

ABC Certified The Spokesman



US President Donald Trump on Wednesday left the door open for direct U. S. military involvement in the escalating conflict between Israel and Iran but declined to definitively say what he is going to do. At the same time, he said Iran has reached out to him and maintained that it still wants to make a deal.



791 Chinese nationals transferred from Iran to safe areas: Guo Jiakun

A Leading National Daily

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

President Asif

visits POF Wah

Ali Zardari

Zilhaj 22, Thursday, June 19, 2025







跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif

Ali Zardari, visited Pakistan

Ordnance Factories (POF)

Wah today. Upon his arriv-

al, he was received Chairman

POF Wah, Lieutenant Gener-

al Syed Tahir Hameed Shah.

Federal Minister for Defence

Production, Mohammed Raza

Hayat Harraj and Secretary

Defence Ministry of Produc-

tion, Lt General Muhammad

Chiragh Haider (Retd) were

also present during the visit.

the President on the various

production units of POF and

highlighted the organiza-

tion's pivotal role in fulfilling

The Chairman briefed

lighted POF's capabilities, technological advancements,

and its contributions towards

achieving self-reliance in

various manufacturing facto-

ries and appreciated the tech-

nical expertise, commitment,

and professionalism of the

workforce. He commended

POF's significant role in

strengthening Pakistan's

The President emphasized

the importance of further

enhancing the country's

defence capabilities in light of

prevailing and future security

challenges. He reiterated that

strengthening national defence

defence production.

President Zardari visited

defence manufacturing.

Federal Cabinet Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs the Federal Cabinet Meeting on Wednesday.



PM Shehbaz for global standards in vocational training to boost overseas employment

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday directed to align all vocational and technical training offered across Pakistan with international standards to enhance the global employability of the country's youth and boost foreign remittances.

Chairing a high-level meeting on the operations of the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTC), the Prime Minister emphasized

ISLAMABAD: Despite an earli-

er snub, the Pakistan Tehreek-

urged the Pakistan Peoples Party

(PPP) to join hands in voting

against the federal budget.

the need for globally accredited training programs to strengthen Pakistan's skilled workforce and increase its demand in international markets, a Prime Minister's Office news release said.

"By ensuring international quality in our training institutions, we can create more opportunities for our youth abroad and contribute significantly to the national economy through increased remittances," said the Prime Minister.

He instructed that all federal and provincial training institutes

leader Asad Qaiser recently

contacted former National

Assembly Speaker Raja Pervez

with the opposition against the

2025-26 budget.

stop 'hollow criticism'

e-Insaf (PTI) has once again Ashraf, inviting the PPP to stand

seek international accreditation. The Prime Minister lauded the progress made and reiterated his government's commitment to youth empowerment through skill development aligned with global labor market needs.

The NAVTTC officials briefed the Prime Minister on recent initiatives, including the mapping of vocational institutions nationwide and the activation of the National Technical and Vocational Training Data Management System.

The cabinet was informed

According to sources, PTI formally respond and continued neutralising the opposition's

Previously, during the budget

presentation, PPP had refused

to align with PTI in a coor-

However, the PPP declined to dinated protest, effectively against it, then they should vote ibility.

to participate in the parliamen-

tary session, dealing a blow to

the opposition's united front.

PTI challenges PPP to vote against budget or

programs are being integrated under a unified regulatory framework managed by NAVTTC, with curriculum standardization already underway. According to data shared in the briefing, 53 per cent of trainees from the 2023-24 training cycle secured employment within six months of

completing their programs. It was further briefed that over 25,000 individuals trained under NAVTTC from 2020 to 2024 have secured jobs overseas. This year alone, 146,000

attempt to block the budget.

Speaking on the latest devel-

opments, Asad Qaiser said,

"PPP is merely criticising the

budget for a few development

schemes. If they are genuinely

that all public sector training individuals received training in diverse sectors including services, tourism, IT, banking, textiles, and construction. The target for the next year has been set at 350,000

> The meeting was attended by Federal Minister for Education Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema, Minister for IT and Telecom Shaza Fatima. Chairman Prime Minister Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan, and senior government officials.

with us. Otherwise, their oppo-

sition is just political theatrics."

words without action amount

to nothing, warning that if PPP

fails to support the no-vote,

their criticism will lack all cred-

Qaiser emphasised that

the defence requirements of remains a top priority for Pakithe country. He also high-Trump to host Field Marshal Asim Munir



👺 Spokesman Report

WASHINGTON, D. C.: The US President Donald Trump is scheduled to meet Field Marshal media representatives and jour-Asim Munir over lunch on Wednesday.

The meeting will take place over lunch in the Cabinet Room at the White House in Washington, D.C.

According to sources, the discussion is scheduled for corresponds to approximately 10pm in Pakistan. Due to the sensitive and confi-

dential nature of the meeting, nalists will not be permitted to Also, on Tuesday, he met with

members of the Pakistani diaspora in Washington, D. C.

Field Marshal Asim Munir was warmly received by a large gathering of overseas Pakistanis 1pm local time in the US, which who turned out to welcome him.

Massive fire sweeps Karachi shopping mall

跨 Khurram Jaffrani

👺 City Desk

KARACHI: A massive fire swept through a shopping mall in Karachi early Wednesday as the fire-fighters faced difficulties in their operation due to water

The blaze erupted on the roof of the Millennium Mall located in Gulistan-e-Jauhar and the spread down to fourth and third storeys of the shopping mall.

Chief Fire Officer Humayun Khan said that they have been able to extinguish the fire in most part of the building but facing

difficulties due to lack of water. He further said 11 fire-brigade



vehicles including two snorkels were taking part in the operation. Humayun Khan said they will carry out a survey of the building

after dousing the flames whether there was a fire safety system installed in the building or not. "Fire safety system is a must for

shopping malls," he added. Meanwhile, a fire broke out in another building in Karachi on Wednesday. The building was

located at Shafiq Morr in Bengali

Three fire-brigade vehicles were busy in putting out the blaze.

Kh Asif terms Field **Marshal Gen Asim-Trump** meeting as milestone the region and beyond it. Kh

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Wednesday termed the meeting between Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and United States President Donald Trump as a milestone.

In a statement issued here, Khawaja Asif hailed the luncheon held in honor of Field Marshal Asim Munir by the US president as a significant milestone. He said that an 'unprecedented' warmth in Pakistan-US relations, will vield positive impacts both in

Asif disclosed that a meeting between Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and President Trump was scheduled even before his to the US.

Pakistan can play a vital and constructive role in the current crisis [Israel-Iran conflict], the defence minister added. He said that Syed Asim Munir's presence in the US could help reduce regional tensions.

He said this unprecedented event involves US President Donald Trump hosting Pakistan's Field Marshal Asim Munir at the White House.

AJK govt unveils tax-free budget with record outlay

Finance minister announces 10% increase for govt employees, 7% raise in pensions

👺 Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday unveiled the annual budget with a record outlay of Rs310.2 billion, imposing no new tax.

AJK Finance Minister Abdul Majid Khan presented the tax-free budget for the fiscal year 2025-26 in the Legislative Assembly with a development expenditure of Rs49 billion. He also announced a 10 percent increase in the salaries of government employees and a seven percent increase in pensions.

Delivering his budget speech in the AJK Assembly in Muzaffarabad, the finance minister said the total estimated budget size for the upcoming fiscal year is set at Rs310.2 billion, with an increase of Rs8.62 billion compared to the previous year.

Majid Khan said the development and non-development budget were jointly fixed at Rs310.2 billion, with non-development expenditures estimated at Rs261 billion and development expenditures at Rs49 billion.

been allocated for the introduction implemented across all departments.



communication sector.

of a health card in the upcoming fiscal year, while Rs240 million have been earmarked under the education package for school upgrades and the establishment of new institutions.

To address the shortage of teachers in educational institutions, Rs60 million have been allocated, and biom-He added that Rs2 billion have etric attendance systems have been

The FM also announced that opposition members staged a protest Rs3.799 billion have been allocated for food subsidies to provide affordable flour to the public in the coming fiscal year. Additionally, Rs1.5 billion have a delay in the session. been proposed for the information and

Majid Khan appealed to the opposition to come inside the assembly

and sit-in by locking the doors of the assembly, preventing government members from entering and causing

On the other hand, ahead of the and register their protest formally. He budget session in the Azad Jammu termed the opposition's action as illegal and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, and unparliamentary.

Dead level

ISLAMABAD: A view of dry bed of Rawal Dam after a significant drop in water levels due to record low rainfall and extreme weather, in the Federal capital



Azad Jammu and Kashmir Medical College, Moved to New Building

👺 Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: The new campus of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Medical College, Muzaffarabad, is a grand project built with funds provided by the Government of Pakistan.

This modern educational complex consists of 11 buildings with a total All these constructions were

completed with the budget provided by the Government of Pakistan. After the completion of the new buildings, the process of moving the medical college has been completed.

In this regard, a ceremony was held at the Medical College today. Malik, wife of renowned busi- with faculty members and staff, The chief guest was Mr. Nisar Ansar nessman Shafiq Awan, for a dona-



Abdali, Minister for Public Health, tion to the Medical College Muzaf-Azad Government. This ceremony was organized by Mrs. Farzana

farabad. On this occasion, Principal Professor Dr. Adnan Meraj, along warmly welcomed the distinguished have started in a regular manner.

Farzana Malik, wife of renowned businessman Mr. Shafiq Awan, mother of renowned businessman Shoaib Awan, and daughter of famous transporter and businessman late Malik Ghulam Hussain, donated Rs. 5 million for the renovation of the auditorium in the new Medical College. She personally handed over the donation check to the Minister for Public Health and the Principal. Dr. Maryam Zubair was also present on the occasion. Azad Jammu and Kashmir Medical College has now completely shifted to its new building, Ambor Complex, where teaching and educational activities

guests. During the ceremony, Mrs.

Hazrat Usman Ghani (RA), Beacon of Light For the Muslim Ummah: Maulana Ludhianvi

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The central leader of the Sunni Ulema Council Maulana Muhammad Lutfullah Ludhianvi of Kamaliya, has said that the teachings of Muslim Ummah, Hazrat Usman Ghani (RA), are a beacon of light for the Muslim Ummah and a ladder to success in this world and the hereafter. We have forgotten the lesson given through his martyrdom. He sacrificed his life but did not like to shed the blood of any Muslim. He expressed these views while addressing a seminar organized by the Sunni Ulema Council Multan on the topic of the martyrdom of the third Caliph,



Masjid al-Saraj Shah Town, Multan. He was a model of modesty, a model of He further said that the golden deeds tolerance and a model of generosity.

