



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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PM Shehbaz Sharif congratulates Rabi Lamichhane, Balendra Shah on Nepal Election Victory

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday extended his heartfelt felicitation to Rabi Lamichhane and Balendra Shah of the Rastriya Swatantra Party on their remarkable victory in Nepal's 2026 elections. He said this strong mandate reflected the trust of the Nepali people in the new and dynamic leadership.



Federal Govt notifies four-day workweek for offices

The federal government on Tuesday notified a four-day workweek for government offices, effective immediately, with the Cabinet Division directing that offices will operate from Monday to Thursday under the revised schedule. The notification formalises the change, marking a significant shift in the working routine of government institutions. Offices will remain closed on Friday, Saturday and Sunday under the new timetable.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Ramazanul Mubarak 22, Thursday, March 12, 2026

www.dailyspokesman.net

@daily_spokesman



Daily Spokesman Vol: 19, Issue: 326 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Meeting with Textile Exporters

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, meeting with a delegation of leading textile exporters and industry stakeholders led by Haroon Sharif, Chairman of the Pakistan Regional Economic Forum, at the Finance Division on Wednesday.



Photo: Online

Finance Minister meets textile exporters to boost export competitiveness

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, met Wednesday with a delegation of leading textile and apparel exporters and industry stakeholders led by Haroon Sharif, Chairman of the Pakistan Regional Economic Forum, to discuss measures aimed at strengthening export competitiveness, facilitating investment, and supporting industrial growth.

During the meeting, the Finance Minister emphasized that strengthening export-led sectors remains central to Pakistan's economic revival strategy. He noted that enhancing productivity, encouraging innovation, and improving global competitiveness of Pakistan's key industries are critical to expanding exports, creating employment opportunities, and sustaining long-term economic growth, said a release issued here.

The Minister reaffirmed the Government's commitment to maintaining close engagement with industry stakeholders to ensure that economic policies remain responsive to the needs of the business community while supporting sustainable and inclusive growth.

He observed that policy frameworks are being continuously refined to promote investment, facilitate reinvestment by established exporters, and remove procedural bottlenecks that hinder industrial expansion, while maintaining fiscal discipline and macroeconomic stability.

Highlighting the importance of strengthening Pakistan's competitive sectors, the Finance Minister stated that the Government recognizes the strategic role of export-oriented industries in driving economic activity and expanding the country's presence in international markets. He emphasized that creating an enabling environment for exporters through improved policy coordination, regulatory facilitation, and investment promotion remains a key priority.

Security forces strike Afghan Taliban posts in Zhob sector



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani security forces struck the Afghan Taliban positions along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border in the Zhob sector, security sources said on Wednesday.

action, militants fled the area, abandoning their positions and weapons, the sources added.

According to the sources, the Pakistan Army struck two militant posts, identified as Post No. 2 and Post No. 3, during the operation.

Security officials said Pakistani forces seized Russian-made 73mm HGL-9 heavy grenade launchers from the positions previously held by the militants.

Following the military

The sources reiterated that Operation Ghazab-lil-Haq is ongoing and will continue until its objectives are achieved.

DPM/FM Dar, Bangladesh FM express concerns over ME evolving situation



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Foreign Minister of Bangladesh Dr. Khalilur Rahman, Wednesday, expressed concern over the evolving regional situation in the Middle East and the wider region and its implications for regional peace and

stability, as well as its wider consequences.

The DPM/FM spoke with Bangladesh foreign minister and while reaffirming their commitment to strengthening Pakistan-Bangladesh relations, both sides agreed to continue close engagement to advance bilateral and multilateral cooperation, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release.

Pakistan, UK resolve to bolster defence and aviation cooperation

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and United Kingdom have reaffirmed commitment to strengthen long-standing partnership and enhance defence and aviation cooperation.



The discussion focused on strengthening Pakistan-United Kingdom relations and promoting mutual collaboration. Both parties expressed a desire to further solidify and

According to details, British High Commissioner Jane Marriott has called on Defence Minister Khawaja Asif. On this occasion, both the leaders discussed ways to enhance bilateral cooperation.

streamline bilateral ties. Matters relating to regional security, defence cooperation, and various aspects of the aviation sector were deliberated.

An agreement was reached to further promote constructive contacts and collaboration between the two countries. The meeting ended with a reaffirmation of the commitment to consolidate the long-standing partnership between Pakistan and the United Kingdom.

DPM/FM Dar directs strict implementation of austerity measures

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Wednesday, directed all ministries and divisions to ensure strict and transparent implementation of the austerity measures, promote fiscal discipline, and ensure prudent use of public resources in line with the government's commitment to austerity and responsible governance.

The DPM/FM chaired a meeting of the Committee for monitoring and implementation of conservation and additional austerity measures, constituted under the directions of the prime minister.

The meeting was attended by the Ministers for Finance & Revenue, Climate Change, Information and Broadcasting, Petroleum, Information Technology & Telecom, the Minister of State for Finance & Revenue, Special Assistant to PM Tariq Bajwa, secretaries Foreign Affairs, Finance, Cabinet and Interior, special secretary Establishment Division, and senior officials from the Cabinet Division and other relevant stakeholders. Provincial chief secretaries also participated, DPM Office said in a press release.

The Committee reviewed progress on the implementation of the Prime Minister's austerity measures, including the decision of federal cabinet members to forego their salaries, expenditure reductions across ministries and departments, and deductions from the salaries of senior government officials drawing Rs. 300,000 and above.

Govt to upgrade bar councils' infrastructure, assures Azam Tarar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Wednesday assured the representatives of various bar councils that government would take measures to improve the infrastructures of bar councils.



During the meeting, various matters concerning the bar associations were discussed in detail. The newly elected representatives apprised the

He met with the presidents, newly elected cabinet members, and other office bearers of Narawal, Lodhran, Jhang, and Hafizabad Bar Associations.

Federal Minister of the issues faced by their respective bars. Particular focus was placed on the improvement of bar rooms, enhancement of library facilities, and welfare initiatives for the lawyers' community.

The law minister acknowledged the vital role of the legal fraternity in the justice system and assured the representatives of the Government's full cooperation in addressing the concerns of the bar associations. He emphasized that improving bar infrastructure, including libraries and bar rooms, would contribute to facilitating lawyers in their professional responsibilities.

641 Afghan combatants & Fitna Al Khawarij killed in operation Ghazab lil-Haq: Atta Tarar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar said on Wednesday that the security forces have killed 641 combatants of the Afghan Taliban regime as well as the Fitna Al Khawarij during Operation Ghazab lil-Haq.



(Righteous Fury). Around 219 tanks, armoured vehicles, and artillery guns have also been destroyed during the operation, he added.

Providing a summary of Afghan Taliban regime and Fitna Al Khawarij's losses at 16:00 hours, the minister said as many as 243 posts of them had been destroyed, while 42 others were "captured and destroyed". He said that over 855 Afghan operatives were injured during the Operation Ghazab lil-Haq

The minister noted that around 65 terrorists and terror support locations across Afghanistan were also targeted by air, effectively.

Azad Kashmir PM hails Madrasas' role in moral, religious development

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, has said that religious seminaries (Madrasas) play a key role in the moral reform of society, raising religious awareness, and nurturing the younger generation.

He said this while speaking to a delegation of Ulema who called on him here today.

"The government values the services of religious institutions and will continue to take serious measures to address their issues", the pm said.

He further stated that the role of Ulema and spiritual leaders was vital for promoting religious harmony, tolerance, and brotherhood in society.

The government, he said, was committed to fostering respect, unity, and coordination among all schools



of thought.

The delegation included President of the Seerat Committee Atiq Ahmed Kiani, Maulana Muhammad Ashraf, Sahibzada Muhammad Firdous Naeemi, Qari Muhammad Ashraf Ali, Muzaffar Hayat Harooni, and others.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on improving the Madrasa system, promoting the welfare of religious institutions, the activities of the Tajweed-ul-Quran Trust, and the advancement of religious education.

The delegation congratulated

the Prime Minister on performing Umrath and extended their best wishes.

They also presented their recommendations to address the challenges faced by students of the religious seminaries and the promotion of religious services.

Sardar Attique honors KH Khurshid: Champion of Kashmiri rights and democracy

Spokesman Report



SAUDI ARABIA: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan has said that K. H Khurshid's life was a reflection of true democratic thinking, and he never compromised on principles. He was a fearless, bold and principled leader, who always stood on the path of truth and justice. K. H Khurshid's role in giving the Kashmiri people the right to vote will always be remembered. His services for the revival of democratic traditions in Azad Kashmir will always be appreciated. He expressed these views while talking to various delegations in Saudi Arabia on the occasion of the annual death anniversary of K. H Khurshid. He dedicated his entire life to the rights of the Kashmiri people. He was a close friend of the founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, and his role in the Pakistan Movement was of utmost importance. It is the need of the hour to inform the new generation about the ideas and services of KH Khurshid so that they can follow in his footsteps and play their role in the development and progress of the region and the freedom movement.

PM's Directive Ensures Early Salaries for AJK Government Employees Ahead of Eid

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: On the directions of Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, the Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir has issued a notification to pay advance salaries to all government employees on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr. Keeping in mind the convenience of government employees in view of Eid-ul-Fitr, the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir has decided that the monthly salaries of employees of all departments will be paid on March 16 so that they can get timely financial facilities for Eid preparations. On the special directions of the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, the Finance Department has issued a notification to pay advance salaries to employees.

Muslim Conference Youth Wing Chairman Mourns Loss in PPP Family



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference Youth Wing Sardar Usman Ali Khan has condoled the death of the daughter of Pakistan Peoples Party Azad Kashmir President Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin and sister of Minister Chaudhry Amir Yasin in Islamabad. Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi, Senior Parliamentarian and former federal minister Qamar Zaman Kaira, Central Secretary General of Muslim Conference Mohtarma Mehr-un-Nisa, President Muslim Conference Rawalpindi and Islamabad Circle Sardar Asim Abbasi, Deputy Secretary Finance Sardar Ajmal Nakyalvi, Chairman Publicity Wing Raja Zareen Khan, Raja Sarfaraz Khan, Central Deputy General Secretary Muslim Conference Youth Wing Sardar Ashfaq Ahmed Khan, President Muslim Conference Youth Wing Rawalpindi and Islamabad Circle Sardar Amir Noor, Sardar Shan Abbasi and others are also present on the occasion. He offered Fataha prayed to that May Allah Almighty forgive the deceased completely and grant patience to the bereaved family.

