



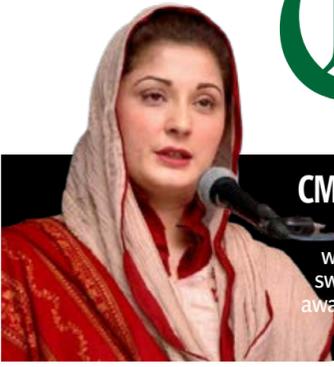
# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ  
ہم سے اسحاق بن سعید بن عمرو بن سعید بن  
العاص رضی اللہ عنہما نے بیان کیا ہے ان سے  
ان کے والد نے اور ان سے ان کے عرنے بیان  
کیا کہ رسول اللہ ﷺ نے فرمایا کہ اس  
وقت تک اپنے دین کے بارے میں برابر لکھا  
رہتا ہے (اسے بروقت مغفرت کی امید رہتی  
ہے) جب تک تاق خون نہ کرے چہاں  
تا تاق کی مغفرت کا دروازہ تک نہ ہو جاتا ہے۔  
(بخاری ص ۸۸۲)

Barkat Rice Mills  
(Pvt) Limited



## CM Punjab Leads Province-Wide Observance of Earth Hour

On the directions of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Earth Hour was observed across the province with widespread participation, as lights were switched off and candles lit to promote energy conservation and environmental awareness. The initiative was marked in all divisions and districts, with more than 500 locations taking part in the symbolic activity.



## CM Bugti reaffirms education as top priority, lays foundation of welfare institution in Kuchlak

Chief Minister of Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti has reaffirmed that the provision of quality education remains the top priority of the provincial government, emphasizing that education is the key driver of development and progress.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Shawwal 9, Sunday, March 29, 2026

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## Protest

LAHORE: Activists of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan (JIP) Women Wing hold banners during a protest to condemn the life imprisonment sentence handed to Kashmiri political leader Aasiya Andrabi by a Delhi court, outside Lahore Press Club in the provincial capital.



Photo: Online

## DPM, Qatari PM discuss regional, international developments



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar Saturday spoke with Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani.

The two leaders discussed prevailing regional and inter-

national developments and emphasized the importance of urgent de-escalation. The Qatari side appreciated Pakistan's ongoing efforts to promote peace and stability through dialogue and diplomacy.

They reaffirmed the deep-rooted Pakistan-Qatar brotherly ties and agreed to remain in close contact on evolving developments.

# PM reiterates Pakistan's condemnation of Israeli attacks

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Saturday, reiterated Pakistan's strong condemnation of the continued Israeli attacks on Iran, including the latest attacks on civilian infrastructure yesterday.

The prime minister held a telephone conversation with President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

He apprised the Iranian President of the diplomatic outreach efforts currently being under-



taken by him, the Deputy Prime Minister as well as Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, to engage the US, brotherly Gulf

and Islamic countries, to create a conducive environment for peace talks.

He briefed the Iranian presi-

dent on the strong endorsement of Pakistan's peace initiative and expressed the hope that a viable path towards ending hostilities could be found collectively.

The prime minister reaffirmed Pakistan's solidarity and support for the brave people of Iran, in these challenging times.

During their detailed conversation, that lasted over one hour, the two leaders held extensive discussions regarding the ongoing hostilities in the region and peace efforts.

The prime minister also offered condolences on the loss of over 1900 precious lives and prayed for recovery of the

injured and displaced.

While appreciating the prime minister's sincere diplomatic efforts, the Iranian president shared his perspective on the ongoing hostilities perpetrated by Israel against Iran.

He stressed upon the need to build trust in order to facilitate talks and mediation.

In this regard, he praised the prime minister for Pakistan's supportive role for peace.

The prime minister thanked the Iranian president and assured him that Pakistan would continue to play a constructive role for bringing peace and stability in the region.

## Govt considers passing oil price hike to consumers

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The federal government is considering passing the impact of rising oil prices in global markets to consumers, while providing limited targeted subsidies to ease the burden on vulnerable groups, sources said on Saturday.

According to the sources, the government has requested financial support from the

provinces for the targeted subsidy scheme, asking them to allocate Rs154 billion for this purpose.

Officials said one option under consideration is to fully pass the oil price increases to consumers.

The alternative plan would provide subsidised fuel for motorcycles, up to 20 litres per month, and for rickshaws, up to 30 litres per month.

The sources stated that implementing the targeted subsidy scheme for six weeks would require approximately Rs300 billion.

A high-level meeting between the president, prime minister, and provincial chief ministers is expected next week to make a final decision on the scheme.

Authorities further stated that the country's current fuel reserves are sufficient to meet domestic needs until May 10, 2026.

## Mohsin Naqvi orders crackdown on corruption in govt departments

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has directed the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to launch a crackdown against corruption in government institutions, reported 24NewsHD TV channel.

During his visit to the FIA Headquarters in Islamabad on Saturday, Mohsin Naqvi reviewed the infrastructure improvement project and assessed its progress. He instructed officials to ensure early completion of ongoing construction activities.

Mohsin Naqvi said that in line with the Prime Minister's vision, a zero-tolerance policy against corruption in government departments must be adopted.

The interior minister added that the reform process in the FIA will be completed by December this year.

He further directed that all overseas job advertisements should be monitored online and public awareness must be ensured regarding misleading advertisements.

The Interior Minister stated that the FIA will be organized as a front-line force against all forms of organized crime. He assured full support to the FIA at every level, while FIA Director General Dr Usman Anwar briefed the minister in detail about the institution.

## Pakistan, IMF reach staff-level agreement on loan review

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund have reached a staff-level agreement on the third review of the country's Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and the second review under the Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF), the lender said in a statement.

Subject to approval by the IMF Executive Board, Pakistan will gain access to about \$1.0 billion under the EFF and approximately \$210 million under the RSF.

This would bring total disbursements under the two programmes to around

\$4.5 billion.

The IMF said the agreement reflects continued progress under the reform programme, noting that economic conditions have improved following a recovery in fiscal year 2025, with growth gaining momentum in the early part of the current fiscal year.

According to an IMF statement, "Inflation and the current account balance remained contained, and external buffers continued to strengthen. The conflict in the Middle East, however, casts a cloud over the outlook as volatile energy prices and tighter global financial conditions risk putting upward pressure on inflation and

weigh on growth and the current account." These factors may put renewed pressure on inflation, economic growth, and Pakistan's external balance.

The development follows what officials described as "considerable progress" in earlier discussions between Pakistan and IMF staff on the programme review.

An IMF delegation had arrived in Pakistan on February 26 and began formal talks on March 2.

However, the visit was cut short on March 3, and according to Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, the team continued engagements remotely from Istanbul.

## DPM, Indonesian FM review regional developments



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar Saturday held a telephone conversation with Foreign Minister of Indonesia, Sugiono.

They discussed regional and international developments, as well as bilateral matters of mutual interest. Reaffirming strong fraternal ties between Pakistan and Indonesia, they agreed to remain in close contact.

## Pakistan rejects India's remarks regarding Shia community

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Saturday rejected India's remarks regarding its Shia community as cynical and diversionary calling it an exercise in deflection masquerading as concern.

On media queries seeking a response to the statement by the Indian Ministry of External Affairs regarding Pakistan's Shia community, the Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Tahir Andrabi said, "India's comments cannot mask its own record of the steady normalization of discrimination and violence against Muslims, Christians, and other marginalised communities — from curbs on worship to mob vigilantism and the targeting of homes and livelihoods. These patterns are well documented."

"The escalating wave of mob lynchings targeting Muslims is deeply abhorrent and underscores a climate of unchecked brutality. In 2025, more than 55 Muslims were



reportedly lynched in India, and since January 2026, over 19 Muslims have been killed by violent mobs. Extremist groups have unlawfully sought the destruction of 11 mosques. Perpetrators of crimes against Muslims often act with impunity, enabled by state patronage, and are seldom held to account," he added.

He said, "Pakistan urges India to address these serious and well-documented concerns within its own borders, ensure the protection of Muslim, Christians and other communities in accordance with its constitutional and international obligations, and refrain from making unfounded and politically motivated statements about others."

# AJK PM Rathore affirms PPP's commitment to public service after key inductions

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, has said that the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) was committed to public service, democratic values, and the protection of citizens' rights.

He made these assertions while speaking during a meeting with Muhammad Saleem Kataria, Kabir Nazir Kataria, and Muhammad Saeed Chichi here today.

Hailing from Nadi Ban Digwar area of Haveli district, the trio recently left Pakistan Muslim League (N) to join the Pakistan Peoples Party.

Welcoming the newly entrants in the party fold, the PM said that development projects and public welfare initiatives were being implemented all across Azad Kashmir without discrimination.

He maintained that providing basic amenities of life to the people remains his government's top priority. The Prime Minister highlighted that development projects were being expanded across Haveli and other districts.



He said that the participation of political and social figures in the PPP reflects people's growing trust and

confidence in the government's performance and policies. The new entrants, on the occasion,

expressed their full confidence in the Prime Minister's leadership and the government's policies.