Hazrat Usman Ghani (RA) at Jamia crowning glory of the history of Islam. the second son-in-law of the Prophet of Hazrat Usman Ghani (RA) are the His life is a beacon of light for us. Other

Ameer Muawiyah Siddiqui of Karachi, Malik Muhammad Rafiq, President Sunni Ulema Council Multan, Maulana Muhammad Ajmal Farooqi, Maulana Muhammad Ahmed Muawiyah, Maulana Muhammad Umair Ahsan, Khwaja Muhammad Hashim, Maulana Muhammad Abu Bakr Maulana Hafiz Muhammad Ayaz, Maulana Qari Haqqanwaz, Maulana Abdul Rehman Nadeem said that we have forgotten the lesson that the son-in-law of the Prophet and the third Caliph of the Muslims, Hazrat Usman Ghani (RA), gave us through his martyrdom. Hazrat Usman Ghani (RA) sacrificed his life but did not like to shed the blood of any Muslim.

Ulema leaders include Maulana Mufti

AJK Legislative Assembly presided over by Speaker Chaudhry Latif Akbar

MUZAFFARABAD: In the session of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly chaired by Speaker Chaudhry Latif Akbar, Finance Minister Abdul Majid Khan presented 54 demands for the revised



budget of the current expenditure of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir State and the revised development budget 2024-25, 55 demands for the current estimate budget and development estimate budget 2025-26, and 06 demands for the non-development surplus budget (Excess

Budget), 2023-24, which were approved by the House. In the session of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly presided over by Speaker Chaudhry Latif Akbar, Finance Minister Abdul Majid Khan presented the draft law The Azad Jammu and Kashmir Finance Act, 2025 in the house, which was submitted to the elected members of the assembly. Speaker Chaudhry Latif Akbar adjourned the session of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly till 11 am on June 23, 2025.

Occupied Kashmir turned into an open prison in the name of religious festivals: Sardar Attique

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan has said that in occupied Kashmir, the entire occupied territory has been turned into an open prison in the name of religious festivals and security of Hindus. Expressing serious concern over the seizure of property of Kashmiri leader Abdul Hameed Lone in Kupwara district, he said that



the four-kanal ancestral agricultural land of All Parties Hurriyat Conference leader Abdul Hameed Lone residing in Pakistan has been confiscated. The occupation administration has confiscated Abdul Hameed Lone's land under the black law of Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA). He said that this is a black law which is often used by the Indian authorities to target and harass Kashmiri citizens. Meanwhile, President of the Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan has left for Gilgit-Baltistan on a three-day visit from Islamabad, where he will meet various political figures and attend events.

Quality assurance training for flour mill owners of Bahawalpur

👺 Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Sector-wide training on quality control and quality assurance of flour mills was organized under the organization of Nutrition International. The objective of the training was to increase the capacity of mills regarding flour standards so that the process of flour fortification can be improved and micronutrient deficiencies can be reduced under the Millers for Nutrition Project. The chief guests of this training were Chaudhry Abdul Jabbar, former chairman Pakistan Flour Mills Association ation. Chaudhry Tanveer Akhtar, senior executive member. Chaudhry Abdul Waheed, senior executive member. Muhammad Azam Qureshi, district focal person Chaudhry Mashhood Nasir and Mahmood Majeed. Chaudhry Abdul Jabbar, in his presidential address, provided the participants with useful information on flour fortification and its quality assurance and quality control. Highlighted the importance of the role of flour mills in preventing diseases caused by nutrient deficiencies in the people. Sajid Abbas Sial, Provincial Program Manager, Wheat Flour Fortification, gave details of the Millers for Nutrition project and highlighted all the initiatives and activities under M4N.

District Peace Committee and Interfaith Harmony Committee was Held

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: To ensure the peaceful and respectful observance of Muharram-ul-Haram, a key meeting of the District Peace Committee and Interfaith Harmony Committee was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Naeem Sandhu and District Police Officer Ibadat Nisar. The meeting was attended by members of the peace committee, religious scholars from various sects, and prominent religious and social figures. Speaking on the occasion, DC Muhammad Naeem Sandhu emphasized that all available resources will be utilized to promote patience, tolerance, and interfaith harmony during Muharram. He affirmed the district administration's commitment to ensuring the peaceful and well-organized conduct of all religious processions and gatherings. DPO Ibadat Nisar briefed the participants on security arrangements, stating that foolproof measures will be implemented at sensitive locations, including walk-through gates, metal detectors, and surveillance through CCTV cameras. He added that law enforcement agencies would remain on high alert. Religious scholars and community leaders appreciated the steps taken by the administration and assured their full cooperation. The district administration appealed to the public to avoid sharing unverified or provocative content on social media and to report any suspicious activity to the authorities. It was further informed that a central control room will be functional from June 20 to July 10, 2025, to promptly handle any emergencies. Contact numbers are: 046-9201003/ 046-9201041. The meeting concluded with a collective prayer for national peace, unity among the Muslim Ummah, and the overall security and stability of the country.

Developing southern districts top priority: Minister

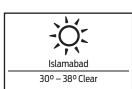
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Minister for Social Welfare, Syed Qasim Ali Shah, has said that a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Department of Social Welfare and the Kohat Development Authority, which is a very welcome development.

Under this agreement, he said special initiatives will be taken in the districts of Karak, Hangu, and Kohat for poverty alleviation, infrastructure development, provision of facilities to farmers in the agricultural sector, vocational training for children, and educational facilities for girls.

He expressed these views on Wednesday while addressing the signing ceremony of the MoU held here between the Department of Social Welfare and the Kohat Development Authority. On the occasion, Provincial Minister for Agriculture Major (R) Muhammad Sajjad Barkwal, Member of

the Provincial Assembly, and other relevant officials were also present. The Project Director gave a detailed briefing to the provincial minister on the initiatives under the agreement.





SERVICES Namaz Timings

ITGIIIGE	- Hilling
Fajr	3:13 am
Zohr	12:09 pm
Asr	5:09 pm
Maghrib	7:21 pm
Isha	9:05 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police

Statio	15	
Islamabad		9222596
Rawalpindi	92	70601-20
Rawatpiriui	52	/0001-20

ENOUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..9266316 Wapda Islamabad......9217579-80 Sui Gas Complaint..... 119, 9272249 Wasa Water Tank0331-5022125

Children are Our Future: Amara Baloch



MULTAN: Renowned lawyer and legal advisor of Helpers Forum/ Consumer Rights Forum Amara Tahir Baloch has said that we should all fight together against the mafia involved in crimes against innocent helpless and runaway children. Children are our future and the anti-social mafia is darkening our future. Young children are being forced to beg and commit other crimes in markets and important intersections. These innocent children are forced to work. In the homes of influential and privileged classes, these poor children work hard like slaves. And the relevant institutions have become ineffective against these rich and influential people, which is a worrying situation. Similarly, under the guise of cleaning cars and selling small things, the powerful mafia involves them in illegal activities.

Exporters urge PM to save value-added industry

SOS call to the PM over budget wreckage, FTR removal, EFS distortion

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan's \$11 billion value-added export-oriented industry-contributing nearly one-third of the country's total exports—has issued a strong SOS appeal to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, warning that recent budgetary measures are set to derail the export-oriented sectors at a critical time.

In a joint statement, Pakistan Readymade Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PRGMEA), in collaboration with the top export-oriented associations including PHMA, SIMAP, PSGMEA, PGMEA, PLGMEA, PCSUMEA and Sialkot Chamber of Commerce, demanded the immediate revival of the Final Tax Regime (FTR) and restoration of the Export Facilitation Scheme (EFS) to its original structure.

The appeal was endorsed by industry stalwarts including PRGMEA Chairman Dr. Muhammad Ayyaz Uddin and former Central Chairman Sohail

of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) President Ikram ul Haq, PSGMEA Chairman Khawaja Masud Akhtar-whose company's footballs are used in FIFA World Cup tournaments SIMAP Chairman Zeeshan Tariq, PLGMEA Chairman Syed Ahtisham Mazhar, PHMA

Chairman Abdul Hameed and former chairman Khawaja Mushraf, PGMEA Chairman Annas Raheel Barlas, PCSUMEA Chairman Muhammad Jamal Bhutta, Majid Bhutta, Ansar Aziz Puri, Sheikh Luqman Amin and other prominent exporters and business leaders They expressed deep concern that despite government slogan

on the ground is entirely opposite. The Government always talks about promoting exports, but in practice, no department seems to be on board. They pointed out that in the entire budget speech, the

finance minister uttered the word

"export" only once — and that

of "export-led growth," the reality

A. Sheikh, Sialkot Chamber too in a negative context while imposing duties on imported yarn under EFS.

Addressing the Prime Minister directly, the joint statement said: "Honourable Prime Minister, we urge you to intervene immediately. Please convene an emergent meeting with the leading export associations and the Sialkot Chamber before this budget is passed. If this situation persists, Pakistan's most reliable foreign exchange earning sector will suffer irreparable damage." They stressed that in such a policy environment, the government's vision "URAAN PAKISTAN" of taking exports to \$100 billion is simply not possible.

The industry leaders were clear: "We're not asking subsidies, exemptions, or special treatment-just a level playing field to compete globally. Unfortunately. the current policies have drastically raised the cost of doing business and severely impacted ease of doing business.

Work must begin on a war footing to restore confidence and attract business being diverted Final Tax Regime, which once



streamline processes. Interna- from China. This opportunity offered a simple and predicttional buyers are actively seeking long-term clarity and stability in the EFS framework, as Pakistan and the breakdown of EFS have stands at a strategic moment to

must not be missed. They said the abolition of FTR created chaos in the industry. The

able tax mechanism, has now been replaced by complex procedures, audits, and refund hurdles, particularly hurting small and

Shield

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Vietnam to Pakistan Pham Anh Tuan presenting shield to Parliamentary Secretary for Human Rights Saba Sadiq.



Pakistan Navy, Pakistan Maritime Security Agency Undertake Medical Evacuation of An Indian Seafarer

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Joint Maritime Information and Coordination Centre (JMICC) of Pakistan Navy received a distress call from the Liberian-flagged oil/chemical tanker, MT HIGH LEADER, with all Indian crew onboard, requesting medical evacuation for one of its injured crew members.