Weather in AJK: Rain and light snowfall in upper areas including Neelum Valley

Abdul Majeed Tahir

NEELUM VALLEY: Rain and light snowfall continue in Azad Kashmir's beautiful tourist area Neelum Valley and other upper areas, due to which the weather has become colder. Due to rain and snowfall, cold winds are blowing in the mountainous areas, while a significant drop in temperature has been recorded.



According to local sources, intermittent rain and snowfall is occurring in various areas including Keel, Sharda and Taubat in the upper areas of Neelum Valley, which has made the weather pleasant but cold.

According to the Meteorological Department, due to the new wave of westerly winds, rain and snowfall on the mountains were expected in Azad Kashmir and the northern areas, the effects of which are now being seen in different areas. The administration has directed passengers and tourists to travel carefully on mountain roads as roads may become slippery at some places due to snowfall.

Subsidized Atta

RAWALPINDI: People stand in a queue buying flour bag on discount rates provided from Punjab government during the Holy Month of Ramadan, along Murree Road, in the city.



Photo: Online

AJK Cabinet implements sweeping austerity: 50% fuel cut, executive pay halved

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: An extraordinary meeting of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Cabinet was held here today under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore.

The meeting ratified the federal government's decisions taken in response to the evolving regional and global situation.

While appreciating the austerity measures taken by the federal government, the AJK cabinet also approved several austerity measures to be implemented with immediate effect.

To reduce the consumption of fuel, it was decided that the use of petrol and diesel in vehicles of all government departments would be reduced by 50 percent for the next two months.

As part of the austerity scheme, ministers, advisors, and special assistants will not draw "special salaries" for the next two months, while the salaries of the MLA will be reduced by 25 percent.

According to the cabinet decision,



senior government officers in Grade 20 and above with monthly salaries exceeding 300,000 rupees will contribute their four days' salary, which will be utilized for public relief.

Furthermore, other government expenditures will also be reduced by 20 percent.

Meanwhile, foreign visits by ministers, advisors, special assistants, and government officers of Azad Kashmir

have also been completely banned.

Government departments have been directed to prioritize teleconferencing and online meetings in order to save fuel.

To reduce government expenditures, a one-dish policy will be implemented for official dinners and iftar gatherings, whereas conferences will be held at government venues instead of hotels.

However, the decision will not apply to banks.

The meeting also decided that all schools will observe a two-week holiday starting at the end of this week and will remain closed until March 3.

Earlier, prayers were offered for the elevation of the ranks of the martyrs of the Pakistan Armed Forces, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and the Kashmiri martyrs who laid down their lives during the ongoing freedom movement.

Tribute Paid to AJK Founder KH Khurshid on 38th Death Anniversary

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: To pay tribute to the services of former President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and founder President of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation League KH Khurshid on his 38th death anniversary, a short and dignified ceremony was organized in the Municipal Corporation Muzaffarabad in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Cell and the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation League.

The participants paid tribute to the national and state services of former President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and founder President of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation League KH Khurshid. Addressing the ceremony, the speakers paid tribute to the late K. H. Khurshid for his hard, patient, long and valuable services for the promotion and development of the constitution and law, democratic values in Azad Kashmir, as well as the Kashmir Freedom Movement and the Pakistan Movement.

Describing it as valuable, commendable and worthy of emulation in achieving the national objectives of Azad Kashmir and Pakistan, it was declared a very instructive and ultimate national asset for our youth and future generations and reaffirmed the resolve to jointly struggle for the right of self-determination of the Kashmiris while maintaining the unity and unity of Kashmir in a better form.

On this occasion, the president of the ceremony, Khawaja Manzoor Qadir Advocate, Spokes-

person of the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir and Central Leader of PP Azad Kashmir, Shaukat Javed Mir, Senior Leader of All Parties Hurriyat Conference, Mushtaq Qasim, Director of Administration of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Cell, Capri and Kashmir Cultural Academy, Dr. Raja Muhammad Sajjad Khan, Media Coordinator, Sardar Ali Shan, Director of Events, Sardar Sajid Mahmood, Senior Central Leader of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation League and Senior Advocate Mir Abdul Latif,



Central Senior Vice President Chaudhry Najeeb Afsar and other leaders and workers, Raja Gulzar Khan, Raja Afrasiab Khan, Atif Awan, besides the young leader and Vice President of PML-N, Raja Abdullah Imtiaz Advocate.

Senior female leader Ms. Shazia Awan and other speakers made a mistake and criticized K. H. He shed detailed light on various important and historical aspects of the long and valuable services and struggle of the late Khur-

shid along with the founder of Pakistan, Hazrat Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and other leaders and workers of the movement in the Kashmir freedom movement and the Pakistan movement.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 5:01 am
Zohr 12:18 pm
Asr 4:30 pm
Maghrib 6:12 pm
Isha 7:35 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad 1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& 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
DHQ 5556311-4
RGH 9290301-7
Holy Family 9290322-7
PIMS 9261170-79
Polyclinic 9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA 9221334-43
CDA 9208301-04
Met Office 9250360-6
RDA 5555864
TMA 5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3
Islamabad 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

Gilani felicitates Iran's new supreme leader Mojtaba Khamenei

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate of Pakistan, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, on Wednesday extended warm greetings to Mojtaba Khamenei on assuming the position of Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In his felicitations message, he conveyed heartfelt wishes and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening the longstanding fraternal ties between the two countries.

The Chairman of the Senate said that the Parliament, the Senate, and the people of Pakistan extend their sincere felicitations to His Eminence Mojtaba Khamenei, said a news release issued here.

He emphasised that Pakistan and Iran share deep-rooted bonds of faith, culture, history, and language, which provide a strong foundation for expanding cooperation across diverse sectors.

The Chairman also expressed profound grief and sorrow over the martyrdom of Ayatollah Khamenei and conveyed heartfelt condolences to the leadership and people of Iran on behalf of the Senate of Pakistan.

Nawaz Sharif, CM Maryam Nawaz meet Tashkent governor

Bureau Report

LAHORE: President of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Nawaz Sharif and Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif met Governor of Tashkent Region Zoir Mirzaev, who called on them along with a seven-member delegation in Lahore.

During the meeting, both sides agreed to declare Punjab and Tashkent as sister provinces and decided to form a special committee to advance bilateral cooperation. The two sides discussed opportunities for collaboration in tourism, agriculture, livestock, meat processing, beverages, citrus fruit and other sectors. A proposal from Uzbekistan to establish a Babur Park in Lahore also came under consideration. The Tashkent governor praised the restoration of Mughal-era heritage sites in Lahore and commended the efforts of the Punjab government in preserving historical landmarks.

Governor Mirzaev conveyed a

message of goodwill from the president of Uzbekistan for the people of Pakistan, particularly those in Punjab. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz thanked him for the sentiments and accepted the invitation to visit Uzbekistan.

Speaking on the occasion, Nawaz Sharif said the people of Pakistan take pride in Uzbekistan's rich cultural and scholarly heritage, noting that Samarkand has historically been a centre of knowledge and learning. He remarked that the first Mughal emperor came to the subcontinent from Fergana Valley and that his remarkable rule continues to be remembered in history.

He also highlighted Lahore's centuries-old heritage and expressed his deep affection for the city, recalling that he would often visit Lahore even during his tenure as prime minister.

She expressed confidence that Pakistan and Uzbekistan could achieve remarkable results through cooperation, noting that Pakistan is emerging as a leader in value-added textiles, with



products such as bed sheets, towels and other textile goods enjoying strong demand worldwide.

Beautiful

ISLAMABAD: A stunning view of blooming flowers on trees on green belt in front of CDA office in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Women University Multan Matital Campus achieves annual savings of millions rupees

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Significant financial and environmental benefits have started to emerge at the Matital Campus of Women University Multan following the installation of a modern solar energy system. According to the spokesperson of the university, the project has resulted in substantial reduction in electricity expenditures, reflecting the institution's effective planning and visionary leadership.

As per the latest electricity bill issued by the Multan Electric Power Company (MEPCO), the solar net-metering system installed at the campus has significantly reduced electricity consumption from the national grid and lowered the overall payable amount. Previously, the campus electricity bill ranged between PKR 1.2 million to 1.5 million per month during winter, while in summer it reached up to PKR 2.5 million. However, after the installation of the solar system, the monthly



payable amount has drastically decreased. The latest MEPCO bill indicates that

only PKR 116,000 is payable for the current month, whereas in the same month last year the electricity bill exceeded PKR 1.25 million. This remarkable difference highlights the positive impact of the solar energy project and the university's commitment to efficient resource management.

Through this initiative, the university has not only ensured better utilization of its financial resources by adopting renewable energy but has also contributed to reducing the burden on the national power grid.

Under the prudent leadership and visionary approach of Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Kalsoom Paracha, Women University Multan continues to achieve new milestones of progress and innovation. While highlighting the significance of the project, the Vice Chancellor stated that sustainable development, environmentally friendly initiatives, and the adoption of modern technologies remain among the university's top priorities.

Health Department Continues Crackdown on Quack Doctors, Clinic Sealed

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: The Health Department has continued its crackdown against quack doctors in Kamalia. In a recent operation, Deputy District Health Officer Dr. Asim Ejaz conducted a raid in the suburban village of Chak No. 56 Tukra near Kamalia. During the raid, a clinic being operated illegally by an alleged quack doctor was sealed. The accused, identified as Sanaullah, managed to escape from the scene during the operation. The health authorities have initiated legal proceedings against the clinic and the case is being forwarded to the Punjab Healthcare Commission Lahore for further action. Speaking on the occasion, Deputy District Health Officer Dr. Asim Ejaz stated that strict actions will continue against quack doctors who are playing with human lives. He emphasized that no individual will be allowed to practice medicine without proper qualifications and legal authorization. He further added that regular raids are being conducted in different areas to eliminate quackery and to ensure that citizens receive safe and quality healthcare services.

Hazrat Ali's Life a Beacon of Justice and Truth, Says Allama Syed Riaz Hussain Shah

City Desk



RAWALPINDI: Allama Syed Riaz Hussain Shah, Supreme Patron of Idara Taleemat-e-Islamia Pakistan, said that the life and martyrdom of Hazrat Ali ؓ serve as a shining example of truth, justice, and perseverance for all humanity.

