

## A Leading National Daily ABC Rectified The Spokesman

ر صحيح بغارى: مديث نمبر 6388) **Barkat Rice Mills** 

CDNS attains Rs 1.5 trillion savings target by last quarter of FY 2024-25

The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has accomplished a target of Rs 1.5 trillion in fresh bonds and attained 90.91 percent of the annual target for the ongoing last quarter of the current fiscal year, from July 1 to June 15, 2024-25. The senior official of CDNS that the CDNS has set an annual target of Rs 1650 billion for the current Fiscal Year, 2024-25, which will promote the country's saving culture.

**PSX** witnesses bearish trend, loses **3,855.77** points

ares the previous trading day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 23.488 billion against Rs 15.651 billion on the last trading day.

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## National Security Committee meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in chaired National Security Committee meeting, attended by DPM Ishaq Dar, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Field Marshal Asim Munir, senior military officials from all three



## National Security Committee strongly condemns Israeli aggression against Iran

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The National Security Committee (NSC) on Monday strongly condemned Israeli aggression against Iran and termed it as regrettable.

The NSC met in Islamabad under Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to assess the evolving regional situation following the recent escalation between Iran and Israel, including US military

strikes on Iranian nuclear sites. The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, Interior Minister Mohsin

Munir, senior military officials from all three armed forces, and key members of the national security and intelligence appa-

According to official sources, the NSC deliberated on the strategic and security implications of US and Israeli actions in Iran and their potential consequences for

Pakistan and the wider region. The meeting was briefed about Field Marshal Asim Munir's recent visit to the United States while a briefing was also given on

Pakistan's successful diplomacy. The forum also expressed

related to water aggression, saying that Pakistani forces are keeping a close watch on Indian movements

National Security The Committee reiterated its resolve to thwart India's nefarious intentions and said that diplomatic breach of international law. efforts will continue to save the

Later in a statement, the National Security Committee strongly condemned the Israeli aggression against Iran.

attacks as regrettable and said that the Israeli attacks were fuel-

Naqvi, Field Marshal Asim concern over India's threats ling tensions in the region, and tives to promote regional peace that Iran has the right to self-defence under the UN Charter.

The NSC expressed deep sorrow over the loss of innocent lives in Iran following strikes on its nuclear facilities and condemned the attacks as a

The forum extended heartfelt condolences to the government and people of Iran, particularly over the incidents at Fordow,

Natanz, and Isfahan. The NSC said that Pakistan The committee described the remains in close contact with relevant parties and is ready to

continue its efforts and initia-

and stability.

The committee called on all parties concerned to resolve this dispute through dialogue and diplomacy in accordance with the United Nations Charter.

The committee reiterated the need to uphold human rights and comply with international humanitarian standards, especially in times of armed conflict.

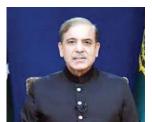
Reaffirming its commitment to regional stability, the NSC concluded with a strong pledge to continue Pakistan's efforts toward peace and stability in

## PM directs formation of 3 specialized committees to promote cashless economy

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday directed the formation of three specialized committees: the Digital Payments Innovation and Adoption Committee, the Digital Public Infrastructure Committee, and the Government Payments Committee to promote cashless economy across the country.

These special sub-committees will present recommendations to facilitate payments between citizens and businesses, raise awareness about digital systems, activate the Pakistan Digital Authority, formulate a national digital master plan, and streamline transactions between the government and the private sector. Pakistan real estate



Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was chairing a highlevel meeting focused on promoting a cashless economy in Pakistan.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik, Minister for IT Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Minister for Climate Change Dr. Musadik Malik, the Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan, the Chairman of FBR, and senior officials from relevant institutions

## **Bilawal Bhutto** announces PPP's support for federal budget



跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly reconvened on Monday after a two-day break to resume debate on the federal budget for fiscal year 2025-26.

Minister Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb is expected to formally conclude the budget debate later today, with a final vote scheduled for

The session, presided over by Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, was marked by fiery speeches and intense confrontations between treasury and opposition members.

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawa Bhutto Zardari delivered a wide-ranging speech, touching on the federal budget, regional security, and foreign policy particularly condemning the recent US-led strikes on Iranian nuclear sites.

Addressing the assembly, Bilawal warned that any radiation leak from the attacks on Iranian nuclear facilities could have affected not just Iran but also neighboring countries like Pakistan.

He harshly condemned Israel's aggression, accusing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of "genocide" against Muslims and declared, "Iran's sovereignty must be respected."

## Iran responds to Iran responds to Trump's aggression with Visit to UAE for 12th missile strike on US air base in Qatar



Agencies

ISLAMABAD: Retaliating to the blatant US aggression, Iran on Monday launched a missile strike on a US military installation in Qatar. The attack across the Middle East.

Eyewitnesses reported seeing missiles streaking But we will not leave an invathrough the sky followed by loud explosions. The extent of the damage remains unclear.

Iran's state television Udeid Air Base, which houses as "a mighty and successful

response" to what it called "America's aggression," set to martial music. The missile strike came shortly after Qatar preemptively closed its airspace in response to rising tensions with Iran. Just prior to marks a significant escalation the assault, Iranian President in a rapidly widening conflict Masoud Pezeshkian posted on the platform X: "We neither initiated the war nor seek it. sion of great Iran unanswered."

Al Udeid has previously been threatened by Tehran. Qatar, which lies across the confirmed the attack on Al Persian Gulf from Iran, maintains diplomatic ties with the American forces and serves country and shares a massive as the forward headquarters offshore natural gas field with of U. S. Central Command. A it. Iran National Security broadcast described the strike Council confirms targeting of US base in Qatar

## **Session of Pakistan-UAE Joint Ministerial Commission**

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister of Pakistan Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar will lead Pakistan delegation to the 12th session of Pakistan-UAE Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC), scheduled in Abu Dhabi on 24 June

The JMC serves as the highest institutionalized platform for bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and the UAE. The upcoming session will take forward the agenda of deepening strategic, economic and development cooperation between the two brotherly countries.

Pakistan delegation, led by DPM/FM, will comprise secretaries and senior officials from key ministries including Economic Affairs, Commerce, Energy, Maritime Affairs and Interior. The UAE side will be led by HH Sheikh Abdullah bin Zaved Al Nahvan, Deputy



Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, along with high-level representation from relevant Emirati institutions. The session will review

progress across multiple domains of bilateral cooperation and explore new avenues for collaboration in trade, investment, energy, infrastructure development and IT. A number of legal instruments are expected to be finalized during the session to institutionalize sectoral cooperation.

The session will provide an important opportunity for both sides to align their economic priorities and unlock the potential of enhancing scope of mutually beneficial partnership.



## Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq's commitment to educational improvement in Azad Kashmir

MUZAFFARABAD: The prime minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that the dream of real development could be materialised only through the improvement of the educational system.

He expressed these views while talking to a high level delegation that called him here today. Led by Minister for Higher Education Azad Kashmir Zafar İqbal Malik, the delegation was comprised of Secretary Higher Education Chaudhry Muhammad Tayyab, President ACTA Azad Kashmir Tariq Saleem, Senior Vice President ACTA Dr. Zafar Iqbal, General Secretary ACTA Chaudhry Abdul Rahim and others. Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said that steps were being taken to improve the quality of education in colleges across Azad Kashmir.

He, however, maintained that the real change in the region could be automatically". achieved through a combination of hard work, planning and consistency. technology was the need of the hour.



Lauding the teachers' significant role He suggested that teachers' organiin nation building, the PM said that the quality of education hinges on teachers' dedication and their commitment to the national cause.

Reiterating his government's commitment to provide the best educational facilities to the citizens, the PM said, "If the quality of education improves, things can improve

He said that promotion of modern

zations, intellectuals and educationists must form an effective forum to bring reforms in the education system, which was appreciated by the representatives of the ACTA present in the

The PM assured the visiting deleto solve the problems of the faculty in colleges.

He said that education has been given priority in the budget. He stated

that shortcomings in the system have been eliminated and things were moving in the right direction. He said that the fruits of the exemplary measures taken by the coalition government have now started reaching the ordinary people.

Earlier, a detailed briefing was given gation that the government was keen to Prime Minister regarding the initiatives of the Higher Education Department Azad Kashmir and the challenges faced by teachers associated with higher education.

### Pir Mazhar Saeed Shah called on Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq



MUZAFFARABAD: Information Minister and Chairman Parliamentary Board of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Pir Muhammad Mazhar Saeed Shah called on Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq here today. During the meeting the duo discussed issues of mutual interest including the issues of allied religious parties, Madrasas and mosques. On the occasion, the Information Minister apprised the Prime Minister of the demands of the religious parties. It was also decided to hold a National Convention of Ulemas and Grand Imams in the meeting. The Information Minister thanked the Prime Minister for increasing the salaries of reciters at the Tajweed-ul-Quran Trust.

#### Iran and the Muslim Ummah: A Call for Unity in Times of Crisis

Spokesman Report



GILGAT /RAWALPINDI: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan said that the American attacks on Iran's nuclear sites are highly condemnable. These attacks are stubbornness, aggression and war crimes. After backing Israel, now America has come out in the open. American aggression is tantamount to destroying world peace. US President Donald Trump, demonstrating deceit and deception,

went back on his promise not to start new wars. He said that the entire Kashmiri and Pakistani nation stands with Iran, he expressed these views while talking to the media. He said that the Muslim ummah must unite against the actions of America and Israel. President Trump has rejected the ceasefire resolutions in Gaza 8 times. The American attacks are a serious violation of the UN Charter and a dangerous escalation. He added that this step pushes humanity into a crisis whose consequences may be irreversible. If this situation continues to escalate, it will have very disastrous consequences, which will not be limited to this region alone. It is necessary to ensure the protection of civilian lives and property, and all parties must immediately cease hostilities. All peace loving nations must abide by international law, especially international humanitarian law. The solution to the crisis in the region is possible only through dialogue and diplomacy in accordance with the principles and purposes of the UN Charter.