## AJK political situation tops agenda in PM Rathore-Farooq Ahmed meet



**Spokesman Report. Islamabad.**

Former Opposition Leader Khawaja Farooq Ahmed called on Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Faisal Mumtaz Rathore here today. During the meeting, the overall political situation of Azad Kashmir and issues of mutual interest were discussed. Speaking on the occasion Prime Minister Rathore said that political tolerance and mutual respect were a dominant feature of politics in AJK. He noted that differences of opinion were an essential part of democracy but decency, patience and mutual respect were equally important for moving forward with consensus.

"Prioritizing national and public interests, along with promoting positive political traditions, is vital for strengthening democracy and public welfare", he added. Khawaja Farooq Ahmed congratulated the Prime Minister on performing Umrah and expressed his good wishes. Minister for Forests Sardar Javed Ayub was also present on the occasion.

## Azad Kashmir politics heats up as Sardar Attique returns, prepares for general elections



**Spokesman Report**

RAWALPINDI: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan reached Rawalpindi Mujahid Manzil after completing his visit to Azad Kashmir. When he reached at Mujahid Manzil, a large number of personalities belonging to different schools of thought, office bearers of Muslim Conference and workers reached for a meeting.

Secretary General Muslim Conference Ms. Mehr-un-Nisa, Hurriyat leader Abdul Hamid Lone, Lal Hussain Rajput, Rana Ghulam Hussain, Sardar Ajmal Nakyalvi extended congratulations Umrah and Eid greetings. On this occasion, Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan said that he spent the Eid day in his native Ghaziabad where he was met by the people of the constituency as well as office bearers of Muslim Conference from all over Azad Kashmir and detailed discussions were held about the preparations for the general elections.

## High-Level Consultations Held for AJK General Elections 2026

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: A high-level meeting of consultations with the heads of political parties, representatives, members of the assembly and representatives of the refugees of Jammu and Kashmir residing in Pakistan was held at Jammu Kashmir House, Islamabad, under the chairmanship of the Chief Election Commissioner of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Justice (ret'd) Ghulam Mustafa Mughal, regarding the preparations for the upcoming general elections 2026.

The meeting was also attended by Government Minister Sardar Javed Ayub and Spokesperson for the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Shaukat Javed Mir.

The meeting was attended by members of the assembly of Jammu and Kashmir refugees residing in Pakistan, Abdul Majid Khan, Javed Butt, Ahmed Raza Qadri, Raja Siddique, Asim Sharif Butt, Chaudhry Muhammad Ismail, Hamid Raza, Diwan Ghulam Mohi-uddin Chaudhry Akbar Ibrahim, Chaudhry Riaz Gujjar. Former Prime Minister Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi, former Minister Khawaja Farooq Ahmed, Chairman Pasban Watan Party Tahir Khokhar, President Jamiat Ulema-e-Imtiazi Ahmed Siddiqui, Chairman Jafariya Supreme Council, Syed Farid Abbas Naqvi, Muhammad Bashir Raja, Chairman Qaumi Ittehad Party Sardar Abdul Rehman Khan, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Jammu and Kashmir Muhammad Nazir Farooqi, Nadeem Nisar, MQM Pakistan Shah Faisal, Jammu and Kashmir Liberation League, Khawaja Manzoor Qadir Advocate, Ameer All Jammu and Kashmir Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Maulana Qazi Manzoor-ul-Hassan, Abdul Nasir Khan, Khalid Farooq, Mrs. Nasreen Farooq, Adnan Abdul Khaliq, Muhammad Amir Butt, Muhammad Tariq Lone, Muhammad Yasin Lone, Ahsan Rashid Dar, Abdul Majid Khan, Azim Qadir Gujjar, Mirza Sadiq Jaral, Abdul Qadir and Mahmood Khan, Chaudhry Maqbool, Syed Shaukat Shah, and Chaudhry Ishaq participated as observers.

During the meeting, detailed information regarding the upcoming general elections 2026 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir was discussed. Consultations were held. The heads of various political parties presented their suggestions to make the election process more transparent, fair and organized.

## Protest

KARACHI: Youngsters lightning lights outside Mohatta Palace Museum building as lights switched off on Saturday night from 8:30 to 9:30 pm to observed Earth Hour. Cities around the world including in Pakistan observed Earth Hour on Saturday night by turning off the lights in a call for global action on climate change.



Photo: Online

# Azad Kashmir PM slams Indian Foreign Minister's 'uncivilized' remarks

**Abdul Majid**

FAISALABAD: Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore has said that the uncivilized statement against Pakistan is a reflection of the political and diplomatic training of the Indian Foreign Minister. Every conspiracy of India will fail. Pakistan's name will remain bright and shining until the Day of Judgment. The Indian court's decision against Asia Andrabi is a violation of fundamental human rights.

Modi cannot suppress the truth through the Kangaroo Court. The statement of the founder of PTI, his son, on GSP Plus is regrettable and irresponsible. If, God forbid, GSP Plus becomes vocal for Pakistan, Pakistan will lose more than nine billion dollars annually. For PTI, apart from Imran Niazi, the country



and the nation have no status, which is highly condemnable.

These views were expressed by Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Faisal Mumtaz Rathore while attending the Sunnah Nikah ceremony of the daughter of the President of the People's Party Europe, Dr. Irshad Ali Kamboh. Former Advisor to the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Muhammad Riaz

Chaudhry, Maulana Tahir Ashrafi, Brigadier Khalid, Azad Kashmir Cabinet Ministers, District President Muhammad Ijaz Chaudhry, Muhammad Nasir, Khan Hidayatullah Khan, Central President People's Unity Malik Asghar Ali Qaiser, Rana Bilal Farooq Saeed, Rana Naeem Dastgir, Muhammad Tahir Sheikh, Rai Abid Kharal Farhan, DSP Saqib, important

bureaucratic officers, respected city Kumbo community leaders and others were talking to the media.

Faisal Mumtaz Rathore said that the Indian Foreign Minister RS's language is not the language of the street and is not befitting of a Foreign Minister. The decision of the Indian court is controversial, which the Kashmiri people and the Pakistan People's Party strongly condemn.

# SZABMU celebrates fourth Convocation, Awards Degrees to 800 Graduates

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The fourth convocation of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University (SZABMU) was held on Saturday at the Jinnah Convention Centre, where over 2,000 students, along with their families, attended the ceremony in a dignified and celebratory atmosphere.

Approximately 800 graduates were awarded degrees across various disciplines, including 140 postgraduate

students (PhD, MPhil, MDS, MS, MD, and Basic Medical Sciences), 400 MBBS graduates, 100 BDS graduates, and 150 graduates from DPT, Allied Health Sciences, and Nursing programmes. Medals were also conferred upon high-achieving students in recognition of their academic excellence.

Former Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf attended the ceremony as the nominee of the Chancellor, Asif Ali Zardari, President of Pakistan, and

distributed degrees and gold medals among the distinction holders.

He appreciated the leadership of Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Tanwir Khaliq, noting that the university is achieving significant milestones under his stewardship. "Graduates today are not merely receiving degrees; they are assuming a national responsibility," he remarked, adding that doctors serve as ambassadors of humanity, ethics, and service in society.

The following students were

awarded gold medals for their outstanding academic performance:

Dr. Sohail Sabir — PhD Molecular Biology; Dr. Faiza Rehman — MPhil Basic Medical Science; Fatima Jaweria — MPhil Molecular Biology; Usama Khalil Qadri — MPhil Molecular Biology; Shafaq Maqsood — MPhil Molecular Biology; Fazeela Tahir — MPhil Molecular Biology; Sidra Tayyab — MSPH; Rabia Shahbaz — MBBS (Federal Medical College); Fatima Humayune —

BDS (School of Dentistry); Rimsha Shehnaz — DPT (Institute of Rehabilitation Sciences); Ayesha Naeem — MBBS (Federal Medical College); Rehana Tabassum — BSc Nursing Post RN (PIMS); Dr. Muhammad Shais Khan — MS Burn Surgery; Dr. Bushra Anam Ali — MPhil Haematology; Shuraym Ashraf Ghouri — BDS (School of Dentistry); Hareem Binte Saleem — MBBS (Federal Medical College); Arzu Fatima — MBBS (Federal Medical College);

Shagufta Yaqoob — BSc Nursing Post RN (PIMS); Syeda Jawairiya Mukarram — MBBS (Federal Medical College); Laiba Shameem — BSc Nursing Post RN (PIMS); Farah Naz — BS Nursing (PIMS); Ifat Maqbool — BSc Nursing Post RN (PIMS); Sehar Kanwal — BS Nursing (FGPC); Night Saeed — BSc Nursing Post RN (PIMS); Amna Shafi — MBBS (Federal Medical College); Larab Abbas — BS MLT (NIH); Ameera Shahid — BS MLT (NIH).

Islamabad  
30° - 38° Clear

**SERVICES**  
**Namaz Timings**  
Fajr ..... 4:37 am  
Zohr ..... 12:13 pm  
Asr ..... 4:39 pm  
Maghrib ..... 6:25 pm  
Isha ..... 7:49 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

**LUMS**  
*Recognised as Top Pakistani University in Multiple Subjects in QS Rankings 2026*

**Bureau Report**

LAHORE: University of Management Sciences (LUMS) is ranked as the top Pakistani university in a range of subject areas in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026. It stands out as the leading business school in Pakistan and is among the few Pakistani universities placed in the 101-150 global band in a subject area, marking a significant milestone for higher education in Pakistan.

