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PM says water ‘lifeblood’ of region, must never be weaponised

Iran president says Tehran would ‘immediately’ reciprocate if US returns to June deal

PM says water ‘lifeblood’ of region, must never be weaponised



STAFF REPORT, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said water was the “lifeblood” of the region and must never be weaponised, as he addressed a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Kyrgyzstan. Speaking at the SCO Council of Heads of States (CHS) meeting in the Kyrgyz capital Bishkek, the premier said the region cannot “realise its full potential without lasting peace”. Without naming India directly, he highlighted the issue of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) and demanded that it be honoured. “Water is the lifeblood of our region. It sustains millions of lives, nourishes our land and secures the very future of our

coming generations,” he noted. He stressed that it “must never be weaponised; it cannot be used as an instrument of coercion, nor can it ever be exploited for political leverage”. “The treaties governing our shared waters are solemn, binding international commitments. They are not matters of political convenience to be cast aside at your will. They must be honoured unconditionally, in both letter and spirit.” In a later statement on X, the premier said he was honoured to address the ceremony as Pakistan assumed chairmanship of the SCO, reiterating that water “is the lifeblood of our region” and must never be weaponised by any state.

He also noted that Pakistan made “immense sacrifices in the fight against terrorism”, and added that Pakistan will conduct its chairmanship of the body under the theme ‘Turning Vision into Action: Connectivity, Innovation and Shared Prosperity’. “I am confident that the SCO will continue to grow from strength to strength and bring meaningful improvements to the lives of its more than 3 billion people,” he writes. The prime minister’s speech comes a day after the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) ordered India to uphold the IWT with Pakistan and suspend work on a hydro project in occupied Kashmir.

The Hague-based court backed Pakistan’s stance, declaring that the IWT between the two countries remained fully in force, as India had no justification for ending or suspending the agreement. Water and the IWT remain a contentious issue between India and Pakistan, following New Delhi’s unilateral abeyance of the accord in April last year — a move that was followed by a brief military conflict between the two sides in May 2025. “Terrorism one of the gravest threats” Speaking on the issue of terrorism, PM Shehbaz said it remained “one of the gravest threats that has affected our entire region in its various forms and manifestations”.

FM Dar, Iranian counterpart reaffirm importance of continued engagement

STAFF REPORT, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar met Iranian Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi in Bishkek ahead of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of State meeting on Tuesday, where the two sides reaffirmed the importance of continued engagement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said. FM Dar arrived alongside Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in the Kyrgyz capital for a three-day official visit to attend the SCO Council of Heads of State meeting and the SCO Plus Summit, besides assuming Pakistan’s chairmanship of the council for 2026-27. The two foreign ministers exchanged views on “bilateral relations and regional developments”. Dar underscored that “dialogue and diplomacy remain essential to promoting peace and stability in the region.” He further stressed that “sincere implementation by both parties to the conflict of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of June 2026 remains the only way forward.” The Foreign Office (FO) said the interaction between Dar and Araghchi was a “warm exchange,” with the two foreign ministers reaffirming the importance of continued engagement and discussing regional developments and bilateral relations. Dar also met Azerbaijan Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov on Tuesday on the sidelines of the SCO Council of Heads of State meeting in Bishkek.



In a post on X, the FO said Dar “met with Foreign Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Jeyhun Bayramov, on the sidelines of the SCO Council of Heads of State meeting in Bishkek today”. The FO said the two sides “reaffirmed the strong bonds of friendship and brotherhood between Pakistan and Azerbaijan and expressed their commitment to further strengthening the bilateral partnership”. The two foreign ministers also “exchanged views on regional and international developments and matters of mutual interest”, the FO said. Earlier in the day, Dar met Türkiye’s National Intelligence Organisation (MIT) Director Ibrahim Kalin on the sidelines of the SCO Council of Heads of State meeting in Bishkek on Tuesday.

Pakistan to Head Makkah Defence Alliance Secretariat



MONITORING DESK, ISTANBUL: Top political and military leaders from Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye convened in Istanbul on Monday to institutionalise their trilateral defence cooperation under the Makkah Agreement for Joint Defence, announcing the establishment of a permanent secretariat and pledging deeper military-industrial integration. The meeting, held in the Strategic Political and Defence Committee format, was attended by the foreign ministers, defence ministers and chiefs of defence forces of the three nations. From Pakistan, Deputy Prime Minister/ Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif and Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces (COAS & CDF) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir attended the meeting. In a joint statement issued after the talks, the coun-

tries affirmed their shared commitment to regional stability and collective deterrence. “Acting with a sense of regional ownership, the three countries reiterate their determination to work together within the framework of the Makkah Agreement to achieve sustainable peace and stability in their region,” the statement read. The ministers further agreed to support de-escalation and restraint in regional crises, favouring peaceful diplomatic resolutions. The most significant outcome of Monday’s meeting was the decision to establish a permanent secretariat to coordinate the alliance’s activities. The secretariat will be headquartered in Saudi Arabia and initially headed by a secretary general from Pakistan, who will serve a three-year term. The move is intended to “enhance their solidarity, ensure the credibility and effectiveness of their collective deterrence and defence, and contribute to regional efforts and cooperative security towards a just, inclusive and lasting peace,” according to the joint communiqué. Beyond administrative institutionalisation, the three countries committed to expanding defence industry collaboration. The statement outlined plans for “joint technology development and production” and joint military activities aimed at strengthening the cohesion and interoperability of their armed forces.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a group photo with heads of States at the SCO Council of Heads of State Summit.

IHC directs Adiala jail authorities not to keep Imran, Bushra in isolation

STAFF REPORT, The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday directed Adiala jail authorities not to keep former prime minister Imran Khan and his wife, Bushra Bibi, in solitary confinement while disposing of petitions challenging their alleged isolation in jail. Justice Khadim Hussain Somroo announced the reserved verdict on petitions seeking to declare the alleged solitary confinement of Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi illegal. The petitions were filed by

Aleema Khanum on behalf of Imran and Mubashra Khawar Maneka, the daughter of Bushra Bibi, against the alleged solitary confinement of the former prime minister and first lady. Imran has remained in prison since August 2023 following convictions he and his party describe as politically motivated. Since his ouster in April 2022 following a no-confidence vote, he has faced multiple legal cases. During the hearing today, the court directed the Adiala jail superinten-

dent to ensure that both Imran and Bushra were not kept in solitary confinement. It also directed jail authorities to facilitate a meeting between them. The IHC further ordered that the PTI founding chairman be allowed meetings with his family in accordance with jail rules and be provided telephone access to speak with his sons. The court also specified that the telephone facility should be withdrawn if recordings of Imran’s conversations with his sons were used for political purposes.

Govt floats fresh LNG tender as shortage fuels power outages

STAFF REPORT, ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has floated a fresh tender to import a spot LNG cargo for delivery in early September as a shortage of re-gasified liquefied natural gas (RLNG), particularly for the power sector, continues to contribute to hours-long electricity outages across the country. State-run Pakistan LNG Limited (PLL) on Sunday invited international suppliers to bid for 140,000 cubic meters of LNG, with a tolerance of plus or minus 5.0 per cent, for delivery at Port Qasim between September 4

and September 8, 2026. The emergency procurement comes after the government apologised to the nation last week over prolonged power outages and attributed the load shedding partly to a shortage of LNG needed for power generation. PLL, which procures LNG from international markets and arranges its onward supply to consumers, has sought bids on a Delivered Ex-Ship (DES) basis for delivery at the Pakistan Gas Port Consortium Limited terminal at Port Qasim, Karachi.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets the President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko along the sidelines of SCO Council of Heads of State Summit.

Gujranwala (Beauru Report) UCMOs’ Evening Review Meeting On the directions of the Deputy Commissioner, Gujranwala, the DHO (Preventive Services) conducted an evening review meeting at the DHO PS office, DHA Gujranwala, to review the daily registration activities of CHIs. Union Council-wise data was reviewed, and the UCMOs were directed to ensure timely registration in their assigned areas.

Govt of Punjab DHA Health Gujranwala



Commissioner Gujranwala Muhammad Ali prepares crackdown against those who construct illegal constructions without map approval, building inspectors of Municipal Corporation have sealed several commercial buildings constructed without maps and filed prosecution against the building owners in the concerned police station for registering cases



Gujranwala: (Bureau Report)

According to the details: Administrator Municipal Corporation/ Commissioner Gujranwala Muhammad Ali has issued orders to take strict legal action

against the commercial and general commercial buildings constructed illegally and without maps. Legal actions should be taken against the owners. Following this, the concerned Building Inspector Saqlain Waraich, Taeeb, Sajid Amin, and Enforcement Inspector

Usman Sheikh, along with his subordinate staff, immediately sealed the various illegal and unplanned buildings across the city and filed a prosecution in the relevant police station to register cases for further legal action against the building owners.

Gujranwala Division/ Food Authority recovered 4 tons of fungus-infected ice worth Rs. 60 lakh! On the order of DG Food Authority Raja Mansoor Ahmed, action was taken against the well-known ice unit of Dinga Gujarat, the production of the unit was stopped due to serious violation of rules, a case was registered



Gujranwala: (Bureau Report)

According to the details: On the order of DG Punjab Food Authority

Raja Mansoor Ahmad, 4 tons of fungus-infected ice worth Rs. According to the Food Authority spokesman, barfi was being pre-

pared in an open production area against the rules, poor sanitation arrangements, insects were found in the unit.

FIA Arrests MEPCO Employee for Rs35,000 Bribe

Sahiwal (Bureau Chief)

On the instructions of Director FIA Faisalabad Zone Saqib Sultan, SHO FIA Sahiwal Chaudhry Khalid Saeed Wathra, under the supervision of Deputy Director FIA Sahiwal Muhammad Hashim Raza, arrested a WAPDA employee for taking a bribe.

According to the details, the action of FIA Sahiwal, MEPCO employee arrested while taking a bribe of thousands of rupees. On the instructions of Director FIA Faisalabad Zone Saqib Sultan and under the supervision of Deputy Director FIA Composite Circle Sahiwal Muhammad Hashim Raza, the FIA Anti-Corruption Team successfully carried out an action and arrested MEPCO employee Mahmood Akbar Khan, son of Muhammad Akbar Khan, by SHO Police Station FIA Sahiwal Sub-Inspector Khalid Saeed on the charge of accepting a bribe. A case under Section 5(2)47 PCA 1947



along with 109, 161 PPC was registered against the accused at FIA Police Station FIA Sahiwal, according to the FIA. The accused demanded and received a bribe of Rs. 35,000 from the complainant in exchange for installing a household electricity meter/connection.

