Barkat Rice Mills

Welcoming Israel-Iran ceasefire, UN chief urges parties to 'fully respect' it

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Tuesday welcomed the ceasefire between Iran and Israel which was announced on social media overnight by US President Donald Trump.

China expresses deep concern over evolving situation in Middle East

and Iran can be realized as soon as possible.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

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Performance Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman National Accountability Bureau Lt. Gen. (R) Nazir Ahmed presents biennial performance report of NAB to



Trump 'very unhappy' with Israel over violating ceasefire with Iran

Reuters

Iranian and Israeli media reported new Israeli air strikes on Iran on Tuesday, despite US President Donald Trump having said Israel had called them off at his command to preserve an hours-old ceasefire.

Two explosions were heard in the Iranian capital, the judiciary news outlet Mizan reported.

Israeli army radio said Israel had struck an Iranian radar site near Tehran.

The strikes took place minutes after Trump said Israel had called off its attack in response to his command.

"All planes will turn around and head home, while doing a friendly 'Plane Wave' to Iran. Nobody will be hurt, the Ceasefire is in effect!" Trump said in a post on Truth Social.

Trump had earlier accused both Israel and Iran of violating the ceasefire, while expressing particular frustration with Israel which had announced major new strikes on Tehran.

Pakistan

Region

👺 City Desk

base in Qatar.

by all sides.

Expresses Deep

Concern at the

in the Security

Situation in the

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan expresses

its deep concern and alarm at the

serious escalation in the security

situation in the region as a result of

attacks against USA's Al Udeid Air

We strongly condemn the recent

violations of the principle of respect

for sovereignty and territorial

We urge adherence to funda-

mental principles of international

law and call for exercise of restraint

Pakistan reiterates its call for

dialogue and diplomacy to resolve

all conflicts, and urges immediate

integrity of all countries.

steps for de-escalation.

Serious Escalation



you do it it is a major violation. Bring violating the truce, but particularly with on Truth Social shortly after he left the strikes in response to a single missile White House for a trip to a Nato summit launch which might have been unintenin The Hague.

Before boarding, Trump told reporters

"Israel. Do not drop those bombs. If he was "not happy" with either side for tional.

"I've got to get Israel to calm down fire was meant to start.

now," Trump said as he left the White

Iran and Israel had been fighting "so long and so hard that they don't know what the *** they're doing," he said before turning away from cameras and heading

to his helicopter. Israeli media reported that Trump spoke to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu by phone.

A reporter for Axios said that Netanyahu had told Trump that Israel would scale back the bombing mission rather than cancel it. There was no immediate word from Netanyahu's office.

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz had said earlier on Tuesday that he had ordered the military to mount new strikes on targets in Tehran in response to what he said were Iranian missiles fired in a "blatant violation" of the ceasefire.

Iran denied launching any missiles and said Israel's attacks had continued for an hour and a half beyond the time the cease-

Prime Minister speaks to the Crown Prince of Saudi Árabia

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif held a telephone conversation with His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, During their most warm and

cordial conversation, the Prime Minister conveyed his warm regards and profound respects to The Custodian of the two Holy Mosques,

His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. He also warmly felicitated His Royal Highness on the successful completion of Hajj this year and thanked the Kingdom for the gracious hospitality extended to the the rapidly evolving situation in the Middle Pakistani pilgrims.

gratitude for the Kingdom's steadfast diate de-escalation of the Iran-Israel conflict, support to Pakistan during the recent as well as its peaceful resolution through standoff with India. He stated that Pakistan was ready to engage in a meaningful



dialogue with India on all outstanding issues, including Jammu & Kashmir, water, trade and terrorism.

The two leaders also exchanged views on East. In this regard, the Prime Minister said The Prime Minister reiterated profound that Pakistan fully supported the immedialogue and diplomacy. While referring to last night's attacks, he called for adher-

ence to international law and the UN Charter principles by all sides. In this context, the Prime Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering support for the Kingdom's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Prime Minister conveyed deep appreciation to His Royal Highness for his sagacious leadership and commendable efforts to restore peace in the region. This, he added, was reflective of the Kingdom's remarkable status as a peacemaker at the international stage, as well as its leadership of the Ummah.

His Royal Highness the Crown Prince thanked the Prime Minister for the telephone call and appreciated Pakistan's expression of solidarity and support for the Kingdom. He acknowledged Pakistan's constructive role in promoting a peaceful resolution to the Iran-Israel conflict. His Royal Highness said that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was fully committed to efforts aimed at fostering lasting peace and stability in the Middle East

PM speaks to Iranian President; reiterates Pakistan's support for Iran at all diplomatic forums



跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday held a telephone conversation with President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian, this afternoon, and reiterated Pakistan's support for Iran at all diplomatic forums, including at the UN Security Council and the OIC.

During the telephonic conversation, the prime minister called for adherence to international law and the UN Charter principles, by all sides, a PM's Office news

The Prime Minister said that remain in touch.

Pakistan was closely following the rapidly evolving situation in the Middle East. He emphasized the importance of restoring peace through dialogue and diplomacy.

President Pezeshkian thanked the Prime Minister for the telephone call and appreciated Pakistan's consistent and principled support to Iran, throughout the crisis. He also acknowledged Pakistan's constructive role in promoting a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

The two leaders agreed on the importance of unity among Ummah during this most challenging time. They agreed to

Pakistan welcomed Iran-Israel ceasefire: DPM/FM Dar

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/ Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar Tuesday said that Pakistan warmly welcomed today's ceasefire between Iran and Israel.

On his X handle, the DPM/ FM said Pakistan firmly believed that all disputes must be resolved in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter and international law, including respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity.

"I am immensely delighted Pakistan warmly welcomes today's ceasefire between Iran and Israel. We



commend those who played pivotal role in facilitating this development and hope this positive step will contribute to lasting peace and stability in the region," he added.

DPM, ADFD chief discuss Pak-UAE economic partnership

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar met with Director General of the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development Mohammed Saif Al Suwaidi on Tuesday.

They discussed enhancing development cooperation, presented the award on behalf expanding ADFD's support

for key infrastructure and energy projects Pakistan, and exploring new avenues for sustainable investment.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment deepening economic



ties and promoting shared growth and prosperity.

also presented the award of

Hilal-e-Quaid-e-Azam to

him in acknowledgment of

his exceptional contributions

The Deputy Prime Minister



President AJK welcoming ceasefire between Israel, Iran

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Azad Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, while welcoming ceasefire between Israel and Iran, has called for further de-escalation to ensure sustainable peace in the region.

Referring to the devastating impacts of the ongoing war in the Middle East, he said, "war is not the solution to any problem". Stressing the need for resolving conflicts through dialogue and diplomacy, the president said that all issues should be resolved at the negotiating table.

Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry appreciated the countries between the two countries. who played a significant behind-thescenes role in brokering a ceasefire agreement between Iran and Israel should also play their due role to crime.



help resolve the longstanding issue of Palestine, which he said was one of the major contributing factors behind perpetual unrest and instability in the Middle East.

The main reason for this war is the Palestinian issue", he said, citing Israel's ruthless bombardement of the Palestinians and slaughter of tens of thousands of defenseless people including men women and children.

Highlighting the woeful plight of helpless Palestinians, the president regrettably noted that the Israeli government has deprived them of their right to life. "People in Gaza are being starved to death", he said, adding that depriving people of food The president said that the truce the influential world governments and drinking water amounts to a war

Importance of Parliamentary Democracy: Insights from the AJK Legislative Assembly



MUZAFFARABAD: The Prime Minister Azad Kashmir State Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that this House (Legislative Assembly) operates strictly in accordance with the rules and procedures outlined in the constitution. Addressing the legislative assembly session here today the PM said that the agenda of the House has been set in accordance with established regulations and all proceedings were being conducted in an orderly and constitutional manner. He said that established procedures were in place to address points of objection and attention notices properly in a parliamentary context." Discussing, debating issues and raising objections in the house is the beauty of parliamentary democracy", the PM said, adding that there was no bar on discussing budget. "Budget has been passed but every member of the House has the right to discuss it until the Finance Bill is presented and passed", the PM noted. The ongoing session, he clarified, would continue until the Finance Bill was presented in the House. The PM reminded the members that the budget proposals can be modified, if better proposals are presented. "Nothing is final, as supplementary grants continue to come throughout the year", he maintained. "All elected representatives have the right to voice their opinions and propose changes to the budget", the PM remarked.

Israel-Iran ceasefire should also include Gaza and Palestine solution: Sardar Attique

👺 Abdul Majeed Tahir

GILGIT/RAWALPINDI: Former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir and President of the Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan has said that a possible and proposed ceasefire between İsrael and Iran should not be just a temporary relief, but it should also include a ceasefire in Gaza, protection of the oppressed Palestinian people and a two-state solution to



the Palestinian issue. If the Palestinian issue is not resolved on a perma $nent\ basis, it\ will\ not\ be\ possible\ to\ establish\ lasting\ peace\ in\ the\ Middle$ East. He said that Israel's continuous aggression and creating tension in the Muslim world are actually part of its expansionist ambitions. On the one hand, Israel is carrying out military operations against Iran and on the other hand, it is committing atrocities on unarmed civilians, children and women in Palestine, which is completely against humanity and international laws.

