



# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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## Ishaq Dar visits Data Darbar shrine, reviews expansion project

Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar on Sunday visited Data Darbar, where he was welcomed by Secretary Auqaf and Chief Administrator Punjab Dr. Ehsan Bhatta. On this occasion, During the visit of Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, administrator of Data Darbar Muhammad Ali Khan was also with him.



## AJK PM felicitates newly elected UK-Pakistan CCI President Azam Rachiya

AJK premier stated that Rachiya's appointment was not only recognition of his personal capabilities and services but also a matter of pride for the overseas Pakistani community. He expressed the hope that Mr. Rachiya would play an active role in promoting investment between the UK, Pakistan, and AJK.

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## Israeli aggression

GAZA: The death toll from the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip has reached 72,292, with 172,073 injured, since the start of the assault on October 7, 2023, medical sources in Gaza reported on Sunday.



Photo: Wafa

## 796 Afghan Taliban killed, 1,043 injured in Operation Ghazab Lil Haq: Tarar



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Sunday said that 796 militants linked to Fitna al-Khawarij and the Afghan Taliban have been killed so far during Operation Ghazab Lil Haq.

In a statement shared on X, the minister provided an update on the operation, stating that over 1,043 mili-

tants have also been injured. He added that security forces have destroyed 286 check posts and captured 44 others, significantly weakening militant infrastructure.

According to Tarar, 249 tanks, armoured vehicles, artillery guns, and drones have been destroyed during the ongoing operation. He further said that 81 terrorist and support locations across Afghanistan have been effectively targeted through air strikes.

Highlighting a recent engagement, the minister said that on the night of April 2-3, an attempted attack on a border post in the Ghulam Khan sector by militants was successfully foiled, resulting in up to 37 militants killed and more than 80 injured.

## Govt launches targeted transport subsidy to contain inflation: Shaza Fatima

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja Sunday said that the targeted subsidy for transport vehicles is aimed at preventing a rise in fares and containing inflation driven by increasing diesel prices.

Speaking at a press conference alongside State Minister for Railways Bilal Azhar Kayani, said that it would cover vehicles linked to public transport and goods delivery as part of broader efforts to shield the public from the impact of rising fuel prices.

She said the subsidy would apply to buses, trucks, wagons, vans, and motorcycles registered with relevant excise and taxation authorities.

The minister said the deci-

sion was taken under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif after consultations with provincial governments and stakeholders.

She added that global economic pressures and currency depreciation had forced the government to move away from blanket subsidies toward a targeted relief mechanism focusing on vulnerable and middle-income groups.

She said transport vehicles were a key component of the supply chain, adding that any increase in diesel prices directly affected food inflation and the cost of essential commodities.

"To ensure that transport costs and fares do not rise, the federal and provincial governments have jointly introduced a structured subsidy system," she added.

# PM reviews fuel subsidy measures, vows continued public relief amid economic challenges

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday said that the government is taking, and will continue to take, all possible measures to provide relief to the public during these challenging times.

He expressed these views while chairing a meeting to review progress on the implementation of government sub-

sidies on petroleum products amid recent regional tensions. The meeting was briefed on the progress of subsidy provision, as well as on the country's fuel reserves and consumption.

The Prime Minister stated that passenger buses are being provided a monthly subsidy of Rs. 100,000, while minibuses and wagons are receiving Rs. 40,000 per month to prevent an increase in fares.

To control the rise in prices of essential food items, trucks are being given Rs. 70,000, large freight vehicles Rs. 80,000, and delivery vans Rs. 35,000 per month as subsidy, he added.

He said that to ensure transparency, these amounts are being disbursed through digital wallets.

The Prime Minister directed the immediate release of subsidy funds, which has

already begun since yesterday.

Although the subsidy was scheduled to be provided from Monday, it was initiated on Saturday, a public holiday, on his special instructions.

The Prime Minister said that a public relief package worth Rs. 129 billion has been provided over the past three weeks, adding that the government cannot leave the public alone in this difficult time.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar, federal ministers Dr. Musadik Malik, Attaullah Tarar, Ali Pervaiz Malik, Ahmad Khan Cheema, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Ahsan Iqbal, Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Minister of State Bilal Azhar Kayani, special assistants Talha Burki and Tariq Bajwa, DG IB, and other senior officials.