The rankings also highlight LUMS' strength across a range of disciplines, including Business and Management, Accounting and Finance, and Social Sciences, where it is the highest-ranked Pakistani institution, and Economics, where it shares the top rank.

Additionally, the rankings reflect LUMS' growing strength in Modern Languages and Politics, highlighting the quality of its humanities and social sciences programme.

# CM Punjab orders expanded action in Lady Willingdon Hospital video case

**Bureau Report**

LAHORE: The Punjab government has further expanded disciplinary action in the video scandal at Lady Willingdon Hospital, suspending the Medical Superintendent and Head

of Department along with a woman medical officer, five postgraduate resident doctors, two nurses, and a hospital staff member for their alleged involvement in recording and sharing a patient's video during a surgical procedure. All suspended officials



have been directed to report to their respective departments. Earlier, four lady doctors had also been suspended after the CM Complaint Cell initiated action in the case.

According to official details, the alleged video was recorded during an operation and later circulated on social media, raising serious concerns about patient privacy and professional conduct. Provincial Health Minister

Khawaja Salman Rafique stated that violations of standard operating procedures in hospitals will not be tolerated under any circumstances, adding that immediate action was taken upon identification of negligence at the hospital.

The Secretary Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education also emphasized that such actions constitute a clear breach of medical ethics,

undermine patient dignity, and violate professional standards, all of which are strictly prohibited under government regulations and hospital SOPs. The Punjab government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, has reiterated its commitment to enforcing accountability and ensuring that healthcare institutions uphold the highest standards of ethics and patient care.

## Attention concerned authority

ISLAMABAD: A view of sewerage water accumulated on side of Col Sher Khan Shaheed road in the federal capital creating problems for commuters needs the attention of concerned authorities.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

# Hearing aids distributed among hearing-impaired children under Sound for Students

**Kiran Asim**

MULTAN: Hearing Aids Distributed Among Hearing-impaired children under Sound for Students.

Under the leadership of Commissioner Aamir Kareem Khan, the "Sound for Students" initiative continues to transform the lives of hearing-impaired children across the division. In this phase, more than 200 hearing aids were distributed among 98 children in Multan and Jalalpur Pirwala, while 90 hearing aids were provided to 77 children in Shujaabad. Targets in other districts have also been successfully achieved.

Commissioner Aamir Kareem Khan highlighted that with the combined support of hearing aids and



speech therapy, these children will not only be able to hear but also develop the ability to speak. Children who once considered themselves deaf and mute are now on the path to becoming confident and active members of society.

# Training held in Peshawar to strengthen paralegal volunteers for women's access to justice

**AK Wazir**

PESHAWAR: A three-day training workshop aimed at enhancing the capacity of paralegal volunteers on women's access to justice was held in Peshawar, organisers said.

The training was organised by Shirkat Gah with the support of UN-Women and attended by 25

paralegal volunteers affiliated with the Area Support Network Peshawar. The sessions focused on key issues including various forms of gender-based and domestic violence, prevention mechanisms, relevant legal frameworks, and the role of police in addressing such cases.

Participants were also provided practical guidance on identifying

community-level challenges faced by women and developing effective response strategies to support victims and improve access to legal remedies.

Speaking at the closing session, Shirkat Gah Programme Coor-

dinator Fauzia Ali said that while significant legislation exists in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for the protection of women's rights and prevention of gender-based violence, there remains a pressing need to raise awareness at the community level.



## Public outrage grows over alleged police torture in Hyderabad, i

**Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi**

HYDERABAD: Public reaction has intensified following reports of alleged police torture in Hyderabad's SITE area, with citizens strongly condemning the incident and demanding strict action against those responsible.



According to details, a large number of people expressed anger on social media after news of the incident surfaced. Citizens stated that allegedly assaulting a man in a public market in front of his family, including his elderly mother and children, is not only a violation of human rights but also raises serious questions about the rule of law.

The affected family claimed that instead of providing justice, a case was registered against the same young man, which they described as false and contrary to facts.

The role of SITE Police Station SHO, Waheed Sheikh, has also come under criticism. Citizens have alleged that he acted in a biased manner to protect the involved personnel instead of ensuring justice for the victims.

Meanwhile, SSP Hyderabad has taken notice of the incident, contacted the affected family, and ordered an immediate inquiry against the officials allegedly involved. He assured that strict legal action would be taken after the completion of the investigation.

## PSCA enhances province-wide security with advanced drone surveillance to combat crime & violations

**Bureau Report**

LAHORE: Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) is actively ensuring province-wide surveillance through deployment of advanced drone technology, enabling timely and effective response to public safety concerns. Safe City drones are being utilized to monitor Emergency Helpline 15 calls, crime hotspots, traffic conditions, kite flying incidents, and smog violations, ensuring swift action against unlawful activities.

According to PSCA's spokesperson, drone monitoring is also being effectively carried out in crime hotspot areas such as Wahdat Colony and Allama Iqbal Town to prevent potential criminal activities. Meanwhile, illegal parking causing traffic congestion at Shahdara Chowk and Chungi Amar Sidhu was addressed through immediate coordination with field police, restoring smooth traffic flow. In other cities including Gujrat, Sahiwal and Multan, continuous monitoring of crime hotspots is being conducted through smart Safe City drones. Additionally, in Bahawalpur, Rahim Yar Khan and Rawalpindi, virtual hold-ups are being carried out using surveillance cameras to monitor suspicious activities.

## Global Campaign Earth Hour Observed in Toba Tek Singh

**Zafar Chishti**

TOBA TEK SINGH: In connection with environmental protection and the efficient use of energy, the global campaign "Earth Hour" will be observed in Toba Tek Singh today (Saturday). In this regard, an important meeting was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Toba Tek Singh Umar Abbas Mela on the directions of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner General Usman Tariq, Assistant Commissioners and heads of various departments. During the meeting, it was decided that non-essential lights across the city will be switched off for one hour from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm tonight, in order to reduce energy wastage and raise public awareness about environmental conservation. The Deputy Commissioner directed that unnecessary lights in all government offices, street lights and recreational places be turned off during this period.

## DC Mela Reviews ongoing Development Work across TT Singh District

**Zafar Chishti**

TOBA TEK SINGH: Under the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, rapid progress is being made on development and recreational projects across Toba Tek Singh district. In this regard, Deputy Commissioner Toba Tek Singh Umar Abbas Mela conducted detailed visits to various parks, playgrounds and public places in the city to review ongoing development work. During his visit to Teeco Park, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the pace and quality of rehabilitation work and directed the concerned authorities to ensure its early completion so that citizens can benefit from quality recreational facilities.

The Deputy Commissioner also visited Old Talab Ground on Bhallear Road, where he stressed the need for upgrading the ground and improving sports facilities. He directed officers to take immediate steps to provide quality sports opportunities for youth. Similarly, during the inspection of Perra Colony Playground, instructions were issued to promote sports activities among young people. The ongoing rehabilitation work at Mustafa Abad Park was also reviewed, where directions were given to further improve both the quality and pace of work.

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## Iran and the Fall of Old Military Might

The modern battlefield is no longer defined by tanks rolling across deserts or fighter jets dominating the skies. Instead, it is shaped by invisible algorithms, autonomous drones, and emotionally charged digital narratives that travel faster than missiles and penetrate deeper than bombs. What we are witnessing in the ongoing Iran-United States-Israel confrontation is not just a war of weapons—it is a war of perception, precision, and psychological dominance. And in this evolving theater, Iran appears to have mastered a new doctrine that is rewriting the rules of conflict in the 21st century.

One of the most striking aspects of this transformation is Iran's sophisticated use of media and digital storytelling. Highly emotional videos, cinematic reels, and symbolic imagery have flooded social media platforms, creating a powerful narrative that resonates far beyond its borders. In one such clip, a young girl in Tehran prepares for school, her innocence captured in soft morning light, while in parallel, a fighter jet readies for a strike. The sequence ends in devastation, with only her schoolbag—marked by a small animal drawing—remaining amid the rubble. Another haunting visual depicts coffins draped in the American flag sinking into the sea, followed by an endless horizon of destruction. These are not mere videos; they are psychological instruments designed to evoke empathy, outrage, and moral questioning.

This is propaganda in its most refined and modern form—not crude messaging, but emotionally intelligent storytelling backed by high production quality and strategic timing. It challenges the legitimacy of war, portrays Iran as a victim of aggression, and mobilizes both domestic and global audiences. In contrast, the United States, traditionally dominant

in narrative control through mainstream media, appears less agile in this decentralized digital environment. The monopoly of information once held by major networks has been shattered by smartphones, independent creators, and algorithm-driven platforms.

Yet, the media war is only one dimension of this new paradigm. The more profound shift lies in the realm of asymmetric warfare. Iran's strategy relies not on matching the United States or Israel tank for tank or jet for jet, but on deploying cost-effective, highly efficient systems that neutralize expensive conventional assets. Drones, short-range missiles, and underground launch systems have become the backbone of this approach. According to defense analyses, Iran possesses thousands of such systems, many hidden deep beneath mountainous terrain, making them nearly impossible to eliminate through conventional airstrikes.

The economic contrast is staggering. A single U.S. aircraft carrier, such as the USS Gerald R. Ford, costs over \$13 billion to build and millions more per day to operate. In comparison, Iranian drones can be produced for tens of thousands of dollars, yet they have demonstrated the capability to threaten even the most advanced naval and aerial platforms. This imbalance represents a fundamental shift: warfare is no longer about who spends more, but who adapts faster and innovates smarter.

