The Judicial Commission of Pakistan has convened a key meeting on June 19 at the Supreme Court of Pakistan building to review extension of tenure of Supreme Court constitutional benches. Judicial Commission meeting will also consider the criteria for annual performance review of High Court judges. Policy decisions under Article 175A of the Constitution also expected in the meeting.

Got about the

Etihad operates four flights to Karachi

Etihad has further increased its flight frequencies to Karachi Pakistan, with tickets now available. This expansion is part of the airline's ongoing commitment to provide guests with more 2025, Etihad will start flying four times a day on the Abu Dhabi \cdot

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Zilhaj 15, Thursday, June 12, 2025

www.dailyspokesman.net



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Daily Spokesman Vol: 19, Issue: 56

Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Called on

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of MNAs from PML-Q led by Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development



Govt slashes additional customs duties on 4,000 tariff lines to boost exports: Finance Minister

B Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: In a major step toward structural reform, the federal government has eliminated additional customs duties on 4,000, out of 7,000 total tariff lines, and reduced duties on a further 2,700, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb announced on Wednesday.

Speaking at the post-budget press briefing, Aurangzeb described the tariff rationalisation as a "major and important step" in aligning Pakistan's trade and industrial policy with global standards. The initiative, he said, marks the beginning of a phased plan to transition towards a simplified tariff regime, ultimately targeting more than 4 percent reduction in tariff regime in Pakistan.



"Overall, there are 7,000 tariff lines. Additional customs duty has been removed on 4,000 lines, and reduced customs duty on 2.700 tariff lines," the finance minister explained. "Of these, around 2,000 tariff lines are directly linked to raw materials and intermediary goods used by exporters."

Aurangzeb emphasised that the reduc-

help improve competitiveness in international markets — a critical requirement as the country seeks to boost its export base and narrow trade deficit.

'This is a structural reform that hasn't been undertaken in the past 30 years," he said. "From a reform perspective, this is a huge step, and we're committed to taking it forward gradually."

The government's broader goal, according to Aurangzeb, is to reshape Pakistan's tariff architecture in a way that supports industrial growth and integrates the economy more deeply into

global supply chains. The minister said tariff reforms were more than a fiscal measure — they mark a fundamental shift in Pakistan's economic model, aimed at dismantling tion in input costs for exporters would long-standing protectionist regime

and laying foundation for sustainable export-led growth.

This is not just about reducing duties it's about transforming the overall macroeconomic framework," the minister stated adding this sets the direction of

The reforms are designed to gradually replace import substitution with export promotion, a pivot the government considers essential for addressing Pakistan's recurring balance of payments crises and dollar liquidity pressures.

"If we want to structurally reposition the country toward export-led growth, we need to change very DNA of the economy," Aurangzeb said. "That's how we avoid falling into the same cycle of dollar shortages every time we try to grow."

Record PSX surge reflects investors' confidence in propeople budget: PM

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday hailing the record surge in the stock market to 124,000 points, said that the bullish trend reflected the confidence of investors and businessmen in the pro-people budget presented by the government on Tuesday.

The prime minister, in a statement, said that in the federal budget 2025-26, the government put no additional tax burden on the common man, and that the pay raise and tax reductions would provide relief to the salaried

"Alhamdulillah, the journey to national economic progress commented.

has begun. The people of Pakistan made immense sacrifices. Now, we all must work together to improve the common man's life," he remarked.

He also appreciated the government's economic team whose efforts led to the reduction in inflation, increase in foreign exchange reserves, remittances, and exports.

"Pakistan's return from the brink of default, the beginning of economic stability, and the journey toward progress is a miracle. This historic economic turnaround, achieved through the hard work of the economic team and prioritizing Pakistan's interests, will be etched in history forever," he

Pakistan rejects the remarks by the Indian External Affairs Minister



👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan categorically rejects the irresponsible remarks made by the External Affairs Minister of India during different media engagements in Brussels.

The discourse of top diplomats should aim to promote peace and harmony, rather than producing bellicose punchlines. The tone and tenor of a Foreign Minister should be commensurate with his dignified status.

For last several years, India

has been engaged in a malicious campaign to mislead the international community through a fictitious narrative of victimhood. However, India's continued anti-Pakistan diatribe cannot hide its sponsorship of terrorism beyond its borders, nor can it cover up the state-sanctioned oppression in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Instead of pointing fingers at others, India should introspect on its own involvement in terrorism subversion and targeted assas-

Muqam congratulates former FATA, PATA residents on continuation of tax exemption in federal budget



Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Federal Minister and President of Pakistan Muslim League (N), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Engineer Amir Muqam, on Wednesday extended heartfelt congratulations to the people of the former FATA and PATA regions on the continuation of tax exemptions in the Federal Budget

In a statement issued here, the $\,$ minister expressed deep gratitude to Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, cabinet members, and especially Adviser to the Prime Minister Rana Sanaullah, for maintaining the tax relief as per his request.

He said that the decision reflects the government's commitment to supporting the underdeveloped areas of the country.

PM Shehbaz to undertake UAE official visit on Jun 12



👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif is scheduled to undertake an official visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Thursday, along with a high-level dele-

gation. The visit reflects the deep-rooted fraternal ties between Pakistan and the UAE, which are marked by mutual trust, shared values, and close cooperation across multiple sectors, according to a Foreign Office press

A high-level delegation, including the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad and the UAE, deepen economic ties, Ishaq Dar, federal ministers, and other and foster multifaceted collaboration.

senior officers will accompany the

prime minister. During the visit, Prime Minister Shehbaz will hold high-level meetings with the UAE leadership, including a bilateral meeting with the President of the UAE and Ruler of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed

A wide range of bilateral, regional, and global issues of mutual interest and concern will be discussed during the high-level interactions.

According to the Foreign Office, the prime minister's visit will serve to further strengthen the longstanding brotherly relations between Pakistan



High-Level meeting on higher education held under Prime Minister's Chairmanship

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: A high-level meeting on Higher Education was held under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister, Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, here today.

The meeting was attended by senior minister Col. (R) Waqar Ahmed Noor, minister for Higher Education Zafar Iqbal Malik, and secretary for Higher Education Chaudhry Muhammad Tayyab. Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq emphasized the importance of investing in education for securing a better future for the younger generation. He noted that institutional reforms were essential for meaningful

He said that the present government has taken several key initiatives by which loss-making institutions have been transformed into profitable entities. Describing education as a key to sustainable development, the PM said,



to equipping the youth with modern education and skills". He reiterated that the coalition government's focus was solely on public interest, however it views education as a fundamental necessity for preserving national iden-

The state owned institutions, he said, must remain active to effectively serve the people."We have addressed systemic shortcomings and are committed to securing the rights of the deserving," he added. Earlier, Minister

for Higher Education Zafar Iqbal Malik gave a comprehensive briefing to the Prime Minister on the department's current resources, modern-day needs. challenges, measures undertaken to advance education, and the future

Welcome

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhary, Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, welcomes the Hajj Pilgrims came back



Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry President's immediate reaction to the Federal Budget 2025-26

Majid Majid

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Rehan Naseem Bharara, while expressing his immediate reaction to the annual budget for 2025-26 in federal excise duty on the construcpresented by the Finance Minister, said that he was very optimistic about 18 percent in the tax collection target his meetings with the Prime Minister has been proposed, but it was not and the Finance Minister that there would be discussions on the continua- He said that apart from some restriction of policies regarding the revival of tions on non-filers, no clear steps have industries and reduction in electricity prices and markups regarding produc- said that the government is trying to

clarified, while no package was given for exporters to increase exports to \$ 60 billion under Udan Pakistan. He appreciated the reduction in tax rates for the salaried class and the reduction tion sector and said that an increase of explained how this would be possible. been taken to abolish this system. He

tion costs, but this situation was not promote green energy, but 18% general sales tax has been imposed on imported panels. He said that we had high expectations from the current budget, but perhaps it can be improved through future amendments. Regarding the construction sector, Rehan Naseem Bharara said that there is a shortage of 15 million houses in the country. We had suggested that one house worth 10 to 15 million should be exempted the government has taken a good step by abolishing federal excise duty on commercial property, but no extraor-

dinary steps have been taken regarding agriculture and exports. He said that the weaving industry is currently doing well. He said that urgent steps will have to be taken to increase IT exports and develop the industrial sector. On this occasion, Senior Vice President Qaiser Shams Gacha and Vice President Shahid Mumtaz Bajwa, as well as former presidents and executive members, were also present, who, from all types of taxes. He said that along with journalists, watched and listened to Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb's speech from the National Assembly live on TV.

Azad Kashmir pensioners and employees protest in D Chowk, federal budget rejected

跨 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Pensioners Association of Azad Kashmir protested in D Chowk Islamabad the resolution of demands, thousands of pensioners and current service employees and women demonstrated in the scorching heat, rejected the federal budget, the call for the protest was held in the park of the Islamabad Press Club under the All Government Employees Coordination Council and All Employees Pensioners Movement, the protestors rejected the federal budget, the IMF-affected budget was rejected The protesters raised slogans, while thousands of protesters reached D-Chowk in a rally. Sirajuddin Barki, Chaudhry Muhammad Buta, Sharafullah Yousafzai, Arshad Khan, Sarmir Khan, Qazi Mahmoodul



Haq, Raja Muhammad Mumtaz Khan, Qazi Tatveer Hussain and others led the protest demonstration at D-Chowk and Press Club Islamabad. Talking to the media, Sirajuddin Barki, Chaudhry Muhammad Buta, President of Pension-

ers Association Azad Kashmir Raja Mumtaz Khan, Syed Nazir Hussain Shah, Sved Siddigue Hussain Shah, Qazi Muhammad Siddique Siddiqui, Qazi Tanveer Hussain, Retired Secretary to Government Mushtaq Awan, Abdul

Qayyum Awan (R) Secretary to Government, Ziauddin Gilani, Sheikh Jahanzeb, Raja Zameer Kotli and others said that the Pensioners Association will also protest on the occasion of the budget of Azad Kashmir.