He was addressing a Quranic gathering hosted by Sheikh Muhammad Qasim, Deputy Director, with a large number of scholars and religious leaders in attendance. Allama Syed Riaz Hussain Shah said that the life of Hazrat Ali ؓ exemplified the true spirit of Islam, justice, and support for the oppressed, and that he devoted his entire life to the upliftment of Islam and upholding the banner of truth. He further added that Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei also followed the footsteps of the Ahl-e-Rasool ؑ, striving for truth and justice, ultimately sacrificing his life for this noble cause — setting an inspiring example of courage and steadfastness for the Muslim Ummah.

Liaquat Baloch At Vehari Iftar: 78 Years On, Quran and Sunnah Not Fully Implemented



Shafqat Tippe

VEHARI: Central Deputy Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Liaquat Baloch, while addressing the grand iftar dinner hosted by Jamaat-e-Islami candidate for PP-232 and District President of Jamaat-e-Islami Youth Chaudhry Ali Waqas Hanjra, said that Pakistan came into existence in the month of Ramadan and its constitution declares the Quran and Sunnah as supreme, but despite the passage of seventy-eight years of the establishment of Pakistan, the Quran and Sunnah could not be fully implemented in the country. On this occasion, District Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Chaudhry Tariq Mahmood, Chaudhry Ali Waqas Hanjra, Syed Javed Hussain Shah, Malik Maqsood Athar Awan, Haji Muhammad Tufeel Waraich, Malik Muhammad Zahid Jandran, Zulfiqar Ali Chaudhry, Chaudhry Mansoor Aslam Dogal, Khawar Khan Numberdar, Muftabi Khan Khakwani, Ghulam Shabir Chadhar, Chaudhry Salman Irfan Chatha, Chaudhry Ahmed Jamal Dogal, Rao Khalil Ahmed, Tariq Farooq Bhatti, Abdul Khaliq Shakir Engineer Ali Ahmed Sabir, Engineer Owais Bilal, and a large number of Jamaat-e-Islami workers and local people were present. Naib Ameer Liaquat Baloch said that the rulers of our country sometimes looked towards the secular system and sometimes tried to implement communism, due to which Pakistan had to face various problems. The last ten days of Ramadan have immense merit and in this ten days, a great night like Laylatul Qadr has been granted, which has been declared better than a thousand months. He said that the last ten days are the time of special mercy and blessings of Allah Almighty, therefore Muslims should increase their worship, repentance and seeking forgiveness during this time.

Lt Gen (R) Abdul Qayyum and Dr. Mirza Aamir Khurshid Awarded National Peace Award

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: A Peace Seminar was organized by the National Peace and Justice Council, Government of Pakistan, in which emphasis was placed on eliminating the growing terrorism and sectarianism in the country and on interfaith harmony. The chief guest of the event, Senator, Lieutenant General (ret'd) Abdul Qayyum Hilal-Imtiaz Military and President Pakistan Ex-Servicemen Society, highlighted the promotion of Pakistaniness, justice, patience, tolerance and tolerance.

Chairman National Peace and Justice Council Mian Abdul Waheed emphasized the importance of peace and the positive role of Pakistan at the international level.



the need to actively participate in the awareness campaign for the establishment of a society based on peace and justice, said that the best society is the one in which there is justice and the spirit of benevolence is also present.

On this occasion, Lieutenant General (ret'd) Abdul Qayyum was awarded the National Peace Award 2026 and Dr. Mirza Aamir Khurshid Baig was awarded the Best Performance Award 2026 for his services towards establishing a society based on peace and justice.

Senior journalists Sardar Murad Ali Khan, Rohail Ikram, Malik Kifayat Hussain, Syed Ijaz Hussain Shah, Lal Saleem, Tanveer Chaudhry, Shabbir Baloch, Engineer Ryan Rashid and a large number of people from different walks of life attended the ceremony.

Dr. Mirza Aamir Khurshid, Secretary International Affairs NPJC Pakistan, while expressing his views on

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 Daily The Spokesman available only on annual subscription

Pakistan's Tightrope Diplomacy During the U.S.-Iran War

The war between the United States, Israel, and Iran did not erupt suddenly. Beneath the surface of the conflict lay years of planning, strategic positioning, and diplomatic maneuvering aimed at weakening Iran's nuclear, missile, and regional influence. When the first strikes were launched, they appeared dramatic and unexpected to the outside world, but the broader geopolitical architecture had already been carefully prepared. Alliances were strengthened, intelligence networks expanded, and regional actors were positioned in ways that limited Iran's ability to respond effectively. In this unfolding strategic landscape, Pakistan found itself walking a diplomatic tightrope, attempting to maintain balanced relations with Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United States while safeguarding its own national interests.

One of the earliest signals that the geopolitical chessboard was being rearranged appeared soon after the new American administration assumed office. In an unprecedented gesture, the U.S. president hosted Pakistan's Field Marshal for a high-profile meeting in Washington. The event was widely interpreted as a recognition of Pakistan's strategic importance in the region and the central role played by its military leadership in shaping the country's security policies. The meeting suggested that Washington was carefully engaging key regional players as it prepared for a more assertive approach toward Iran.

Following this engagement, Pakistan's strategic posture began to shift in noticeable ways. Islamabad strengthened its defense cooperation with Saudi Arabia and Qatar, entering into a broader security framework with Gulf states that host

significant American military installations. These arrangements reinforced Pakistan's role in the Gulf's defense architecture while simultaneously limiting its freedom to openly align with Iran in the event of a regional confrontation. The diplomatic message was clear: Pakistan remained a close partner of the Gulf states and the United States.

At the same time, another important strategic issue emerged. The United States expressed renewed interest in regaining operational flexibility at key regional facilities, including the strategically located Bagram Airbase in Afghanistan. Although the situation surrounding the base remained complex, the discussion itself highlighted Washington's desire to strengthen its presence in the region and maintain strategic reach across South and Central Asia.

Parallel to these developments, Pakistan's relations with Afghanistan began to deteriorate rapidly. For decades, despite periods of tension, the two countries had maintained a relationship rooted in shared culture, history, and geography. Even during difficult times, the narrative of fraternity and mutual interest had prevailed. However, increasing cross-border security incidents and accusations of militant infiltration gradually eroded trust. Preventive military strikes by Pakistan against militant targets inside Afghan territory further strained relations, transforming a historically complex but manageable relationship into one marked by deep suspicion.

The deterioration of Pakistan-Afghanistan relations created new geo-

political openings. Afghanistan's leadership began exploring stronger ties with other regional actors, particularly India. This shift coincided with an already expanding partnership between India and Israel in areas such as defense technology, intelligence cooperation, and cybersecurity. Gradually, these relationships began to intersect in ways that reshaped the regional security environment.

The growing alignment between India and Israel is a part of Israel's broader long-term strategic thinking. Israeli leaders have historically viewed nuclear and missile programs of Pakistan as potential threats to their national security. In the past, Israel has been associated with efforts to neutralize such capabilities in countries like Iraq, Syria, and others that were perceived as developing strategic weapons. From this perspective, the dismantling of Iran's strategic infrastructure during the recent conflict is seen by some analysts as part of a wider effort to remove potential threats to Israel's security.

Within this evolving landscape, Israel is strengthening its security cooperation with India and Afghanistan to position itself to establish spy and intelligence networks in Pakistan by using Afghanistan as a spring board. Similar methods by Israel have been extremely successful in taking out high profile leadership and kinetic and economic assets of Iraq, Syria, Libya, Lebanon, Qatar Yemen and Iran and the world over.

For Pakistan, these developments highlight the importance of vigilance and preparedness. The experience of

Iran demonstrates how advanced intelligence capabilities, combined with technological surveillance, can identify and target critical infrastructure with extraordinary accuracy. Pakistan must therefore strengthen its counterintelligence systems, enhance cybersecurity defenses, and protect sensitive strategic facilities to ensure that its leadership and defense capabilities remain secure.

Meanwhile, the war itself delivered a severe blow to Iran's strategic capabilities. Several key installations associated with its missile, drone, and nuclear programs reportedly suffered extensive damage. Economic infrastructure was also affected as sanctions tightened and regional instability disrupted trade and energy markets. The cumulative effect significantly weakened Iran's ability to project power across the region.

The consequences of the conflict were felt far beyond Iran's borders. Global oil markets experienced dramatic volatility, with prices briefly soaring before gradually stabilizing. For Pakistan, an energy-importing nation already struggling with economic pressures, these fluctuations created additional financial strain. Rising fuel prices translated into inflation, higher transportation costs, and growing hardship for ordinary citizens. Amid these challenges, Pakistan continued to maintain a carefully balanced diplomatic approach. At international forums such as the United Nations, Pakistani representatives emphasized the principles of sovereignty, dialogue, and peaceful conflict resolution. Islamabad expressed concern about escalating hostilities while avoiding steps that might jeopardize its relationships with key partners in the Gulf or with Washington.

Continued on Page 7



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

Government Launches Comprehensive Reform of Pakistan's Agricultural Research System

Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, chaired a high-level meeting today with Dr. Syed Murtaza Hassan Andrabi, Chairman of the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), to discuss a comprehensive reform of Pakistan's national agricultural research system. Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain emphasized the urgent need to modernize and restructure research institutions across the country to meet international standards, boost productivity, and strengthen food security and export competitiveness.

The Minister highlighted that overlapping mandates between federal and provincial research bodies have created inefficiencies, while many institutions continue to work in isolation. He stressed that research must move beyond siloed structures and adopt cross-disciplinary approaches, ensuring practical and commercially viable outcomes. Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain also underscored the critical need to enhance technology transfer and commercialization, noting that some innovations, including vaccines, have historically taken years to reach the market, whereas they should ideally be commercialized within months.

Chairman Dr. Andrabi noted that the quality and quantity of human resources in the system have been compromised over time, limiting its ability to achieve high-impact results. He emphasized that Pakistan's national research agendas must be aligned with export targets and food security goals, ensuring that all research efforts directly contribute to national priorities. The Chairman also highlighted the importance of establishing a Digital NARIS Platform, which will serve as a centralized data repository and shared research facility to facilitate collaboration, knowledge sharing, and evidence-based decision-making.