This reality has forced even the most powerful militaries to reconsider their strategies. Reports indicate that major U.S. naval assets, including carriers like the USS Abraham Lincoln, are operating

at significant distances from potential conflict zones to avoid vulnerability. The fear is not hypothetical; recent conflicts have shown that swarms of inexpensive drones can overwhelm sophisticated defense systems, creating a scenario where billion-dollar assets are at risk from relatively low-cost attacks.

Equally transformative is the role of artificial intelligence in this new warfare ecosystem. Iran and other actors are increasingly using AI-generated simulations to depict battlefield scenarios, showcasing the destruction of enemy assets in ways that blur the line between reality and fabrication. These visuals, often indistinguishable from real footage, amplify psychological pressure and can even mislead decision-makers. There have been instances where such AI-generated content caused confusion at the highest levels, underscoring the disruptive power of synthetic media.

This convergence of asymmetric warfare and digital propaganda has produced a dual-front strategy that is extraordinarily difficult to counter. On one hand, physical attacks are decentralized, mobile, and deeply concealed. On the other, the information space is saturated with narratives that shape public opinion and political discourse. Together, they create a feedback loop where military actions reinforce media narratives, and media narratives, in turn, influence strategic decisions.

Despite extensive military operations, the strategic objectives set by the United States and Israel remain largely unmet. These objectives reportedly included crippling Iran's missile capabilities, dismantling its nuclear infrastruc-

ture, and potentially triggering regime change. While there have been tactical successes—such as strikes on specific facilities—independent assessments suggest that a significant portion of Iran's military infrastructure remains intact and operational. Its missile systems continue to function, and its ability to project power across the region has not been decisively diminished.

The implications for the future are profound. Defense budgets will need to be reallocated, with greater emphasis on cyber capabilities, drone technology, and AI-driven systems. Military doctrines will have to evolve to address decentralized and hybrid threats. And perhaps most importantly, governments will need to recognize that winning a war is no longer just about destroying the enemy's capabilities—it is about controlling the narrative, maintaining legitimacy, and securing the support of both domestic and international audiences.

As the world watches this conflict unfold, it becomes increasingly clear that we are witnessing the end of one era and the beginning of another. The age of overwhelming force and unilateral dominance is giving way to a more complex, multipolar landscape where power is distributed, contested, and constantly shifting. In this new reality, adaptability, innovation, and perception will matter as much as, if not more than, sheer strength.

The war of the 21st century is not just fought on the ground or in the air; it is fought in minds, on screens, and through networks. And those who understand this transformation—and act on it—will define the future of global power.

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



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

## National Grid Company completes six-point reform program

The National Grid Company of Pakistan (NGC) has completed its six-point reform program, introducing several transformative measures to make the company more efficient, transparent and accountable, in line with the rapidly evolving demands of Pakistan's power sector.

In this regard, Federal Minister for Energy (Power Division), Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari, was given a detailed briefing in Islamabad on the reform program, highlighting the key progress and initiatives undertaken within the company, said a press release issued here Saturday.

During the briefing, Managing Director (NGC) Engr. Altaf Hussain Malik informed the Federal Minister that the reform process, initiated in January 2026, is progressing according to schedule, and the company's new operating model will be implemented from July 1.

During the briefing, the Federal Minister for Energy (Power Division) appreciated the reform initiatives undertaken by NGC management and reaffirmed the government's full support for the process.

He stated that these reforms represent an excellent example of the institutional transformation required in Pakistan's power sector. The focus of the company's leadership and team on performance, transparency, and accountability is commendable. The government will continue to fully support such initiatives aimed at strengthening the national energy infrastructure.

On the occasion, MD NGC Engr. Altaf Hussain Malik, while giving the briefing, highlighted that under the restructuring plan six major strategic changes have been introduced, including unified operational leadership to accelerate project completion; strengthening financial governance to promote transparency; establishment of regulatory and stakeholder coordination teams to enhance communication; independent safety oversight to make safety the top institutional priority; improvements in internal procedures to eliminate delays and unnecessary complexities; development of digital systems to utilize modern technology and real-time data.

He further stated that the reform process aims to build an institution that is future-ready, agile, and accountable. With the continuous support of the Ministry of Energy and the dedication of the organization's team, the foundation of a stronger and more efficient transmission system is being laid, which will ensure reliable electricity transmission across Pakistan.

The briefing also highlighted that the restructuring of NGC is being undertaken to address long-standing structural issues that have existed in various forms since the establishment of the National Transmission and Dispatch Company (NTDC) in 1998. Although the company has evolved over time into a specialized transmission service provider, its administrative structure remained largely connected to the former NTDC model, which often resulted in overlapping responsibilities, operational complexities, and coordination challenges.



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmī. (Courtesy of Ashraf Al-Awcat)

## The Spiritual Balance of Human Life

Human life is spent in two fundamental states: "Jalwa" (public interaction) and "Khalwa" (seclusion). These are not merely external or physical conditions but two essential spiritual and moral dimensions of a person's existence. When understood properly, they bring balance, peace, and purpose into human life. Jalwa refers to being among people, interacting with them, engaging in society, and participating in communal life. Khalwa, on the other hand, refers to solitude turning away from people, turning toward one's Lord, and engaging in private communication with Allah.

Jalwa is the state in which a person lives among creation while not forgetting the Creator. One speaks with people, listens to their problems, tries to solve their difficulties, and behaves with kindness and compassion, but all of this is done for the sake of Allah's pleasure. In this sense, interaction with people itself becomes an act directed toward the Creator. This is the true essence of Jalwa: living in society while remaining spiritually connected to Allah. One helps others, heals broken hearts, and spreads love and mercy, making human interaction a means of earning divine pleasure.

According to Islamic teachings, a complete believer is one who remains connected to both society and God. Islam does not teach withdrawal from the world or isolation in monasteries. Rather, it teaches that a person should live in the world, serve humanity, uphold justice, and reflect the beauty of faith through good character. This is the true spirit of Jalwa being active in society while remaining a servant of Allah.

In contrast, Khalwa is the state when a

person withdraws from worldly noise and turns completely toward his Lord. It is a time for reflection, remembrance, prayer, and spiritual communication with Allah. In solitude, a person engages in dhikr (remembrance), recitation of the Qur'an, supplication, and heartfelt conversation with his Creator. It is a moment of purity where the heart becomes sincere and free from worldly display.

Khalwa purifies the inner self. When a person remembers Allah in solitude, arrogance, envy, hatred, and worldly attachment gradually decrease, replaced by humility, sincerity, and love of God. This is why the righteous and friends of Allah have always valued seclusion. It helps purify the heart and strengthen the relationship with the Creator. In Khalwa, a person reaches a state where he feels Allah even in the midst of the world.

Jalwa and Khalwa are not opposites but complementary aspects of life. If a person only remains in society and neglects solitude, his heart becomes hardened and lost in worldly distractions. If he only remains in seclusion and abandons society, he fails in his social responsibilities. Islam establishes a perfect balance between the two. A believer should be active in society while also maintaining a strong private connection with Allah.

True success lies in balancing both states: serving creation in Jalwa and purifying the heart in Khalwa. In public life, a person helps others, resolves their problems, and spreads goodness. In private life, he reforms himself, reflects on his actions, and seeks forgiveness from Allah. This dual system completes a person's spiritual and moral character.

In Jalwa, there is love for creation. When

a person shows kindness, compassion, and concern for others, he is expressing love for Allah's creation. Islam teaches that serving humanity is a path to divine pleasure. Whoever treats people well earns the pleasure of Allah. Thus, Jalwa becomes an act of worship when the intention is sincere.

In Khalwa, love for the Truth (Allah) becomes manifest. When a person remembers his Lord in solitude, bows in prayer, and sheds tears in supplication, he draws closer to Allah. This is the moment when there is no barrier between the servant and his Lord only sincerity and love remain. Khalwa revives the heart and strengthens spiritual awareness.

Both Jalwa and Khalwa ultimately aim at one goal: attaining the pleasure of Allah. If intention is pure, even social interaction becomes worship, and if sincerity is present, even solitude becomes a means of nearness to God. The essence lies in intention and inner purity. When the heart is connected to Allah, both public and private life become acts of worship.

A complete believer lives with this balance. In public, he remains connected with people and serves them, and in solitude, he remains connected with his Lord. His Jalwa refines his character, and his Khalwa purifies his heart. He is neither detached from the world nor distant from God; instead, he maintains harmony between the two.

In conclusion, Jalwa and Khalwa are two essential dimensions of human life which, when properly understood and practiced, lead to success in both this world and the Hereafter. Jalwa makes a person socially active and beneficial, while Khalwa purifies his soul and illuminates his heart. Together, they shape a human being into a true servant of Allah.