Public welfare projects top priorities in KP budget: CM

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ali Amin Gandapur on Wednesday said that provincial government was set to present tax free budget for welfare of the people.

He said the budget prioritizes public welfare projects as per the directives of the PTI chairman. Significant allocations have been made for key sectors including industry, health, education, tourism, and digitalization. Funds have also been earmarked for the Peshawar to Dera Ismail Khan motorway project,



 $Highlighting \, a \, major \, development \, initiative, he \, stated \, that \, the \, ``Lift$ Canals" project has been included in the budget and it would prove to be a game-changer for the whole country. Through this project, he said around 700,000 acres of barren land will be brought under cultivation. The budget also includes funding for the construction of small and large dams to enhance water storage and irrigation.

The chief minister added that work was in progress on transmission lines, which would enable the government to provide electricity to industrialists at half the current price.

He further announced an interest-free loan scheme aimed at helping citizens in establishing their own businesses, thereby promoting self-employment. Declaring an educational emergency in the province, the chief minister committed to significantly improving the quality of education in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Civil Lines Police Station took action against the active gang



Majid Majid

FAISALABAD: SHO Civil Lines Police Station, led by In-charge Chowki Lorry Adda Muhammad Bilal Asi, along with a team, arrested a dacoit gang. The police team arrested Usman, the leader of a 4-member dacoit gang wanted in several incidents, along with his associates Munir, Mansha and Nasir Masih. Clothes worth Rs 350,000, 3 mobile phones, cash, 3 pistols 30 bore and a total value of Rs 750,000 were recovered from the possession of the arrested dacoit gang. The SP and Sahibzada Bilal Umar have said that the accused have been committing dacoit thefts in different areas of the city. Their arrest will reduce the incidents. Vigorous action is being taken against active dacoit gangs.

ADCG Zeeshan Labbha Masih visits to BHU at Chak No. 321

TOBA TEK SINGH: In line with Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's vision of providing quality healthcare to citizens, Additional Deputy Commissioner General (ADCG) Zeeshan Labbha Masih paid a detailed visit to the Basic Health Unit in Chak No. 321, on special instructions from Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naeem Sandhu. During the visit, the ADCG thoroughly inspected various departments of the health facility and reviewed the available medical services. He also examined the stock of free medicines to ensure their availability for patients. Speaking on the occasion, Zeeshan Labbha Masih said that Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has issued clear directives to ensure the provision of free and quality healthcare across the province. He added that all public hospitals in the district have been sufficiently stocked with free medicines to prevent any inconvenience for patients. He also urged the on-duty doctors and paramedical staff to treat incoming patients with compassion and professionalism.

Tehsildar Ali Abbas is a honest and hardworking officer

👺 Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: According to media reports, the name of Tehsildar Ali Abbas Bharwana posted in Toba Tek Singh is included among the good, honest and hardworking officers. He has taken action against Occupancy groups and government lands were reclaimed. Apart from this, Tehsildar Ali Abbas Bharwana also holds the post of Price Control Magistrate. Who is also performing his



duties in this position well. Ali Abbas Bharwana also inspected the shopkeepers regarding price control and imposed fines on the shopkeepers for charging prices above the official rates. Tehsildar Ali Abbas Bharwana adopts a good attitude towards the public in the matter of registry-O-Intiqal in his office and passes the registry-O-Intiqal after checking them calmly. Such officers are the pride of the department who selflessly serve the public.

Balochistan approves establishment of Climate Change Fund' to tackle environmental challenges

QUETTA: Balochistan government has approved the establishment of 'Climate Change Fund' to address environmental challenges in the

The decision, taken under the leadership of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti here Wednesday, aims to strengthen the province's capacity to mitigate the effects of climate change, protect natural resources, and promote sustainable development.

The fund is designed to support adaptation and mitigation strategies that address climate-related risks. Under the fund key areas of focus include conservation of natural resources, nature-aligned development planning, and ecosystem restoration through Nature-Based Solutions (NBS).

Chief Minister Bugti described the fund as a timely and essential initiative, noting that Balochistan faces serious threats from climate change. "This fund will enable us to take practical steps not only to meet environmental challenges but also to provide a healthier and safer environment for our people," he said.



Namaz Timings Maghrib

EMERGENCY

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Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindia	/
Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 &
& Rescue Services	4451122
Motorway Police	.9266044
Motorway Police92	70601-20

ENOUIRY

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9270831-5
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9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH	561111
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	litan
Corporation	020022/

OPF distributes Rs 15.2mln among 38 families of deceased expats

MULTAN: The Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF) has distributed financial aid worth Rs 15.2 million among the legal heirs of 38 overseas Pakistanis who passed away while working abroad.

In a ceremony held at the OPF Regional Office Multan, each family received a cheque of Rs 400,000. The cheques were handed over by Regional Head Manzar Hussain along with Deputy Director Muhammad Jawad. Complaints Cell In-charge Rana Muhammad Maiid, Superintend Muhammad Akbar, Assistant Welfare Officers Rana Ashfaq Mehmood, and Muhammad Riaz.

Addressing the event, OPF officials said the aid cheques were a gesture of support, though they could never compensate for the loss of a loved one. The initiative was undertaken under the visionary leadership of OPF Chairman Syed Qamar Raza and Managing Director Muhammad Afzal Bhatti.

Officials clarified that the cheques were issued only after thorough verification of documents and eligibility. They urged all overseas Pakistanis to ensure their registration with OPF to benefit from its support in unforeseen situations.

They also conveyed the OPF leadership's message that the foundation continues to assist overseas Pakistanis in resolving issues related to housing, land disputes, and asset protection in Pakistan.

Pakistan Reaffirms **Commitment to** Strengthening Labour Rights

Spokesman Report

GENEVA: Pakistan has reaffirmed its commitment to enhancing labour rights, including occupational safety, gender equality, and social dialogue, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 8 and national employment strategies.

This commitment was expressed by Secretary Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Nadeem Aslam Work programme team led by Director national priorities, particularly Labour Pakistan's keen interest in launching the to the United Nations in Geneva, Zaman

ILO Better Work Country Program Ms. Roopa Nair in Geneva, on the sidelines 113th International Labour conference.

Nadeem Aslam Chaudhary underscored Pakistan's appreciation for its ongoing collaboration with the ILO and the International Finance Corporation through the Better Work Programme. He welcomed the initiative's expansion in support of improved labour standards in the garment and textile sectors. He said Chaudhary at a meeting with Better the programme aligns with Pakistan's



under international labour conventions.

Inspection Reforms, the Decent Work second phase of the Better Work Country Mehdi, Secretary Workers Welfare Fund Country Programme, and commitments Programme in collaboration with the ILO.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Nadeem Aslam Chaudhary expressed Permanent Representative of Pakistan

Zulfiqar Ahmed, Joint Secretary for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Suleman Ghani, and repre-

Forts of Rawalpindi

ISLAMABAD: Professor Arshad Awan of the Lahore School of Economics presented his book 'Forts of Rawalpindi' to Mr. Isphanyar Bhandara, a passionate reader of literature on the history of Rawalpindi and the Potohar region, in recognition of their shared interest in preserving and celebrating local heritage.



Photo by Ramzan Mughal

No relief was given to the common man in the budget: Chaudhry Inaam

RAWALPINDI: Political and social leader Chaudhry Inaam Zafar said that instead of providing relief to the common man in the budget, already benefited ministers were rewarded, while the small increase in salaries and pensions of government employees in proportion to inflation has made the life of the common man more difficult. Budget policies will increase inflation, the entire burden of which will fall on the common citizens. It has already become impossible for the people to live before infla-



tion. If the government does the government will be unable not review its policies, then to handle the tsunami of the

Awaam Pakistan Party leader Chaudhry Inaam Zafar, while commenting on the budget for the financial year 2025-26, said that the common man was not given relief in the budget, while the privileges of ministers were further increased. Instead of increasing the salaries of government employees in line with inflation, only a ten percent increase is like a cumin in the mouth of a camel. The same injustice was done to pensioners. As always, promises were made to the public in this budget to make electricity

cheaper and reduce inflation.

Civil society raised alarm on anti public health budget

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: In light of the federal budget announcement for 2025-26, which failed to increase taxes on harmful ultra-processed products (UPPs) and instead imposed a levy on fuel—a vital commodity—leading health organizations and experts have termed this as an anti public health budget. They urged the government to prioritize public health over corporate interest and enact at least 20 percent federal excise duty on UPPs during the ongoing budget approval process.

Experts expressed concerns over the government's misplaced fiscal priorities, overlooking the rising NCDs burden caused by unhealthy diet consumption. "Ultra-processed products, including ice creams, biscuits, candies, confectioneries, bakery foods, chocolates and other packaged junk foods, significantly contribute to



the growing burden of heart disease, diabetes, kidney failure, and obesity in Pakistan," said Sanaullah Ghumman, General Secretary of PANAH. "Instead of taxing essential items like fuel, the government must take bold fiscal

public health."

Ghulam Abbas from the Pakistan Kidney Patients Association emphasized. "Public health must be reflected in fiscal decisions. The failure to tax UPPs is a missed opportunity to measures to tax products harming protect millions of lives. We urge the

government to reconsider and include a health-protective tax on ultra-processed products in the final budget stages."

It is worth mentioning that the total allocations for health in the current budget are 16 percent lower than the previous years. The civil society organizations raised alarm and requested government to increase allocations to health sector with revenue collected from ultra processed food and beverage products.

The session concluded with a collective call to Parliamentarians and cabinet members to align fiscal policies with Pakistan's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 3.4, which aims to reduce premature deaths from NCDs through prevention and treatment. The participating organizations reaffirmed their commitment to advocating for evidence-based, public health-friendly policy reforms.

