



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
عاشقین و سب سے روایت ہے کہ کہانیں
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صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم فرماتے تھے کہ میں تم کو
بتلاؤں جو آپ کو لوگ ہیں ہر ایک غریب
باتوں پر جو اللہ کے بھروسے سے قسم کھائے
تو اللہ اس کو سچا کرے (اس کی قسم پوری کر
دے) اور دوزخ کی کون لوگ ہیں ہر ایک
مونا، لڑاکا، مغرور، فساد۔
(بخاری ص 657)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



Israel continues to close Jerusalem's Aqsa mosque

The occupation forces had closed the Al-Aqsa Mosque on Saturday morning, forcing worshippers to leave and preventing the performance of the Isha and Taraweeh prayers. The closure of the Al-Aqsa Mosque coincided with the Israeli army's announcement of a closure of the West Bank, hours after a large-scale attack launched by Israel and the United States against Iran.



IAEA says it detects no radiological release risk at this time in Iran

The International Atomic Energy Agency, the U. N. nuclear watchdog, said in a post on X that it had detected no damage to facilities containing nuclear material in Iran since the U. S. and Israel launched their joint assault on the country on Saturday. The IAEA added that it saw no radiological release risk at this time.

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Parliamentary Leaders meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of Parliamentary Leaders and Representatives of Political Parties, in the Federal Capital on Wednesday.



Photo: Online

President Administers oath to Wafaqi Mohtasib



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari administered the oath of office to Mr Naveed Kamran Baloch as the 9th Wafaqi Mohtasib (Federal Ombudsman) of Pakistan at a ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr. Mr Baloch will hold office for a four-year term.

Mr Naveed Kamran Baloch has held various executive positions, including Chief Secretary of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Federal Secretary, and Prin-

icipal Secretary to the Chief Minister of Sindh, bringing extensive experience in administrative and executive affairs.

Following the oath taking ceremony, Wafaqi Mohtasib called on the President.

The President asked Mr Naveed Kamran Baloch to prioritise enhancing access to justice for citizens, improving the efficiency of case disposal, and strengthening mechanisms for timely grievance redressal across federal institutions.

PM Shehbaz convenes multi-party meeting on Pakistan-Afghanistan situation, regional tensions

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday chaired a high-level meeting of parliamentary leaders and representatives to take them into confidence on the evolving Pakistan-Afghanistan situation and recent tensions in the region, particularly in the Middle East and Gulf.

The meeting, held at the Prime Minister's Office, began with the prime minister set to

brief political stakeholders on key developments concerning Pakistan's western border and the broader regional security environment. The participants were also scheduled to receive a detailed briefing on the prevailing situation, a Prime Minister's Office news release said.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will highlight Pakistan's diplomatic outreach and efforts undertaken during the recent period of heightened tensions.

The prime minister will underscore the government's measured and responsible approach aimed at safeguarding national interests while promoting regional peace and stability.

The session is being attended by Chairman Senate Yousaf Raza Gillani, National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Deputy Chairman Senate Syedul Khan, and Deputy Speaker National Assembly Ghulam Mustafa Shah.

Deputy Prime Minister and

Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, and Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, along with federal ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Azam Nazeer Tarar, Attaullah Tarar and Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry are also present in the meeting.

Leaders from various political parties, including Abdul Aleem Khan of Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party, Khalid Hussain Magsi of Balochistan Awami Party,

Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and Dr Farooq Sattar of Muttahida Quami Movement, Chaudhry Salik Hussain of PML-Q, and representatives from the National Party and other parliamentary groups, are also participating.

Advisers and special assistants to the prime minister, including Rana Sanaullah Khan and Talha Burki, as well as senators and members of the National Assembly from multiple parties, are in attendance.

Cabinet Body Reviews Energy Supply Situation

Commerce Desk

The Committee to Monitor Petrol Prices in the Wake of the Emerging Situation in the Region, constituted by the Prime Minister, met again today under the chairmanship of the Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, at the Finance Division.

The Committee continued its deliberations on the evolving regional and global

energy situation and undertook a detailed review of petroleum stock levels and supply chains across the country. Participants were briefed on country stock levels of crude oil and refined petroleum products, including petrol, diesel, aviation fuels and LPG, along with their respective days of cover and daily consumption patterns.

The meeting was also briefed on global oil market developments, including movements in international benchmark prices,

freight and insurance costs, shipping route dynamics, and evolving conditions in key maritime corridors. The Committee noted that the international energy environment remains fluid, particularly given the uncertainty surrounding the Strait of Hormuz and its implications for global energy trade.

Participants reviewed developments in LNG and LPG markets as well. *Continued on Page 7*

481 Afghan combatants killed, 226 check posts destroyed in operation Ghazab lil-Haq: Atta Tarar



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar said on Wednesday that the security forces have killed 481 combatants of the Afghan Taliban regime, destroyed their 226 posts, and captured 35 others during Operation Ghazab lil-Haq, launched following "unprovoked action" from across the border.

Providing a summary of Afghan Taliban regime's losses at 16:00 hours, the minister said that over 696 Afghan operatives were injured during the Operation Ghazab lil-Haq (Righteous Fury). Around 198 tanks, armoured vehicles, and artillery guns have also been destroyed during the operation, he added.

The minister noted that around 56 locations across Afghanistan were also effectively targeted by air,

Country's stability cannot be compromised for politics: Rana Sanaullah

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Adviser Rana Sanaullah on Wednesday urged the opposition to rise above personal and political differences for the sake of national stability, emphasizing that the country's peace and progress must come before partisan interests.

While exclusively speaking to a private news channel, Rana Sanaullah urged the opposition to set aside political rivalries and prioritize national interest, stressing that unity is essential to ensure stability and

peace in the country.

He said the current situation demands collective wisdom and responsible politics rather than confrontation, especially at a time when the country faces serious security challenges.

He revealed that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has invited opposition leaders to attend an in-camera security briefing to take them into confidence on key national security matters.

Sanaullah said the government follows a zero-tolerance policy against terrorism and is determined to eliminate the menace

with full force.

He added that the government is ready to share its comprehensive strategy with political stakeholders to build national consensus. He also warned that external elements were attempting to exploit internal divisions and destabilize the country, emphasizing the need for political unity at this critical juncture.

Referring to the opposition's response, he said they had assured the government that they would consult their leadership on the matter and formally communicate their reply soon.

DPM Dar reaffirms Pakistan's solidarity with Turkiye



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday spoke with Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan and reaffirmed Pakistan's solidarity with Turkiye amid recent attacks.

During the discussion, they exchanged views on

the escalating regional situation, expressed serious concern over ongoing attacks, including the recent attempt targeting Turkiye, and underscored the urgent need for de-escalation and restraint.

The deputy PM reaffirmed Pakistan's solidarity with Turkiye and the commitment to closely coordinate efforts in support of regional peace and stability.

DPM Dar, Egyptian FM discuss evolving regional developments



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday spoke with Foreign Minister of Egypt Dr. Badr Abdelatty to discuss evolving regional developments.

The two leaders expressed deep concern over the escalating situation and under-

scored the imperative of de-escalation, restraint, and adherence to international law to safeguard regional peace and stability.

Reaffirming the strong Pakistan-Egypt ties, both leaders agreed to maintain close coordination and continue consultations in support of constructive diplomatic engagement for regional peace and security.

AJK PM Faisal Rathore departs for Saudi Arabia to perform Umrah



Spokesman Report.

ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, departed for the holy land of Hijaz e Maqdas from Islamabad International Airport today. During his visit, the

Prime Minister will perform Umrah and offer prayers and Nawafil. He will also travel to Madinah Munawwarah to pay his respects at Roza-e-Rasool (Peace Be Upon Him).

On this occasion, the Prime Minister will offer special prayers for the security and prosperity of Pakistan, the strength

of the Pakistan Armed Forces, and the freedom of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier The Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, has expressed deep sorrow and grief over the demise of the mother of Media Coordinators Mr.

Zahir Latif Salahria and Mr. Gohar Latif Salahria.

In his condolence message, the Prime Minister prayed that Almighty Allah may elevate the ranks of the departed soul in Jannah and grant patience and fortitude to the bereaved family.

Traditional juice Shakar Kola

RAWALPINDI: People buying traditional juice Shakar Kola from a roadside vendor during Holy Month of Ramadan, in the city.



Photo: Online

Serena Hotel Hosts Grand Iftar for Faisalabad Media Figures

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Serena Hotel organized a grand Iftar dinner for prominent media personalities and journalists at Naqash Hall. The event appreciated the role of the media in highlighting the cultural and economic vibrancy of the city.

The event brought together influential voices from the media industry, providing an opportunity for networking and exchange of ideas. The hotel management thanked the



media for their support and acknowledged their contribution to the development and promotion of Faisalabad.

A sumptuous Iftar buffet was served in the evening, reflecting the rich culinary traditions of the hotel. Guests enjoyed the warm hospitality and excellent services, making it a memorable evening of friendship and community building.

Serena Hotel Faisalabad is committed to engaging with key stakeholders and fostering supportive partnerships in the development of the city.

WASA Multan launches historic sewerage upgrade package under Punjab CM's Vision



Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN: In line with the special directives and vision of Maryam Nawaz Sharif, WASA Multan has initiated comprehensive measures to improve the sewerage system and ensure the provision of basic civic facilities to residents in the City of Saints.

A historic development package worth billions of rupees has been launched for sewerage projects, under which the replacement of outdated sewerage lines and system upgrades are progressing rapidly in major and densely populated areas of the city.