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Analysis

Muhammad Asif

## Reimagining Community Service in Pakistan

Dr. Zia Ahmed

Community work, or community service, is a highly valuable concept for engaging young people at universities with the societies in which they live. It not only connects students more meaningfully with their communities but also enables them to learn a variety of practical and social skills that prove useful for their future lives. Paulo Freire's concept of praxis provides one of the strongest normative justifications for community service in universities. Freire argues that learning becomes meaningful when reflection and action combine to transform reality. This idea was further elaborated by John Dewey, who conceptualized education as learning through experience and as preparation for democratic life. Community service is not a new concept in universities in the United States and Canada. In many institutions, particularly in Canada, community work has long been integrated into university and college programs, sometimes as a requirement and sometimes as an incentive for students. In Pakistan, the Higher Education Commission (HEC) has also made community service mandatory for undergraduate and graduate students in many universities as a component of their curriculum. However, despite these policy initiatives, community service remains a relatively underdeveloped and poorly managed area in many Pakistani universities, even in major metropolitan centers.

Community service is a broad-based approach that engages students more holistically in their learning processes. Its outcomes can be extremely valuable, particularly in the development of civic responsibility and social awareness among students. Through such experiences, students also learn about work ethics, responsibility, and the practical dimensions of performance in professional life. Community engagement can also serve as a powerful means

of bridging class differences within society. For example, a student from an affluent background may work alongside ordinary laborers in shops, markets, or public spaces, thereby gaining firsthand insight into the realities of social inequality. Such experiences help students understand the differences between those born into privilege and those who must struggle under conditions of scarcity.

In addition, community service allows students to observe the contrast between urban and rural life. By interacting with diverse communities, they can better understand the social, economic, and cultural disparities that exist within a country. Recognizing these differences is the first step toward addressing them and working toward greater social cohesion. Community service also strengthens the relationship between universities and society. Universities are expected not only to produce graduates but also to provide intellectual leadership, critique social and political developments, and contribute solutions to societal problems. Community engagement offers an effective pathway for universities to fulfill this responsibility. Furthermore, community service allows students to understand social problems while simultaneously exploring potential solutions. Students who participate in community service also gain the opportunity to test and evaluate whether their abilities have been sufficiently developed or whether they need to acquire additional competencies in order to become responsible citizens and professionals. This interaction between students and society also fosters a strong spirit of volunteerism, since community service often involves minimal or no financial compensation. As a result, students learn the value of altruism and social responsibility.

In contemporary academic discourse, it is frequently argued that universities should design their curricula in accordance with the needs of industry and the broader economy. This requires stronger linkages between universities, industries,

*Continued on Page 7*

# IRS hosts Expert Webinar on OIC's Momentum against illegal settlements

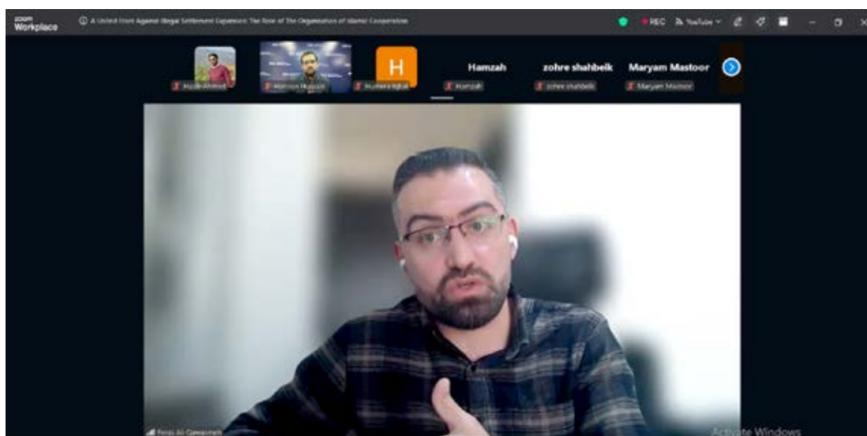
City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Regional Studies, Islamabad (IRS) convened an expert webinar featuring Dr. Feras Qawasmeh, Assistant Professor of Public Policy at the Joao Bin Jassim Academy for Defence Studies in Qatar, on the theme "A United Front Against Illegal Settlement Expansion: The Role of The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation."

The discussion focused on the changing patterns of Israel's expanding illegal settlements in the occupied West Bank, and the value of the collective consensus among Pakistan and its OIC partners at the extraordinary opened ministerial session recently. Dr. Qawasmeh underlined the need for greater regional diplomacy to leverage grass-root campaigns - including those that involve Palestinian-led movements focused against settlement expansion. The discussion underlined how Pakistan has continued to back the two-state solution, the sanc-

tion of Palestinian liberties, and a clear stance against any illegal aggression or violence that threatens Palestinian statehood. Recognizing the value of the OIC to meaningful progress, Dr. Qawasmeh built on the significance of Muslim-majority states presenting a consensus against settlement expansion. His talk put a premium on countries to navigate complex challenges that prevent sufficient international scrutiny towards the expanding settlement challenge, considering how rising arson attacks and impediments to life carry on.

His talk delivered a critical value addition on the role of key movements, such as the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS), in lending international scrutiny and awareness to the settlement issue. These considerations were part of policy recommendations, including a set pipeline of Palestinian rights advocates and organized groupings that can derive traction with Pakistan and key Gulf partners within the OIC, to collectively



advance their own consensus against any forced annexation with grass-roots advocacy. Hannan Hussain, head of the West Asia Program at the Institute, added that the talk provided an

in-depth assessment of the conditions on-ground in occupied West Bank, where rising tensions between recipient populations and those spearheading violence, deserves

ample attention. Core reference points included the lasting effects of the Oslo Accords which have led to a geographical shift in terms of the security controls and political liberties

enjoyed by Palestinians at present, and how these elements of control continue to shift to their detriment amid settlement expansion.

These dynamics - largely understudied in official discourse on the occupied West Bank - closely align with Pakistan's principled position on ending settler violence and growth in illegal settlements as international attention focuses on the tensions within the Middle East. Major proof points for Pakistan's position include its latest alarm at the UN Security Council, where support for Palestinian liberties - and an end to Israel's alarming growth in settlements - was amply reinforced.

The talk concluded with an interactive Q&A session, with in-depth assessments on the constraints and opportunities facing key regional players on improving Palestinian freedoms, and marking a break from a potential entrenchment of the occupation - all in line with international legal obligations and the trajectory of the OIC.

# AdStreet: Pakistan-Born First-Ever Advertising Marketplace Connecting Gulf Brands to South Asian Talent



Spokesman Report

DUBAI: The UAE and Gulf region are among the world's most dynamic marketing hubs, home to multinational brand headquarters, regional agency networks, and largescale campaigns.

Yet even the most advanced markets face operational challenges: sourcing creative talent across borders, scaling campaigns efficiently, and managing multiple vendors seamlessly. It was this broader industry reality that sparked a defining question: If every industry has a marketplace, why doesn't advertising?

E-commerce had marketplaces. Travel had booking platforms. Hospitality had aggregators. Even freelance talent had global exchanges. Yet advertising, a multi-billion-dollar global industry, continued to operate through fragmented relationships, informal networks, and siloed deal structures.

That question became the foundation of AdStreet, the first-ever advertising marketplace envisioned from an emerging economy, designed for both



local transformation and global scalability.

Founded in Pakistan by Syed Saad Hashmi, AdStreet is built from within the advertising industry itself. Unlike platforms that operate in silos, AdStreet

integrates multiple marketing services into a unified ecosystem, enabling brands and agencies in the Gulf and beyond to collaborate efficiently with South Asian talent and production networks, scale campaigns intelligently,

and simplify cross-border execution.

Key Features:

- ◆ AdBazaar - Campaigns and business deals
- ◆ AdLeads - Marketing news, trends, and insights
- ◆ AdMeet - Industry events, panels, and networking forums
- ◆ AdBook - Directory of verified service providers
- ◆ Featured Jobs - Talent hiring and placement opportunities
- ◆ AdGuru - Learning programs, mentorship, and workshops
- ◆ Podcasts & Panels - Thought leadership and live discussions Benefits for Gulf stakeholders:
- ◆ Access to diversified and specialized creative talent
- ◆ Scalable campaign execution across markets
- ◆ Cost-efficient production partnerships
- ◆ Streamlined vendor discovery and project management

AdStreet does not compete with regional agencies; instead, it extends their capabilities, offering a flexible operational layer while preserving strategic leadership. Its credibility comes from industry-first engagements like AdMeet and AdVision, and partnerships with top awards, ensuring a trusted ecosystem for collaboration.

As a bridge between South Asian creative economies and the Gulf marketing sector, AdStreet provides a unified environment where campaigns, talent, events, and learning converge making project delivery faster, more transparent, and scalable.

## 12 US troops wounded in Iran strike on Saudi base: reports



AFP

An Iranian attack on a base in Saudi Arabia has wounded at least 12 American soldiers, two of them seriously, US media reported on Friday.

Iran has kept up retaliatory attacks on Gulf nations it accuses of serving as a launchpad for US strikes on the country, which began in a joint operation with Israel on February 28.

The attack on the Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia included at least one missile and several drones, The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal reported, citing unidentified officials.

The soldiers were inside a building at the base when it was struck, the Journal reported. Several aerial refuelling planes also suffered damage in the attack, the reports said.

Saudi Arabia has previously intercepted several missiles fired near the base.

The Pentagon and US Central Command did not immediately respond to AFP requests for comment.

Thirteen US military service members have been killed since the conflict with Iran broke out, with seven killed in the Gulf and six in Iraq. More than 300 more have been wounded.