Federal Budget 2025-26, Serious injustice to the People and Working Class of Pakistan



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Pakistan Peoples Party South Punjab President Makhdoom Syed Ahmed Mahmood, Senior Vice President Khawaja Rizwan Alam, Chief Coordinator Abdul Qadir Shaheen and Media Coordinator Muhammad Saleem Mughal have severely criticized the budget for the financial year 2025-26 presented by the federal government, calling it the worst injustice to the workers, salaried class and industrial workers. The leaders unanimously rejected the budget, calling it anti-people. They said that the federal government has once again ignored the PPP's proposals aimed at providing economic relief to the poor, middle class and salaried class. The PPP had clearly demanded in its parliamentary party meeting before the budget that the salaries and pensions of government employees be increased by at least 50 percent.

Makhdoom Syed Ahmed Mahmood clearly said that the PPP rejects the process of privatization which is tantamount to a conspiracy to paralyze national institutions. He demanded from the government:

The leaders said that the PPP has always been a representative of the workers, salaried class and the poor people and it will not accept any budget that makes the life of the people more difficult by benefiting only the elite. The party will raise its voice at all levels in favor of its demands and will continue to struggle on all fronts for the economic security of workers.

Federal Budget 2025–26 a Balanced Response to Economic Challenges: Sheikh Aftab

👺 Raza Nagvi

ATTOCK: Member of the National Assembly and Supreme Judicial Commission, Sheikh Aftab Ahmed, has termed the Federal Budget 2025-26 a balanced and realistic financial framework, presented under extremely challenging economic circumstances. He stated that despite limited resources, rising internal and external pressures, and economic constraints, the current government has crafted a budget that not only aims for economic stability but also reflects a genuine effort to provide relief to the common citizen. He appreciated key measures in the budget, especially the increase in salaries and pensions for government employees. However, he emphasized that more effective enhancements are needed in this regard and that he will present relevant suggestions in Parliament. Sheikh Aftab said that the present government inherited a deeply troubled economy, yet Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif under the wise leadership of PML-N leader Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif—worked tirelessly to put forward a clear roadmap for development through this budget.

Preparations Underway for the 7th Death Anniversary of Rasool Bux Palijo

B Abdul Ghafor Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Preparations are in full swing to commemorate the 7th death anniversary of Rasool Bux Palijo, a renowned revolutionary thinker and a powerful voice for oppressed nations and marginalized communities.

Leaders from across the political and civil spectrum have been invited to participate. In recent days, Advocate Vasand Thari, Central President of Awami Tehreek, along with Noor Ahmed Katiar, Senior Vice President, and Advocate Raheel Bhutto, met separately with key figures including Bakhshal Thalho, Federal Secretary of Awami Workers Party, Aliya Bakhshal, Roshan Buriro, Senior Vice President of Sindh United Party, social activists Noor Muhammad Bajir and Kashif Bajir, and other political and social leaders to extend formal invitations to the event.

Speaking during these gatherings, Advocate Vasand Thari strongly criticized the federal government's recently announced budget, calling it "anti-people and pro-imperialist." He accused the Shahbaz Sharif-led government of prioritizing projects like Bhasha and Mohmand Dams, for which Rs 32.7 billion and Rs 35.7 billion respectively have been allocated, as part of a broader scheme to cut off Sindh's access to Indus River water.

Roshan Buriro warned of ongoing encroachments on Sindh's lands and resources, while Noor Ahmed Katiar pointed out that Sindh suffers billions of dollars in losses annually due to not receiving its fair share of water. "Since 1859, Sindh has been systematically deprived of its water rights. Our agricultural economy has collapsed, and the Indus Delta has been destroyed by federal and Punjab governments," he stated, warning that the sea is now eroding Sindh's lands every day.

Thursday, June 12, 2025

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'No Hajj Without Permit' rule a cornerstone of excellence

audi Arabia has once again risen to the occasion — and beyond — demonstrating dedication and sincerity. The title "Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques," held by its kings, is not merely ceremonial but rooted in genuine conviction, love and faith. This is what we have consistently witnessed over the years, particularly through the extensive expansions and outstanding developments of the Two Holy Mosques and the sacred sites.

This year, the pilgrims performed their rituals in an atmosphere of faith and tranquility, supported by exceptional security, healthcare, nourishment, religious guidance and expert crowd management. Nearly 2 million pilgrims from all corners of the world moved in unity, within limited space and time, with dignity and peace.

The organization of this year's Hajj was widely recognized as exemplary by all standards. One of the key pillars of its success was the strict and precise enforcement of the policy of "No Hajj Without Permit." The effectiveness of this measure. along with tight inspection at the entrances to Makkah, proved to be instrumental in ensuring discipline, compliance and over-

As diplomats and representatives of our countries' Hajj missions, we were among the first to celebrate these outstanding outcomes, as they directly benefited our pilgrims and spared us numerous logistical and organizational challenges. Accordingly, we fully supported the measures undertaken by the relevant Saudi authorities — measures built upon years of experience, rigorous studies, diligent follow-up, ongoing monitoring and numerous events, seminars and conferences all aimed at improving services for the pilgrims.

During the Hajj season, the Saudi state — from its highest leadership, represented by the king and crown prince, through all governmental institutions and ministries, and even voluntary organizations and individuals - works within an integrated system to serve the guests of God. These collective efforts have produced deeply satisfying results.

As recall the message delivered by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, on behalf of King Salman, to the pilgrims in Mina. He said: "Allah Almighty has honored this country with the service of the Two Holy Mosques and their visitors — pilgrims, Umrah performers and guests. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has placed this mission at the forefront of its priorities, dedicating all its capabilities to facilitate the pilgrims' performance of their rituals with ease and comfort. With God's help and guidance, the Kingdom will continue to fulfill this great responsibility and noble service."

Ministry of Hajj and Umrah for its strategic and effective use of digital technologies in the post-pandemic era, which has greatly streamlined processes and saved time. We also extend our appreciation to the Ministry of Health for providing worldclass healthcare services — from minor ailments to complex heart surgeries — with efficiency and compassion.

Trump-Xi's 90-Minute Gamble: A Silent Surrender or Strategic Realignment?

n an X-post that barely exceeded supply chain. a hundred words, President 90-minute telephonic conversation with Chinese President Xi Jinping. While the statement appeared brief and deliberately vague, its subtext echoed far louder than the words conveyed. In reality, this seemingly hollow post symbolized a tectonic shift in diplomatic posture—less a show store nationwide, any of power and more a subtle nod to reality: that America may no longer be in the driver's seat of global economic and strategic dominance, at least not in its contest with China.

The call, notably, was initiated by Trump himself—an act that carries profound diplomatic symbolism. Here was a leader who, during both his presidencies, repeatedly condemned China for "plundering" the U. S. economy, decried the "unfair trade imbalance," and accused previous administrations of capitulating to Beijing's will. Trump once boasted that his harsh tariff regime would force China to its knees, expecting Chinese negotiators to flock to Washington, desperate for relief. But that fantasy never materialized. Instead, China absorbed the economic blows, diversified its global trade networks, and fortified its internal resilience.

This telephonic détente comes as the 90-day pause on Trump-imposed tariffs nears expiration. If reinstated, tariffs would strike a broad range of Chinese exports—including electronics, machinery, plumbing tools, and house-

Donald Trump confirmed a Macomb, Michigan, I see firsthand how U.S. market is an inconvenience—not deeply entwined U. S. retail infrastruc- a catastrophe—for Chinese exporters. ture is with Chinese manufacturing.

> nate from China With daily sales reaching \$5-6 million per disruption—through tariffs or supply chain blockages-could send shockwaves across the retail and logistics industries.

Qamar Bashir The broader implication is alarming. A full tariff regime would hike prices, shrink consumer purchasing power, and trigger layoffs from ports and warehouses to transport and sales. According to a U. S.-China Business Council 2023 report, U. S. imports from China underpin over 1 million American jobs in logistics, shipping, warehousing, and retail. While Trump's administration projects toughness, it's clear that economic interdependence leaves little room for bravado.

And China remains unfazed. During my August 2024 visit to a solar panel manufacturing plant in Shenzhen, I was told with calm confidence: "We'll redirect to other markets." That's not an empty boast. China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) now involves over 150 countries and 32 international organizations, making it the most expansive

Meanwhile, the U. S. economic Roughly 90% of Home Depot's tools, dependence is stark. According to the materials, and household items origi- U. S. Census Bureau, China is the third-

largest U. S. trading partner, with bilateral trade in goods reaching \$575 billion in 2023, and China supplies over 80% of certain U. S. imports in electronics, rare earths. toys, and machinery. In contrast, the U.S. accounts for only 12%

of China's total exports, per data from China's General Administration of

Trump's announcement of a new negotiation team, including a former U. S. envoy to Iran, signals a broader recalibration of U. S. foreign policy. It suggests that Washington is open to involving China in thorny Middle Eastern diplomacy—particularly in the Iran nuclear negotiations, now being quietly brokered by Oman, Egypt, and other neutral states. With China's status as Iran's top oil customer and major investor in infrastructure, Beijing's role could be transformative.

One telling sign of détente is Xi's invitation for Trump and the First Lady to visit China—something Trump likely long sought but never received during the earlier phase of his presidency. That hold essentials—integral to the U.S. economic integration framework in Xi now extends this gesture suggests

history. With buyers across Asia, Africa, a new diplomatic tone—perhaps not Working at a Home Depot in Europe, and Latin America, losing the of equals, but certainly of recognition. Trump, once determined to isolate China, now finds himself vying for proximity.

All this underscores a sobering truth: America no longer holds all the cards. While Washington continues spending-\$60 billion in Ukraine aid alone approved by Congress in April 2025—China is building infrastructure, accelerating digitization, and strengthening energy networks. While the U.S. wages wars, China builds roads, ports, and pipelines.

In the end, this 90-minute conversation may be remembered as more than just a phone call—it may be the quiet turning point when Washington recognized the need to talk with China, not down to it. As Trump's once-fiery rhetoric gives way to phrases like "great leader" and "great country," one cannot ignore the shift in tone. Respect-especially when reluctant—is the first indicator of acknowledged parity.