## Hajj 2026 flights begin from April 18 with exemplary arrangements



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs, Sardar Muhammad Yousuf, announced on Sunday that Hajj 2026 arrangements are fully prepared with no extra cost for 180,000 pilgrims, including 120,000 government and 60,000 private, with flights starting from April 18 with exemplary arrangements and a new Lahore route added to existing services.

While exclusively speaking with PTV News in Riyadh, the Federal Minister stated that all arrangements for Hajj 2026 are being completed efficiently with no extra cost.

He announced that a total of 180,000 pilgrims will perform Hajj this year, including 120,000 under the government quota and 60,000 through private arrangements, ensuring fair access for all eligible pilgrims. Highlighting improvements for this year, he revealed a new Lahore-to-Saudi Arabia route to facilitate easier travel for pilgrims, while flights from other cities will continue as scheduled.

## Naqvi visits Raiwind Tablighi Markaz, praises Jamaat's role in promoting peace

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday visited the international Tablighi Markaz at Raiwind road Lahore to meet senior leaders of Tablighi Jamaat and exchanged views on matters related to religious gatherings and facilitation of foreign delegations.

During the visit, he met Maulana Amjad Farooq, Maulana Aamir, Anwar Ghani, Imtiaz Ghani, Maulana Mudassar Shaheen and others, and also held meetings with visiting religious scholars and elders from India and Bangladesh.

The interior minister appreciated the services and efforts of the Tablighi Jamaat leadership in the propagation and promotion of Islam, saying their role in spreading the message of faith

was commendable and spiritually meaningful. He also lauded their contribution towards promoting unity, religious awareness and positive engagement among Muslim communities.

Delegates from Bangladesh also invited the interior minister to attend the upcoming international Tablighi congregation in



their country.

The interior minister assured full cooperation for the annual congregation and said that complete facilitation would continue for foreign delegations in visa processing, adding that special counters would once again be established at airports this year.

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# Shahbaz Sharif fulfills key demand of Mangla victims with historic bridge project



**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

MIRPUR: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON Engineer Amir Muqam has said that Rathua Haryam Bridge is the longest bridge in Pakistan, in the construction of which Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif took personal interest and fulfilled the important historical demand of the Mangla Dam victims.

Kashmir and especially Mirpur Division on the completion of this historic project. This bridge will play an important role in the beauty and development of tourism in the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Tourists from outside the world will come to see this masterpiece project. Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif will inaugurate this historic project himself in May. The construction and development of Azad Jammu and Kashmir

and Gilgit-Baltistan are among the priorities of our government. Without any demand, Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif gifted four international standard Danish schools in Azad Kashmir and gave free laptops to talented students.

For the economic development of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Manshera-Muzaffarabad-Mirpur Expressway will be built soon and Mirpur will be linked to the main motorway. In the upcoming elections of Azad

Kashmir, only one party member will be elected from each constituency will get the ticket, all other candidates should support the ticket holder and make the lion election symbol successful, the armed forces of Pakistan under the leadership of Chief of Defense Forces Field Marshal General Syed Asim Munir and Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif defeated India, a country 10 times stronger than them. After May 10, a new Pakistan has emerged on the world map.



MUZAFFARABAD: President Muslim Conference Sardar Atiq Ahmed Khan condoles with her brother Malik Shahzad and other family members on the death of PTV Director Shazia Malik. Photo: Spokesman