To strengthen governance and strategic oversight, Dr. Andrabi announced the formation of the Board's Scientific Advisory Committee, which will convene quarterly to review scientific priorities, set strategic directions, and benchmark performance against global standards. The committee will comprise 50% foreign experts, including specialists from CAAS and other leading international institutions, ensuring that Pakistan's research system is aligned with the best global practices.

The Minister reiterated that the reform aims to reposition Pakistan's agricultural research system as a strategic enabler, moving away from budget-driven accountability to an impact-focused model that measures performance based on productivity, adoption of technology, commercialization, and export growth. He emphasized the need for robust coordination between all research bodies, systematic international partnerships, and merit-based human capital development to foster innovation, entrepreneurship, and scientific excellence.

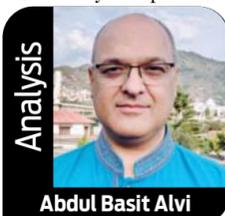
Under the reform, Pakistan will establish Centers of Excellence focusing on climate-resilient crops, livestock improvement, advanced food processing, AI and precision agriculture, and sustainable land, water, and energy management. These centers are designed to encourage innovation, accelerate commercialization of research, and position Pakistan as a regional leader in agricultural science and technology.



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

DG ISPR Rejects Notion That Pakistan is Next Target After Iran

In an interview with Al Jazeera, Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, Director General of Inter-Services Public Relations, made remarks widely viewed as a defining moment in Pakistan's political, strategic, and ideological discourse, addressing accusations of Indian-sponsored terrorism, Pakistan's solidarity with regional states facing aggression, and its ongoing fight against domestic militancy. Asked whether Pakistan could become a target of external aggression if conflict erupted with Iran amid escalating Middle East tensions, he said Pakistan's military had no anxiety because the country holds a unique strategic position as a nuclear-armed state. He warned that the world has never witnessed the full consequences of direct large-scale aggression against a nuclear power and called such a collision a "very foolish and unthinkable act," explaining that Pakistan's nuclear capability operates under a doctrine



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

operational experience as Pakistan confronts two simultaneous fronts: tensions with India in the east and instability along the border with Afghanistan in the west. Crisis-level tensions with India, sometimes referred to in international and Indian discussions as "Operation Sindoor," were presented as proof that attempts to pressure Pakistan through conventional threats, surgical strikes, or limited war under a nuclear umbrella would fail, with the Pakistan Air Force described as demonstrating professionalism, technological integration, and combat readiness that defended national airspace and imposed losses despite India's larger economy and military. Simultaneously, Pakistan has been confronting cross-border militancy linked to Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (locally called Fitna al-Khawarij), which Islamabad says operates from Afghan territory, prompting the launch of "Operation Ghazab lil-Haq" targeting militant hideouts

and infrastructure across the border. Officials reported significant militant and hostile-force losses and highlighted the conventional capability gap between Pakistan and Afghanistan, noting Pakistan's modern air force—featuring aircraft such as the JF-17 Thunder and F-16 Fighting Falcon—alongside its armored forces and integrated air defense network, while Afghanistan lacks a functional air force and relies largely on legacy equipment and guerrilla tactics, an asymmetry also highlighted by analysts from the International Institute for Strategic Studies. The complex interaction of a high-tech standoff with India and a grinding counter-terrorism campaign against militant sanctuaries in Afghanistan reflects Pakistan's multifaceted threat environment, and in the

same interview Chaudhry alleged extensive Indian involvement in destabilizing Pakistan, describing a network of proxies he termed "Fitna al-Hindustan," allegedly supported by India's intelligence agency Research and Analysis Wing and directed by Indian National Security Advisor Ajit Doval to foment violence, particularly in Balochistan, as part of a strategy to weaken Pakistan through proxy conflict. By raising these accusations on an international platform, Pakistan seeks to build global awareness of hybrid warfare while maintaining a principled diplomatic stance, including reaffirming political and moral support for Iran against perceived Israeli aggression and emphasizing that regional stability in South Asia and the Middle East is interconnected; Pakistan's ambassador to Russia, Faisal Niyaz Tirmizi, likewise stated that Islamabad prefers dialogue and de-escalation but will respond with decisive force if cross-border terrorism from Afghan territory continues.

At its philosophical, strategic, and emotional core, the message delivered by the DG ISPR to Al Jazeera and to the world was a profound, timeless, and powerful statement about the very nature of sovereignty, deterrence, and national survival in the dangerous and uncertain geopolitical landscape of the 21st century. His carefully chosen words were not those of a nation spooling for a fight, not those of an aggressor seeking confrontation, and not those of a state driven by expansionist ambitions. On the contrary, they were the measured, confident, and responsible words of a nation absolutely confident in its own ability to prevent a fight, to deter an aggressor, and to ensure its own survival without having to resort to the ultimate weapons in its arsenal. The repeated, emphatic, and central emphasis on Pakistan's status as a nuclear power serves

Continued on Page 7

Make Iran Great Again (MIGA)? Trump's New Doctrine and the Future of the Middle East

In early March 2026, United States President Donald Trump introduced a new slogan: "Make Iran Great Again" (MIGA). The phrase appeared in a social-media post in which Trump declared that there would be "no deal with Iran except unconditional surrender." The statement came at a moment of intense escalation in the Middle East. Israeli forces were conducting heavy airstrikes in Tehran and Beirut, while American forces were reportedly preparing to expand military operations against Iran.

Trump's message was simple but dramatic: if Iran surrendered and accepted new leadership acceptable to Washington and its allies, the United States would help rebuild the country and make it "economically bigger, better, and stronger than ever before." The slogan immediately sparked global debate. For supporters, it represents a bold strategy to end decades of hostility with Iran. For critics, it signals a dangerous move toward regime change and a wider regional war. Understanding this policy requires examining three key dimensions: the strategic context, the ideology behind it, and the risks it creates for global stability.

The emergence of the "MIGA" slogan cannot be separated from the ongoing conflict involving Iran, Israel, and the United States. During the past week, Israel intensified strikes against Iranian military targets, including positions in Tehran and allied forces in Lebanon. These strikes were accompanied by growing American military involvement, with U.S. officials warning that attacks against Iranian assets could

expand further.

In this environment, Trump's demand for "unconditional surrender" echoes historical wartime language. The phrase was famously used by the United States during the Second World War when the Allies demanded the total capitulation of Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan. Applying such language to Iran suggests that the U.S. administration views the confrontation not as a limited conflict but as a decisive struggle over the future of the Iranian state.

In other words, the debate is no longer simply about nuclear weapons or sanctions. It is about who governs Iran. The slogan "Make Iran Great Again" deliberately mirrors Trump's famous campaign phrase "Make America Great Again (MAGA)." The rhetorical strategy is clear. Trump frames the Iranian regime as the main obstacle preventing the Iranian people from achieving prosperity and stability. In his statement, Trump promised that once Iran surrendered and new leadership was installed, the United States and its allies would help rebuild the country's economy and restore its regional influence.

This framing contains three major assumptions:

1. Iran's current government is the root cause of regional instability.
2. Regime change would unlock economic growth and normalization with the West.
3. External support from the United States and its allies could transform Iran into a stable partner.

These ideas are not new. For decades, some policymakers in Washington have argued that

Continued on Page 7

Overseas Philanthropists Donate PKR 200,000 to Gujrat Cleft Hospital

By Anwar Chohan

GUJRAT: Renowned social personality based in the United States, Chaudhry Muhammad Anwar Plagran, along with Chaudhry Naveed Anwar Plagran, donated PKR 200,000 to Cleft Hospital Gujrat in the spirit of serving humanity. On this occasion, they appreciated the services of the hospital and said that such institutions are a ray of hope for society as they bring happiness and relief to suffering humanity.

Speaking on the occasion, Chaudhry Muhammad Anwar Plagran said that Dr. Ijaz Bashir and his entire team deserve great appreciation for their dedication and sincerity in carrying forward the noble mission of bringing smiles to the faces of hopeless and underprivileged children suffering from Cleft Lip and Palate. He said that



this is a sacred service through which not only the physical appearance of children improves, but it also restores hope and confidence in their lives.

He further said that Almighty Allah has chosen Dr. Ijaz Bashir and his team for this great mission, and they deserve heartfelt congratulations for successfully continuing this humanitarian service.

On this occasion, the hospital administration expressed gratitude to Chaudhry Muhammad Anwar Plagran and Chaudhry Naveed Anwar Plagran, stating that their financial support is not only encouraging for the institution but will also help provide treatment for more children. They expressed hope that philanthropists and social personalities will continue to support this mission so that more deserving children can be given a new life.

Open Sale of Drugs Reported in Tandojam Rural Areas

By Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Reports of the open sale of narcotics have emerged from the rural areas falling under the jurisdiction of Tandojam and Rahooki police stations, while a crop of cannabis has allegedly been cultivated and is now ready for harvest near Kisano Mori along the Hyderabad-Mirpurkhas Road. Local residents have expressed serious concern over the situation and demanded that the SSP Hyderabad take immediate notice.

According to local sources, the open sale of narcotics, including the drug known as "ice," has been reported in several parts of the rural areas under Tandojam and Rahooki police stations. It is claimed that drug dealers are operating openly along the Hyderabad-Mirpurkhas Road without fear, raising serious questions about the law and order situation in the area.

Residents claimed that from Channel Mori to Machhi Hotel, drug dealers are openly active on both sides of the Hyderabad-Mirpurkhas Road, while no visible action has been taken against them so far.

The citizens have appealed to SSP Hyderabad Shahzeb Chachar to immediately take notice of the matter and launch a crackdown against drug dealers operating in the rural areas. They demanded strict action against those openly selling drugs along the road so that the area can be cleared of narcotics and the future of the younger generation can be protected.

PSCA Ensures Foolproof Security Arrangements on Youm-e-Shahadat Hazrat Ali (RA) Across Punjab



By Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA), on the eve of Youm-e-Shahadat Hazrat Ali (RA) has implemented comprehensive and stringent foolproof security arrangements across the province to ensure peace and public safety during religious processions and gatherings.

According to PSCA's spokesperson, continuous surveillance of Youm-e-Ali (RA) processions and Majalis is being carried out through advanced Artificial Intelligence-based Safe City cameras and drone monitoring systems. Specialized teams of Virtual Patrolling Officers have been deployed at PSCA's Headquarters to closely monitor security situations at various locations in this regard.