During the anti-corruption raid, the Honorable Magistrate recovered Rs. 35,000 from the front pocket of the accused's shirt, which the complainant identified as the bribe money. Further legal action is being taken against the accused while further investigation is underway.

(*Ludhewala waraich death dealer Atai doctor and midwife de-sealed the sealed clinic by themselves. On the other hand, the disclosure of midwife Salma. Even if my clinic is sealed, I can also perform the operation in my home. Salma Dai announced. Because there is no shortage of people taking Manthalin from the Health Department of Gujranwala. Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz and Secretary Health Punjab should take immediate notice



Gujranwala: (Bureau Report)

According to the details, Salma Clinic located in Jalandhar Sweet wala, Ludhewala Ward was sealed by DHO Gujranwala after the death of a newborn. Salma Dai, known as Gynecologist along with her son, Surgeon Osama, desealed it and resumed the treatment of patients. Sources have confirmed that Salma Clinic was sealed three months ago. And it is also sealed in the records of the health department. But despite this, Salma Dai

and her son Attai, surgeon Osama, are publicly refusing to obey the orders of the health department, while a formal request was also made by the district health officer Gujranwala Dr. Adil Ayub to the SHO of the Ludhewala police station, Waraich, in which it was held that the Salma clinic has been sealed by the health department, and the police clinic until the completion of the hearing of the case in the Health Care Commission Punjab. monitor so that it cannot be de-sealed,

However, the situation turned serious now, when the cell of the clinic was allegedly breached and reopened and medical activities resumed.

The residents of the area have demanded from the higher authorities to immediately investigate the matter and take action against those responsible according to the law and to ensure the implementation of the orders to keep the clinic sealed again until the case is decided in the Health care Commission.

Impressive Oath-Taking Ceremony Held for Newly Elected Office-Bearers of Jhang Video and Photographers Association



JHANG (FIR REPORT): An impressive oath-taking ceremony for the newly elected office-bearers of the Jhang Video and Photographers Association was held at Nageena Market on Faisalabad Road, Jhang. President of the All Punjab Ittehad, Rao Mohsin Hamid, administered the oath to the newly elected office-bearers.

The ceremony was attended by Senior Vice President of All Punjab Ittehad Arshad Ali, Chairman Chaudhry Umar Ashraf, Senior Vice Chairman Rana Saeed Iqbal, Rana Kashif, as well as senior photographers of Jhang, including Muhammad Aslam Sethi, Ali Sethi and Faisal Qureshi. A large number of distinguished guests and prominent members of the photographer community also participated in the

event. During the ceremony, the newly elected office-bearers formally took the oath of their respective positions.

The newly elected office-bearers include Chairman Naveed Sethi, Vice Chairman Faisal Khan, Patron-in-Chief Haji Nadeem Akhtar, President Tahir Javed Wicky, Vice President Chaudhry Rafiq, General Secretary Usman Ansari, Finance Secretary Syed Saqlain Raza, Information Secretary Rana Mukhtar Ahmed, Joint Secretary Sheikh Muhammad Azim, and Chief Secretary Malik Shani.

On the occasion, the speakers extended their heartfelt congratulations to the newly elected office-bearers and expressed the hope that the new leadership would utilize all its capabilities to resolve the

issues faced by the photographer community, safeguard their rights, promote unity, and support their professional development.

The speakers emphasized that strong organizations are built through mutual unity, cooperation, and sincerity. They expressed confidence that the Jhang Video and Photographers Association would play an important role in further organizing and strengthening the photographer community through its platform.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the participants and distinguished guests expressed their best wishes for the newly elected office-bearers and hoped that the new body would effectively serve the welfare of the photographer community and play a proactive role in resolving their issue

CPO Rawalpindi Honours Outstanding Police Personnel



Rawalpindi () CPO Hassan Mushtaq Sukhera encouraged the officers and personnel who performed well. The CPO gave certificates of appreciation to SHO Taxila Inspector Jawad Abbas, Sub-Inspector Hassan Ali, Sub-Inspector Muhammad Fayyaz, Constable Muzammil Ali, and Constable Danish Rashid. The protection of the lives and property of citizens is the

first responsibility for which all measures are being taken. Rawalpindi Police is always busy in establishing law and order and preventing crimes, CPO Hassan Mushtaq Sukhera. According to the details, CPO Hassan Mushtaq Sukhera encouraged the officers and officials who performed well. The CPO gave certificates of appreciation to SHO Taxila Inspector Jawad

Abbas, Sub-Inspector Hassan Ali, Sub-Inspector Muhammad Fayyaz, Constable Muzammil Ali, and Constable Danish Rashid. CPO Hassan Mushtaq Sukhera said that the protection of the lives and property of citizens is the first responsibility for which all measures are being taken. Rawalpindi Police is always busy in maintaining law and order and preventing crimes.



ایف آئی آر رپورٹ

آئی جی اسلام آباد سید علی ناصر رضوی کا اسلام آباد ٹریفک پولیس ہیڈ کوارٹرز کا دورہ

آئی جی اسلام آباد نے ٹریفک پولیس کی مجموعی کارکردگی، ٹریفک مینجمنٹ، آپریشنل امور، ٹریفک قوانین پر عملدرآمد اور شہریوں کو فراہم کی جانے والی سہولیات کا جائزہ لیا۔ تمام افسران کو شہر میں ٹریفک کی روانی کو بہتر بنانے اور شہریوں کو محفوظ و آسان سفری ماحول فراہم کرنے کے لیے تمام دستیاب وسائل موثر انداز میں بروئے کار لانے کے احکامات جاری کئے

آئی جی اسلام آباد سید علی ناصر رضوی اور چیف کمشنر اسلام آباد سہیل اشرف کا فیلڈ میں دورہ

آئی جی اسلام آباد نے بارش کے دوران ٹریفک صورتحال کا جائزہ لیا۔ متعلقہ افسران سے بارش کے دوران ٹریفک مینجمنٹ اور شہریوں کو درپیش ممکنہ مشکلات کے حوالے سے معلومات حاصل کیں اور انہیں ٹریفک کی روانی برقرار رکھنے اور شہریوں کو ہر ممکن سہولت فراہم کرنے کے لیے تمام دستیاب وسائل بروئے کار لانے کے احکامات جاری کئے

تفصیلات کے مطابق انسپٹر جنرل آف پولیس اسلام آباد سید علی ناصر رضوی نے اسلام آباد ٹریفک پولیس ہیڈ کوارٹرز کا دورہ کیا۔ اس موقع پر چیف ٹریفک پولیس آفیسر اسلام آباد کانتات اظہر خان اور دیگر پولیس افسران بھی موجود تھے۔ دورے کے دوران ٹریفک پولیس افسران نے آئی جی اسلام آباد کو ٹریفک پولیس کی مجموعی کارکردگی، ٹریفک مینجمنٹ، آپریشنل امور، ٹریفک قوانین پر عملدرآمد اور شہریوں کو فراہم کی جانے والی سہولیات سے متعلق تفصیلی رپورٹنگ دی۔ اس موقع پر شہر میں ٹریفک کی روانی کو بہتر بنانے اور شہریوں کو درپیش ٹریفک مسائل کے فوری حل کے حوالے سے مختلف امور کا بھی جائزہ لیا گیا۔ آئی جی اسلام آباد نے ٹریفک پولیس کی جانب سے ٹریفک کی روانی برقرار رکھنے، ٹریفک قوانین پر عملدرآمد، ٹریفک حادثات کی روک تھام اور شہریوں کو بہتر سہولیات کی فراہمی کے لیے کیے جانے والے اقدامات کا تفصیلی جائزہ لیا۔ انہوں نے ٹریفک مینجمنٹ کے نظام کو مزید منظم، موثر اور جدید تقاضوں سے ہم آہنگ بنانے کے لیے جاری اقدامات اور مستقبل کی حکمت عملی پر بھی افسران سے تبادلہ خیال کیا۔ اس موقع پر آئی جی اسلام آباد سید علی ناصر رضوی نے افسران کو ہدایت کی کہ شہر میں ٹریفک کی روانی کو بہتر بنانے اور شہریوں کو محفوظ و آسان سفری ماحول فراہم کرنے کے لیے تمام دستیاب وسائل موثر انداز میں بروئے کار لائے جائیں۔ انہوں نے جدید ٹیکنالوجی، موثر نگرانی اور جدید ٹریفک مینجمنٹ سسٹم سے بھرپور استفادہ کرنے کی ہدایت کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ ٹریفک کے مسائل کی نشاندہی اور ان کے بروقت حل کے لیے فیلڈ مانیٹرنگ کو مزید موثر بنایا جائے۔ آئی جی اسلام آباد نے مزید ہدایت کی کہ ٹریفک پولیس کے افسران و جوان شہریوں کے ساتھ خوش



کی صورت میں فوری اور موثر پولیس رسپانس کو ہر صورت یقینی بنایا جائے۔ آئی جی اسلام آباد نے کہا کہ شہریوں کی جان و مال کا تحفظ اور انہیں محفوظ، پرسکون اور بہتر سفری ماحول فراہم کرنا اسلام آباد پولیس کی اولین ترجیحات میں شامل ہے۔ انہوں نے افسران و جوانوں کو ہدایت کی کہ مشکل موسمی صورتحال کے دوران شہریوں کی رہنمائی و معاونت کے ساتھ ساتھ ٹریفک کی روانی برقرار رکھنے کے لیے پوری ذمہ داری، مستعدی اور پیشہ ورانہ جذبے کے ساتھ فرائنس انجام دیں۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ بارش کے دوران مختلف شعبہ جات کے درمیان موثر رابطہ کاری کو یقینی بنایا جائے تاکہ کسی بھی ناخوشگوار صورتحال سے بروقت نمٹا جاسکے اور شہریوں کو کم سے کم مشکلات کا سامنا کرنا پڑے۔ متعلقہ افسران صورتحال کا مسلسل جائزہ لیتے ہوئے ضرورت کے مطابق اضافی نفری اور وسائل بھی بروئے کار لائیں۔ اسلام آباد پولیس کی ٹیمیں شہریوں کی سہولت، ٹریفک کی روانی سے رابطہ کریں۔