JMICC immediately activated its established maritime coordination protocols to ensure a rapid and effective response. Consequently, Pakistan Maritime Security Agency



ID card of injured Indian seafarer

(PMSA) promptly evacuated HIGH LEADER and transthe injured seafarer from MT ferred him to a local hospital

in Karachi for emergency

medical care. The successful medical evacuation is yet another testament to the operational readiness and responsiveness of Pakistan's maritime safety apparatus. The coordination and swift execution reflect Pakistan Navy's resolve to fulfill its international obligations for the safety of life at sea, irrespective of the nation-

ality of the seafarers involved. PN JMICC is the principal node for generating a coordinated response to any maritime incident by involving a wide range of stakeholders.

MD WASA issued instructions to set up all monsoon relief camps across the city within three days



跨 Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Managing Director WASA Sohail Qadir Cheema has issued instructions to set up all monsoon relief camps across the city within three days, while the attendance of the staff deployed at these relief camps should be ensured and all necessary equipment should be available. He gave these instructions while briefing the officers after assuming charge of MD WASA Faisalabad. MD WASA further said that all disposal stations should be functional according to full capacity, while alternative arrangements should be completed in case of power outage because providing quality drainage and water supply se to the citizens during the monsoon season is top priority for which all $\,$ resources will be utilized. MD WASA also issued instructions to expedite work on foreign-funded projects Eastern Waste Water Treatment Plant and French Surface Water Treatment Plant projects. On this occasion, Deputy Managing Directors Shoaib Rashid, Saqib Raza, Ikramullah Chaudhry, Director P&D Maqbool Ahmed, Director Finance Shahryar Hassan, Director Operations Makhdoom Babar, Farooq Najeeb, Director PHS Shahbaz Latif, Project Director Waste Water Treatment Project Kamran Raza and others gave a briefing on their responsibilities.

First meeting of the curriculum review committee

B Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

KARACHI: On the directives of Sindh's Minister for Education, Syed Sardar Ali Shah, the first meeting of the curriculum review committee—formed by the Sindh Textbook Board—was held to evaluate educational textbooks. During the session, education experts, scholars, and writers stressed the importance of including lessons in school textbooks that contribute to the moral development, knowledge enhancement, and critical thinking skills of students. They also emphasized the need for the content to reflect effective language use, social responsibility, collective thinking, and rational perspectives. A proposal was made to $\,$ develop guiding principles to achieve these goals as Students Learning Outcomes (SLOs) should be align with text.

The meeting was chaired by Sindh Textbook Board Chairman Parvez Ahmed Baloch. After reviewing the 12th-grade Sindhi textbook, experts shared their observations and suggested revisions in line with contemporary educational needs. Notable participants included renowned scholars and literary figures such as Jami Chandio, Dr. Ishaq Samejo, Dr. Sahar Imdad, Dr. Fayaz Latif, Idrees Jatoi, Qazi Asif, Naseer Mirza, Zawar Naqvi, Dilshad Ahmed Detho, Agha Rafiq, Jamshed Ahmed Junejo, Naresh Kumar, Abdul Rehman Andhar, and Deputy Secretary of the Sindh Textbook Board Khalid Azad.

Khawaja Salman chaired a meeting for maintaining security during Muharram-ul-Haram

Majid Majid

FAISALABAD: On the directions of Punjab Chief Minister Marvam Nawaz Sharif, the Cabinet Committee on Law and Order visited Faisalabad to at maintaining peace and security during Muharram-ul-Haram.

Provincial Health Minister Committee Khawaja Salman

Ahmad Bharath, Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani, and Bilal Akbar Khan, along with Home Secretary Dr. Ahmad Javed Qazi, Additional IG Punjab Chaudhry Sultan, DIG Special Branch review the arrangements aimed Khurram Shehzad, and DIG CTD Usman Gondal accompa-

Faisal-Commissioner and Chairman of the Cabinet abad Maryam Khan and RPO Zeeshan Asghar briefed the Rafique chaired a meeting at the committee on the arrangements Commissioner's Office. Provin- and informed that all prepara-

cial Ministers Malik Sohaib tions have been completed for Health Minister and Committee 4,402 Majalis and 1,528 processions across the Faisalabad Divi-

Orders for district restrictions have been issued for 160 firebrand speakers, and speech bans have been imposed on 119 individuals. A total of 234 persons have been placed on the Fourth Schedule in Faisalabad. For security, 12 Army companies and 10 Rangers companies will be deployed to assist the police. Speaking at the meeting,

Chairman Khawaja Salman Rafique said that, under the CM's directive, they are visiting districts across Puniab to review arrangements. He remarked that the preparations in Punjab are exemplary and all administrative departments and law enforcement agencies are fully prepared. He emphasized that under the principle of inter-sectarian harmony, the province is moving towards a peaceful Muharram-ul-Haram.



He instructed that the admin- cial ministers also reiterated the Assembly, all Divisional Deputy implementation of the rules and regulations issued by the directives. Home Department. The provin-

istration must ensure strict importance of full compliance Commissioners, District Police with the Home Department's

Local Members of the in the meeting.

Officers, and representatives of relevant institutions participated Group Chairman/Chief Editor: Almass Ayoub Sabir Vice Chairman:

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Daily The Spokesman available only on annual subscription

MBBF top talk summit Shanghai 2025

t the Mobile Broadband Forum (MBBF) Top Talk Summit held during MWC Shanghai 2025, 150 guests, including top-tier executives from leading telecommunications firms, AI innovators, and academic pioneers, gathered to explore the huge opportunities emerging from the deep convergence of ICT and AI indus-

David Wang, Huawei's Executive Director of the Board, opened the event by saying, "The rapid adoption of mobile AI is bringing new vitality to the mobile industry in three brand-new ways. First, mobile devices are no longer just about apps, as they begin to host AI agents that will improve every aspect of our life and work. Second, AI's deep convergence with IoT is making AI-IoT a new portal to the intelligent world. Third, AI is now powering networks. Previously, we mainly focused on O&M efficiency when it came to network management. But today, AI is allowing us to maximize spectrum, energy, and O&M efficiency at the same time."

He went on to call on the entire industry to pursue shared success in the mobile AI era by unlocking 5G-A's potential. To this end, Huawei and other industry stakeholders are already working together on five areas that can act as levers to drive 5G-A growth, including large uplink bandwidth, rich device ecosystems, multimodal intelligent services, all-scenario IoT capabilities, and diverse business models.

In manufacturing sectors, 5G-A's low latency and high bandwidth are critical enablers for high-precision sensing and decision-making based on embodied AI. Powered by 5G-A networks, embodied AI can collect and process vast amounts of data in real time to complete the 'sensing decision execution' cycle, minimizing production risks while maximizing efficiency. Chang Lin, CEO of Leju Robot, said: "As robots become integral to production and daily life, their connectivity will have to go beyond mere stable to intelligent—where latency is just a foundational capability and collaborative decision-making will be the true game-changer."

In the supply chain industry, 5G-A's wide coverage and AI-assisted route planning can collectively boost efficiency and slash costs. For instance, smart logistics based on 5G-A and AI-empowered-devices stands for more efficient route planning, which translates into greater distribution timeliness and lower OPEX.

Technologically, 5G-A must evolve beyond its conventional role as a connectivity pipe to function as an experience platform capable of supporting real-time interaction among billions of active mobile AI agents. 5G-A advancement transcends mere technological improvements, requiring fundamental reinvention of network infrastructure and operational paradigms.

How India Backstabbed Iran

and West Asia, trust is often a currency traded for strategic advantage. Iran, long defiant against Western pressure, has discovered this truth at great cost. India, once considered a friend and trade partner, has not only betrayed Iran but colluded with Israel and the United States in a web of espionage that has left Iran militarily weakened, diplomatically humiliated, and internally compromised.

The alliance began with economic diplomacy. India proposed and helped construct the Chabahar Port in Iran, offering Tehran access to Central Asian markets. Iran, hopeful of bypassing U.S. sanctions and creating new trade routes, welcomed India's investment. In doing so, Iran opened its gates to a partner that would eventually betray it.

India used this opportunity not merely to trade but to infiltrate. Under the guise of development, Indian operatives created extensive intelligence networks throughout Iran. Their activities went far beyond passive surveillance. According to Iranian security officials, Indian agents helped Israel and the United States establish a covert drone manufacturing and launch hub near Tehran. This facility, disguised as a civilian enterprise, played a direct role in the June 13, 2025 Israeli airstrikes that decimated Iranian lead-

Meanwhile, India's global credibility eroded. Despite branding itself as a democratic force against extremism, its involvement in espionage, targeted assassinations, and regional destabilization revealed a darker truth. Iranian state media now

for echoing Israeli narratives.

This dual betrayal—of Iran and Pakistan—was part of a trilateral design: India acted as executor, Israel as planner, and the U.S. as financier. Their shared objective: weaken all resistance to Western hegemony in Asia, cripple CPEC, and ultimately justify the neutralization of Pakistan and Iran's nuclear arsenal under the guise of regional stability.

After being stabbed, hurt and betrayed Iran launched "Operation Viper," arresting over 17 Indian nationals directly impli-

cated in espionage and sabotage. Their involvement in facilitating Israeli precision strikes, identifying nuclear targets, and supplying coordinates for drone and missile attacks sent tremors across Tehran. The fallout extended

Qamar Bashir far beyond intelligence circles. Social media across the Muslim world erupted. From Iran to Iraq, Turkey to Uzbekistan, Malaysia to Azerbaijan, voices rose in unison—not just to condemn Israel's brutality, but to denounce India's complicity. What followed was unprecedented: Iranian parliamentarians raised slogans in support of Pakistan, the only nation that stood unequivocally with Iran during the crisis.

Pakistan's support was not limited to words. As Iran reeled from the attacks, Pakistan offered to host and repatriate 20,000 Iranian pilgrims stranded in Saudi Arabia due to closed airspace. The gesture, magnified across platforms like approach India with suspicion, while X (formerly Twitter), TikTok, and Face-

n the geopolitical arena of South Indian diaspora channels face backlash book, triggered a wave of gratitude across Iranian media. One viral clip even quoted a senior Iranian figure claiming Pakistan had warned Israel of nuclear retaliation if Iran was hit by a nuclear bomb-a statement never confirmed officially, but powerful enough to shift regional senti-

> This solidarity was echoed far beyond Iran. Chinese commentators praised Pakistan's principled diplomacy. Uzbek and Azerbaijani citizens posted messages thanking Pakistan for its courage. Middle Eastern media contrasted Paki-

stan's lovalty with India's duplicity. In short, Pakistan's image surged-India's plummeted.

Meanwhile, India's global credibility eroded. Despite presenting itself as a democratic bulwark against extremism, its actions in Iran exposed it as a willing conspirator in

illegal assassinations and foreign-sponsored destabilization. Iranian media now treat India with suspicion, and Indian diaspora channels are widely criticized for parroting Israeli propaganda.