Meanwhile, the President of the Muslim Conference also met with the Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan, Gulraiz Khan, and discussed matters of mutual interest. On this occasion, he paid tribute to the invaluable services of the late Amanullah Khan for the struggle for the freedom of Kashmir and said that the name of Amanullah Khan is a symbol of $courage, courage \ and \ ideological \ stead fastness \ in \ the \ history \ of \ Kashmir.$ His selfless sacrifices are a beacon of light for the Kashmiri nation. During the Fateha, Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan also offered special prayers for the forgiveness of the deceased and the freedom of Kashmir

VC Nishtar Medical University Meets Al-Shifa International Team



😂 Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Vice Chancellor Nishtar Medical University Prof. Dr. Mehnaz Khakwani met with the team of Al-Shifa International Hospital Islam-

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss mutual collaboration, medical education and research, and training opportunities for faculty and students. The two institutions discussed the possibilities of increasing cooperation in the field of medicine and joint initiatives. On this occasion, the Vice Chancellor said:

"Nishtar Medical University is always striving for modern medical

education, research, and professional development, and cooperation with institutions like Al-Shifa International will help in realizing our vision." The meeting ended in a very pleasant atmosphere, and an assurance was given to implement a joint strategy for future mutual cooperation.

Power generation from Dasu project expected in 2027

LAHORE: Power generation from 4,320MW Dasu Hydropower Project is expected to commence in 2027. It was informed to Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) Chairman Naveed Asghar Chaudhry during his visit to the project site.

The chairman also reviewed construction work on key sites of the project, including the main dam, powerhouse, transformer cavern and the relocated section of the Karakoram Highway (KKH-1).

The GM/PD Dasu Hydropower Project and representatives of the Consultants and the Contractors were also present, according to WAPDA

spokesman here Tuesday. The Chairman also presided over a progress review meeting at the project office. The project management team briefed him about the targets and the achievements on the project. He was briefed that construction work is currently underway on 20 different sites and is progressing at a steady yet satisfactory pace. Referring to the targets achieved so far and the milestones to be achieved in the days to come, it was briefed that the excavation works on both the right and left abutments of the main dam have been completed. The extended right bypass tunnel and the rightside open channel have also been completed and are ready to divert excess river flow during the high-flow season. Excavation of the main dam foundation is continuing and is scheduled for completion by October this year. Placement of Roller Compacted Concrete (RCC) in the main dam is expected to begin in March 2026.

Hard Work

LAHORE: A labourer is pulling handcart loaded with wooden sofas on his way at a road during hot weather in the Provincial Capital.

was a positive development: however



Photo: Online

Empowering Women in Multan: The Rise of Social Media as a Business Tool

腾 Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Women can now earn a decent living sitting at home through social media. Currently, most of the business is being done through social media not only in Pakistan but also in the whole world.

This is the reason why the government has now started bringing those who do business through social media into the tax net.

This was stated by Farah Saqib, President of Women Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Multan, while addressing a training and seminar on how social media can be used for business organized by Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry Multan and Women Entrethis occasion,

Qasim Nisar Ramay also gave



participated in the seminar. At the continue to organize such seminars Shahnaz Nasir, Seerat Fatima, Farah end of the training seminar, Presia lecture while training women. dent Women Chamber of Commerce Shahnaz Nasir, Vice President, and Industry Farah Saqib distributed Ted Up, Alina Zahra Gilani, Rabia shields to Qasim Nisar Ramay, Gul Khand, Seerat Fatima, Farah Karim, Lai Khan and Alina Zahra Gilani. Aisha Yasin, Qura-ul-Ain Rizwan, At the end, Farah Saqib thanked Sameera Rehman, Shamaila Jabbar, the women who participated in

and trainings for the betterment of women in the future.

Women Chamber of Commerce of Commerce and Industry, Multan and Industries, Alina Zahra Gilani, and Women Entrepreneur Division, Deputy Manager, Women Entre- TEDAP, Multan on how social media preneur Division, TEDAP, Multan, can be used for business.

preneur Division, TDAP, Multan. On Sadaf, Taiba Asif, Aqsa Sajid, also the seminar and said that she will Gullai Khan, Qasim Nisar Ramey, Karim, Ayesha Yasin, and others are addressing the training and seminar Multan: Farah Saqib, President, organized by the Women Chamber

Arrangements for Muharram Processions and Gatherings were Reviewed in Multan

Main Tanveer

MULTAN: Punjab Cabinet Committee on Law and Order Meeting in Multan on the directions of the Chief Minister Punjab. Provincial Minister and Chairman Khawaja Salman Rafique presided over the meeting Provincial Law Minister Malik Sohaib Ahmed Bharath and Agriculture Minister Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani, Secretary Home Dr. Ahmed Javed Qazi participated.

Additional IG Punjab Chaudhry Sultan, Additional IG Special Branch Rao Abdul Karim, Additional IG South Punjab Muhammad Kamran Khan, DIG CTD Usman Gondal participated. Arrangements for Muharram processions and gatherings were reviewed in Multan Division and RPO Captain Sohail Chaudhry



Security arrangements for all 909 Commissioner Multan Aamir Karim processions and 3182 gatherings in language detention of 62 170 people Multan division have been completed

gave a briefing on the arrangements- Orders issued for the district detention of 83 Ulema and Zakirs and the were included in the Fourth Schedule

our role to make Muharram peaceful, Provincial Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique Even after Ashura, we should not sit back and watch the security situation, Reports from all over Punjab are being seen in the central control room of the Home Department, Punjab Law Minister Sabil is being installed on the procession routes in all districts, Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani Special arrangements have been made for cyber patrolling during Muharram, Punjab Home Secretary All districts should share information on the Muharram e-portal in a timely manner Deputy Commissioners and DPOs of Multan, Khanewal, Lodhran and Vehari also attended the briefing.





Namaz Timings

EMEDGENCY

EMERGENCI
Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 8
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police9266044
Motorway Police 9270601-20

Women Police

Statio	NS .
Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20
Islamabad	9222596

ENOUIRY

Edhi Ambulance	115
PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092

HOCDITAL C

HUSFI	IALƏ
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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

Alumni Reunion Event Organized by Faculty of Agriculture, University of Poonch Rawalakot

Bureau Report

RAWALAKOT: The Alum-Association of the Facu of Agriculture, University of Poonch Rawalakot organized a Alumni Reunion event, led by Prof. Dr. Imtiaz Hussain, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture. The event saw alumni from across Pakistan come together to reconnect with their alma mater and celebrate the university's legacy. The event was attended

by Prof. Dr. Zakaria Zakar, Vice Chancellor of the University of Poonch Rawalakot, as well as Prof. Dr. Dilnawaz Gardezi and other esteemed guests. During the gathering, Dr. Zakaria Zakar expressed his appreciation for the initiative taken by Prof Dr. Imtiaz Hussain and highlighted that the Faculty of Agriculture is one of the oldest and most important faculties at UPR. He also praised the distinguished alumni of the faculty, acknowledging their contributions and success in various fields. Dr. Zakaria Zakar emphasized the vital role of agriculture in Pakistan's economy, noting that it continues to be a cornerstone of the nation's growth.

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif directs all stakeholders to ensure foolproof arrangements on 'Ashura'

👺 Bureau Report

Maryam Nawaz Sharif presided over a special meeting with regard to reviewing arrangements on the eve of Muharram-ul-Haram in which important decisions were being taken. She sought an immediate emergency plan from the administration. She directed to ensure strict implementation of the code of conduct and further directed to adopt zero-tolerance for committing violations of the code of conduct.

the social media. She directed to ensure a complete ban on displaying banners, posters and province. She directed to immedi-

on flying drones during Muharram-ul-Haram. She directed the LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Provincial Ministers, Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, RPOs and DPOs to personally oversee arrangements of Muharram-ul-Haram. She also directed all stakeholders to personally visit the scholars. The Chief Minister directed

the Safe City Authority to make functional out of order cameras and further directed the Special Monitoring Unit to monitor and report on hateful content. She directed to launch She directed to immediately mock drills of security arrangearrest those found involved in ments for Muharram-ul-Haram spreading hateful content on and further directed to install 'sabeels' in a uniform manner for Muharram processions and gatherings. She also directed wall-chalking throughout the to provide refreshing drinks, lemon water and cold water



Muharram processions along ings. with identification and monitoring of sabeels. It was agreed

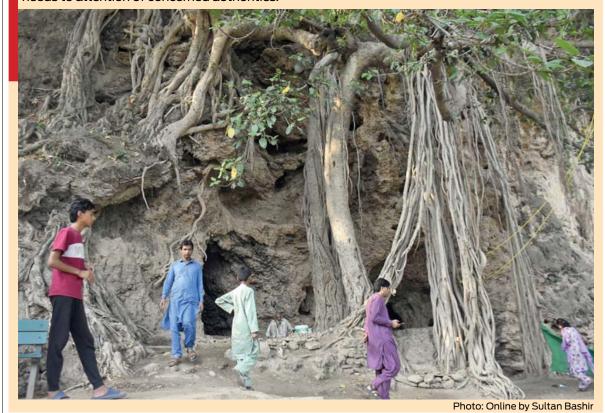
The Chief Minister also directed steps to activate Hotel to install iron pipes for security Eye and Travel Eye and continue purposes during Muharram-ul- the combing operation along ately arrest those violating the ban bottles to the participants during Haram processions and gather- with obtaining an anti-drone

the meeting said that SOPs of letter and spirit. Hanging electric wires poses a big risk, emer- not be turned off either.

system. She while addressing gency operations should be carried out in this regard. There Muharram-ul-Haram should should be no power outage at all be seen to be implemented in during 'Ashura' processions and gatherings, street lights should

historical place

ISLAMABAD: Visitors are enjoying at Shah Allah Ditta caves, in the Federal Capital. As the mostly visitors going back due to very slow development work at the site of Shah Allah Ditta caves and



Former Deputy Mayor Zeeshan Naqvi continues public outreach campaign

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former Deputy Mayor of Islamabad and senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League (N), Syed Zeeshan Ali Naqvi, continued his public outreach campaign on Monday with full vigor. During the day, he visited various areas, met with local residents, and listened to their concerns.