آباد میں ٹریفک کی روانی کو مزید منظم بنانے کے لیے تمام ممکنہ اقدامات یقینی کرنے اور کسی بھی رکاوٹ کو فوری دور کرنے کے لیے تمام دستیاب وسائل موثر انداز میں بروئے کار لائے جائیں گے۔

انسپٹر جنرل آف پولیس اسلام آباد سید علی ناصر رضوی اور چیف کمشنر اسلام آباد سہیل اشرف نے بارش کے دوران شہر کے مختلف علاقوں اور اہم شاہراہوں کا دورہ کیا اور موقع پر ٹریفک کی مجموعی صورتحال کا جائزہ لیا۔ اس دوران مختلف شاہراہوں، اہم پتوں اور بارش سے متاثرہ علاقوں میں ٹریفک کی روانی، شہریوں کی آدورفت اور سڑکوں کی مجموعی صورتحال کا معائنہ کیا گیا۔ دورے کے دوران آئی جی اسلام آباد نے متعلقہ افسران سے بارش کے باعث ٹریفک کی روانی میں پیدا ہونے والی ممکنہ مشکلات اور ان سے نمٹنے کے لیے کیے گئے اقدامات کے بارے میں بریفنگ لی۔ انہوں نے ہدایت کی کہ بارش کے دوران ٹریفک کی روانی کو بہتر رکھنا ضروری ہے اور ہر ممکن مدد اور معاونت فراہم کریں۔ انہوں نے واضح کیا کہ کسی بھی ہنگامی صورتحال، ٹریفک حادثے یا ایمریسی کال

کارروائی تک حصر و نہیں ہونی چاہیے بلکہ شہریوں میں ٹریفک قوانین اور روڈ سیفٹی سے متعلق شعور اجاگر کرنے کے لیے آگاہی اقدامات کو بھی مزید موثر بنایا جائے۔ ٹریفک حادثات کی روک تھام اور سڑکوں پر شہریوں کی حفاظت کے لیے احتیاطی اور پیشگی اقدامات کو ترجیح دی جائے۔ آئی جی اسلام آباد سید علی ناصر رضوی نے اس عزم کا اعادہ کیا کہ وفاقی دارالحکومت میں ٹریفک نظام کو مزید بہتر، محفوظ، منظم اور موثر بنانے کے لیے اصلاحات اور جدید اقدامات کا سلسلہ جاری رکھا جائے گا۔ جدید ٹیکنالوجی، بہتر ٹریفک مینجمنٹ، موثر نگرانی اور پیشہ ورانہ خدمات کے ذریعے شہریوں کو بہتر سفری سہولیات فراہم کی جائیں گی اور اسلام



اخلاقی، شائستگی اور پیشہ ورانہ رویے کو یقینی بنائیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ شہریوں کی شکایات اور ٹریفک سے متعلق مسائل کے فوری ازالے پر خصوصی توجہ دی جائے اور ٹریفک قوانین پر عملدرآمد کے دوران قانون کے یکساں اور منصفانہ اطلاق کو یقینی بنایا جائے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ٹریفک قوانین کی پابندی صرف جرماتوں یا

Trump’s Board of Peace and the politics of control

DR. RAMZY BAROUD

The history of American power is, in many ways, the history of reinventing rules – or designing new ones – to fit strategic US interests. This may sound harsh but it is a necessary realization, particularly in light of US President Donald Trump's latest political invention: the “Board of Peace.”

Some have hastily concluded that Trump's newest political gambit – unveiled last week at the World Economic Forum in Davos – is a uniquely Trumpian endeavor, detached from earlier US foreign policy doctrines. They are mistaken, misled largely by Trump's self-centered political style and his constant, though unfounded, claims that he has ended wars, resolved global conflicts and made the world a safer place.

At the Davos launch, Trump reinforced this carefully crafted illusion, boasting of America's supposed historic leadership in bringing peace, praising alleged unprecedented diplomatic breakthroughs and presenting the Board of Peace as a neutral, benevolent mechanism capable of stabilizing

the world's most volatile regions.

Yet a less prejudiced reading of history allows us to see Trump's political designs – whether in Gaza or beyond – not as an aberration but as part of a familiar pattern. US foreign policymakers repeatedly seek to reclaim ownership of global affairs, sideline international consensus and impose political frameworks that they alone define, manage and ultimately control.

The Board of Peace – an invitation-only political club controlled entirely by Trump – is increasingly taking shape as a new geopolitical reality. Through this scheme, the US is imposing itself as the self-appointed caretaker of global affairs, beginning with genocide-devastated Gaza, and positioning itself as an alternative to the UN.

The irony is staggering. A body ostensibly meant to guide Gaza through reconstruction after Israel's devastating genocide does not include Palestinians – let alone Gazans. Even more damning is the fact that the genocide it claims to address was politically backed, militarily financed and diplomatically shielded by successive US administra-

tions, first under Joe Biden and later Trump.

It requires no particular insight to conclude that Trump's Board of Peace is not concerned with peace, nor genuinely with Gaza. So what, then, is this initiative really about?

It is not about reconstruction or justice but about exploiting Gaza's suffering to impose a new US-led world order, first in the Middle East and eventually beyond.

Gaza – a besieged territory of just 365 sq. km – does not require a new political structure populated by dozens of world leaders, each reportedly paying a \$1 billion membership fee. Gaza needs reconstruction, its people must be granted their basic rights and Israel's crimes must be met with accountability. The mechanisms to achieve this already exist: the UN, international law, long-standing humanitarian institutions and, above all, the Palestinians themselves, whose agency, resilience and determination to survive Israel's onslaught have become legendary.

The Board of Peace discards all of this in favor of a hollow, improvised structure tailored to advance US-Israeli political and geopolitical interests. In effect, it drags Palestine

back a century, to an era when Western powers unilaterally determined its fate, guided by racist assumptions about Palestinians and the Middle East – assumptions that laid the groundwork for the region's enduring catastrophes.

Yet the central question remains: Is this truly a uniquely Trumpian initiative?

No, it is not. This is a familiar American tactic, particularly during moments of profound crisis. This strategy is persuasively outlined in Naomi Klein's 2007 book “The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism,” which argues that political and economic elites exploit collective trauma – wars, natural disasters and social breakdown – to impose radical policies that would otherwise face public resistance.

Trump's Board of Peace fits squarely within this framework, using the devastation of Gaza not as a call for justice or accountability but as an opportunity to reshape political realities in ways that entrench US dominance and sideline international norms. This is hardly unprecedented. The pattern can be traced back to the US-envisioned UN, estab-

lished in 1945 as a replacement for the League of Nations. Its principal architect, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, was determined that the new institution would secure the structural dominance of the US, most notably through the Security Council and the veto system, ensuring Washington's decisive influence over global affairs. When the UN later failed to fully acquiesce to US interests – most notably when it refused to grant the George W. Bush administration legal authorization to invade Iraq – the organization was labeled “irrelevant.” Bush then led his own so-called coalition of the willing into a war of aggression that devastated Iraq and destabilized the entire region, with consequences that persist to this day. A similar maneuver unfolded in Palestine with the 2002 invention of the Quartet on the Middle East, a US-dominated framework. From its inception, the Quartet systematically sidelined Palestinian agency, insulated Israel from accountability and relegated international law to a secondary – and often expendable – consideration.

– Arab News

The affable aide to Mr. President

GHASSAN CHARBEL

Don't say that you have a solution. You are not a decision-maker and have no right to steal the spotlight or praise. Your fate is to remain in the shadows and for others to take credit for your work. The solution comes from the source. Your participation in devising it does not give you any right to it. Solutions are part of the indisputable skills of Mr. President. No one else is party to them.

Don't say that you have the winning idea. Salvation is not part of your duties or even your rank. Salvation is the responsibility of the man in power – the man whom the nation chose before the ballot boxes did. Men of landmark moments are not born of ballot boxes. Fate chooses them for major duties; then comes the role of the citizens in voting and applauding.

Don't say that the situation is difficult. Always say that it is under control and that the fate of livelihoods and people are in safe hands. Always say that the man in charge is skilled at knowing the dreams, feelings and needs of the nation. Say that the people will be held responsible should any misunderstanding arise because they failed to grasp Mr. President's pioneering ideas. You are Mr. President's aide. You are the echo, not the voice. Don't even dare to speak about concerns over destiny or correcting course. Destiny is the responsibility of the savior alone. The course itself is glittering, no matter how much the enemies or critics say otherwise. Your primary task is to preserve your position and safety and appease the man in charge of your fate. This means paying compliments and issuing praise whenever necessary.