#### Security Plan Finalised for Muharram in Attock: 110 speakers banned to ensure peace

👺 Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: To maintain religious harmony and law and order during the holy month of Muharram, the Attock district administration has imposed gagging orders on 42 controversial speakers and barred 68 Ulema and Zakireen from entering the district. Alongside these preventive measures, a comprehensive security plan has been finalized for Muharram processions and majalis, with troops placed on standby to respond to any untoward incident. These details were shared by Deputy Commissioner Attock, Rao Atif Raza, while speaking to the media on Monday.

The DC informed that of the 145 scheduled Muharram processions in the district, 28 have been classified as highly sensitive (Category A), 25 as moderately sensitive (Category B), and 92 as low risk (Category C). Similarly, out of 745 majalis, 181 are marked as Category A, 30 in Category B, and 544 in Category C.

In response to a query, Rao Atif Raza stated that 754 majalis will be organised across the district, including 66 in Attock, 70 in Hasanabdal, 173 in Fatehjang, 325 in Pindigheb, and 120 in Jand. A total of 145 Zuljanah processions will take place—29 of them licensed and 116 traditional.

He said that more than 2,500 police officials will be deployed for security arrangements. The deployment includes 5 DSPs, 10 SHOs, 180 Sub-Inspectors and ASIs, 119 Head Constables, 1,100 Constables, 20 Lady Constables, Elite Force personnel, and over 640 trained volunteers. Organisers have also been directed to deploy their own volunteers

at entry points, equipped with walkthrough gates and metal detectors. The DC emphasised that strict surveillance will be maintained by law enforcement agencies to monitor the movements of religious extremists, proclaimed offenders, and other elements that could disrupt peace.

#### Government Efforts Have Been initiated to Restore the Historic Forts of the Cholistan Region



👺 Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Efforts have been initiated to restore the historic forts of the Cholistan region. A comprehensive restoration project worth Rs. 2.90 billion has been prepared to preserve these forts in their original form. In the budget for the upcoming fiscal year, Rs. 1.89 billion have been allocated for this purpose.

Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab, Mr. Fuad Hashim Rabbani, expressed his gratitude to Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif for providing the funds. Sharing details of the project, he stated that Rs. 1.80 billion will be spent on restoring the Derawar Fort to its original state, and the project is expected to be completed within two years.

He further informed that Jamgarh, Meergarh, Moujgarh, Deengarh, Phulara, and Marot Forts will also be restored to their original conditions. Fuad Hashim Rabbani added that more than 20 historic forts in Cholistan will be preserved in phases, and this restoration of cultural heritage will help promote tourism in the region.

### Demonstration

KARACHI: Supporters of the religious and political party Jamaat-e-Islami attend a demonstration against U.S. and Israeli



## Iran-Israel conflict could have severe repercussions for Pakistan: Madood Khan

👺 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Former President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and senior diplomat Sardar Masood Khan has warned that the escalating Iran-Israel conflict could have grave and far-reaching implications for Pakistan's national security and stability.

In a series of media interviews, Khan expressed deep concern over the Iran and Israel, cautioning that a making it vulnerable to exploitation by

prolonged war could trigger a new wave of refugee influx into Pakistan, similar "Groups backed by hostile foreign to the aftermath of the Afghan conflict.

"If the war drags on, there is a strong possibility of a mass exodus of Iranian refugees towards Pakistan," he stated, noting that such a scenario would strain Pakistan's resources and social fabric.

Khan emphasized that a potentially more dangerous outcome would be the widening scope of hostilities between weakening of the Pakistan-Iran border.

powers, especially India—such as BLA, BLF, and other proxies—could infiltrate into Pakistan unchecked, posing a serious threat to our internal security," he warned.

behind Israel's military actions, Khan pointed out that Tel Aviv has made targeting Iran's nuclear infrastructure.

Touching on the strategic motives

"Israel has already attacked nuclear facilities in Natanz, Isfahan, Fordow,

and other key locations where uranium enrichment and missile programs are believed to be based," he said. "They claim to have neutralized nearly 40 percent of Iran's air defense systems."

Khan concluded by urging vigilance, saying that while diplomacy is ongoing, the intensification of military operations casts doubt over the success of peace efforts.

"The world stands at a perilous crossroads. We must prepare for all

## A Recap of the "Ignite the Joy of Reading" Seminar and Its Implications for Future Library Initiatives

KARACHI: Recently, some Pakistani librarians have come together to establish an organization called the "Society for Promotion of Reading and Improvement of Library (SPRIL) to promote reading culture, the development and improvement of libraries.

The inaugural seminar of this organization, titled "Ignite the Joy of Reading," was held on June 22, 2025, at the City Campus of the Karachi Institute of Economics and Technology (KIET), with the cooperation and collaboration of KIET. Prominent scholars, literary figures, and personalities associated with library science from Karachi participated in the seminar. The Holy Quran was recited by Mr. Muhammad Sameem Kardar. Following this, Mr. Khurram Pervez introduced SPRIL and explained its aims and objectives through a presentation. The seminar was hosted by Miss Rabia Ali Faridi.

Dr. Riffat Parveen Siddiqui, Chairperson of the Department of Library Science at the University of Karachi, attended the event as Guest of Honor. She



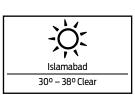
said that books are not only a source of knowledge but also refine a person's personality and thinking, and in today's digital age, the importance of books has increased even more. She appreciated the efforts of the KIET administration and the SPRIL team (Rabia Ali Faridi, Jawaher Aleem, Muhammad Sameem Kardar, Khurram Pervez, and Ikram Ul Haq).

Mr. Nasir Mustafa, Muhammad Kazim Lalani, a former student of KIET, Ikram Ul Haq, Famous

poetess Dr. Ambreen Haseeb Anbar, Amjad Hussain Shah, DG Pakistan Television Karachi and Mr.  $Nadeem\,Zafar\,Siddiqui\,of\,the\,Arts\,Council\,of\,Karachi$ called the seminar informative and an important need

The guest of honor Dr. Riffat Parveen Siddiqui and special guest Mr. Colonel (Retd.) Raza Kamal distributed shields among the speakers and organizers. The

seminar concluded with a fabulous lunch.



#### **SERVICES Namaz Timings** Maghrib .. 7:22 pm

#### ....9:06 pm **EMERGENCY**

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 8
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police9266044
Motorway Police9270601-20
Women Delice

#### **Women Police** Ctations

Stations				
Islamabad	9222596			
Rawalpindi	9270601-20			

## **ENOUIRY**

Edhi Ambulance	115
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092

#### HOSPITALS

CMH	5611111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

#### **DEDADTMENTS**

PEFARIN	
CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropoli	tan
Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

#### **COMPLAINTS**

Water Tanker Service G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..9266316 Wapda Islamabad......9217579-80 Sui Gas Complaint..... 119, 9272249 Wasa Water Tank ...0331-5022125

Karachi: AKU hosts national dialogue with HEC to advance quality in higher education

#### City Desk

KARACHI: The National Dialogue on strengthening quality practices under HEC's new QA framework, hosted by the Network of Quality, Teaching and Learning (QTL\_net) at AKU, brought together Vice Chancellors, institutional heads, and QEC Directors from 91 universities across Sindh, Karachi, and Balochistan, marking a significant step toward transformation and inter-provincial collaboration.

A key highlight was the presentation by Mr. Faisal Notta, Director QEC at AKU, pioneering student engagement model in quality enhancement, recognized as a National initiative to lead a strategic partnership with HEC for adapting the model at other higher education institutions. The dialogue reaffirmed QTL\_net's role as a catalyst for national collaboration and innovation in higher education.

## **D. Watson Chemist & Superstore in Gujrat**

## **FPCCI President Champions Business** Community at Gujrat Superstore Inauguration

#### 👺 🛮 Aziz ur Rehman Mujahid

GUJRAT: President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), Atif Ikram Sheikh, stated that the FPCCI is actively raising its voice to resolve all issues faced by the business community and is playing a role in policymaking in consultation with traders. He was speaking at the inauguration ceremony of a new branch of a renowned pharmacy and superstore in Gujrat.

He said that the business community is the backbone of the national economy. Institutions like this superstore chain. which have invested during difficult times, deserve appreciation. "I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Bakhtawari family who have transformed this venture into a national brand. On the recommendation of Ahsan Bakhtawari, the Federation will take up all issues related to customs and retailers with the FBR tomorrow, in a meeting with all stakeholders, to find a lasting

UBG Patron-in-Chief S. M. Tanveer said that visionary businessmen like Zafar Bakhtawari and Ahsan Bakhtawari are the pride of UBG. "Their leadership, service, and patriotism are exemplary. The Gujrat branch of their organization is on par with the most modern stores. It is heartening to see that world-class facilities are being provided in our country. Zafar Bakhtawari was a close associate of my late father, and his services are unforgettable. We will continue to raise our voice for traders' rights on every plat-

Guirat Chamber Group Leader Haji Nasir said that institutions like this, when they come to a city, do not just become part of the market but also help uplift the standard of living. "We are thankful to Ahsan Bakhtawari for choosing Gujrat for this project. We will extend full cooperation at the chamber level."

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that S. M. Tanveer and Atif Ikram Sheikh should take notice of raids on retailers



Retailers Association with the Member Customs and Chairman FBR to find a real strength, and we will never disap-

permanent solution to this critical issue. He added that this Gujrat store will introduce a new standard with modern Bakhtawari, Abid Bakhtawari, Haris

service standards. "Customer trust is our point them."