Now, the world is beginning to recognize the duplicity and double-dealing that define India's foreign policy. Russia once considered India a long-standing ally, only to be blindsided when India signed strategic agreements with the United Stateseffectively turning its back on Moscow. This shift strained decades of trust and placed Russia in a geopolitical quagmire.

Yet, in a baffling turn, India later undermined the United States as wellby buying massive quantities of Russian

during a time when the West was trying to economically isolate Moscow. In doing so, India propped up the Russian economy, directly undercutting U. S. objectives. Thus, both superpowers—Russia and the United States-have been betrayed

India's record of betrayal doesn't end there. It mirrors Israel in both ideology and practice—particularly in its treatment of the Kashmiri people. Like Israel's brutal campaign in Gaza, India has transformed Kashmir into a massive open-air prison, stripping its residents of autonomy, rights, and dignity. Through a combination of military occupation, demographic engineering, and systematic repression, it has reduced the Kashmiri population to a state of permanent subjugation.

This shared mindset—of colonialism, population control, and impunity-has become the moral link between India and Israel. Both stand accused of genocide, of targeting civilians without distinction, and of crushing resistance through starvation, displacement, and fear. It is within this framework of normalized brutality that India's betrayal of Iran, Pakistan, Russia, and even the United States must be understood.

The lesson resonates far and wide: trust built on deceit crumbles; support rooted in principle prevails. Peace demands parity. Justice requires truth. And history will never forget those who betrayed under the guise of friendship.

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

Lessons for Unity and Defense from Iran-Israel Conflict

the deaths of senior Iranian military officials and nuclear scientists—have further underscored the fragility of regional stability. These events serve as a stark reminder of the volatile security environment in which nations like Pakistan must operate, and

the critical importance of preparedness, diplomacy, and national unity. These events have not only intensified hostilities between Tel Aviv and Tehran but have also revived concerns among other regional powers—including Pakistan—about the security of strategic assets, the reliability of defense systems, and

the critical role of national unity in deterring renewed dedication to defense readiness, techexternal threats. For Pakistan, the recent Israeli-Iranian confrontation offers clear lessons: a unified national front combined with strong defense capabilities is essential to protect sovereignty and deter external aggression. The precision strikes carried out by Israel against Iranreportedly involving advanced drones, missile technology, and air assaults-signal a new phase

The deaths of senior Iranian military officials and key nuclear scientists represent more than just personnel losses; they constitute a strategic attempt to degrade Iran's defense and scientific infrastructure. These attacks aimed to weaken long-term capabilities, instill fear, and demonstrate the extensive reach and determination of Israel's military and intelligence agencies.

The Israeli-Iranian conflict carries significant diplomatic consequences for Pakistan. As a Muslim-majority, nuclear-armed state with longstanding religious, cultural, and historical connections to Iran, while simultaneously balancing ties with Gulf countries, China, and the West, Pakistan must approach these developments with strategic nuance. Avoiding direct involvement in regional conflicts, Pakistan

n the broader regional context, recent should seize the opportunity to deepen defense developments—such as the reported collaborations with friendly nations—especially Israeli attacks on Iran resulting in in areas like drone technology, cyber defense, and space surveillance. Pakistan's diplomatic response must firmly reaffirm its dedication to national sovereignty, scientific progress, and peaceful coexistence, while clearly condemning any foreign-backed sabotage, targeted assassinations, or hybrid warfare tactics. Pakistan's

commitment to peace should never be mistaken for weak-

As the Israeli strikes demonstrate, adversaries do not wait for formal declarations of war. Modern battlefields span land, air, cyberspace, and even the minds of citizens. Pakistan must confront these challenges not with fear but with

nological advancement, and internal unity. This moment calls for strengthening the nation from within—revisiting defense doctrines, enhancing inter-agency cooperation, and launching public campaigns on cyber hygiene, civic responsibility, and national pride. Every Pakistani-from students to lawmakers, engineers to soldiersmust feel a part of the mission to safeguard the

The recent Israeli attacks on Iran are more than just news stories; they are lessons etched in precision, power, and sacrifice. For Pakistan, they serve as a wake-up call to bolster defenses—not just through weaponry but with unity, vigilance, and foresight. In today's world, victory belongs not to the nation with the largest army, but to the one with the strongest sense of purpose and preparedness.

According to several reports, Israel employed "kamikaze drones" and "unmanned aerial systems" (UAS) as part of its modern SEAD/ DEAD (Suppression/Destruction of Enemy Air Defenses) strategy to cripple Iranian air defenses during recent conflicts. A similar tactic was attempted by India against Pakistan between May 7th and 10th, 2025. However, and prosperous.

the key difference lay in the level of professional preparedness. The Pakistan Army Air Defence (PAAD) was not only on high alert but also effectively employed both "hard kill" and "soft kill" countermeasures, anticipating every potential threat. As a result, all Indian drones and kamikaze strikes were intercepted and destroyed mid-air. In contrast, Iran's air defense systems failed to respond in time, leading to significant vulnerabilities in its aerial defense This contrast highlights the impact of military proficiency versus inadequate preparationexemplifying strong, coordinated defense on one side and costly negligence on the other. In the recent Iran-Israel conflict, although Iran responded with full force and capability, the Israeli aggression highlights the urgent need for national unity and comprehensive defense

Indeed, Pakistan's military and intelligence services, including the ISI, remain a source of great pride for the country and the Islamic world. Israel's repeated strikes on Iranian military leadership expose weaknesses within Iran's defense and intelligence capabilities. These recent attacks should also remind critics questioning Pakistan's military expenditure-especially since Pakistan's defense budget is significantly smaller than India's and many other countries-that such investment is crucial for national security. National unity combined with enhanced defense capabilities is vital for Pakistan's survival. To achieve this, Pakistan must prioritize investing more in defense by cutting down on elite luxuries and non-development expenditures.

Now is the time for Pakistan to shift from mere observation to decisive action. Strengthening both unity and defense is no longer optional—it is imperative. Amid regional tensions and global uncertainties, Pakistan must respond with a single voice, a unified mission, and an unwavering commitment to protect its sovereignty, its citizens, and its future. The entire nation must stand together, united in this mission, to make Pakistan safe, secure,

Field Marshal Munir's U.S. Visit Foretells a New Era in **Bilateral Ties**

Sardar Abdul

or much of its history, Pakistan's engagement with the United States has oscillated between transactional alliances the Cold War or the war on terror, Islam-

abad was often perceived as a partner of convenience—responding to events rather than shaping them. Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir's recent visit to Washington, however, signaled a break from that pattern. It embodied strategic foresight, institutional confidence, and above all, a recalibrated assertion of national autonomy.

Field Marshal Munir was not alone in his mission. He was accompanied by Lieutenant General Muhammad Asim Malik, Pakistan's recently

appointed National Security Advisor and concurrently the Director General of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). This dual-role presence marked a profound evolution in Pakistan's security architecture: a deliberate convergence of military leadership, intelligence coordination, and strategic policymaking under a unified national doctrine.

In a capital accustomed to fragmented Pakistani delegations, this cohesive representation surprised many in Washington. It conveyed a message of institutional alignment and strategic discipline-Pakistan is no longer divided in its voice or hesitant in its posture. This was a marked departure from the past, where such visits often served dual purposes: one abroad and another at home for political messaging. Field Marshal Munir's approach was clinical and purpose-driven. The goal was not symbolic reassurance, but the construction of a long-term framework of defense and security dialogue, embedded in process rather than theatrics. With the military leadership having redefined the tone of engagement, the baton now passes to Pakistan's civilian leadership. Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar are expected to engage Washington on broader policy fronts—economy, trade, climate action, and digital governance.

The strategic groundwork laid by the military

delegation opens space for a more balanced and multidimensional dialogue—one that situates Pakistan not merely as a regional player, but as a modern, and mutual skepticism. Whether during reform-oriented state capable of contributing to

global governance. Throughout the visit, the status of Jammu and



nostalgia or historical grievance—it is a live, unresolved question of international law

and human rights. Silence in the face of India's unilateral revocation of Article 370, demographic engineering, and persistent repression, the delegation warned, is tantamount to complicity. And

complicity breeds extremism, not stability. Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir's visit was more than a diplomatic engagement—it was a statement of strategic maturity. It marked Pakistan's transition from reactive diplomacy to proactive statecraft. No longer content with being a spectator in global affairs, Pakistan is beginning to assert itself as a shaper of its destiny-armed not just with military strength but with policy clarity. With Asim Malik lending intellectual depth and strategic coherence to the mission, the visit symbolized a unified civil-military narrative: one that seeks respect through readiness, relevance through reform, and recognition through responsibility. For decades, others spoke for Pakistan. This time, it spoke for itself.

About the Author: Sardar Abdul Khaliq Wasi is a political analyst and columnist specializing in national security, civil-military relations, and the constitutional history of the Jammu and Kashmir region. His writings combine historical depth with strategic insight, contributing to a nuanced understanding of Pakistan's evolving role in regional and global affairs.

Top Central Asian Islamic Finance Leaders Acknowledged in Uzbekistan

Spokesman Report

DUBAI: UAE: The 4th CIS Islamic Banking and Finance Forum, organized by AlHuda Center of Islamic Banking 16th June, 2025 at the Hyatt Regency, finance sector, including policymakers, industry leaders, and scholars, to discuss the latest trends and opportunities in Shariah-compliant finance.

The forum was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, H. E. Mr. Ahmed Farooq, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of address, he emphasized the growing importance of Islamic finance as an ethical and inclusive alternative to highlight of the forum, recognizing conventional banking and finance. "Islamic finance, with its principles of risk-sharing, transparency, and assetbacking, is not just a religious obligation but a viable economic model that promotes financial justice," he stated. He also highlighted Pakistan's success in Islamic banking, where the sector Khan, who serves as their Shariah now accounts for nearly 20% of the country's total banking assets, offering valuable lessons for emerging markets like Uzbekistan.