The upcoming rounds of dialogue will clarify whether this is a genuine turning point or a temporary pause in an economic cold war. But one thing is certain: this is no longer a zero-sum game. It's either going to be a rare win-win outcome—or a lose-America, win-China equation, with global conse-

Writer is Press Secretary to the President (Rtd), Former Press Minister at the Embassy of Pakistan to France and Former MD, SRBC. He is living in Macomb, Michigan, USA

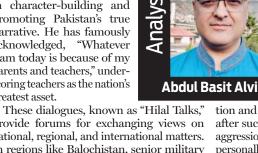


Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi. (Courtesy of Asharq Al-Awsat)

Pak Army's Civil Engagement Drive

ment initiative is comprehensive and targets a broad spectrum of society through various channels. Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and other senior generals frequently hold direct, candid interactions that go beyond formalities. The Field Marshal, in particular, has met ISPR's engagements with civilians—particu-

faculty members across universities nationwide, stressing the vital role of educators in character-building and promoting Pakistan's true narrative. He has famously acknowledged, "Whatever I am today is because of my parents and teachers," underscoring teachers as the nation's greatest asset.



provide forums for exchanging views on national, regional, and international matters. In regions like Balochistan, senior military leaders-including the Field Marshal-participate in grand jirgas (traditional assemblies) with tribal elders to discuss security concerns. counter foreign-backed terrorism, and ensure local communities are engaged as partners in peace-building. Such interactions highlight the Army's commitment to protecting both the people and their land while seeking community support to eliminate hostile threats.

Senior military officials regularly deliver keynote addresses at national seminars, think tanks, and public forums, articulating the military's stance on national security, economic stability, and regional affairs. These venues help disseminate the Army's strategic vision and its dedication to national progress. The direct involvement of the Field Marshal and other senior leaders lends substantial credibility and authority to these engagements, demonstrating with the public at the highest level, fostering connected young Pakistanis. The DG ISPR's he spoke about Balochistan's development

he Pakistan Army's civil engage- trust and shared responsibility in national frequent, direct engagement helps manage matters. These sessions also clarify complex issues directly from authoritative sources.

The Director General of Inter-Services Public Relations (DG ISPR) plays a central role as the official spokesperson and public relations head of the Pakistan Armed Forces. The DG with Vice Chancellors, principals, and senior larly youth and media—are vital for shaping

public perception and delivering timely, accurate information. The current DG ISPR, Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, frequently conducts interactive sessions with students and educators, especially following significant national security events. These meetings provide direct communication chan-

nels to dispel misinformation and reinforce confidence. For example, after successful operations against external aggression or internal terrorism, the DG ISPR personally engages with students, reaffirming the strength of the military and the resilience of the nation. He has fervently expressed that the Pakistan Army's strength is rooted in its people, referring to civilians as the "iron wall" and underscoring the importance of national unity. While not formal civil engagement, the DG ISPR's regular press briefings serve as a key platform to inform the public about military operations, security issues, and policy positions. These sessions are intended to be clear and transparent, often featuring in-depth Q&A segments with journalists, whose coverage then reaches a wide civilian audience. During and following Operation Bunyan Marsoos, these sessions have played a crucial role in conveying an accurate and detailed account of the situation. The DG ISPR's office actively leverages social media platforms to share information, highlight positive stories, and engage in realthe Army's sincere commitment to connecting time dialogue, reaching millions of digitally

narratives, build trust, and provide timely updates on national security matters. These efforts ensure the military's perspective is communicated clearly, countering misinformation and presenting the leadership as approachable and accountable. Similarly, commanders of various corps and garrisons regularly conduct interaction sessions with civilians, ensuring that civil engagement extends beyond the top leadership to local communities, creating a consistent and widespread outreach.

In various cities across the country, senior military officials from the Pakistan Army visited kev educational institutions, participating in special interactive sessions with teachers and students. These sessions were organized by the Corps Commanders of Mangla, Multan, Lahore, Karachi, Quetta. Gujranwala, and Bahawalpur, with the goal of engaging the youth on issues related to law and order, ongoing development initiatives, and the Army's role in national affairs. During these visits, the Corps Commanders encouraged students to harness modern technology, expand their knowledge, and use social media positively. They emphasized the importance of playing a proactive and constructive role in shaping Pakistan's future. In Lahore, the Corps Commander referred to Operation Banyan Marsoos as a reflection of the nation's unity, discipline, and faith. He viewed student-created artwork under the theme "Marka Haq" and stressed the significance of modern science and technology in light of the recent Pak-India conflict. Calling students the "conscience of the nation" and future builders of the country, the Corps Commander in Karachi affirmed that Pakistan would never compromise on its security, dignity, or sovereignty, emphasizing the crucial role of youth in securing a prosperous future. In Quetta, the Corps Commander held a dedicated session at the Quetta College of Medical Sciences and Nursing Institute, where

Nipah Virus Infection-I

Momina Shahid

ipah virus (NiV) is a highly pathogenic, zoonotic virus belonging to the family Paramyxoviridae, genus Henipavirus. First identified in 1998 during an outbreak in Malaysia, it caused severe disease in both animals (particularly pigs) and humans, resulting in 105 human deaths and spread. Although no further cases have been reported in Malaysia since 1999, outbreaks have recurred in South and Southeast Asia, primarily in Bangladesh and India. The virus is transmitted to humans through direct contact with infected animals, consumption of contaminated food, or person-to-person transmission. Due to its high fatality rate and lack of effective treatments or vaccines, Nipah virus is classified as a Biosafety Level 4 (BSL-4) pathogen.

Reservoir and Transmission

Fruit bats of the genus Pteropus, also known Nipah virus. These bats can carry the virus without showing symptoms, and transmission to humans may occur in several ways:

Zoonotic Transmission: From bats to humans via contaminated food, particularly raw date palm sap, which can become tainted by bat saliva or urine.

Animal-to-Human Transmission: In the original Malaysian outbreak, close contact with infected pigs was the primary route.

Human-to-Human Transmission: Documented during several outbreaks, especially in healthcare settings where close contact with infected patients occurred.

Due to these multiple modes of transmission, the virus poses significant risks to both rural and urban populations in affected regions.

Pathogenesis

Nipah virus enters the body through the respiratory tract and rapidly spreads through

the bloodstream to various organs, including the lungs, kidneys, heart, and most critically, the central nervous system (CNS). Once inside the CNS, the virus causes inflammation of the brain tissue (encephalitis), leading to severe neurological symptoms. The process begins with infection of the epithelial cells, followed by spread via blood vessels. The virus compromises the blood-brain barrier and infiltrates the brain, where it causes widespread cell damage, edema, and neuronal death.

The incubation period for Nipah virus infection typically ranges from 4 to 14 days. However, in rare instances, it may take up to 45 days for symptoms to appear. Some infections can remain dormant, manifesting months or even years later-a phenomenon known as viral latency, though this is not yet fully understood in Nipah virus cases.

Symptoms

The clinical presentation of Nipah virus infection varies from asymptomatic infection to acute respiratory syndrome and fatal encephas flying foxes, are the natural reservoir of the alitis. According to CDC and WHO, symptoms usually develop in stages:

Initial Symptoms Fever

Headache Muscle pain (myalgia) Cough and sore throat Vomiting and nausea Drowsiness and general malaise

Advanced Symptoms

Altered consciousness Dizziness and confusion

Encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) Seizures

Coma (typically within 24 to 48 hours of symptom onset in severe cases)

Some patients may also present with atypical pneumonia and acute respiratory distress,

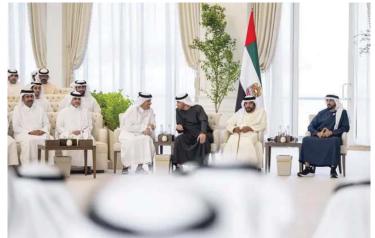
requiring intensive respiratory support. To be continued

UAE President receives Qatari Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs

ABU DHABI: President Saudi Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on Wednesday received His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State

During the meeting, which took place at Qasr Al Bahr in Abu Dhabi, the two sides exchanged Eid Al-Adha greetings, praying to God to bless both countries and their peoples with continued wellbeing and prosperity.

His Excellency conveyed to the UAE President the greetings of His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. Emir of the State of Qatar, along with his best wishes for the continued progress and prosperity of the UAE. His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed asked His Excellency to convey his own greetings to the Emir, expressing his sincere wishes for ongoing development for Qatar and



between the two countries and various aspects of their cooperation. They affirmed their shared commitment to strengthening collaboration for the benefit of both nations.

The two sides also reviewed a number His Highness and the Qatari Prime of regional and international issues of Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Ruler of Abu

Minister discussed the close relations common concern and exchanged views on recent developments.

Earlier in the day, His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani arrived at Al Bateen Airport in Abu Dhabi, where he was received by His Highness Sheikh Tahnoun bin

Dhabi and National Security Adviser, along with a number of officials.

The meeting at Qasr Al Bahr was attended by H. H. Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi; H. H. Sheikh Tahnoon bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Ruler of Abu Dhabi and National Security Adviser; H. H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Ruler's Representative in Al Dhafra Region; H. H. Sheikh Saifbin Mohammed Al Nahyan; H. H. Sheikh Nahyan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Zayed Charitable and Humanitarian Foundation; H. H. Lt. General Sheikh Saifbin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior; H. H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Chairman of the Presidential Court for Special Affairs; Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence: Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Tahnoun Al Nahyan, Adviser to the UAE Presidential; along with a number of ministers and senior officials.

WHO announces mpox remains public health emergency of international concern



News Desk

GENEVA: WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus announced that the mpox upsurge continues to meet the criteria of a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) set forth in the International Health Regulations (IHR).

The announcement follows the fourth meeting of the IHR Emergency Committee regarding the upsurge of mpox. The Committee, recognising progress in the capacity to respond in certain countries, advised the Director-General that the event continues to constitute a PHEIC, based on the continuing rise in the number of cases, including a recent increase in West Africa, and likely ongoing undetected transmission in some countries beyond the African continent.