The ceremony was attended by Waqar

and arrange a meeting of the Islamabad facilities, trained staff, and excellent Bakhtawari, FPCCI Vice President Tariq Jadoon, Jawad Kazmi, Malik Nadeem, Khalid Chaudhry, Saifur Rehman, Rauf Mukhtar, Asad Aziz, Kareem Aziz Malik, Malik Suhail Hussain, Kashif Naeem

#### Sweet Festival

ISLAMABAD: Children are eagerly buying sweets and ice creams from vendors during "sweet Festival" at local Mall in Federal Capital



## FFC Toba Tek Sing organized a Rice Seminar today at Mukhtar Palace Kamalia

#### Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: According to details, a Seminar regarding Rice crop production was organized by FFC at Mukhtar Palace Kamalia. Around 200 progressive rice growers throughout the district along with Agri Officials and Scientists. The Chief Guest of the program was Dr. Amir Rasool, Director General Pest Warning and Quality Control Pesticides Lahore. On this Occasion, Dr. Muhammad Institute of Kala Shah Kaku crop. The chief guest, Dr. Amir



Warning and Quality Control Pesticides, said that rice is being cultivated in large quantities in lizer Company Limited and Mr. our country because rice is a Hassan Raza Deputy Manag-Ijaz, Director Rice Research crop that has never caused any er Marketing (AS) Toba Tek loss to farmers. He further said Singh Fauji Fertilizer Compahighlighted the farmers to that most of the rice from our ny Limited urged the farmers increase the production of Rice country is exported to other that always use balanced ferticountries. He urged the farm- lizer in their crops to boost the

possible. Mr. Liaqat Ali Head of (FAC) Sheikhupura Fauji Ferti-

Rasool, Director General Pest ers to cultivate as much rice as crop yield up to 50 percent. They said that FFC is providing free of cost soil analysis services to the farming community which enable them use balance fertilizer as per crop growth. For farmers new enhanced fertilizers has been launched which can increase further 10 to 15 percent crop yield.

## Governor Faisal Karim Kundi inaugurates TMUC Campus

#### 👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa His Excellency Faisal Karim Kundi, inaugurated the stateof-the-art TMUC Abbottabad Campus in a grand launch ceremony says a press release.

The momentous occasion was graced by distinguished dignitaries, including Ambassador Masood Khan President TMUC Higher Education Group, Dr. Faisal Mushtaq TI, Founder & Chief Executive TMUC Higher Education Group; Mr. Khurram Khan President High Court Bar Abbottabad, Dr. Tahir Irfan Khan, Vice Chancellor Abbottabad University of Science and Technology, Tahir Faraz Abbasi, Member Faisal Khan Pakistan Navy, Advocate well as notable educationists, parents,



Uzma Munawar, Ms. Amna Salik, Dean Academics and Internationalization; Ms. Saman Shamim, Head of Pakistan Bar Council, Commander Programmes TMUC Abbottabad; as

students, and academic professionals. Governor Faisal Karim Kundi unveiled the inaugural plaque, reinforcing TMUC's commitment to expanding access to world-class trans-

address, extended heartfelt congratulations to the students, parents, Ambassador Masood Khan, Dr. Faisal Mushtaq and the broader community.

national education across Pakistan. Governor Faisal Kundi, in his

The TMUC Abbottabad Campus launch was spearheaded by Ambassador Masood Khan, who played a pivotal role in conceptualizing and overseeing the establishment of this strategically located institution.

Dr. Faisal Mushtaq, Founder and Chief Executive TMUC Pakistan, expressed his gratitude to the esteemed guests and stakeholders. He highlighted the university's expanding international academic partnerships, including collaborations with the University of London, University of Hertfordshire, University for the Creative Arts, Pearson UK, and NCC UK.

### BISP and KCCI join hands to empower youth through skill development

#### 跨 City Desk

KARACHI: In a significant step toward socioeconomic inclusion, Dr. Muhammad Tahir Noor, Additional Secretary, Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) headquarters Islamabad, held a meeting with Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) at the KCCI Secretariat, today to explore the ways to work together for the skill development for beneficiaries of BISP and their children. The KCCI team was led by its president Mr. Muhammad Javed Bilwani & Faisal Khalil Ahmed vice president, Former President Junaid Esmail Makda and others

The meeting centered on the transformative potential of the Benazir Hunarmand Programme (BHP), a landmark initiative aimed at providing cutting-edge vocational training to BISP beneficiaries and their families. On this occasion, the KCCI leadership elaborated the need of skilled manpower for the industry and their efforts to mitigate

Dr. Tahir Noor briefed the KCCI on BISP's broader initiatives under the Government of Pakistan, under which around 10 million households are currently receiving financial support under the Kafaalat initiative. Earlier, President KCCI Muhammad Jawed Bilwani welcomed the delegation and expressed strong support for the proposed collaboration.

#### Sindh Theatre Festival Larkana 2025 by ACP concludes with full swing

#### **Sometimes** Correspondent

LARKANA: Arts Council of Pakistan, Karachi and the Arts Council Larkana Jointly Concluded the 10-day Sindh Theatre Festival Larkana 2025. The event's chief guest was Chairman District Council Larkana Ejaz Laghari along with President of Arts Council Larkana Ismail Jatoi, Secretary Hanif Suhag, Governing Body members, artists, and a large audience.

Addressing the ceremony, Chairman Ejaz Laghari emphasized expanding the reach of healthy cultural events like the Sindh Theatre Festival to various tehsils, which would help discover new artists and producers. He expressed a desire to bring vibrant cultural activities to the general public of Larkana.

President of Arts Council Larkana Ismail Jatoi remarked that the 10-day event was a testament to the dedication and hard work of the participating artists.

It should be noted that theater plays were presented daily for 10 days in the Arts Council Larkano, including Wajid Azad's "Ishq Fishq", "Daywidhi" by Amjad Abro, "Kati a konhay doh" (Ufaq Basheer Channa), "Thano Siyano" (Shameem Abbasi), "Taraqi jo rasto" (Rafique Abro), "Bhala Re Bhaag" (Ayoob Gaad), "Wah JoAayhan" (Asad Khokhar), "Bewas" (Asad Khokhar) ", Aas Naras" (Ufaq Basheer Channa), and "Qaidyani" by Loung Sheikh. Were Included. At the end of the program, the directors of 10 plays were awarded performance shields.

## City Police Officer Multan Sadiq Ali Dogar Organized an Open Court in his Office



#### Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: City Police Officer Multan DIG Sadiq Ali Dogar organized an open court in his office. The citizens who came to the open court informed the CPO Multan about their problems. The CPO Multan listened to the problems of all the citizens and issued orders on the spot for their solution on merit. The CPO Multan assured the citizens who came to the open court that their problems would be solved on merit and timely delivery of justice would be ensured. He told all the citizens that our offices are open to all for the solution of their collective and individual real problems. The citizens who came to the open court  $% \left( 1\right) =\left( 1\right) \left( 1$ expressed satisfaction over the attentive listening to their problems and the assurance of solution.

**Tuesday, June 24, 2025** 

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## **BBC's biased coverage** of Israel's war on Gaza

srael's war on Palestinians from the outset has been fought in the media, and even at a more aggressive level since October 2023. Israel has poured huge resources into its propaganda drive, to persuade particularly Western powers that its war and actions were justified. It has denied journalists access to Gaza, and killed over 185 Palestinian media workers in the enclave in this period.

Few media networks have been under more sustained Israeli assault than the BBC. Its global reach of 450 million people puts it in the front line of Israeli government efforts. It parades its reputation for impartiality, but as a new data-driven report published last week highlights, when it comes to Palestinians this is far from the case. Some argue the BBC has become complicit in Israel's war crimes. The Gaza coverage has been like walking on eggshells, the BBC refusing to call out what is going on. The abundant use of the passive voice where the party committing the crime is not identified is a notable feature.

The report from the Center for Media Monitoring, a Muslim Council of Britain project, examined the BBC's coverage of Israel's war on Gaza primarily between 7 Oct. 7, 2023 and Oct. 6, 2024. For this 12-month window, a total of 3,873 articles and 32,092 broadcast segments were analyzed using AI and human

Some of the findings are jaw dropping. BBC presenters shared the Israeli perspective 11 times more frequently than the Palestinian perspective (2,340 vs. 217), even when interviewing neutral third parties, such as humanitarian organizations. That is not even close. BBC article headlines referred to Palestinian casualties just two times more than Israeli casualties, despite there having been 34 times more deaths in Gaza.

Statistics do not tell the whole story, as BBC editors are quick to point out, but this report highlights alarming patterns of coverage. The absence of proper context is stark. Previous Israeli wars and atrocities in Gaza get scant reference. That 70 percent of the population are 1948 refugees is not there. Even with the Israeli war on Iran, no mention is made of Israel's nuclear arsenal and its refusal to sign up to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The BBC's coverage of international legal issues is incredibly poor, and again favorable to Israel. The BBC rarely used occupation to describe the legal status of Gaza. Only recently did it finally get its international editor to pen a still timid piece on whether Israel had committed war crimes in Gaza. Since the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the fact that he is wanted for war crimes and crimes against humanity is rare-

Worse, BBC presenters have actively shut down the widespread debate on whether Israel has been committing genocide in over 100 documented cases according to the report. This is extraordinary since the International Court of Justice determined that the situation in Gaza was so serious it had to order provisional measures against Israel to prevent genocide. That was in January 2024 and the situation is considerably worse now. Most human rights groups have determined Israel is committing genocide.