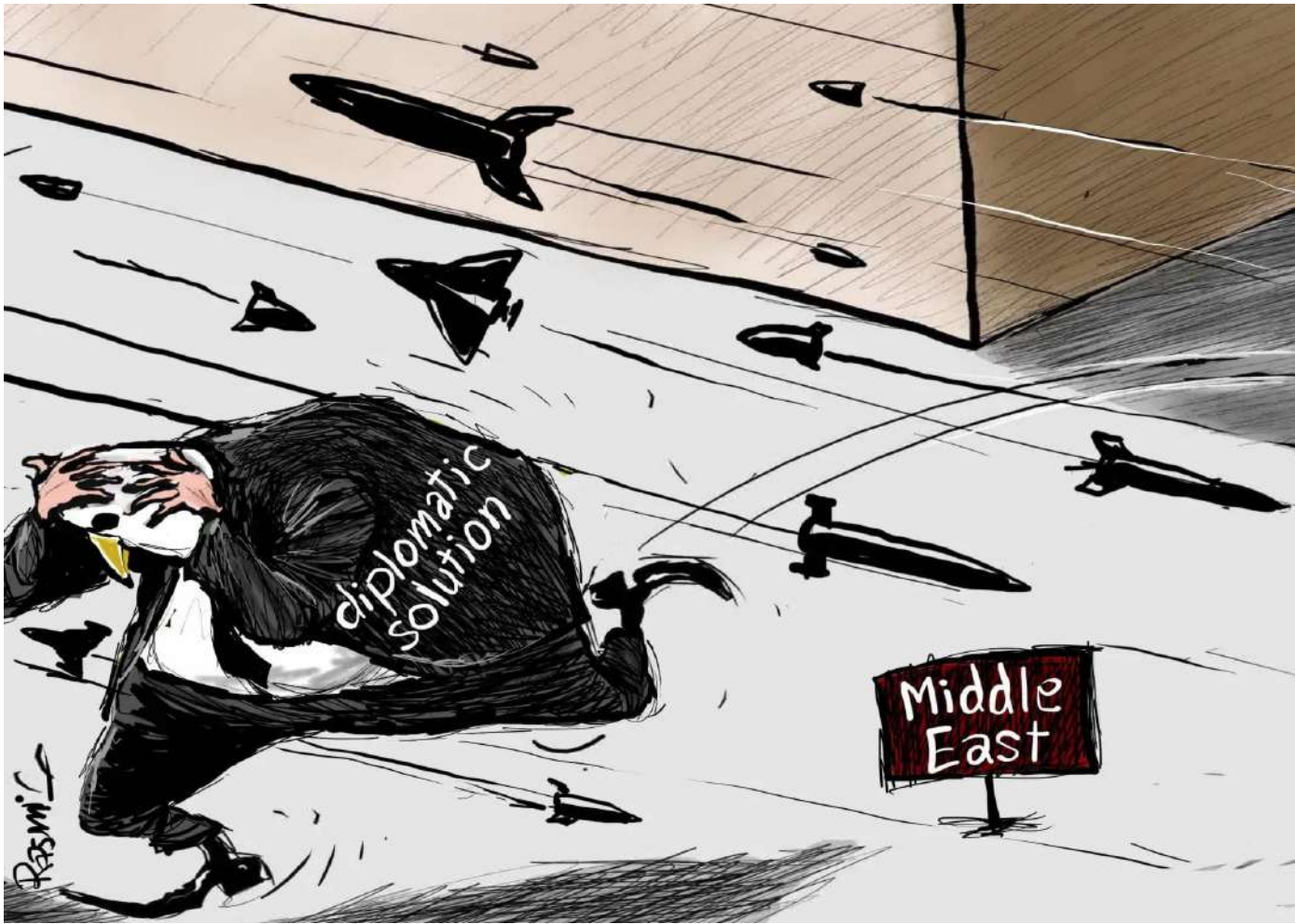
Don't say that Mr. President is following in his predecessor's footsteps. Mr. President has his own unique path. His style is out of the ordinary and his own. He doesn't imitate anyone and no one can imitate him. I once asked a man who worked with Saddam Hussein if any member of the Baath Party's central command had ever implied to Mr. President that the decision to invade Kuwait was catastrophic, reckless or costly. The answer was no secret. Tariq Aziz said it pained him to remain seated during the meeting in which it was announced that Kuwait would be annexed and become an Iraqi province. He realized the dangers but, when confronted with the ruthless people surrounding the president, he chose to keep his thoughts to himself. Saddam once met with Iranian Foreign Minister Sadegh Ghotbzadeh on the sidelines of a Non-

Aligned Movement summit in Havana. The minister flattered the president. At the end of the meeting, Iraqi Ambassador to the UN Salah Omar Al-Ali described the talks as positive and that more could be built upon them. Mr. President was quick to reprimand him, saying: “Don't ever say that again. I will break the Iranians and reclaim every inch of territory they seized.” Al-Ali realized the difficulty of offering advice to the “historic leader.” During a trip to Damascus, I met with President Bashar Assad and then-Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam. I asked Khaddam about why Bashar was chosen to succeed his father Hafez. Khaddam knew the walls had many ears, so he replied by saying that he was the natural choice. Bashar was raised around his father and grew up in his environment, so it was normal for the party leadership to name him as successor. Years later, I again met with Khaddam, who by then was living in Paris after defecting from the regime. I asked him the same question and he replied that, at the time, he had been summoned by Hafez and informed that the decision related to Bashar had been taken. So, Khaddam had no role in Bashar's rise to power. He said Bashar was not fit to assume such a major post. The party's policy of having sons inherit their father's position was wrong because it showed that Hafez had no one but his son to whom he could entrust the running of the country.

Libyan diplomat Ali Abdussalam Treki once told me that he hid his face in embarrassment when Muammar Qaddafi tore up a copy of the UN Charter while he was addressing the General Assembly. Treki admitted that he did not dare to call on the leader to cut short his speech, even when he had far exceeded his allotted time. Treki most certainly did not criticize the leader after the scandalous incident.

Has the world returned to the time of the strongman who does not recognize any borders or whom no aide or adviser dares to confront with even a fraction of the truth? We don't have the necessary information as to whether Vladimir Putin consulted Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov before ordering the Russian army to enter Ukraine. We don't know the veteran Lavrov's opinion, even if he were consulted. It is difficult to imagine that an aide to Donald Trump would have warned him of the dangerous precedent of kidnapping Venezuela's Nicolas Maduro. It is difficult to believe that an aide urged him to tone down his statements about NATO.

– Arab News



US’ Gaza ‘Master Plan’ clashes with reality

CHRIS DOYLE

Anyone who saw Jared Kushner's PowerPoint presentation in Davos last week without knowing the topic would have struggled to identify the territory to which he was referring. Many might have thought this was for North America, with shiny new office and residential blocks and a certain space-age or Hollywood sci-fi feel to the slides of the “Master Plan.” The vaulting ambition of the speaker may have impressed his father-in-law, US President Donald Trump, who is certainly familiar with the world of real estate. No doubt Trump, the freshly minted chairman of the Board of Peace, was the premier target of the messaging. It reflected much of what was released at the announcement of Trump's “Gaza riviera” plan last February, which envisaged the Strip being entirely emptied of Palestinians. Even this version treats Gaza as a tabula rasa to impose whatever architectural fantasies its authors can conjure up. It treats the enclave as being devoid of any culture, tradition or history.

Others have been more skeptical – and with good reason. First of all, Israel has not even adhered to the Oct. 10 ceasefire and is bombing and shelling with intensity. Second, the full entry of aid, as referenced in the Trump peace plan, has not yet been achieved. Third, the plan presumes the disarmament of Hamas, something that is far from imminent. Finally, no international stabilization force is on the horizon. Those are the significant near-term impediments. Delivering this plan, at a time when the conflict still rages, will be nigh on impossible. Just clearing the 60 million tonnes of rubble, which is peppered with unexploded ordnance and a host of toxins, will take an age and cost a fortune.

One major element Kushner did not address was how the land would be acquired and whether owners would be compensated. According to a 2015 study, about half of the land in Gaza is privately owned. Much of the land is unregistered because owners did not wish to pay tax. What is clear is that the companies lining up to fill their coffers have no claim to the land at all. But progress also presumes the Israeli leadership will be comfortable with this. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is still smarting from the invitation that was extended to Turkey and Qatar to join the executive committee of the Board of Peace. Many members of Netanyahu's Cabinet and right-wing Knesset members have dreams of inhabiting these plush new riviera residences themselves.

Israel will have to consent as the occupying power. For starters, it will have to allow in all the construction materials and abandon its restrictive dual-use list. Throughout Kushner's presentation to world leaders and the business elite, it was clear that Palestinians have had no input into these plans – and not just because the Arabic on the slides was all wrong. He did not outline how the local Palestinians in Gaza would be won over by the project or where they would go during reconstruction. Kushner said Gaza would be run on free-market principles, as opposed to how Palestinians might wish to shape their economic future.

Do Palestinians want tourism, given the beachfront is all labeled for coastal tourism? Who decided on the importance of data centers at this stage? And how many of the companies making a fortune out of this dreamworld will be Palestinian and how many will be rich businessmen with no link to Gaza at all? The Palestinians in Gaza I have spoken to largely see this all as a sick joke. “Who is going to live in these villas and flashy apartments? Certainly not us Palestinians,” sighed one woman. Another said: “What will stop Israel from bombing them again? Where will our security come from? We need that before rich houses.” But there is also the issue of who will pay for it. The experts at the UN, those who actually have experience of such situations, calculate that postwar reconstruction will cost about \$70 billion. This is without the high-end infrastructure of Kushner's presentation. The UAE has reportedly expressed an interest in funding the first planned community on the outskirts of Rafah in the south. Beyond that, it is not clear. More alarming is who might make money out of it. This is a war zone profiteering racket. US companies are lining up at the trough. This is all premised on the naive and ill-founded belief that the entirety of Gaza's problems can be resolved with bulldozers, cranes and cement. The plan has echoes of earlier economic roadmaps for peace, but even those were not so divorced from reality. At no stage did the presentation reference a viable peace process or even mention that Gaza would be the western segment of an independent state of Palestine. It did not address a single one of the underlying causes or drivers of this 100-year-plus conflict. On this occasion, the last word goes to French President Emmanuel Macron, who was reported as saying: “Peace is not a real estate transaction. You cannot build stability on the erasure of a people's history and the privatization of their tragedy.”

– Arab News

There is scope for Trump to strike a deal on Greenland

ANDREW HAMMOND

US President Donald Trump has previously threatened both military action and trade tariffs on much of Europe as he tries to acquire Greenland. The irony is that there is significant scope for a deal to be done that secures US interests, should America's approach be based on skillful diplomacy that focuses on both security and commerce. The public debate tends to focus on two main options: that of US military action or the potentially expensive purchase of Greenland. However, there are other pathways, such as an agreement along the lines of the Compacts of Free Association, which the US has with three Pacific island nations.

Denmark, an EU member state and NATO member, has controlled Greenland for about 300 years. In 1916, the US formally recognized Copenhagen's interests in the island in exchange for the Danish West Indies, which became the US Virgin Islands. In recent decades, the autonomous territory that Greenland has become, with a population of about 57,000, has gone from direct Danish rule to much greater independence. Today, Denmark retains the powers of defense and foreign policy, monetary policy and justice.

The leaders of all five political parties in Greenland's parliament this month said in a joint statement that “we do not want to be Americans, we do not want to be Danes, we want to be Greenlanders.” While this may preclude any future US purchase of Greenland, Washington could push forward with diplomacy in other ways to boost its influence in and around the island. On the security front, the US first opened Thule Air Base (now known as the Pituffik Space Base) to house military assets in the 1940s. During the height of the Cold War, some 10,000 US troops were stationed on the island. The US has options to increase its military presence again very significantly, as long as it consults Denmark and Greenland. This could help to deliver

key goals of America's new security strategy, released in November, which puts greater emphasis on securing its interests in the Western Hemisphere.