Banking & Finance Awards, the utive Officer. In the category of SME organizer of the awards and CEO of support, FC 'TAIBA Finance' LLC AlHuda CIBE, Mr. Muhammad Zubair from Uzbekistan was honored with Mughal, remarked that Islamic banking and finance is witnessing remarkable tion Award, accepted by Mr. Kadirov global growth, with the industry's total Bakhodir Sadikovich, CEO of the firm. Best Technology Solution Provider lence Award was awarded to Alif with the award accepted by Mr. Umid ally.

volume exceeding USD 2.6 trillion. He further noted that the Commonwealth Independent States (CIS) represent a highly promising region for the expansion of Islamic finance. According to and Economics (CIBE), commenced on credible sources, many CIS countries are enacting or planning to implein Tashkent. The event brought togeth- ment dedicated Islamic finance laws er prominent figures from the Islamic to support the accurate and sustainable growth of the sector. This forwardlooking approach not only facilitates the adoption of Shariah-compliant financial systems but also creates opportunities for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), particularly from the Gulf region, and contributes significantly Pakistan to Uzbekistan. In his keynote to poverty alleviation and socio-economic development.

The awards ceremony was a key outstanding contributions and innovations in Islamic finance across the CIS region and beyond. The awards were distributed by H. E. Mr. Ahmed Farooq.

The Best Shariah Advisor Award was presented to Nurinvest from Uzbekistan, received by Mr. Muhamad Nezir Advisor. The Best Shariah-Compliant Digital Product Award was claimed by Royal Bullion Capital Trading LLC from the UAE, with the award received While discussing the CIS Islamic by Mr. Ravi Kiran Madiki, Chief Execthe Best Islamic SME Financing Solu-



Eco Islamic Bank from Kyrgyzstan received the Best Islamic Bank Award. accepted by Mr. Gadhiev Abdulmadzhid, while AutoSoft Dynamics from Pakistan was recognized as the

for Islamic Finance, with Mr. Waleed Ahmed, Chief Commercial Officer, receiving the award.

Uzbekistan, received by its CEO, Mr. Nuriddin Lafizov. Meanwhile, AMANA SUG'URTA JSC from Uzbekistan In the rapidly evolving fintech received recognition for its Outstanding space, the Islamic FinTech Excel- Contribution to the Takaful Industry,

Khudayberdiev, Chairman of the Board.

Capital Investment Holding Group from the USA was honored with the Best Islamic FinTech Award, which was received on behalf of Dr. Tamara Alqolaghassi, President of the organization, by Ms. Shehla from AlHuda CIBE. Similarly, the Best Takaful Operation in CIS Award was presented to Apex Takaful - Islamic Window from Uzbekistan, with Mr. Maksud Sabirov Abdugafurovich, Director, accepting the recognition.

For advancing human capital in the industry, Al Muamalat Consulting from Uzbekistan received the Outstanding Contribution to Islamic Finance Talent Development Award, which was accepted by Mr. Iskandar Tursunov, CEO. The Best Trade Firm for the Development of Ijarah Industry Award was presented to the Leasing Association of Uzbekistan, with its Chairman, Mr. Zafarjon Mustafaev, receiving the

Lastly, Masryef Advisory from Malaysia was also presented with an Islamic FinTech Excellence Award. accepted on behalf of Mr. Khairil Anuar Mohd Noor, Director of Masryef Advisory, by Ms. Shehla from AlHuda CIBE.

The awards served not only to honor individual and institutional excellence but also to inspire continued innovation, regulatory progress, and international cooperation in building a strong and inclusive Islamic financial ecosystem in the CIS region and glob-

Pakistan urged to fast-track carbon market readiness to mobilize climate finance

👺 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Experts on Tuesday underscored that amid mounting climate challenges and a tightening global regulatory landscape, Pakistan must accelerate its efforts to establish a robust carbon market framework to secure its place in the international climate finance ecosystem.

The stakeholders made these remarks at the workshop titled "Enhancing Carbon Market Readiness in Pakistan," organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI).

marks Dr Saiid Amin Javed

Deputy Executive Director sized that robust MRV systems (Research) at SDPI, emphasized that carbon markets are rapidly emerging as a key tool for climate finance, backed by both national ownership and global momentum. "Pakistan must embed carbon policy into its broader fiscal strategy," he stressed. "We need to adopt a futuristic approach to climate financing, as traditional avenues will shrink over time."

Dr. Irfan Yousuf, CEO of Climate Action and Policy Initiative, delivered a comprehensive itive amid mechanisms like the keynote on "MRV as an Enabler EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Delivering the opening for Climate Investment and Mechanism (CBAM)," he said. Finance Readiness." He empha-

form the backbone of transparent climate action financing and are essential for building trust, credibility, and investor confidence.

Engineer Ubaid ur Rehman Zia, Head of Energy Unit at SDPI, highlighted the intensi $fying\,competition\,in\,global\,carbon$ markets and Pakistan's recent policy moves such as the imposition of a carbon levy on diesel and petrol in the federal budget. "Pakistan's industry must reduce its carbon footprint to stay compet-

Dr. Zainab Naeem, SDPI's

Head of Ecological Sustainability, stressed that carbon markets offer a viable alternative financing mechanism amid climate-induced increasing disasters. She underscored the importance of integrating environmental sustainability into macroeconomic planning and building a homegrown sustainability industry that includes circular economy and permaculture models.

Rehman Yousuf discussed a live carbon finance project involving agroforestry in Sindh's Mirpur Khas district, emphasizing scal- ards. ability and the importance of following global validation stand-



Punjab Agriculture Department

Managing Partner at Sohail & "The market is ready and there

LLP, raised concerns about regu-Bulent Sohail, legal expert and latory and institutional readiness.

is capital," he noted, "but a lack of regulatory clarity and stakeholder coordination is holding back investment." Concluding the workshop

day one, Saleha Qureshi, Head of Pakistan Industrial Decarbonization Program, SDPI, announced the next session in the series would focus on Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) systems-a vital component of any credible carbon

Ubaid ur Rehman Zia informed participants that the Institute is developing a guidebook to demystify carbon markets and promote wider understanding

'FAPUASA Seeks Parliamentary Support to Retain 25% Tax Rebate for Teachers and Researchers'

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the Federation of All Pakistan Universities Academic Staff Association (FAPUA-SA) held a series of important meetings with cabinet members and parliamentarians to discuss critical challenges facing Pakistan's higher education sector.

The delegation included Central President Prof. FAPUASA President Prof. Dr. Amjad Abbas Magsi, President of the Islamabad Chapter Dr. Muhammad Muhammad Jadoon Khan.



Dr. Mazhar Iqbal, former Federal Minister for Educa- Peoples Party, including tion Mr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, and Federal Minister for Science and Whip, National Assembly), Technology Nawabzada Iqbal Jatoi, and Central Khalid Hussain Magsi. In Agha Rafi Ullah (MNA), Information Secretary Dr. addition, the delegation Syed Abrar Hussain Shah held discussions with senior

The delegation met with leadership of the Pakistan Syed Naveed Qamar, Mir Ijaz Khan Jakhrani (Chief Dr. Nafisa Shah, Syed (MNA), and Mr. Pullain

Baloch (MNA, National Party, Balochistan).

FAPUASA also met with representatives from MQM, including Mr. Farooq Sattar, Mr. Amin-ul-Haq (MNA), and Mr. Javed Hanif (MNA). During these meetings, the delegation highlighted the deteriorating state of higher education in Pakistan and called for urgent action to safeguard the sector.

parliamentar-The ians endorsed FAPUA-SA's demands, particularly the continuation of the tax rebate, and assured the delegation that they would take up these issues in Parliament and at other relevant govern-

and FACE Advance Smart Farming Through Strategic Partnership

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Punjab Agriculture Department, in collaboration with the Food Security and Agriculture Center of Excellence (FACE), a not-for-profit development organization, commemorated a significant milestone in their ongoing partnership during a ceremony held in

Lahore today. This public-private collaboration is designed to modernize Punjab's agriculture landscape by building capacity, introducing digital tools, and integrating technology-driven solutions at the grassroots level. A key

nical capabilities of field devices enable real-time officers through advanced training in crop yield improvement, drone-assisted farming, satellite data utilization, and AI-based crop monitoring.

To deliver impactful, highquality training, FACE has engaged international agricultural specialists and designed a series of crop-specific seminars, hands-on workshops, and learning modules tailored to Pakistan's local context.

A major highlight of the initiative is the deployment of 60 Digital Pest Traps across key agricultural zones

focus is enhancing the tech- in Punjab. These smart leaders. detection and identification of crop-damaging pests, helping mitigate lossesestimated at 20-30% of crop

output annually due to pest

infestations.

Additionally, 30 top-performing agriculture students from local universities have been inducted into a threemonth paid internship program, where they will work alongside field officers from the Agriculture Extension Department. This hands-on exposure aims to bridge the academic-industry gap and groom the

next generation of agri-tech

To further accelerate digital adoption, FACE has also donated laptops to the Agriculture Department, allowing frontline officers to leverage satellite imagery, crop analytics, and precision monitoring tools—ushering in a new era of data-driven

agriculture. The ceremony was attended by the Secretary Agriculture Punjab, senior field officers, academia, FACE management, and farmers' representatives, underscoring a shared commitment to innovation, sustainability, and food security in the province.

Karandaaz Releases K-FIS 2024 Survey Findings

Reflecting a decade of financial inclusion trends in Pakistan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Karandaaz Pakistan, an impact investment platform dedicated to driving sustainable economic growth and strengthening financial and social protection systems for inclusion, has released the 2024 edition of the Karandaaz Financial Inclusion Survey (K-FIS), marking a decade of demand-side financial data and providing a powerful roadmap for advancing inclusive finance in Pakistan.

K-FIS continues to be the only nationally representative demand side survey that captures people's real financial experiences across gender, geography, and income segments. The 2024 findings reveal a significant leap in financial inclusion, which icant strides in inclusion,

has increased fourfold, from just 8% in 2013 to 35% in 2024. This growth is primarily driven by the rise of mobile money, now used by 30% of adults, up from less than 1% ten years ago.

While this progress is encouraging, the report highlights persistent gaps in usage, trust, and equity. Only 14% of women report owning a full-service financial account, compared to 56% of men. Women's access to mobile phones also remains limited, with only 46% ownership compared to 82% for men, limiting their ability to avail digital financial services.