Iran's government has not released an updated casualty toll, but a US-based activist group said on March 23 that around 1,167 Iranian troops had been killed and that the status of 658 troops was unknown. AFP is not able to independently verify tolls in Iran due to reporting restrictions.

# Essential medicines remain available, prices unchanged despite fuel surge PPMA

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Essential medicines, including insulin and other life-saving drugs, remain widely available across Pakistan and their prices have not increased despite a more than 20 percent rise in petrol and diesel prices, pharmaceutical industry representatives said on Saturday.

In response to some unverified media reports, Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (PPMA) said that prices of essential medicines, which are regulated by the government, have remained

unchanged in recent months and no increase has been allowed, even as fuel costs, freight charges and import expenses for raw materials have risen due to the ongoing regional situation.

They maintained that there is no shortage of medicines in the country, with both essential and non-essential drugs available in sufficient quantities. Medicines such as insulin, antibiotics, cardiovascular drugs, anti-hypertensives, anti-diabetics and vaccines are being supplied without interruption.

According to the Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association,

the country's drug manufacturers have absorbed significant cost pressures linked to the import of active pharmaceutical ingredients and other inputs, while ensuring that production and distribution systems continue to function smoothly.

Officials said that despite the increase in petroleum prices and higher transportation costs, the industry has not passed on the burden to patients in the case of essential medicines, which remain price-controlled and accessible.

Industry representatives reiterated that around ninety percent of medi-

cines used in Pakistan are produced locally, and manufacturers currently have adequate stocks of raw materials and finished products to meet demand across the country.

They added that the pharmaceutical sector has managed to maintain supply chains and ensure uninterrupted availability even under economic and logistical pressure.

However, they pointed out that the unavailability of certain life saving and advanced therapies is linked to delays in government price notifications, despite prior approvals by the Drug Regulatory Authority of Paki-

stan. "These include a number of modern cancer therapies, vaccines, immunoglobulins and other critical medicines, whose prices have been approved but not formally notified, preventing their regular availability in the market," an industry official said.

The association emphasized that timely notification of approved prices would improve availability of these medicines and reduce pressure on patients already facing rising treatment costs.

Despite the challenging environment, the pharmaceutical industry

reiterated its commitment to ensuring uninterrupted access to medicines and supporting the healthcare system, while urging the government to address policy bottlenecks to ensure availability of all critical therapies.

PPMA also urged media outlets to exercise restraint and avoid airing or publishing unverified reports during the current challenging situation, adding that sensational or unconfirmed information can create unnecessary panic, disrupt medicine supply perceptions, and cause distress among patients who rely on continuous treatment.

# UAPA and the Criminalization of Women's Political Expression in Kashmir

At the core of any democracy lies a delicate balance: the responsibility of the state to ensure security and the equally important duty to protect basic freedoms, the right to speak, organise and take part in public life. A recent decision by a Delhi court on 24 March 2026 brings this tension into sharp focus. Asiya Andrabi, founder of the all-women Kashmiri group Dukhtar-e-Millat, was sentenced to life imprisonment under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), while her associates, Sofi Fehmeeda and Nahida Nasreen, were each sentenced to 30 years in prison.

This judgment comes after nearly eight years of detention since their arrest in 2018, raising difficult but

necessary questions. Is the UAPA being used solely to address genuine security concerns, or has it also become a tool to curb dissent, particularly the voices of women who organise, speak and advocate for what they see as their legitimate political rights, including self-determination?

Asiya Andrabi is not an anonymous figure. Educated in biochemistry and Islamic studies, she founded Dukhtar-e-Millat in 1987 as a platform for women. The organisation conducted study circles, supported widows and orphans affected by prolonged conflict and created space for women to come together, learn and speak. Over time, its work became more political, reflecting the realities around it. For many women, it was one of the few spaces where they could move

beyond social constraints and participate in shaping conversations about their future.

The UAPA, introduced in 1967 and expanded over time, grants the state wide powers. It allows for prolonged detention, makes bail extremely difficult and defines "unlawful activity" in broad terms, often including speech, association and communication. While such provisions are justified by authorities as necessary to maintain order, their application raises concerns when individuals are punished not for acts of violence, but for ideas, affiliations, or expressions.

In Andrabi's case, public accounts indicate that the charges relied heavily on speeches, organisational links and electronic communication rather than

clear evidence of direct involvement in violent acts. The years spent in detention before conviction already carried a heavy cost. The sentence now formalises that cost, but the impact goes far beyond the individuals involved.

When women leaders face such severe consequences, it sends a powerful message to others. It tells young women that speaking, organising, or even associating with certain ideas can come at a price they may not

be able to bear. Gradually, participation gives way to silence. This is how a "chilling effect" takes hold, not through dramatic moments, but through quiet, everyday fear.

The state, of course, has its perspective. It argues that maintaining stability and unity requires firm action, especially in sensitive regions. No government can ignore its responsibility to protect its people. Yet the question is not whether security matters, it clearly does. The question is how far the state can go in its name without eroding the very freedoms that define a democratic society.

The story of Asiya Andrabi reflects more than a single case. It reveals how powerful laws can shape the boundaries of public life, especially for women who choose to step beyond traditional roles

and speak on political issues. It also highlights a deeper tension: when laws meant to protect begin to silence, the line between security and suppression becomes increasingly blurred.

Lasting peace cannot be built on silence alone. It requires space for voices, even uncomfortable ones, to be heard. It requires trust that grows not from fear, but from a sense of fairness and inclusion. Without that balance, stability may appear on the surface, but beneath it, discontent continues to grow.

*The author is a student of International Relations at the International Islamic University, Islamabad. Currently, she is serving as an intern at the Kashmir Institute of International Relations Islamabad.*



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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
151,707.51	152,907.96
Day's High	Day's Low
153,660.88	151,457.94
Index Value	Change
19,905,889,255	-1200.45
Percentage	Time
-0.79%	27 Mar, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
9,967.35	-4.82
Percentage	Time
-0.048%	27 Mar, 4:40 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
45,373.57	-586.54
Percentage	Time
-1.28%	27 Mar, 1:34 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
53,373.07	-230.58
Percentage	Time
-0.43%	27 Mar, 3:45 pm GMT+9

**Open Market Forex Rates**

Australian Dollar	195.05	198.10
Australian Dollar	189.60	194.25
Bahrain Dinar	732.15	742.90
Canadian Dollar	198.97	204.25
China Yuan	36.65	37.6
Danish Krone	43.25	43.65
Euro	322.02	328.75
Hong Kong Dollar	35	36
Indian Rupee	2.05	2.31
Japanese Yen	1.7210	1.8199
Kuwaiti Dinar	889.60	900.45
Malaysian Ringgit	65.25	66.45
New Zealand \$	160.81	165.35
Norwegians Krone	27.65	27.95
Omani Riyal	719.25	729.55
Qatari Riyal	73.33	74.3
Saudi Riyal	74.20	75.45
Singapore Dollar	215.32	220.32
Swedish Korona	30.20	30.50
Swiss Franc	355	358.85
Thai Bhat	8	8.15
U.A.E Dirham	75.90	77.25
UK Pound Sterling	372.38	380.98
US Dollar	279.50	280.2

# Pakistan and Tajikistan deepen ties: Minister meets Tajik Ambassador

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan visited the Embassy of Tajikistan in the Diplomatic Enclave where he held a cordial and informal meeting with Tajikistan's Ambassador in Pakistan H. E. Sharifzoda Yusuf Toir. During the meeting, both sides held detailed discussions on bilateral relations, trade cooperation and the current regional situation.

On this occasion, Federal Minister for Communications and President of the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party Abdul Aleem Khan stated that Pakistan and Tajikistan enjoy long-standing friendly and brotherly relations based upon shared religious and cultural values. He appreciated the services of the Tajik Ambassador, noting that H. E. Sharifzoda Yusuf Toir has played a commendable and pivotal role in bringing the two countries closer. He further stated that Pakistan is keen to enhance bilateral trade relations with Tajikistan and should benefit from the vast opportunities for cooperation across various sectors. Referring to his recent visit to Tajikistan, Federal Minister Abdul



Aleem Khan emphasized that it is imperative to expedite the implementation of agreements between the two countries, promote trade and benefit from mutual religious and cultural ties.

Tajikistan's Ambassador to Pakistan H. E. Sharifzoda Yusuf Toir, warmly welcomed Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan and stated that Tajikistan, particularly under current circumstances, is interested in making maximum use of Pakistan's trade corridors. He appreciated Pakistan's responsible and constructive role in the region and expressed optimism that positive outcomes will soon emerge. During the meeting, both sides stressed the importance of enhancing Pak-Tajik trade links, promoting regional cooperation and strengthening trade corridors among Central Asian States. They also exchanged views on the current global situation and the prevailing tensions in South Asia. It is noteworthy that upon the arrival of Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan at the Embassy of Tajikistan, special tunes of national songs were played, adding to the pleasant atmosphere of the event. The Federal Minister also visited various sections of the Embassy of Tajikistan alongside Ambassador H. E. Sharifzoda Yusuf Toir.

## Suitable transport

ISLAMABAD: Passengers getting their suitable transport at stop on Col Sher Khan Shaheed road in the federal capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Last Date for Renewal of Membership of Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders

**Commerce Desk**

HYDERABAD: The Secretary General of the Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industry, Furqan Ahmed Lodhi, has informed all members that the membership for the year 2025-2026 will expire on March 31, 2026.