This is what NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte, a former Dutch prime minister, emphasized to Trump at the World Economic Forum in Davos last week. A growing number of European leaders, including Rutte, recognize the need for a bigger collective effort to work with the Trump team to try to make the Arctic (not only Greenland) safer for Western interests. For instance, numerous European countries, including the UK and Germany, are debating sending more military assets to Greenland and the wider region, including ships and aircraft, as Denmark is doing. This is not incompatible with allowing the US to also expand its military base there or build new ones.

Beyond security and Trump's cited concerns about China and Russia, what is often missing from his recent professions of interest in Greenland is its resource richness. As think tanks like the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington have shown, a defining feature of Trump's second presidency so far has been significant US efforts to secure greater access to critical minerals and other resources across the world. Greenland, which is currently about 80 percent ice-capped, is about 2.1 million sq. km in size. It boasts the world's northernmost point of land – the closest land to the North Pole – just off its coast. The growing economic focus on the Arctic stems, in large part, from the region's melting ice caps, which are opening up new shipping lanes. These have significantly decreased maritime trade transport times, allowing ships to bypass the Suez and Panama canals. The melting ice caps are also exposing unclaimed lands. This has been described as a modern-day gold rush, with states competing over resources including zinc, copper, iron ore and rare earth elements.

Letters to the Editor

Phone tongue

Language has always been the strongest marker of identity. Traditionally, a child's mother tongue was the language spoken at home by parents and elders. However, in the modern digital age, this natural process is rapidly changing. A new phenomenon is emerging – the “phone tongue.” Today's children are growing up surrounded by screens. As a result, many children are learning and adopting the language of digital media rather than their inherited mother tongue. The phone does not just entertain; it educates, influences pronunciation, builds vocabulary and even shapes thinking patterns. This change carries both opportunities and challenges. On one hand, children become multilingual and globally connected. On the other hand, local languages face the risk of decline if they are not actively preserved at home and in society. The responsibility now lies with parents, educators and content creators to ensure that digital spaces also support and promote native languages, so tradition and technology can grow together rather than apart.

Aamir Khan Wagan

Larkana

Int'l education day

The International Day of Education is observed each year on January 24, and this year's theme was “The Power of Youth in Co-Creating Education.” This important day highlights the vital role education plays in promoting global peace and sustainable development. Education is essential for children's safety, health, happiness and future opportunities. It equips young minds with knowledge, skills and confidence, allowing them to build better lives and contribute positively to society. Education is not a privilege for a few – it is a fundamental right for all. On this day, we not only celebrate the importance of learning but also encourage young people to take an active role in shaping education systems. It is also a time to recognise and appreciate the dedication and hard work of teachers and educators who guide and inspire future generations. We must use this day as a reminder to support education for every child and to empower youth to

become leaders of tomorrow.

Kulsoom Balach
Gidroshia, Balochistan

Unrealised dreams

While our leaders debate politically for our future, there is a pain we are holding in our hearts for our nation – for the collapse of the quality of public education. Pakistan has one of the world's largest out of school population and those who attend school often receive the kind of learning that destroys critical thinking and creativity. The divide between private schools and underfunded government systems is deeply vast and discriminatory. This is not just an educational problem but also one pertaining to our futures. An unskilled youth craves stability, a good future and a bright career through education. But if we lose this facility, most people will give up on their dreams and goals. It's a crucial request that the government prioritises education as our futures depend not on the road that we build today but the minds that we shape for tomorrow.

Sharan Noor Ahmad
Dashtibazar, Turbat



A view of Nullah Leh flowing at a dangerously high level following heavy monsoon rains, as the swollen waterway poses a serious threat to residential areas and settlements built along its banks in the Federal capital.

China gifts Islamabad 21 fire, rescue vehicles worth Rs3 billion

STAFF REPORT, China's Embassy in Pakistan announced on Tuesday that Beijing was gifting a modern fleet of 21 fire and rescue vehicles, valued at Rs3 billion, "to upgrade Islamabad's emergency response infrastructure". According to a post on X, the Chinese Embassy said the fleet would arrive this month and comprise an "advanced 88m snorkel tender", substantially bolstering emergency response capability and high-rise rescue operations across the capital.

The embassy added that the fleet was a "testament to our timeless, All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership serving and protecting our communities together".

Reinforcing our shared commitment to public safety and disaster resilience. China is gifting a modern fleet of 21 fire &

rescue vehicles valued at *PKR 3 Billion* to upgrade Islamabad's emergency response infrastructure.

The announcement came after 14 newborn babies were killed when a fire broke out on the third floor of the Mother and Child Hospital's war at Islamabad's Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences. The incident prompted citizens and political parties to begin demanding action against those responsible. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif later ordered immediate action against eight people identified by an inquiry committee over the fire, approving their suspension as well as departmental and criminal proceedings. Those suspended included the executive director.



The fleet is also another development in regards to the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership between Beijing and Islamabad, with the two agreeing earlier this year to deepen mutual trust,

practical cooperation, and defence and security cooperation.

The commitment came during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to China in May this year, when the two countries also released a joint communique noting that Islamabad had committed to taking steps to strengthen security measures, while Beijing reaffirmed its support for Pakistan in its fight against terrorism. On the occasion, China affirmed its position to work with Pakistan to establish the China-Pakistan Security Partnership, continue bilateral and multilateral counter-terrorism cooperation, and strengthen military-to-military cooperation. Later, in July, the two countries reaffirmed commitment to strengthening their strategic security partnership and expanding counterterrorism cooperation.

Ayaz welcomes PCA decision upholding Indus Waters Treaty

APP- ISLAMABAD: Speaker of National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has welcomed the unanimous decision of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) affirming that the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) remains fully in force and that India has no valid grounds to unilaterally suspend or terminate the Treaty. He said the decision was a significant affirmation of international law, treaty obligations and the principle that disputes must be resolved through peaceful and established legal mechanisms. Ayaz Sadiq said Pakistan had always respected international treaties and upheld international law and remained a strong proponent of dialogue and peaceful resolution of disputes. The Speaker said the Indus Waters Treaty is an important international agreement, directly linked to the livelihood, agriculture, economic development and prosperity of the region. He stressed that such a vital treaty must be respected and upheld in letter and spirit. Ayaz Sadiq said India's unilateral suspension of the IWT was not only contrary to the provisions of the Treaty but also inconsistent with the principles of international law. He also noted that the PCA's decision had further exposed the lack of legal justification for India's attempt to place the Treaty in abeyance and underscored the importance of India fulfilling its obligations under the agreement. Ayaz Sadiq said that the unilateral suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty by the Modi regime and its attempt to use water as a weapon against Pakistan amounted to water terrorism, with the potential to inflict serious humanitarian suffering, economic disruption and far-reaching consequences for regional peace and stability.

Rain or rush, traffic must keep moving: DIG orders stronger road discipline

APP- ISLAMABAD: Director General Safe City/DIG Traffic Muhammad Haroon Joya on Tuesday directed traffic officers to keep traffic moving smoothly during rainfall while stepping up action against lane violations, helmetless motorcyclists, non-standard number plates and tinted glasses across the federal capital. An official told APP on Tuesday that he issued the directions while chairing a meeting of traffic officers attended by Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Kainat Azhar Khan and other officials, said a press release here. The meeting reviewed traffic management during rainy weather and measures required to prevent disruption on the city's roads. Haroon Joya directed officers to remain vigilant during rainfall and take necessary measures to maintain smooth traffic flow and facilitate road users. He also ordered effective enforcement against motorists violating lane discipline and using non-standard number plates or tinted glasses, as well as motorcyclists riding without helmets. The DIG Traffic further directed officers to address parking problems at public and tourist places, where improper parking could create difficulties for visitors and other road users. He asked traffic officers to ensure better travel facilities for citizens and take necessary measures to keep traffic organised and roads convenient for commuters.

Zong wins 5 awards at Dragons of Asia 2026

APP- ISLAMABAD: Zong, Pakistan's leading technology services enterprise, has emerged as the only telecom operator to win Gold for its 5G campaigns at the Dragons of Asia Awards 2026, taking home 5 awards including 2 Gold, 1 Bronze & 2 Black Dragon Awards, celebrating the creative and marketing excellence behind its '5G Launch' and 'Aisa Hai Future' campaigns, alongside further recognition for its 'Zong My5 2025' and 'Pro Max Hattrick campaigns'. The achievement marks a significant milestone for Zong, reflecting the creative excellence driving its entire brand strategy and communication, as well as the company's broader ambition to translate the possibilities of next-generation technology into meaningful experiences for customers, businesses and communities. Backed by the global scale, technology leadership and innovation capabilities of China Mobile, one of the world's leading telecommunications and technology companies, Zong launched its 5G journey with a clear purpose: to demonstrate what 5G can truly mean for Pakistan, beyond faster speeds. Under the

tagline 'Aisa Hai Future,' Zong has positioned 5G as an enabler of a smarter, more connected and digitally empowered future. The '5G Launch' and 'Aisa Hai Future' campaigns brought this vision to life by simplifying complex technology and making the benefits of 5G more relatable and accessible to everyday audiences. Through creative storytelling, consumer education and simplified communication around emerging AI technologies, Zong has focused on building greater awareness and understanding of how these technologies can improve the way people live, work and connect. The approach also supports Pakistan's broader digital transformation ambitions, aligning Zong's technology and communication agenda with the national vision of building a more digitally inclusive and technology-enabled society. The recognition of 'Zong My5 2025' and 'Pro Max Hattrick' further demonstrates the breadth of Zong's communications strategy-combining technology, consumer insight and creative execution to turn products and propositions into simple, relevant and engaging experiences.

SECP wins Global Award for Comprehensive Insurance Policy for Women

APP- ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has won a global award for developing a comprehensive insurance policy aimed at enhancing women's access to insurance services. The SECP received the Outstanding Policy Award at the Women's World Banking Programme held at the University of Oxford, where teams from 16 countries participated. The proposed SECP policy focuses on expanding women's access to insurance, developing products tailored to their specific needs and increasing outreach through digital channels. According to the SECP, Pakistan has around 117 million women, representing significant potential for expanding insurance coverage among women. Under the proposed policy, insurance companies have been encouraged to introduce at least two dedicated insurance products for women, aimed at addressing their specific financial protection needs. The policy is initially expected to benefit around 1.5 million existing women life insurance policyholders.



A carpenter makes wooden furniture for customers at his workshop.

165 village conservation committees set up under Green Pakistan Programme

APP- ISLAMABAD: As many as 165 village conservation committees (VCCs) have been established in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) under the wildlife component of the Upscaling Green Pakistan Programme (UGPP), as the country expands community participation in wildlife and habitat conservation.