## Pakistan's Struggle with the Climate Crisis

**Shahzad Ashfag** 

Asia, is a country that is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change due to its geographic location and unique topography. The country experiences a wide range of climate-related challenges, including increased frequency and intensity of natural disasters such as floods, droughts, and heatwaves. These extreme weather events not only result in loss of lives and property but also have long-term implications for the country's economy and society. Additionally, rising sea levels pose a threat to coastal areas, leading to erosion, salinity intrusion, and displacement of commu-

Pakistan, like many other countries in the world, is facing the profound impacts of climate change. From extreme weather events to rising sea levels, the climate crisis is posing significant challenges to Pakistan's environment, economy, and society. In recent years, Pakistan has witnessed a surge in natural disasters such as floods and heatwaves, exacerbating existing vulnerabilities for its population. Pakistan's struggle with the climate crisis by examining the current challenges, impacts, and potential solutions to mitigate the effects of climate

According to a study by the World Bank, Pakistan is one of the top ten countries most affected by floods globally. The devastating floods in 2010 and 2011 caused massive destruction, displacing millions of people and causing significant economic losses. The frequency of such extreme weather events is expect to rise in the future, posing a significant challenge to Pakistan's disaster management

capabilities and infrastructure. The effects of climate change on Pakistan are wide-ranging and severe. One of the most pressing issues facing the country is water scarcity. Pakistan relies

Indus River, for agriculture, industry, and domestic use. However, due to erratic weather patterns and glacial melt. water resources are becoming increasingly scarce. This has led to conflicts over water access between provinces and has put immense pressure on the agricultural sector, which forms the backbone of Pakistan's economy.

Pakistan is an agrarian economy where agriculture contributes significantly to its GDP and employs a large portion of the population. The agricul-

ture sector heavily relies on irrigation water, and the rivers in Pakistan play a vital role in providing this precious resource. Among these rivers, the Indus River stands out as the lifeline of Pakistan's agriculture, industry, and domestic water supply. Its tributaries, including

the Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, and Sutlej rivers, further enhance the agricultural productivity of the region.

The agricultural sector in Pakistan heavily depends on the water from the rivers, particularly the Indus River, for irrigation purposes. Over 90% of Pakistan's agriculture is sustain by irrigation, and the Indus Basin Irrigation System is the largest contiguous irrigation system globally. The river water is channel through an extensive network of canals and barrages, ensuring a consistent water supply to various agricultural regions in the country. The fertile plains surrounding the Indus River basin have made Pakistan a major producer of crops like wheat, rice, sugarcane, and cotton, which are crucial for the economy and food security of the nation.

Moreover, extreme weather events such as floods and droughts have become needs to implement robust adaptation

worst natural disasters in the country's history, affected millions of people and caused significant damage to infrastructure and agriculture. Conversely, prolonged droughts have led to crop failures, food insecurity, and displacement of communities in arid regions of Pakistan. These extreme events not only disrupt livelihoods but also contribute to social unrest and exacerbate poverty in the country.

The rivers in Pakistan also cater to the domestic water needs

of the population, especially in urban and rural areas. As the population grows, the demand for increases, and rivers like the Indus play a crucial role in meeting this demand. Moreover, the rivers serve as a source of water for household

chores, sanitation, and other daily activities. However, the quality of water in these rivers has become a concern due to pollution from industrial effluents, agriculture runoff, and untreated sewage. highlighting the need for sustainable

water management practices. In addition to water scarcity and extreme weather events, Pakistan is also experiencing the impacts of rising temperatures. Heatwaves have become more common, leading to heat-related illnesses and deaths, particularly in urban areas with inadequate infrastructure and limited access to cooling facilities. The health impacts of climate change, including the spread of vectorborne diseases and air pollution, further compound the challenges faced by Pakistan's healthcare system.

To address these challenges, Pakistan

akistan, located in South heavily on its rivers, particularly the more frequent and intense in Pakistan. and mitigation strategies. Investing in The 2010 floods, considered one of the renewable and wind power can help reduce the country's reliance on fossil fuels and lower its greenhouse gas emissions. Improving water management practices, including rainwater harvesting and efficient irrigation systems can enhance water security and build resilience to droughts and floods. Strengthening early warning systems, disaster preparedness, and community-based adaptation measures are also critical to reducing the impacts of climate change on vulnerable populations in Pakistan.

The country is experiencing higher temperatures, particularly during the summer months, which not only affect human health but also have implications for energy consumption and cooling clean drinking water requirements. Heatwaves have become more frequent, leading to heat-related illnesses and deaths, especially among vulnerable populations such as the elderly and children. The lack of adequate infrastructure and resources to cope with extreme heat poses a significant challenge to Pakistan's public health system.

Pakistan is confronting a complex set of challenges due to the climate crisis, which threatens the country's environment, economy, and social well-being. The effects of climate change, including water scarcity, extreme weather events, and rising temperatures, an exacerbating existing vulnerabilities and posing significant risks to Pakistan's sustainable development. By implementing effective adaptation and mitigation measures, Pakistan can work towards building a more resilient and climate-resilient future for its people. It is imperative for policymakers, civil society, and international partners to collaborate on addressing the climate crisis and safeguarding the future of Pakistan and its citizens.

Writer is Post-Doctorate (Peace Education), International Islamic University



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi. (Courtesy of Asharq Al-Awsat)

## "Pakistan's Nuclear Deterrent: The Last Line of Sovereignty Amid Global Hypocrisy"

n recent years—and more alarmingly in recent weeks-there has been a steady uptick in international discourse subtly, and at times overtly, targeting Pakistan's nuclear capability. Under the deceptive umbrella of "non-nuclear proliferation," influential voices across Western capitals and affil-

iated think tanks have begun a new campaign of narrative engineering. The recent tweet by Mir Moersi, an Israeli political scholar, suggesting the elimination of Pakistan's nuclear arsenal, is not an isolated remark-it is a reflection of deeper strategic ambitions.

These kinds of statements do not emerge in a vacuum. They are often the echoes

of closed-door conversations held in policy circles across Washington, London, and Tel Aviv-disguised as academic or humanitarian concerns, but in reality functioning as soft weapons in psychological warfare. The aim is simple: pressure Pakistan into disarmament, weaken its defense posture, and leave it strategically vulnerable.

**M Azam Tariq** 

Pakistan's nuclear program, however, is not a mere political symbol. It is the result of decades of sacrifice, scientific advancement, and an existential need to maintain strategic parity in a hostile neighborhood. The notion that this program can be undone by diplomatic coercion or foreign-sponsored disinformation campaigns is not only naive but dangerously ignorant of

Pakistan's history, its sacrifices, and its geopolitical realities.

The global powers who preach non-proliferation have never held Israel accountable for its clandestine nuclear capabilities. Nor have they imposed sanctions on India for its continuous military modernization and provocative actions in the region. Yet, Pakistan, which has never used its nuclear power irresponsibly or aggressively,

is consistently singled out and subjected to moral scrutiny.

Because Pakistan's nuclear capacity is not just a deterrent it is a geopolitical obstacle. It ensures that Pakistan cannot be bullied into submission, fragmented through military adventurism, or dragged into proxy conflicts without serious consequences.

These lobbies do not merely aim to spark debate; they aim to provoke responses. A narrative is floated, Pakistan reacts defensively, tensions rise, and before long, a manufactured diplomatic crisis begins. The next stage is even more dangerous: military posturing by adversaries, international media pressure, and perhaps a false-flag operation to justify direct action possibly against Pakistan's nuclear assets.

This is a strategic script we've seen before in Iraq, in Libya, in Syria. All had either begun or attempted to begin defense programs, and all were dismantled under the guise of interna-

Pakistan must be clear-eyed and firm. Its nuclear doctrine is defensive, not offensive. It is a safeguard-not a threat. It is the one element in Pakistan's defense strategy that levels the playing field against far larger, better-funded, and increasingly aggressive regional actors.

The state must launch a proactive counter-narrative: diplomatically, academically, and in media. Our ambassadors and envoys must challenge these narratives at international forums. Pakistani think tanks and media must expose the hypocrisy behind selective non-proliferation efforts. And above all, internal security must be intensified around our strategic instal-

In a world where allies are temporary and interests are permanent, Pakistan's nuclear program is the single most enduring guarantee of national survival and sovereignty. It cannot and must not be compromised under any foreign pressure—be it diplomatic or psychological.

Those who target Pakistan's nuclear assets under the slogan of peace are often the very architects of war. The nation must be vigilant, united, and unapologetically assertive in defending its right to deterrence. The campaigns against us are not just political—they are existential.

Muhammad Azam Tariq is a Pakistani researcher, writer, and socio-political analyst. He regularly contributes to national and international publications on topics including governance, economics, foreign policy, and regional affairs. He is affiliated with the Pakistan & Gulf Economist, Daily The Spokesman,

Pakistan Africa Institute for Development and Research (PAIDAR). Writer may be approached at azamtariqalihaider@gmail.

## **Heat Stress in Dairy** Animals, Impacts, **Control and its Preventive Measures**

our animal's population I.e. dairy animals, affects the fetus inside the uterus of cow. small ruminants, poultry as well as to our pet in our homes are highly prone to heat appear on animal body like rapid breathing,

stress because of metabolic heat production and congested environment. The rising temperature leads to a significant risk to their wellbeing, productivity and even survival.

Heat stress occurs when the animal's body is unable to dissipate extra heat to maintain its normal body

animals unable to do rest properly and and sprinkle system, proper ventilation to affect its productivity and reproduction abilities. Unlikely humans, animals do not sweat properly due to which animal's internal body temperature raise that leads to a cascade of physiological problems. It is reported in a scientific research

that in cold weather cows on Hay feeding has high production as compared to and facing heat stress, then teat cells stress and proper response.

n Pakistan dairy farmers knows metabolism become low, cells growth that in summer scorching heat slowdown and even cells death occurred. continue to hold the humans as Furthermore immunity of the cows well as animals population. It is become weak and vaccination has low intolerable and a silent threat to response due to heat stress. Heat stress also

Heat stress has different signs that

drooling, open-mouth breathing, reduce feed and water intake, low milk production, reluctant to move, rapid heart rate, standing instead of lying, in severe cases the animal may leads to death.