Under the Punjab Development Program Phase One, sewerage schemes in Hussain Agahi and Gulgasht Colony are being executed round the clock. From Ghanta Ghar Chowk to Daulat Gate and from Hussain Agahi Bazaar to Masjid Wali Muhammad, the old sewerage lines will be replaced. As part of this project, a total of 5,700 feet of new 18-inch and 15-inch diameter pipe-lines will be laid.

Similarly, in Gulgasht Colony, opposite Emerson College, work has commenced on replacing a 900-foot-long 18-inch diameter sewerage line. Managing Director WASA, Faisal

Shaukat, stated that in accordance with the Chief Minister Punjab's vision, the sewerage system is being aligned with modern requirements, and no compromise will be tolerated on the quality of development work. He made it clear that any delay in projects under the Punjab Development Program will not be accepted and that all schemes will be completed on time as per approved designs and standards.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Managing Director Zeeshan Shaukat Gondal, Director Works Hafiz Muhammad Waqas, along with all Deputy Directors, Assistant Directors,

and Sub-Engineers.

Reviewing the progress of all development schemes, MD WASA Faisal Shaukat directed sewerage officials to ensure day-and-night monitoring, guarantee 100 percent availability of manhole covers, accelerate the desilting campaign, and ensure immediate and effective resolution of drainage complaints.

He reaffirmed that WASA Multan will continue to take robust measures, in line with the Chief Minister Punjab's instructions, to improve water supply and drainage facilities for citizens, and that no negligence will be tolerated in this journey of public service.

AJK Leaders Remember Sultan Chaudhry While Denouncing Assault on Khamenei

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: A condolence reference was held at the Prime Minister Secretariat, Muzaffarabad, under the joint auspices of Pakistan Peoples Party (City) and the Kashmir Liberation Cell to pay tribute to the lifelong struggle of former President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and former Prime Minister Barrister Sultan Chaudhry, and to honor the martyrdom of the Supreme Leader of Iran, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The reference, the first of its kind in Azad Kashmir following these events, was attended by leaders from various schools of thought in large numbers. Participants paid glowing tribute to the services of Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry for the Kashmir freedom movement at the international level, his advocacy for public rights, rule of law, constitutional supremacy, democracy, and his exemplary governance. A proposal was also presented to name Mirpur Engineering University after him.

The ceremony was presided over by the Central Deputy Secretary Information of PPP AJK and Spokesperson to the Prime Minister of AJK, Mr. Shaukat Javed Mir. Addressing the gathering, he emphasized that the Muslim world must adopt collective planning and unity against global oppression and injustice. He also underlined the importance of strengthening cooperation among Islamic countries in the contemporary geopolitical environment.

The condolence reference concluded with collective prayers (Fateha) for the elevation of ranks of the departed souls, including Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, martyrs of the Pakistan Armed Forces, and martyrs of Kashmir, along with special prayers for the security, unity, and continued success of Pakistan.

AJK Former PM Attique Khan Performs Umrah, Prays for Kashmir's Freedom

Spokesman Report



MAKKAH MAKARMA/RAWALPINDI: Former Prime Minister of Azad Jammu & Kashmir and President of the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference, Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, has arrived in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to perform Umrah.

Upon his arrival in Medina, he paid his respects at Roza-e-Rasool (Peace Be Upon Him), offered prayers, and made special supplications for the unity of the Muslim Ummah, the freedom of Kashmir and Palestine, the security and prosperity of Pakistan, and the triumph of truth over falsehood.

Subsequently, Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan traveled to Makkah Makarima, where he performed Umrah. He will remain in Saudi Arabia for a few more days.

Party members of the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference in Medina Sharif and Makkah Makarima accorded him a warm welcome at the airport. He is expected to return to Pakistan after completing his stay in the Saudi Kingdom.

AC Erum Shahzadi Reviews Ongoing Development Works at Jinnah Park Kamalia

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Assistant Commissioner Kamalia Erum Shahzadi along with Chief Officer Municipal Committee Ali Raza paid a detailed visit to Jinnah Park to review the ongoing development works and assess the progress of various projects. Relevant officers were also present on the occasion. During the visit, the Assistant Commissioner inspected the construction and renovation activities in the park. While expressing satisfaction over the pace and quality of work, she directed the concerned officials to ensure that all projects are completed within the stipulated timeframe without compromising on construction standards. She emphasized that transparency and high quality must be ensured in all public welfare projects.

Erum Shahzadi stated that providing citizens with a healthy and positive environment for recreational activities is among the top priorities of the district administration. She noted that the improvement and modernization of Jinnah Park would not only offer a quality recreational facility to the public but also encourage the younger generation to participate in sports and physical activities. On the occasion, Chief Officer Ali Raza briefed the Assistant Commissioner that all available resources are being utilized to complete the development works at the earliest. He reaffirmed the commitment to transform Jinnah Park into a modern and exemplary recreational spot for the residents of Kamalia.

PSCA's Rapid Response Leads to Arrest of Gang Involved in ATM Card Fraud Case

Bureau Report

LAHORE: With the assistance of the Punjab Safe Cities Authority, a gang involved in defrauding citizens at ATMs has been arrested. According to the Safe City spokesperson, the suspects targeted a citizen at a private bank's ATM in Faisal Town by pretending that his card had been blocked. According to details, the suspects first staged a failed transaction and observed the citizen's PIN. They then swapped his ATM card and later withdrew cash from his account before fleeing the scene.

The spokesperson stated that the affected citizen immediately informed PSCA by calling Emergency Helpline-15. A Safe City Virtual Patrolling Officer traced the suspects' movements through citywide surveillance camera network, where they were spotted on various roads across the city. Owing to timely action of PSCA and the police, the suspects were arrested and a case has been registered against them. Mobile phones, cash and other digital devices were also recovered from their possession.

Islamabad
30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	5:10 am
Zohr	12:20 pm
Asr	4:26 pm
Maghrib	6:07 pm
Isha	7:29 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 & 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 Enquiry	117
Railway Exchange	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH	561111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHO	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

Hindu Community Sets Example of Unity by Celebrating Holi with Simplicity

Raza Naqvi Attock

ATTOCK: The Hindu community residing in Attock Cantt celebrated the festival of Holi in a simple and dignified manner at the Valmiki Mandir. Instead of holding colorful and large-scale festivities, the community observed the religious rituals with modesty and respect.

Pandit Sarwan Kumar of Valmiki Mandir, after consulting with members of the Hindu community, decided that in view of the current situation in the country, Holi would be celebrated in a simple manner this year. The decision was unanimously supported by the entire community.

On the occasion, a prominent member of the Hindu community, Roop Lal, while speaking to Newsman, described the decision of Pandit Sarwan Kumar as a positive example of interfaith harmony and national unity. He added that such steps further strengthen national cohesion.

Citizens of Attock also appreciated the initiative taken by Pandit Sarwan Kumar, calling it a practical demonstration of responsibility, patriotism, and mutual respect.

President PML-N & CM Punjab Review Restoration of Historical Buildings Under LAHAR

Bureau Report

LAHORE: President Pakistan Muslim League-N Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif chaired a meeting of Lahore Heritage Areas Revival (LAHAR) to review pace of work and progress of projects for restoration of historical buildings in Lahore. They agreed to completely restore all parts of Lahore Fort (Shahi Qila) to their original condition, as 26 monuments within the 40-acre Lahore Fort will be restored to their original state. They directed the authorities concerned to create a new wing in the Tourism Department to look after restoration and maintenance of historical buildings. They decided in-principle to impose a ban on all types of protest gatherings and rallies on Mall Road.

Quaid Pakistan Muslim League-N and Chief Minister Punjab directed the relevant authorities to restore Kharak

Singh Haveli and old Servants Quarters by converting them into hotels to promote tourism.

They also directed them to construct a bridge to directly connect Jehangir's Tomb with the main road, besides taking immediate measures to remove electricity and other wires from the entire Walled City. They reviewed progress of projects for construction and restoration of tombs of Nur Jahan and Asif Khan, besides restoration of Rang Mahal School to its original condition.

President PML-N Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif reviewed restoration and renovation projects from Tollinton Market to Lahori Gate, and from Kacheri Chowk to Nila Gumbad. Authorities concerned presented a report in the meeting on projects for the restoration of Nasir Bagh, Underground Parking, Railway Station Chowk, and Misri Shah.



Preparation of Eid

ISLAMABAD: Vendors busy in dry ladies Dupata after color at a local market ahead upcoming Eidul Fitr festival, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Sufficient fuel stocks available, OGRA urges citizens not to pay heed to rumors

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The country currently holds sufficient stocks of petrol and high-speed diesel, well within the prescribed limits.

"There is no shortage of petroleum products in the country," a spokesperson for the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) said on Wednesday in a statement.

The spokesperson urged citizens not to pay heed to rumors and to rely only on information disseminated through official channels.

The statement added that Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) may temporarily regulate the supply of petroleum products to retail outlets in line with their historical sales patterns to ensure uninterrupted availability and discourage hoarding during periods of extreme price volatility.

He said the measure was a standard supply management practice aimed at maintaining stability in the distribution system.

The spokesperson clarified that the step was precautionary in nature and designed to prevent artificial shortages that could arise due to panic buying or speculative stockpiling.

Kashmiri Voices unite at UN demanding urgent action on rights crisis

News Desk

GENEVA: During the General Debate on the High Commissioner's update at the 61st UN Human Rights Council, Kashmiri representatives delivered a unified call for urgent international action on the deteriorating human rights situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

Altaf Hussain Wani of the World Muslim Congress raised deep concerns over arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances, and the misuse of anti-terror laws to stifle dissent in the region. He condemned the systematic surveillance and digital siege, urging intensified OHCHR monitoring and accountability for violations.