The spokesperson added that Radio Safe City FM 88.6 is continuously informing citizens about procession routes alongwith latest traffic updates to facilitate smooth commuting for the citizens in the main and suburban areas of the city. The spokesperson urged citizens to immediately report any suspicious activity or adverse situation to Emergency Helpline-15 to ensure timely legal action to be taken by the relevant authorities.

Free Cleft Treatment Charity Highlights Massive Impact to Assistant Commissioner Sohawa

By News Desk

SOHAWA: Aziz-ur-Rehman Mujahid, Coordinator of the Pakistan Cleft Lip and Palate Association, met with Assistant Commissioner Sohawa Ghazala Asghar and briefed her about the free treatment provided at Cleft Hospital Gujrat for children suffering from cleft lip and cleft palate, as well as other ongoing welfare activities of the hospital.

Aziz-ur-Rehman Mujahid informed that Cleft Hospital Gujrat is a unique welfare institution where more than 28,000 children have successfully received free surgeries so far. He said that children from different parts of Pakistan are treated at this hospital, and now teams of specialist doctors from the United Kingdom and Europe also visit the hospital to receive advanced



surgical training, which reflects the institution's growing reputation and trust at the international level.

Speaking on the occasion, Assistant Commissioner Sohawa Ghazala Asghar said that the mission of Cleft Hospital Gujrat to restore smiles on the faces of hopeless and distressed children through humanitarian service is highly commendable. She said that the Chairman of the hospital, Dr. Ijaz Bashir, and his entire team deserve appreciation for their dedicated services, as they are serving humanity with professional expertise and compassion.

Ghazala Asghar further stated that parents of children born with cleft lip and cleft palate often face severe emotional and social stress, and institutions like Cleft Hospital serve as a ray of hope for such families.

Importance of Green Skills and Climate-Smart Technologies for Pakistan's Enterprises

By Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: CARE Pakistan, with the support from Team Europe's TVET Sector Support Programme and GIZ's Energy, Climate Change and Just Transition Cluster, organized a new initiative yesterday in Islamabad, Pakistan, aimed at strengthening private sector awareness and adoption of green skills and climate-smart technologies (CSTs), with a focus on Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and TVET linkages in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Balochistan.

The TVET Sector Support

Programme in Pakistan is co funded by the European Union and the Federal Republic of Germany. The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH implements the Programme together with British Council in close cooperation with the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission and other public and private sector organizations in Balochistan, Gilgit Baltistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab.

Opening remarks were delivered by Ms. Barbara Riksen, Acting Head of Delegation to Pakistan, who highlighted

the European Union's commitment to supporting Pakistan's green transition through skills development and partnerships with the private sector.

Remarks from German embassy representative, Dr. Mirjam Biedenbender, revolved around Pakistan's private sector, where she said, "Green is no longer just an option—it is a survival strategy."

Ms. Aisha Humera Chaudhry, Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Adil Sheraz, Country Director, CARE Pakistan, Muhammad Fawad Hayat, Senior Director, Recharge Pakistan at WWF,



Jamal S. Malik, Mahal Kamal and Syed Mohammad Ali Murtaza also speak on occasion

The Future of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, commonly known as CPEC is one of the most significant economic cooperation initiatives between Pakistan and China, and over the past decade it has gained a central position in Pakistan's economic and strategic planning.

This project is a vital component of China's global vision known as the Belt and Road Initiative, which aims to connect Asia, Europe and Africa through modern infrastructure networks and trade corridors.

Under CPEC, a wide range of projects have been launched in Pakistan including highways, motorways, railways, ports, energy projects and industrial zones. The fundamental objective of these initiatives is to strengthen Pakistan's economy and transform the country into a regional hub of trade and connectivity.

When the project was formally launched in 2015, it was widely described as a potential game changer for Pakistan's economy with expectations that it would attract large-scale foreign investment, create employment opportunities for millions of people and pave the way for industrial development across the country.

During the early years of CPEC,

several major energy projects were successfully completed, which helped reduce Pakistan's chronic electricity shortages and supported industrial and commercial activity. At the same time, the construction of highways and motorways improved transportation infrastructure and facilitated trade between different regions of the country.

However, with the passage of time several concerns and questions have emerged regarding the pace and future direction of the project. These concerns include the slowdown of certain projects, delays in investment flows and the suspension or reconsideration of some initiatives.

In reality, the future of CPEC does not depend solely on Chinese investment but also on Pakistan's own economic policies, political stability and administrative capacity. Over the past few years Pakistan has faced a number of serious economic challenges including rising external debt, declining foreign exchange reserves, persistent inflation and political instability all of which have affected the pace of development projects including those related to CPEC.

In addition, security concerns have also played a role in shaping investor confidence, as China places great importance on the safety and security of its engineers, workers and investors

operating abroad.

Despite these challenges, China has repeatedly reaffirmed its commitment to the long-term continuation of CPEC and has emphasized that the project represents a strategic partnership between the two countries rather than a short-term investment plan. From China's perspective, Pakistan is not only a close political and strategic partner but also occupies a highly important geographical position in the region.

Through Pakistan, China can gain direct access to the Arabian Sea, which can significantly facilitate trade with the Middle East and Africa. The development of the Gwadar Port is a central element of this strategic vision, as it is expected to evolve into a major commercial and logistics hub in the future.

If Gwadar becomes fully operational with modern infrastructure and efficient connectivity, it could play a transformative role not only for Pakistan's economy but also for regional trade networks. However, achieving this objective requires further improvements in essential facilities such as water supply, elec-

tricity, transportation systems and urban infrastructure in Gwadar so that the city can attract domestic and international investors.

In the second phase of CPEC, industrial cooperation has been given special priority and the focus has shifted towards the establishment of Special Economic Zones across Pakistan. These zones are intended to encourage both foreign and local investors to set up industries, thereby boosting industrial production, increasing exports and generating employment opportunities.

If these industrial zones become fully operational, Pakistan could witness a significant rise in its export capacity and a gradual transformation toward a more industrialized economy.

Unfortunately, Pakistan has often faced difficulties in maintaining consistent industrial policies, which creates uncertainty for investors who prefer long-term stability and predictable regulatory environments.

As a result, several economic zones under CPEC have progressed slowly and have yet to reach their full potential. In addition, bureaucratic complexities, delays in land acquisition and the

high cost of energy continue to create obstacles for investors. If Pakistan truly intends to benefit from the opportunities provided by CPEC, it must introduce consistent economic policies, transparent regulations and a stable policy framework that can attract long-term investment.

Investors need confidence that government policies will remain stable and supportive of industrial growth. Another important dimension of CPEC is regional connectivity.

If Pakistan successfully uses this corridor to strengthen trade links with Central Asian states, Afghanistan and the Middle East, the project could reshape regional economic dynamics. For this purpose, Pakistan must prioritize economic diplomacy in its foreign policy and actively pursue regional trade agreements that promote cross-border commerce and investment. In today's world the importance of economic blocs and regional trade integration is rapidly increasing, and CPEC can serve as a valuable opportunity for Pakistan to become a major gateway for regional trade.

At the same time, it must also be recognized that global geopolitical competition among major powers may influence the trajectory of the project. Some countries view China's expanding economic influence with caution and

may attempt to counterbalance it through alternative initiatives.

Therefore, Pakistan must pursue a balanced and pragmatic foreign policy that focuses on economic development rather than becoming entangled in global rivalries. In conclusion, the future of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor carries both promising opportunities and serious challenges. If Pakistan ensures political stability, improves governance, provides investor-friendly policies and strengthens security arrangements, CPEC has the potential to significantly transform Pakistan's economic landscape and elevate the country to a new level of regional importance.

However, if internal problems such as policy inconsistency, administrative inefficiency and political uncertainty continue to persist, this ambitious project may not achieve its full potential.

The need of the hour is for the government, political leadership, bureaucracy and business community to collectively treat CPEC as a national development initiative and work together to ensure that its benefits reach the people of Pakistan. With effective planning and responsible implementation, CPEC can become a cornerstone for economic growth and help Pakistan emerge as a regional center of trade and economic activity.



Analysis

Zafar Chishti

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
155,858.47	156,177.12
Day's High	Day's Low
158,624.51	155,652.35
Index Value	Change
19,659,575,583	-318.65
Percentage	Time
-0.2%	11 Mar, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
10,353.77	-58.47
Percentage	Time
-0.56%	11 Mar, 4:40 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
47,397.04	-309.47
Percentage	Time
-0.65%	11 Mar, 12:59 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
55,025.37	+776.98
Percentage	Time
+1.43%	11 Mar, 3:45 pm GMT+9

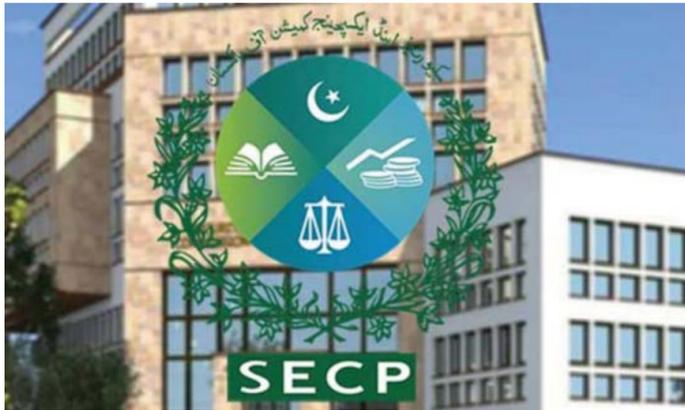
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	194.42	198
Bahrain Dinar	730.65	730.70
Canadian Dollar	202.50	206.75
China Yuan	36.50	37.75
Danish Krone	43.32	43.72
Euro	324.30	329.05
Hong Kong Dollar	34.8	35.8
Indian Rupee	2.4	2.85
Japanese Yen	1.7234	1.8234
Kuwaiti Dinar	889.45	900.25
Malaysian Ringgit	65.60	66.25
New Zealand \$	162.77	166.25
Norwegians Krone	27.61	27.91
Omani Riyal	715.60	725.60
Qatari Riyal	74.5	75.2
Saudi Riyal	73.70	74.65
Singapore Dollar	215.84	220.25
Swedish Korona	30.15	30.45
Swiss Franc	355	358.85
Thai Bhat	7.85	8.05
U.A.E Dirham	75.45	76.65
UK Pound Sterling	375.59	379.25
US Dollar	279.10	280.4

SECP Licenses Corporate Restructuring Company and Digital Investment Advisor

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has licensed LSE Ventures Limited to operate as a Corporate Restructuring Company (CRC). The Commission has also granted a license to Wealthbridge Management Limited to provide Digital Investment Advisory Services.