The control and **Dr Asif Nawaz Wazir** preventive measures

temperature. The heat stress makes the for heat stress is cooling system via fans, allow heat escape and airflow along with this shad provision and water availability must be ensure.

Beside this regularly monitor temperature humidity-index (THI) to manage risk, provide easily digestible feed on your farm with supplements, select heat resistant breed that can adopt the local climate in those feeding on Hay in a summer season addition training of the farm personnel is because when the cows are in dry period very necessary to identify early sign of heat

# Training course on developing climate-smart agriculture concluded

Majid Majid

FAISALABAD: The 10-day Regional Training Course (RTC) on Developing Climate Smart Agriculture Using Nuclear and Isotopic Techniques concluded.

Nuclear Institute for Agriculture and Biology (NIAB), a premier agricultural research institute of Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) hosted the RTC in collaboration with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Dr. Masood Iqbal, Member Science, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, was the chief guest on this occasion.

He said PAEC is working on the application of nuclear technology for peace and development in various fields. The efforts are proving fruitful in achieving United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Member Science added that four agricultural research institutes of PAEC including NIA Tandojam, NIFA Peshawar, NIBGE and NIAB Faisalabad have so far developed 159 able. high yield and climate-smart varieties of different crops and 68 of them are currently in use in the field.

Dr. Masood Iqbal further said mitigate this challenge, the role of collaborating, they can conquer any



proved useful in enhancing crop resilience and making them more sustain-

The chief guest concluded his speech by saying that participants of the training course are like a family, although they hail from different climate change poses an unprec- parts of the world. And by staying edented threat to food security. To close to each other, sharing and

Dr. Muhammad Akhtar, Director of the training course from NIAB, presented an overview of the training course which included theoretical as well as practical modules in the form of field visits as well as handson-training. Dr. M. Yussouf Saleem, Director NIAB, delivered a vote of thanks and shared with the audience

tries including Pakistan were trained during the 10-day training course. Of them, 36 were foreigners and 9 were from Pakistan whereas two Experts of IAEA were there as resource persons.

During the closing session, participants from Thailand and Bangladesh expressed views about the regional training course and thanked IAEA, PAEC and especially NIAB for

course aimed at coping with the effects of climate change by using nuclear and isotopic techniques. They expressed satisfaction on the perfect arrangements and hospitable attitude of the organizers.

On this occasion, Dr. Mohammad Zaman, Section Head on Soil, Water Management and Crop Nutrition Program at the IAEA, Vienna,

daycare centers, workplace safety, and

nuclear and isotopic techniques has challenge including climate-related that 45 participants from 21 coun- conducting such a useful training addressed the closing ceremony through video link. He appreciated the role of Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission for useful collaboration with IAEA and NIAB for providing the platform to execute such collaborative trainings. He said the training course was a great opportunity to build linkages among the countries for sharing knowledge and research

> Asad Zubair Khan, General Secretary of the All Pakistan Clerks Association,

> lamented the voicelessness of labourers

in society and in policymaking."The

Finance Minister is targeting freelancers

for tax without offering them support

or education. There is no mention of

creating new jobs—only downsizing

and third-party outsourcing," said Mr.

## Budget 2025-26 criticised for ignoring Labour Rights

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Speakers from various labour unions, advocacy groups, and policy think tank expressed concern over the continued marginalization of Pakistan's 76 million-strong labour force, calling for urgent reforms and  ${\bf a}$ unified national strategy to secure their

The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) held a thought-provoking seminar on Monday examining the Federal Budget 2025-26 through the lens of the labour force.

Moderating the session, Saleem Khilji, Editor Publications at SDPI, opened the dialogue by contextualizing the historical trajectory of labour rights, stating that while the communist revolution had historically secured is now a dire need for new strategies, revenue goals and social justice, noting women. unity among unions, and an open- that "the working class has once again hearted review of the current state of labour issues," he emphasized.

Dr. Shafqat Munir, Deputy Exectered daily wage workers, gender wage ment for not announcing a minimum



been ignored in the budget." He high-

momentum has long eroded. "There stark disconnect between government tions for millions of labourers, especially

the Pakistan Workers Federation lighted critical issues such as unregis- (PWF), criticized the federal govern- tected.

representatives in decision-making. He home-based and rural female workers. revealed that only 1–2% of workers are She urged the government to integrate Asad Mehmood, General Secretary unionized and stressed that 75% of the digital skills training, WASH facilities, informal labour force remains unpro-

Quratulaain Waheed of the PWF future fiscal plans.

Naveed from PIMS Employees Union. Shafqat Warraich, Secretary General of the State Bank of Pakistan Labour Association, pointed out institutional discrimination, where officers are hired on permanent contracts while lower staff are hired through third-party

Ch. Muhammad Yasin of the CDA Employees and Mazdoor Union showcased achievements made through persistent union advocacy, such as heat, cool, and security allowances, as well as special quotas for Hajj.

In his closing remarks, Dr. Sajid Amin Javed, Deputy Executive Director at SDPL emphasized the need for labour financial support through soft loans in unions to become more proactive and

## Türkiye's Thrilling New Series Antalya Gambit Set to Captivate the World

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Türkiye has released its first original mini-series, Antalya Gambit, a high-stakes cinematic thriller that premiered globally on June 7, 2025. Set against the stunning Mediterranean backdrop of Antalya, the series aims to showcase the city's rich culture, breathtaking landscapes, and luxurious lifestyle to a global audience. Produced by Dass Yapım and directed by Bertan Başaran, the 10-part mini-series marks a bold step in promoting Türkiye's soft power through entertainment. Turkish dramas have long held a special place in the hearts of Pakistani audiences, making Antalya Gambit an exciting new chapter for viewers across the country. Antalya Gambit tells the story of

Lara (Meryem Uzerli), a renowned art curator, and Deniz (Kaan Urgancioğlu), a mysterious architect, whose chance meeting evolves into a dramatic game of secrets, temptation, and deception.

episodes, Antalya Gambit invites rich blend of culture, history, and viewers into a world of hidden motives and glamorous locales from the luxury golf resorts of Belek



ancient ruins of Perge and Phaselis, and the secluded Porto Ceneviz Bay. The series promises to ignite Across 10 cinematic 2-minute wanderlust and showcase Antalya's natural beauty.

Produced by Dass Yapım and

to the charming streets of Kaleiçi, the Gambit also features Russian actor Lana Anosova and Turkish comedy icon Yavuz Seçkin alongside its lead

Antalya, with its shimmering coasts, historical landmarks, and Mediterranean lifestyle, has long been a favorite destination for directed by Bertan Ba aran, Antalya tourists from all over the world

- including Pakistan. The series highlights the city's ability to blend relaxation, adventure, and culture, offering something for every trav-

Antalya Gambit is not just entertainment — it's a powerful invitation to explore a remarkable corner of Türkive.

## **Accelerate Prosperity and NUST to Support Climate Startups with Ministry**



ISLAMABAD: Accelerate Prosperity, an initiative of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), in collaboration with the NUST Professional Development Centre (PDC) successfully concluded the Certification in Sustainable Innovation (CSI) 2025, a national incubation program supporting climate-conscious startups in Pakistan. The program, funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) of Germany through Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) Development Bank, aimed to support early-stage and post- revenue businesses developing green or greening solutions by helping them overcome barriers such as limited funding, lack of technical expertise, and weak market linkages. The certification awarded through the program is officially accredited by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination.

The closing ceremony, held at the National Science and Technology Park (NSTP), NUST, featured keynote speakers, startup pitches, and participation from investors, mentors, and other stakeholders.

In her opening remarks, Ms. Rohma Labeeb, Country Director of Accelerate Prosperity Pakistan, welcomed guests and emphasized the importance of fostering sustainable innovation to build a more climate-resilient future. She noted that CSI equips Pakistani entrepreneurs with the skills and networks needed to develop impactful solutions while contributing to broader national goals for sustainable development.

Mr. Muhammad Ali Khan, General Manager at NUST, appreciated the collaborative efforts behind the program and underscored the urgent need for climate-smart growth. He highlighted the diversity of the cohort and its alignment with Pakistan's innovation and sustainability priorities.

## China as a Global Power

years, the rulers of nation as a leading force in the world. "Middle Kingdom"—reflects a hub of global culture, politics, institutions. and economy. This China-cen-

or over two thousand leading global power, boasting the of the private sector has played a the World Trade Organization world's second-largest economy China regarded their and a highly advanced military. It is playing a more assertive role on the global stage, aiming to reclaim The term Zhongguo-meaning a central position in the international order and exert greater belief that China is the central influence over global governance

Beginning in 1978 and tric perspective has deeply influcontinuing for the next thirty enced the country's approach years, China transitioned from to international governance a centrally planned, self-reliant and over the past twenty years, economy to one oriented toward China has reestablished itself as a market principles. The expansion

try's economic progress. The economic transformation after

central role in driving the coun-

1978 unfolded as a gradual and organic process, with individuals seizing emerging opportunities in trade and entrepreneurship to improve their live-

private sector and initiating institutional reforms that enhanced competition and fueled economic growth.

2001—was a

in energizing

step

pivotal

China openly declared ambilihoods. China's ambition to join tion for great power status espe-

(WTO)—achieved in December

claims in the South China Sea. China has modernized its armed forces and expanded its reach, particularly in the South China Sea, asserting territorial claims and building strategic bases. Its growing defense capabilities reflect its intent to protect its interests and influence regional dynamics. China's military rise, demographic shifts, and internal combined with the deepening economic pressures—China's China-Russia-Iran military nexus, has broad geopolitical

cially concerning its territorial sophistication of China's armed ership, China's role on the world forces enhances its ability to project power into regions of strategic importance, while investments in cyber and grey zone strategic objectives without traditional military confrontation.