Sardar Amjad Yousaf Khan, speaking for International Action for Peace and Sustainable Development, presented alarming statistics of violence since 2019, including over 1,050 killings and tens of thousands of arrests. He highlighted the severe restriction on international access and strongly called for the High Commissioner to issue a third OHCHR report to evaluate accountability gaps.

Shamim Shawl, representing the International Muslim Women's Union, focused on the grave gendered crisis, detailing decades of sexual violence, widowhood, and profound mental health trauma faced by Kashmiri women.

Shopkeepers protest against PERA FORCE in Attock

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Shopkeepers of Mina Bazaar staged a strong protest against alleged unfair fines and the sealing of shops by the Para Force. The market remained completely closed for several hours as traders demanded that the Deputy Commissioner take immediate notice of the situation.

According to details, shopkeepers from Mina Bazaar and several other markets went on strike and shut down their businesses in protest against what they described as unjust fines imposed by the Para Force. On this occasion, expected President of Mina Bazaar, Tariq Kundi, said that during the holy month of Ramadan, shopkeepers leave their homes in a state of fasting early in the morning and work hard in the market until iftar to earn a livelihood for their families. However, Para Force officials impose heavy and unjust fines within moments, wiping out their hard-earned income.

Mushaal Hussein Mullick Calls on Iranian Ambassador

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Human Rights and Women Empowerment and Chairperson of the Peace and Culture Organisation (PCO), Mushaal Hussein Mullick, called on the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the Iran Embassy today to offer profound condolences on the tragic martyrdom of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Ms. Mullick was accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising PCO Secretary General Sabien Hussein Mullick and her daughter, Raziyah Sultan. The delegation was received by the Iranian Ambassador, who accepted their expressions of solidarity and grief during this immense national loss.

During the meeting, Ms. Mushaal Hussein Mullick paid rich tribute to the late Supreme Leader, highlighting



his historic and emotional connection to the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). "Ayatollah Khamenei was

a towering leader whose forefathers hailed from Kashmir. He never forgot his roots and remained a steadfast voice for the oppressed Kashmiri people

and their right to self-determination throughout his life. His support for our cause was unwavering and deeply personal," she stated.

PIDE and Election Commission of Pakistan Sign MoU

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) and the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on research, training, capacity building, and youth civic engagement initiatives aimed at strengthening democratic governance, electoral awareness, and evidence-based policymaking in Pakistan.

The MoU was signed at the ECP Secretariat in Islamabad.

The PIDE delegation was led by Dr. Nasir Iqbal, Professor of Economics and Registrar, PIDE, while the ECP delegation was led by Mr. Omer Hamid Khan, Secretary, Election Commission of Pakistan.

Under the MoU, both institutions will pursue joint research projects and publications focusing on electoral processes, governance, institutional performance, voter behaviour, and related public policy areas.

The partnership also includes Training of Trainers (ToT), workshops, seminars, and short courses

for educators, researchers, and professionals, alongside youth-focused civic engagement initiatives, including digital tools and educational content to promote democratic participation.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Nasir Iqbal said the partnership reflects PIDE's commitment to connecting rigorous research and capacity development with national priorities, and to supporting stronger democratic institutions through evidence, learning, and practical collaboration.

Mr. Omer Hamid Khan stated

that the collaboration aligns with the ECP's mandate to promote public awareness and voter education, while supporting continuous improvements in institutional performance through knowledge exchange and targeted capacity-building initiatives.

For coordination and official correspondence, the focal persons are Dr. Nadeem Khan, Assistant Professor and Director, Executive Development Center (EDC), PIDE, and Mr. Nazar Abbas, Additional Director General (Media Coordination and Outreach Wing), ECP.



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

Iran's Strategy: Stretch the War

When President Donald Trump authorized direct military confrontation with Iran alongside Israel, many strategic planners expected a short and decisive military campaign. Precision strikes, intelligence dominance, and coordinated airpower were believed capable of crippling Iranian command centers and missile infrastructure within days. Yet what was envisioned as a swift operation is increasingly evolving into a prolonged conflict with humanitarian, geopolitical, and economic consequences extending far beyond the Middle East.

For decades, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had warned that confrontation with Iran was inevitable. Several U. S. administrations resisted being drawn into a full-scale war, wary of escalation and long-term entanglement in another Middle Eastern conflict. President Trump himself had previously pledged that his presidency would avoid new wars and focus on ending the long cycle of military interventions. However, the launch of coordinated strikes against Iran marked a historic shift, transforming strategic rivalry into direct confrontation.

The early assumption that Iran would collapse under aerial bombardment has not materialized. Instead, Tehran has adopted a measured and calculated strategy. Rather than unleashing its entire missile arsenal in dramatic retaliation, it has responded gradually, sustaining pressure while preserving strategic capabilities. Instead of triggering regime instability, the conflict appears to have consolidated national sentiment—particularly after the reported killing of Iran's 86-year-old Supreme Leader during the opening phase of the war.

Within Iran, the death of a religious authority of such stature was expected

by some analysts to create political fragmentation. Instead, it triggered widespread mobilization. In Shiite tradition, martyrdom carries profound historical and spiritual significance rooted in the memory of Karbala and the sacrifice of Imam Hussain. Mass mourning ceremonies, public processions, and national demonstrations reflected a collective resolve rather than internal collapse.

That emotional surge intensified dramatically after a tragedy that has come to symbolize the human cost of the conflict. In the southern Iranian city of Minab, a girls' school was struck during the early days of the Israel-USA air campaign, killing more than 150 students and staff. The incident was independently confirmed by International media including Al-Jazeera and BBC. This deplorable and cruel act of Israel and the USA immediately became a powerful political and humanitarian symbol.

Images broadcast by Iranian media and reported by Al Jazeera showed thousands of mourners gathering in Minab's central square for a mass funeral ceremony. Families held photographs of young victims while crowds chanted slogans condemning the United States and Israel.

The reaction from international institutions was swift. The United Nations human rights office called for a prompt and impartial investigation into the incident. Officials emphasized that schools, hospitals, and humanitarian facilities are protected under international humanitarian law and must not be targeted during armed conflict.

The Minab tragedy quickly resonated across the international media

landscape. Major European outlets such as The Guardian, Le Monde, and Der Spiegel published editorials raising concerns about the humanitarian consequences of the escalating war. Commentaries in several European newspapers questioned whether the air campaign risked repeating the mistakes of previous conflicts in which civilian casualties undermined strategic objectives.

Public reaction extended beyond the media. Demonstrations erupted in several regions of the world. In cities across the United States—Washington D. C., New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles—anti-war protesters gathered to demand congressional oversight and an immediate halt to escalation.

Across parts of the Global South, governments including China, South Africa, Brazil, Turkey, Malaysia, and Pakistan voiced concern about the expanding conflict. In Pakistan and Iraq, protests outside U. S. diplomatic missions turned tense as demonstrators condemned the bombing campaign and expressed solidarity with Iranian civilians.

Meanwhile, Iran's military strategy appears rooted in endurance rather than rapid escalation. Decades of sanctions and conflict have forced the country to develop hardened infrastructure, dispersed missile systems, and underground facilities designed to survive sustained bombardment. Iranian officials and analysts sympathetic to Tehran argue that the missiles and drones seen in the early days of the war represent largely older or less sophisticated systems deliberately used in the opening phase. According to this narrative, Iran is pacing the conflict by gradually intro-

ducing more advanced and destructive missile capabilities only if the war escalates further. Such a strategy would allow Tehran to sustain pressure over time while reserving its most capable weapons for later stages, potentially targeting U. S. bases across the Middle East, Israeli infrastructure, and naval forces operating in the Persian Gulf and nearby waters.

The vulnerability of American bases across the Middle East has become increasingly evident as the war expands. Countries hosting these bases now face complex political pressures, as retaliatory attacks threaten nearby infrastructure and civilian populations.

Economically, the war carries enormous global implications. The Strait of Hormuz remains one of the world's most critical maritime chokepoints for oil transportation. Even limited disruptions in this narrow corridor can trigger spikes in global energy prices and destabilize international markets.

Yet perhaps the most consequential development emerging from Washington is the possibility that the war could escalate beyond aerial bombing. In recent remarks, President Trump did not rule out deploying American troops on Iranian soil if military objectives cannot be achieved through air power alone. U. S. defense officials have similarly acknowledged that ground forces remain an option should the conflict expand or if key strategic targets require physical control.

The implications of such a decision would be profound. Iran is a vast country of nearly ninety million people with rugged terrain, dense urban centers, and deeply entrenched military structures. Any attempt to place foreign troops on Iranian soil would almost certainly transform the current air campaign into a full-scale regional war.

Continued on Page 7



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

CM Punjab approves mandatory e-tagging of all vehicles

Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif has approved the mandatory installation of e-tags on all vehicles, including motorcycles, across the province and sought a comprehensive micro security plan within seven days.

Chairing a high-level meeting on law and order, the chief minister took a series of key security decisions aimed at strengthening surveillance, border monitoring and counterterrorism preparedness.

The meeting approved the establishment of a Punjab Cyber Crime Investigation Unit and the appointment of its head. A dedicated cell will be set up to address cases involving women and girls affected by cybercrime, while district-level online crime centres will also be established.

The chief minister directed authorities to ensure a ban on movement through non-traditional provincial entry points and ordered strict enforcement of restrictions on drones across the province. Installation of searchlights at provincial entry routes and approval for drone surveillance were also granted. She further directed that rooftop security monitoring at checkpoints be ensured and called for immediate steps to procure the latest drone defence systems.

Emphasising proactive policing, she ordered that combing operations against criminals and terrorists continue without interruption. She also instructed that the RMP unit, established for crowd management, be provided advanced training and modern security equipment.