Ongoing operational challenges in responding to the event, including concerning surveillance and diagnostics, as well as a lack of funding make prioritizing response interventions challenging and require continued international support.

The upsurge of mpox in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its spread to neighbouring countries was first determined to be a public health emergency of international concern by the Director-General on 14 August 2024. Since then, the Emergency Committee has met on three additional occasions, each time advising the Director-General that the event continues to constitute a PHEIC.

Illegal Occupation

Statement made by Ambassador of Pakistan to France, Mumtaz Zahra Baloch at the Third United Nations Ocean Conference being held in Nice, France on Wednesday.



Uzbekistan - Slovakia: On the way to further strengthen friendship

Mews Desk

TASHKENT: The Uzbekistan - Slovakia Business Forum was held in Tashkent within the framework of the Fourth Tashkent International Investment Forum. The event was attended by Shokhrukh Gulomov, Deputy Minister of Investments, Industry, and Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

This forum served as a vital platform to deepen bilateral relations, explore new areas of cooperation, and lay a solid foundation for further development of economic ties between the two coun-

The presence of the Slovak business delegation reaffirmed Slovakia's growing interest in enhancing cooperation with Uzbekistan. The participation of high-profile entrepreneurs reflects increased mutual trust and reveals significant opportunities to expand economic engagement.



between Uzbekistan and Slovakia grew significantly in 2024. Bilateral trade reached €72.5 million, marking a 48.7% increase compared to 2023 - clear evidence of strengthening economic cooperation.

Slovak companies have expressed strong interest in strengthening and expanding their presence in the Uzbek market. Notable firms such as AZC, OFZ, Rokosan, and Matador bring expertise in automotive, metallurgy, infrastructure, agriculture, food production, and energy sectors.

Slovakia's key exports include tires, automotive parts, and metal prod-According to Mr. Gulomov, trade ucts, while proposed Uzbek exports to

Slovakia include rice, fruits (especially grapes), and garments.

Positive changes in trade include a 54.8% increase in Slovak exports, while imports declined by 3.5%. These trends pave the way for further growth in economic relations between the two

Such partnerships are critical in ensuring stable economic growth and unlocking long-term investment and technological exchange opportunities.

Uzbekistan remains an attractive hub for the region's investment, innovation, and development. Both sides expressed readiness to deepen cooperation, implement joint projects, and explore new horizons of economic partnership.

During the forum, several agreements aimed at expanding bilateral cooperation were signed. Participants also took part in B2B and G2B meetings, where they had the opportunity to establish business contacts and discuss promising areas of collaboration.

Kazakhstan, Slovakia share common stance on many global trends, challenges: Tokayev

Kazinform

ASTANA: Kazakhstan and Slovakia have explored the issues of international and regional agenda, President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev said it making a joint statement for mass media together with Slovakian Prime Minister Robert Fico, Kazinform News Agency reports citing the Akorda press

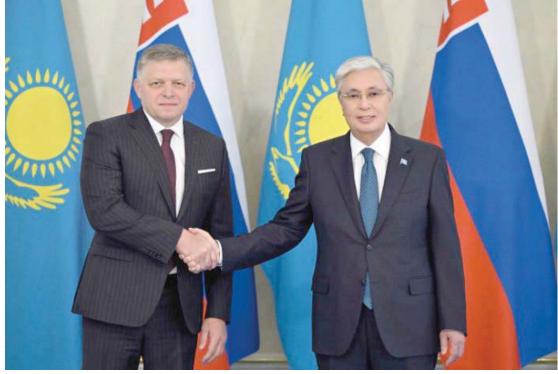
strengthening cultural and humani- for the entire mankind, develops and tarian ties. Special attention was given strengthens," Kassym-Jomart Tokayev to ensuring rights and social protection said. of the citizens of Kazakhstan working education. The youth of our countries

ties of Kazakhstan and Slovakia. I am trade wars. Both sides believe that all generation will be able to even more reproach our nations. Our relations have deep historical roots: during the World War II, Kazakh soldiers participated in liberation of Slovakia. In this context, Mr. Fico laid flowers to the in honor of fallen heroes. Thus, the Kazakh-Slovak friendship, the origins "We highlighted the importance of of which go back to the difficult times

According to the President, today's in Slovakia. We have also explored the talks also focused on international and prospects for deepening contacts in regional agenda. "We have expressed common concern over geopolitical are already studying in the universi- instability, global contradictions and

confident that namely the younger arguments must be resolved exceptionally through peaceful means. Our ties within international organizations are strengthening. In particular, we coordinate efforts within such structures as the UN and OSCE. We share similar stance on many global tendencies and Fatherland Defenders Monument challenges. We attach huge importance to multilateral diplomacy. Today's talks confirmed again mutually beneficial character of our relations. I am confident that thanks to joint efforts, the Kazakh-Slovak relations will move to a new level," the Head of State concluded.

Robert Fico highly praised the results of today's talks with Kassym-Jomart Tokayev. "I think we have made a big step forward. All agreements achieved today will be reflected mutually beneficial cooperation," the the President of Kazakhstan and Prime in Akorda.



in the appropriate contracts and Slovak Prime Minister said. Earlier, Minister of Slovakia had extended talks

'EU Ambassador Meets Federal Minister for Investment, to Strengthen Economic Ties'

👺 City Desk

Union's Ambassador to Pakistan, Dr. Riina Kionka, called on Federal Minister for Investment, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, in his office today to discuss enhancing bilateral economic relations and fostering investment opportunities between the EU and Pakistan. Ms. Ambreen Iftikhar, Additional Secretary, Mr. Mahmood Tufail, DG and Mr. Irfanullah Marwat from BOI while Mr. Jeroen Willems, Head of Cooperation and Mr. Husnain from EU Delegation were also present in the meeting.

the EU's longstanding support to Pakistan's economic development and highlighted the EU Headquarters.

Government's resolve on bringing macroeconomic ISLAMABAD: The European stability and improving major economic indicators such as fiscal balance, stock exchange performance and investment

Discussions were held on further strengthening the EU-Pakistan Economic & Business Relations and establishment of the EU-Pakistan Business Network, which engages over 400 EU companies operating across various sectors in Paki-

The EU delegation expressed Iftakhar, Senior Trade Advisor interest in scaling up this platform and informed that key dates for upcoming Business The Minister appreciated forum/investment sessions will be announced in the near future after consultation with

Mr. Jerome Willems introduced the EU's 25 Champion Companies initiative-a program aimed at supporting 25 high-potential EU enterprises in Pakistan that align with sustainable development, innovation, and

A strategic dialogue was held around Pakistan's efforts to position itself as a leading market for global investment, in line with EU's broader goals. The Ambassador informed that EU's contribution to global external FDI flows is 40%, of the total global FDI and Pakistan can avail a lot from this EU investment window through policy consistency and improved investment climate.

The Minister welcomed the EU Green Deal and expressed strong interest in aligning Pakistan's export sectors with EU

Green Zero targets. Ambassador Kionka stressed that Pakistan's alignment with green standards would make its exports more accessible to EU markets.

Additional Secretary, BOI, Ms. Ambreen Iftikhar, highlighted the progress made in respect of Regulatory Reforms, Asaan Karobar Legislation and sought more regular engagement and partnership with EU in SMEs, Gender Lens Investments and

The Minister emphasized on how these reforms are directly contributing to an improved business climate in Pakistan and urged EU side to avail investment opportunities in SEZs in Pakistan. Ambassador Kionka praised these efforts and stressed that regulatory efficiency is a key determinant in EU investment



commitment to deepening trade closer liaison and regular engage-Both sides reaffirmed their and investment linkages through ment.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

Index Fluctuation			
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index			
Current	Prev. Close		
124,352.68	122,024.44		
Day's High	Day's Low		
124,588.17	123,237.99		
Index Value	Change		
31,899,469,746	+2328.24		
Percentage	Time		
+1.91%	11 Jun, 2025 4:30 pm		
Europe: FTSE 100 Index			
Index Value	Change		
8,864.35	+11.27		
Percentage	Time		
+0.13%	11 Jun, 4:35 pm GMT+1		
USA: Dow Jones	ndustrial Averag		

OOM. DOW JUILES IIIUUSIIIUI AVCIUG		
Index Value	Change	
43,066.21	+199.34	
Percentage	Time	
+0.47%	% 11 Jun, 1:13 pm GMT-4	
Acia Pacifice Nikkai Stocks Averag		

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average			
Index Value	Change		
38,421.19	+209.68		
Percentage	Time		
+0.55%	11 Jun, 3:45 pm GMT+9		

Open Market Forex Rates			
Currency	Buying	Selling	
Australian Dollar	181.99	183.99	
Bahrain Dinar	743.43	750.43	
Canadian Dollar	207	210	
China Yuan	38.85	39.25	
Danish Krone	42.23	42.63	
Euro	322.5	325.75	
Hong Kong Dollar	35.59	35.94	
Indian Rupee	3.19	3.28	
Japanese Yen	1.97	2.03	
Kuwaiti Dinar	912.2	921.20	
Malaysian Ringgit	66	66.60	
NewZealand \$	168.5	170.5	
Norwegians Krone	27.3	27.6	
Omani Riyal	728.95	737.45	
Qatari Riyal	76.81	77.51	
Saudi Riyal	75.1	77.6	
Singapore Dollar	217.21	219.21	
Swedish Korona	29.09	29.39	
Swiss Franc	340.47	343.22	
Thai Bhat	8.4	8.55	
U.A.E Dirham	76.8	77.6	
UK Pound Sterling	380.95	384.8	
US Dollar	282 5	284 65	

SECP Registers Record-Breaking 3,609 New Companies—Highest Number in a Single Month in Its History

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has registered a historic high of 3,609 companies in May 2025, surpassing the previous record of 3,442 set in January 2025. The capital raised amounted to over Rs. 2.7 billion, with approximately 99.9% of new company registrations now processed digitally. This upward trend reflects growing investor confidence and the success of SECP's digital reforms, which aim to simplify business registration and promote entrepreneurship. The SECP remains committed to enhancing the ease of doing business by strengthening its regulatory framework, improving transparency, and fostering an inclusive, investor-friendly corporate environment across Pakistan. This surge has increased the total number of registered companies in the country to over 255,000.