Geographic disparities persist as well. Punjab (40%), Islamabad (38%), and Gilgit-Baltistan (33%) have made signif-

whereas Balochistan (23%) and Azad Jammu & Kashmir (25%) continue to lag behind. The adoption of the government-backed RAAST payment system shows promise, with wallet registrations more than doubling from 17% to 41% in the last two years. Users cited speed (77%) and affordability (43%) as the main advan-

In his welcome remarks, Waqas ul Hasan, CEO Karandaaz, said "As the K-FIS results reveal, there is a persistent and troubling gender divide. Today, 56% of adult men in Pakistan have a registered financial account, compared to just 14% of women." He further added, "Karandaaz envisions a Pakistan where these divides no longer

exist and where every individual,

regardless of gender, has the tools to participate fully in the formal economy. We believe that inclusion is not a one-time achievement, but a continuous journey, and that data, like the one we share today, must guide us." Despite this progress, formal

financial services remain underutilized. A striking 85% of adults continue to rely on informal sources-mainly family and friends—for credit. Meanwhile, trust remains a critical barrier: only 9% of excluded adults say they trust banks, and just 8% trust mobile money providers. Only 36% feel comfortable using any financial

During the keynote address, Syed Samar Hasnain, Executive Director Digital Financial

Services, State Bank of Pakistan to enabling financial resilience, Financial Resilience within (SBP), stressed on the significance of demand-side surveys, commenting, "Datasets are collected regularly on the supply side, from the perspective of financial institutions. However, data collection efforts on the demand side, from the perspective of households and individuals, are limited. Nonetheless, individual level surveys are essential to get invaluable insights regarding financial behavior."

K-FIS offers actionable insights for policymakers, regulators, and service providers. It highlights the need for gender-responsive financial product design, deeper investment in digital infrastructure and trustbuilding, and a shift in focus

helping people prepare for and recover from economic shocks.

The webinar for the launch also featured two important panel discussions. The first one, titled "From Growth to Gaps – Who's Included, Who's Left Behind: The Next Horizon in Financial Inclusion?", was moderated by Stephen Rasmussen, former CEO of CGAP, with an expert panel consisting of Jahanzeb Khan, CEO, easypaisa Digital Bank; Mehr Shah, Head of Research, and Umair Ahmad, Senior Joint Director, Agricultural Credit & Financial Inclusion Department, State Bank of Pakistan.

The second panel, titled from simply opening accounts Financial Inclusion and Building

Communities," was moderated by Ali Akbar Ghanghro, Senior Manager, Research & Insights, Karandaaz Pakistan. The panel featured Patrick Reily, Founding Partner, Uplinq Technologies; Hussam Razi, Associate Director, Innovations for Poverty Action; Halima Iqbal, CEO, Oraan; and Nageen Akhtar, Head of Innovation, Bank Alfalah. In her closing remarks,

Carol Coye Benson, Adviser to Karandaaz Board and Chair DFS Ragami Islamic Digital Bank; Advisory Committee, Karandaaz, said, "Karandaaz Financial Inclusion Survey has become a cornerstone of evidence-based financial inclusion efforts in Pakistan by relying on demand-side data "Closing the Gender Gap in collected directly from people rather than from institutions.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share **Index Fluctuation**

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
120,465.93	121,971.04	
Day's High	Day's Low	
121,905.49	120,417.99	
Index Value	Change	
12,457,771,557	-1505.11	
Percentage	Time	
-1.23%	18 Jun, 2025 4:30 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	

Europe: FTS	E 100 Index
Index Value	Change
8,843.47	+9.44
Percentage	Time
+0.11%	18 Jun, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones I	ndustrial Average
Index Value	Change
42,317.30	+101.50
Percentage	Time
+0.24%	18 Jun, 1:12 pm GMT-4

isia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
38,885.15	+348.41	
Percentage	Time	
+0.90%	18 Jun, 3:45 pm GMT+9	

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	182.25	187.25
Bahrain Dinar	749.05	758.05
Canadian Dollar	205.5	210.5
China Yuan	38.85	39.25
Danish Krone	42.23	42.63
Euro	325.25	328.4
Hong Kong Dollar	35.59	35.94
Indian Rupee	3.19	3.28
Japanese Yen	1.93	2.03
Kuwaiti Dinar	913.65	923.65
Malaysian Ringgit	66	66.60
NewZealand \$	168.5	170.5
Norwegians Krone	27.3	27.6
Omani Riyal	733.6	742.6
Qatari Riyal	76.81	77.51
Saudi Riyal	75.4	76.25
Singapore Dollar	218.5	223.5
Swedish Korona	29.09	29.39
Swiss Franc	335.55	338.35
Thai Bhat	8.4	8.55
U.A.E Dirham	77.15	78
UK Pound Sterling	380.5	384
US Dollar	283.5	285.6

Hybrid vehicles in Pakistan are more expensive than the fuel savings they offer!



Example 2 Commerce Report

KARACHI: Pakistani car buyers have bought more than 35,000 SUVs at a price above Rs 8.0 million in the last year, and to save the fuel cost, 50% customers preferred Hybrid Vehicles. But Pakistani car buyers are buying expensive HEV SUVs compared to conventional petrol versions. This was revealed by Syed Asif Ahmed, General Manager Marketing Division at MG, while talking to media.

Asif informed that MG has sold more than 16,000 vehicles in Pakistani market so far out of which approximately 2000 were Plug In Hybrid vehicles (PHEV) as Pakistani customers are realizing the true economic benefit of PHEV as it's a perfect urban mobility option for the urban

He says despite the changing trend of converting to PHEV from HEV Pakistani consumers have just one choice in the shape of MG HS PHEV, although having a better technology but still placed lower than most hybrids in Pakistan.

Asif said that MG leads specification leadership in Pakistan. All automakers now follow the global specs MG introduced in MG HS in both CBU & CKD. MG vehicles have crossed approximately 350 million miles since its launch in Pakistan in 2021, and MG HS has successfully tested for Pakistan's fuel, terrain (road), and weather conditions, he added.

Asif said the vehicles in Pakistan are still expensive. Globally, hybrid vehicles deliver financial value when their purchase price does not exceed more than 10% of the cost of an equivalent petrol vehicle.

Government Launches Historic 15-Year Bond

Strong investor support shows confidence in Pakistan's economic direction

Example 2 Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Finance has successfully raised over PKR 1.2 trillion through a major auction of government bonds held today. This includes the launch of a new 15-year Zero Coupon Bond, the first of its kind in Pakistan, which received strong demand from investors and raised over PKR 47 billion.

This new bond does not pay interest every year. Instead, investors receive a lump sum at the end of 15 years. This helps the government reduce short-term repayments and plan finances better. The strong response shows that investors are confident in Pakistan's economy and reforms.

This move is part of the government's broader strategy to reduce borrowing risks, extend the repayment period of debt, and promote Islamic and long-term financial products. Yields on other government bonds also dropped, indifuture. cating optimism in financial markets about falling inflation and lower interest rates in the



The average repayment period of domestic debt

has increased from 2.7 years last year to 3.75 Pakistan's debt is now becoming more stable. years now, reducing the pressure to repay loans shows that Pakistan's economy is gaining quickly. Moreover, more pension funds and investor trust and moving in the right direction.

insurance companies—rather than just banks are now investing in government bonds.

This helps spread financial risk and deepen the local investor base.

Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb said: "This is a major step forward in making Pakistan's financial system stronger and more resilient. We are introducing new, smart ways of borrowing that reduce risk and give investors more options. Our aim is to manage public debt responsibly, promote Islamic finance, and attract more long-term investment to support the country's economic

The Ministry of Finance is also working on more products to allow ordinary citizens to invest in government bonds, especially Islamic ones, to encourage savings and financial inclu-

Despite global uncertainties, today's auction

President of FBATI

Declares Federal and

Provincial Budgets as

Sugar Prices

Islamabad: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, chairs a high-level meeting with representatives of the Pakistan Sugar Dealers Association to discuss sugar prices and nationwide availability on Wednesday.



Area Association of Trade

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

KARACHI:

Anti-Industry

Sheikh

Tahseen, Muhammad President of the Federal B and Industry (FBATI), expressed deep disappointment over the federal and provincial budgets, describing them as a roadmap to hardship for both industries and the general public. He strongly criticized the imposition of new taxes such as sales tax on solar products and carbon tax on petroleum, stating that these measures will significantly increase production costs and inflation.

that the budget provided no leaving no room for indus-



and medium enterprises (SMEs), with no reduction in taxes, incentives, or allocation of funding for boosting production. He added that the government further burdened the public by increasing petroleum prices, while policy He expressed concern rates remain at high levels, relief for industries or small trial expansion.

PPL Marks 75 Years of Excellence

Example 2 Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) commemorated its Platinum Jubilee with a landmark ceremony held in Karachi on June 17, 2025, celebrating 75 years of national service, energy leadership, and progressive transformation. Attended by distinguished stakeholders, retired executives, and serving leadership, the event served as both a tribute to the Company's legacy and a bold declaration of its future direction.

The highlight of the evening was the formal unveiling of PPL's refreshed Vision, Mission, Core Values, and Corporate Logo, all of which mark a significant inflection point in the Company's strategic evolution.

In his keynote address, Mr. Imran Abbasy, Managing Director & CEO of PPL, emphasized that the transformation is the outcome of a year-long, inclusive and rigorous engagement involving employees, senior management, and the Board of Directors. "This was more than a branding exercise; it was a recalibration of our collective purpose," he noted.

PPL's refreshed Vision—"Empowering sustainable growth through integrated energy solutions and beyond"-articulates the Company's renewed commitment to playing a pivotal role in energy, sustainability, and innovation-driven national development.

The event underscored PPL's resolve



operational excellence, and strengthen focused investments in digital transformation, green technologies, and mineral ventures, PPL is set to lead with purpose, driven by its refreshed identity.

As the Company transitions into

to embrace change with agility, pursue this new era, Mr. Abbasy called on employees, partners, and stakeholders to its impact on national prosperity. With unite under the shared vision: "Together, we will chart even greater milestones; empowering sustainable growth, delivering transformative solutions, and shaping a future worthy of our proud

Tribunal Upholds CCP's Decision Against Pakistan Steel Mills for **Abuse of Dominance**

S Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Appellate Tribunal (CAT) has upheld the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) decision against Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM), affirming its ruling that the state-owned enterprise had abused its dominant position in the sale of low carbon steel billets.

The CCP had imposed a penalty of Rs25 million for PSM's anti-competitive and discriminatory conduct. While acknowledging the violation, the Tribunal partially allowed PSM's appeal and reduced the penalty to Rs5 million, citing the limited duration of non-compliance.

The CCP took suo motu notice in 2009 following and (h) of the Ordinance.

media reports and a complaint by M/s Frontier Foundry (Pvt.) Ltd., which alleged preferential treatment by PSM towards a particular buyer, Abbas Group, at the expense of other market participants. CCP's investigation revealed that PSM withheld supply of key steel products between November 2008 and January 2009 without any objective justification, thereby violating Section 3 of the Competition Ordinance, 2007.