Despite facing challenges such as tensions with the U.S., comprehensive national power continues to grow. As it navigates consequences. The increasing the complexities of global lead-

stage is poised to expand further, making it one of the defining powers of the 21st century. The writer is journalist

operations allow it to achieve columnist Research Analyst. she is a scholar with in keen interested in Regional organizations and their influence on global affair and expertise in SCO Human Rights Activist and former social practitioner with extensive community engagement in Islamabad. writer is MS IR scholar. Saimk5540@ gmail.com

## **Bull & Bears** PSX 100-Share

Index Fluctuation				
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index				
Current	Prev. Close			
116,167.47	120,023.23			
Day's High	Day's Low			
118,798.51	115,887.48			
Index Value	Change			
15,905,620,424	-3855.76			
Percentage	Time			
-3.21%	23 Jun, 2025 4:30 pm			
Europe: FTS	E 100 Index			
Index Value	Change			
8,758.04	-16.61 <b>Time</b>			
Percentage				
-0.19%	23 Jun, 4:35 pm GMT+1			
<b>USA: Dow Jones I</b>	ndustrial Average			
Index Value	Change			
42,308.49	+101.67			
Percentage	Time			
+0.24% 23 Jun, 1:19 GMT-4				
Asia Pacific: Nikk	ei Stocks Average			
Index Value	Change			

	_						
Op	en M	ları	(et	For	'ex	Ra	tes

-49.14

Time 23 Jun, 3:45 pm

GMT+9

38,354.09

**Percentage** 

-0.13%

Open Market Forex Rates				
Currency	Buying	Selling		
Australian Dollar	180.5	183.75		
Bahrain Dinar	746.7	753.70		
Canadian Dollar	201.25	206.25		
China Yuan	39.12	39.52		
Danish Krone	43.46	43.86		
Euro	325.5	328.5		
Hong Kong Dollar	35.85	36.2		
Indian Rupee	3.18	3.27		
Japanese Yen	1.955	2.055		
Kuwaiti Dinar	916.5	925.50		
Malaysian Ringgit	66.07	66.67		
NewZealand \$	169.4	171.4		
Norwegians Krone	28.15	28.45		
Omani Riyal	728.45	736.45		
Qatari Riyal	77.15	77.85		
Saudi Riyal	75.35	76.15		
Singapore Dollar	218.86	220.86		
Swedish Korona	29.32	29.62		
Swiss Franc	344.04	346.79		
Thai Bhat	8.54	8.69		
U.A.E Dirham	77	77.9		
UK Pound Sterling	381.7	385.7		
US Dollar	283.25	285.5		

#### NGC organizes seminars at various 500kV ජ 220kV grid stations



#### **Example 2** Commerce Desk

LAHORE: National Grid Company of Pakistan (formerly NTDC) has launched a nationwide series of safety training seminars under "Safety Awareness Campaign 2025", aimed at strengthening safety practices and enhancing public awareness, by ensuring compliance with directives of NEPRA and equipping staff with essential knowledge and skills to achieve Zero Accident Goal.

Following the campaign, safety seminars were organized at 500kV grid stations; New Lahore, Yousafwala (Sahiwal), Gatti (Faisalabad), 220kV grid stations; New Kotlapkhpat, WAPDA Town, Ravi, Ghazi Road, Bund Road, Shalamar, Sarfraznagar, Gujrat, Daharki, Jhmapir-II (Sindh) and Industrial-II Quetta.

Health, Safety & Environment (HSE), firefighting and emergency preparedness sessions were also conducted by Rescue 1122 at some of the grid stations. The seminars saw active participation from NGC staff across the Maintenance. Operations, P&I, Security and admin

departments. Managing Director NGC, Engr. Muhammad Shahid Nazir appreciated the Safety Awareness Campaign and stated that safety is fundamental to our operations. He commended all those involved for their dedication to fostering a culture that safeguards our workforce and infrastructure.

## PTCL, Telco Integrators, and Kacific join forces to deliver nationwide connectivity through satellite services

#### **Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL), Telco Integrators Pvt Ltd (TI), and Kacific Broadband Satellites Group have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on expanding high-speed satellite internet, broadband, and voice services across Pakistan.

This strategic partnership aims to deliver integrated connectivity solutions tailored to Pakistan's diverse geographic and infrastructural needs. By combining PTCL's robust telecommunications infrastructure, Telco Integrators' technical expertise, and Kacific's advanced satellite capabilities, the alliance aims to provide reliable, affordable, and scalable broadband solutions to underserved areas in Pakistan with the goal of contributing to the country's digital transformation.

PTCL will provide core telecommunications infrastructure, including the largest fiber cable network that spans from Khyber to Karachi, as well as submarine cables connecting Pakistan to the world. Telco Integrators will serve as Kacific's local service enabler, supporting the deployment and operation of satellite-powered internet, broadband, and network services



across Pakistan. The partnership will jointly promote and distribute Kacific's broadband services to telecom operators, enterprises, and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), thereby expanding access to reliable connectivity nationwide.

"This partnership represents a major milestone in enhancing digital connectivity across Pakistan," said Aamer Ejaz, Group Vice President, Carrier Solutions Business, PTCL. He further added, "PTCL will play its role in extending impactful services to areas previously beyond reach, acting as a catalyst for socio-economic development and digital inclusion."

"Expanding our footprint in Pakistan reflects Kacific's core mission to leave no one behind in the digital era," said Christian Patouraux, CEO of Kacific. He further stated: "Together with PTCL and Telco Integrators, we can drive meaningful change through satellite-powered connectivity."

"Our strength lies in turning advanced technology into practical, localized solutions and customer satisfaction ", said Imtiaz Ahmed Laghari, CEO of Telco Integrators. He added, "This collaboration allows us to deliver high-performance satellite services with on-ground expertise, making connectivity more accessible and dependable across Pakistan."

Pak-Qatar Family Takaful Awarded

**Awards 2025** 

**E** Commerce Desk

**International Finance** 

#### Wood Work

RAWALPINDI: A carpenter is busy in his work at a shop in Bani Chowk area to earn daily wages for



### KARACHI: Pak-Qatar Family Takaful Limited

(PQFTL) has been honoured with the prestigious title of Fastest Growing Family Takaful Company - Pakistan, at the International Finance Awards 2025. This exceptional recognition places PQFTL as the only Takaful company from Pakistan to receive this accolade, a testament to the company's unwavering commitment to growth, innovation, customer centricity and leadership in the Takaful sector and the promotion of an Islamic Financial eco-system in Pakistan.

"This award innovative approach to nationwide.

product development and customer centricity," stated Mr. Waqas Ahmed, CEO of Pak-Qatar Family Takaful Limited. "Our team's passion for excellence, combined with a professional culture that collaborates with ethical practices, has positioned us at the forefront of Pakistan's Takaful industry. We remain committed to scaling new heights by continually enhancing our offerings and reaching more families across the country", he added.

This award further solidifies Pak-Qatar Family Takaful's position as a pioneer in Pakistan's Takaful landscape, reinforcing its mission to extend ethical our dedicated workforce's and reliable financial protecrelentless efforts and our tion and savings to families

## PYMA demands zero regulatory duty on DTY, uniform tariffs on FDY, POY

#### **Example 2** Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Muhammad Saqib Goodluck, Chairman of The Pakistan Yarn Merchants Association (PYMA), has raised significant concerns regarding various duty structures and policy ambiguities presented in the Federal Budget 2025-26 that are adversely impacting the textile sector, particularly small and medium enterprises (SMEs). In a formal communication to the government and anomaly committee, the PYMA Chairman urged immediate action to address key concerns hindering transparency, competitiveness, and the longterm sustainability of the domestic textile industry.

distinctions between commercial and



industrial imports. He emphasized rate of 3.5%. Our calculations confirm DTY be reduced to 0%.

that the overall duty differential between industrial and commercial imports is approximately 5.5%, including sales tax value addition, a disparity that does not justify the resulting administrative burdens and market distortions. He underscored that prior deliberations had resulted in a shared expectation that equal treatment would be ensured for both sectors.

Saqib Goodluck emphasized that Draw Textured Yarn (DTY) of polyester (HS Code: 5402.3300) is already subject to an average antidumping duty of 13.84%, imposed on dated 17th June by NTC, 2025. In light of this existing protection for the domestic industry, PYMA considers the continuation or impo-

He noted that the budget does not that industrial imports are subject to sition of any additional regulatory duty provide adequate clarity on the policy only a 1% income tax, while commer- on DTY to be unjustified. PYMA strongly cial imports face a significantly higher recommends that the regulatory duty on

## Oil marketing companies not supplying petrol pumps as per orders: Malik Khuda Bakhsh



**Example 2** Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Senior Vice Chairman of the Pakistan Petroleum Dealers Association, Malik Khuda Bakhsh, has claimed that due to the Iran-Israel conflict, oil marketing companies in the country are not supplying petroleum products to dealers according to demand.

In a statement, Malik Khuda Bakhsh said that oil marketing companies are not delivering supplies to petrol pumps as per their orders. OGRA (Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority) has also directed oil marketing companies to maintain a mandatory stock level of 20 days, as stipulated in their licenses.

He further emphasized that according to OGRA's standards, the country has an ample oil reserve. The government must prevent oil marketing companies from creating an artificial shortage. If a fuel shortage occurs, the public will suffer, and the government will face criticism.

## inDrive Becomes Pakistan's Top-Ranked Ride-Hailing App on Google Play Store

#### **Example 2** Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: inDrive, a global mobility and urban emerged as the top-ranked app in Pakistan's Maps & Navigation category, accord-Google Play Store. The app

significant moment in the country's evolving mobility landscape, especially amid services platform, has shifting user expectations.