During the meeting, it was agreed that security standard operating procedures (SOPs) for Youm-e-Hazrat Ali (RA) would be finalised after consultation with religious scholars. The chief minister appreciated the role of scholars in maintaining peace and urged them to continue cooperation in preserving law and order.

She commended Provincial Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique and the Lahore Police for handling the situation in Lahore and other parts of Punjab in a timely manner.

Addressing the meeting, the chief minister observed that everyone must remain united and vigilant to eliminate terrorism. She termed the entry of a suicide attacker into Punjab through a checkpoint as alarming and said complacency was not an option. "The methods of warfare have changed; we must prepare ourselves accordingly," she said, reiterating that collective effort and alertness were essential to maintain peace and stability in the province.



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

Timing, Theatre and Strategy: India's Israel Pivot in a Volatile West Asia

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi concluded his high-profile visit to Israel shortly before the United States and Israel launched strikes against Iran, the optics were impossible to ignore. Diplomacy often operates in the realm of symbolism, but in West Asia, where timing is inseparable from intent, symbolism can harden into strategy. The visit, the ceremonial warmth extended by Benjamin Netanyahu and the subsequent regional escalation together form a sequence that raises uncomfortable but necessary questions about India's evolving posture in one of the world's most combustible theatres.

India and Israel elevated their relationship to a "Special Strategic Partnership," signing 17 agreements spanning defence, technology, water management and innovation. While bilateral cooperation between New Delhi and Tel Aviv is not new, defence ties date back to the 1990s and deepened significantly after the 1999 Kargil conflict, the current phase represents institutional consolidation. Israel has consistently ranked among India's top arms suppliers, providing advanced surveillance systems, UAVs, missile defence platforms such as the Barak series and joint research initiatives. The new focus on Critical and Emerging Technologies, led by their respective National Security Advisers, signals a long-term integration of defence-industrial ecosystems. Yet partnerships are not judged only by content, but by context.

The decision of Netanyahu to personally receive Modi at Ben-Gurion Airport alongside his wife, an honour previously reserved for select leaders including Donald Trump, was

rich in political theatre. In Israeli diplomatic culture, such gestures communicate endorsement and hierarchy. At a moment when Israel faces intense scrutiny over its prolonged military campaign in Gaza, Modi's visit carried the implicit weight of political validation. Diplomats across West Asia have interpreted the trip as contributing to Netanyahu's efforts to mitigate diplomatic isolation.

India's balancing rhetoric during the visit, supporting Israel's security concerns while reiterating the need for a just resolution of the Palestinian issue, reflects New Delhi's longstanding approach. In his address to the Knesset, Modi reiterated support for peace initiatives and acknowledged Palestinian aspirations. On paper, this resembles India's traditional multi-alignment: solidarity with Israel's security, rhetorical affirmation of Palestine's statehood and avoidance of explicit alignment in regional rivalries. But timing disrupted that equilibrium.

Two days after the partnership was elevated, the United States and Israel initiated strikes on Iranian targets. While there is no public evidence linking India to operational decisions, diplomacy is rarely assessed in legalistic terms. It is assessed politically. The proximity of the visit to the strike window amplified perceptions, fairly or unfairly, that India had chosen to stand visibly alongside Israel at a moment of military escalation. The fact that the strikes were reportedly planned months further complicates the optics: Modi's departure from Israel coincided with a pre-calculated strategic inflection point.

India's silence on the attack against Iran has deepened scrutiny. Tehran is not a peripheral partner. India has invested heavily in the Chabahar port project, designed to provide

access to Afghanistan and Central Asia while bypassing Pakistan. Iran has historically supplied India with crude oil and remains critical to regional connectivity strategies. Alienating Tehran carries tangible economic and strategic costs, particularly given India's energy security imperatives and diaspora presence across the Gulf.

The broader architecture of India's West Asia policy has traditionally rested on three pillars: energy security, diaspora welfare and strategic autonomy. Nearly nine million Indians reside in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states. Remittances from the region contribute tens of billions of dollars annually to India's economy. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates rank among India's key energy partners and major investment sources. Any perception that India is drifting into an overt anti-Iran or anti-Sunni/Shia axis risks unsettling this delicate ecosystem.

Netanyahu's articulation of a "hexagon" alignment, reportedly involving India, Greece, Cyprus and others alongside the existing I2U2 framework (India, Israel, United States, UAE) situates India within a network increasingly framed in strategic-ideological terms. The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), announced during the 2023 G20 summit in New Delhi, reflects India's ambition to become a connective power linking Europe and Asia through rail, port and logistics integration. IMEC traverses India, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Israel and Greece. Its viability, however, depends on regional stability. Escalation with Iran jeopardises that stability.

This is where the persuasive concern emerges: India's long-cherished doctrine of strategic autonomy risks erosion not through formal alliances, but through accumulated perception shifts.

Continued on Page 7



Analysis

Mehr un Nisa Rehman

Innocent schoolgirls in Tehran: children of a lesser God?

Imagine the horror of more than 160 innocent schoolgirls in Tehran obliterated in broad daylight. Their laughter silenced, their futures erased by the cold precision of modern weaponry. The same targeting device that could locate Iran's Supreme Leader and his family failed to distinguish between military installations and schools, hospitals, and playgrounds. Was this failure of technology—or was it deliberate? Was it collateral damage, or calculated cruelty?

When children die, the world should weep. Yet in this gruesome tragedy, the silence is deafening. No candlelight vigils, no global outpouring of grief, no songs of remembrance. Were these children of a lesser God? We in Pakistan know the agony of such loss. On December 16, 2014, terrorists stormed the Army Public School in Peshawar, massacring 142 innocent children. The nation was plunged into mourning. Emotional songs were composed, memorials erected, and the world stood with Pakistan, condemning the barbarity. Tears flowed across continents, and humanity seemed united in grief. That tragedy became a scar etched into our collective memory.

But juxtapose that with the brutal annihilation of schoolgirls in Tehran. The toll—over 160 lives, each a universe of hopes and dreams—snuffed out without mercy. And yet, the international media barely whispers. Pakistani outlets, too, remain muted. No elegies, no dirges, no collective outrage. The contrast is chilling. Why does one tragedy evoke oceans of sympathy, while another is met with indifference? Why do some children command the world's tears, while others are abandoned to silence?

This selective empathy indicts our age. The media, entrusted with amplifying human

suffering, often chooses which tragedies deserve headlines and which can be buried in footnotes. When the massacre of children is ignored, humanity itself is diminished.

Weapons today boast of "surgical precision". They claim to strike with mathematical accuracy, guided by satellites and algorithms. Yet when schools and hospitals are reduced to rubble, when classrooms become graves, one must ask: Is this precision, or perfidy? Innocence becomes expendable, and accountability evaporates in the fog of war.

The silence of the media compounds the crime. In Gaza, the silence is not hypothetical but real. Thousands of children have perished under bombardment, their homes turned to dust, their schools flattened, their playgrounds drenched in blood. Their plight is documented, yet too often dismissed as collateral damage. Their faces rarely grace the front pages of global newspapers. Their cries echo unheard. A picture of a baby monkey clutching a stuffed toy once went viral, while an image of a child crying in rubble, holding its doll, was ignored.

Such contrasts reveal the callousness of selective compassion. Every child lost to violence diminishes us all. Their laughter, their innocence, their unfulfilled potential—these are treasures stolen from humanity. To ignore their deaths is to betray our shared humanity. To remain silent is to become complicit.

Pakistan experienced the unity of a nation in grief, but it also taught us that remembrance must be universal. If we mourn only our own, we fail the test of humanity. If we ignore the suffering of others, we betray the very essence of compassion.

Continued on Page 7



Analysis

S. M. Hali

Bakhtawari Family Hosts Iftar

Tariq Fazal Chaudhry Praises Bakhtawari Family Hospitality, Stresses Business Support

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry said that the business community is the backbone of Pakistan's economic development. He stated that the government is taking practical steps to promote business-friendly policies, encourage investment, and ensure economic stability. He expressed these views while addressing an Iftar dinner hosted in his honor by UBG Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari, Ahsan Bakhtawari, and Waqar Bakhtawari.

On this occasion, the guest of honor, President of FPCCI Atif Iqram Sheikh, along with Senator General Abdul Qayyum, MPA Malik Ifrikhar, ICCI Council Members Zubair Ahmed Malik, Khalid Javed, Khalid Iqbal Malik, Ejaz Abbasi, Aamir Waheed, Mian Akram Fareed, Chaudhry Masood, Shaikat Masood, Chaudhry Waheed-Ud-Din, Senior Vice President of ICCI Tahir Ayub, Zahid Bakhtawari, Abid Bakhtawari, Haris Bakhtawari, Executive Members of ICCI Malik Mohsin Khalid, Roheel Anwar Butt, Ishaq Sial,



Malik Abdul Aziz, Naveed Satti, Nasir Chaudhry, Imran Minhas, Shamaila Siddiqui, President of Islamabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries Owais Satti, Chairman Saqib Abbasi, President of Talagang Chamber Malik Shabbir Awan, Group Leader Chakwal Chamber Khawaja Arif, President Women Chamber Samina Fazil, Naima Ansari, Fatima Azeem, Sadaf Abbasi, Wajid Ayoob, Babar Chaudhry, Nisar Mirza, Khalid Chaudhry, former President ICCI Shakeel Munir, Yousaf Rajput, Tahir Abbasi, Asad Aziz, Zargham Shah, Zahir Abbasi,

Ahmed Khan, Altaf Shah, Naem Akhtar Awan, Aftab Gujjar, Yasir Jameel Abbasi, Imran Bukhari, Najeeb Elahi Malik, Ameer Hamza, Saif-ur-Rehman, Raja Faizan Shehzad, Naveed Malik, Rana Qaiser, Ras Faisal, Imtiaz Abbasi, Raja Safeer, and other distinguished personalities from the business community and various walks of life were present. In his address, Federal Minister Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry said that such gatherings play an important role in strengthening mutual relations and promoting national unity. He appreciated the hospitality of the

Bakhtawari family and termed it commendable. Chairman of the Clean and Green Islamabad Movement Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, on behalf of his family, thanked all the honorable guests for attending. He said that the holy month of Ramadan teaches us unity, brotherhood, and service, and prayed that Allah Almighty grant Pakistan progress, prosperity, and stability. He reaffirmed the commitment that the business community will continue to play its full role, in cooperation with the government, for strengthening the



national economy, promoting investment, and stabilizing business activities.