The licensing of LSE Ventures Limited increases the number of CRC in Pakistan to three. These companies assist financially distressed businesses through restructuring mechanisms such as debt rescheduling, capital reorganization, and operational restructuring. The support the rehabilitation of both listed and unlisted companies and help them continue their operations. LSE Ventures Limited is the successor



entity to the Lahore Stock Exchange. The company will undertake restructuring and revival of distressed companies in accordance with the applicable regulatory framework.

Wealthbridge Management Limited will offer Digital Investment Advisory Services. The approval has been issued under the regulatory framework for digital platforms operated by Asset Management Companies.

Wealthbridge Management Limited is the first company in Pakistan to operate as a digital investment advisory firm under the Digital Asset Management framework. The license allows the company to provide investment advisory services to investors through regulated digital platforms.

SECP continues to facilitate the development of financial services by enabling regulated entities and supporting innovation within the existing regulatory framework.

Increased the demand

FAISALABAD: Workers busy in preparing cycles for customers at their workplace in the city.



Photo: Online

Central Photographers and Movies Association Jaranwala host Iftar dinner

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: An Iftar dinner ceremony organized by the Central Photographers and Movies Association Jaranwala was held at a local hotel. The special guest was Muhammad Shafiq (Friends Color Lab Faisalabad). While the guests of honor were Muhammad Ahmed (President Professional Photographers Association Registered Faisalabad), General Secretary Qasur Munir Sheikh, Information Secretary Abdul Majid, Muhammad Shahid (Life Marquee Qila), Muhammad Yasin (Yasin Camera Center), Khahar Hayat, Muhammad Irfan, Mehboob Ahmed, and others. The guests were welcomed at this ceremony by Patron-in-Chief Muhammad Naem, President Rana Shahid and General Secretary Malik Phool and their entire team wearing flower leaves and garlands. The ceremony began with the recitation of the Holy Quran and Naat. The stage secretary explained the objectives and objectives of the ceremony very well. The oath of allegiance of the Central Photographers and Movies Association was also administered at the ceremony. At the end, the guests were presented with souvenirs.

Gold price jumps by Rs 3,700 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat gold per tola increased by Rs 3,700 and was sold at Rs 543,262 on Wednesday compared to its sale at Rs 539,562 on the previous trading day, according to the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs 3,172 to Rs 465,759 from Rs 462,587, whereas the price of 10 grams of 22 karat gold went up by Rs 2,908 to Rs 426,961 from Rs 424,053.

The rates of silver, however, remained unchanged in the domestic market as the price of silver per tola stayed constant at Rs 9,354 while that of 10 gram of silver remained stable at Rs 8,019.

Kaspersky Highlights Risks of Posting Children's Activities Online

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Kaspersky "Growing up online" survey reveals that almost half (48%) of parents regularly post photos, videos, or updates about their children on social media platforms. While family content remains popular, privacy settings and motivations behind sharing vary significantly.

Among those who post about their children, 72% limit visibility to friends, friends of friends, or followers. However, more than a quarter (28%) of surveyed parents maintain fully public accounts, making such content accessible to anyone online.

The main reason parents share content featuring their children is to preserve memories (64%), followed by pride in their children's achievements (42%). At the same time, social influence also plays a role: 21% admit they post because others do the same, and 20% say they like how they appear in the photos or videos. Additionally, 10% acknowledge that they share content about their children to attract more followers or increase engagement, believing such posts generate more likes.

Notably, 59% of respondents say they ask their children for permission before publishing content about them. However, one in five parents (20%) admit they



proceed with posting regardless of whether the child agrees.

"It can be difficult for parents to distinguish between harmless sharing and content that may unintentionally compromise a child's safety. What feels like a proud family moment today can contribute to a permanent digital foot-

print tomorrow. That is why it is important to pause and reconsider the urge to share - especially when the motivation is popularity or engagement. Online attention is temporary, but the risks can be long-term," comments Seifallah Jedidi, Head of Consumer Channel in the Middle East, Turkey and Africa at Kaspersky.

Pakistan Furniture Council Seeks Export Boom in Singapore Visit

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) delegation led by its Chief Executive Officer Mian Kashif Ashfaq left Wednesday for a week-long visit to Singapore to explore new avenues for expanding Pakistan's furniture exports and strengthening international collaboration in furniture manufacturing.

The visit aims to establish strong business linkages with Singaporean companies and investors interested in modern furniture production, innova-



tive designs, and advanced manufacturing techniques. During the visit, the delega-

tion will hold a series of meetings with leading furniture manufacturers, importers,

designers, and trade organizations in Singapore. Discussions will focus on promoting joint ventures, technology transfer, and investment opportunities in Pakistan's rapidly growing furniture sector. The delegation will also highlight Pakistan's rich craftsmanship, availability of quality raw materials, and competitive production costs. The visit will enhance bilateral trade, improve product standards, and create new employment opportunities while strengthening Pakistan's presence in the global furniture market.

Federal Government appoints Farid Ahmad Tarar as Chairman CCP



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Government has appointed Mr. Farid Ahmad Tarar as the Chairman, Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP). He brings over three decades of experience in public financial management, regulatory reform, and economic governance.

As senior civil servant, Mr. Tarar has previously served as Secretary to the Government of Punjab, Finance Secretary

of Azad Jammu & Kashmir, and Member of the Punjab Revenue Authority.

He holds a Master's degree in Accounting and Finance from Manchester Business School, University of Manchester (UK), and MBA (Finance). He has also authored key policy documents for international development partners, including the Sindh Public Financial Management Reform Strategy and the Sindh Tax Revenue Mobilisation Plan.

TCL Spreads Ramadan Joy at Alkhidmat Aghosh Home Sheikhupura



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: TCL, Pakistan's No. 1 LED TV brand, embracing the true spirit of Ramadan, partnered with Alkhidmat Foundation to bring warmth, joy, and support to the children residing at Aghosh Home in Sheikhupura. Through this initiative, TCL highlighted its philosophy that #GreatnessBeginsWithSharing, using its resources to make a meaningful impact on the lives of the young residents.

Majid Khan Niazi, Director of Marketing for

TCL Middle East and Africa, stated: "Ramadan is a time to come together, share joy, and support those who need it most. At TCL, we believe that #GreatnessBeginsWithSharing, not just through our technology, but through meaningful initiatives that bring comfort, happiness, and hope to the communities we serve. Partnering with Alkhidmat Foundation and spending time with the children at Aghosh Home has been truly inspiring, and we are proud to celebrate the spirit of giving with them this Ramadan."

Google New AI Professional Certificate now available in Pakistan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Google today announced the launch of the Google AI Professional Certificate, a new industry-validated credential designed to bridge the growing AI skills gap. Moving beyond basic theory, the program focuses on AI fluency, equipping workers with the practical, hands-on ability to integrate artificial intelligence into their daily professional workflows.

As AI fundamentally reshapes the global economy, the demand for AI-literate talent has reached a critical tipping point. However, a significant 'training gap' threatens this transition; new research from Ipsos and Google reveals that while 70% of managers believe an AI-trained workforce is vital for success, only 14% of workers have actually been offered AI training. This certificate is designed to bridge that divide.

HBL PSL 11 Trophy unveiled in Karachi as league enters new era

Sports Desk

KARACHI: The trophy of the HBL Pakistan Super League 11 was unveiled in a ceremony held at the National Bank Stadium in Karachi today marking the beginning of a new era for the country's marquee T20 tournament.

The unveiling ceremony was attended by HBL PSL Chief Executive Officer Salman Naseer, representatives of all eight teams, officials from title sponsor HBL, representatives of Hanif Jewellers and members of the media.

The trophy designed and manufactured by Hanif Jewellers, has been hand-crafted by 18 master artisans who devoted more than 2,600 hours to complete the masterpiece. The design reflects the



journey and growth of the HBL Pakistan Super League over the past decade. At the base of the trophy, eight emerald-cut Gemstones represent the colours

of the eight HBL PSL franchises, symbolising the pride of the cities they represent. The tall structure of the trophy signifies discipline, determination and teamwork required to reach the pinnacle of the competition, while the Crescent and Star at the top reflect unity, hope and national pride. The trophy is adorned with more than 1,600 Gemstones, highlighting the craftsmanship and attention to detail that went into its creation.

Speaking at the ceremony, HBL PSL Chief Executive Officer Salman Naseer said "This is a historic occasion for the HBL Pakistan Super League as we step into a new era after successfully completing 10 seasons. Over the years, the league has grown stronger with the addition of new teams, record-breaking

player auctions, landmark broadcast agreements and ever-increasing support from fans across Pakistan and around the world.

"We are grateful to HBL for standing with the Pakistan Super League from day one and playing a vital role in its success. I would also like to thank our franchise owners for their continued trust and commitment and Hanif Jewellers for crafting a magnificent trophy that truly reflects the prestige and ambition of this league."

The 11th edition will feature eight teams and 44 matches across six venues with the opening match set to take place between defending champions Lahore Qalandars and Hyderabad Kingsmen on Thursday, 26 March.

tapmad Secures Exclusive SVOD Rights in Pakistan and Global Digital VOD Rights for PSL Highlights and Clips

Sports Desk

PAKISTAN: Pakistan's leading digital streaming platform tapmad has announced the acquisition of exclusive Subscription Video-on-Demand (SVOD) rights in Pakistan for Pakistan Super League (PSL) Season 11, along with exclusive global Video-on-Demand (VOD) rights for clips, highlights, and related digital content derived from the licensed broadcast feed.

The rights have been secured through a strategic partnership with Walee, which holds the official media rights for PSL 11. Through this collaboration, tapmad will bring premium digital access to one of Pakistan's most celebrated sporting events.

Through its SVOD offering, tapmad will provide subscribers in Pakistan with a premium viewing experience featuring uninterrupted, ad-free streaming in HD quality, allowing cricket fans to watch PSL content anytime and anywhere. The SVOD model ensures a seamless and immersive viewing experience without commercial interruptions, giving fans a truly premium way to enjoy the league.

In addition to SVOD rights within Pakistan, tapmad will also hold exclusive global digital VOD rights for PSL clips, highlights, and related digital content, enabling the platform to distribute key match moments and highlight packages to audiences worldwide through its digital platforms.

Speaking about the development, Yassir Pasha, CEO of tapmad, said: "Cricket is deeply ingrained in Pakistan's culture, and the Pakistan Super League continues to be one of the most exciting sporting spectacles for fans across the country. Through our partnership with Walee, we are proud to bring exclusive SVOD access for PSL 11 to Pakistan, offering viewers a premium, ad-free streaming experience in HD quality.

Zain pasha, Deputy CEO of tapmad, added: "This partnership reflects tapmad's ongoing commitment to delivering premium sports entertainment through digital platforms. By securing exclusive SVOD rights in Pakistan and global VOD rights for highlights and clips, we are expanding access to PSL content while creating new ways for fans around the world to stay connected with the league's biggest moments."

Through strategic partnerships and continued investment in premium content, tapmad has rapidly grown into one of Pakistan's leading digital streaming platforms, offering a diverse mix of live sports, premium entertainment, and on-demand content to millions of users. With this latest rights acquisition, the platform further strengthens its position as a key destination for cricket and sports entertainment, bringing fans closer to the biggest moments of the Pakistan Super League through a seamless digital viewing experience.

PCB and Jawad Sports Complex sign first-of-its-kind MoU to promote grassroots cricket in Faisalabad district

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) through its Domestic Cricket Operations (DCO) Department has signed a first-of-its-kind Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Jawad Sports and Cultural Complex (JSCC) for promotion and sponsorship of PCB's grassroots cricket events in Faisalabad district.

The MoU was signed by Director Domestic Cricket Operations PCB Abdullah Khurram Niazi and CEO JSCC Mr Jawad Afzal at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore. The duration of the agreement is valid for five years.

The Purpose of the MoU is to establish a framework of cooperation between PCB and JSCC for the organisation, promotion and conduct of District Cricket Association (DCA) tournaments, aimed at strengthening the grassroots circuit and identifying emerging talent.

With this development the JSCC will have the right to refer itself as the sponsor of the DCA Faisalabad tournaments including U15, U17, U19 Challenge Cups, District senior Challenge league, Inter-Club events and DCA Women's Cricket League.

The JSCC will be responsible for providing the players and match officials

in the district with a number of necessary requirements during the events.

"We are delighted to announce a landmark venture between Jawad Sports and Cultural Complex and the PCB for the promotion and organisation of grassroots cricket events. It sets a great precedent in our cricket governance where a dedicated local stakeholder joins hands with the PCB to reshape the landscape of a district's cricket.

"I'm sure players and officials in Faisalabad will benefit a great deal from this partnership and we will be able to unearth emerging talent there. Going forward we want to increase such partnerships across other parts of the country as well in order to bring more sponsorship revenue to our grassroots level."

Jawad Afzal, CEO Jawad Sports and Cultural Complex Faisalabad "It is a matter of great pride for the Jawad Sports and Cultural Complex to partner with the PCB. We have previously hosted a number of PCB's men's and women's cricket tournaments at the JSCC and now we are going one step further.

"The JSCC is truly committed to work tirelessly with the DCA Faisalabad in hosting and promotion of a number of events, which will also provide the PCB with a unique framework for their own development model at the district level."

Senior Vice President of PML-N Sindh Ali Akbar Gujjar Visits Olympian Islahuddin Hockey Academy



Sports Desk

KARACHI: Senior Vice President of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Sindh and well-known personality of Gujjar community, Ali Akbar Gujjar, visited the Olympian Islahuddin Hockey Academy during the holy month of Ramadan, where he attended as the chief guest. On this occasion, his brother Ashiq Ali Gujjar was also present with him. Upon arrival at the academy, Olympian Sameer Hussain and Syed Alay Hassan welcomed him and expressed their gratitude for his visit. The academy's players and organizers also warmly received the distinguished guests.

Speaking on the occasion, Ali Akbar Gujjar paid tribute to the services of Olympian Nishan-e-Imtiaz Islahuddin Siddiqui, stating that Islahuddin Siddiqui is a shining name in Pakistan hockey who not only brought glory to the country through his game but has also dedicated his life to training young players and promoting hockey. He said that the Olympian Islahuddin Hockey Academy is a practical reflection of Islahuddin Siddiqui's hard work, vision, and love for hockey.

Security beefed up across Pakistan for Youm-e-Ali

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Security heightened in Punjab

Meanwhile, in Punjab, security has been placed on high alert across the province to mark the Youm-e-Shahadat of Hazrat Ali (RA).

Punjab Inspector General Dr Abdul Karim ordered enhanced security across the province, including Lahore, in light of the situation along the country's western border.

He directed authorities to keep a close watch on threats from Fitna Al Khawarij and Fitna Al Hindustan terror groups, and instructed personnel deployed at interprovincial checkpoints to remain highly vigilant.

According to the Punjab police chief, more than 30,000 police officers and personnel have been deployed across the province to provide security for mourning processions and religious gatherings, including over 8,000 officers in Lahore.

A Punjab Police spokesperson said special security arrangements

have been made for 217 mourning processions and 994 religious gatherings across the province.

To ensure thorough screening of participants, 2,029 metal detectors and 297 walk-through gates have been installed.

Processions and gatherings are also being monitored continuously through cameras operated by the Safe Cities Authority and district administrations.

In addition, authorities have deployed plainclothes commandos along procession routes and snipers on rooftops, while female police officers have been assigned to check women participants.

The IG Punjab directed all field formations, including the Dolphin Squad, Police Response Unit (PRU), Special Branch and Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD), to coordinate closely to ensure security arrangements.

Regional and district police chiefs have also been instructed to personally oversee security measures for processions and gatherings.

DG ISPR Rejects Notion That Pakistan is Next Target After Iran

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as the ultimate, non-negotiable guarantor of this profound and abiding confidence. It is the fundamental, bedrock reason why, unlike so many other nations around the world that might live in constant, gnawing fear of foreign intervention, military coercion, or great power domination, Pakistan's military institutions and, by extension, its people, remain largely unworried by hypothetical threats of aggression. The ancient and brutal calculus of war, the decision-making process that leaders go through when contemplating conflict, changes irrevocably and fundamentally when the potential adversary possesses the demonstrated and unambiguous capability to inflict unacceptable, existential, and civilization-ending costs in retaliation for any attack. This immutable strategic reality, this fundamental shift in the balance of power created by nuclear weapons, is the profound "difference" the DG ISPR spoke of with such clarity. It is the defining difference between

a nation that can be coerced, threatened, and dominated through conventional military superiority and a nation that must be engaged with as an absolute equal, as a power center whose interests must be respected and whose sovereignty is not negotiable. It is the difference between being perceived as a potential target, a piece on the geopolitical chessboard to be moved or captured, and being recognized as an independent power center, a player at the table with a veto over its own destiny. Therefore, when the DG ISPR, with the full weight of the Pakistani nation behind him, calls colliding with a nuclear power a "foolish and unthinkable act," it is a statement of profound and inescapable strategic reality, a statement rooted in physics, in military science, and in the hard lessons of history. It is not merely a warning, though it serves that purpose; it is an invitation to rationality, a powerful plea for peace achieved through undeniable strength, and a solemn reminder that in the complex, interconnected, and often

dangerous matrix of international relations, the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Pakistan is a fixed and unalterable point on the map, guarded by the ultimate deterrent and backed by the unshakable, unwavering, and absolute resolve of its 250 million people, a people who have repeatedly demonstrated their resilience in the face of adversity and their willingness to sacrifice everything for their nation. The nation's overwhelming, heartfelt, and unified support for his historic remarks is therefore not just an expression of momentary patriotic fervor or emotional nationalism; it is an informed, considered, and deeply conscious endorsement of a national defense doctrine that has successfully and consistently kept the country safe and sovereign in one of the most dangerous, volatile, and unforgiving neighborhoods in the entire world, and which promises, with absolute certainty, to continue doing so against any and all future threats, from whatever direction they may emerge, and in whatever form they may take.

Pakistan's Tightrope Diplomacy During the U. S.-Iran War

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This delicate balancing act illustrates the complexity of Pakistan's geopolitical environment. Few countries must simultaneously manage such diverse relationships with competing global and regional powers. Maintaining constructive ties with Iran, Saudi Arabia, the United States, and other regional actors requires a level of diplomatic precision rarely seen in international politics.

The broader lesson from the crisis is that modern conflicts are often shaped long before the first shots are fired. Strategic alliances, diplomatic engagements, intelligence networks, and regional realignments gradually build the framework within which military operations eventually unfold. By

the time war begins, many of the key variables have already been determined.

Pakistan's experience during the U. S.-Iran conflict underscores the importance of strategic foresight. While the war reshaped the Middle East's balance of power, Islamabad managed to avoid direct involvement while preserving its relationships with multiple partners. Through cautious diplomacy and calculated restraint, Pakistan maintained stability at home while navigating one of the most volatile geopolitical crises of the decade.

As the region moves forward, Pakistan's challenge will be to convert this diplomatic survival into long-term strategic advantage. Strengthening economic resilience, enhancing security

infrastructure, and continuing a balanced foreign policy will be essential for navigating an increasingly uncertain global order.

In an era defined by shifting alliances and emerging power struggles, Pakistan's ability to walk the diplomatic tightrope may prove to be its greatest strategic strength. By combining prudence, vigilance, and diplomatic agility, the country can continue to protect its sovereignty, safeguard its strategic assets, and remain a stabilizing force in a turbulent region.

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Make Iran Great Again (MIGA)? Trump's New Doctrine and ...

Continued from Page 4

Iran's political system—established after the Iranian Revolution—is inherently incompatible with the Western-led international order. The MIGA therefore reflects a broader ideological goal: replacing the Islamic Republic with a government more aligned with Western political and economic structures. Although the Trump administration has not formally announced a regime-change strategy, the language surrounding MIGA strongly implies such an approach.

Trump's post explicitly mentioned that after surrender there would be "selection of a GREAT & ACCEPTABLE leader." This suggests that Washington expects to influence, or even shape, Iran's post-conflict leadership. Historically, attempts

at regime change have produced mixed results. The U. S.-led interventions in Iraq War and War in Afghanistan aimed to replace hostile governments with democratic systems. Instead, both cases resulted in prolonged conflicts, regional instability, and enormous human and financial costs.

Iran, however, presents an even more complicated scenario. With a population of more than 85 million, a strong national identity, and a sophisticated military network across the region, Iran cannot easily be reshaped through external intervention. Even analysts sympathetic to regime change acknowledge that a collapse of the Iranian state could produce chaos across the Middle East. Iran plays a central role in the geopolitics of the Middle East. Its influence extends through alliances and proxy networks in Iraq,

Syria, Lebanon, and Yemen. A sudden political transformation in Tehran would therefore reshape the regional balance of power.

If the Islamic Republic were replaced by a pro-Western government, the strategic landscape would change dramatically. Iran could potentially shift from being a challenger to the U. S.-led order to becoming a partner in regional security. However, the opposite scenario is also possible. A power vacuum in Iran could strengthen militant groups, deepen sectarian conflicts, and destabilize neighboring countries.

The risk is especially high because Iran's political system is deeply institutionalized. The state includes powerful organizations such as the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, which controls significant military and economic resources. Any attempt to remove

the current system could therefore trigger internal fragmentation or civil conflict.

Trump's "MIGA" slogan also has a domestic political dimension. For years, Iran has been one of the most polarizing issues in American foreign policy. The debate intensified after the United States withdrew from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the 2015 nuclear agreement negotiated during the administration of Barack Obama. Trump criticized the deal as weak and ineffective, arguing that it allowed Iran to continue expanding its regional influence. His new rhetoric builds on that long-standing critique.

By presenting himself as the leader willing to confront Iran directly, Trump appeals to voters who favor a strong, assertive American role in global affairs. The slogan also simplifies a

complex geopolitical issue into a message that resonates with political branding. Just as "MAGA" became a powerful domestic political symbol, "MIGA" aims to transform foreign policy into a memorable narrative.

Despite its rhetorical appeal, the MIGA doctrine carries significant risks. First, demanding unconditional surrender leaves little room for diplomacy. In international politics, conflicts usually end through negotiation and compromise rather than total capitulation. Second, the language may strengthen hard-line factions within Iran. External threats often reinforce nationalist sentiment, allowing governments to consolidate domestic support. Finally, the possibility of a broader regional war cannot be ignored. Iran possesses significant military capabilities, including missile

forces and regional allies capable of targeting U. S. and Israeli interests.

Escalation between these actors could draw in other global powers and disrupt critical energy routes such as the Strait of Hormuz, through which a large share of the world's oil supply passes. The phrase "Make Iran Great Again" is more than a political slogan. It signals a shift toward a more confrontational American approach to Iran and raises fundamental questions about the future of the Middle East.

If the slogan represents a genuine policy framework, it implies that the United States is prepared to pursue regime change in Tehran. Such a strategy would reshape the region's political landscape but also carries enormous risks. History shows that rebuilding states after conflict is far more difficult than overthrowing

governments. The experiences of Iraq and Afghanistan illustrate how ambitious foreign interventions can produce unintended consequences.

Whether MIGA becomes a guiding doctrine or remains a rhetorical gesture will depend on developments in the coming weeks. What is already clear, however, is that the debate over Iran's future has entered a new and potentially dangerous phase. In global politics, slogans can be powerful. But the realities behind them are often far more complicated.

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Procession on Youm-e-Ali

LAHORE: Shiite Muslim devotees march during the procession of Youm-e-Ali in the Provincial Capital on Wednesday.



Photo: Online

Security beefed up across Pakistan for Youm-e-Ali

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Youm-e-Shahadat (martyrdom day) of Hazrat Ali (RA) is being observed across the country today (Wednesday) with religious solemnity.

Special security arrangements have been put in place to ensure the protection of imambargahs and majalis, as well as to maintain smooth

traffic flow in various cities.

Meanwhile, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, during a meeting with prominent religious scholars in Lahore, said that all mourning processions across the country marking the occasion would conclude by the time of Maghrib prayers.

Security measures in Karachi

Security has been tightened

in Karachi ahead of the Youm-e-Ali processions, with senior officials reviewing arrangements along the main route.

Sindh Home Minister Ziaul Hassan Lanjar, accompanied by Karachi Mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab, Inspector General of Sindh Police Javed Alam Odho, and Karachi Police Chief Azad Khan, visited Numaish Chowranghi to review the procession route

and security measures.

Lanjar directed authorities to ensure extraordinary security arrangements in view of the current situation, stressing that all institutions should remain alert to safeguard the lives and property of citizens.

Additional police and law enforcement personnel have been deployed, while CCTV cameras along the procession

route have been activated to monitor the situation.

Mayor Wahab said municipal agencies would ensure cleanliness, street lighting and other civic facilities during the procession.

Relevant departments will remain present in the field to facilitate citizens and participants in the procession, he added.

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DPM/FM Dar chairs CCoP meeting, endorses inclusion of FFCL as an additional consortium member



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Wednesday, chaired a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Privatization (CCoP) for the inclusion of Fauji Fertilizer Company Limited (FFCL).

The Committee on Privatization, in its meeting endorsed inclusion of FFCL as an additional Consortium member, as per approved terms of the bid documents executed with the successful bidder for PIACL i.e. consortium led by Arif Habib Corporation, for PIACL, DPM Office said in a press release.

FFCL will subscribe to 33.99% ordinary shares of PIA Equity Limited, a special purpose vehicle incorporated by the successful bidder for divestment of PIACL whereas Arif Habib Corporation Limited will remain the lead consortium member.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Finance & Revenues, Minister Energy, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Privatization, Minister of State for Finance & Revenue, Special Assistant to PM Tariq Bajwa, Secretaries Cabinet, Privatization, Law & Justice and senior officials from Cabinet and other key stakeholders.

The CCoP's decision would be submitted for ratification of the federal cabinet.

UK high commissioner meets Opposition Leader Mahmood Khan Achakzai



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: British High Commissioner to Pakistan Jane Marriott met the Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly, Mahmood Khan Achakzai, in his chamber in Islamabad on Wednesday.

During the meeting, both sides discussed matters of mutual interest between Pakistan and the United Kingdom. The discussion focused on strengthening bilateral relations,

the overall regional situation and the potential economic impact of fluctuations in global oil prices.

The two sides also exchanged views on the promotion of democratic values, mutual cooperation and the importance of maintaining peace and stability in the region.

The meeting was held in a cordial and constructive atmosphere, with both sides agreeing to further strengthen bilateral ties and maintain regular contact on issues of common interest.

Finance minister chairs meeting to boost Pakistan's capital markets

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, chaired a meeting of the Capital Market Development Council (CMDC) Wednesday to review progress on reforms aimed at strengthening Pakistan's capital markets, with particular focus on the development of the corporate debt market and expanding the role of capital markets in financing economic growth.

In his opening remarks, the Finance Minister underscored that a strong and well-functioning capital market is vital for sustainable economic development, as it enables corporations to access long-term financing while offering diversified investment opportunities to both institutional and retail investors, said a press release.

He emphasized that Pakistan must gradually move towards a more balanced financial system where capital markets complement the



banking sector in meeting the financing needs of the economy.

The Finance Minister noted that the development of a vibrant corporate bond market would play a critical role in mobilizing long-term domestic savings and supporting private sector investment.

During the meeting, he

emphasized the importance of strengthening awareness and communication regarding recent regulatory reforms introduced to facilitate corporate bond issuance and improve market access.

He directed the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) to enhance outreach efforts to ensure that corporates, financial institu-

tions and market participants are fully informed about the simplified regulatory framework, reduced documentation requirements and other facilitation measures introduced in recent months.

Representatives of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), State Bank of Paki-

stan (SBP), Central Depository Company (CDC), National Clearing Company of Pakistan Limited (NCCPL), Pakistan Banks Association (PBA) and Pakistan Business Council (PBC) briefed the meeting on recent initiatives undertaken to facilitate the issuance of corporate bonds and improve market functioning.

Strengthening cybersecurity essential to attract foreign investment: Shaza Fatima

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja on Wednesday said that strengthening cybersecurity in the country is essential to build full confidence in digital development and attract foreign investment.

Addressing a cybersecurity event, she said strong domestic laws, regulations, and policies are essential to attract foreign investment and ensure trust in Pakistan's digital ecosystem.

"Investment and business growth depend on how robust our cybersecurity frameworks and regulatory systems are," she said.

The minister said Pakistan has already taken several steps to strengthen cybersecurity, including



activating the National Computer Emergency Response Team (National CERT) and establishing functional

CERTs across all four provinces. She said the National Telecom and Information Security Board (NTISB)

and other government agencies remain operational around the clock to monitor and secure digital systems.

Shaza Fatima said Pakistan's cyber defense capabilities were also tested during the recent war with India, during which the country successfully protected its communication networks and government systems from cyber intrusions.

"Despite intense cyber warfare during that period, Pakistan did not experience a single communication breakdown nor any successful penetration of government systems," she said.

The minister credited the coordinated efforts of national institutions, including cyber units within the armed forces, as well as contributions from skilled Pakistani professionals who voluntarily offered support to defend the country's digital space.

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: On the instructions of Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, the National Assembly of Pakistan Secretariat has implemented wide-ranging austerity measures as part of the cost-cutting drive initiated by Shehbaz Sharif.

According to an official notification, 70% of government vehicles

used by the Secretariat will remain off the road, while members of the National Assembly will face a 25% cut in salaries and allowances for two months.

The measures also include a complete ban on foreign visits by parliamentary delegations. Officers in Grade 20 and above, or those earning Rs300,000 or more per month, will contribute two days' salary to the national exchequer.

In addition, all purchases in the Secretariat have been halted except for essential daily needs.

Around 80% of the staff will work from home and will not receive additional allowances during this period.

Committee meetings will be held virtually or online, and National Assembly sessions will be scheduled before sunset, with the parliament operating four working days a week.

The notification further states



that electricity consumption will be reduced by 70%, unnecessary lights and electrical equipment will remain switched off, and utility expenses at the Secretariat cafeterias will also be cut by 70%.

Authorities have also decided to adopt paperless working to further reduce traditional expenditures.