Launched in Pakistan in and control are at the fore-2021, inDrive operates in over 20 cities and is built around ing to the latest rankings on a peer-to-peer pricing model that allows riders and drivers also ranks first in the Travel to negotiate fares directly category on Apple's App Store. a key point of difference from Manager for in Drive Pakistan.

The development marks a traditional platforms that use surge-based algorithms.

The platform's recent rise in app store rankings comes at a time when affordability front for urban commuters. "Our model resonates because it puts people first-they decide the price, not an algorithm," said Awais Saeed, Country



## Summer sports camps begins today

**Tahir Amin Malik** 

LAHORE: The prime objective of SBP Summer Sports Camps is to save our youth from negative effects of mobile phone and incline them towards healthy sports activities. The participation in Summer camps is the best use of extra time for students during summer vaca-

DG Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry expressed these views while talking to media at National Hockey Stadium on Monday. Director Admin Dr M Kaleem, Director Sports Rana Nadeem Anjum and other offi-

cials were also present on this occasion.

Khizar Afzaal informed that the Summer Sports Camps will start on June 24 (today) in all districts of the province. "On the first day, the young participants and their parents will take part in orientation session in which important information will be shared  $regarding\ training\ schedule\ of\ Summer$ Sports Camps".

He expressed his hope to find several highly talented athletes out of Summer Camp participants. "These budding youngsters will be further trained so that they can serve the country at national and international level".

players will participate in Summer Sports Camps across all districts of province. "More than 900 players are participating in Summer Sports Camps being organized at different venues of Nishtar Park Sports Complex (NPSC)".

He said that a record number of male and female athletes have been registered this year for Summer Sports Camps which reflected young athletes' immense interest in healthy sports activities. "As many as 1,800 athletes were registered for Summer Sports Camps last year".

Khizar said that sports shirts and other essential facilities will be provided

He further said that more than 3,300 to players and their parents during Summer Sports Camps. "The Summer Sports Camps are being organised in 14 sports disciplines including swimming, tennis, table tennis, badminton, football, hockey, taekwondo, boxing, wushu, athletics, archery, cricket, squash and yoga this year".

Sharing more details, DG Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab said that there will be four-day training of athletes in a week during the 45-day Summer Sports Camps being conducted from June 24 to August 7. "Certificates will also be awarded to all participants of Summer Sports Camps".

## West Zone Blues win U19 Inter-District Championship

**Sports Desk** 

LAHORE: West Zone Blues Under-19 team secured the Inter-District U19 Championship title with a comprehensive 107-run victory over East Zone Whites at Bagh-e-Jinnah Ground. Batting first, West Zone Blues posted a total of 188 runs in 42.5 overs before being bowled out. Majnoon Khan led the batting with a solid 53, while Aalyan Irfan added 45 and Muhammad Usman contributed 23 runs. For East Zone Whites, Ali Usman Khan was the standout bowler, taking 6 wickets, while Muhammad Saif picked up 2.

In reply, East Zone Whites collapsed to just 81 runs in 32.3 overs, falling well short of the target. Zulqarnain Match honours for their of East Zone Blues received scored 14 and Naqeebullah made 13 runs, but the rest of the batting lineup faltered. West Zone Blues' bowlers ment, Muhammad Moiz Region Cricket Associdominated the innings, of West Zone Whites was ation (LRCA), Khawaja with Ibtisam Azhar and Saad Nadeem each claiming 3 wickets. Saad Nadeem and of North Zone Blues was Majnoon Khan were jointly named best bowler with 15 ulated the West Zone Blues awarded the Player of the wickets, and Hamza Zahoor team, including captain



match-winning

At the end of the tournadeclared best batter with 302 Nadeem Ahmed, along runs, Abdul Rasool Tariq

the best wicketkeeper award for taking 8 catches.

President of Lahore with West Zone President Naushad Ahmed, congratSaad Nadeem, vice-captain Majnoon Khan, team manager Chaudhry Ramzan, and district coach Kamran Sajid, on their outstanding performance. In the final tournament standings, West Zone Blues finished first, East Zone Whites secured second place, and West Zone Whites claimed third.

## Pakistan celebrates World Olympic Day

跨 Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan marked World Olympic Day 2025 with a vibrant and spirited celebration at Rawal Lake, reflecting the nation's strong commitment to the Olympic values of unity, excellence, and friendship.

Under the umbrella of the Pakistan Olympic Association (POA), the event was hosted by the Islamabad Olympic Association (IOA), said a press release.

The celebration was attended by prominent Olympians including Sadaf Siddiqui, Ahmad Ali, and Liaquat Ali: IOA Secretary General and Chairman Federation Rizwan ul Haq Razi: Army Sports Directorate officials Major Irfan orate the day. Younis and Major Naveed; diverse walks of life.



walk and a lively "fun run" participation from children. of the Olympic ideals and A specially designed Olym- encourages the promotion of the Pakistan Rowing pic-themed cake, featuring of sports, physical fitness, the iconic Olympic rings, was also cut to commem-

globally Celebrated

in Paris in 1894. It serves were held, with enthusiastic as a worldwide reminder and unity through inclusive community engagement.

Across Pakistan, thousands participated in a as well as national athletes, on June 23 each year, variety of activities organ-ment and the promotion of children, and guests from Olympic Day honors the ized to celebrate the day, founding of the modern including fun runs, cultural

performances, exhibitions. music events, tree plantation drives, beach clean-up campaigns, and educational seminars

The Pakistan Olympic Association continues to observe Olympic Day annually, reinforcing its commitment to the Olympic Movehealthy, active lifestyles and inclusivity through sport.

## Pakistan football team gears up for AFC women's Asian Cup Qualifiers



ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan women's football team has begun preparing for the highly anticipated AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers, scheduled to take place in Jakarta from

The national women's football team training camp is in progress here ahead of the qualifiers here at the Jinnah Stadium.

The camp, being held under the supervision of head coach Adeel Rizki, will continue for a few more days.

The national team is scheduled to leave for Indonesia on June 26. The Pakistan team will travel via a private airline, taking the route from Karachi to Bangkok and arriving in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Pakistan is placed in Group E alongside Chinese Taipei, hosts Indonesia, and Kyrgyzstan.

The team will play its opening match on June 29 against Chinese Taipei. The second match will be played on July 2 against the host nation, Indonesia, while the final group game will be held on July 5 against

All the matches will be played at the Sport Center Kelapa Dua Tangerang. Pakistan Football Team Squad For Asian Cup **Qualifiers** 

Jennah Farooki, Nisha Ashraf, Zeevana Jivraj; Defenders: Aliya Sadiq, Layla Banaras, Maria Khan (captain), Nizalia Siddiqui, Sophia Qureshi, Amina Hanif, Azwa Chaudhry, Marsha Malik, Rameen Fareed, Sanah Mehdi, Suha Hirani, Anmol Hira, Aqsa Mushtaq, Isra Khan, Mariam Mahmood, Nadia Khan, Zehmena Malik, Zulfia Nazir.

#### Pakistani duo secure wins in Asian Doubles Squash C'ships



**₿** Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The 2nd seeded Pakistani team of Noor Zaman and Nasir Iqbal has secured a convincing win over Korea in their first match of the 2nd Asian Doubles Squash Championships 2025 at Sarawak, Malaysia.

According to details, the 2nd Asian Doubles Squash Championships 2025 kicked off, featuring 15 doubles teams from across Asia. Pakistani team of Noor Zaman and Nasir Iqbal, competing in Pool B, made a good start in the tournament.

Pakistan beat Korea by 11-4, 11-1 in the mega event. In their second pool match Noor Zaman and Nasir Iqbal continued their winning streak and earned a good victory over the Philippines by 11-7, 11-4. The Pakistan double team will face Chinese Taipei in their next match on Tuesday.

## Joe Root joins elite list, equals Rahul Dravid's world record

LEEDS: England batting maestro Joe Root has joined an elite list in the ongoing Test against India, equalling former great Rahul



Dravid's record of most catches in Test cricket.

Root etched his name into the record books after taking the catch of India's Shardul Thakur at first slip. With this catch, the veteran grabbed his 210th grab in the longest form of the game. Joe Root now requires one more catch to go past Rahul Dravid

for the most catches in Test cricket by a non-wicketkeeper. Rahul Dravid took 210 catches in 164 matches, while Joe Root

has reached the feat 10 innings quicker than him.

Most catches for a fielder in Tests

210\* - Joe Root (293 inns) 210 - Rahul Dravid (301 inns)

205 - Mahela Jayawardene (270 inns)

200 - Jacques Kallis (315 inns) 200 - Steve Smith (223 inns)

Before heading into the first Test here at Headingley, Root grabbed 208 catches. However, he caught KL Rahul in the first d Shardul Thakur in the second innings to level with the former India captain.

The right-hander is also England's most successful catches across formats with 316 catches, ahead of former great Paul Collingwood, who has 219 catches to his name. Moreover, the record-breaker Root is on the verge of surpassing Rickey Ponting in terms of runs tally. Root now requires 345 runs to surpass Australia legend, while he needs 91 more to break Rahul Dravid's record.

## Pakistan hockey captain shares heartfelt message after Nations Cup final loss

KUALA LUMPUR: Pakistan hockey captain Ammad Butt delivered an emotional message following his team's 6-2 defeat to New Zealand in the final of the FIH Nations Cup 2024, held at the

National Hockey Stadium on Saturday. New Zealand produced a clinical display to outclass Pakistan in the title clash. Despite having two early goals disallowed, the Black Sticks found the net in the sixth minute through a penalty corner

conversion by Scott Cosslett. Sam Hiha then doubled the lead just before the end of the first quarter.

The Kiwis turned up the heat in the second quarter, adding three more goals via Dylan Thomas, Sean Findlay, and Scott Boyde to head into half-time with



a commanding 5-0 lead.