PMDC inspection Team Visited the Nishtar Medical University Multan

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Following the continuous persuasion and efforts of our esteemed Vice Chancellor, Professor Dr. Mehnaz Khakwani, the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) inspection team visited Nishtar Medical University Multan. The team evaluated thirty-two programs, including FCPS, MD, MS, Diploma, MCPS, and MPhil, for approval and accreditation. Prof. Dr. Mehnaz Khakwani, Prof. Dr. Syed Ahmer Hussain Registrar NMU and the heads of all the relevant departments accompanied the inspection team during the visit.

The visit was very satisfactory, with the team appreciating the arrangements, preparations, facilities, infrastructure, environment, and faculty.

The entire faculty, departments, and particularly the Registrar's office and PMDC visit preparation team led by Prof. Dr. Zahra Nazish contributed significantly to the visit. The university



is optimistic about receiving approval and accreditation for all programs, enhancing its reputation as a leading

medical institution and helping resolve issues faced by trainees and graduates. Its pertinent to mention that 52

FCPS, MD, MS, MCPS, Diploma and MPHIL programs are already accredited from PMDC.

MoU signed to launch "Akhuwat & Macter Qarz e Hassan Project" in Orangi Town

News Desk

KARACHI: Macter International Limited, one of Pakistan's leading pharmaceutical companies, and Akhuwat Islamic Microfinance (AIM), a prominent nonprofit organization dedicated to interest-free microfinance,

have joined hands to launch an "Akhuwat & Macter Qarz-e-Hasan Project", in Orangi Town. An MoU signed between the two organizations marks a significant joint commitment to poverty alleviation, economic empowerment, and upliftment of marginalized communities.



Under the MOU, Macter will donate PKR 35 million as a revolving credit fund to Akhuwat Islamic Microfinance.

These funds will be used for the disbursement of interest-free loans (Qarz-e-Hasan) to deserving beneficiaries in Karachi, with a special branch to be established in Orangi Town, No. 5 for this purpose. The project aims to support individuals seeking to start or expand small businesses, improve livelihoods, and gain sustainable economic independence.

greatly from stronger economic engagement. He said that the current bilateral trade between the two countries is approximately USD 100-120 million, with Pakistan exporting mainly textiles, leather goods and food products, while Hungary exports machinery, pharmaceuticals and specialized industrial products to Pakistan.

ICCI hosts Hungarian envoy: Hungary keen to explore new trade avenues with Pakistan: Ambassador

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Hungary Dr. Zoltan Varga has said that Hungary and Pakistan enjoy traditionally friendly diplomatic relations and both countries have significant potential to enhance bilateral trade and investment cooperation.

He expressed these views while addressing an interactive session at the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) on Wednesday.

The ambassador said that Pakistan and Hungary celebrated the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations last year, which was marked by a number of business engagements between the two

countries. He said that the Pakistan-Hungary Joint Economic Commission (JEC) also held its meeting last year and expressed hope that the next session would take place in Budapest next year to further promote economic cooperation.

Dr. Zoltan Varga noted that the current bilateral trade volume between Pakistan and Hungary stands at around 100 million dollars, which indicates strong potential for further growth. He said Hungary's major economic presence in Pakistan is through MOL Group, the Hungarian oil and Gas Company, which has been successfully operating in the country for the past 26 years with mutual benefits for both sides. He described Pakistan as a

large and vibrant market of over 250 million people with enormous economic potential and said the Hungarian Embassy would be happy to facilitate business linkages and contacts between companies of the two countries.

The ambassador also informed the participants that the EU-Pakistan Business Forum scheduled next month would provide another opportunity to promote economic cooperation and strengthen business relations.

Earlier, in his welcome address, President ICCI Sardar Tahir Mehmood said that Pakistan and Hungary share a long history of cordial diplomatic relations and the business communities of both countries can benefit

greatly from stronger economic engagement.

He said that the current bilateral trade between the two countries is approximately USD 100-120 million, with Pakistan exporting mainly textiles, leather goods and food products, while Hungary exports machinery, pharmaceuticals and specialized industrial products to Pakistan.

Sardar Tahir Mehmood said that despite the existing trade relations, there is substantial potential to expand cooperation in areas such as energy, information technology, pharmaceuticals, infrastructure development, agricultural machinery and technology-based industries.

He reaffirmed ICCI's commitment to facilitating interaction



between Pakistani and international businesses and said that the ambassador's visit to the Chamber would help identify new opportunities for trade and investment collaboration between the two countries.

Senior Vice President ICCI Tahir Ayub also spoke and highlighted potential areas of

cooperation, while appreciating Hungary for its economic progress and technological advancement.

Those prominent among the attendees included Deputy Head of the Mission Dr. Dora Gunsberger, Vice President Irfan Chaudhry, former President Shakeel Munir, execu-

tive members, Malik Mohsin Khalid, Zulqurnain abbas, Ishaq Sial, Imran Minhas, Mirza Mohammad Ali, Chairman Inter-Regional Coordination Committee ICCI Kashmir Zahir, former SVP Khalid Chaudhry, former executive members Chaudhry Mohammad Ali, Akhtar Abbasi and other.

Multan City's Parks and green belts will be developed on modern lines



Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: Managing Director Park and Horticulture Agency Multan Syed Waseem Hassan said that the city's parks and green belts will be developed on modern lines. Cleanliness will be ensured on green belts. Development works of Nagana Chowk should be completed as soon as possible. Renovation and cleanliness of the head office should be ensured.

These views were expressed by MD Horticulture Agency Multan Syed Waseem Hassan during a meeting with Horticulture Agency officers and representatives of private companies and a visit to the head office. He further said that development works on Nagana Chowk should be completed as soon as possible. The quality of work should be ensured. Measures for cleanliness should be ensured in the head office. Green belts and parks will be developed on modern lines. Nagana Chowk is being completed with the cooperation of a private company to enhance the beauty of the city. Cleanliness should be ensured in the office. Extensive measures should be taken for decoration and decoration of green belts.

About 40 S. Korean tourists stranded in Dubai to return home Thurs

SEOUL: About 40 South Korean tourists stranded in Dubai due to disruptions at the city's main airport are expected to return home Thursday, travel agencies said, as they scramble to secure alternative flights amid a Middle East conflict triggered by a joint U.S.-Israeli strike on Iran.

Dubai International Airport, the world's busiest hub for international passengers, remains partially operational as of Wednesday as the regional security crisis affects airspace and flight schedules.

South Korea's major tour agencies, Hanatour and Modetour, said they are working to bring back hundreds of their clients currently in the Middle East. Of the roughly 540 travelers booked on the companies' package tours in the region, some 240 are in Dubai.

Hanatour reported that around 40 of its clients left Dubai early Wednesday (local time) and arrived in Taipei later the same day. Following an overnight stay in Taiwan, they are scheduled to fly to Incheon on a Korean Air flight on Thursday afternoon.

Modetour said it has also secured connecting flights via Taipei, Hanoi and Guangzhou for groups departing Thursday, with about 50 customers expected to arrive in South Korea that day.

Hanatour added that as the airport in Cairo is operating normally, travelers can return home simply by changing their flights.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
155,777.21	157,132.09
Day's High	Day's Low
157,962.47	154,790.73
Index Value	Change
26,540,515,327	-1354.88
Percentage	Time
-0.86%	4 Mar, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
10,573.20	+89.07
Percentage	Time
+0.85%	4 Mar, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
48,777.62	+276.35
Percentage	Time
+0.57%	4 Mar, 10:33 am GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
54,245.54	-2,033.51
Percentage	Time
-3.61%	4 Mar, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	190.68	195.25
Bahrain Dinar	728.95	739.70
Canadian Dollar	199.07	206
China Yuan	38	39.05
Danish Krone	43.32	43.72
Euro	323.16	328
Hong Kong Dollar	34.46	35.31
Indian Rupee	2.65	3.05
Japanese Yen	1.7234	1.8234
Kuwaiti Dinar	886.75	897.30
Malaysian Ringgit	64.50	68.55
New Zealand \$	162.20	166
Norwegians Krone	27.61	27.91
Omani Riyal	713.90	724.60
Qatari Riyal	74.75	77.69
Saudi Riyal	73.75	74.50
Singapore Dollar	213.31	218.30
Swedish Korona	30.15	30.45
Swiss Franc	355	358.85
Thai Bhat	6.5	7.25
U.A.E Dirham	75.35	77.40
UK Pound Sterling	371.32	376.98
US Dollar	279	280.50



Masood Ahmed Siddiqui

KARACHI: Mr. SM Tanveer, Patron-in-Chief of the United Business Group (UBG) and a prominent leader of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), has called upon Pakistani investors to bring back their investments from the UAE's real estate sector and reinvest in

UBG Chief SM Tanveer urges Pakistani investors to reinvest in Pakistan

Pakistan.