The Tribunal observed that PSM failed to inform all buyers of product availability, enabling exclusive access for a single group and causing harm to other market players. Such conduct, the Tribunal noted, constituted abuse of dominance under Section 3(2)(g)

Fatima Fertilizer Wins Pakistan Digital Awards 2025

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Fatima Fertilizer Factory has once again won two more awards at the Pakistan Digital Awards 2025, making it the sixth consecutive year of success in these awards.

At this year's Pakistan Digital Awards, Fatima Fertilizer's Sarsab UNDP campaign was awarded the Green Digital Advertising Campaign Award and the Best Content Award was given to the Ramadan campaign in purposeful messaging for social, Allah Ho, which featured famous singer Atif Aslam.

impartial platform that recognizes companies, websites, apps, and creators who have performed exceptionally well in Pakistan's digital sector.

Fatima Fertilizer's Sarsab UNDP

Digital Award, is a partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), through which Fatima Fertilizer is the first company in Pakistan to implement the SDGs Impact Framework.

Speaking in this regard, Rabil Saduzai, Director Sales and Marketing, Fatima Fertilizer, said, "Both of these awards are a matter of pride for us. Winning both these awards is a testament to our belief spiritual, and environmental betterment. This achievement by Fatima Pakistan Digital Awards is an Fertilizer not only showcases the company's creative prowess but also highlights its serious efforts for social betterment and the development of Pakistan. These awards are a testament to Fatima Fertiliz-



campaign, which won the Green er's commitment to bringing about positive change through purposeful messaging, digital expertise, and strong partnerships.

U-19 Cricket Skills Assessment Camp to Commence from 18 June in Multan

MULTAN: The Pakistan Cricket Board has called 60 U19 men's cricketers for a Skills Assessment camp at the Inzamam-ul-Haq High Performance Centre in Multan from Wednesday, 18 June. 30 players each will participate in the first and second phases, respectively. The players in the first phase will undergo matchbased skill assessment from 18 to 23 June, while the second phase will run from 25 to 30 June.

Additionally, 10 players who have previously represented Pakistan U19 and are eligible to feature in ICC U19 World Cup 2026 will be called up in the third phase of the camp. The players born on or after 1 September 2006 are eligible to feature in the forthcoming ICC U19 World Cup.

The players for the camp have been selected based on their performances in the National Men's U17 Cup 2024-25 and are no longer eligible to participate in future editions of the same tournament. Also, performers from the U19 inter-district tournament have been selected, while players who featured in the recently concluded Grade II tournament and meet the eligibility criteria for the ICC U19 event have also been invited to the identification and training to high-

The objective of the U19 camp is to identify players for this year's High-Performance Centre in



next year's ICC U19 World Cup (Zimbabwe and Namibia).

During both phases of the camp, players will take part in match scenarios, enabling the academy coaches to assess their talent. Following this, 20 players will be shortlisted and along with the 10 Pakistan U19 players, a final pool of 30 players will continue training in the third phase of the camp, which will run from 1 July until the last week of August.

Azhar Ali, Head of Youth Development: This camp is a vital step in our long-term strategy to develop a strong and competitive squad for next year's ICC U19 World Cup. We have designed the programme to ensure a structured pathway for our emerging players – from quality match exposure.

The players invited to the

based on their performances and potential. This first phase allows us to assess and train them in a high-performance environment, with a focus on refining skills, fitness and game awareness.

Following the conclusion of the camp, in the second phase, these players will feature in the Regional U19 tournament scheduled to take place later this year. This will help us monitor their progress and identify a pool of 30 players for the ICC

The third phase will involve 30 players selected from the regional tournament, who will undergo intensive training and match preparation in the lead-up to the ICC U19 World Cup. Our goal is to build a well-rounded and technically equipped squad, ready to compete at the highest level in youth cricket."

First phase players (in alpha-ACC U19 Men's Asia Cup and Multan have been shortlisted betical order): Abbas Khan



(Lahore), Abdul Ahad (Multan), Abdul Rasool Tariq (Lahore), Abdul Wahab (Abbottabad), Abdul Wassay (Bahawalpur), Alyan Salman (Lahore), Atiq Ur Rehman (Peshawar), Ghulam Haider (Sialkot), Ghulam Mustafa (Bahawalpur), Haroon Khan (Peshawar), Hassan Ahmad (Peshawar), Hazrat Ali (Lahore), Ibtisam Azhar (Lahore), Jawad Khan (Peshawar), Moiz (Lahore), Mudasir (FATA), Muhammad Arshad (Rawalpindi), Muhammad Makki (Bahawalpur), Muhammad Saim (Faisalabad), Muhammad Salman Muhammad (Abbottabad), Zeeshan (Sialkot), Naseem Akhtar

walpur), Sameer Minhas (Multan). Shah Afzal (Peshawar), Sufyan Amin (Multan), Talal Ahmad (Multan), Uzair Ali (Peshawar) and Waleed Iqbal (Bahawalpur)

Second phase players (in alphabetical order): Ahmed Raza (AJK), Abdul Wahab (Hyderabad), Ali Hassan Baloch (Lahore), Asad Umar (Karachi), Faisal Rehman (Larkana), Fazal Ur Rehman (Quetta), Hasnain Abbas Dar (Lahore), Huzaifa Ahsan (Karachi), Ishrat ul Ibad (DM Jamali), Jiyad (FATA), Mohammad Haris (Hyderabad), Mohammad Abbas (FATA), Mohammed Abbas Afridi (FATA), Muhammad Ismail (FATA), Muhammad Nameer (Hyderabad), Muhammad Shahzaib



Shayan (Peshawar), Muhammad Siraj (FATA), Muzamil Khan (FATA), Najeeb Ur Rehman sented Pakistan U19) in third (Quetta), Naveed khan (FATA), phase (in alphabetical order): Niqab (Islamabad), Obaid Khan Abdul Subhan, Ahmed Hussain, (Quetta), Rizwanullah (Karachi), Saad Sakhawat (Islamabad), Sahil Nisar (Islamabad), Sheeraz Ahmed Tahir, Momin Qamar, Tayyab Arif,

Naqeeb (FATA), Muhammad Waleed Iqbal (Bahawalpur) and Yahya Shah (Hyderabad)

10 players (already repre-Farhan Yousaf, Hassan Khan, Mohammad Huzaifa, Mohammad (Quetta), Taimur Ali (FATA), Umar Zaib and Usman Khan.

Pakistan's fixtures unveiled for ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026: PCB Official

(Multan), Rana Adeel Mushtaq

(Multan), Riyan Jibran (Baha-

Asim Tanveer

T20 World Cup 2026 to be Ground in Birmingham. played across seven venues in

into two groups are set to teams. Pakistan will open their compete for the title in the ISLAMABAD: The Interna- 33-match tournament with tional Cricket Council has hosts England taking on Sri announced the complete Lanka in the tournament fixtures list of the ICC Women's opener at the Edgbaston Cricket

Pakistan are slated in Group England from 12 June to 5 July. 1 with Australia, India, South shire bowl on 20 June before A total of 12 teams divided Africa and two qualifying taking on the defending cham-

campaign against India at Edgbaston on 14 June and will face South Africa at the same venue on 17 June.

Pakistan will travel to Southampton for their third fixture to face qualifier at the Hamp-



pions and six-time T20 World to be played to 30 June and 2 Cup winners Australia at Headingley Cricket Ground in Leeds.

On 27 June, Pakistan will face the second qualifier in historic Lord's Cricket Ground their group for the fifth and on 5 July. last group fixture at the Bristol County Ground. The top two Women's T20 World Cup 2026: teams from each group will advance to the semi-finals set Edgbaston (2.30pm local time)

July at the Oval Cricket Ground in London.

14 June: vs India at

17 June: vs South Africa at Edgbaston (6.30pm local time) 20 June: vs Qualifier at The final is inked in at the Hampshire Bowl, Southampton (2.30pm local time)

23 June: vs Australia at Pakistan's fixtures at the ICC Headingley (6.30pm local time) 27 June: vs Qualifier at Bristol County (10.30am local time)

World Olympic Day Celebrated with Enthusiastic Cycling Rally at University of the Punjab

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: In a spirited celebration of World Olympic Day, the University of the Punjab organized a dynamic Cycling Rally on its historic campus, promoting the Olympic values of friendship, excellence, and respect. The in a powerful display of unity, fitness, and national pride.

The honorable Vice Chancellor. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali, presided Klair, General Secretary, Pakistan over the event as Chief Guest, while Dr. Cycling Federation, was specially

Sports, University of the Punjab, played a pivotal role in planning and executing this vibrant initiative.

More than 100 male and female cyclists, including university students and sports lovers, actively participated in the rally, which resonated with the event was a resounding success, uniting Olympic spirit of inclusivity and camastudents, faculty, and sports enthusiasts raderie. The cyclists rode across designated university routes, spreading messages of health, peace, and unity.

Guest of Honour, Moazzam Khan

Muhammad Shabbir Sarwar, Director invited to the event by the Vice Chanment to fostering a sports-friendly cellor. He attended alongside Mr. academic environment. In return, the Shahzada Butt, a senior figure in the national cycling fraternity. Their presence highlighted the strong connection between academic institutions and national sports bodies in promoting physical education and Olympic aware-

> As part of the ceremony, souvenirs were exchanged between the guests and university officials. Mr. Klair presented commemorative shields to Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali and Dr. Shabbir Sarwar, in recognition of their commit-

university honored the distinguished guests with special tokens of appreci-

The event concluded with resounding applause and a collective pledge to continue nurturing a sports culture that aligns with international standards and Olympic values. The University of the Punjab reaffirmed its dedication to encouraging youth engagement in physical activities and supporting national efforts for sports



World Games 2025: Panda-shaped medals unveiled as Chengdu marks 50-day countdown

Sports Desk

Games 2025 on Tuesday revealed the official medals for the international multi-sport event, marking 50 days tions reflecting the Games' theme: to go before the opening ceremony in Chengdu, China.

athleticism and local identity, honouring the city's iconic symbol and rich cultural heritage, according to a press release issued by the organisers.

Crafted in gold, silver and bronze, the medals feature bamboo designs on the ISLAMABAD: Organisers of The World front and the hibiscus flower - Chengdu's city flower - on the back. Each bears bilingual English and Chinese inscrip-"Boundless Sports, Countless Wonders."

These medals are more than just Shaped like a panda's head, the awards; they are a heartfelt tribute to medals were hailed as a fusion of global Chengdu and the unifying spirit of The World Games," said International World Games Association (IWGA) President José Perurena. "The panda-inspired design strikes a beautiful balance set to compete in 34 sports and 60 discininess, highlighting world-class venues





plines, with a total of 255 medal events between playfulness and meaning." More than 4,000 athletes from scheduled from August 7 to 17. nearly 120 countries and regions are

Organisers also touted the city's read-

equipped with cutting-edge technology and a robust transportation plan that includes exclusive lanes and streamlined systems for athletes, officials, and fans.