Private Limited Companies accounted for 59% of total registrations, while singlemember companies represented 37%. The remaining 4% included public unlisted companies, not-for-profit organizations, guarantee-limited companies, and limited liability partnerships (LLPs). A closer look at sectoral growth reveals strong activity across multiple industries. The Information Technology (IT) and e-commerce sectors saw the largest growth, adding 718 new companies. The trading sector followed with 506 new companies, while services recorded 447 new companies. Real estate development and construction registered 342 new companies, followed by tourism and transport with 237, food and beverages with 187, and education with 160. Other notable sectors included mining and quarrying (89), pharmaceutical (78), textile (74), marketing and advertisement (72), cosmetics and toiletries (67), engineering (62), and healthcare (51). Additional sectors contributing to this growth—such as chemical, transport, corporate agricultural farming, fuel and energy, Section 42, auto and allied, power generation, and sports and allied-collectively added 519 new companies.

Mobilink Bank's Inheritance Campaign **Shortlisted at Cannes Lions 2025**

Commerce Desk

digital microfinance Bank, Mobilink Bank's inheritance campaign, has been shortlisted for the prestigious Cannes Lions International Festi-The Lion for Change' category. The systemic barriers to women's inheritance rights in Pakistan by highlighting a long-ignored issue through data-driven tools and impactful storytelling.

Cannes Lions received over 251 global entries in the subject category, informed decisions in pursuing their

with only 28 campaigns making it to the shortlist. Mobilink Bank's Invis-ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's leading ible Heirs campaign has already garnered global acclaim by winning prestigious awards, including Dubai Lynx, M360 APAC Digital Nations Awards, and Glomo. The powerful val of Creativity 2025 in the 'Glass: video campaign sparked a nationwide conversation around women's Invisible Heirs campaign tackles access to justice and economic equity. It is complemented by an innovative Inheritance Calculator embedded within Mobilink Bank's digital app, 'Dost,' which allows women to independently calculate their rightful share of the inheritance and make

Aamir Ibrahim, CEO Jazz & Chairman Mobilink Bank celebrated the nomination, saying, "Invisible Heirs shines a light on an issue too often overlooked-women's rightful access to inheritance. Being shortlisted at Cannes Lions affirms the power of purpose-led storytelling to drive social change.

Commenting on the shortlist, Haaris Mahmood Chaudhary, President and CEO Mobilink Bank said, "Being shortlisted at Cannes Lions campaigns is a proud moment not just for us, but for every woman in



CANNES LIONS

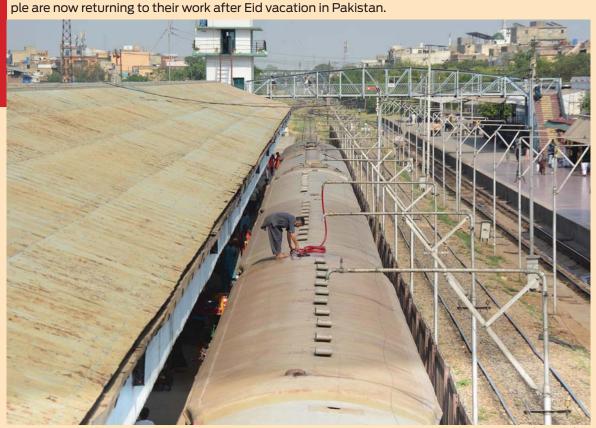
GLASS: THE LION FOR CHANGE

wanted to turn a cultural silence into driven creativity.

among the world's most powerful Pakistan fighting for her rightful a public conversation, and this recogshare. With Invisible Heirs, we nition affirms the power of purpose-

ling the water

RAWALPINDI: A worker of Pakistan Railway is filling the water in the tank of the train cabin as peo-



Women's Chamber Organizes Training Session to Improve Financial Affairs

👺 Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Sadia Ali has said that the Women Chamber is providing opportunities to its members to improve their financial affairs by organizing business information sessions. She will continue to organize today's informative and useful training sessions in the future, God willing.

She expressed these views while addressing a special training session on financial facilities available by banks and a ceremony to distribute membership certificates organized by the Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry Khanewal at the Gymkhana Club Khanewal in Multan. The training session was presided over by Founder President Sadia Ali. Sonia Jamil started the program with the recitation of the Holy Quran.

In this training session, Kiran Amjad, Assistant Director State Bank of Pakistan, Mufti Jamshed Aslam, Sharia Expert, Meezan Bank, and Tahir Mehmood, Bank Alfalah Khanewal, highlighted



the importance of avoiding interest and

The members of the Women's Chamber Khanewal were informed that the aim of this session was to provide detailed guidance to business women on how to obtain financial assistance for their businesses.

received membership certificates are as were present.

follows: Ayesha Shamshad, Bismillah Irum Tahir, Dr. Abida Zafar, Naila Hassan, Atiya Faiz Madiha Karan, Naila Bano, Salma Qamar, Rahmat Manal, Ishrat Saleem, Maimuna Firdous, Qandeel Zahra, Zartashia, Sahibzadi, Nida Sohail, Salma Qamar, Ayesha The names of the members who Shafiq, Farhat Sajida and Rubina Tahir

Federal Budget disappoints nation, especially youth: Haji Ghulam Ali

Commerce Desk

PESHAWAR: Former President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) and ex-Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali, has strongly criticized the federal budget, calling it a major setback to national progress and deeply disappointing for the country's youth, who constitute over 65% of the

population. In a statement issued Ali said that instead of with inflation, unemployment, power outages, and protection," he said.



overbilling, the government has opted to impose additional taxes, raising serious concerns about the direction of the country's development policies.

He condemned the imposition of 18% sales tax on the import of solar panels, calling it a dishonest and anti-public move. "How can regarding the federal budget we impose taxes to protect 2025-26, Haji Ghulam local industry when our own manufacturing capabilities offering relief to the already are not yet able to meet the burdened public grappling demand? First strengthen the industry, then talk of

World Food Safety Day Highlights the Importance of Research and Innovation: Chaudhry Zulfigar



👺 Zain Khan

MULTAN: On 7 June 2025, World Food Safety Day is being observed across the globe, with this year's theme being: "Food Safety: Science in Action." The aim of the day is to highlight the pivotal role that scientific research, knowledge, and practical measures play in ensuring food safety.

Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum, a distinguished industrialist, Chairman of SM Group of Industries, Member of the National Export Development Board, and Member of the Board

his views on the occasion: "We understand that food safety is not merely an optional practice-it is a critical element tied to human health, economic stability, and national development. To achieve this goal, scientific inventions, research, and modern technologies are being employed around the world. Science not only helps us identify the factors that render food unsafe, but also guides us in how to avoid them."

He further emphasized that the significance of this day lies in encouraging society as a whole to adopt scientific principles and standards at every stagefrom food production to consumption. Preventing foodborne illnesses, ensuring quality control of food items, maintaining hygiene standards, and using modern production techniques are all essential components for safeguarding human health and strengthening of Investment, expressed the national economy.

Pakistan Solar Association urges government to reconsider GST on solar panels in Budget 2025-2026

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The Pakistan Solar Association (PSA) strongly urges the Government of Pakistan to reconsider the proposed imposition of an 18% General Sales Tax (GST) on imported solar panels in the Federal Budget 2025-2026.

to reverse the significant manufacturing facility in Pakiprogress Pakistan has made in solar energy deployment over the past several years. The growth of the solar sector has not only provided affordable and sustainable energy options

for citizens but has also played a critical role in reducing dependence on fossil fuels and minimizing environmental

The rationale provided for this tax — to protect local manufacturing — is fundamentally flawed. Currently, there is no large-scale or This policy move threatens high-efficiency solar panel stan. The few existing units only produce low-wattage panels, which do not compete directly with imported technology. Hence, the claim of protecting local industry lacks



at the cost of sabotaging a and harm our climate goals,"

said Wagas Moosa, Chairman growing, green energy sector. "At a time when the world of Pakistan Solar Associais accelerating toward clean tion. "The imposition of 18% and renewable energy, this tax GST will make solar energy

merit and should not come will discourage solar adoption

Currently, the high cost of

this vital industry.

and damage the confidence of

investors and stakeholders in

barrier for many. Increasing prices further through taxation will make solar less competitive compared to fossil fuels such as oil and petrol - which are not only environmentally damaging but also contribute to Pakistan's rising import bill and balance of payments issues.

This move risks longterm damage to Pakistan's environmental objectives,

less affordable for consumers energy independence, and economic stability. The Pakistan Solar Association calls upon the Government to take a holistic and forward-thinking solar installations is already a approach, considering our climate commitments, current account challenges, and the urgent need for energy tran-

We respectfully urge policymakers to withdraw this proposed GST in the final budget and instead support policies that encourage solar adoption, attract investment, and promote clean energy growth in Pakistan.

CM Summer Games Inter-Division phase begins today

Tahir Amin Malik

Provincial Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Faisal Ayub Khokhar will inaugurate the Inter-Division phase of Chief Minister Punjab Summer Games at a colorful opening ceremony at Nishtar Park Sports Complex (NPSC) Gymnasium Hall on June 12

DG Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Khizar Afzaal Chaudhry shared this information while presiding over an important meeting at the National Hockey Stadium on Wednesday. The key meeting was convened to give final

touches to the arrangements of mega

The meeting was attended by Director Admin Dr M Kaleem, Director Sports Rana Nadeem Anjum, in-charge and administrators of all sports venues of Nishtar Park Sports Complex.