In a statement SM Tanveer emphasized that it is high time for Pakistani investors to redirect their investments to their home country, rather than keeping them in a highly volatile region plagued by conflict. "Pakistan needs your support to achieve economic sustainability," he said, appealing to the patriotism of Pakistani investors.

Mr. Tanveer praised the efforts of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, saying that they have

worked tirelessly over the past two years to rebuild Pakistan's fractured economy. "Their dedication and commitment to the country's economic growth are commendable, and it is now up to the business community to play its part," he added.

The FPCCI leader highlighted the immense potential for growth and development in Pakistan, citing the country's strategic location, abundant natural resources, and talented workforce. "It is time for Pakistani investors to invest in their own country and contribute

to its economic resurgence," he said.

Mr. SM Tanveer urged Pakistani investors to act swiftly and seize the opportunities available in Pakistan. "Your country needs your investment, your expertise, and your trust. Let us work together to build a stronger, more prosperous Pakistan," he stressed.

He said the business community is encouraged to reach out to the relevant authorities and explore investment opportunities in Pakistan. "Together, we can build a brighter future for our country," he concluded.

Hard Work

ISLAMABAD: Tailors busy stitching clothes during Holy Month of Ramadan for upcoming Eidul Fitr festival, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

FPCCI raises alarm over Hormuz crisis, warns of economic shockwave

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, Senior Vice President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) and Chairman Businessmen Panel-Progressive (BMPP), cautioned that rising tensions in the Gulf and the potential closure of the Strait of Hormuz pose a serious threat to Pakistan's fragile economy, urging the government to immediately declare an energy emergency and secure alternative supply lines.

In a statement, Saquib Fayyaz Magoon said the prevailing regional situation had rendered global energy supply chains "extraordi-



narily unstable", warning that the fallout would be felt directly by energy-importing countries like Pakistan. "The Strait of Hormuz handles nearly 20 per cent of the world's oil shipments. Any disruption there would not only jolt global markets but could trigger an economic crisis for countries heavily reliant on imported fuel," Mr Magoon said.

LONGi Expands Footprint in KPK with Grand Opening of Kohat Flagship Store



Commerce Desk

KOHAT: Reinforcing its commitment to accelerating clean energy adoption across Pakistan, LONGi has marked the grand opening of its new flagship store in Kohat in collaboration with HY LITE Solar Solutions.

Located at Bin Asif Plaza on Rawalpindi Road, the store aims to make high-quality, reliable solar solutions more accessible to customers across Kohat and the surrounding areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Speaking at the grand opening, representatives from LONGi Solar Pakistan

highlighted that the company's broader mission is to bring clean, sustainable energy solutions to every corner of the country.

The launch event was attended by local stakeholders, industry professionals, and members of the community, reflecting strong regional interest in solar adoption.

Business Community Expresses Deep Concern Over Iran-Israel Conflict

Commerce Desk

Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Usman Shaukat has expressed grave concern over the escalating conflict between Iran and Israel, urging the Government of Pakistan to immediately utilize diplomatic channels to help de-escalate tensions and restore peace in the region. "The business community strongly urges immediate diplomatic efforts to restore stability. Prolonged conflict will have devastating consequences not only for the region but also for Pakistan's trade, economy, and overseas workforce."

In a statement issued here on behalf of the business community, the RCCI President said that the ongoing war has created widespread uncertainty in global markets. International oil prices have



surged sharply, increase in logistic cost, posing a serious threat of high inflation for Pakistan's already fragile economy.

Usman Shaukat emphasized that peace and stability in the Middle East are crucial for Pakistan's economic survival and growth.

He called upon the international community to intervene urgently and pursue dialogue, restraint, and diplomatic engagement to prevent further escalation.

CCP Approves REIT Restructuring Involving ISE Towers REIT and ISE Realty Company

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Following a Phase-I Review, the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has approved the proposed restructuring and transfer of designated real estate assets of ISE Towers REIT Management Company Limited to its subsidiary, ISE Realty Company Limited.

CCP received a pre-merger application on January 23, 2026, jointly filed by ISE Towers REIT Management Company Limited and ISE Realty Company Limited. The transaction is being carried out pursuant to a Scheme of Compromise, Arrangement, and Reconstruction dated November 17, 2025.

ISE Towers REIT Management Company Limited, formerly Islamabad Stock Exchange (Guarantee) Limited, is a licensed Non-banking Finance Company (NBFC). ISE Realty Company Limited, incorporated in October 2025, is a public limited company engaged in real estate development and marketing, including commercial and mixed-use projects.

Under the approved Scheme, designated real estate assets and liabilities of ISE Towers REIT will be transferred to ISE Realty Company Limited, followed by a reorganization of shareholding through the issuance of shares to the existing shareholders of ISE Towers REIT. Following the restructuring, ISE Towers REIT will function as a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to facilitate the launch and management of a REIT Scheme.

The CCP's review noted that ISE Realty Company Limited has been incorporated specifically to implement the restructuring scheme and is not currently operational in the relevant market. The assessment further determined that the transaction involves internal restructuring and transfer of assets within related entities.

Lucky Investments achieves Asset Manager Rating upgrade twice in a year

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Lucky Investments Limited ("Lucky Investments") rating has been upgraded to AM2++ with a Stable Outlook by the Pakistan Credit Rating Agency Limited (PACRA).

The upgrade reflects the Company's strong sponsor backing, sound governance framework, experienced leadership, disciplined investment processes, robust risk management systems, diversified product portfolio, and continued digital innovation.

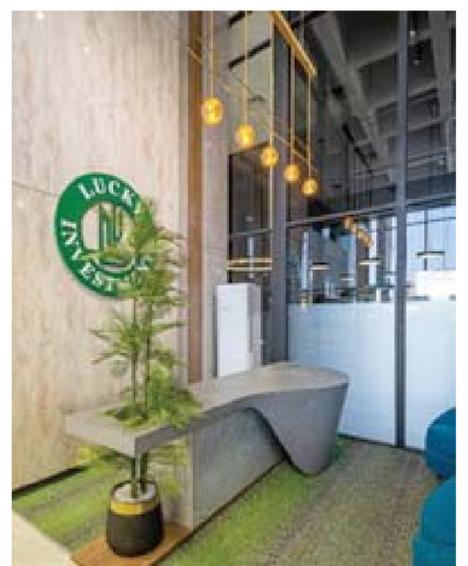
Since commencing operations in April 2025, Lucky Investments has crossed PKR 130 billion in Assets Under Management

(AUM), achieving over 6% market share in the Islamic asset management segment and approximately 3% share of the overall industry within just ten months — marking it one of the fastest growing AMCs in Pakistan which is reflective of investor confidence across both retail and institutional segments. Lucky Investments now has investment solutions across all investible asset classes through eight different funds in addition to customized solutions through separately managed accounts.

The Company was also recognized as the Emerging Islamic Finance Entity of the Year in South Asia at the 10th Islamic Finance Forum of South Asia (IFFSA)

Conference & Awards 2025, held in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Commenting on the development, Mohammad Shoab, CFA, Chief Executive Officer of Lucky Investments Limited, said: "We are grateful first to Allah (SWT) and then to our valued investors for their continued trust. This recognition reinforces our commitment to maintaining the highest standards of fiduciary responsibility while expanding access to credible Islamic investment solutions across Pakistan. Our focus remains on building a Shariah-compliant asset management platform anchored in transparency, integrity, and long-term value creation."



ICC Men's T-20 Cricket World Cup First Semi-Final

New Zealand Qualify in Final Match: Finn Allen's Record-Breaking Century

Asim Tanveer

KOLKATA: New Zealand opener Finn Allen smashed the fastest-ever century in a T-20 World Cup game to help the Kiwis defeat favorite South Africa by nine wickets in the first semifinal on Wednesday.

Allen's blistering unbeaten 100 off 33 balls featured 10 fours and eight sixes and propelled New Zealand to 173-1 in only 12.5 overs and ended South Africa's hopes of reaching its second successive final.

Allen's ruthless power-hitting saw the right-hander smash Marco Jansen for 4-4-6-6-4 to reach one of the most memorable hundreds in the tournament's history and lift New Zealand to only its second final.

South Africa, which came into the playoffs on the back of seven successive wins in the tournament, had used Jansen's unbeaten 55 off 30 balls to score 169-8 after Mitchell Santner won the toss and elected to chase at Eden Gardens.



And the chase was all over inside the first six overs when Allen and Tim Seifert (58) raced New Zealand to 84-0. Both batters smashed Jansen for two sixes and



three boundaries and then Allen rounded off the power play by smashing Corbin Bosch for 22 runs in the sixth over.

New Zealand will take on the winner of Thursday's second semifinal between co-host India and England.

Pakistan down Austria 4-2, remain unbeaten in Hockey World Cup Qualifier Round

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan continued their impressive run in the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup Qualifier Round with a 4-2 victory over Austria in their third match of the tournament in Ismailia, Egypt on Wednesday.

Pakistan down Austria 4-2, remain unbeaten in Hockey World Cup Qualifier Round

The event, being held from March 1 to 7, serves as a crucial pathway to the 2026 FIH Hockey Men's World Cup.

According to information made available here by Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF), after a closely fought first half, Pakistan displayed resilience and attacking flair to overpower Austria in the latter stages of the match.

Pakistan down Austria 4-2,



remain unbeaten in Hockey World Cup Qualifier Round. Abu Bakar Mahmood starred for the Green Shirts, netting two crucial goals in quick succession to swing

momentum in his side's favour. Afraz and Muhammad Sufyan Khan also made valuable contributions, scoring one goal each to help Pakistan

pull off a convincing win. For Austria, Maximilian Kellner and Maximilian Scholz scored one goal apiece.