He further stated that the Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industry is the only chamber in the city duly registered and licensed with the Federal Ministry of Commerce and the Directorate General of Trade Organizations (DGTO). Under the Trade Organizations Act and Rules 2013, as well as the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Chamber, it is mandatory for all members to renew their membership by March 31.



## Economic Watch: Chinese AI firms start to crack profit code in niche markets

**Xinhua**

SHANGHAI: While Silicon Valley chases artificial general intelligence with billion-dollar training runs, a burgeoning crop of Chinese AI firms has been achieving what the entire industry is striving for: sustainable profitability in specialized markets.

Thanks to China's industrial scale and market volume, these notoriously R&D-heavy tech ventures are now cashing in on their early commercial viability.

A financial report this week brought an encouraging glimpse into the momentum. XtalPi, an AI drug discovery company listed in Hong Kong, turned a profit of 134.6 million yuan (approximately 19.5 million U.S. dollars) in 2025, following a loss of 1.5 billion yuan the year before. This turnaround occurred even as the tech firm increased its R&D expenditure by approximately 36 percent.

Such a success serves as a microcosm of China's broader strategy in the global tech race: rapidly integrating AI with its robust industrial base to capture premium advantages in specialized



sectors. XtalPi, leveraging AI to facilitate drug discovery for global biopharmaceutical firms, made multiple commercial progress last year, including advancing targeted cancer therapies and pediatric disease treatments into clinical trials. "The number of our revenue-generating clients increased by 62 percent year on year," XtalPi's CFO Zhou Feiran told Xinhua, explaining the turnaround to

profitability. In 2025, the company advanced five drug pipelines into clinical stages, and deployed AI agents capable of independently running over 10,000 experiments per week. Wen Shuhao, chairman of XtalPi said: "Our AI-Robot-Data-R&D flywheel has demonstrated powerful value across multiple fields, including biopharmaceuticals and new materials."

## Phoenix Lithium Battery introduce Nabil Bari Cornerstone of Energy Industry

**Tahir Amin Malik**

LAHORE: We are honored to introduce Nabil Bari, a cornerstone of the energy industry with over 15 years of transformative experience.

Nabil's influence spans across the nation's most critical sectors; he has successfully consulted for MNCs, Government institutions, and giants in the Textile, Cement, and Pharma industries. A serial entrepreneur with a profound grip on market dynamics, Nabil was a key catalyst for Pakistan's "Solar Rush." By initiating on-grid solar training for the masses, he played a vital role in making renewable energy accessible to hundreds of thousands nationwide.



As part of our Phoenix Lithium Battery Masterclass, Nabil will be sharing the high-level strategy and practical knowledge required to build truly sustainable power systems. Whether you are looking to optimize an industrial setup or are just beginning your journey toward energy independence, his perspective offers an invaluable blueprint for success.

## Airfares surge as jet fuel prices rise amid Middle East war



**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Airfares in Pakistan have risen sharply as escalating tensions in the Middle East drive up global jet fuel prices, prompting airlines to impose new surcharges.

Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has increased fares by imposing fuel surcharges ranging from \$10 to \$100, according to aviation sources.

A surcharge of \$10 has been applied to domestic flights, while international routes have seen steeper increases — \$100 for Canada, \$75 for the United

Kingdom, and \$50 for Saudi Arabia and other Gulf destinations.

Private airlines have also followed suit, introducing fuel surcharges ranging between \$15 and \$150, further adding to passenger costs.

However, a PIA spokesperson said the airline had implemented these surcharges on March 21 and had not made any further increases since then.

The fare hike comes as prolonged regional conflict disrupts energy markets, pushing up fuel costs and impacting the aviation sector globally.

## Pakistan expands Roshan Digital Account to foreign investors

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: According to the State Bank of Pakistan, remittances surged to \$38.3 billion in fiscal year 2025, marking a 26.6 per cent increase year-on-year.

On the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the government has decided to expand the scope of the Roshan Digital Account (RDA), allowing foreign nationals, companies and institutional investors to participate in the initiative.

According to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office, the

expanded framework will enable these investors to access government securities and Naya Pakistan Certificates through the digital platform.

The move is aimed at strengthening Pakistan's links with global financial markets and attracting foreign investment.

Launched on September 10, 2020, the Roshan Digital Account was designed to connect overseas Pakistanis with banking and investment opportunities without requiring their physical presence in the country.

Under the scheme, non-resident Pakistanis can open bank accounts and

invest in government securities, the Pakistan Stock Exchange, mutual funds and other instruments.

Pakistan's overseas community, estimated at around 11 million, remains a key pillar of the economy.

Spread across the Middle East, Europe, North America and the Far East, expatriates continue to support families back home while contributing to host economies.

According to the State Bank of Pakistan, remittances surged to \$38.3 billion in fiscal year 2025, marking a



26.6 percent increase year-on-year. Inflows are projected to reach \$42 billion in the current fiscal year, reflecting sustained confidence among overseas Pakistanis.

Pakistan currently ranks fifth globally and second in South Asia in remittance receipts, with inflows playing a crucial role in stabilising the country's external accounts.

The central bank's foreign exchange reserves stand at approximately \$16.3 billion, with total reserves nearing \$21.6 billion.

Over the past five and a half years, the Roshan Digital Account has recorded significant growth. By the end of February, more than 900,000 accounts had been opened, with cumulative

investments exceeding \$12 billion.

PM Shehbaz congratulated the finance minister, the State Bank of Pakistan and participating banks on the initiative's success. He said the expansion to foreign investors would further position Pakistan as an attractive investment destination and enhance its footprint in global financial markets.

Officials say the move, backed by ongoing reforms and a strengthened digital financial system, is expected to provide a transparent, secure and investor-friendly environment for both overseas Pakistanis and international stakeholders.

## PSL Pakistan Super League Edition 11

## Abdul Samad and Bracewell Onslaught Powers Zalmi to Highest Successful Run Chase Against Rawalpindiz

Asim Tanveer

LAHORE: Abdul Samad and Michael Bracewell launched blistering cameos for Peshawar Zalmi, propelling them to a five-wicket win over HBL PSL debutants Rawalpindiz in the afternoon match of the first double-header of the tournament here at the Gaddafi Stadium on Saturday.

The destructive 64-run partnership between Bracewell (35 not out, 17b, 3x4s, 2x6s) and Samad (33, 11b, 1x4, 4x6s) off just 23 balls set the tone for Zalmi to register the fifth-highest successful run chase in HBL PSL history and the highest target scaled down at the Gaddafi Stadium in all T20s.

The two were paired at the crease following the loss of the fourth wicket, when Zalmi still required a further 85 runs for victory off 35 deliveries.

The 16th, 17th and 18th overs of the chase then fetched Zalmi a combined tally of 53 runs with the help of six sixes as Rawalpindiz bowlers failed to prevent the duo's stunning power-hitting exhibition.

Samad's dismissal at the end



of a Mohammad Amir over that cost 19 runs ignited some hopes of a comeback for Rawalpindiz, but Aamir Jamal (17 not out, 5b, 2x4s, 1x6) soon punished Naseem Shah in the preceding over to haul his side over the line.

Peshawar had a formidable start to the chase of the 215-run target with Mohammad Haris and skipper Babar Azam racking up 62 runs in the Powerplay.

Babar was undone by left-arm spinner Asif Afridi in the ninth over for a 28-ball 39, whereas Haris fell off the bowling of Amad Butt in the 10th over for a rapid 47 off 28 balls inclusive

of four fours and two sixes with the scoreboard reading 96-2 at the halfway mark.

Kusal Mendis also chipped in with a useful 17-ball 31 featuring two sixes and a four before becoming Amad's second victim of the day. Of the five bowlers deployed by Rawalpindiz, only Rishad Hossain conceded at a rate of less than 11 runs an over, returning 1-35 in his four overs.

Having elected to bat first, Rawalpindiz rode on Yasir Khan's swashbuckling 83 off 46 balls to post an imposing 214-4 in their 20 overs. After four scoreless balls in the first over, Yasir took



charge by hitting the first six of the innings off Shoriful Islam.

He was well complemented in his belligerent effort by fellow opener Mohammad Rizwan, who deposited four boundaries in a row against Ali Raza in the fourth over of the innings. The opening partnership surged to 125 in 12 overs when young pacer Ali returned to scalp Rizwan.

Yasir continued his blazing strokeplay, finally falling in the 15th over after clubbing a total of seven boundaries and six maximums. Kamran Ghulam (37, 20b, 2x4s, 3x6s) and Daryl Mitchell (23, 13b, 2x6s) delivered

solid cameos to take Rawalpindiz well past the 200-run mark.

Ali was Zalmi's most prolific bowler with two wickets, albeit ending on the expensive side with 42 runs conceded in three overs.

Match 3: Peshawar Zalmi beat Rawalpindiz by five wickets at Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore

Rawalpindiz 214-4, 20 overs (Yasir Khan 83, Mohammad Rizwan 41, Kamran Ghulam 37, Daryl Mitchell 23; Ali Raza 2-42)

Peshawar Zalmi 218-5, 19.1 overs (Mohammad Haris 47, Babar Azam 39, Michael Bracewell 35 not out, Abdul Samad 33,



Aamir Jamal 17 not out; Amad Butt 2-45)

Player of the match - Michael Bracewell (Peshawar Zalmi)

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## National Women's T-20 Tournament 2025-26 Invincibles beat Strikers by four wickets

Tahir Amin Malik

Iram Javed's half-century and a three-wicket haul from Amber Kainat helped Invincibles beat Strikers by four wickets in the second match of the National Women's T20 Tournament 2025-26 at the Ghani Glass Cricket Ground in Lahore on Saturday afternoon.

Chasing 183 to win, Invincibles lost their captain Muneeba Ali (2, 6b) in the second over with 12 runs on the board. At that stage of the run chase, Gull Feroza was joined by Maham Anees and both batters scored at a rate of 10 runs per over before right-handed batter Gull (30, 15b, 5x4s, 1x6) was dismissed by Fatima Khan in the sixth over.

At a crucial juncture of the chase, Maham was joined by experienced Iram Javed and the pair stitched a match-winning 81-run partnership for the third wicket. Maham fell to Saira Jabeen for 40 off 31 balls, hitting eight boundaries.

Iram continued to score at a brisk pace and was dismissed in the 19th over after scoring 72 off 45 balls, which included 10 fours and two sixes, striking at 160. Syeda Aroob Shah (9 not out, 9b) and Amber Kainat (4 not out, 4b) guided their team to the target on the last ball of the match.

For Strikers, Saira grabbed three wickets, while Fatima Khan took two wickets.



Earlier, after opting to bat first, Strikers posted 182 for seven in their 20 overs. Opening batter Sadaf Shamas top-scored with 56 off 35 balls, striking 12 fours. Aliya Riaz, batting at number five contributed a quick-fire 37 off 28 balls, which included six fours. Captain Nashra Sandhu also chipped in with an unbeaten 25 off 18 balls, hitting four boundaries.

For Invincibles, Amber took three wickets, while Saima Malik managed to pick two wickets.

The third fixture of the tournament will be played between Conquerors and Strikers at the same venue on Sunday, 29 March. The first ball will be bowled at 10am.

**Scores in brief:** Invincibles beat Strikers by four wickets at Ghani Glass Cricket Ground, Lahore

Strikers 182-7, 20 overs (Sadaf Shamas 56, Aliya Riaz 37, Nashra Sandhu 25 not out, Umm-e-Hani 21 not out; Amber Kainat 3-41, Saima Malik 2-25)

Invincibles 183-6, 20 overs (Iram Javed 72, Maham Anees 40, Gull Feroza 30; Saira Jabeen 3-33, Fatima Khan 2-21)

Player of the match - Iram Javed (Invincibles)

Sunday's match: Conquerors v Stars at Ghani Glass Cricket Ground; 10am start

## K2 Squash Club to host historic PSA Challenger events next month

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: K2 Squash Club is set to host its first-ever PSA Challenger Tournaments in USA this April, signaling a major step forward in its journey toward international recognition.

The initiative, led by Tournament Director Muhammad Naveed Alam, highlights the club's growing stature and ambition to establish itself as a key venue on the global squash circuit, said a press release.

Sanctioned by the Professional Squash Association and presented by One World Squash, the two-phase tournament will feature elite players from around the world, combining experience with emerging talent. The men's Challenger 15K event, scheduled from April 8 to 12, is expected to deliver high-quality action with a strong international field that includes Salman Khalil, Tom Walsh, Mohammad Sharaf and Yassin Elssin Elshafci. With a total prize purse of \$15,000, the event promises intense competition and valuable ranking opportunities for participants.

Wildcard entries, including Ahsan Ayaz, add an extra layer of excitement, offering rising players a platform to compete at a higher level. The final is scheduled for April 12 and is expected to draw significant attention from squash enthusiasts.

The Women's Challenger event will follow from April 22 to 26, featuring a competitive lineup of international players such as Zeina Zein, Laura Silva, Lucie Stefanoni and Malak Taha. With a prize fund of \$6,000, the tournament will provide crucial exposure and ranking points for players aiming to progress within the PSA circuit. These tournaments represent the culmination of consistent efforts by K2 Squash Club to expand its role in professional squash. Having previously hosted PSA Satellite events, the club has steadily built the infrastructure and organisational expertise required for higher-tier competitions. A key figure in this experience has been Muhammad Naveed Alam, whose extensive experience, including over 15 years alongside squash legend Jahangir Khan, has significantly contributed to the club's development strategy.

## Cyber Security Awareness: Ensuring Protection in the Digital World

In today's modern era, human life has become closely connected with the internet, mobile phones, social media, online banking, email, and digital technologies. These technologies have made our daily tasks easier, faster, and more convenient. However, along with these benefits, several risks and dangers have also increased.

Cyber criminals are constantly searching for opportunities to steal personal data, financial information, and confidential records. Therefore, cybersecurity has become extremely important for individuals, institutions, and governments.

Cybersecurity refers to the protection of computers, mobile phones, networks, and digital information

from theft, damage, or unauthorized access. In other words, it is the practice of keeping our digital systems safe from hackers and cyber attackers.

Today, many people use mobile banking, social media, and online services in their daily lives. While these technologies provide comfort and efficiency, they also expose users to threats such as hacking, identity theft, phishing attacks, and online fraud.

One of the most common cyber threats is phishing. In phishing attacks, criminals send fake emails, messages, or links pretending to be from banks, companies, or trusted organizations. When people click these links and enter their passwords or personal details, criminals steal their information.

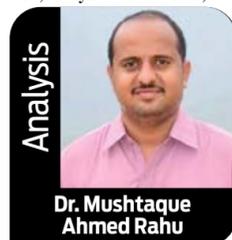
For example, a user might receive a

message saying: "Your bank account has been locked. Click this link to verify your account." If the user clicks the link and enters their information, the cyber-

criminal gains access to their banking details.

Another major security issue is the use of weak passwords. Many people use simple passwords such as 123456, password, or their own name, which can easily be guessed or cracked by hackers.

To stay safe in the digital world, individuals should follow several cybersecurity practices:



Dr. Mushtaq Ahmed Rahu

1. Use Strong Passwords: A password should contain a combination of uppercase letters, lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols. For example: R@ao2026Secure

2. Enable Two-Factor Authentication: Two-factor authentication adds an extra layer of security. Even if someone steals your password, they still need a second verification code sent to your mobile phone.

3. Avoid Suspicious Links and Emails: Never click on unknown or suspicious links in emails, SMS messages, or social media messages. Always verify the sender

before opening attachments.

4. Keep Software Updated: Regularly update your operating system, applications, and antivirus software. Updates often contain security patches that fix vulnerabilities.

5. Protect Personal Information: Do not share sensitive personal data such as identity card numbers, bank details, or passwords on unknown websites or with untrusted individuals.

6. Use Secure Internet Connections: Avoid performing sensitive activities like online banking when using public Wi-Fi networks. Public networks can be monitored by hackers.

Cybersecurity awareness is essential for everyone in today's digital age. Educational institutions, government organizations, and private companies

should conduct awareness programs and training sessions to educate people about online threats and safety measures.

Parents and teachers should also guide children and students about responsible internet usage so they can protect themselves from online dangers.

Cybersecurity is not only the responsibility of governments and organizations, but it is also the responsibility of every individual who uses digital technology. By following simple safety measures such as strong passwords, two-factor authentication, and careful internet usage, we can protect our data and ensure a safer digital environment for ourselves and future generations.

## Reimagining Community Service in Pakistan

Continued from Page 4

and the business sector so that graduates can better prepare for the demands of the professional world. Community service can play an important role in building such linkages. Through field visits, internships, and collaborative projects with industries and related institutions, students can gain valuable exposure to professional environments and develop a better understanding of the skills

required for future employment.

Many universities have already begun implementing community service programs at the undergraduate level, though their success varies. Universities can collaborate with organizations such as The Citizens Foundation (TCF) who offer opportunities for students to contribute meaningfully to educational development in underserved communities. By partnering with such organizations, universities can

create structured programs that allow students to engage directly with social issues. Similarly, collaboration with the health and education sectors can provide students with valuable volunteer opportunities. University students may assist in hospitals, community health centers, and public health campaigns. They can also contribute to primary and middle schools by supporting teaching activities, especially in institutions

facing shortages of faculty. Such experiences not only benefit communities but also provide students with practical insights into teaching and public service careers. Environmental protection is another critical area where community service can make a significant contribution. University students, particularly those studying environmental sciences, can play a crucial role in identifying environmental problems and proposing practical, small-

scale solutions. Poverty alleviation is another domain where student engagement can make a difference. Although Pakistan is progressing in many areas, poverty continues to affect a significant portion of the population. Through community service initiatives, students can assist in programs designed to support marginalized communities.

Ultimately, community service enables students to experience real-life challenges while

completing their academic programs. As future leaders and citizens, they will soon be responsible for addressing the social, economic, and political issues facing the country. Therefore, it is high time that the concept of community service be promoted and implemented more effectively in Pakistan. Through strong collaboration between universities, civil society organizations, and public institutions, community service can become

a powerful tool for both educational development and social progress.

The writer is currently working as Professor of English at University of Southern Punjab, Multan, and has recently been working as principal of GGCC Multan. He was formerly, a professor and chair of the English department, along with additional responsibility of the Registrar at Emerson University Multan, Pakistan.