According to official data available with Wealth Pakistan, detailing progress on major wildlife activities under the UGPP from FY2019 to the third quarter of FY2025-26, AJK accounts for 115 of the committees, while another 50 have been established in KP.

The table records no VCCs under this particular activity for Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan or Gilgit-Baltistan. AJK therefore accounts for nearly 70% of the 165 committees established, with KP accounting for the remain-



der. The VCCs form part of a wider range of wildlife interventions undertaken under the programme, which include the expansion and management of protected areas, wildlife monitoring, community-based conservation, eco-tourism infrastructure and measures to curb illegal wildlife trade.

The progress data show that 131

new protected areas have been established under the Protected Areas Initiative. Punjab accounts for 65, KP 29, Balochistan and AJK two each, and Gilgit-Baltistan 16.

Another 70 management plans for protected areas have been developed, including 32 in Gilgit-Baltistan, 20 in AJK, 14 in KP, three in Punjab and one in Balochistan.



The rescue 1122 team retrieve the bodies of two children reportedly drowned while swimming in River Sutlej and handed them over to the relatives.

Ufone, Telenor Pakistan secure nine awards at Dragons of Pakistan 2026

APP- ISLAMABAD: Ufone and Telenor Pakistan have secured nine awards at the Dragons of Pakistan 2026, comprising two Gold, two Silver and five Black Dragons, across Marketing, Public Relations, Media, Digital, Content Creation and Small Budget categories.

Ufone secured five awards, led by its campaign, "Babar Azam's Lost Phone, Data Bohhaat Hai," which won Gold Dragons in both Marketing Discipline and Public Relations, as well as a Black Dragon in Media. The brand also received a Silver Dragon in Media for "Super 5" and a Silver Dragon in Digital for "5G Launch: It's More Than Just Speed."

Telenor Pakistan added four Black Dragons to PTML's tally, with its work recognised across Content Creation, Digital, Small Budget and Public Relations. The brand

won for "Comic Feeds" in Content Creation, "Tension Ko Smash Karo" in Digital, "Karachi Ka Connection" in Small Budget, and "Influencer Tactical Campaigns" in Public Relations.

Commenting on the success, Syed Atif Raza, Chief Commercial Officer, PTML said, "We are proud of the recognition received by Ufone and Telenor Pakistan at Dragons of Pakistan 2026. The nine awards reflect the quality and impact of the hard work of our team and partners. These campaigns demonstrate our commitment to create innovative products and services, substantiated by relevant and powerful communication that resonates with the audiences. We congratulate everyone involved and look forward to setting new benchmarks through impactful work."



ضرور ہے لیکن یہ سسٹم ابھی مکمل طور پر محفوظ اور قابل اعتبار نہیں ہے۔ ان کا خیال تھا کہ گاڑی اس لیے بنے گا یوٹیوب کیوں کہ اس کا انٹرنیٹ سے کنکشن منقطع ہو گیا تھا۔ یہ وضاحت تو احسان کر چکے ہیں کہ انٹرنیٹ کنکشن منقطع نہیں ہوا تھا بلکہ ان کی توجہ بہت گئی تھی اور

یہ موجود رہے اور گاڑی کنٹرول کرنے کے مناظر قلمباز کر رہے۔

گھنگھلے احسان کا کہنا تھا کہ وہ گاڑی سے تقریباً 100 میٹر دور کھڑے ہو کر موبائل فون کے ذریعے اسے کنٹرول کر رہے تھے اور دائیں اور بائیں موڑ رہے تھے۔ اسی دوران کبیرہ مین نے ان سے کہا کہ وہ موبائل فون اور کنٹرولنگ بٹنوں کو کبیرہ پر دکھائیں۔ احسان کے مطابق کبیرہ مین کی ہدایات پر عمل کرتے ہوئے ان کی توجہ گاڑی سے ہٹ گئی۔ میں چند سیکنڈ کے لیے کبیرہ کی طرف متوجہ ہو گیا۔ اس دوران میں گاڑی کو دائیں موڑنا چاہتا تھا لیکن غلطی سے بائیں موڑنے والا بن گیا۔ چونکہ اُس وقت میری نظریں گاڑی پر نہیں تھیں، اس لیے گاڑی پولیس کی گاڑی سے ٹکرائی۔

اس وائرل ویڈیو پر نہ صرف پاکستان بلکہ دنیا بھر سے صارفین مختلف زاویوں سے تبصرے کر رہے ہیں۔ ایک جانب لوگ یقینی طور پر پاکستان میں ٹیلنٹ کی کوئی کمی نہیں، کہنے کو فوراً بعد پیش آنے والے حادثے پر گفتگو کر رہے ہیں تو دوسری جانب بہت سے صارفین کی دلچسپی اس بات میں ہے کہ تصادم کے بعد آگے کیا ہوا؟

حوصلہ افزائی کی جانی چاہیے کیونکہ انھوں نے اپنی ذہنی صلاحیت ایک مفید منصوبے پر صرف کی ہے۔ ان کے بقول سسٹم میں کچھ خامیاں ضرور ہیں لیکن مناسب بہتری کے بعد یہ مفید ثابت ہو سکتا ہے۔ سینا صاحب نامی صارف نے واقعے کو ناکامی سے سیکھنے کے عمل کا حصہ قرار دیا اور ایلون مسک کی مثال دی، جن کی کمپنی سیٹلائٹس اور خود کار گاڑیوں کی ٹیکنالوجی پر کام کر رہی ہے۔ کچھ صارفین نے اس واقعے پر طنز اور مزاحیہ تبصرے بھی کیے۔ راہین نے لکھا کہ "گاڑی آ رہی ہے، بھاگو! کہیں یہ ہم میں سے کسی سے نہ ٹکرا جائے۔" شہزاد نواز نے مختصر تبصرے میں کہا کہ "ٹیلنٹ پولیس نے بھی دیکھ لیا۔" اویس حمید نے لکھا: "پھر اس کے بعد چراغوں میں روشنی نہ رہی؟"

انھوں نے غلطیوں کو یاد کیا تھا۔ تاہم ان سے پوچھا کہ اگر گاڑی کا رابطہ انٹرنیٹ یا سیٹلائٹ سے ٹوٹ جائے تو اس صورت میں کیا ہوگا؟ احسان ظفر نے جواب دیا کہ انھوں نے "پروگرامنگ میں یہ بات شامل کر رکھی ہے اگر انٹرنیٹ رابطہ ٹوٹے گا تو گاڑی خود بخود رک جائے۔ جب محمد علی جاوے اس کی ویڈیو سوشل میڈیا پر اپ لوڈ کی تو تیزی سے وائرل ہو گئی۔ اس واقعے پر سوشل میڈیا صارفین کی جانب سے مختلف آراء سامنے آئیں، جن میں کئی صارفین نے نو جوان موجد کی حوصلہ افزائی کی اور کچھ نے طنز و مزاح کا راستہ اختیار کیا۔ فاروق بلوچ کا کہنا ہے کہ پاکستان میں خود کار گاڑیوں کی ٹیکنالوجی پر کام کرنے والے با صلاحیت افراد موجود ہیں۔ ان کے مطابق یہ مصنوعی ذہانت

احسان ظفر کے مطابق حادثے کے بعد پولیس اہلکاروں نے ان کا موقف سنا، اور چونکہ انھوں نے اپنی غلطی تسلیم کر لی تھی اس لیے پولیس وین کو پھینچنے والے نقصان کا تخمینہ لگوا دیا گیا۔ انھوں نے ڈیٹیلنگ اور پیٹنٹنگ کے اخراجات کی مدد میں مطلوب رقم ادا کر دی، جس کے بعد ان کے خلاف کسی قسم کی قانونی کارروائی نہیں کی گئی۔

گاڑی کے گرد مناظر اپنے موبائل فون یا کمپیوٹر کی سکرین پر دیکھ سکتا ہے اور انٹیلیجنس کے ذریعے گاڑی کو چلنے، رکھنے یا مڑنے کی ہدایات دیتا ہے۔ کسی مسافر کے چلائی گئی، بعد ازاں رپورٹر نے کہا کہ وہ گاڑی میں بیٹھ کر بھی دیکھ سکتا ہے۔ احسان نے بتایا کہ ایک کبیرہ مین رپورٹر کے ساتھ گاڑی میں بیٹھ گئے، جبکہ دوسرے ان کے ساتھ

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یقینی طور پر پاکستان میں ٹیلنٹ کی کوئی کمی نہیں؛ بغیر ڈرائیور چلنے والی گاڑی کی پولیس وین سے ٹکر کے پیچھے اصل کہانی

پاکستان میں سوشل میڈیا پر ایک ویڈیو وائرل ہے جس میں گاڑی کی ڈرائیونگ سیٹ خالی ہے لیکن وہ پھر بھی چلی جا رہی ہے۔ ڈرائیور کی خالی سیٹ کے ساتھ والی نشست پر موجود نو جوان بتا رہے ہیں کہ اس گاڑی کو دور بیٹھے آپریٹر انٹرنیٹ کے ذریعے کنٹرول کر رہے ہیں

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پاکستان میں سوشل میڈیا پر ایک ویڈیو وائرل ہے جس میں گاڑی کی ڈرائیونگ سیٹ خالی ہے لیکن وہ پھر بھی چلی جا رہی ہے۔ ڈرائیور کی خالی سیٹ کے ساتھ والی نشست پر موجود نو جوان بتا رہے ہیں کہ اس گاڑی کو دور بیٹھے آپریٹر انٹرنیٹ کے ذریعے کنٹرول کر رہے ہیں

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ایف آئی آر رپورٹ

پاکستان میں سوشل میڈیا پر ایک ویڈیو وائرل ہے جس میں گاڑی کی ڈرائیونگ سیٹ خالی ہے لیکن وہ پھر بھی چلی جا رہی ہے۔ ڈرائیور کی خالی سیٹ کے ساتھ والی نشست پر موجود نو جوان بتا رہے ہیں کہ اس گاڑی کو دور بیٹھے آپریٹر انٹرنیٹ کے ذریعے کنٹرول کر رہے ہیں