Pakistan's disciplined structure, improved penalty corner execution and effective counterattacks proved decisive as they secured their third successive win in the qualifier round to remain unbeaten.

Following the victory, President of the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) Mohyuddin Ahmed Wani, along with Chairmen of the Ad-hoc Governance and Management Committee Olympian Isahuddin Siddiqui and Olympian Hassan Sardar, and Chief Selector Olympian Samiullah Khan, congratulated the national team on their undefeated performance in the World Cup Qualifier Round.

Farhan shines as Pakistan stars surge in latest ICC T20I Rankings

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Wednesday released its latest T20I Player Rankings following the Super Eights stage of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, with Pakistan's Sahibzada Farhan and Abrar Ahmed making significant gains.

Opener Sahibzada Farhan has emerged as one of the biggest highlights of the tournament, narrowing the gap at the top of the T20I batter rankings. Farhan climbed one spot to claim second position with a career-best rating after producing a historic feat — becoming the first player to score two centuries in a single edition of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup.

His superb hundred against Sri Lanka national cricket team in Pallekele capped a remarkable campaign in which he amassed 383 runs. The prolific right-hander overtook Phil Salt and now trails India's Abhishek Sharma by just 26 rating points at the summit of the T20I batting charts.



Iran's Strategy: Stretch the War

Continued from Page 4

Strategic history offers sobering lessons. In Afghanistan, overwhelming aerial superiority failed to produce durable political outcomes. Military dominance on the battlefield did not translate into long-term stability, and ultimately the conflict ended with a negotiated withdrawal after two decades.

A ground war in Iran could prove even more complex. Iran possesses a much larger population, stronger state institutions, and extensive missile capabilities capable of striking across the Middle East. Military analysts warn that any foreign troop deployment could trigger prolonged insurgency, regional retaliation, and widespread disruption of global energy markets.

Iran appears to be pursuing a strategy of strategic patience. By absorbing attacks while maintaining steady retaliation, it places increasing economic and political pressure on its adversaries. Time, rather than immediate battlefield victories, becomes the decisive factor.

The tragedy in Minar illustrates how quickly humanitarian events can reshape global perceptions of a war. Images of mourning families and schoolchildren's funerals resonate

far beyond military calculations. They influence public opinion, diplomatic relationships, and the political legitimacy of those conducting the war.

What was initially framed as a short military operation has increasingly taken the shape of a war of endurance. Iran appears prepared for a prolonged confrontation built on resilience, geography, and ideological mobilization. The United States and Israel still maintain overwhelming technological and military superiority, yet superiority alone does not guarantee swift submission.

Wars that begin with expectations of rapid victory often conclude in negotiations after extended human suffering. Whether this conflict ultimately follows that path will depend not only on military strength but on political wisdom. If diplomacy re-enters the equation, escalation may still be contained. If not, the region—and perhaps the wider international system—may face months of instability with consequences reaching far beyond the battlefield.

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

Innocent schoolgirls in Tehran: children of a lesser God?

Continued from Page 4

The tragedy of Tehran's schoolgirls and the massacre of Gaza's children are mirrors held up to the world. They reflect our selective outrage, our moral blind spots, our failure to uphold the sanctity of all human life. They challenge us to ask: why do we allow the media to dictate whose deaths matter? Why do we accept silence when the victims are distant, foreign, or politically inconvenient?

The answer lies in reclaiming our humanity. We must demand that every child's life be valued equally, that every massacre be condemned unequivocally, that every tear be acknowledged. We must hold the media accountable for its silences, its biases, its complicity in erasing suffering. And we must remind ourselves that compassion is not a commodity to be rationed—it is the essence of being human.

In every child lies the seed of tomorrow. To kill them is to kill the future. The tragedy of Tehran's schoolgirls is not about numbers—it is about faces, names, dreams. It is about humanity's failure to weep when it should. It is about the silence that screams louder than any bomb. And it is about the urgent need to reclaim our moral compass.

The cries of Tehran's schoolgirls—painfully real in their symbolism—and the cries of Gaza's children, tragically real, echo across the conscience of the world. Will we hear them? Or will we consign them to silence, as if they were children of a lesser God? (courtesy Business Recorder)

The writer is a retired Group Captain of PAF, and now a security analyst

Timing, Theatre and Strategy: India's Israel Pivot in a Volatile West Asia

Continued from Page 4

Contrast this moment with 1979. When Chinese forces attacked Vietnam during his visit to Beijing, then External Affairs Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee cut short his trip, signalling India's disapproval. The message was unmistakable: India would not lend symbolic cover to military aggression during high-level diplomacy. Today, India's refusal to publicly criticise the Iran strikes projects a different posture, one of calibrated silence.

Supporters of Modi's approach argue that India cannot afford to antagonise Israel or the United

States. Defence cooperation with Israel enhances India's military modernisation. The United States remains central to India's Indo-Pacific strategy and its balancing vis-à-vis China. Moreover, India's engagement with Israel has produced tangible outcomes in agriculture, water desalination, cybersecurity and innovation ecosystems. From this perspective, criticism of Israel would undermine hard-earned strategic dividends.

However, international relations theory reminds us that credibility is cumulative. If India is perceived as selectively vocal,

condemning some acts of force while overlooking others, its claim to normative leadership in the Global South weakens. India has historically championed non-alignment, decolonisation and respect for sovereignty. Remaining silent on a high-profile strike against a sovereign state risks diluting that normative capital.

Furthermore, escalation between Israel and Iran risks drawing the broader Gulf into confrontation. Even limited exchanges can disrupt shipping lanes, energy markets and diaspora security. India imports a

significant portion of its oil from West Asia. A regional conflagration would directly impact inflation, fiscal stability and domestic political calculations in New Delhi.

There is also the Palestinian dimension. India once stood firmly with Palestine in multilateral forums, reflecting both ideological alignment and domestic consensus. While New Delhi has recalibrated since establishing full diplomatic ties with Israel in 1992, it has sought to preserve moral consistency by endorsing a two-state solution. A visible embrace of Israel during

wartime, without parallel gestures toward Ramallah, undermines that balancing narrative.

The question, therefore, is not whether India should engage Israel. It should. Nor is it whether Israel is a valuable strategic partner. It is. The question is whether the sequencing and signalling of engagement adequately account for regional sensitivities and long-term strategic interests.

Multi-alignment is sustainable only if it is perceived as genuine by all sides. If India's posture begins to resemble bloc alignment, even informally, the costs of hedging

will rise. Tehran may recalibrate. Gulf monarchies may reassess expectations. China and Russia could exploit perceived inconsistencies to question India's independent credentials in multilateral forums.

In a volatile West Asia, optics are not superficial; they are structural. The visit to Israel may have been intended as a reaffirmation of partnership and technological ambition. Yet, in the shadow of imminent military escalation, it also became a geopolitical signal.

India stands at a crossroads. It can reaffirm its tradition of principled autonomy, engaging all sides

while clearly articulating its opposition to destabilising force, or it can drift, incrementally, into an axis defined more by strategic expediency than balanced statecraft. The choice will shape not only India's West Asia policy, but its global identity as a rising power that claims to speak for stability, sovereignty and the Global South. In geopolitics, timing is policy.

The author is the head of the research and human rights department of Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR). She can be reached at: mehr_dua@yahoo.com and on X @MHHRsays

Pak statistician offers services to B'desh Cricket Board

Sports Desk

LAHORE: In a notable development aimed at strengthening cricketing ties between Pakistan and Bangladesh, veteran statistician Ghalib Bajwa has offered his expertise to the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB). Bajwa, a Lahore-based sports writer and statistician with over three decades of experience, expressed his willingness to contribute innovative statistical insights to enhance the passion for cricket among Bangladesh's younger generation.



Bajwa emphasized that his exclusive collection of cricket statistics could provide Bangladesh with a competitive edge over rivals such as India. He explained that his work would cover domestic first-class, one-day, and T20 competitions for both men and women, introducing unique statistical compilations that have never been formally documented before. "These attractive stats will definitely create an urge among the young Bangladeshi cricketers to further polish and improve their playing techniques," he said.

Highlighting the broader context, Bajwa noted that both Pakistan and Bangladesh possess immense cricketing potential and should collaborate to counter India's dominance in multiple fields, particularly in cricket analytics. He described statistics as the "backbone of the game" and stressed their role in shaping strategies and inspiring players.

Bajwa also praised the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) under Chairman Mohsin Naqvi for extending support to Bangladesh in its strained relations with India. He pointed out that Pakistan has acted as an "elder brother" in offering solidarity, especially after Bangladesh raised concerns about security threats during T20 World Cup matches scheduled in India.

15-member squad announced for Bangladesh series

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board has named a 15-member ODI squad for the three-match series with Bangladesh scheduled to take place in Bangladesh from 11 to 15 March. All three ODIs will be played at the Shere Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka.

Left-arm pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi will continue to lead the ODI side, with six uncapped players included in the squad. The uncapped players are Abdul Samad, Maaz Sadaqat, Muhammad Ghazi Ghorri, Saad Masood, Sahibzada Farhan and Shamyul Hussain.

Among them, Abdul Samad, Maaz Sadaqat, Saad Masood and Shamyul Hussain were part of the Pakistan Shaheens squad that played against England Lions in Abu Dhabi recently.

