate's routine proceedings to be suspended to allow a detailed debate on the PIMS tragedy and to ensure that those responsible for any negligence are held accountable.

FOSPAH Launches CMS, Mobile App, New Website to Improve Access to Justice

APP- ISLAMABAD: The Federal Ombudsman for Protection against Harassment (FOSPAH) on Thursday launched its Complaint Management System (CMS), mobile application and new website at a ceremony held at its headquarters in Islamabad, marking a significant step towards digitalization and improving access to justice. Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar attended the ceremony as the chief guest. Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication, Shaza Fatima Khawaja and National Information Technology Board (NITB), Chief Executive Officer, Faisal Iqbal Ratyal also played an important role in the development of the digitalization initiative. Federal Ombudsman Fozia Waqar said the new system would enable complainants to create accounts using their Computerized National Identity Cards (CNIC), email address and mobile number and file and track multiple complaints through a single account. She said notices, updates and relevant documents would now be available online, reducing the need for repeated visits to offices and reliance on postal services. Verified registration would also help reduce false and frivolous complaints, she added. Fozia Waqar said the CMS would strengthen case monitoring and make it easier to identify delays in the complaint process. FOSPAH has set a target of reducing paperwork by 70 to 80 percent, with the ultimate objective of making the institution fully paperless.

Ali urges SSGCL board to strengthen sustainability, address governance challenges

APP- ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik on Thursday directed the Board of Sui Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGCL) to develop a comprehensive strategy and sustainable business model with special focus on UFG control to transform SSGCL into a financially viable organization, with public service as the foremost priority.

The Federal Minister chaired a meeting with the Chairman and Board of Directors, Managing Director and senior management of SSGCL in Karachi to review the company's performance, key achievements, operational challenges and future reform priorities.

The Chairman SSGCL Board welcomed the Federal Minister, while the Managing Director briefed the Minister on the company's milestones, achievements and challenges.

The management highlighted a significant improvement in the company's gas distribution system, with UFG reduced by approximately 57 percent in volumetric terms.

The meeting was informed that there was no gas load shedding for K-Electric, industrial consumers and fertilizer plants, while domestic consumers are being provided gas three times a day.

Ali Pervaiz Malik highlighted that gas prices have not been increased for the past one year, while the increase in gas

circular debt has nearly been stopped, marking important progress towards stabilization of the gas



sector. The Minister said that the existing system of gas subsidies via pricing slabs needs to be revisited.

He emphasized the need to transition to a single fair gas price for all consumers, while vulnerable segments be protected through targeted social protection programmes. This transition would spur greater economic activity while quelling migration of customers to alternative fuels.

He urged the SSGCL Board to formulate a comprehensive business reform strategy focused on making the company self-sustaining, improving operational efficiency, HR capabilities, reducing losses and gas theft, strengthening revenue recovery and ensuring better utilization of resources.

Secretary Petroleum, during the meeting, emphasized that the Board operates independently in accordance with the spirit of the State-Owned Enterprises (SOE) Act.

He said the Board should exercise its mandate and take all necessary

measures required for the betterment, efficiency and long-term sustainability of SSGCL.

The Minister said the government was already working with the World Bank on comprehensive gas sector reforms, aimed at addressing structural challenges and creating a more efficient, sustainable and financially viable gas sector.

Discussing the situation in Balochistan, the SSGCL Board welcomed the constitution of the Political Committee under the Deputy Prime Minister to look into the province's challenges and appreciated the initiative as a positive step towards addressing longstanding issues in Balochistan.

The Minister directed that gas supply issues in Balochistan be resolved on a priority basis, alongside addressing technical challenges, infrastructure constraints and gas theft. He stressed the need for sustainable solutions to improve gas availability and service delivery in the province.



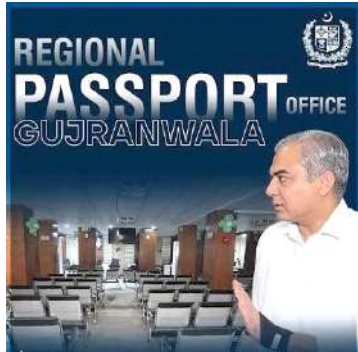
H.E. Hussain Muhammad, Consul General of Pakistan in Dubai, warmly welcomes Mr. Muhammad Awn Chaudhry, Minister of State for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, during his visit to the Consulate General of Pakistan in Dubai

Mohsin Naqvi announces passport facility at Gujranwala's 24/7 NADRA Mega Centre

APP- ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Thursday visited the 24/7 NADRA Mega Centre in Gujranwala and announced that passport services would soon be introduced at the facility, allowing citizens to access both identity and passport-related services under one roof.

During his visit, the minister reviewed operations at the centre and interacted with citizens who had come to obtain national identity cards and other documents. He met visitors individually and asked about their experience with the registration process and the services being provided at the facility.

Many citizens expressed satisfaction with the arrangements at the NADRA Mega Centre. They told the minister that they were able to receive services without long waiting times and that the process was



being handled efficiently. Several visitors said their turn arrived quickly and they did not face unnecessary delays.

Mohsin Naqvi visited different service counters and met staff members to assess the workflow. He also inspected the information desk and reviewed the guidance being pro-

vided to visitors. The minister directed officials to ensure that every citizen visiting the centre receives complete information and proper assistance regarding available services and procedures.

During the visit, some citizens raised complaints about service-related issues. The minister took immediate notice of these concerns and instructed the relevant authorities to address them without delay. He emphasized that public issues should be resolved promptly and that service delivery must remain smooth. The interior minister stressed the need to make public services more convenient. He said citizens should not be required to visit NADRA centres repeatedly to complete routine documentation work. According to him, systems should be improved to reduce unnecessary visits and save people's time.

SP Traffic directs to focus lane discipline for smooth traffic flow

APP- ISLAMABAD: Superintendent of Police (SP) Traffic Islamabad Majid Iqbal inspected different duty points across the federal capital, overseeing action against lane violations and other traffic offences while directing officers to ensure smooth traffic flow.

SP Traffic directs to focus lane discipline for smooth traffic flow

An official told APP on Thursday that during the visits, the SP Majid reviewed enforcement of traffic laws and the performance of officers deployed at different duty points, said a press release here on Thursday.

Traffic police teams took action against motorists found violating lane discipline and other traffic rules.

Majid directed the deployed officers to remain vigi-



lant, ensure effective enforcement of traffic laws and take necessary measures to prevent traffic congestion.



A man is constructing a makeshift shelter for his family using bamboo poles and reeds