The citizens highlighted several local issues including sanitation, drainage, park restoration, street lighting, and other municipal matters. Syed Zeeshan Ali Naqvi attentively listened to the problems and assured immediate coordination with relevant authorities to address them. Speaking on the occasion, he stated,

"Connecting with the public is true service. These interactions help us not only understand people's concerns firsthand but also



provide a platform to collectively find solu-

He further added that Pakistan Muslim resolve public issues on a priority basis.

League (N) believes in serving the people, and every possible effort will be made to

Scholarship Cheque Distribution Ceremony Held by Sudhan Education Conference

👺 Bureau Report

RAWALAKOT: A scholarship cheque distribution ceremony for 35 students took place today at University of Poonch, Rawalakot. The event was organized by the Sudhan Education Conference (SEC) to provide financial support to students pursuing their educational goals.

The Vice Chancellor UPR, Prof. Dr. Zakria Zakar, was the chief guest at the event. In his address, Dr. Zakria Zakar acknowledged the contribution of SEC to the education sector and appreciated the financial assistance being provided to

He also highlighted Rawalakot's



Sardar Shhzaib Shabbir, Acting President of SEC, presided over the ceremony. Also in attendance were Registrar Prof. Dr. Abdul Rauf, Prof. Dr. Raheem Khan, Chairman of the Scholarship Committee, and Dr. Ghulam Hussain, Secretary SEC, along with other dignitaries. The event was moderated by Dr. Muhammad Faraz Khan, Director SFA&UA UPR.

Dr. Zakria Zakar expressed his appreciation for SEC's efforts and reiterated his openness to any suggestions from the community. He emphasized the importance of such initiatives in advancing education in Rawalakot and supporting students in need.

DC Sandhu and DPO Ibadat Nisar inspected procession route and Imambargahs

👺 Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: On the special directives of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the district administration of Toba Tek Singh has mobilized to ensure the peaceful and organized observance of Muharram and Ashura. Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naeem Sandhu and District Police Officer (DPO) Ibadat Nisar conducted inspections of main procession routes and Imambargahs. The officials reviewed sanitation arrangements, functioning of street lights, placement of barriers, and the security plan in detail. Assistant Commissioner Munawar Hussain Kamalana Sial, Chief Officer Municipal Committee, Civil Defense Officer Mahmood Hussain Gul, and members of the Peace Committee also accompanied them. The DC directed all departments to ensure timely provision of facilities at the venues of processions and Majalis. Additional police personnel will be deployed at sensitive locations, said DPO Ibadat Nisar. Procession routes will be monitored through CCTV cameras, with centralized surveillance at the control room. Emergency response teams from Rescue 1122, Civil Defense, and Health Department have been placed on alert to deal with any untoward incidents.

The Peace Committee assured full cooperation with the administration and emphasized the need for sectarian harmony and mutual respect."Establishing exemplary peace and inter-sectarian tolerance during Muharram is our collective goal," said DC Muhammad Naeem Sandhu. Citizens are urged to refrain from spreading unverified or provocative content on social media. "Report any suspicious activity immediately to the relevant authorities," the DC added.

A dedicated District Control Room has been established for the onth of Muharram. Citizens can contact the control room in case of emergencies or to submit complaints and suggestions. Control Room $\,$ Helpline:046-9201003 / 046-9201041

Al-Shifa Trust treats 250 DR patients dailyfree of cost per day

ISLAMABAD: Al-Shifa Trust (AST) has expressed profound concern over the escalating threat of Diabetic Retinopathy in Pakistan, attributing the rise to the country's alarming diabetes prevalence. With an increasing number of people succumbing to diabetes, the risk of vision impairment and related complications is surging at an alarming rate, necessitating





other conditions. He underscored the need for urgent policy-level intervention and public awareness, highlighting the crucial role each individual can play in preventing and managing diabetes and Studies show that nearly 25-30 percent of diabetics in Pakistan suffer from some stage of Diabetic Retinopathy, he said, adding that

occurred due to a lack of awareness and routine screening. Dr. Qureshi explained that we are utilizing advanced imaging and diagnostic tools, as well as applying new surgical methods. The cost of a single retinal surgery is approximately Rs 130,000. Still, Al-Shifa provides treatment completely free of charge to 80 percent of its patients. The remaining patients receive heavily subsidized

most cases go undiagnosed until significant vision loss has already

care, often paying only half the cost. The growing number of DR cases is not only impacting individual patients but also straining hospitals, ophthalmologists, and public sector health funding. This underscores the need for better funding, early screening, patient awareness, prevention and control of blood sugar, and regular eye exams, as well as systemic changes to ensure

the sustainability of the healthcare system. He further added that nearly 80 percent of all patients at Al-Shifa's hospitals in Rawalpindi, Chakwal, Kohat, Sukkur, Muzaffarabad, and Gilgit receive free care. The Trust's new facility in Lahore is expected to begin operations by 2027, expanding its humanitarian outreach

Three killed in bus-car collision in Swat

PESHAWAR: At least three people were killed in a collision between a passenger bus and a car in Gogdara area of Swat district on Tuesday Police said the collision caused the death of three people who were

The tragic accident was caused by over-speeding, police said adding that the bodies of the deceased were shifted to Saidu Hospital for further procedures.

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Breakthrough announced after hostilities spread

etanyahu said Israel had agreed to a bilateral ceasefire with Iran, in coordination with Trump, after the country achieved all of its war goals, including removing the threat of Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said that his country would not fire at Israel if it was not fired upon, but that a "final decision on the cessation of our military operations will be made later."

It's unclear what role Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's leader, played in the talks. He said earlier on social media that he would not surrender.

Trump said Tuesday that he wasn't seeking regime change

in Iran, two days after first floating the idea. "Regime change takes chaos," Trump told reporters on Air

Force One. Over the weekend, he mused on his social media account that "if the current Iranian Regime is unable to MAKE IRAN

GREAT AGAIN, why wouldn't there be a Regime change???" The ceasefire came after hostilities spread further across the region.

Israel's military said Iran launched 20 missiles toward Israel before the ceasefire began on Tuesday morning. Police said they damaged at least three densely packed residential buildings in the city of Beersheba. First responders said they retrieved four bodies from one building and were searching for more. Earlier, the Fire and Rescue service said five bodies were found before revising the number downward. At least 20 people were injured.

Outside, the shells of burned out cars littered the streets. Broken glass and rubble covered the area. Police said some people were injured while inside their apartments' reinforced safe rooms, which are meant to withstand rockets but not direct hits from ballistic missiles.

Iran launched a limited missile attack Monday on a US military base in Qatar, retaliating for earlier American bombing of its nuclear sites. The US was warned by Iran in advance, and there were no casualties

Drones attacked military bases in Iraq overnight, including some housing US troops, the Iraqi army and a US military official said Tuesday.

A senior US military official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to comment publicly, said US forces had shot down drones attacking Ain Assad in the desert in western Iraq and at a base next to the Baghdad airport, while another one crashed.

No casualties were reported and no group claimed responsibility for the attacks in Iraq. Some Iran-backed Iraqi militias had previously threatened to target US bases if the US attacked Iran.

Trump Hailed as Peacemaker for Iran-İsrael Ceasefire Deal

the official end of the "12-Day War" between Iran and Israel. The phased ceasefire, declared on Truth Social on June 23, 2025, would see Iran begin de-escalation, followed by Israel, culminating in what Trump called the "Official END" of the war.

Behind this terse announcement lay one of the most revealing and consequential geopolitical clashes of recent history. The war, ignited by Israeli airstrikes on Iranian nuclear infrastructure and escalated by U. S. intervention, has exposed not only the raw realities of regional power dynamics but also the shifting sands of global influence, public sentiment, and military doctrine.

The ceasefire followed Iran's retaliatory missile barrage on the U.S. Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, launched in response to one of the most complex aerial operations in U. S. military history. Under the codename "Operation Midnight Hammer," seven B-2 Spirit stealth bombers flew nonstop from Whiteman AFB in Missouri and dropped 14 GBU-57 Massive Ordnance Penetrators (MOPs)—12 on Fordow, 2 on Natanz. In parallel, 30 Tomahawk cruise missiles launched from a U.S. submarine struck Isfahan and Natanz.

Given Pakistan's historically close ties with Iran and its strategic standing in the Muslim world, it is plausible that Field Marshal Munir acted as a discreet intermediary, articulating Trump's vision and helping bridge critical gaps. If so, this diplomatic backchannel may have played a decisive—yet still undisclosed—role in

dent Donald J. Trump announced more details may surface, shedding light credibility—would have been shouldered on Pakistan's quiet but powerful contribution to peace.

Another compelling factor behind Trump's urgency for de-escalation was Iran's ability to strike global economic arteries—chief among them, the Strait of Hormuz. With its lethal missiles, fast-attack naval fleets, and proxy mili-

sitioned to block or severely disrupt this strategic waterway. A closure of Hormuz would have been catastrophic—not only for oil-dependent United States, Europe and China, but for fragile economies such as Pakistan, Lebanon, and much of Africa. A

prolonged disruption could have triggered a global recession, skyrocketed energy prices, and collapsed economies. This economic time bomb likely weighed heavily in Trump's calculus, forcing him to act swiftly to avoid broader international collapse.

Meanwhile, the United States stood alone in this war. The European Union did not support the military intervention. Instead, France, Germany, and the UK pursued diplomacy directly with Tehran. NATO remained entirely absent. This was perhaps the first U.S.-initiated conflict in decades where there was no multinational military backing, no financial burdensharing, no political cover.

Had this war escalated further, the

n a stunning turn of events, Presisecuring the ceasefire. In the coming days, cost—blood, treasure, and international solely by the United States. This realization sent shockwaves through Washington and likely catalyzed Trump's push for immediate de-escalation.