15-member squad: Shaheen Shah Afridi (captain), Abdul Samad, Abrar Ahmed, Faheem Ashraf, Faisal Akram, Haris Rauf, Hussain Talat, Maaz Sadaqat, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Mohammad Wasim Jnr, Muhammad Ghazi Ghorri (wk), Saad Masood, Sahibzada Farhan, Salman Ali Agha and Shamyul Hussain

Series schedule: March 8 - Pakistan arrival March 10 - Practice March 11 - First ODI at Shere Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Dhaka March 13 - Second ODI at Shere Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Dhaka March 15 - Third ODI at Shere Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Dhaka



Pakistan qualifies for top 8 of 2026 Asia Oceania Pre-Qualifying Event-ITF World Frs Competition

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has qualified for the top 8 at the 2026 Asia Oceania Pre-Qualifying Event-ITF World Juniors Competition, at NovaWorld Phan Thiet, Vietnam.

According to details, Pakistan defeated Nepal 2-1 to secure a place in the Top 8. Seeded 6th in the event, Pakistan topped their group (F) after a strong performance in the group stage and successfully qualified for the quarterfinals (last 8).

The decisive doubles match showcased remarkable fighting spirit by the Pakistani girls. They won the first set convincingly 6-0. In the second set, they were trailing 1-3 but made a strong comeback to win it 6-4, sealing the tie 2-1 in Pakistan's favor.

Cabinet Body Reviews Energy Supply Situation

Continued from Page 1

The meeting was attended by Federal Minister for Petroleum Mr. Ali Pervaiz Malik, Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Mr. Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister for Power Mr. Sardar Awaiz Ahmad Khan Leghari, Minister of State for Finance Mr. Bilal Azhar Kayani, along with federal secretaries and senior officials from the concerned ministries, divisions, and regulatory bodies.

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Meeting with Ambassador of Netherlands

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb holding a meeting with H. E. Mr. Robert Jan Siegert, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Pakistan, along with representatives of Engro Corporation and Engro Vopak Terminal Limited, at the Finance Division on Wednesday..



Photo: PID

Finance Minister Reaffirms Pakistan-Netherlands Economic Cooperation

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb today met H. E. Mr. Robert Jan Siegert, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Pakistan, who called on him along with a delegation from Engro Corporation and Engro Vopak Terminal Limited (EVTL). The delegation included Mr. Ahsan Zafar Syed, President Engro Corpo-

ration; Mr. Ammar Shah, CEO EVTL; and Mr. Yasir Ali, Vice President & Chief Government Relations Officer, Engro Corporation.

Welcoming the delegation, the Finance Minister underscored the importance Pakistan attaches to strengthening economic cooperation with the Netherlands. He noted that long-standing partnerships with reputable international investors contribute positively to Pakistan's economic

development, facilitate trade and investment, and reinforce confidence within the global business community.

The Dutch Ambassador thanked the Finance Minister for the opportunity to engage and reaffirmed the Netherlands' commitment to further expanding bilateral economic ties. He highlighted the presence of Dutch enterprises in Pakistan and emphasized that successful partnerships between Pakistani and Dutch

companies demonstrate the potential for deeper economic collaboration between the two countries.

During the meeting, the Engro team briefed the Finance Minister on the operations of Engro Vopak Terminal Limited, a joint venture between Royal Vopak of the Netherlands and Engro Corporation.

The meeting also included an exchange of views on the evolving regional situation

and its potential implications for energy markets and supply chains. The Finance Minister noted that the Government is closely monitoring developments and remains engaged with relevant stakeholders to ensure adequate availability of petroleum products and to manage potential supply challenges. The delegation shared general industry perspectives on logistics and supply considerations amid international market volatility.

Pak Forces effectively handling the situation, says Abdul Aleem Khan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Kashmir Committee & Member of the National Assembly Rana Qasim Noon, Speaker of the Punjab Assembly Malik Ahmad Khan and Minister of State Malik Rasheed Ahmad Khan separately held meetings with Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan in Islamabad. The meetings involved detailed discussions on the current political and national situation of the country, the challenges being faced and matters related to national stability.

During the meetings, Federal Minister for Communications & President of the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party, Abdul Aleem Khan stated that the country is currently facing a complex situation



while the entire region is passing through uncertain circumstances. He emphasized that national unity and harmony are essential to effectively address the challenges confronting Pakistan. Abdul Aleem Khan

expressed satisfaction that the Pakistan Armed Forces are competently handling the situation at the borders and stated that the nation has complete confidence in its military leadership and brave Chief of Defence Forces. He

stressed that the need of the hour is to rise above mutual differences and adopt a joint course of action in the national interest. Chairman Kashmir Committee Rana Qasim Noon, Speaker Punjab Assembly Malik Ahmad Khan

and Minister of State Malik Rasheed Ahmad Khan also held detailed discussions with Abdul Aleem Khan, terming national unity, political stability and mutual cooperation indispensable under the prevailing circumstances.

COAS visits Wana to review operational preparedness along Western border

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) and Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), IJ visited Wana in South Waziristan to review the prevailing security situation and operational preparedness along the Western border.

COAS visits Wana to review operational preparedness along Western border

The Field Marshal laid a floral wreath at the Shuhada Monument to pay homage to the martyrs who rendered supreme sacrifices in defence of the motherland, said a news release issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR).

The Field Marshal offered Fateha and reaffirmed that the sacrifices of Shuhada remain the cornerstone of Pakistan's security and resilience.

During the visit, the Field Marshal was given a comprehensive briefing on the security environment, ongoing intelligence-based operations and



measures in place for border management, the news release said.

The Field Marshal was briefed in detail regarding ongoing Operation Ghazab Lil Haq and developments along Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir interacted with the officers and troops deployed in forward areas, commending their unwavering professionalism, operational vigilance, and high morale during the ongoing skir-

mishes. He lauded their steadfast commitment to safeguarding Pakistan's sovereignty and ensuring peace and stability in the region.

The Field Marshal emphasised that use of Afghan soil by Fitna al Khawarij and Fitna al Hindustan for acts of terrorism against Pakistan was unacceptable and all necessary measures would be taken to neutralize the threat emanating from across the border.

The Field Marshal reiterated that peace could only prevail between both sides if the Afghan Taliban renounced their support for terrorism and terrorist organisations.

Appreciating the Pakistan Army's operational preparedness, the Field Marshal expressed full confidence in the combat readiness, synergy, and resilience of the formations deployed along Pakistan-Afghanistan Border.

Upon arrival, the Field Marshal was received by the Corps Commander Peshawar.

PM strongly condemns Israel's aggression against Lebanon



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday held a telephone conversation with Prime Minister of Lebanon Nawaf Salam and condemned, in the strongest terms, Israel's aggression against Lebanon.

During the discussion, the prime minister conveyed deep condolences over the loss of precious lives due to Israeli attacks and reaffirmed Pakistan's solidarity with the Lebanese people, according to a press release issued by the PM House.

While recalling the longstanding brotherly ties between Pakistan and

Lebanon, he assured the Lebanese leadership of Pakistan's full support for Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and offered to play a constructive role in peace efforts.

The two leaders also exchanged views over the recent escalation in the region, following Israel's attacks on Iran and subsequent retaliatory strikes on brotherly Gulf countries. They agreed on the need for de-escalation and restoration of peace in the region, at the earliest.

Prime Minister Nawaf Salam thanked Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the people of Pakistan for their expression of solidarity with Lebanon at this difficult time.

Malaysian HC signs Condolence Book on the Demise of Iran's Supreme Leader



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: His Excellency Ambassador Dato' Mohammad Azhar Mazlan, High Commissioner of Malaysia to Pakistan, signed the Book of Condolence at the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Islamabad following the passing of Ali Khamenei, Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Ambassador Azhar conveyed Malaysia's deepest condolences and sympathies to the Government and people of Iran during this solemn moment of national mourning. He acknowledged the significant role played by the late Supreme Leader in shaping Iran's political direction and regional posture over several

decades.

In light of the current regional climate, the High Commissioner also underscored Malaysia's consistent position in advocating restraint, dialogue and peaceful resolution of disputes. He expressed hope that calm and stability would prevail across the Middle East during this sensitive transition period, noting that developments in Iran carry broader implications to peace and security of the region and beyond.

Malaysia remains committed to constructive engagement with Iran and the international community, guided by the principles of mutual respect and non-interference, while respecting nations' sovereignty and territorial integrity.

NAB Promotes Three Grade-20 Officers to Grade-21

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Following the recommendations of the Selection Committee and approval of the Chairman NAB, three senior officers of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) have been promoted from Grade-20 to Grade-21 as Director General (DG).

The details of the promoted officers are as follows:

* Muhammad Amir Butt: Following his promotion from Grade-20 to Grade-21, he remains posted as Director General, NAB (Sukkur).

* Muhammad Tahir: Formerly Director NAB (Headquarters), he has been promoted to Grade-21 and posted as Director General at NAB (Headquarters).

* Ghulam Safdar Shah: DG (PACA) has been promoted from Grade-20 to Grade-21 and will continue his services as Director General, PACA.

Israeli army orders residents of southern Lebanon to head north

Wafa

BEIRUT: Lebanese media said that the Israeli army ordered residents of southern Lebanon to immediately head north of the Litani River.

Israeli warplanes also launched heavy airstrikes on various areas in Lebanon, resulting in deaths, injuries, and the destruction of dozens of buildings and infrastructure.

Israeli warplanes targeted the city of Baalbek and the towns of Buday and Shamshtar in the Bekaa Valley, where the airstrikes resulted in eight deaths and several injuries.

Israeli warplanes also launched airstrikes on the southern suburbs of Beirut, the towns of Aramoun, Hazmieh, and Saadiyat in Mount Lebanon, and the towns of Beit Leef, Tayr Falsay, Majadel, Houla, Shaqra, Jmeijeh, Safad al-Batikh, and Zrariah in southern Lebanon.