وہ دکھاتے ہیں کہ گاڑی بارن بھی بھاری ہے اور دائیں بائیں مڑ بھی رہی ہے۔ یہ سب کچھ ویڈیو میں ریکارڈ ہو رہا ہے۔ کمٹری کرنے والے نو جوان اس نئی ایجاد سے متاثر دکھائی دیتے ہیں اور کہتے ہیں: "یقینی طور پر پاکستان میں ٹیلنٹ کی کوئی کمی نہیں ہے۔"

یہ حادثہ ہونے سے پہلے آخری جملہ تھا، کیوں کہ مین اسی لمحے بغیر ڈرائیور کے یہ گاڑی سڑک پر بھڑکی پولیس وین کے خطرناک حد تک قریب پہنچ چکی تھی۔ تعریف کرنے والے نو جوان کو جملہ بولنے کے دوران احساس ہوا کہ تصادم ہونے ہی والا ہے، انھوں نے بیتابی سے ہینڈ بریک کھینچی، لیکن 'ڈز' کی آواز آئی اور بغیر ڈرائیور کے کار سڑک کنارے موجود پولیس وین سے ٹکرائی گئی۔

ٹکر کے بعد پولیس اہلکار وین کا دروازہ کھولتے ہیں اور ویڈیو سسٹم ہو جاتی ہے۔ اسلام آباد پولیس کے ایس پی سٹی زون ڈاکٹر ایاز حسین کا کہنا تھا کہ اس معاملے کی تحقیقات کے دوران انھیں کسی جرم کے شواہد نہیں ملے۔

ویڈیو پیغام میں ان کا کہنا تھا کہ یہ نو جوان پاکستان کا مستقبل ہیں۔ یہ ایک ایجاد کو نبھات کر رہے تھے، یہ ایک انسانی غلطی تھی۔ اسلام آباد پولیس ایسے نو جوانوں کی حوصلہ افزائی کرتی ہے۔ یہ ہمارے ملک کا سرمایہ ہیں۔

اس وائرل ویڈیو پر نہ صرف پاکستان بلکہ دنیا بھر سے صارفین مختلف زاویوں سے تبصرے کر رہے ہیں۔ ایک جانب لوگ یقینی طور پر پاکستان میں ٹیلنٹ کی کوئی کمی نہیں، کہنے کو فوراً بعد پیش آنے والے حادثے پر گفتگو کر رہے ہیں تو دوسری جانب بہت سے صارفین کی دلچسپی اس بات میں ہے کہ تصادم کے بعد آگے کیا ہوا؟

شاہد حسین نامی ایک صارف نے ایکس پر سوال کیا، "گاڑی ٹکرانے کے بعد پولیس نے ٹیلنٹ کی قدر کی تھی یا نہیں؟"

اطہر سلیم نے ایکس پر لکھا واقعی "ٹیلنٹ کی کوئی کمی نہیں تھی۔ اب پولیس کی پارٹی ہے کہ وہ اپنا ٹیلنٹ دکھائے۔"

کچھ صارفین یہ جاننے کے خواہش مند نظر آتے کہ حادثے کے بعد پولیس کا رد عمل کیا تھا، جبکہ کئی لوگوں نے پوچھا کہ "ویڈیو کا دوسرا پارٹ کب آئے گا؟"



Fortnite leak reveals major The Boys crossover may be coming soon



SPORTS DESK, Fortnite could soon be adding another massive pop culture collaboration, this time with The Boys. According to new leaks circulating online, Epic Games is reportedly planning a crossover tied to the hit show's fifth and final season. Trusted leakers claim the collaboration is already in develop-

ment and may arrive later during Chapter 7 Season 2. While no official release date has been confirmed, the rumor has already sparked heavy fan speculation over which characters could make the jump into the game. The most obvious choices include Homelander and Billy Butcher, though characters like Starlight,

Hughie Campbell, and The Deep have also been mentioned by fans. Leaks also suggest the crossover may include vehicle cosmetics, though details remain limited. The rumor has surprised some players given The Boys is known for graphic violence and mature themes, while Fortnite carries

a more mainstream teen rating. However, the game has previously featured darker franchises including Saw, Scream, and South Park. If true, the crossover could arrive while The Boys final season is still airing, making it one of Fortnite's most talked-about collaborations yet.

‘Adolescence’ screened to rave reviews at Berlin Film Festival

SHOWBIZ DESK, BERLIN: An affecting tale of a boy navigating a young offender institution, directed by one of the stars of Netflix drama “Adolescence”, explores the roots of what leads troubled young men astray. “Animol”, which had its world premiere at the Berlin Film Festival in the Perspectives section, follows 15-year-old Troy as he finds solace behind bars in his bond with fellow inmate Krystian. Director Ashley Walters is perhaps best known to international audiences for his role in “Adolescence” as police officer Luke Bascombe but has had a prolific career as a musician and actor in the United Kingdom. “Animol” sees



him step behind the camera for his feature-length directing debut after acting roles which have often delved into the realities of Britain's deprived inner cities, such as in the show “Top Boy”. He says that his work has often drawn on his own experiences growing up in a single-parent household where he was “desperately looking for male role models”.

Warner Bros. announces reopening of buyout talks

SHOWBIZ DESK, NEW YORK: Warner Bros. Discovery said Tuesday it has reopened talks with Paramount Skydance on its buyout offer, giving the company a week to beat a rival Netflix bid. These discussions, scheduled to end February 23, are designed to give Paramount Skydance a chance to make its “best and final offer,” Warner Bros. Discovery said in a statement that stressed it prefers the Netflix merger and has scheduled a special shareholders meeting to vote on it on March 20. Television and film titan Warner Bros. Discovery, which owns CNN, announced in late October that it was open to acquisition offers. Its board subsequently accepted a bid from Netflix to buy only its streaming and studio business. Paramount Skydance is seeking to buy all of Warner Bros. Discovery for \$108 billion. Netflix is offering \$83 billion for its more limited merger. The Netflix offer does not include Warner Bros. Discovery's television properties such as CNN and Discovery. Those would belong to a newly created, publicly traded company called Discovery Global if the deal goes through. Paramount Skydance accuses the Warner Bros. Discovery board of failing to present shareholders with the details needed to properly compare its offer to the Netflix bid.

2026 Ramazan dramas face new audience expectations



SHOWBIZ DESK, KARACHI: With the arrival of Ramazan, television channels have once again prepared a line-up of light-hearted, family-oriented dramas aimed at attracting audiences during the holy month. This year, however, while teasers and posters have generated excitement, the themes of some productions have also sparked discussion on social media. Over the past few years, Ramazan dramas have become a regular feature of the television entertainment landscape. The trend gained significant momentum after the success of Suno Chanda, which not only achieved strong ratings but also helped strengthen the popularity of its lead actors, including Farhan Saeed and Iqra Aziz. Since then, most major channels have introduced special

romantic comedies for the Ramazan slot. Major releases for Ramazan 2026 Among this year's prominent offerings is Dekh Zara Pyar Se on Hum TV. The drama stars Yumna Zaidi and Hamza Sohail in leading roles, alongside veteran actress Bushra Ansari. It is described as a traditional Ramazan romantic comedy centred on family relationships and light humour. The script has been written by Saima Akram Chaudhry, known for popular serials including Chupke Chupke and Suno Chanda, while direction has been handled by Ali Hassan. Industry observers suggest the drama is likely to follow the familiar formula of witty dialogue and extended family settings that typically attract large Ramazan audiences.

Meanwhile, Geo Entertainment is set to air Khush Naseebi, a story revolving around romance and family relationships. On Express Entertainment, the sitcom Chup Chupa Ke will focus on family secrets and comic misunderstandings. In recent years, Ramazan comedies have developed a recognisable style built around joint family systems, mischievous characters and fast-paced exchanges. Producers say the series will retain that spirit while incorporating a more contemporary narrative approach aimed at younger viewers. Similarly, Green Entertainment plans to broadcast Fasana Martka, which it describes as blending satire and social commentary with traditional Ramazan entertainment. Ratings race and public response Television analysts say the Ramazan transmission period remains one of the most competitive seasons for the entertainment industry. Channels invest heavily in comedy-driven serials scheduled after iftar, seeking to capture family audiences gathering at home. As Ramazan 2026 begins, it remains to be seen whether this year's dramas will meet viewers' expectations or whether online criticism will influence their reception. KARACHI With the arrival of Ramazan, television channels have once again prepared a line-up of light-hearted, family-oriented dramas aimed at attracting audiences during the holy month. This year, however, while teasers and posters have generated excitement, the themes of some productions have also sparked discussion on social media.



Women dressed as gypsies present themselves at a masquerade parade during the international carnival festival in Ptuj, Slovenia.

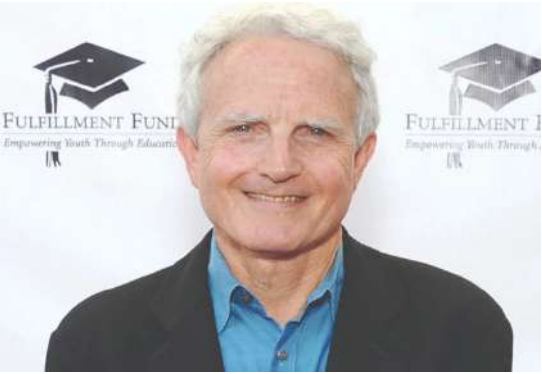
Sunil Malhotra, father of Sidharth Malhotra, dies in Delhi

SHOWBIZ DESK, Sunil Malhotra, father of Bollywood actor Sidharth Malhotra, has passed away, the Indian media reported. The actor confirmed the news of his father's death through a post on social media. According to reports, Sunil Malhotra died on February 14 in New Delhi. Sidharth Malhotra is currently in Delhi with his family following the funeral rites. Sunil Malhotra had been unwell for a prolonged period and had been battling illness. A person close to the actor described the loss as a profound shock for both Sidharth and the entire family, noting that the actor shared a close bond with his father. Family sources confirmed that the last rites have been performed, and the family is expected to remain in Delhi for a few more days. A former Merchant Navy commander, Sunil Malhotra, was regarded as an influential presence in his son's childhood and professional life. In an emotional tribute shared online, Sidharth Malhotra described his father as a man of exceptional integrity.