Iran, though it could not muster active support from either Russia or China or any Muslim-majority country, walks away with a transformed image. No longer the $tias\ across\ the\ Gulf,\ Iran\ was\ well-po- \\ isolated\ pariah, it\ is\ now\ the\ country\ that$

stood up to two nuclear powers-absorbed their blows, responded proportionally, and survived. Its regional allies—Hezbollah,

Houthis, Hamas, and Iraqi militias—are energized. Its population is united. Its sovereignty is intact.

For Israel, the war leaves behind questions. Domestic criticism of Netanyahu has intensified. International confidence in Israeli intelligence and defense has been shaken. And with Gaza still in flames, the question looms: will Israel now finally consider peace, or will it double down on aggression?

Perhaps the most striking outcome of this conflict was the global reaction to the ceasefire. Across the United States and beyond, traditional media, social platforms, and everyday conversations erupted in jubilation. Newsrooms broke the story with celebratory headlines, while TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, and X overflowed with congratulatory messages, reaction videos, and patriotic posts hailing

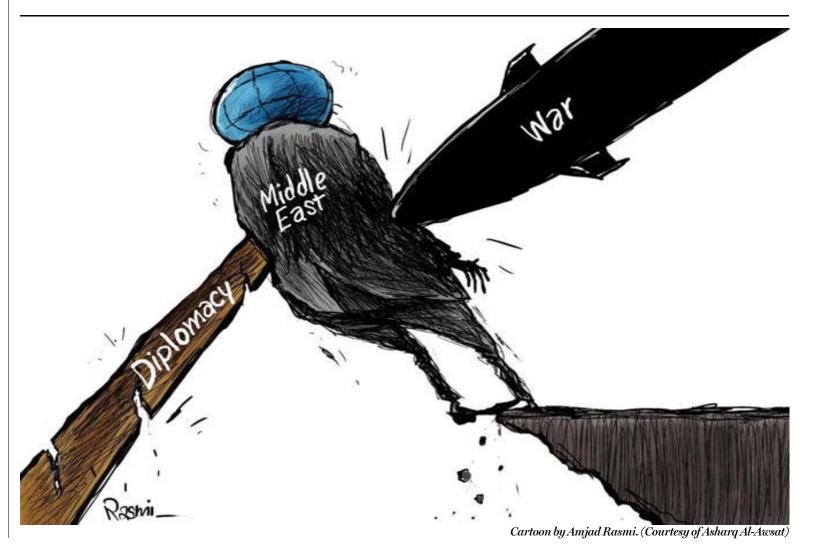
peace. From Chicago and New York to San Francisco and Houston, people took to the streets—not in protest, but in celebration. The American public, who had never fully embraced this war-viewed by many as another foreign entanglement driven by Israel's geopolitical ambitions—breathed a collective sigh of relief.

Now, Iran is celebrating with pomp, pride, and national dignity, its people and leadership united in a sense of historic triumph. In contrast, Israel is reeling. Its aura of invincibility has been shattered, its claim of superiority undermined. Both its leadership and citizens are left licking their wounds, forced to confront the reality of vulnerability and defeat.

Around the world, peaceful citizens, intellectuals, and thought leaders are hailing this ceasefire as a welcome reprieve. For many, especially in the U. S., Donald Trump is no longer seen as a warmonger but as a peacemaker—first for diffusing tensions between Pakistan and India, and now for halting the Israel-Iran war. A growing chorus now asks: Has Trump earned his place as a Nobel Peace Prize nominee?

This war, though short in days, has altered the trajectory of nations. It shattered illusions, exposed dependencies, challenged assumptions, and-most importantly-proved that a nation's true power lies not just in bombs, but in brains, unity, and moral courage.

And in this war, Iran had all three. Writer is Press Secretary to the President (Rtd), Former Press Minister, Embassy of Pakistan to France and Former MD, SRBC



Ceasefire Between Iran and Israel: A New Hope for Peace and Stability in the Region

June 24, 2025, after weeks of intense military confrontation that had raised ceasefire, brokered by the United States, was announced by President Donald Trump, who declared a "complete and total" halt to hostilities from both sides. According to the agree-Hezbollah is closely aligned with Iran and often ment, Iran would pause its military operations responds to Israeli actions, raising the risk of first, followed by Israel after a twelve-hour delay. wider conflict. The pause in fighting between

The Israeli Prime Minister. Benjamin Netanyahu, later confirmed Israel's commitment to the ceasefire, claiming that the country had already achieved its main military objectives during the campaign.

Despite the ceasefire declaration, the situation on the ground remained tense in the initial hours. Several Iranian missiles struck the Israeli city of Beer-

sheba just before and shortly after the ceasefire was supposed to begin. These attacks resulted in the tragic deaths of at least four civilians and injuries to several others. Israel responded swiftly by targeting the launch sites within Iran and issuing a strong warning that any violation of the ceasefire would be met with firm and immediate retaliation.

Beyond economics, the ceasefire may also serve as a springboard for renewed diplomatic efforts. The fact that two long-time enemies agreed, even temporarily, to halt hostilities underlines the potential for international mediation to play a constructive role in reducing regional tensions. If this truce holds and trust can slowly be built, it may pave the way for further negotiations on more complex and long-standing issues such as and the wider Arab-Israeli conflict. The current even during the early hours of the truce show that

n a remarkable diplomatic breakthrough, moment provides a unique opportunity for the risk of renewed violence is still very real. Both Iran and Israel agreed to a ceasefire on regional and international powers to re-engage militaries remain on high alert, and any miscalin meaningful diplomacy.

Neighbouring countries are already beginfears of a broader regional war. The ning to feel the effects of the ceasefire. Lebanon, which had witnessed increased tension due to Hezbollah's involvement and Israeli cross-border shelling, might now see a reduction in violence.

Iran and Israel reduces the pressure on Lebanon's already fragile political and economic situation.

In Syria, the situation had become increasingly dangerous due to Israeli airstrikes on Iranian assets operating within the country. With the ceasefire in effect, the frequency of such operations may decline, allowing a temporary period of

calm for Syrian civilians. In Iraq, where Iranbacked militias had threatened to attack U.S. forces and other targets, the truce offers a chance to de-escalate tensions and focus on domestic governance and reconstruction.

Ahsan Ansari

Other neighbouring countries, including Jordan, Turkey, and the Gulf states, also stand to benefit from the reduced risk of a wider war. These countries had been bracing for refugee influxes, economic shocks, and security threats as the Iran-Israel conflict escalated. The ceasefire reduces the immediate pressure and allows these governments to shift their focus toward rebuilding diplomatic and economic ties across the region.

However, challenges remain. The ceasefire is fragile, and both sides remain highly suspicious Iran's nuclear program, Israel's security concerns, of each other. The missile attacks that occurred

culation or provocation could reignite hostilities. Additionally, the ceasefire does not address the root causes of the conflict. Iran's nuclear ambitions, Israel's regional security strategy, proxy wars across the Middle East, and the unresolved Palestinian question continue to simmer under the surface.

Moreover, regional actors like Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Egypt will be closely watching the next steps. While these countries were not directly involved in the fighting, they are deeply invested in the region's security landscape. Many of them are wary of Iran's growing influence and may see the ceasefire as a chance to reassert their own diplomatic roles. On the other hand, any perceived weakness or one-sided victory could also encourage more aggressive posturing in the future.

The United States, having played a central role in brokering the ceasefire, now faces the task of ensuring that it holds. This will require sustained diplomatic engagement, not only with Iran and Israel but also with other regional and international players. Multilateral forums, back-channel communications, and confidence-building measures will be essential to transform this ceasefire from a short-term pause into a longer-term pathway to peace.

The ceasefire between Iran and Israel is more than just a halt to missiles and airstrikes-it is a rare and precious opportunity. It offers a temporary reprieve to civilians, restores some economic stability, and opens a small but important window for peace efforts. Whether this moment leads to lasting change or fades into another missed opportunity will depend on the actions of leaders across the region and the world. For now, the guns have gone quiet, and in a region long plagued by conflict, that in itself is something worth recognizing and building upon.

A Call for Transgender Empowerment in Pakistan

to protect and empower the transgender community. This legal recognition was a landmark achievement. It marked a ized and vulnerable group. Alongside this, the establishment of the Islamabad Transgender Protection Centre signaled that perhaps a new

Today, those same initiatives face neglect, under- a state fails to acknowledge or act on such abuse,

funding, and political disinterest. The dream of a better future for the transgender community has become yet another unfulfilled promise. In particular, the province of Sindh stands out for its lack of commitment. Not a single Annual Development Plan (ADP) has been created specifically for the welfare of trans-

gender individuals. No structured policy, no it is a duty. inclusive employment scheme, and no dedicated budget from the Social Welfare Department, whose core mandate includes the protection of such vulnerable groups.

As someone who works for humanity and justice, I have personally faced institutional pushback. At police stations and in official departments, I am often questioned: "Why do you, as a woman, take an interest in transgender people?" My answer is always the same: Because they are human beings. But sadly, we are still operating in a system that doesn't want to see. support, or empower them.

We must ask ourselves: How can the transgender community be empowered if no company, government office, or institution is willing to offer them employment? Without economic independence, they are denied dignity, respect, and opportunity. The lack of employ-

n 2020, the Pakistani authorities took ment leads to vulnerability, pushing many into a significant step by passing legislation unsafe and exploitative environments, where they are subjected to sexual violence, police brutality, and social exclusion.