Volunteer preparations are well underway, with nearly 10,000 volunteers undergoing training since May. In a show of intergenerational enthusiasm, a 100-year-old participant has joined the programme, becoming a symbol of the Games' inclusive spirit.

For the first time in its history, The World Games will host a torch relay, scheduled for July 26. A total of 120 alike.

torchbearers will carry the flame across Chengdu, in a gesture organisers hope will unite communities and spark global excitement.

Ticket sales have gained momentum, with the latest round launched on June 10, offering over 80,000 tickets across 229 matches in 52 disciplines.

The TWG 2025 Chengdu is shaping up as a celebration of both sporting excellence and cultural vibrancy, with organisers promising an unforgettable experience for athletes and spectators

Five Pakistanis complete UCI online cycling course

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Five Pakistanis have successfully completed the Union Cycliste Internationale's (UCI) online cycling Machines course and are now officially certified as Level 1 Coaches.

Pakistan Cycling Federation (PCF) as a major step forward in its commitment to education and capacity building, aligned with the standards set by the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI), said a press release.

include Miss Maham Tariq, Nisar Ahmad, Shayan Rahman, Muhammad Usman and Naeem Ahmad.

This accomplishment highlights the PCF Secretariat's ongoing efforts to profession-This was announced by the alize cycling in Pakistan by equipping trainers with internationally recognized credentials. By adopting global best practices, the Federation aims and into the next, culminating to nurture a new generation of skilled and knowledgeable national-level coaches and coaches capable of developing commissiear the formal estab-

The newly qualified coaches young talent across the country. lishment of specialized national In parallel with the Machines commissiear. course, another educational

results of this course will be

in the certification of additional

These important strides in education and governance are program tailored for national cycling champions is currently strongly championed by Syed underway. This program has Ali Shah, whose dedicated leadseen the enthusiastic particiership has been instrumental pation of over 30 participants in laying the groundwork for a robust cycling education system who are undergoing structured training and assessments. The in Pakistan. His vision is to ensure that everyone involved announced later this month in the sport—from grassroots to elite levels-is not only passionate but also formally trained and qualified according to UCI standards.



Looking ahead, certified with leading training initia- administrative framework of

individuals will be entrusted tives and contributing to the the sport.

The Spokesman

Meeting ISLAMABAD: DPM/FM, Senator Ishaq Dar chaired a high-level meeting to review the supply and availability of essential food commodities especially sugar.

Ministry of Finance signs USD 1,000 million, 5-year long term financing facility

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Finance has signed a syndicated term finance facility of USD 1,000 million partially guaranteed by a Policy Based Guarantee of the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Program "Improved Resource Mobilization & Utilisation Reform".

Dubai Islamic Bank acted as the Sole Islamic Global Coordinator while Standard Chartered Bank acted as the Mandated Lead Arranger and Bookrunners.



Sharjah Islamic Bank, Ajman leading financiers in the Bank and HBL as Arrangers.

The facility is a landmark

Mandated Lead Arranger and strates strong support from

region. This is a 5-year multi-Other financiers include transaction for the Govern- tranche facility including ience and stability and has

facility was structured to be fully compliant with AAOIFI standards, and accounts for 89% of the total financing amount. The remaining 11% is from conventional financing.

The transaction is also the first facility supported by ADB's Policy-Based Guarantee linked to policy reform measures undertaken by an ADB Member Country., i.e Pakistan.

The ADB Program is designed to support Pakistan to build long-term fiscal resil-Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank as the ment of Pakistan that demon- both Islamic and conven- supported Pakistan's re-entry

tional tranches. The Islamic into international commercial markets, with significant interest from Middle Eastern Banks.

Government of Pakistan has entered into the Middle Eastern financial market after nearly two and a half years, success of which indicates the renewed trust of the market in the fiscal stability and the overall improvement in the macroeconomic indicators of

This transaction also marks the beginning of new partnership of Government of Pakistan with Middle Eastern

BISP chief meets Ch Salik to discuss Benazir **Hunarmand Program**

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Chairperson Senator Rubina Khalid, met with Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Chaudhry Salik Hussain, at his office to brief him on the upcoming Benazir Hunarmand Program (BHP) and formally invite him to its launch ceremony at the Aiwan-e-Sadr on June 21.

During the meeting, Senator Rubina Khalid shared the vision and design of BHP, a key initiative aimed at providing marketdriven, competency-based skills to BISP beneficiaries and their family members. She said that in a country with a growing young poputhe underprivileged, skills



the hour.

that the program not only trainees for employment with demand from overseas

market, particularly in Gulf like construction, healthcare, The Chairperson explained Cooperation Council (GCC) hospitality, and IT. countries. She stressed lation and limited employ- focuses on local job oppor- that skills training under ated the Chairperson's vision ment options, especially for tunities but also prepares BHP would be aligned of moving beyond financial

development is the need of in the international labour markets, including trades

Ch Salik Hussain appreciaid to empowerment through

skills. "This is a step in the right direction. Instead of only giving financial support, BISP is now offering opportunities that can truly change lives by helping people stand on their own feet," he said.

DPM instructs PIA to liaise with MoFA for smooth execution of evacuation plans

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister (DPM/FM), Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday instructed Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) to coordinate closely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to ensure smooth and efficient execution of the evacuation plans.

The deputy prime minister made the directions while chairing a meeting to review the ongoing evacuation of Pakistani nationals/zaireen those who are still present in Iran presently stranded in Iran and Iraq. and Iraq.

The meeting was attended by the Foreign Secretary and other senior officials, a DPM's Office news release

The DPM/FM was briefed about the progress made so far and evacuation plans for the coming days.

Expressing satisfaction at the efforts made, the DPM/FM directed that the Foreign Office, in coordination with other departments, shall expedite the repatriation of Pakistani citizens and provide all assistance to

Outgoing Hungarian envoy calls on NA Speaker Ayaz Sadiq



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Outgoing Hungarian Ayaz Sadiq in Islamabad,.

During the meeting, both leaders share their views on Pak-Hungary bilateral relations and other matters of mutual interest.

Ayaz Sadiq paid tribute to Ayaz Sadiq emphasized the promo- of my diplomatic service. tion of Pakistan-Hungary relations and strengthening.

There are vast possibilities for improve further.

cooperation between Pakistan and Hungary in various fields, he added.

The two leaders stressed the need Ambassador Bela Fasikas called on to make the Pakistan-Hungary Speaker National Assembly Sardar Parliamentary Friendship Group

Speaker of the National Assembly says that Pakistan is always adopted a policy of patience and tolerance with India for peace in the region. Hungarian Ambassador said that the the services and positive role of visit of the Pakistani parliamentary Hungarian Ambassador Bela Fasikas. delegation is a memorable moment

Bela Fazykas made it cle that Pakistan-Hungary relations will

Millions in Public Funds Under Probe: NAB Summons Azam Swati

👺 Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has issued a formal call-up notice to senior politician Mohammad Azam Khan Swati in connection with an ongoing inquiry into alleged illegal withdrawal and misappropriation of government funds.

The inquiry, initiated under Sections 18(c) and 19 of the National Accountability Ordinance (NAO), 1999, pertains to financial irregularities involving officials of the District Accounts Office in Kohistan and other connected entities. The case involves government funds listed under MES 323205.

received a complaint indicating that the records are crucial for a just deci-Mr. Swati may be in possession of

SECP and Directorate of

key financial records relevant to the inquiry. The bureau has asked him to appear as a defendant before the Combined Inquiry Team (CIT-I), Investigation Wing-I at NAB's regional office in Phase-V, Hayatabad, Peshawar.

The notice directs Mr. Swati to present himself on June 23, 2025, at 11:00 AM, along with complete documentation regarding payments made to his bank account by M/s Kohistan Associate and Builders during the year

In the light of the nature of the allegations, prima facie it has been observed that you are in custody of important record relevant to the According to the notice, NAB case," the notice states, adding that sion in the inquiry.

CM Maryam reviews progress on Nawaz Sharif IT City Project

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz presided over a special meeting in Lahore on Wednesday to review progress on Nawaz Sharif IT City Project.

During the meeting, the Punjab Chief Minister was informed that many renowned IT groups of the world showed interest in investing in the Nawaz Sharif IT City Project. The participants were told that Nawaz Sharif IT City has already become the first institution which obtain approval from the Special Technology Zone Authority.

The participants of the meeting was told that 23 renowned IT companies will establish their offices in Silicon Block of Nawaz

Sharif IT City. Imperial College of London, in collaboration with Novacare, will construct a medical college and a hospital, and Netsol will also



IT City. The participants of the meeting were informed that Roots Group and the University of Warwick will form a joint venture. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the

establish first IT University in Nawaz Sharif Amin briefed the participants of the meeting in detail. At the end of the meeting, Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz directed relevant officials to take effective and all necessary measures for the establishment of the Central Business District (CBD) Imran Nawaz Sharif IT City Project.

ISLAMABAD: The Directorate of Legal Education (DLE), PBC and the Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) held a MOU signing ceremony in the Supreme Court Building. The Federal Law Minister attended the ceremony as Chief Guest. The MOU was signed between Barrister Usama Malik Director, Directorate

The MOU aims at enhancing collaboration between the two organisations to promote train-

Lodhi Commissioner SECP.

of Legal Education and Mr. Mujtaba

Legal Education Pakistan Sign Landmark MOU ings on the topics of corporate, Amjad Shah Member Pakistan Bar company, banking and insurance

laws for lawyers and law students. The Directorate will also facilitate trainings for prosecutors and in-house legal counsels of SECP. The ceremony was attended by Mr. Akif Saeed, Chairman SECP, Mr Mujtaba Lodhi Commissioner SECP, Mr Zeeshan Khattak

Commissioner SECP and Mr Muzaffar Mirza Commissioner SECP. The ceremony was also attended by Mr Ahsan Bhoon Member Pakistan Bar Council, Mr Qalb-e-Hassan Shah Chairman Legal Education Committee, Mr and SECP staff.

Council and Mr. Rauf Atta President Supreme Court Bar Association.

The Law Minister appreciated this collaboration and stressed the need for enhanced continued legal education for lawyers. The Chairman SECP also lauded this effort and ensured full support in this regard on behalf of SECP. Barrister Usama Malik stated that this MOU is the start of a long lasting collaboration between the two organisations which will improve the standard of legal training for lawyers, law students

Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi