

AJK PM hails K. H. Khurshid as Champion of Public Rights on Death Anniversary

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Faisal Mumtaz Rathore has said that K. H. Khurshid was a great leader who always stood for public rights and democratic values. In his message issued on the death anniversary of the former president, the Prime Minister said that the deceased leader was a principled politician whose objective was the freedom of Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir and its accession to Pakistan.

"K H Khurshid raised political awareness among the Kashmiri people and encouraged them to speak for their basic rights", the PM said.

The Prime Minister said that K. H. Khurshid's vision was a Kashmir where people would have freedom and demo-



cratic rights." As the private secretary to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, he played a crucial role in the Pakistan Movement and later devoted his energies for the promotion of democratic traditions in Azad Kashmir", he added.

Terming K. H. Khurshid as a man of honesty and integrity, the AJK premier said that the deceased would be remembered for a long time in the annals of Kashmir's history.

"K. H. Khurshid died in a tragic accident while he was traveling on a coach and had a few rupees in his pocket", he said, adding that it speaks volumes of his integrity.

The Prime Minister urged the younger generation to learn from the life and struggle of K. H. Khurshid.



ISLAMABAD: A high-level delegation of the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference, led by Secretary General Meheran-un-Nissa and Chairman Youth Wing Sardar Usman Ali, visited the Iranian Embassy to express their condolences over the martyrdom of the Iranian leadership during the recent war. On this occasion, a group photo was flanked by Iranian Ambassador Dr. Reza Amiri and other embassy officials.

Information Minister Hails Late President Khurshid as Model of Principle and Democracy

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Information Minister Chaudhry Muhammad Rafique Nayyar has said that Khurshid-ul-Hassan Khurshid was a fearless, bold and principled leader, who always stood on the path of truth and justice. His life was a reflection of true democratic thinking, and he never compromised on principles. KH Khurshid's role in giving the Kashmiri people the right to vote will always be remembered. In his special message on the occasion of the death anniversary of former President of the State of Khurshid-ul-Hassan Khurshid, the Information Minister paid tribute to him and said that KH Khurshid's services for the revival of democratic traditions in Azad Kashmir will always be appreciated, as he was a custodian of democratic values and a great leader of the Kashmiri nation. His struggle was always based on principles and he was never a prisoner of personal interests. His political insight, integrity and passion for public service are a beacon for us. His simplicity and principledness were such that he continued to live like a common citizen even after his presidency. The Kashmiri people will always remember their sacrifices.



Former diplomat warns Mideast conflict reaching 'unprecedented proportions'

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Masood Khan, former President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and former Pakistan Ambassador to the United States, China, and the United Nations, has warned that the intensifying conflict in the Middle East has assumed unprecedented proportions and could evolve into one of the most consequential global confrontations of the modern era.

In a televised interview analyzing the rapidly evolving security environment in the region, Ambassador Masood Khan stated that the war shows no immediate signs of cessation and is likely to be decided on the battlefield rather than through diplomacy. While backchannel mediation efforts are underway, he noted that negotiations have repeatedly stalled and violence continues to escalate on multiple fronts.

Ambassador Khan observed that the conflict is expanding geographically and strategically, with both sides targeting critical infrastructure. He pointed out that attacks on oil depots, refineries, and desalination facilities have introduced a new and alarming dimension to the war. These strikes, he said, are not only military actions but also carry severe environmental and humanitarian consequences. Reports of polluted rainfall and contamination following attacks on oil facilities illustrate the widening ecological impact of the conflict.

PPP leader vows impregnable defense against aggression

City Reporter

MUZAFFARABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party Azad Kashmir Central Deputy Secretary Information Candidate Assembly Constituency 7 Spokesperson Prime Minister Shaukat Javed Mir has said that in view of the rapidly changing global scenario, Pakistani Kashmiris will prove to be an impregnable defense against any possible aggression by enemy forces, national security, national identity and public dignity. Under the leadership of Chief of Defense Forces Hafiz Syed Asim Munir, just as God Almighty gave Pakistan a great victory over India and terrorists in the Battle of Haq Bunyan Marsus and Operation Zarb-ul-Haq, similarly, the nation is eager to immortalize its role in world history by tying a shroud over its heads for national honor and creating a history of strength of faith. The skyscraper of trust-building between President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, Chief of Defense Forces Hafiz Syed Asim, Chairman Bilawal Bhutto, Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore is tantamount to a death warrant for the anti-Pakistan imperialist system. The party's senior leader Chaudhry Riaz, the party's acting president, Chaudhry Latif Akbar, are organized and united under the leadership of the party's president, Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin.

Vice Chancellor Nishtar Medical University visits Nishtar Hospital's Emergency Department

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Vice Chancellor Nishtar Medical University Multan, Professor Dr. Mehnaz Khakwani, along with Medical Superintendent Nishtar Hospital Multan Dr. Rao Amjad, Director Emergency Ward Dr. Muhammad Zahid and Dr. Muhammad Ayub Qazi, Deputy Medical Superintendent Emergency Ward, visited the Accident and Emergency Department of Nishtar Hospital.

During the visit, the Vice Chancellor reviewed the medical facilities provided to patients in the Emergency Department, administrative matters and other arrangements. He met with doctors, nursing staff and other staff and appreciated the steps taken for better care of patients.

On this occasion, the Vice Chancellor directed that timely and quality medical facilities should be provided to patients coming to the Emergency Department and arrangements should be further improved for the convenience of patients.



Preparation for Itikaf

LAHORE: Muslims arrive the Badshahi Mosque for Itikaf during the last ten days of Islamic fasting month of Ramadan, in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

AJK Election Commission Gears Up for 2026 Polls with Focus on Electoral Roll Accuracy

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: An important meeting of the Azad Kashmir Election Commission was held under the chairmanship of Chief Election Commissioner Azad Jammu and Kashmir Justice (ret'd) Ghulam Mustafa Mughal regarding the preparation and updating of electoral rolls in connection with the conduct of general elections 2026.

The meeting was attended by Member Election Commission Syed Nazir-ul-Hassan Gilani, Senior Member Board of Revenue Sardar Zafar, Secretary Local Government Irshad Qureshi, Secretary Election Commission Raja Muhammad Shakeel Khan, Commissioner Muzaffarabad Badar Munir, Commissioner Mirpur Tahir Mumtaz and Commissioner Poonch Sardar Waheed and other concerned officers.



It was further decided that the verification process with NADRA will be made more effective and through field verification, the names of deceased voters will be removed from the electoral rolls, while the information of voters who have changed their permanent address in their national identity card will also be updated in the electoral rolls.

Addressing the meeting, Chief Election Commissioner Justice (ret'd) Ghulam Mustafa Mughal said that the Azad Kashmir Election Commission is making full preparations for the upcoming general elections and it is being ensured that the electoral rolls are correct in every respect.

On this occasion, Secretary Local Government Irshad Qureshi assured

the Election Commission of full cooperation and said that the field staff of the local government will also provide full support to the Election Commission to make the process of preparation and verification of electoral rolls effective so that all arrangements for holding the upcoming general elections can be completed in a timely and efficient manner.

Multan DC Orders Intensified Anti-Dengue Drive Through Inter-Departmental Coordination

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Deputy Commissioner Multan Muhammad Noman Siddique has said that all departments should take vigorous steps with mutual communication to make the anti-dengue campaign effective so that citizens can be protected from the threat of dengue.

He said that field teams should ensure surveillance on a daily basis and immediate action should be taken by identifying the possible breeding places of dengue larvae in a timely manner.

He expressed these views while presiding over a meeting held regarding the anti-dengue campaign. Officers



of the relevant departments attended the meeting, while a briefing was also given on dengue surveillance, indoor

and outdoor activities and safety measures.

Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Noman Siddique

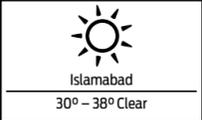
directed that regular monitoring of cemeteries, tire shops, junkyards, construction sites and other sensitive places

should be done and immediate remedial measures should be taken wherever the presence of dengue larvae is found.

He said that the anti-dengue teams should also intensify awareness campaigns among the citizens so that the people do not allow water to stagnate in and around their homes and take precautionary measures.

He further said that no one will be spared for violating dengue SOPs and action will be taken against the responsible persons as per the law.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to complete all the targets of the anti-dengue campaign on time and to continuously monitor the field activities.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	5:03 am
Zohr	12:18 pm
Asr	4:30 pm
Maghrib	6:11 pm
Isha	7:34 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad	1122 & 1122
Emergency Ambulance	1122 & 4451122
& Rescue Services	4451122
Motorway Police	9266044
Motorway Police	9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

CMH	561111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHO	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 Metropolitan Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service	
E-7, F-10 & F-11	9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8	9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8	9266316
Wapda Islamabad	9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint	119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank	
Rawalpindi	0331-5022125

Important meeting held regarding processions on the Martyrdom Day of Hazrat Ali (RA)

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: A significant meeting was held at the DC Office Attock under the chairmanship of District Police Officer (DPO) Attock Sardar Mowarrah Khan along with Deputy Commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza regarding the processions to be taken out on the 21st of Ramadan. Members of the Shia Ulema Council also participated in the meeting.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on the arrangements and security measures for the processions to be held on the occasion of the Martyrdom Day of Hazrat Ali (RA) on 21st Ramadan. The participants reviewed procession routes, security plans, traffic management, and other related matters.

On this occasion, the DPO Attock stated that foolproof security arrangements would be ensured for the peaceful conduct of the processions. He added that the police and district administration would work in close coordination to take all necessary measures to maintain law and order.

CM Punjab decides to transform Crime Control Department into premier investigation agency

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif has decided to transform the Crime Control Department (CCD) into a premier investigation agency.

The decision was taken in view of the department's performance in curbing crime and the positive public response to its operations. It was decided that the scope of the CCD would be further expanded and the department would be developed on the lines of the world's five leading crime control agencies.

The chief minister directed that the CCD be equipped with modern forensic capabilities, advanced investigative skills, modern technology, artificial intelligence-based software, state-of-the-art intelligence surveillance systems and modern machinery and equipment to make it one of the most advanced law

enforcement institutions in Pakistan. The department will also be provided with modern tools for tracking and monitoring criminals.

She also approved the establishment of a fully equipped CCD headquarters with modern facilities. It was further decided that CCD offices, police stations and residential facilities would be established in every division, district and tehsil of Punjab.

The chief minister also approved a province-wide campaign against illegal weapons after Eid al-Fitr. According to official figures, the measures taken by the CCD have led to a significant decline in crime across Punjab.

Officials said incidents of robbery have declined by 77 per cent compared to last year, while cases of mobile phone and bag snatching have decreased by 49 per cent. Vehicle theft has dropped by 17 per cent, attempted murder by 31 per cent, and



kidnapping for ransom by 45 per cent. The chief minister also approved the establishment of a modern research

centre within the CCD dedicated to developing new strategies for crime control. She further assigned the depart-

ment the task of taking strict action against perpetrators of acid attacks on women.

Security arrangements on Youm-e-Ali

ISLAMABAD: Police personnel are performing their duty very accurately to counter any unexpected situation during the Youm-e-Ali procession from G-6/4 to G-6/2 in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Quran recitation and condolence gathering held in Hyderabad to pay tribute to Ayatollah Syed Ali Khamenei

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

HYDERABAD: A Quran recitation ceremony and condolence meeting were held at the Iran Culture House (Khaneh Farhang) in Hyderabad to pray for the elevation of the ranks and the reward of the departed soul of Ayatollah Syed Ali Khamenei, who was described as a martyr in the path of truth. The event was organized by the Cultural Center of the Islamic Republic of Iran and was attended by prominent religious and political figures.

Following the recitation session, a condolence meeting was held under the chairmanship of Dr. Saeed Hashmi, Director of Khaneh Farhang Iran. Speakers at the event included Sahibzada Abul Khair Muhammad Zubair, Maulana Muhammad Ali Jarwar, Syed Ghulam Mohiuddin Jani Shah Hussaini, Maulana Sajjad Jawadi, and others.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Saeed Hashmi thanked the participants and appreciated the solidarity shown by the people of Pakistan with Iran. He said that just as the Pakistani public stood



with Iran during the twelve-day conflict, they had also expressed deep sympathy and friendship on the martyrdom of the Iranian leader.

The event concluded with the congregational Maghrib and Isha prayers, followed by an Iftar arrangement for all participants.

Clift Hospital's Hamza Ijaz Honored Guest at Friendship Business Group Iftar

Anwar Chohan

GUJRAT: According to details, Hamza Ejaz, son of the well-known philanthropist Dr. Ijaz Bashir and administrator of Clift Hospital, attended an Iftar ceremony as a Guest of Honor on the invitation of Chairman Friendship Business Group, Chaudhry Nadeem Manzoor Bega. Senior journalist and Coordinator Clift Hospital, Aziz-ur-Rehman Mujahid, also attended the event.



The ceremony was attended by distinguished guests including prominent business personalities and well-known individuals from different walks of life. Upon the arrival of Clift Hospital Gujrat Administrator Hamza Ijaz, Chairman Friendship Business Group Chaudhry Nadeem Manzoor Bega and Mehr Waqas of Waqas Enterprises warmly welcomed him.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, Hamza Ijaz appreciated the leadership and services of Chairman Friendship Group of Companies, Chaudhry Nadeem Manzoor Bega. He said that he is a talented, dignified and visionary personality who, besides business activities, is also playing a significant role in social welfare. He added that such institutions promote positive traditions in society and create an atmosphere of hope and cooperation through welfare initiatives.

At the end of the ceremony, a dignified Eid bonus distribution ceremony was also held. Continuing the tradition of the Friendship Group of Companies, Eid bonuses were distributed among all employees. On this occasion, Hamza Ijaz, Coordinator Ayesha Bashir (Clift Hospital), and renowned journalist Aziz-ur-Rehman Mujahid distributed Eid gifts among the employees of Friendship Group of Companies as Guests of Honor.

The event was attended by important business, social, and welfare personalities from across District Gujrat. The participants appreciated this tradition of Friendship Group of Companies, stating that sharing happiness with employees and including them in the joy of Eid is a commendable act that reflects mutual trust, affection, and a strong relationship between the organization and its employees.

PTI MPA slams PM Shehbaz's address as national embarrassment

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Member of the Provincial Assembly from Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Syed Ejaz Hussain Bukhari, said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's address to the nation became a cause of embarrassment for the country at home and abroad. He said the Prime Minister discouraged the public instead of boosting their morale.

Speaking to the media after the Prime Minister's speech, he said that no mention was made about reducing the expenses of the Prime Minister's House or selling luxury government aircraft worth billions of rupees. He added that the announcement that the federal cabinet would not take salaries for two months would not provide any real relief to the public.

Bukhari further stated that the government misled the nation regarding petroleum reserves. He said that while the government claimed the country had nearly one month of petrol reserves, within a few days petrol prices were increased by more than 50 rupees per liter, which severely affected the poor.

He also said that Muslim countries should stand with Iran, describing it as a sincere neighboring country. According to him, the Muslim Ummah should fully support Iran during this difficult time.

PHMA Opposes 0.9% Infrastructure Cess in Punjab

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Mr. Ahmad Afzal Awan, Senior Vice Chairman of Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PHMA) North Zone has strongly opposed the imposition of a 0.9 percent Infrastructure Development Cess in Punjab, stating that such levies would further increase the cost of doing business and adversely affect the competitiveness of Pakistan's export-oriented textile sector.



In a statement issued here on Tuesday, Mr. Ahmad said that the value-added textile sector, particularly hosiery and knitwear exporters based in Faisalabad and other industrial hubs of Punjab is already facing immense challenges due to high energy tariffs, rising raw material costs, and increased taxation. The imposition of an additional infrastructure cess will place an unnecessary financial burden on exporters who are striving to sustain their presence in highly competitive international markets.

The PHMA North Zone leadership called upon the federal and provincial authorities to consult with industry stakeholders before introducing any additional taxes or charges that may negatively impact the export sector.

He reiterated that the government must adopt policies that promote industrial expansion, boost exports, and ensure the long-term sustainability of Pakistan's textile industry.

Iran will achieve victory in the war against Israel and the US - Muslim League Qayyum

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The President of Pakistan Muslim League (Qayyum), Syed Saqlain Abbas Bukhari, along with party office bearers, visited the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, where they met with the Iranian Ambassador, Reza Amiri Moghadam, and consulate officials.

On this occasion, he expressed full solidarity with Iran and said that in this difficult time Pakistan Muslim League (Qayyum) and the people of Pakistan stand with Iran and pray for its success. He strongly condemned the joint military actions of Israel and the United States and stated that the



entire Muslim Ummah must open its eyes, recognize its enemies, and stand

with Iran in every way.

On this occasion, party leaders including Hasnain Bukhari, Central Deputy Secretary of Information Faisal Anwar Bhatti, Central President Overseas Sheikh Zahid Parvez, Coordinator and Advisor to the President Advocate Zahid Abbas, President Youth Wing Haider Shah, Vice President Islamabad Farrukh Mughal, Party Leader Rawalpindi Wamiq Ali, Party Leader Rahim Yar Khan Shakeel Shah, President Islamabad Minority Wing Younis Masih, Joint Secretary Minority Wing Islamabad Khurram Shahzad, Party Leaders Adnan Shaikat, Khurram Shahzad, Saleem Shaikat, and other party officials were also present.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almass Ayoub Sabir**
 Vice Chairman: **Asim Nazir Ahmad**
 Editor: **Naveed Ahmad Khan**
 Head Editorial Advisory Board: **Amjad Mehmood**
 Bureau Chief Karachi: **Khurram Jaffrani**
 (jaffrani@adpluse.pk)
 Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)
 Head Office: AIMS Building, Street No. 4, H-8/1, Islamabad.
 spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com
 Phone: +92 51 2227123,
 WhatsApp +92 346 5008408
 Karachi office: A111, Block C, Gulsha-e-Jamal, PRECHS,
 Karachi Phone: 021-33399390
 Email: spokesmankarachi@gmail.com
 Lahore Office: 7-E, Samanberg, Johar Town.
 spokesmanlahore@gmail.com
 Daily The Spokesman available only on annual subscription

Trump Buries the United Nations

In the ashes of the Second World War, humanity stood at the edge of civilizational collapse. Two catastrophic wars had devastated continents, killed more than 70 million people, and shattered the illusion that unrestrained nationalism and military power could coexist with global stability. Out of this devastation emerged one of the most ambitious political projects in human history: the creation of the United Nations in 1945. Designed largely under the leadership of the United States and its wartime allies, the institution was meant to prevent future wars, eliminate poverty, encourage diplomacy, and build a world governed by rules rather than brute force.

For nearly eight decades, the United Nations and its related institutions helped construct what came to be known as the “rules-based international order.” Agencies such as the World Health Organization, World Food Programme, International Monetary Fund, and World Bank worked to alleviate poverty, distribute health services, stabilize economies, and assist countries emerging from conflict. The United Nations oversaw peacekeeping missions in dozens of conflict zones, helped eradicate diseases like smallpox, and coordinated humanitarian aid to millions facing famine or displacement. The rule-based trading and financial architecture that followed—embodied in institutions like the World Trade Organization—enabled unprecedented economic growth across the globe.

Yet today, the institution that once symbolized humanity’s collective commitment to peace stands increasingly weakened. The very country that was instrumental in creating and enforcing this system appears to be drifting away from it. Since the return of Trump to the presidency, his rhetoric

and actions have undermined the legitimacy of international law and institutions that once amplified American power. Trump has repeatedly emphasized that the United States possesses the most powerful military on Earth, the largest economy, and unmatched technological capability. While these facts are widely acknowledged—U.S. defense spending alone exceeds \$850 billion annually, greater than the next ten countries combined—the repeated emphasis on raw power signals something deeper: a belief that international rules constrain American freedom of action.

For decades, the United States championed a system where even small nations possessed legal standing and diplomatic voice within the United Nations. The foundational principle was simple but revolutionary: sovereign equality. In theory, the smallest island nation had the same vote in the General Assembly as the largest superpower. This principle helped legitimize the system and ensured that disputes would be resolved through negotiation, consultation, and diplomacy rather than war.

However, the resurgence of “might-makes-right” thinking threatens to unravel that consensus. Increasingly, global politics appears to be drifting away from diplomacy toward unilateral action backed by military superiority. The use of strategic bombers such as the B-52 Stratofortress and stealth platforms like the B-2 Spirit symbolizes this shift. Rather than relying on multilateral consensus or international arbitration, military power is again being invoked as the ultimate arbiter of global disputes.

Nowhere is this erosion of interna-

tional authority more visible than in the Middle East. Israel’s military operations across Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, and Iran have frequently proceeded despite criticism from international bodies and resolutions calling for restraint. Investigations and appeals from the International Court of Justice and multiple UN resolutions have had little practical effect on events on the ground. The devastating war in Gaza, which according to humanitarian agencies has resulted in tens of thousands of civilian casualties and widespread destruction of infrastructure, illustrates the limits of global institutions when powerful states choose to ignore them.

The inability of the United Nations to enforce its resolutions has led many analysts to question whether the organization still possesses meaningful authority. Critics increasingly describe it as toothless—a forum for speeches rather than an institution capable of imposing consequences on those who violate international law. In earlier decades, the credibility of the United Nations rested largely on the willingness of major powers, particularly the United States, to enforce its principles. When Washington itself begins to bypass those principles, the entire structure weakens.

Recent geopolitical events reinforce this perception. The United States has seized foreign oil shipments, imposed sweeping sanctions on adversaries, and conducted military strikes in multiple regions without clear UN authorization. Washington has also openly discussed strategic control over resources in regions such as Greenland and emphasized pre-emptive military action as a legitimate doctrine. These developments

signal a shift away from the cooperative frameworks that once defined post-war international politics.

The consequences of this shift extend far beyond the Middle East. If international rules are no longer respected by their principal architect, other countries may follow the same path. Already, conflicts such as the war between Armenia and Azerbaijan, border tensions across Asia, and unilateral military actions by various regional powers reflect a growing willingness to bypass diplomacy in favor of force.

This erosion of legal norms creates a dangerous precedent. If powerful states feel free to violate borders, eliminate political leaders, or destroy infrastructure without accountability, smaller nations will face increasing insecurity. The collapse of trust in international law could also disrupt global commerce, maritime navigation, and air travel agreements that depend on mutual respect for established rules.

Ironically, this transformation could ultimately weaken the very country that once championed the rules-based order. The international system created after World War II magnified American influence by aligning global institutions with its values and interests. By abandoning those frameworks, Washington risks encouraging a fragmented world where competing blocs pursue power without restraint.

The war in Gaza illustrates another paradox. Despite overwhelming military superiority and the deployment of some of the world’s most advanced weapons systems, Israel and its allies have struggled to achieve decisive strategic outcomes against irregular forces. The persistence of groups such as Hamas and Hezbollah demonstrates that military might alone cannot resolve deeply

Continued on Page 7



Qamar Bashir

High-Level Meeting Pushes Forward Nawaz Sharif IT City in Faisalabad

A meeting was held at the Chief Minister’s Office under the chairmanship of Senior Advisor, Senator Anusha Rehman and Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhry Shafay Hussain, to review the matters related to the establishment of the Nawaz Sharif IT City in the Economic Zone of the Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development and Management Company (FIEDMC). The meeting also discussed issues related to the construction of data centers, technology zone, and digital infrastructure for Nawaz Sharif IT City in Faisalabad.

Senior Advisor Anusha Rehman, while addressing the meeting, said that the promotion of Information Technology (IT) is a top priority of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif. Therefore, in accordance with the vision of the Chief Minister Punjab, the IT Department and FIEDMC will work together for the establishment of the Nawaz Sharif IT City near Faisalabad. She further mentioned that Nawaz Sharif IT City would be developed as a modern and comprehensive technology ecosystem. This project would promote new innovations and attract foreign investment, strengthening Punjab’s digital economy. She stated that this is not just a building and infrastructure project, but a platform for sustainable development. It will provide employment opportunities for the people of Punjab and bring them in line with the global digital landscape through modern technology.

Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Chaudhry Shafay Hussain emphasized that the establishment of the Nawaz Sharif IT City is a highly significant project for the promotion of Information Technology. He mentioned that FIEDMC is Pakistan’s largest industrial estate, which encompasses three special economic zones spread over 8,000 acres. These economic zones have attracted billions of rupees in investment from both domestic and international investors. These zones also offer a 10-year income tax exemption and the facility of one time duty-free import of machinery for investment. He highlighted that the establishment of the IT City near Faisalabad would contribute to the digitization of industries. FIEDMC will provide full cooperation for the establishment of the IT City alongside its special economic zones.

The meeting was attended by Secretary of Information Technology development Zaheer Hassan and officials from the CBD. The CEO of FIEDMC, Quratul Ain, and GM Technical Colonel Adil Malik, along with others, participated in the meeting via video link.



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi. (Courtesy of Ashfaq Al-Awcat)

Austerity for Stability

In periods of uncertainty, the resilience of a state is measured not only by its strategic preparedness but also by the discipline and collective responsibility demonstrated by its citizens. As global tensions intensify and economic pressures grow, the Government of Punjab’s decision to introduce extraordinary austerity measures reflects an attempt to stabilise the provincial economy while reinforcing public confidence during a challenging moment. The appeal for restraint issued by Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif should, therefore, be viewed less as an administrative instruction and more as a call for shared national responsibility.

Economic history shows that crises inevitably reorder priorities. Supply chains tighten, fuel availability becomes uncertain and inflationary pressures place additional strain on households and governments alike. Under such conditions, states are compelled to redirect resources toward essential services while reducing non-essential expenditure. The Punjab government’s decision to suspend fuel allocations for provincial ministers and reduce petrol and diesel allowances for official vehicles by half signals an effort to demonstrate fiscal discipline beginning at the leadership level, a step often demanded by the public but rarely implemented with visible clarity.

Equally notable is the transition toward work-from-home arrangements across government departments, limiting physical attendance to essential staff. Beyond immediate cost savings, reduced commuting lowers fuel consumption and eases pressure on energy resources. Educational institutions, while suspending physical attendance temporarily, continue examinations and academic engagement through online platforms, reflecting an attempt to balance continuity with prudence. Importantly, essential public services remain accessible through digital

governance initiatives, including e-business services and the Maryam Ki Dastak programme, illustrating how administrative adaptability can prevent austerity from becoming administrative stagnation.

The postponement of large public gatherings and cultural events also carries practical economic logic. Such activities require extensive logistical deployment, fuel usage and administrative expenditure at a time when resources must be carefully prioritised. Meanwhile, the establishment of district petroleum monitoring committees and the introduction of a track-and-trace system for fuel distribution indicate an awareness of risks traditionally associated with crisis economies, including hoarding, artificial shortages and black-market activity.

Market regulation has emerged as another important component of the policy response. Enhanced monitoring of transport fares and

essential commodities aims to shield citizens from exploitation during economic uncertainty. Periods of instability often enable profiteering that disproportionately affects lower-income households and undermines social cohesion. Effective oversight, therefore, becomes both an economic necessity and a governance responsibility.

Beyond immediate fiscal savings, the austerity measures suggest a broader administrative vision centred on efficiency and digital transformation. By promoting online services, reducing ceremonial expenditure and encouraging institutional restraint, the provincial government appears to be signalling a shift toward a more performance-oriented governance model. Crises, frequently, accelerate reforms that might otherwise face bureaucratic resistance and the present measures could serve as a foundation for longer-term administrative modernisation if sustained beyond the current circumstances.

Yet governmental initiatives alone cannot

ensure stability. Public cooperation remains decisive. Appeals urging citizens to avoid unnecessary travel, limit late-night commercial activity and refrain from hoarding essential commodities reflect a fundamental economic reality: panic behaviour amplifies scarcity. When consumption exceeds actual need, artificial shortages emerge, prices rise and collective hardship deepens. Responsible consumption, therefore, becomes an essential element of national resilience.

The success of austerity depends on coordinated action across society. Citizens must adopt conservation practices in daily life, businesses must maintain fair pricing and stable supply chains, and public institutions must ensure transparency in implementation. Local administrations must enforce monitoring mechanisms effectively, while media and civil society organisations can help promote awareness and discourage misinformation that fuels uncertainty.

Pakistan today faces a moment that demands economic discipline alongside strategic preparedness. The measures introduced by the Punjab government should be understood not merely as temporary restrictions but as preventative steps aimed at preserving stability during uncertainty. By prioritising essential spending, reducing administrative excess and encouraging collective responsibility, austerity can function as a stabilising instrument rather than a burden.

Periods of crisis often test national cohesion, yet they also create opportunities to reinforce institutional discipline and shared purpose. Nations confronted with adversity either weaken through division or emerge stronger through unity and foresight. The outcome depends largely on public trust and collective participation. If embraced with patience and responsibility, the principle of shared sacrifice can help transform present challenges into a foundation for long-term stability and resilience.

(The writer is a Lahore-based public policy analyst and can be reached at qudratu@gmail.com)



Qudrat Ullah

Middle East at a Strategic Crossroads II

Unlike economies dependent solely on natural resources, the UAE has built a diversified economic model centered on connectivity and international confidence. Global investors view the country not simply as an energy producer but as a gateway linking Asia, Europe, and Africa.

This model of development relies fundamentally on stability. Any prolonged regional conflict would threaten the very conditions that made this transformation possible.

Recognizing this reality, the UAE has consistently pursued a diplomatic strategy aimed at keeping war away from its territory while safeguarding its citizens and economic interests. Through regional dialogue, economic cooperation, humanitarian engagement, and balanced international relationships, the country has attempted to maintain stability even amid turbulent geopolitical circumstances.

This philosophy reflects a broader perspective within the Gulf that prosperity depends on peace. Prominent Emirati voices have echoed this approach. Business leader Khalaf Ahmad Al Habtoor has repeatedly emphasized that the Middle East must avoid becoming a battlefield for larger geopolitical rivalries. His message reflects a widely shared belief within the Gulf that economic progress depends on preventing escalation rather than encouraging confrontation.

Financial markets often reveal this delicate balance.

Gulf stock exchanges sometimes experience volatility during periods of regional tension, yet they remain anchored in long-term economic

growth strategies. Investors continue to view Gulf economies through the lens of infrastructure, logistics, aviation, and international trade rather than through purely geopolitical risk.

Interestingly, financial markets in Israel have occasionally reacted differently during crises. The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange has experienced periods of resilience and even growth amid regional tensions, driven in part by expectations surrounding Israel’s technology and defense sectors.

Such contrasts illustrate how markets respond not only to immediate risks but also to strategic narratives about economic opportunity.

Yet modern conflicts cannot be measured solely through stock indices or military statistics.

Increasingly, wars are contests of narrative and perception.

In situations where a stronger actor reacts forcefully against a weaker opponent, the reaction can sometimes produce the opposite of the intended strategic outcome. A powerful response may achieve tactical success yet simultaneously generate global sympathy for the weaker side.

In discussions on conflict dynamics that I articulated in 2006, I observed a principle that often appears in asymmetric confrontations: “When reaction becomes stronger at the weaker end, the weaker side often prevails.”

This observation reflects a deeper paradox of modern conflict. When a powerful actor responds disproportionately to a weaker adversary, the balance of perception may shift dramatically. The stronger side may win militarily, yet lose legitimacy in the court of global opinion.

Continued on Page 7



Imran Aziz

Jerusalem Governorate warns of changes to Silwan planning maps on Israeli municipality website

Wafa

JERUSALEM: The Jerusalem Governorate has warned of recent changes observed in maps displayed on the website of the Israeli municipality in Jerusalem affecting the East Jerusalem town of Silwan.

These maps show modifications to the planning divisions imposed by the occupation authorities on the town of Silwan, indicating a reduction in its area and the reattachment of parts of it, particularly the Wadi Hilweh area, to what the occupation authorities refer to as the "City of David," an area estimated at approximately 333.76 dunums.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, the governorate explained that this new classification forms part of a framework aimed at transforming sections of the town into a tourist and archaeological zone driven by colonial projects. This effectively reduces Silwan's Palestinian urban space and has direct implications for land-use planning, the provision of municipal services to residents, and the preservation of the town's historical narrative and heritage.

The Jerusalem Governorate affirmed that the divisions, or so-called 'municipal boundaries,' imposed by the occupation in Jerusalem are unilateral and illegitimate measures aimed at reshaping the spatial and demographic reality of East Jerusalem to serve colonial projects.

It emphasized that these actions reflect a deeper process of spatial and political restructuring, redefining neighborhoods and linking them to a heritage and archaeological framework that reinforces the colonial narrative, particularly in areas connected to the Old City, the surroundings of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, and what the occupation refers to as the 'Holy Basin.'

The governorate pointed out that the town of Silwan is one of the oldest Palestinian towns in Jerusalem, located directly south of the Al-Aqsa Mosque. Its history spans thousands of years, having served as one of the historical nuclei around which Jerusalem developed. The town has also been recognized for its role in protecting the southern extension of the Old City, earning it the title 'Guardian of Jerusalem.'

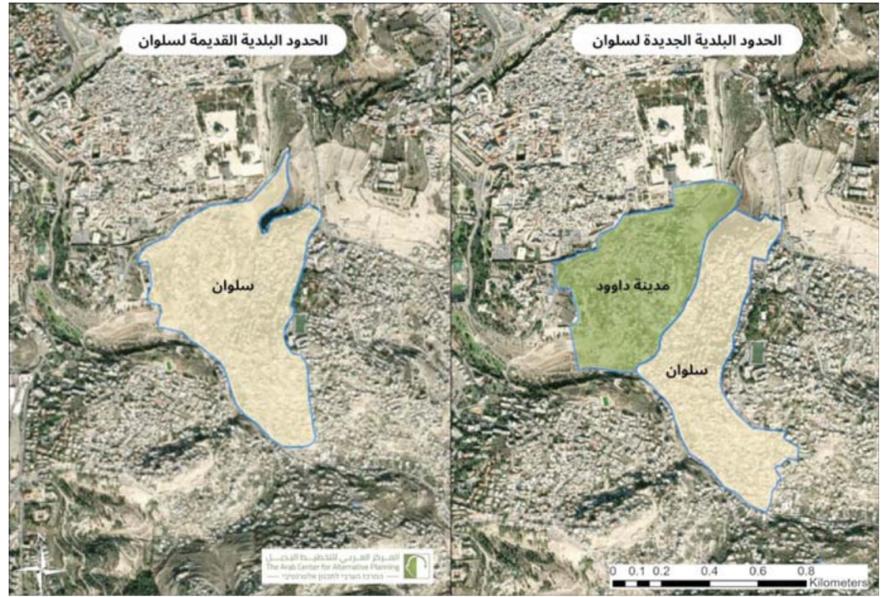
However, since the occupation of Jerusalem in 1967, Silwan has been subjected to ongoing Judaization policies aimed at altering its demographic and geographic character through the seizure of land and homes in favor of colonial associations. The governorate indicated that prior to the 1967 occupation, the town of Silwan extended over an area of approximately 5,640 dunums. Since then, seizure and colonization policies have reduced its territory, as the occupation authorities took over large portions of land and established colonial projects. Colonial associations further target the town through archaeological and tourism initiatives, which are used as a pretext to control land and promote an alleged biblical narrative surrounding what is referred to as the 'City of David.'

The Jerusalem Governorate stressed that all occupation measures in Jerusalem are null and void and illegal under international law, and that they confer no rights to the occupation, regardless of their scale or scope.

It affirmed that these policies, which target Jerusalem and its Islamic and Christian holy sites and constitute acts rising to the level of war crimes and crimes against humanity, will not succeed in undermining the steadfastness of Jerusalemites or displacing them from their land, as they remain

resolute in upholding their right to their city and preserving their historical and national identity.

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Seminar on 'China in Springtime: The 15th Five-Year Plan'

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: China Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) in collaboration with China Media Group (CMG) organised a seminar titled "China in Springtime: The 15th Five-Year Plan - The Global Significance and Opportunities of Chinese Modernization". The event highlighted China's recently concluded Two Sessions, which set the course for the country's governance, economic growth, and global engagement.

Chairman ISSI, Ambassador Khalid Mehmood, in his welcome remarks highlighted that China's modernization under the 15th Five-Year Plan reflects a strong focus on innovation, sustainability, and people-centered development.

The Chief Guest, Mr Murtaza Solangi, reflected on the broader geopolitical context of China's development trajectory, noting that the deliberations of the National People's Congress and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference provide insights into China's long-term economic planning and policy priorities.



Ambassador Masood Khalid, in his keynote address, highlighted the importance of understanding China's development model through its Five-Year Plans, noting that the planning process, initiated in 1953, has evolved

into a pragmatic framework combining long-term vision with periodic evaluation. Dr Hassan Daud Butt highlighted China's development trajectory as the gradual building of a "Great Wall of Development." Despite demographic, environmental, and geopolitical challenges, China has sustained strong

economic growth and technological advancement, particularly in innovation and clean energy.

Dr Tahir Mumtaz Awan highlighted that the 15th Five-Year Plan marks an important step toward achieving socialist modernization by 2035, with a focus on shifting from high-speed to high-quality growth driven by technological innovation, modern industry, and stronger domestic demand.

The Guest of Honour, Mr. Wang Shengjie, Political and Press Counsellor at the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad, stated that the 15th Five-Year Plan reflects a comprehensive and consultative planning process that incorporates inputs from diverse segments of society.

Earlier, Dr Talat Shabbir, Director, CPSC, highlighted the significance of China's Two Sessions in shaping the country's economic and governance policies and their global impact.

The event was attended by diplomats, scholars, policy practitioners, and media professionals, reflecting broad interest and engagement in the discussions.

Israeli forces close Bab al-Amoud Gate area in Jerusalem

Wafa

JERUSALEM: Israeli occupation forces on Monday evening closed the Bab al-Amoud (Damascus Gate) area in occupied Jerusalem.

The Jerusalem Governorate reported that Israeli occupation forces compelled shop owners in the Damascus Gate area to close their businesses after a group of young men and women distributed meals to passersby, marking Iftar, when Muslims break their daily fast at sunset during the holy month of Ramadan.

In a related development, Israeli forces also set up a military checkpoint in the Wadi al-Rababa neighborhood of Silwan, located south of the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

PIBF Welcomes Government's Austerity Measures, Calls for Passing on Global Oil Price Relief to Consumers and Industry



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Pak International Business Forum (PIBF) has welcomed the austerity measures introduced by the Government of Pakistan in response to rising petroleum prices, while urging the authorities to immediately pass on the benefit of declining crude oil prices in the international market to consumers and the industrial sector.

In a joint statement, PIBF Central President Dr. Mushtaq Mangat and Central Secretary General Muhammad Ejaz Tanveer said that the business community considers the government's steps aimed at reducing expenditures and ensuring fiscal discipline as a positive development. They noted that the continuous increase in petroleum prices has significantly raised the cost of transportation, industrial production and overall business operations, putting additional pressure on the national economy.

The PIBF leadership further stated that austerity measures such as reducing petrol allowances for ministers and government departments and curbing unnecessary expenditures are commendable and should be appreciated. However, they emphasised that such steps should not remain temporary but should continue until the country's economic situation improves and stabilises.

They also urged the government to maintain restrictions on unnecessary foreign tours by officials and ministers, and to ensure that public spending remains tightly controlled. The saved resources, they suggested, should be directed toward economic revival, export promotion and the strengthening of industrial productivity.

Proactive Measures Initiated for Dengue Prevention and Inter-Departmental Coordination in Islamabad

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: In view of the approaching dengue season and the increased risk associated with changing weather patterns, the District Health Office Islamabad has initiated a series of coordinated measures to strengthen dengue prevention and preparedness across the federal capital.

The District Health Office has issued advisory letters and notices to various public and private institutions, including educational institutions and private school administrations, emphasizing strict adherence to dengue prevention Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). These communications highlight the importance of environmental sanitation, protection of students and staff, and



the nomination of focal persons or central coordinators within institutions to ensure effective implementation and coordination of dengue control activities.

The Islamabad Health Regulatory Authority (IHRA) has been formally engaged by the District Health Office Islamabad on ensuring compliance of private diagnostic setups and laboratories with dengue prevention protocols and clinical management standards. This includes functional triage desks, diagnostic accuracy, adherence to government-subsidized rates for dengue testing, and timely reporting of real-time dengue data.

IHRA is also expected to coordinate with ICT Disease Control and Prevention teams to maintain zero tolerance for under-reporting and ensure strict monitoring of laboratory services. The Health Services Academy (HSA) has been requested to support community engagement efforts through the mobilization of students and volunteers for evidence-based awareness campaigns, source reduction demonstrations, data-driven mapping, and behavioral change communication initiatives aimed at reducing mosquito breeding sites.

Dr. Syeda Rashida Batool, District Health Officer Islamabad, stated that dengue prevention requires collective action and strong institutional coordination. She emphasized that all relevant departments and institutions must strictly implement preventive measures, ensure environmental cleanliness, eliminate potential mosquito breeding sites, and actively support public awareness efforts. She further added that timely coordination and community participation are essential to effectively prevent the spread of dengue and protect the health of the residents of Islamabad.

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Zong Leading the Era of Intelligent Connectivity for a Digital Pakistan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is entering a new phase of digital transformation and Zong is at the forefront of this change. Zong, the country's pioneering technology service enterprise and a subsidiary of the global telecommunications leader and world-class technology service enterprise China Mobile, has successfully acquired 5G spectrum in the auction conducted by the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority. We are set to introduce a new generation of connectivity designed not just to be faster, but smarter, more responsive, and built for the digital future of Pakistan.

Zong's leadership in digital innovation has been built through a carefully engineered, full-spectrum network strategy designed to deliver both coverage and performance. This approach ensures that customers benefit from consistent, reliable connectivity while experiencing the full power of next-generation technology. Zong's 5G network will unlock new possibilities across every aspect of digital life. From immersive entertainment and high-definition streaming to real-time gaming, smart homes, cloud services and AI-enabled applications, customers will experience a level of connectivity that was previously unimaginable.

Beyond connectivity, Zong's growing portfolio of digital services, platforms and applications will become even more powerful with 5G. Customers will experience enhanced performance across Zong's digital ecosystem, including advanced entertainment platforms, digital lifestyle applications, cloud-based solutions and enterprise services. As the primary connectivity partner for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Zong's 5G deployment provides the critical infrastructure for industrial modernization. By integrating the Z SAIS Public Cloud, Intelligent Cloud Computing Center, Zong offers ISO-certified security standards and Tier III-certified AI-ready platform that enables Pakistani enterprises to compete on a

global stage. This provides Infrastructure, Platform, and Software-as-a-Service capabilities and represents one of the most business-ready cloud ecosystems in Pakistan. Zong has built one of Pakistan's most technologically advanced telecom infrastructures, having 17,000+ cell sites, over 26,000-kilometer fiber-optic network, 53 million+ subscribers, including 44 million data users nationwide. The company also launched OZGPT, Pakistan's first telecom-scale AI assistant delivering intelligent customer engagement across multiple channels and languages. These innovations position Zong as an enabler of smart cities, connected industries, digital health and intelligent transport systems.

Zong's official spokesperson Nabila Yazdani stated, "Securing 5G spectrum is a historic milestone for Zong and for Pakistan. The launch of Zong's 5G marks the beginning of a new era of technology for Pakistan, one defined by innovation, opportunity and limitless digital possibilities. With our advanced network, integrated intelligent ecosystem and unwavering commitment to technological leadership, Zong is proud to power the next era of Pakistan's digital future. We are ready to deliver service quality experience defined by reliability, consistency, and customer-first innovation."



This launch represents more than the introduction of a new technology. It reflects Zong's long-standing commitment to realizing the vision of a digitally empowered Pakistan. Zong, the leading technology service enterprise will continue its aggressive, phased rollout to expand the 5G footprint far beyond the initial

launch cities, ensuring that the benefits of high-speed, low-latency connectivity reach every corner of the country. Zong remains dedicated to bridging the gap between global innovation and local empowerment. The future of Pakistan is now live, and it is powered by Zong 5G.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
156,177.12	146,480.14	
Day's High	Day's Low	
158,354.12	155,294.65	
Index Value	Change	
27,413,040,751	+9696.98	
Percentage	Time	
+6.62%	10 Mar, 2026 4:30 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
10,412.24	+162.72	
Percentage	Time	
+1.59%	10 Mar, 4:35 pm GMT	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
48,032.60	+291.80	
Percentage	Time	
+0.61%	10 Mar, 12:57 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
54,248.39	+1,519.67	
Percentage	Time	
+2.88%	10 Mar, 3:45 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	194.42	198
Bahrain Dinar	731.15	741.70
Canadian Dollar	202.24	206.25
China Yuan	36.50	37.75
Danish Krone	43.32	43.72
Euro	324.74	328.05
Hong Kong Dollar	34.83	35.83
Indian Rupee	2.4	2.85
Japanese Yen	1.7234	1.8234
Kuwaiti Dinar	890.05	900.35
Malaysian Ringgit	65.60	66.25
New Zealand \$	162.16	166
Norwegians Krone	27.61	27.91
Omani Riyal	716.10	726.60
Qatari Riyal	74.55	75.25
Saudi Riyal	73.85	74.85
Singapore Dollar	215.55	222.25
Swedish Korona	30.15	30.45
Swiss Franc	355	358.85
Thai Bhat	7.75	7.95
U.A.E Dirham	75.75	77
UK Pound Sterling	375.59	379.25
US Dollar	279.00	280.3

Chairman FBR meets GCCI delegation; Assures resolution of business community's genuine concerns

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the Gujranwala Chamber of Commerce & Industry (GCCI), led by its President Muhammad Ali Hamayoun Butt, called on Rashid Mahmood Langrial, Chairman of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), to discuss issues and challenges faced by the business community of Gujranwala.

Senior officers of the FBR, including Member (IR-Operations), Member (IR-Policy), Member (Customs-Policy), Chief (F&C) were also present during the meeting.

During the interaction, the GCCI delegation apprised the Chairman FBR of a range of concerns confronting the business community at both policy and operational levels. The delegation particularly highlighted matters relating to tax refunds, super tax installments, and other operational challenges affecting businesses.



The Chairman FBR assured the GCCI delegation that legitimate refunds will be issued

on completion of the due process and codal formalities. He further emphasized that while implementing tax policies, due consideration shall be given to the legitimate hardships faced by the business community, while reiterating that all taxes legally due would be recovered strictly in accordance with the law.

The Chairman FBR also assured the delegation that no official of the FBR would be allowed to create undue difficulties or seek any favour from taxpayers. He encouraged the business community to identify and report any corrupt elements within the FBR system with credible evidence, assuring that strict disciplinary action would be taken against those found involved in corrupt practices.

The delegation also comprised Mr. Saad Jamil Isfani, Senior Vice President GCCI; Mr. Faisal Sattar Mughal, Vice President GCCI; Mr. Asfand Yar, Secretary General GCCI; Mr. Mahr Ikram

Called on

ISLAMABAD: Her Excellency Ms. Alexandra Berg von Linde, Ambassador of Sweden to Pakistan, called on the Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Dr. Musadik Malik on Tuesday.



Photo: Online

Pakistan needs a long-term energy policy and economic reforms, says Chaudhry Inaam Zafar



Commerce Desk

RAWALPINDI: Political and social leader Chaudhry Inaam Zafar reacted to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent address and the increase in petroleum product prices, stating that the rise in global oil prices is a reality, but in Pakistan its impact is likely to be felt by the public far more severely compared to other countries. He said the current global energy crisis clearly indicates that Pakistan must immediately move towards a long-term energy policy, effective economic reforms, and serious development of alternative energy sources, so that the public and the economy can be protected from the negative effects of fluctuations in the international market in the future.

Chaudhry Inaam Zafar highlighted that Pakistan's petrol price has risen by about Rs. 55 per litre to nearly Rs. 321, much higher than increases in neighboring countries like India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. He warned that this hike will raise transport costs and daily essentials, triggering a new wave of inflation. While acknowledging Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's call for austerity and fuel conservation, Zafar emphasized that administrative measures alone are insufficient. He urged the government to reduce heavy petroleum taxes, promote alternative energy, and implement a strong long-term energy policy and economic reforms to protect the public from future global market fluctuations.

foodpanda announces social and welfare initiatives for Ramadan 2026

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Online delivery platform foodpanda has launched several special initiatives during Ramadan, focusing on the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of its delivery partners.

Under the daily "Iftar Dastarkhwan" program, more than 2,000 riders across the country are being provided with nutritious meals every evening at the time of iftar.

Along with this initiative, a nationwide night cricket tournament is also underway, in which 350 riders from different areas of Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad are participating.

On this occasion, Muntaka Peracha, CEO of foodpanda Pakistan, said "Ramadan is a month of reflection and collective harmony. The 2026 roadmap reflects that the company values the



human side of business and aims to take practical steps to improve the lives of people in Pakistan."

Apart from these internal activities,

foodpanda is also collaborating with various welfare organizations to assist in the distribution of ration bags to deserving individuals.

easypaisa digital bank reports profit after tax of Rs. 17.04 billion for the financial year ended Dec 31, 2025

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Board of Directors of easypaisa digital bank has approved the audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2025, with the Bank delivering remarkable results, marking a successful year as the country's first digital retail bank and further reinforcing its leadership position in Pakistan's digital financial sector.

easypaisa digital bank's Profit after Tax (PAT) surged to PKR 17.04 billion, compared to PKR 3.41 billion in the last year. Earnings per Share (EPS) for 2025 rose significantly to PKR 28.47, from PKR 5.77 in 2024. The substantial increase in PAT and EPS is primarily attributable to the recognition of net deferred tax of PKR 10.79



billions arising from previously unabsorbed tax depreciation and business losses, on the back of sustainable profitability. The Bank's steady performance was primarily driven by significant deposit growth and higher fee-based revenues from payment services, while effective cost control further enhanced overall profitability, despite a lower SBP policy rate.

Amin Sukhiani, Chief Financial Officer, easypaisa digital bank, said, "Despite a challenging macroeconomic environment, easypaisa delivered strong operational momentum supported by disciplined financial management and diversified revenue growth."

SECP approves first independent Shariah Screening Process for Capital Market Securities

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has approved Al-Hilal Shariah Advisors (Pvt) Limited to independently conduct Shariah screening of securities. It is the first entity other than the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) and its partners to receive such approval, opening the door for greater competition in Shariah-compliant investment services.

Under the Shariah Governance Regulations, 2023, any person other than an issuer who publicly declares securities as Shariah-compliant is required to develop a Shariah screening process approved by SECP. The approval granted to Al-Hilal Shariah

Advisors provides a structured regulatory pathway for alternative Shariah screening arrangements.

Currently, listed securities are screened for Shariah compliance by the Pakistan Stock Exchange in collaboration with Meezan Bank Limited and Al-Meezan Investments. Out of a total of 535 listed securities at PSX, 308 are currently classified as Shariah-compliant. These companies represent a market capitalization of Rs. 12,373 billion, accounting for approximately 63 percent of the total market capitalization of Rs. 19,679 billion as of December 31, 2025. The data also reflects a growing trend among listed companies towards Shariah compliance in recent years.

PTML acquires 5G Spectrum to Power Pakistan's Next Generation Digital Economy

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pak Telecom Mobile Limited (PTML), operating under the brand name Ufone, alongside its digital telecom brand onic, and a wholly owned subsidiary of Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL), has successfully acquired 5G spectrum in the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority's (PTA) 5G spectrum auction held in Islamabad.

This milestone marks a significant step toward unlocking the next phase of Pakistan's digital transformation by enabling faster connectivity,

ultra-low latency services, and the creation of entirely new digital experiences for consumers, businesses, and industries.

The spectrum acquired by PTML (Ufone) will also be utilized by Telenor Pakistan once its merger with PTML (Ufone) is completed, subject to the necessary regulatory approvals. Following the completion of the merger, the combined entity (MergeCo) will leverage the acquired spectrum to deliver advanced digital services to more than 70 million customers nationwide, creating one of the most powerful digital platforms in the country.

For businesses and enterprises, 5G will unlock transformative capabilities such as smart factories, connected logistics, AI-powered analytics, and highly reliable cloud connectivity that supports mission-critical operations.

Celebrating the milestone, Hatem Bamatraf, President and Group CEO, PTCL & Ufone, said, "5G represents a transformational leap in how people, businesses, and societies connect and innovate. It is not simply about faster speeds, but about enabling entirely new digital experiences and economic opportunities."



HBL PSL 11 schedule Unveiled: Eight Teams to Compete Across Six Venues

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: The 44-match HBL Pakistan Super League (PSL) 11 will take place across six venues from 26 March to 3 May, the Pakistan Cricket Board announced today. Among the six venues – Faisalabad, Karachi, Lahore, Multan, Peshawar and Rawalpindi – Faisalabad and Peshawar will host HBL PSL matches for the first time.

For the first time, eight teams will participate in the PCB's marquee event, HBL PSL, which has successfully completed 10 years and is set to enter a new era with its 11th edition. The eight participating teams in the 39-day event are Hyderabad Kingsmen, Islamabad United, Karachi Kings, Lahore Qalandars, Multan Sultans, Peshawar Zalmi, Quetta Gladiators and Rawalpindi Pindiz.

Among the eight sides, Hyderabad Kingsmen and Rawalpindi Pindiz are the two new teams added following the HBL PSL Auction, acquired for PKR 175 crore and PKR 245 crore, respectively.

tively.

As per the schedule, each team will play 10 matches, with top four sides qualifying for the playoffs comprising Qualifier 1, Eliminator, Qualifier 2 and the Final scheduled from 28 April to 3 May. The final will take place at the PCB headquarters, Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore on Sunday, 3 May. The final will also have a reserve day, which is Monday, 4 May.

The tournament will also see 12 double-headers taking place with Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium hosting three double-headers.

Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore:

Gaddafi Stadium will host 15 matches in total which include the opening match on 26 March between Lahore Qalandars and Hyderabad Kingsmen. The venue hosted the first HBL PSL match on Pakistan soil (final) in 2017 and also staged the finals of the 2022, 2023 and 2025 editions.

Lahore Qalandars – winners of the 2022, 2023 and 2025 editions will play at least five matches at Gaddafi Stadium



with the much-anticipated clash between Lahore Qalandars and Karachi Kings scheduled for 29 March. The venue will also host three double-headers on 29 March, 19 April and 25 April. **Imran Khan Cricket Stadium, Peshawar:**

The venue, previously known as Arbab Niaz Cricket Stadium last hosted an international match (ODI) 20 years ago between Pakistan and India on 6 February 2006. The stadium will host its first-ever HBL PSL match on 28 March between Peshawar Zalmi and Rawalpindi Pindiz, which will be an afternoon fixture.

The stadium is currently hosting matches of the National T20 Cup.

Iqbal Stadium, Faisalabad:

Faisalabad will host seven HBL PSL matches in the

upcoming edition, marking the first time the city will stage HBL PSL fixtures. Defending champions Lahore Qalandars will play four matches at the venue, while Peshawar Zalmi, winners of the 2017 edition, will feature in three matches.

The first match at the venue will be played between Lahore Qalandars and Islamabad United on Thursday, 9 April as an afternoon fixture.

Multan Cricket Stadium, Multan: Multan will host four evening matches, all featuring home side Multan Sultans. The first fixture at the venue will be played on Wednesday, 1 April, between Multan Sultans (2021 winners) and Hyderabad Kingsmen.

National Bank Stadium, Karachi: National Bank Stadium, formerly known as National Stadium Karachi hosted the HBL PSL finals in 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2024. The venue will host six matches in the upcoming edition.

Karachi Kings (2020 winners) and Hyderabad Kingsmen will play three matches each at the

venue, while Peshawar Zalmi and Islamabad United will feature in two matches each. The first match at the venue will be played between Hyderabad Kingsmen and Peshawar Zalmi on Wednesday, 8 April.

A new rivalry between Hyderabad Kingsmen and Karachi Kings will also take place at the venue on Saturday, 11 April.

Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi:

Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium will host 11 matches, including one Qualifier, in the upcoming edition. The venue which hosted ICC Champions Trophy fixtures last year, will also stage two double-headers on 2 April and 26 April.

With the inclusion of two new teams, Islamabad United and Rawalpindi Pindiz will serve as home sides at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium. The venue will host six matches of Islamabad United and five matches of Rawalpindi Pindiz.

Both sides will face each other at least twice in the group stage, with the first match scheduled



for 4 April and the second on 23 April.

Media Accreditation for HBL PSL 11:

The media accreditation process for HBL PSL 11 is now open and journalists who have registered themselves in PCB's online accreditation portal, can apply by clicking here. The

process will run until 7pm on Friday, 13 March and NO late applications will be accepted.

Media are advised to carefully read the Terms and Conditions of HBL PSL 11 available here. Owing to limited space in the press box, priority will be given to local journalists from the venue of the match.

DG Sports Punjab inspects under construction mega sports projects

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi inspected under construction mega sports projects at Nishtar Park Sports Complex on Tuesday.

During his visit, Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi reviewed the construction work of state-of-the-art Punjab International Squash Complex, Punjab Swimming Pool and Padel Courts.

He was accompanied by Director Admin Abid Shaukat, Deputy Director Planning Mirza Nadeem, Deputy Director Zahoor Ahmed and other officials during his inspection visit. Project Director PMU Khalid Raza and Farhan gave a briefing about the construction projects.

Speaking on this occasion, Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi directed the officials concerned to complete the state-of-



the-art Squash Complex as soon as possible. "Seven courts of Squash Complex have been completed and the remaining construction work of this mega project should be finished as per given time frame".

Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi said that state-of-the-art Squash Complex is Pakistan's only world-class squash complex. "This great facility will soon be opened for talented squash players".

Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi further

said that the construction of the modern padel tennis court will also be completed next month. "There will be no compromise on the quality of construction work of mega sports projects".

Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi said that the swimming pool is being reconstructed according to international standards. "The construction of the swimming pool will be completed soon and we are striving hard to make the swimming pool available to the players in the summer season".

Ramadan Hockey League: Victories for Zakir Ali Khan XI and Olympian Abdul Waheed Khan XI

Sports Desk

KARACHI: In the ongoing Fourth Ramadan Hockey League at the Islamuddin & Dr. Muhammad Ali Shah Hockey Academy, Abdul Waheed Khan XI secured their third consecutive victory in the event by comfortably defeating Zafar Ali Khan XI 2-1.

For the winning side, Usman Ashraf and Muhammad Rohail scored one goal each, while Abdul Wasay scored the lone goal for the losing team.

In the second match, Zakir Ali Khan XI defeated Munawwar-uz-Zaman XI in a thrilling and exciting encounter by 4-3.

For the winning team, Kamran Ashraf scored two goals, while Asim Abbasi and Asim Khan scored one goal each. For Munawwar-uz-Zaman XI, Uzair Ahmed scored two goals and Abdul Salam added one.

The chief guest for the matches was Akbar Ali Khan, Chancellor of Sir Syed University of Engineering and



Technology. He was introduced to the players before the matches.

Also present on the occasion were Mrs. Iram Akbar Ali Khan, Chairperson of the Zakir Ali Khan Foundation, Dr. Muhammad Kashif Sheikh (Chairman, Science & IT Department), Dr. Fahad Farooqi (Director ORIC), Nauman-ud-Din Khan (Acting Director Sports),

Talat Mahmood (In-charge Aligarh Sports), Azmat Pasha, Olympians Qamar Ibrahim, Syed Sameer Hussain, Kamran Ashraf, Syed Latafat Hussain Shah, Syed Al Hasan, Junaid Aslam, Moin Alam, Muhammad Aslam Khan, Madam Saeeda Khanum, Tariq Khan, Muhammad Waheed Hussain, Nadeem Saeed, and others.

Trump Buries the United Nations

Continued from Page 4

rooted political conflicts. Even after years of bombardment and tens of thousands of casualties, the underlying grievances and power dynamics remain unresolved.

These realities raise a fundamental question: if overwhelming military force cannot eliminate small insurgent groups, what would be the consequences of applying the same strategy against a large and heavily armed nation like Iran? Iran has a population exceeding 90 million and a vast geographical landscape stretching across mountainous

terrain. Any prolonged conflict would carry immense regional and global repercussions.

The deeper lesson may be that sustainable peace cannot be achieved through force alone. Lasting solutions require dialogue, diplomacy, and recognition of mutual sovereignty. The original vision behind the United Nations was precisely this: a system where disputes would be resolved through negotiation rather than war.

Today that vision appears battered, perhaps even buried. Yet history suggests that institutions often evolve through

crisis. The devastation of two world wars gave birth to the United Nations. The present erosion of international law may eventually compel global leaders to reform and strengthen the very institutions that now appear weakened.

Humanity possesses one enduring advantage over the forces of chaos: the capacity for reflection and hope. If the United States and other major powers rediscover the value of the rules-based system they once built, the United Nations could yet regain its relevance. The alternative—a world governed solely by power and intimidation—would not

merely undermine international stability. It would return civilization to the very conditions the United Nations was created to prevent.

In that sense, the future of the global order may depend not on military strength, but on whether humanity chooses once again to believe that law must stand above power.

The writer is Press Secretary to the President (Rtd), Former Press Minister, Embassy of Pakistan to France, Former Press Attaché to Malaysia and Former MD, SRBC. He is living in Macomb, Michigan

Shaheen Afridi confirms three debutants in first ODI against Bangladesh

DHAKA: Pakistan captain Shaheen Shah Afridi has confirmed that the Green Shirts will field three debutants in the first ODI of their three-match series against Bangladesh, set to be played at the Shere Bangla National Cricket Stadium on Wednesday, March 11.

Pakistan dropped senior players like Babar Azam and Saim Ayub for the series, giving a platform to several

promising talents.

The squad for the series includes six uncapped players: Abdul Samad, Maaz Sadaqat, Muhammad Ghazi Ghorri, Saad Masood, Sahibzada Farhan and Shamyul Hussain. Speaking at a pre-series press conference on Tuesday, Afridi revealed that Sahibzada Farhan, Maaz Sadaqat, and Shamyul Hussain will make their international ODI debuts.

Middle East at a Strategic Crossroads II

Continued from Page 4

This phenomenon is widely discussed in theories of asymmetric warfare. Military scholars often describe it as the paradox of asymmetric conflict, where weaker actors gain strategic advantages through endurance, narrative framing, and international sympathy rather than battlefield superiority.

In such cases, the battlefield is only one dimension of the conflict. The struggle for legitimacy and narrative control becomes equally important.

This dynamic is particularly visible in conflicts involving the Gaza Strip, where humanitarian narratives and geopolitical calculations intersect. In the digital age, images and information travel instantly across global networks, shaping public opinion in real time.

Media therefore plays a central role in modern geopolitical competition.

Long before the rise of social media, scholars recognized the transformative power of communication technologies.

Media theorist Marshall McLuhan famously described the

world as a "Global Village." In his influential book *The Gutenberg Galaxy* he argued that electronic communication collapses spatial and temporal barriers, enabling humanity to interact on a planetary scale.

Today that prediction has become reality.

The internet and digital communication networks have connected societies in ways unimaginable in earlier generations. News, images, and narratives travel across continents within seconds.

However, this transformation has also introduced new risks.

While global communication networks can promote understanding, they can also amplify misinformation, emotional polarization, and geopolitical manipulation.

In many ways, modern conflicts are fought simultaneously on two fronts: the physical battlefield and the informational battlefield.

Control of narrative has become a strategic objective.

In earlier reflections on global communication and governance, I explored these issues through the concept of the Global Village

and what I later described as the eVillage.

In 1998, while discussing the emergence of a global culture of peace, I wrote:

"We cannot perceive a peaceful global village without the existence of one law. A global village without autonomous law neither sustains harmony nor prevents divisions. An eVillage based on autonomous law confirms the composition of global society as a uniVillage capable of overcoming insidious divides."

The idea of the eVillage was intended to move beyond technological connectivity toward a communication environment guided by shared principles of coexistence.

Where the traditional Global Village describes connectivity, the eVillage emphasizes responsibility.

This distinction becomes increasingly relevant in the modern information age.

Communication technologies have multiplied rapidly, producing an unprecedented volume of information. Yet greater information does not necessarily produce greater understanding.

Instead, societies often confront a flood of fragmented narratives that obscure facts and distort reality.

McLuhan famously wrote that "the medium is the message."

My own interpretation developed in a different direction.

I suggested that in the modern communication environment "the message becomes the medium."

In other words, narratives themselves shape the channels through which societies interpret events.

Messages create perceptions. Perceptions create political pressures. Political pressures influence geopolitical outcomes.

This cycle can produce profound consequences for international stability.

As information flows expand, societies may struggle to distinguish between verified facts, emotional narratives, and strategic messaging. The result can be widespread confusion and social polarization.

Stronger actors may attempt to dominate the information environment, while weaker actors use narrative strategies to mobilize international sympathy.

its diplomatic role across the region.

These developments contribute to the emergence of a more multipolar Middle Eastern order.

Instead of relying solely on a single external security guarantor, regional states are gradually balancing relationships with several global powers.

For countries such as the United Arab Emirates, navigating this environment requires pragmatic diplomacy and long-term strategic thinking.

The UAE has increasingly positioned itself as an actor focused on stability, economic development, and international cooperation.

Its policies emphasize connectivity, innovation, humanitarian engagement, and economic partnership rather than ideological confrontation.

This approach reflects an understanding that stability in the Middle East cannot be achieved through military confrontation alone.

It requires diplomacy, economic interdependence, and responsible communication within the global informa-

tion environment.

Ultimately, the question of who is "winning" in the Middle East cannot be answered simply by counting missiles or measuring battlefield outcomes.

Victory in modern geopolitics is often determined by resilience, diplomacy, narrative credibility, and the ability to maintain stability amid uncertainty.

From this perspective, the UAE's strategy of prioritizing peace, protecting economic stability, and safeguarding its citizens may represent one of the most sustainable approaches in an increasingly volatile region.

In a part of the world long associated with conflict, the greatest strategic success may not belong to those who wage war.

It may belong to those who succeed in keeping war away.

Author is educationist and researcher whose earlier writings include "World War 3: The Beginning of Endless Conflicts" and theoretical discussions on global communication systems including the concepts of Global Village and eVillage, exploring the relationship between media, perception, and geopolitical stability.

Youm-e-Ali

ISLAMABAD: A large number of Shiite Muslims are participating in the mourning procession of Youm-e-Ali, from G-6/4 to G-6/2 in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

PM Shehbaz directs FBR to expand automated monitoring to boost tax revenue

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to bring maximum productive sectors under automated monitoring systems in order to enhance tax collection and curb tax evasion.

Chairing a weekly review meeting on FBR affairs at the Prime Minister's Office, the prime minister emphasized the need to further strengthen enforcement mechanisms to increase revenues and ensure transparency in the taxation system.

The prime minister appreciated the economic team for inducting experts into the executive team of Pakistan Revenue Automation Limited (PRAL) to bring efforts to transform the organization into a more efficient and functional institution.

During the meeting, Shehbaz Sharif also instructed the Drug Regulatory Authority to complete the serialization of medicines manufactured in the country at the earliest.

The briefing noted that PRAL's new executive team has become operational and its digital invoicing system is now fully functional. Between



January and February this year, digital invoices worth Rs800 billion were generated, while the system is expected to achieve a target of Rs3 trillion

in digital invoicing by April 2026.

Participants were also told that a modern FBR data center has been completed, while

digital cargo tracking systems, including the e-Bilty system, have been introduced to curb smuggling and monitor cargo movement. A coordinated GPS tracking system for petroleum products has also been implemented.

The meeting was attended by Federal Ministers Muhammad Aurangzeb, Ahsan Iqbal Cheema, Dr Musadik Malik, Attaullah Tarar, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Ali Pervez Malik, Minister of State for Finance Bilal Azhar Kayani, the Attorney General of Pakistan, the FBR chairman and senior officials of relevant institutions.

Finance Minister Terms NGMS/5G Spectrum Auction a Historic Milestone for Pakistan's Digital Transformation

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Tuesday described the NGMS/5G Spectrum Auction conducted by the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) as a historic milestone that will accelerate Pakistan's digital transformation and strengthen the country's digital economy.

Addressing participants at the spectrum auction ceremony held at a local hotel, the Finance Minister said it was a pleasure



to witness the culmination of extensive efforts undertaken over the past year and a half

to finalize the framework for the auction. He noted that the Spectrum Committee, which

he chaired, carried out detailed deliberations to develop a balanced framework aimed at optimizing revenue while simultaneously fostering an enabling ecosystem to advance Pakistan's digital journey.

Senator Aurangzeb acknowledged that the process for the spectrum auction had been initiated earlier under the leadership of the Minister for Information Technology during her previous tenure in 2021. He commended the continuity of policy across successive administrations, noting that while governments may change,

sustained policy direction ensures progress. He termed the auction an important moment for all stakeholders who had contributed to bringing the initiative to completion.

The Finance Minister further noted that improved connectivity and digital infrastructure are particularly critical during times of crisis. Referring to the Prime Minister's announcement a day earlier, he said enhanced digital capacity would enable seamless transitions to online education, remote working and other digital services when required.

Sanaullah, Türkiye Ambassador discuss regional security, Pakistan – Türkiye Cooperation

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Türkiye to Pakistan, İrfan Neziroğlu, met on Tuesday with the Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political and Public Affairs, Rana Sanaullah, to discuss bilateral matters and the evolving political and security situation in the region.

Federal Secretary for Inter-Provincial Coordination Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani was also present at the meeting. During the meeting, the two sides held detailed discussions on issues of mutual interest as well as the changing political and defense dynamics in the region.

Sanaullah, who also holds the portfolio of the Ministry of Inter Provincial



Coordination (IPC) and the Ambassador expressed deep concern over the escalating tensions and conflict

situation involving the United States, Israel, and Iran.

During the discussion, the Ambas-

sador informed Sanaullah that the Minister of Sports of Türkiye is scheduled to visit Pakistan in May. The visit is aimed at strengthening sports cooperation between the two countries and creating joint platforms for youth engagement.

The Federal Secretary reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to expanding cooperation with Türkiye across various sectors at the inter-provincial level.

Sanaullah also highlighted the longstanding brotherly relations between Pakistan and Türkiye, saying that Pakistan attaches great importance to its ties with Ankara and that the two countries have consistently stood by each other in times of difficulty.

Taliban, Fitna Al Khawarij posts in Arando and Kurram destroyed

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani security forces carried out successful strikes against Afghan Taliban and Fitna Al Khawarij posts in the Arando and Kurram sectors, sources said Tuesday.

The operations were part of the ongoing Operation Ghazab-lil-Haq, which is aimed at eliminating threats against Pakistan, the sources added.

According to security officials, the army carried out timely operations in the Arando and Kurram

sectors, destroying key militant posts and centres.

The sources added military action, the Afghan Taliban abandoned their positions and fled.

The security forces are targeting only militant hideouts and military installations, avoiding civilian areas, officials emphasised.

Security sources described the operations as effective, noting that the army's coordinated strikes had successfully disrupted militant infrastructure in the region while minimising collateral damage.

DPM/FM Dar, Chinese FM Yi discuss regional situation



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar and Foreign Minister of China Wang Yi, Tuesday, exchanged views on the evolving regional situation and broader global developments.

The DPM/FM held a telephonic conversation with the Chinese foreign minister and shared Pakistan's perspective and underscored the urgent need to ease tensions in the Middle East and the wider region.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi appreciated Pakistan's constructive efforts

aimed at promoting de-escalation and stability in the region.

"The two leaders stressed the importance of de-escalation and emphasized the need to pursue dialogue and diplomacy in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter," the Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release.

Both sides also reaffirmed the enduring strength of the Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership, reiterated their shared commitment to further deepening bilateral cooperation, and agreed to remain in close contact.

Corps Commander reviews border security arrangements during visit



Rafiullah Mandokhel

ZHOB: Commander 12 Corps Balochistan Lieutenant General Rahat Naseem Ahmed Khan visited the Sambaza sector in Zhob along the Pakistan-Afghan border. The top military official was flanked by the Inspector General Frontier Corps Balochistan (North) Maj Gen Muhammad Atif Mujtaba and Commandant Zhob Militia Brigadier Azhar Khan.

During the visit, the Corps Commander, Lt Gen Rahat Naseem Ahmed Khan, reviewed border security arrangements and inspected key border posts. He also interacted with troops deployed along the frontier, commending their courage, professionalism, and sacrifices in operations against militants. The resolve and operational readiness of Frontier Corps Balochistan in maintaining security along the volatile border belt

were also acknowledged during the day-long visit.

Maj Gen Muhammad Atif Mujtaba reviewed the security situation in the Zhob sector. He visited the strategically important Gudwana enclave, a 32-square-kilometer area recently secured by security forces, and inspected forward bunkers and operational posts.

The IGFC praised officers and soldiers for their resilience and steadfastness in safeguarding the frontier, reaffirming the force's commitment to maintaining vigilance and ensuring stability in the border region.

Meanwhile, Commandant of the Zhob Militia, Brigadier Azhar Khan also reaffirmed that the Pakistan Army and the paramilitary force, the Frontier Corps Balochistan, are unwavering in their noble mission to safeguard the nation's frontiers, maintain law and order, and promote public welfare.