In my research, I studied a presentation by moment of hope for a historically marginal- Kami Sid, a prominent transgender activist, which highlighted alarming trends. Many transgender individuals have been harassed, assaulted, and abused by police. Their complaints are era of inclusivity and human rights had begun. ignored. FIRs are not registered. Their exist-However, the optimism was short-lived. ence is criminalized rather than protected. When

> it is complicit in that abuse. So, what is the way forward?

Firstly, awareness and sensitization campaigns must be launched for police stations and all government departments. Officers must be trained to understand that transgender individuals are citizens with rights not criminals. Treating

them with dignity is not a favor; Secondly, the Social Welfare Department must immediately design a provincial development plan that includes skills training, micro-finance schemes, and job quotas for the transgender community. Inclusion should be both policy

Thirdly, we need more allies people who speak out from within the system. Silence equals violence. If we are truly committed to justice, we must not only defend those who are heard but

amplify the voices of those who are silenced. In closing, I will repeat what should be obvious but is often forgotten: Transgender individuals are human beings. They deserve the same dignity, rights, and protection as everyone else. If we continue to ignore them, we are not just

failing a community we are failing our humanity. Writer is International Human Rights Researcher & Defender

Bangladesh HC Visits COMSATS University to Strengthen Academic and Scientific Cooperation

Naveed Ahmad Khan

Khan, High Commissioner of the Pakistan, visited COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) to explore opportunities for enhanced academic collaboration. He was accompanied by Press Counsellor Md. Tayub Ali and Depu-

The delegation was warmly received by Prof. Dr. Sajid Qamar, Rector CUI, ISLAMABAD: H. E Md. Iqbal Hussain along with senior university officials. During the visit, the High Commis-People's Republic of Bangladesh to sioner toured key campus facilities, including the Junaid Zaidi Library and the Centre of Micro and Nano Devices (CMND) among others.

In a meeting with university leadership, the Ambassador emphasized the ty Director COMSATS Secretariat, importance of strengthening bilateral ties through academic and scientific

collaboration. He noted that Bangladesh and Pakistan share deep cultural and historical ties and underscored the potential for cooperation in science, technology, and higher education particularly in the areas of Nanotechnology and Information Technology.

The High Commissioner was briefed on CUI's commitment to internationalization and its scholarship programs for students from OIC Member States, particularly Bangladesh. He appreci-

Nobel Laureate Prof. Abdus Salam, and expressed strong interest in joint initiatives which will build people to people level bridges between the two brotherly nations.

Prof. Dr. Sajid Qamar highlighted recent MoUs signed between Pakistani

ated the vision of COMSATS' founder, and Bangladeshi institutions patronized by COMSTECH during a highlevel academic delegation's visit, and reaffirmed CUI's support for Bangladeshi students and researchers. He said that CUI will look forward to supporting exchange of faculty and and Pakistan. students with Bangladesh.

The visit concluded with a tour of CUI's advanced research centers in Nanotechnology. The High Commissioner assured his full support for fostering academic linkages and student mobility between Bangladesh



Iran-Israel War Exposes the Reality: Zionist Regime—A Spider's Web Woven with U. S. Support and Propaganda. Majeed Mishki

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Cultural Counselor of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Majeed Mishki, in a significant and detailed statement, said that on the morning of June 22, 2025, U.S. President Donald Trump finally revealed the war strategy imposed by his administration against the Islamic Republic of Iran. He stated that after engaging in proxy warfare against the Islamic Revolution of Iran for the past four decades, the United States has now directly entered the battlefield in an attempt to force Iran into surrender and bring it to the negotiating table.



According to the Cultural Counselor, Muslim world. While this truth was the leaders of the Islamic Republic of not widely accepted across much of Iran have always emphasized that the the Islamic world in the past, over United States is not only the number the years since the establishment of one enemy of Iran but of the entire the Islamic Republic of Iran, it has

United States is openly confronting the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Majeed Mishki noted that the recent direct U. S. attack on Iran's nuclear installations reveals several important realities. Firstly, the Zionist regimewhich has long boasted of its military prowess—failed to achieve its goals even after a week of conflict with Iran, prompting the U.S. to intervene on its behalf. He remarked that it was already apparent that the Zionist regime, without U.S. support, lacks the strength not only to confront Iran but even to withstand Palestinian resist-

He further stated that the Zionist regime is, in fact, a "spider's web" fragile and built solely upon propaganda. Another critical point is that the

increasingly become evident. Today, United States blatantly violates interit is clear to the whole world that the national law and uses global norms have directly struck the occupying only to advance its own interests and pressure other nations.

According to the Cultural Counselor, under international regulations, Iran's peaceful nuclear facilities should never have been targeted. Likewise, it is impermissible to threaten the top leadership of Iran. Member states of the United Nations are also prohibited from launching military aggression against each other. However, the United States has trampled all such principles, demonstrating that it respects neither law nor any binding agreement.

Majeed Mishki elaborated on Iran's defensive capabilities, stating that the Islamic Republic has built its armed forces to a level that can confront the world's top military powers. The preci-

sion and strength of Iranian missiles regime's military, security, and cyber infrastructure in Jerusalem—and this operation will continue for as long as

He emphasized that nations around the world now acknowledge the legitimacy of Iran's self-defense, while the Zionist regime faces global condemnation. Majeed Mishki specifically praised the people of Pakistan, as well as their government, journalists, and cultural figures, for their firm stance against U. S. and Zionist aggression, calling their support commendable and worthy of gratitude.

The Cultural Counselor added that forces would soon withdraw from the last night, in accordance with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, the Islamic Republic of Iran carried out a and paying the way for peace, stability, lawful and legitimate retaliatory strike and mutual cooperation.

in defense of its territorial integrity. This attack was executed by launching missiles at the U.S. military base located in Al-Udeid, Qatar-demonstrating that Iran will neither tolerate aggression nor be intimidated by force.

Majeed Mishki clarified that this strike was not aimed at the friendly and brotherly nation of Qatar but specifically at the American military base located there. He affirmed that Iran remains committed to maintaining good neighborly and friendly relations with all its neighbors, including Qatar, and continues to adhere to the principles of peaceful coexistence.

He expressed hope that foreign West Asian region, allowing regional nations to determine their own destiny

Celebrating the Int'l Day of the Romanian Blouse for the First Time in Islamabad

B Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of Romania in Islamabad proudly organized, for the first time in Pakistan, the celebration of the International Day of the Romanian Blouse on 24 June, bringing together members of the Romanian community, representatives of the diplomatic corps, and distinguished Pakistani guests.

Held in the spirit of cultural appreciation and friendship, the event highlighted the timeless beauty of the Romanian traditional blouse, known as the ie, a symbol of national identity and artistic heritage. Guests were invited to wear traditional blouses and garments not only from Romania but from various cultures around the world, underlining the universal power of folk art to connect people beyond borders

The celebration included an exhibition of authentic Romanian blouses, many handmade and passed down through generations, as well as traditional music and culinary delights. Attendees had the opportunity to taste Romanian dishes and drinks, experiencing the richness of Romania's rural traditions and hospitality.

Ambassador Dan Stoenescu empha- international community."



sized"The Romanian blouse is more than a piece of clothing. It is a cultural treasure, a bridge between past and present, and a celebration of women's creativity and resilience. By sharing this tradition in Islamabad, we celebrate both our identity and our friendship In his welcoming remarks, H. E. with the people of Pakistan and the

nian Blouse, marked each year on and Asia. 24 June, coincides with Sânziene, a midsummer Romanian folk celebraof Romanian heritage, with events held worldwide.

The International Day of the Roma- in cities across Europe, the Americas,

The Embassy's event in Islamabad adds Pakistan to the growing list of tion with deep roots in pre-Christian countries where the Romanian ie is traditions. Initiated by the cultural honored, strengthening the cultural movement La Blouse Roumaine, this ties and mutual understanding day has grown into a global celebration between Romania and its partners

Turbat Youth Trained in Peacebuilding, CVE Strategies, and Online Safety by HRDN

News Desk

TURBAT: The Human Resource Development Network (HRDN) conducted a comprehensive fourday youth training program in Turbat under its flagship Youth Engagement and Resilience Initiative (YERI)

This initiative aimed to enhance the capacities of young individuals to prevent and counter violent extremism (PVE/CVE).

YERI is funded by the Euro-National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The training was aimed at exploring PVE and CVE Strategies focused on building awareness around violent extremism, exploring its root causes,

become proactive peace ambassadors within their communities. The participants engaged in critical thinking exercises, discussions, and scenario-based learning tailored to their specific contexts.

The training was also dedicated to hands-on engagement with an innovative E-learning platform. This E-learning platform provided selfguided modules covering essential topics such as positive thinking, interfaith harmony, diversity and inclusion, pean Union and supported by the responsible internet usage, and strategies for ensuring accuracy in online

> Notably, the platform empowered users to report hate speech and other forms of violent content encountered online, aligning with international efforts to combat online hate speech

to digital safety. Zulqarnain a participant of the training said "Today's youth can not only raise their voices through social media, but also play a vital role in shaping a peaceful society.

We must avoid hateful content and false information, and instead spread the message of moderation, tolerance, and peace". He emphasized that young people should use social media to promote education, harmony, and awareness. Naaila Rafiq a participant from Baluchistan said that extremism doesn't just come from weapons; it also originates from hateful ideas.

We must promote tolerance, positive thinking, and dialogue in our words, posts, and social media behavior. Young people should use social media to further education, harmony, and awareness. Anees-ur-

and equipping youth with tools to and promoting a proactive approach Rehman, resource person for the YERI training emphasized that countering violent extremism requires a proactive, inclusive approach addressing root causes like marginalization, misinformation, and lack of opportunity.

He highlighted that extremism thrives in environments of fear, ignorance, and exclusion, making education, dialogue, and community engagement essential components of the response.

The Human Resource Development Network (HRDN) is a membership-based network comprising national and international NGOs and individual professionals. Established to promote sustainable development, HRDN empowers its members by offering opportunities for capacity building, networking, and knowledge-sharing.

Foreign Secretary Amb Amna Baloch honours Women in Diplomacy' on Int'l Day

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Foreign Secretary, Ambassador Amna Baloch on Tuesday, in a tribute marking the International Day for Women in Diplomacy, extended her warm greetings to women



diplomats around the world and especially acknowledged the achievements of Pakistani women serving in foreign missions.

In a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Foreign Secretary praised the "dedication and excellence" of female diplomats and highlighted their increasingly prominent role in shaping global affairs "Across continents, women lead high-level diplomacy, foster under-

standing, and drive peace, development, and cooperation," she said. The Foreign Secretary emphasized that women are not only participating in but actively leading foreign policy efforts, negotiations, and international dialogue. Pakistan, she noted, takes pride in its expanding cadre of women

in the Foreign Service. "Skilled professionals embodying our values with clarity and confidence," they reflect the nation's progress toward gender inclusion and balance in the diplomatic sphere.

Reaffirming her commitment to gender equity, the Foreign Secretary said she would continue to build frameworks for the recruitment, retention, and advancement of women in diplomacy. "In a world facing complex challenges, women's contributions to diplomacy are indispensable," she asserted.

In her call to action, she urged the international community to celebrate women's essential role in fostering a peaceful, just global order.

Free Medical Camp in degri (Sindh) Organized by Hamdard Foundation Pakistan

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: A free medical camp was organized by Hamdard Foundation Pakistan at the Foundation Assisted Khan Public School in Digri (Sindh) under the guidance of Ms. Sadia Rashid, President of Hamdard Foundation Paki-



stan. During the camp, hundreds of patients from Digri received free medical check-ups and were provided with medicines by Hamdard. This free medical initiative greatly benefited the local community,

especially the underprivileged, needy, and ill individuals. On this occasion, qualified practitioners from Hamdard — Hakim Muhammad Arsalan, Hakim Muhammad Irfan, and Hakim Muhammad Asim rendered their medical services.

As part of this relief effort, mosquito nets were also distributed among poor families to help prevent dengue and other mosquito-borne

Mr. Shafi Muhammad Dars, the operator of Foundation Assisted Khan Public School, expressed his gratitude to Hamdard Foundation, stating that the organization of this free medical camp is a shining example of selfless humanitarian service. The local residents of Digri (Sindh) also highly appreciated Hamdard's noble initiative and offered prayers for the organization's continued growth and success.

5000

Wednesday, June 25, 2025



Index Fluctuation		
Pakistan: PSX 1	00-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close	
122,246.63	116,167.47	
Day's High	Day's Low	
122,725.21	120,369.53	
Index Value	Change	
27,117,196,677	+6079.16	
Percentage	Time	
+5.23%	24 Jun, 2025 4:30 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
8,758.99	+0.95	
Percentage	Time	
+0.011%	24 Jun, 4:35 pm	

T U.U11/0	GMT+1	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Avera		
Index Value	Change	
43,079.82	+498.04	
Percentage	Time	
+1.17%	24 Jun, 1:12 pm GMT-4	

	GIVI I	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Avera		
Index Value	Change	
38,790.56	+436.47	
Percentage	Time	
+1.14%	24 Jun, 3:45 pm GMT+9	

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	183	188
Bahrain Dinar	752.6	761.6
Canadian Dollar	205.5	210.5
China Yuan	39.09	39.49
Danish Krone	43.36	43.76
Euro	329.5	332
Hong Kong Dollar	35.76	36.11
Indian Rupee	3.16	3.25
Japanese Yen	1.93	2.03
Kuwaiti Dinar	919.3	929.3
Malaysian Ringgit	66.12	66.72
NewZealand \$	167.11	169.11
Norwegians Krone	27.77	28.07
Omani Riyal	737.5	746.5
Qatari Riyal	77.19	77.89
Saudi Riyal	75.85	76.3
Singapore Dollar	218.76	220.76
Swedish Korona	29.03	29.33
Swiss Franc	343.9	346.65
Thai Bhat	8.49	8.64
U.A.E Dirham	77.55	78.05
UK Pound Sterling	385.25	388.10
US Dollar	284.75	285.8

FPCCI & SECP Join Forces to Promote Corporatization and Economic Growth in Pakistan

Example 2 Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) jointly organized an awareness seminar titled "Unlocking Economic Growth through Corporatization" at the FPCCI Regional Office in Lahore. The seminar aimed to promote corporatization, enhance regulatory compliance, and improve the ease of doing business in Pakistan.

Key speakers, including Mr. Muzzafar Ahmed Mirza, Commissioner of the Licensing & Registration Division, SECP, and Mr. Mujtaba Ahmed Lodhi, Commissioner, SECP, delivered comprehensive briefings on SECP's efforts to strengthen corporatization and support business growth.

Mr. Mujtaba Ahmed Lodhi emphasized the pivotal role of insurance in fostering financial inclusion, particularly for women. He highlighted the impact of initiatives such as BISP micro-insurance and digital micro-policies, which currently safeguard millions. He urged the business community to integrate insurance into their operations to enhance resilience and empower their enterprises.

The seminar provided a valuable platform for discussion and knowledge-sharing among prominent members of the business community, consultants, and representatives from various chambers of commerce. Mr. Shahzad Afzal, Registrar of Companies, presented an in-depth overview of the benefits of incorporation, underscoring its significance in economic development.

FPCCI representatives, including Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, and Mr. S. M. Tanveer, Patron-in-Chief FPCCI, commended SECP's initiatives to improve Pakistan's business climate. Interactive sessions allowed participants to engage with speakers and seek clarifications on corporatization and regulatory compliance.

SBP Governor Commends SICPA's Readiness for Launch of Pakistan's New Banknote Series

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Jameel Ahmad, Governor State Bank of Pakistan, expressed his satisfaction at SICPA's preparedness for the launch of Pakistan's new banknote series.

He conveyed his appreciation during a recent

visit to the offices of SICPA Inks Pakistan (Pvt.) Ullah, Deputy Governor, SBP; Arshad Bhatti, Principal Staff Officer to the Governor, SBP.

Ltd during which he led a high level SBP dele-SICPA Inks Pakistan (Pvt.) Ltd., warmly gation. He was accompanied by Mr. Saleem received the esteemed guests. During the visit, a symbol of SICPA's commitment to environthe delegation was led through the various steps Managing Director, Pakistan Security Printing of ink production and other security features commemorating the occasion and reinforcing Corporation (PSPC); and Aqeel Ashraf Rana, of the bank notes highlighting the company's the strong collaboration between SICPA and three decades of dedicated service and unwa-

Mr. Rizwan Butt, Managing Director of vering commitment to quality and innovation.

The visit concluded with a tree plantation as mental sustainability and a group photograph, the State Bank of Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: H.E. Alisher Tukhtaev, Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, calls on



Meezan Bank and IBA-CEIF Develop Future Islamic Finance Leaders



Example 2 Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Meezan Bank, Pakistan's Premier Islamic bank, has successfully concluded the second batch of 'Meezan Justuju - A Quest for Islamic Finance Leaders!', an educational initiative conducted in collaboration with the IBA Centre for Excellence in Islamic Finance (CEIF). As part of the Bank's broader CSR commitment, this program is designed to create meaningful learning opportunities for young graduates, equipping them with the knowledge and values needed to become future leaders in the Islamic finance sector. It reflects Meezan Bank's

on-going investment in human capital development by offering a structured pathway into the Islamic finance industry through specialized training and mentor-

The graduation ceremony for Batch 2 was held in Karachi and was attended by senior representatives from Meezan Bank, including Mr. Shayan Baig-Deputy Head of Shariah Compliance and Mr. Arsalan Ahmed Khan-Head of Talent Acquisition and Digital HR Solutions. Prior to this, certificate distribution ceremonies were held in Lahore and Islamabad to recognize and celebrate the achievements of the

Islamic banking in Pakistan has reached remarkable scale, with a nationwide network of 6,093 branches, an asset base exceeding PKR 11.5 trillion and a deposit base of PKR 8.4 trillion. This continued momentum is driven not only by strong domestic adoption but also by growing international interest, due to the sector's alignment with responsible investment practices and its appeal to value-conscious markets. In this context, Meezan Justuju emerges as a timely and strategic platform that is nurturing talented, values-driven talent pool ready to lead and contribute meaningfully to this evolving financial landscape.

Fatima Fertilizer Honored as **Sustainability** Leader of the Year

Spokesman Report

KARACH: Rabel Sadozai, Director of Marketing and Sales, Fatima Fertilizer, has been named the Sustainability Leader of the Year at the Women Leading Change Awards Asia-Pacific 2025, held in Hong Kong-a prestigious regional accolade that recognizes outstanding female leaders driving meaningful change across the Asia-Pacific region.

Rabel Sadozai's recognition underscores her exceptional leadership in transforming Pakistan's agriculture and fertilizer industry through sustainable innovation, gender inclusion, and climate action. Under her guidance, Fatima Fertilizer has become the first company in Pakistan to United Nations Devel- agriculture."

opment Programme by adopting the Sustainable Development Goals Impact Framework in 2024.