Pakistan showed signs of a fightback in the third quarter, with Zikriya Hayat scoring their first goal. However, despite earning five penalty corners in that phase, they couldn't convert further chances.

Cosslett struck again in the final quarter to make it 6-1 before Sufyan Khan pulled

one back with a penalty corner conversion,

but it was too little, too late. New Zealand walked away with the FIH Nations Cup trophy, denying Pakistan a fairytale finish.

Following the match, Pakistan hockey captain Ammad Butt, took to Instagram and expressed immense pride in the

team's iourney. "We didn't lose. We won hearts. We brought hockey back to life," he wrote. "After 11 long years, reaching the final

was not just a milestone — it was a message: Pakistan is rising again." "This silver medal is not a defeat. It's

a symbol of hope, belief, and revival. A reminder that we are moving forward, and the dream is alive."

## Pakistan women's blind cricket team to prepare for Historic World Cup

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Blind Cricket Council (PBCC) is gearing up for the inaugural Women's Blind Cricket World Cup, scheduled to take place in India and Nepal in November.

To prepare for this prestigious event, a training camp for national women players will be held from July 3 to 13 in Mirpur, Azad Kashmir.

Talking to APP, the PBCC Chairman Syed Sultan Shah, said a total of 36 women players from across the country have been invited to participate in the training camp. From these, 20 players will be selected, and a 16-member team will be announced in October, he said. bility of semifinals and finals rain, the experience was valuable



teams from six countries, team advances. including Pakistan, India, Nepal, England, Australia, and matches will be held in Kathmandu, Nepal, with the possi-

The World Cup will feature also being played in Nepal if the

Shah highlighted the team's recent tour to Australia, where the United States. Pakistan's they played a series that ended in a draw. Despite only two matches being played due to ership in blind cricket world-

for the players. He expressed hope that the national women's team will perform well in the World Cup and achieve success.

Shah was also of the view that Pakistan has been actively promoting blind cricket globally, having started the sport in Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

Pakistani coaches have trained players in these countries, and Afghan players also participated in the World Cup held in Pakistan last year, he said.

He said Pakistan's national blind cricket team is currently ranked number one in the world in one-day and T20 formats, demonstrating Pakistan's lead-

## **Khuram Shahzad** appointed as PSB Spokesman

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Director General of the Pakistan Sports Board has announced the appointment of Khuram Shahzad, currently serving as Publication Officer, as the Spokesman of the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) with immediate effect. Pakistan real estate

In addition to his existing responsibilities, Shahzad will manage all official communication with the media, issue press releases, handle public relations



matters, and represent PSB in relevant forums, subject to the approval of the competent authority, said a letter received

All concerned wings and

sections of PSB have been advised to provide full support and cooperation to Shahzad in the execution of his duties as Spokesman. It may be mentioned that Khurram Shahzad, younger

brother of senior journalist late Javed Shahzad, has extensive experience of more than two decades in the field of journalism and public relations.

He has been associated with the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) since 2007 and has also played an important role in the media teams of various federal ministers.



## Budget 2025-26 balanced: targets relief, fiscal balance, export-led growth: Aurangzeb

#### **Example 2** Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb said on Monday that the budget for fiscal year 2025–26 was a balanced plan focused on providing public relief, promoting industry, curbing government expenditures, enhancing revenues, and ensuring fair tax enforcement—all aimed at million were reduce as it was fostering sustainable growth cut from proposed 2.5 percent

on the general discussion He clarified that no tax fully exempt.

rated in the budget after suggestions by finance committees of both National Assembly and Senate. He said, the government was committed to economic stability amid regional uncertainty.

Aurangzeb said the government announced a major relief for the salaried class, saying that the income tax rate for those earning upto Rs3.2 Rs1 9 million annually

on Budget, the minister will be imposed on pension



those over 75 years of age are

and driving an export-led econ- to 1 percent for those earning receiving pensions above Rs10 sales tax on imported solar between Rs0.6 million and million will be taxed, while panel components has been reduced to 10 percent and will On the solar energy front, imported items, hence would Federal Board of Revenue

He also condemned opportunistic hoarding and artificial price hikes by some market players ahead of the new tax's enforcement, warning that strict legal action will be taken in coordination with provincial governments. "Such manipulation and hoarding are condemnable. The government will take strict action under the law against those who exploit public needs," he

The Minister said that, under Prime Minister's specia apply only to 46 percent of directives, the powers of the announced many tax and relief commutation or gratuity, the minister clarified that the result in only a 4.6% increase (FBR) to arrest individuals measures that were incorpo- adding that only individuals earlier proposed 18 percent in the price of imported solar have been strictly regulated.

## OIC's CFM moot stresses end to Israel attacks on Iran

#### **Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Council of Foreign Ministers of OIC countries condemning the Israel's aggression against Iran called for an immediate end to attacks on Iran; stressed strict adherence to Pakistan-India ceasefire and Indus Waters Treaty, and importance of bilateral dialogue to resolve outstanding



The foreign ministers from across World, and adopted the Istanbul the OIC member states gathered in Declaration to condemn destabiliza-Istanbul for the 51st Session of OIC tion policies of Israel in the region and CFM on June 21-22, 2025, under the its recent attacks on Iran, Syria, and theme: "The OIC in a Transforming Lebanon, constituting flagrant viola-

tion of sovereignty and security of these countries and international law.

The body called for making Israel accountable for crimes and decided to establish an open ended Ministerial Contact group to establish regular contacts with the relevant regional and international parties, in order to support descalation efforts, stop the aggression against Iran and to achieve a peaceful settlement.

The CFM stressed the urgent need to stop Israeli attacks against Iran and their great concern regarding this dangerous escalation, threatening human, economic and environmental

situation in the region.

The OIC foreign ministers expressed solidarity with the government and people of Pakistan, expressed deep concern over the recent military escalation in the South Asia region, including the unjustified strikes carried out on multiple locations in Pakistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan food delivery services

They stressed the need to exercise maximum restraint and avoid actions that would destabilize the region and emphasize that the ceasefire must be faithfully adhered to, in the interest of regional peace and stability.

> Israel, "should immediately cease fire to prevent the situa-

tion from escalating and avoid

Iran was hurt "but the

United States credibility

was also damaged- both as a

country and as a participant

in any international negotia-

State media commen-

tary late on Sunday said the US move was extremely

dangerous and provocative.

The Global Times news-

paper in an opinion piece, said

external military interference

would never bring peace, and

only "deepen regional hatred

Separately China's embassy

the spillover of war."

tions," Fu said.

and trauma."

## China says US attack on Iran has damaged its credibility

China said the US attack on Iran's nuclear facilities has damaged Washington's credibility and Beijing was concerned that the situation "may go out of control", its state broadcaster reported, following a UN Security

President Donald Trump said the US had "obliterated" Tehran's key nuclear sites, joining Israel in the biggest Western military action against the Islamic Republic since its 1979 revolution.

The UN Security Council met on Sunday to discuss U.S. strikes on Iran's nuclear sites as Russia, China and Pakistan proposed the 15-member body adopt a resolution Middle East. calling for an immediate and



China's UN Ambassador avoid exacerbating conflicts unconditional ceasefire in the Fu Cong said parties should and adding fuel to the fire,"

Fu said parties, especially

in Iran said late on Sunday restrain the "impulse of force, according to the state broad-

that most Chinese citizens in Iran had been evacuated safely, and those remaining were not in high-risk areas.

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## Iranian ambassador meets PM Shehbaz ahead of National Security Committee meeting



**Spokesman Report** 

ISLAMABAD: In a significant diplomatic development, Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan, Reza Amiri Moghadam, met Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at the PM House ahead of a crucial session of the National Security Committee.

During the meeting, both sides engaged in an in-depth discussion on the rising tensions between Iran and Israel, the broader geopolitical situation, and prospects for regional peace and stability.

According to informed sources, engagement.

the Iranian envoy briefed the prime minister on Tehran's position regarding the Iran-Israel-US conflict.

In response, Prime Minister Shehbaz reiterated Pakistan's principled stance advocating peace, stability, and the pursuit of diplomatic solutions.

The meeting is being viewed as a key diplomatic move in light of the escalating regional tensions, highlighting Pakistan's balanced foreign policy approach and its emphasis on maintaining active diplomatic

## The Significance of the Istanbul Meeting: Attaf and Dar's Vision for Peace



Minister of Foreign Affairs, National Community Abroad, and African Affairs, Mr. Ahmed Attaf, held a bilat-Deputy Prime Minister and Ministhe Organization of Islamic Coop- purposes of the United Nations.

During this meeting, the two ISLAMABAD: Minister of State, ministers discussed the latest developments in the aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran and emphasized the need to enhance eral meeting today in Istanbul with inter-coordination on this matter within the Security Council, with ter of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic the aim of enabling this UN body to Republic of Pakistan, Mr. Muham- fulfill its responsibilities in the field mad Ishaq Dar, on the sidelines of of maintaining peace and security their participation in the 51st session by devoting a political and peaceful of the Council of Foreign Ministers of approach based on the principles and

## **UAE President discusses** regional developments with Sultan of Oman, French President, Italian **Prime Minister**



ABU DHABI: President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan spoke by telephone today with Sultan Haitham bin Tariq of the Sultanate of Oman; Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic; and Giorgia Meloni, Prime Minister of the Italian Republic.

The calls discussed the escalation unfolding in the Middle East and for regional security and stability, following the recent attacks on the Islamic Republic of Iran.

During the calls, the leaders underlined the importance of intensifying regional and international efforts to bring about an immediate end to the escalation and prioritise dialogue and diplomacy to contain the crisis and reach a peaceful solution. They stressed the need to spare the region and its people from further crises and to safeits potential serious repercussions guard regional peace and stability.