Celebrated songwriter Billy Steinberg dies at 75

SHOWBIZ DESK, LOS ANGELES: Award-winning US songwriter Billy Steinberg, who wrote several top hit songs including Madonna's “Like a Virgin,” died Monday at age 75, according to media reports. Steinberg wrote some of the biggest pop hits of the 1980s and 1990s and was behind songs performed by singers from Whitney Houston and Celine Dion to Madonna and Cyndi Lauper. He died following a battle with cancer, his attorney told the Los Angeles Times and BBC News. “Billy Steinberg's life was a testament to the enduring power of a well-written song — and to the idea that honesty, when set to music, can outlive us all,” his family said in a statement to the outlets. Steinberg was born in 1950 and grew up in Palm Springs, California, where his family had a table grape business. He attended Bard College in New York and soon began his career in songwriting. He helped write five number one singles on the Billboard Hot 100 list. Among those was “Like a Virgin,” co-written with Tom Kelly, which spent six consecutive weeks at the top of the charts. Steinberg won a Grammy Award in 1997 for his work on Celine Dion's “Falling Into You.”



Performers taking part in the parade of the Luanda Carnival 2026 in Luanda, Angola.



A view of a massive traffic jam on the main Expressway as vehicles move through floodwater following heavy monsoon rainfall in the Federal capital.

Musadik calls for scaling up groundwater recharge to protect Islamabad aquifers

APP- ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Dr Musadik Masood Malik here on Tuesday called for scaling up groundwater recharge initiatives to address the continued decline in the city's groundwater reserves.

Addressing an event titled, "Protecting Islamabad's Aquifers" at the United Nations Educational Foundation in Pakistan (USEFP) auditorium, the minister said around 200 recharge wells had been constructed in the capital, an important pilot initiative needed to be expanded.

He said the estimated increase in the water table from the recharge interventions was 0.4 millimetres, compared with a decline of around 1.5 metres.

Dr. Musadik stressed that the focus should be on expanding recharge efforts



sufficiently to reduce groundwater depletion and eventually reverse the declining trend.

He said the recharge-well initiative was an important achievement but should not be considered the final solution.

The minister also highlighted the need

for improved management of surface and groundwater following recent heavy rainfall the capital.

He said around 200 millimetres of rainfall had been recorded in the capital.

Referring to flooding, Dr Musadik said several areas had been affected and relevant authorities and organisations had been directed to respond to the situation.

The minister also expressed concern over water quality and said treatment facilities were operating in Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

He said the treatment plants helped reduce contamination in treated water but stressed the need for continued attention to water quality.

Dr Musadik also raised the issue of

delays in establishing an additional water treatment plant, saying the project had remained pending for several years despite repeated tendering.

He said delays in implementing development projects were not limited to the Capital Development Authority (CDA) and could be observed across government departments.

The minister said progress had recently been made on the project as the tendering process was under way.

Dr. Musadik also discussed the importance of protecting Pakistan's water interests and the role of international treaties and legal mechanisms in ensuring water security. He said respect for international agreements was important for maintaining stability and protecting the rights of countries dependent on shared water resources.

Melting glaciers fuel fears of sudden floods

APP- ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Tuesday issued alerts for possible glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), flash floods and landslides in Gilgit-Baltistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Azad Kashmir, while warning of heavy to torrential rainfall in Potohar and upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa from Sept 2 to 5 due to ongoing monsoon rains, rising temperatures and accelerated glacier melt. The alert was issued by the NDMA's National Emergencies Operations Centre (NEOC), which warned that rising temperatures and continued monsoon rainfall had increased the risk of glacial lakes bursting and triggering sudden floods in vulnerable mountainous areas. The sensitive areas in Gilgit-Baltistan include Ghizer, Hunza, Nagar, Shigar, Gilgit, Roundu, Diamer, Astore, Skardu, Ghanche, Kharmang and the Neelum Valley in Azad Kashmir.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Chitral, Upper and Lower Dir, Swat, Shangla, Kohistan, Mansehra, Buner and adjoining mountainous areas also face the risk of flash floods and landslides.

The NDMA has directed relevant departments to maintain continuous monitoring of vulnerable glaciers, glacial lakes, rivers, streams and nullahs and remain on high alert.

Local administrations have been asked to take timely precautionary measures, pre-position essential resources in vulnerable areas and keep evacuation arrangements in place.

The NEOC has also forecast thunderstorms and heavy to torrential rains in Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Attock, Chakwal, Jhelum, Murree, Galiyat and adjoining areas from Sept 2 to 5.

Heavy rainfall is also expected in Dir, Swat, Buner, Malakand, Shangla, Battagram, Kohistan, Mansehra, Abbottabad, Haripur, Nowshera, Swabi, Mardan and Peshawar.

The authority warned that intense rainfall could trigger urban flooding in cities, while mountainous areas could face flash floods and landslides.

AJK acting president visits Amir Muqam, inquires about health

APP- ISLAMABAD: Acting President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Chaudhry Tariq Farooq on Tuesday visited the residence of Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Engineer Amir Muqam and inquired about his health.

Chaudhry Tariq Farooq conveyed his best wishes for the federal minister's speedy and complete recovery and prayed for his good health.

During the meeting, the two leaders discussed matters of mutual interest including issues relating to Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, said a press release issued here.

Amir Muqam congratulated Chaudhry Tariq Farooq on his election as Speaker and on assuming the office of Acting President of AJK. Both leaders also expressed good wishes for each other.

Engro Corporation to sell 56.19% stake in EPCL to Lotte Chemical Pakistan



APP- ISLAMABAD: Engro Holdings Limited on Tuesday announced that its wholly-owned subsidiary, Engro Corporation Limited, had entered into a Share Purchase Agreement (SPA) with Lotte Chemical Pakistan Limited for the sale and transfer of its entire shareholding in Engro Polymer & Chemicals Limited (EPCL).

According to a news release, under the agreement, Engro Corporation will sell its approximately 56.19% stake in EPCL's issued and paid-up ordinary share capital for approximately Rs19.7 billion, subject to regulatory approvals and other customary conditions.

EPCL has been a core part of Engro Corporation's portfolio since 1997 and has played an important role in the development of Pakistan's downstream petrochemicals sector.

Over this period, Engro expanded the business, helping establish EPCL as Pakistan's only integrated chlor-vinyl complex and a key supplier to multiple downstream industries, with products including PVC resin, caustic soda and hydrogen peroxide, among others.

Beyond its operational footprint, EPCL has contributed to the development of strong technical capabilities within Pakistan's manufacturing sector, becoming a training ground for engineering talent across the petrochemicals industry.

The proposed transaction reflects the continuing evolution of the Engro Group following its restructuring in 2025, which led to the creation of Engro Holdings as the conglomerate's investment arm.

Since then, Engro Holdings has actively executed its mandate through significant decisions, including the USD562 million Deodar transaction, one of Pakistan's largest private-sector deals in more than a decade.

The proposed EPCL transaction would represent another portfolio decision aligned with this approach, enabling Engro to recycle capital into future growth opportunities that strengthen the quality and resilience of its portfolio.

Commenting on the transaction, Abdul Samad Dawood, CEO of Engro Holdings, said EPCL had been one of

Engro's flagship businesses.

"For nearly three decades, we have partnered with leading international companies to build capabilities, strengthen operations, and contribute to Pakistan's industrial development," he said.

"We believe the proposed transaction would allow us to realise the value and learnings created through that journey while unlocking synergies for EPCL within a larger petrochemicals platform. At the same time, it would strengthen our ability to pursue new investment opportunities and continue building a resilient portfolio that compounds value for shareholders over the long term," he added.

Adnan Afridi, CEO of Lotte Chemical Pakistan Limited, said the combination would create a stronger platform for sustainable growth, operational excellence and innovation.

"The identified synergies, coupled with the complementary strengths of both businesses, would enhance our competitiveness while enabling us to deliver greater value to our customers and stakeholders through the proposed transaction," he said.

"We remain committed to investing in our people, technology, sustainability, operational excellence, and future expansion projects that will strengthen Pakistan's manufacturing base and contribute to long-term economic development," he added.

The completion of the proposed transaction remains subject to regulatory approvals and the fulfilment of required conditions.



Vice Chancellor of the Isamia University of Bahawalpur Prof. Dr. Muhammad Kamran exchanging MOU documents with Tariq Mehmood Director Punjab Nursing and Health Workforce Reform program Government of Punjab.

NADRA, FBISE Sign Agreement to Integrate Student Records

APP- ISLAMABAD: The National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) and the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE) have signed an agreement to integrate the student registration system for Matriculation and Intermediate examinations.

Under the agreement, a mutual data-exchange mechanism has been established. This will enable NADRA to provide FBISE with key student details directly from its registry, including full name, father's name, and date of birth.

The initiative aims to minimise data discrepancies and errors during student registration, whilst enhancing administrative efficiency through the issuance of accurate and verifiable academic credentials. The partnership also includes the



development of a secure Digital Wallet, allowing students to access, store, and digitally share their educational certificates. This collaboration forms part of NADRA's broader initiative to integrate national identity system and educational records. Under this programme, NADRA is progressively working to streamline digital data-sharing across sec-

ondary and higher secondary education boards, universities, and the Higher Education Commission (HEC) nationwide.

The signing ceremony took place today at the NADRA Headquarters in Islamabad, attended by the Chairman of FBISE, Dr Ikram Ali Malik, and the Chairman of NADRA.

Rawal Dam water level reaches 1,751.90 feet, spillways opened

APP- ISLAMABAD: Following heavy rainfall in Islamabad and surrounding areas, the water level in Rawal Dam has risen to 1,751.90 feet, prompting authorities to open the dam's spillways at 2:00 pm.

The district administration has directed Rescue 1122, police, and other departments to remain on high alert during the operation. The District Administration Islamabad announced that the water level in Rawal Dam increased significantly after continuous rainfall across the federal capital and nearby regions. According to officials, the reservoir's water level reached 1,751.90 feet, leading authorities to decide to open the spillways to regulate the inflow and maintain safe water levels. The administration has instructed Rescue 1122, Islamabad Police and other relevant departments to remain fully prepared during the release of water. Authorities have also directed all concerned institutions to implement neces-

sary safety measures before and during the operation. Officials said coordination among emergency and civic agencies is underway to monitor the situation and respond promptly to any developments resulting from increased water discharge.

The district administration urged residents to stay away from streams, drainage channels and low-lying areas while the spillways remain open. Citizens have been advised to avoid unnecessary visits to locations near watercourses and to follow instructions issued by local authorities.

The administration said precautionary arrangements are being made to minimize risks and ensure public safety. Monitoring teams will continue to observe water levels and conditions around the dam throughout the operation.



Fishermen busy in fishing on the boats at Indus River.