"It is an incredible honor to receive this recognition among such inspiring change makers from across Asia-Pacific," said Rabel Sadozai. "At Fatima Fertilizer, sustainability isn't just a goal; it's the foundation of everything we do to secure Pakistan's food future and uplift our farming communities, especially women. As the first company in Pakistan to adopt the SDGs Impact Framework in partnership with UNDP, we are committed to advancing key global goals, such as climate action, gender equality, and zero hunger, through innovation, renewable energy, water conservation, and officially partner with the inclusive, climate-resilient

TCL Introduces FreshIN 3.0 Air **Conditioners in Pakistan**

E Commerce Desk

LAHORE: TCL, Pakistan's No. 1 LED TV brand and an immersive lifestyle expethe official launch of its FreshIN 3.0 Air Conditioner. The event set the tone for a new era of fresh, healthy, and intelligent living with the introduction of TCL's most advanced air system

Bringing together a curated mix of lifestyle and wellness influencers, celebrities, and TCL's business partners from across Pakistan, the event celebrated TCL's commitment to transforming everyday comfort through innovation.

Guests were welcomed into a vibrant, forest-in-

spired space filled with greenery and naturethemed décor.

Majid Khan Niazi, a global leader in smart Director of Marketing home technology, hosted at TCL Middle East and Africa, stated, "The launch rience at AristoPolo, DHA of FreshIN 3.0 represents Phase 8, Lahore, to mark TCL's ongoing mission to enhance everyday life latest innovation, the TCL through innovation. In a time where clean indoor air is more important than ever, this product redefines what an air conditioner can do, not just cooling, but contributing meaningfully to our health and wellbeing."

> The launch reaffirmed TCL's position as a forwardthinking brand, continuously pushing boundaries in home technology with user-centric innovation. TCL FreshIN 3.0 is now available at TCL flagship stores and authorized dealers nationwide..

UBL and CashNow join hands for Digital Supply Chain Finance Solution

Example 2 Commerce Desk

KARACHI: UBL has entered into a strategic alliance with CashNow, a leading fintech platform, to revolutionize

upply chain finance. The agreement was signed recently at UBL's Head Office in Karachi. This partnership will enable CashNow to power a Digital Supply Chain Finance solution for UBL

customers to access early payments against approved invoices.

"United Bank is committed to fostering growth across all business sectors, with a strong focus on supporting SMEs,"said Mr. Abdul Aleem Qureshi, Group Executive, Branch Banking Group, UBL. "We are honoured that United Bank has entrusted CashNow

that will enable the bank's with this pivotal Supply Chain Finance initiative," remarked Mr. Saeed Iqbal, Director/ Co-Founder of CashNow.

This collaboration is a significant step towards advancing financial and operational excellence in supply chain finance.

With this alliance, UBL reinforces its position at the forefront of digital banking innovation, while contrib-



Pakistan's

by delivering scalable and solutions.

economic development goals technology-driven financial

The Spokesman

China lauds Pakistan's proactive role for peaceful settlement of regional security situation

on Tuesday lauded the proactive $\,$ and positive role being played by Pakistan at every diplomatic forum, including at the United peaceful settlement of the regional security situation through dialogue and diplomacy.

called on Prime Minister ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Shehbaz Sharif, and discussed in the Iran-Israel conflict, other

The prime minister conveyed Nations Security Council, for a his warm regards and good wishes for President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang.

The prime minister extended Pakistan and China, the prime

The Chinese ambassador his sincere best wishes for the successful holding of the upcoming SCO Summit. He China to Pakistan Jiang Zaidong regional security situation, acknowledged the ongoing particularly recent developments consultations between the two sides concerning his visit to China to attend the Summit.

Recalling the historic, deeprooted and iron-clad "All Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership" between

fully committed to continue working closely with China for the successful implementation of ongoing China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

projects.

minister said that Pakistan was key projects including ML-I, realignment of KKH, operationalization of Gwadar Port, as well as cooperation in agriculture, industrial and IT sectors.

The prime minister expressed Pakistan's deep appreciation In this regard, he highlighted for China's consistent financial

and economic support that had helped to stabilize Pakistan's economy and resulted in the improvement of the macro-economic outlook of the country. This, he added, was vital to the government's socio-economic development agenda.

Amb. Jiang Zaidong briefed the prime minister on various aspects of Pakistan-China bilateral cooperation and said that preparations had already begun to ensure the success of the prime minister's upcoming visit to China in the end of August 2025.

PM discusses Middle East situation with KSA, Qatari ambassadors; calls for dialogue, peace

跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The ambassadors of Saudi Arabia and Qatar on Tuesday called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and discussed the rapidly evolving situation in the Middle East, particularly after the Iranian attack on the US military base in Qatar.

"Met the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia today and discussed the rapidly evolving situation in the Middle East... Pakistan will continue to work closely with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for peace in the region through dialogue and diplomacy," the prime minister wrote on his X timeline after his meeting with Ambassador Nawaf bin Saeed Al Malkiy.

The prime minister conveyed his prayers and good wishes for Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, as well as Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia Mohammed bin Salman hin Abdulaziz Al Saud

Prime Minister Shehbaz also reaf- Arabia. firmed Pakistan's unwavering soli-



In the meeting with Ambassador of with the Amir and the people of Qatar

the prime minister expressed solidarity military base.



"We pray for the safety and security of

entire region," he remarked.

stan had always advocated dialogue and diplomacy as the only path to lasting peace in the Middle East.

Prime Minister Shehbaz also held a telephonic interaction with both the envoys on Monday night and expressed his serious concern over the reports of missile attacks on a US military base

He had urged that all efforts must be made to de-escalate tensions and restore peace in the region.

The Qatari ambassador thanked the prime minister for immediately reaching out to him after this "most unfortunate development" as well as for the expression of solidarity at that critical time.

During the telephonic call with Saudi ambassador, the prime minister reiterated his call for de-escalation and restoration of peace in the region.

The Saudi envoy also thanked the prime minister and agreed that Saudi Arabia and Pakistan must continue to work together and coordinate closely to ensure an early peaceful settlement of The prime minister said that Paki- the ongoing conflict in the Middle East.

Pakistan showcases culture, cuisine in Brussels

№ News Desk

BRUSSELS: The embassy of Pakistan in Brussels hosted a cultural evening titled "Culture, Cuisine & Couture of Pakistan" on Monday at Autoworld, located in the historic Parc du Cinquan-

The event brought together a distinguished gathering, including Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), members of the Belgian Federal and Regional Parliaments, ambassadors, senior representatives from the European External Action Service (EEAS), the European Commission, and the Belgian government, as well as business leaders, media professionals, and members of the and cuisine. diplomatic and cultural community in Brussels.

In his welcome remarks,



rich cultural heritage and diversity stretching from the Himalayan highlands to the shores of the Arabian Sea. He noted that Pakistan is a mosaic of communities, each contributing unique traditions in music, art, textiles,

The ambassador described the evening as a celebration of friendship and cultural exchange, and ambassador Rahim Hayat underscored the growing breadth Qureshi highlighted Pakistan's of Pakistan's relations with from communities affected by the Mohenjodaro were centres of plains of Punjab to the highlands

development, climate resilience. and people-to-people engage-

programme featured traditional music, a short documentary on Pakistan and a fashion show. The fashion show held particular significance, showcasing textiles meticulously handcrafted by women artisans



European Union across trade, garments were not only a testament to Pakistan's textile traditions but also embodied stories of resilience and continuity, linking contemporary craftsmanship to a civilizational legacy stretching back to the Indus Valley Civili-

Ambassador Qureshi reminded guests that as far back as 5,000 years ago, cities like



and textile produc-

Belgium, Luxembourg, and the devastating 2022 floods. These tion, exporting to distant lands such as Mesopotamia and Egypt. The spirit of that heritage endures today through the creativity and perseverance of Pakistan's artisans, especially its women.

Guests also enjoyed a culinary journey across Pakistan, and West Asia. with chefs flown in from Pakistan preparing a menu that promote Pakistan's tourism promote a positive and nuanced represented the country's diverse regional cuisines, from the fertile

urban sophistication of Gilgit-Baltistan. Signature dishes included aromatic Basmati rice, richly spiced curries, traditional street snacks, and Kashmiri tea. The ambassador described Pakistani cuisine as a reflec-

tion of the country's ethnic and

geographical diversity, shaped by

influences from South, Central,

The event also served to invited guests to explore Paki-

dors of Lahore to the Sufi shrines of Sindh, and from the ancient ruins of Mohenjodaro to the mountain festivals of the north. He noted that Pakistan is home to six UNESCO World Heritage Sites and countless experiences that showcase its famed hospitality, or "mehmaan nawazi."

treasures, from the Mughal splen-

In closing, the ambassador extended his thanks to key partners who made the event possible, including Murtaza Hashwani of the Hashoo Group, Fasel Jahangir of White Pearl Group, and Fawad from Al-Karam Textiles.

The evening concluded with a message of cultural exchange, resilience, and shared values. Through initiatives such as this, the embassy continues to potential. Ambassador Qureshi image of Pakistan while deepening understanding and connecstan's natural beauty and cultural tions with European partners.

Pakistani Defense Minister's Bold Critique: A Call for Global Accountability

Exclusive interview with Iranian official news agency (IRNA)

₿ IRNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistani Defense Minister, criticizing the Western world's Republic of Iran and stating that the International Atomic Energy Agency's performance is tainted with hypocrisy and selective approach, said: "Unlike Iran, the Westerners have destroyed the opportunity for diplomacy and are the cause of the beginning of the aggressions of the Zionist regime and the Unit-

agency) in Islamabad, Mr. Khawaja Zionist regime's terrorist attacks and of international laws. the US's aggressive crime against Iran's nuclear facilities, and considered these actions to be contrary to international negotiating table, because the Iranians

law, the UN Charter, and all humani-

He said: "I think the situation has escalated to a dangerous level, especially double standard towards the Islamic over the past few weeks when Iran has continuously emphasized the need for negotiations and participation in this entire process, and that the Iranians have never left the negotiating table."

Khawaja Asif added: Iran has never initiated the war, but both the destruction of diplomacy and the initiation of the war were carried out by the other side (America and the Zionist regime), In an exclusive interview with IRNA which led to the illegitimate aggression Bureau Chief (Iranian official news of Israel against the nation and land of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and this Muhammad Asif condemned the Zionist regime has committed violations

He stated: It is ridiculous that the West always wants Iran to return to the



did not leave the negotiating table, but have always demanded interaction and negotiations. Even when the Iranian Foreign Minister was negotiating with the European parties, another aggression against this country took place.

The Pakistani Defense Minister emphasized: Therefore, we must say that Iran's approach, despite the conflicts, has

gious values must be followed by the international community, and they must stand against Israeli aggression and rush to help the Palestinians.

He added: Israeli aggression against the Palestinians continued and now it has reached Iran. I believe that everything that has happened now has been planned and implemented by the Zionist regime and this is part of the Zionist conspiracy against its neighbors and other countries.

Khawaja Muhammad Asif added: The Western world, especially the International Atomic Energy Agency, is certainly very hypocritical and has a double approach; that is, a regime that is not even a member of the Nuclear

been very constructive and Tehran never Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and young in Gaza." sought confrontation. Iranians stand there is no monitoring and inspection with Palestine and this is never a crime. of its nuclear arsenals, can do anything Human dignity and the defense of reliand has the authorization to carry out any aggression and attack on Palestine, Gaza, Yemen and now against Iran."

He said: "All these countries are the targets of these deliberate and reckless actions of Tel Aviv, which are not held accountable by the International Atomic Energy Agency. I believe that it goes beyond that and they want to overshadow the region, especially to push the situation towards war, and the focus is more on the Islamic countries surrounding the Zionist regime."

The Pakistani Defense Minister added: "They (the Zionist regime and the US) are at a level where they can trample on all international laws, human values and traditions. They are massacring children, women, old and

Message to Iranian nation

At the end of this interview, the Pakistani Defense Minister told the bureau chief of the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) that my message to my brothers and sisters in Iran is to stand firm and steadfast because God is with them and because today all nations in the world feels the pain of Iran.

He added: Not only the entire Islamic world, but even in Europe, America and other parts of the world, everyone feels the pain of the Iranian nation; because this is a crime and a clear aggression against the Islamic Republic of $\widetilde{\text{Iran}}$ and these crimes will definitely be responded

Khawaja Muhammad Asif said that God will punish the aggressors, Iran will overcome this situation and the Islamic nation should also have faith in God.

The Spokesman

Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani in a meeting with Major General (R) Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Harbi



NA approves 136 demands for grants amid opposition protest

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Nation- affairs, and health. al Assembly on Tuesday approved 136 demands for Muhammad repeated calls for a vote count.

cover allocations for key a medical team from Poly-

tion, law, education, foreign

However, rupees presented by Finance objected to the clause-byclause approval process, Aurangzeb despite strong demanding detailed scru-

The approved demands sarcastically suggested calling ministries and departments, clinic, stating, "A heart attack

including defence produc- is likely just hearing the the opposition to count and Broadcasting Division, amount of these demands."

As the government pressed opposition forward, opposition members lawmakers, led by Leader of challenged the approval grants worth trillions of the Opposition Omar Ayub, process, prompting Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq to call for

opposition resistance and tiny and counts on each vote. members in favour and 32 During the session, Ayub against the proposed alloca-

However, the Speaker

members during individual approvals, triggering further and the Ministry of Foreign criticism from the opposition

Among the approved allocations, Rs1.093 billion was earmarked for the Ministry of The vote resulted in 116 Defence Production.

Additionally, six demands Ministry of Law, five for the Ministry of Education, and dismissed further calls from two each for the Information

Ministry of Economic Affairs,

Single demand approvals were granted for the Housing and Works Division, Maritime Affairs, Senate, Ministry of Health, Overseas Pakistanis Division, and the were approved for the Ministry of Planning, while the Railways Division received approval for two

BISP holds strategic meeting with HBL to address disbursement challenges

👺 Bureau Report

KARACHI: Dr. Muhammad Tahir Noor, Additional Secretary at Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), held a detailed meeting at Central Zonal Office, Karachi with BISP's strategic banking partner Habib Bank Limited (HBL) to address ongoing technical and logistical challenges faced during the Quarter 3 (Q3) disbursement cycle and to review and finalize operational plans for the upcoming Quarter 4 tranche disbursement through the retail network. Director General Sindh, Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Shaikh, Mr. Akram Bhutto, Director and other officers of Sindh office were part of the meeting. From the Bank Mr. Shaikh Umair Asad, Senior Product Manager, Miss Samreen Shamsheer, Business Head Tahir Noor emphasized the essential facilities such as beneficiaries. Key areas of grievance redressal mechaand Mr. Allah Nawaz, Clus- importance of improving drinking water, shaded discussion included system nisms, and real-time moniter Manager attended the on-ground service delivery in waiting areas, and seating readiness, cash availability toring tools.



meeting

transparent and efficient way arrangements are available

During the meeting, Dr. and directed HBL to ensure at retail outlets for BISP verification enhancements,

at retail outlets, biometric

Lahore High Court rejects PTI founder's bail pleas in May 9 cases

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court has rejected the bail applications of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf(PTI) founder in eight cases related to the violent protests and arson that erupted across the country on May 9, 2023.

A two-member bench led by Justice Shahbaz Rizvi announced the reserved verdict on Tuesday, turning down PTI founder's bail petitions in connection with multiple high-profile incidents. including the attack on Lahore's Jinnah House and other cases of vandalism.

The court had reserved its decision a day earlier after hearing arguments from both sides.

through Barrister Salman Safdar, sought pre-arrest bail for the PTI founder in eight separate cases.



These cases involve allegations of The petitions, filed on January 15 arson and destruction at key locations including the Jinnah House (residence of the Lahore Corps Commander), Askari Tower, Shadman Police Station,

and near Rahat Bakery, among others. The PTI founder has been directly nominated in several of these FIRs, while in others he was later implicated through supplementary statements.

triggered by PTI founder's dramatic arrest in the Al Qadir Trust case from within the Islamabad High Court

The violence on May 9, 2023, was

His detention sparked nationwide protests by PTI supporters, during which military installations, public property, and private assets were attacked or set on fire.

At least eight people were killed and around 290 were injured in the unrest.

In Lahore, demonstrators stormed the Corps Commander's residence (Jinnah House) and in Rawalpindi, they breached a gate of the General Headquarters (GHQ).

In the aftermath, law enforcement agencies arrested over 1,900 individuals linked to the violence, and dozens of cases were filed against PTI leaders and workers, including the party founder.

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11 Indian-sponsored militants killed in **South Waziristan**





ISLAMABAD: 11 Indian-sponsored terrorists belonging to Fitna Al Khwarij were killed in an intelligence-based operation in the Sararogha area of South Waziristan, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement on Tues-

The ISPR said that security forces carried out a successful operation, targeting militants from the Indian-backed proxy group Fitna Al

During the operation, troops engaged enemy positions with precision, killing 11 militants. An additional seven militants were injured in the intense exchange of fire.

Major Syed Moiz Abbas Shah (age of terrorism," the statement added.



37, resident of Chakwal) and Lance Naik Jibranullah (age 27, resident

According to the ISPR, Major Moiz was known for his courage and bravery in numerous counter-terrorism operations.

of Bannu).

He was leading the operation from the front when he made the ultimate sacrifice.

The military has launched a follow-up sanitization operation in the area to ensure the elimination of any remaining elements of the group.

The ISPR reaffirmed the armed forces' unwavering resolve to root out Indian-sponsored terrorism from Pakistani soil.

"Such sacrifices of our brave Two valiant soldiers were men only strengthen our national martyred in the operation, including commitment to eradicate the menace

President, PM praise security forces for successful operation against Khwarij



跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday praised the professional capabilities of the officers and personnel of the security forces for successfully carrying out an operation against the terrorists of Fitna Al-Khwarij, operating under Indian patronage in South Waziristan, and sending 11 of them to hell.

The president and the prime minister paid tribute to Shaheed Major Syed Moiz Abbas Shah defend the homeland, the entire and Shaheed Lance Naik Jibran-nation, including him, stood shoulder ullah, who embraced martyrdom to shoulder with their armed forces.

while defending the homeland and thwarting the nefarious designs of the enemy during the operation, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The president and the prime

minister reiterated the resolve to

continue the fight against the scourge of terrorism till its complete eradication. The president said that their

resolve to eliminate terrorist elements would remain firm.

The prime minister also expressed that in their unwavering resolve to

IRU to assist Pakistan in safe driving: Abdul **Aleem Khan**

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan was called on by Secretary General of the International Road Transport Union (IRU), Mr. Umberto de Pretto. In the meeting it was emphasized by Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan that protection of human lives is the Government's foremost responsibility and

his top periority. He stated that Pakistan will seek support from global institutions like IRU to reduce road accidents and ensure safer travel on Highways & Motorways. Highlighting a key challenge, the Federal Minister pointed out that the issuance of driving licenses without proper testing is a major concern in the country.

He added that while relevant laws and regulations already exist, the actual matter is to ensure strict enforcement. Umberto de Pretto, accompanied by his delegation, held a detailed meeting with Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan and senior officials of the Ministry of matters of collaboration.



Communications.

Secretary General of IRU Mr. Umberto de Pretto expressed willingness to work in Pakistan and offered several proposals for bilateral cooperation. The Federal Secretary for Communications, Director General of the National Logistics Cell and Inspector General of Motorway Police also participated in the meeting.

They briefed the attendees on departmental and operational matters. It was agreed that senior officers from the Ministry of Communications will promptly hold follow-up meeting with the IRU delegation to finalize future plans and