Addressing the meeting, Khizar Afzaal said that as many as 702 male and female athletes from across the province will participate in this phase of Chief Minister Punjab Summer Games. "The teams of all divisions will take part in march past during the opening ceremony. We are quite determined that several talented athletes will



emerge through the platform of Chief Summer Games. "The competitions of Minister Punjab Summer Games".

He said that best facilities will final phase competitions of CM Punjab from June 12 to 18, 2025".

volleyball, kabaddi, badminton and hockey will be organized during the be provided to all the participating event scheduled to be held at different players and team officials during the venues of Nishtar Park Sports Complex

Sana Mir Women's Cricketers ICC Hall of Fame Sports First Pakistani Woman in Cricket History

Asim Tanveer

ISLAMABAD: Former Pakistan women's cricket captain Sana Mir has become the co, suntry's first female cricketer to be inducted into the International Cricket Council (ICC) Hall of Fame.

Sana Mir is one of Pakistan's most successful women's cricketers who not only made a name for herself on the field with her excellent performance but also played a significant role in the promotion of women's sports in the country.

Sana Mir, who made her debut in international cricket in 2005, represented Pakistan in 226 international matches during her career. She is among the few

players who have taken 100 wickets and scored 1,000 runs in One Day International matches.

Sana Mir led the Pakistani women's team to gold medals in the 2010 and 2014 Asian Games and also won the title of number one bowler in the ICC ODI rankings in 2018. She has also led Pakistan in two World Cups and five T20 World Cups.

Along with Sana Mir, other prominent cricketers who have been inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame include India's MS Dhoni, Australia's Matthew Hayden, New Zealand's Daniel Vettori, England's Sarah Taylor, South Africa's Hashim Amla and Graeme Smith.

According to the ICC, Sana Mir is one







of the few women to have taken more than 200 international wickets in white-ball cricket. She is known for her principled

stance and social service not only on the field but also off the field. She has been a pioneer in raising her voice against body shaming, prioritizing mental health and helping those affected during the Corona pandemic.

In her comments after being inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame, Sana Mir said, "As a little girl, dreaming that one day our country would have a women's cricket team and standing with these legends who I considered my idols even before playing cricket, this moment was beyond my imagination."

She added, "I am incred-final.

ibly grateful to receive this honor and hope to continue working for the game as much as possible. On this occasion, I would like to thank the Chairman Pakistan Cricket Board Syed Mohsin Naqvi and my fellow players, coaches and family who have always supported me.

Former Pakistan women's cricket team captain Sana Mir was inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame in London on Monday. She is the first Pakistani female cricketer to be inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame. Sana Mir is the 14th female cricketer in the world and the eighth cricketer from Pakistan to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. Earlier, Pakistan's Imran Khan, Wasim Akram, Javed Miandad, Abdul Qadir, Zaheer Abbas, Waqar Younis and today, to have the honor of Hanif Mohammad were inducted into the Hall of Fame. The players who will be inducted into the 2025 Hall of Fame of the International Cricket Council were announced at a ceremony held in London ahead of the World Test Championship

RTP wants all stakeholders to invest in child's play

➣ Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Right To Play (RTP) and organizations around the world have urged all the stakeholders to invest in play as a key driver of children's learning and well-being, and to protect every child's right to play.

More than 224 million children face barriers to play and education because of poverty, conflict, and climate-related crises, said

Research shows that 160 million children around the world are working instead of playing or learning, and children today are 62% less likely to play than baby boomer grandparents. Losing these opportunities has serious effects on children's learning,

development, and well-being.

International Day of Play (IDOP) is a moment to celebrate the incredible power of play in children's lives and call for more investments to ensure that children can learn, develop, and heal through play. First established by the United Nations in 2024, IDOP raises awareness that play is not just a pastime – it's a transformational force in children's lives.

A new policy brief from Right To Play, a global NGO with programs in 14 countries, released days before IDOP shows that an investment in play-based learning is an effective, low-cost, and responsive way to boost children's literacy, numeracy, and foundational learning skills.

In Tanzania, the number of Grade 4 students who could read to comprehension rose to 98% in Right To Play- partner schools where play-based learning approaches were used, compared to 53% in non-supported schools.

"Play is powerful. Through play, children explore and understand the world, learn how to collaborate and empathize with others, build the confidence to claim their rights, and develop a lifelong love of learning," says Susan McIsaac, President & CEO of Right To Play International.

"For more than 25 years, RTP has harnessed the power of play to protect, educate, and empower millions of children each year to rise above adversity. We are proud to be one of the founding members of the International Day of Play, working with partners to give global legitimacy to what children have always known, that every child should have the right to play."

Similarly, RTP Pakistan organized early celebrations of Play Fest due to the summer vacation, holding events in Islamabad and Thatta on May 22 and 27, respectively, to mark the second annual International Day of Play (June 11). The events gathered around 1,500 children, educators, and partners to promote the importance of play in learning and well-being at both locations. Diverse activity zones featuring physical games, creative arts, traditional play, quiz corners, and cognitive challenges were set up, where children participated in their favourite activities. The Fest highlighted the role of play in education, child development, and mental health.

A special pledge ceremony saw educators commit to integrating more play into school settings. The event reinforced calls for greater investment in play, especially for vulnerable children facing poverty, conflict, and climate crises.

WTC Final: Australia fight back to leave South Africa reeling on opening day

LONDON: Australia's fast bowlers staged an impressive fightback to reduce South Africa to 43-4 on the opening day of the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) 2025 final here at Lord's Cricket Ground on Wednesday.

South Africa are trailing by 169 runs as their top order failed to capitalise as Pat Cummins' men seized control of the game in the last half of day one at the home of cricket.

The opening day of the WTC final was eventful, with 14 wickets falling as bowlers dominated throughout the day.

Mitchell Starc began the action for the defending cham-ions, Australia, with a trademark delivery that dismissed Aiden Markram for a golden duck.

Starc struck again in the eighth over, dismissing Ryan Rickelton for 16 runs, reducing South Africa to 19-2.

Wiaan Mulder, batting in the number three position for only the third time in his career, and captain Temba Bavuma faced a challenging spell against the precise bowling of the Australian pacers. Mulder's sluggish 44-ball six-run innings ended, courtesy of

Pat Cummins' delivery, while the incoming batter, Tristan Stubbs (2), failed to make his mark, which left South Africa tottering at 30-4 inside 20 overs.

Temba Bavuma (3) and David Bedingham (8) remained unbeaten at the end of day's play.

For Australia, Mitchell Starc took two wickets while Josh Hazlewood and Pat Cummins bagged one each.

Earlier, Kagiso Rabada's five-wicket haul put South Africa in a commanding position in the WTC final as Australia were bundled out for 212 in their first innings.

South Africa came back roaring after the tea break, breaking a promising 46-run partnership with the wicket of Alex Carev. The left-hander was bowled on the score of 23 by Keshav

Maharaj, triggering a collapse that Australia never recovered from. Rabada was the chief tormentor as he removed Skipper Pat Cummins (1) and well-set Beau Webster (72), which reduced Australia to 210-8 in the all-important WTC final.

Following the collapse, it was expected that experienced tail-enders Nathon Lyon and Mitchell Starc would steady the defending champions; however, Marco Jansen cleaned up Lyon for a duck in the 56th over.

Govt slashes additional customs duties on 4,000 tariff lines to boost exports, says Finance Minister

Continued from Page 1 tion and agriculture sectors,

The minister, touched on broader fiscal measures aimed at ensuring equity and sustainability, particularly for salaried individuals and mid-sized businesses. He noted that the government has offered as much relief as possible to the salaried class within constraints of available fiscal space.

"Different slabs, including at the highest levels, have been carefully considered. From both, my perspective and the Prime Minister's, we provided as much relief as the fiscal space allows."

He also pointed to the phased reduction of the super tax on mid-sized corporations as part of the government's commitment to improving the business climate. "Even if it's just a 0.5% reduction, it sends an important signal to the market," he added.

Aurnangzeb said the government announced a series of targeted reforms in the construc-

aimed at reducing transaction costs, supporting affordable housing, and ensuring credit access for small farmers.

Addressing recent concerns around construction-related taxes, the minister clarified that while overall tax liability has not been reduced, the government restructured system to lower transaction costs, particularly for buvers.

In a bid to promote home-ownership, the government is also prioritizing access to mortgage financing. "As important as the fiscal side is, access to credit is equally critical," the minister said. He revealed that, in collaboration with the State Bank of Pakistan, the government is preparing to launch a new housing finance scheme to enable individuals to build homes through accessible credit.

On the agriculture front, Aurangzeb described the sector

as a critical for economic growth. He clarified that additional taxes on fertilizer and pesticide were to be implemented last June, however government negotiated with International Monetary Fund (IMF) and got it delayed it till this year.

The minister said strengthened enforcement mechanisms have helped the federal government generate over Rs400 billion in additional revenues this fiscal vear. He noted that while international stakeholders had previously doubted Pakistan's ability to implement tax laws effectively, the government has now demonstrated that meaningful enforcement is possible.

He said, tax-to-GDP ratio was projected to reach 10.4% this year and to 10.9% in FY2025-26. As part of the broader reform agenda, the government is preparing to move forward with a legislative push, engaging both houses of Parliament to intro-

duce amendments, aimed at strengthening tax enforcement. Aurangzeb emphasized that legal backing would be critical to institutionalizing compliance and sustaining revenue growth.

To a question, the minister said the increases in salaries and pensions were directly linked to the headline inflation, Consumer Price Index (CPI), ensuring adjustments reflect inflationary

He reaffirmed the government's commitment to agriculture as the central engine of economic growth, with a particular focus on dairy and livestock, which account for 60% of the sector's GDP. "Agriculture has been, and will remain, the backbone of our economy," he said, adding that greater federal policy coordination is needed on devolved subjects like seed technology, mechanization, and agri-financing.

On the fiscal front, he reported

a modest 1.9% rise in government expenditure, crediting prudent financial management. He said, despite inflation at 7.5%, the government managed to contain subsidies and reduce debt servicing, while selectively increasing spending where necessary for national priorities, Aurangzeb said.

In a bid to bring Pakistan's vast informal economy into tax net, the federal government is moving decisively to document the estimated over Rs 9.4 trillion cash economy through digitalization

and targeted regulatory reforms. Responding to a question, Aurangzeb stated that the government was fully committed to transitioning towards a digital economy. "We are taking concrete steps to reduce reliance on cash and promote a formalized, technology-driven ecosystem," he

As part of the effort, a domestic e-commerce framework has been prepared to make the first install-

developed to regulate the local ment payment of \$500 million digital market. A simplified tax on Euro bonds due in September regime has been introduced for small businesses and SMEs, operating through online plat-

Under the new policy, such businesses will be required minimal 0.25% tax based on their mode of digital payment. to apply to online purchases, aligning digital and traditional commerce.

In response to a question, the finance minister said that the government has imposed 18% General Sales Tax (GST) on import of solar power plants as part of its strategy to support and incentivise local solar panel manufacturing.

Post-Budget-Repayment.

To another question, the minister said the government was

this year. The second installment was scheduled for March - April next year, adding the government was fully equipped to manage its external financing obligations.

He also announced the launch to register for a National Tax of Pakistan's inaugural Panda Number (NTN) and pay a Bond issuance later this year. The government, he said, is working to secure credit enhance-Standard sales tax will continue ment through the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), a process currently underway.

Highlighting the importance of diversifying trade and investment avenues, Senator Aurangzeb emphasized the government's commitment to expanding access to international financial markets. "With our improving international credit ratings, we aim to access the Euro and US dollar bond markets by calendar year 2026," he said.

The Spokesman

Meeting ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf at Naval Headquarters, on Wednesday.

United States terms Pakistan an 'exceptional counterterrorism partner'

Agencies

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has emerged as an exceptional partner in the global fight against terrorism, said General Michael Erik Kurilla, head of the United States Central Command (CENTCOM), during a testimony before the US Senate Armed Servic-

edged Pakistan's active and positive role in counterterrorism operations, stating that the international community recognizes its contributions to



He highlighted the capture ational strength appears to and extradition of Jaafar, the mastermind behind the 2021 Abbey Gate bombing, as a major success enabled by Pakistani intelligence.

"Following Jaafar's arrest, Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff, Field Marshal Asim Munir, personally informed us, reflecting the depth of our cooperation," said Kurilla.

He added that Pakistan continues to target ISIS-K through limited but effective intelligence sharing.

General Kurilla said that ISIS-K remains active along border, but the group's oper-

be weakening due to recent

"Since early 2024, over 1,000 terrorist attacks have occurred in Pakistan's western regions, claiming around 700 lives and injuring 2,500. Pakistan is actively engaged in combating terrorism," he

Kurilla also emphasized the importance of maintaining balanced US relations with both Pakistan and India.

"I don't see this as an either-or scenario. We must engage with both countries to the Pakistan-Afghanistan ensure regional stability," he

es Committee on Wednesday. General Kurilla acknowlmost active terrorist groups intelligence cooperation globally, and Pakistan has between the United States stood out as a crucial coun- and Pakistan led to the elimiterterrorism ally," he told the nation and capture of dozens regional and global security. committee. The CENTCOM of ISIS-K operatives, including "ISIS-K remains one of the commander noted that close at least five top-tier leaders."

Pakistan, UK explore enhanced ties as ambassador Marriott meets FM Dar in

Islamabad

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: UK High Commissioner Jane Marriott met with Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar in Islamabad on Wednesday, discussing ways to deepen Pak-UK relations amid shared global and regional concerns, according to Radio Pakistan.

The two sides reviewed bilateral ties, with a focus on the United Kingdom (UK) trade, security, and development cooperation.

Dar reiterates commitment to multifaceted Pak-UK part-

They also exchanged views on pressing international stability.

issues, including mutual interests at multilateral platforms like the UN Security Council, where both nations collaborate on peacekeeping and conflict resolution.

The meeting comes as Pakistan looks to strengthen diplomatic and economic partnerships to navigate its crisis with

Earlier, Pakistan and emphasised the importance of restraint and sustained dialogue between the two nuclear-armed arch rivals, to prevent further escalation and to maintain regional peace and



India trying to sabotage President Trump's peace efforts: Bilawal

B Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON: Former foreign minister and PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that Pakistan is looking to US President Donald Trump for Kashmir resolution while Indian government is trying to sabotage the American president's peace efforts,.

Bilawal reiterated that Pakistan believes in dialogue as the only path to resolving core issues, including the Kashmir dispute. He said India is using terrorists as a diplomatic tool.

Speaking at a press briefing at the Pakistan High Commission in London, accompanied by members of a parliamentary delegation on Wednesday, Bilawal emphasised that both Pakistani and Indian people desire peace and that ongoing hostilities are counterproduc-



Bilawal strongly warned India against any move to disrupt the Indus Waters Treaty, stating, "Even threatening to cut off water supply amounts to a clear declaration

The PPP chairman said the treaty, which is internabinding.

Commenting on the country's military leadership, Bilawal said that General Asim Munir was elevated to the rank of Field Marshal not only for winning battles but also for aligning with the aspirations of the people.

Highlighting past military India cannot suspend or annul engagements, he remarked, "Although India may have had

forces gave a powerful and measured response."

Bilawal claimed that India often says one thing but does another, alleging that New Delhi continues to use terrorist organisations to sabotage peace in the region.

Bilawal said threatening Pakistan is a violation of the UN Charter, even though Pakistan tionally recognised and legally numerical strength, Pakistani is talking about peace and India and stability.

arrived at the Pakistan High Commission in London, where he recorded his remarks in the guestbook, accompanied by senior members of Pakistan's high-level diplomatic delega-

Earlier, the PPP chairman

is talking about war.

It is worth mentioning that the Pakistani diplomatic delegation, led by Bilawal, recently concluded a visit to the United States and has now reached the United Kingdom to highlight the Indian aggression.

During their US tour, the delegation actively participated in United Nations sessions and engaged in high-level meetings with global leaders and members of the US Congress. Discussions primarily focused on the Kashmir dispute and the urgent need for regional peace

Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi

Federal Minister For Maritime **Affairs Visits Naval** Headquarters

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Muhammad Junaid Anwar, visited Naval Headquarters, Islamabad, and called on Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf.

During the meeting, contemporary maritime issues and Pakistan Navy's role in regional maritime security and Indian Ocean Region were discussed. Both dignitaries also deliberated on the prospects of maritime economy and its significance for overall economic growth appreciated Pakistan Navy's role in growth.

the promotion and development of Pakistan's maritime sector.

Later, a comprehensive briefing was given to the Minister on Pakistan's maritime interests, challenges, opportunities, and the initiatives undertaken by Pakistan Navy in coordination with the Ministry of Maritime Affairs.

The dignitary was also apprised of the preparations for upcoming 2nd edition of Pakistan International Maritime Expo and Conference (PIMEC-2025), and its vital role in enhancing maritime awareness and promoting the Blue Economy as a of the country. The Federal Minister driver of Pakistan's future economic

Sweden and Pakistan celebrate 75 Years of Partnership



ISLAMABAD: The Swedish Ambassador to Pakistan, Alex Berg von Linde called on Additional Secretary(Europe), Muhammad Ayub, and presented a commemorative shield and the book "75 Years of Partnership - Sweden and Pakistan", published by a reflection of the enduring friendthe Embassy of Sweden in Islamabad.

stones, landmark visits, and people- and Sweden.

to-people connections that have shaped bilateral relations over the past seven and a half decades. It also highlights the valuable contributions of Swedish companies, NGOs, and individuals to Pakistan's development journey.

This commemorative exchange is ship, shared values, and future-for-The book chronicles key mile- ward cooperation between Pakistan

PTI leaders flay Govt for ignoring farmers in budget

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: PTI leader Sheikh Waqas Akram has said that the government has rejected federal

budget for ignoring farmers. Addressing press conference with Opposition leader in Punjab Assembly Ahmed Khan Bhachar and Sahibzada Hamid Raza, Sheikh Waqas said due to poor policies, growth in agriculture sector is going

He demanded of the government to provide fertilizers and tractors to the famers on subsided rates. PTI leader said cotton production has decreased by 34pc, corn production has decreased by 14percent and wheat production also registered farmers.

decline. He said PTI has rejected this budget which is anti-farmers and anti-public.

Opposition leader in Punjab Assembly Ahmed Khan Bhachar said the government of uncle and niece is hurting famers. He said in Punjab agriculture department is being abolished.

He said the cultivation of cotton has dropped 55pc. He flayed Punjab Government which has no cash worth 375 billion rupees to buy wheat from farmers.

Sahibzada Hamid Raza said land mafia was given relief in the federal budget. He lamented that the federal and Punjab government was not paying attention to the woes of the

Heatwave grips country: PMD issues warning amid soaring temperatures

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Mete- 5-7C above normal in the upper half orological Department (PMD) has of the country, including central er across most parts of the country, with very hot conditions expected in the plains. Drones

A warning has also been issued for a severe heatwave expected to persist through Thursday (June 12).

According to the Met Office, dust-raising and gusty winds are likely during the afternoon in plain areas, while isolated rain-wind/ of upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pothohar region, Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan during the evening or night.

temperatures are likely to remain evening or night.

forecast mainly hot and dry weath- and upper Punjab, Islamabad, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan. In the southern half, which

includes upper and central Sindh, southern Punjab, and parts of Balochistan, temperatures are expected to be 4-6C above normal.

The public is strongly advised to avoid direct exposure to sunlight between 11:00 am and 4:00 pm thunderstorms may occur in parts and to stay well-hydrated during the intense heat.

In Islamabad, very hot and dry conditions are expected during the day, with a 30 percent chance The PMD has warned that of dust/thunderstorm rain in the