## AJK Commemorates 47th Martyrdom Anniversary of Bhutto with Passionate Tributes



**Bureau Report**

MUZAFFARABAD: The 47th martyrdom anniversary of the founding chairman of the Pakistan People's Party, the first elected Prime Minister of the beloved Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Prime Minister Quaid-e-Awam Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, was celebrated with great devotion, respect and ideological enthusiasm in all four provinces of Azad Kashmir. The morning began with the recitation of the Holy Quran and the recitation of Fateha in the mosques and homes, and tributes were paid to his eternal struggle and exemplary services in wonderful words. Talking to the media after the prayer ceremony on the occasion of the death anniversary of Quaid-e-Awam Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, the party's Central Deputy Secretary for Information, candidate for Assembly Constituency Seven, Spokesperson for the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, Shaukat Javed Mir, strongly demanded that President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Mian Shahbaz Sharif and Chief of Defense Forces Hafiz Syed Asim Munir declare Quaid-e-Awam Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto a national martyr to implement the decision of the Supreme Court of Pakistan and take legal action against those who overthrew the elected people's government by violating the constitution under Article Six of the Constitution. Tributes were paid in splendid words to the nuclear program, the unified Islamic constitution, the excellent foreign and Kashmir policies, and confidence was expressed in the performance of the PPP government, led by Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, in restoring the people's rule and initiating construction and development projects during its short tenure in power, and in promoting the ideology of stability of Pakistan. In response to a question, he said that Shaheed Bhutto was the voice of the people, the architect of the dreams of a just society and a symbol of courage and perseverance.

## Security alert

ISLAMABAD: A security personals stand alert outside St. Thomas' Church, during Easter Sunday mass commemorating the resurrection of Jesus, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online Sultan Bashir

# AJK PM Rathore cites political restoration, development as key achievements

**Spokesman Report**

LAHORE: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, has said that the restoration of political activities in the region and renewed public trust in the democratic system were among the major achievements of his government.

He made these remarks while speaking to a group of senior journalists and anchorpersons during his visit to Lahore. The Prime Minister noted that uncertainty among the people of Azad Kashmir has significantly decreased due to ongoing development initiatives, adding that a new era of progress and prosperity has begun in the region.

"During the last five months, several development projects have been launched aimed at providing basic



facilities, improving infrastructure, and raising the standard of living of the people," he said.

Public service and good governance are the core principles of his government", prime minister Rathore said adding that concrete measures were being taken to address key challenges

through effective governance and improved service delivery. He further stated that special funds have been allocated to uplift backward and underdeveloped areas.

Referring to Pakistan Peoples Party, he said the party has always struggled for the rights and welfare of the

people. "The Peoples Party understands the pulse of the people, which is why it continues to enjoy their confidence," he remarked. Reaffirming his government's commitment, the Prime Minister said that stability, development, and prosperity remain the top priorities of his government.

## Multan administration under fire after rickshaw cylinder blast kills three, injures 14

**Special Correspondent**

MULTAN: A tragic explosion caused by a gas cylinder in a moving rickshaw on Muzaffargarh Road has claimed the lives of three people and left 14 others injured, raising serious concerns over safety regulations and administrative negligence in the city.

According to rescue officials, all passengers in the rickshaw belonged to the same family. The cylinder suddenly exploded while the vehicle was in motion, triggering a fire that quickly engulfed the rickshaw, resulting in multiple casualties.

The incident has once again highlighted the growing and dangerous trend of using gas cylinders in rickshaws, along with the unchecked rise in illegal petrol sales across Multan. Reports indicate that such hazardous practices continue openly, particularly in densely populated areas, without effective intervention from authorities.

In areas such as Shah Shams police jurisdiction, illegal petrol sales are reportedly widespread. Fuel is being sold openly—often under the branding of multinational companies—and stored in residential homes, posing severe risks to public safety. Despite previous incidents and loss of lives, law enforcement agencies have been accused of negligence and lack of seriousness in addressing the issue.

The Multan administration is facing criticism for failing to ensure the protection of citizens' lives and property. There are growing calls for Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif to take immediate notice of the situation, investigate how gas cylinders are being installed in rickshaws, and clamp down on the illegal sale and storage of petrol.

## Mayor Kashif Ali Shoro holds weekly open kacheri, citizens present grievances

**Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi**

In Hyderabad, Mayor Kashif Ali Shoro held his weekly open kacheri, where a large number of citizens participated and presented their issues.

The Mayor directed the officials present on the occasion to resolve public issues on a priority basis and stated that no negligence would be tolerated in this regard.

He further said that the open kacheri is held every week on a regular basis, where complaints from citizens across the city are heard and practical steps are taken to resolve them, ensuring public relief.

# Hattian Bala Rally pledges unwavering sacrifice for Khatm-e-Nabuwat beliefs

HATTIAN BALA: Protection of the Name of the Prophet (PBUH) and Crowned Khatm-e-Nabuwat Conference was held at the District Headquarters Hattian Bala, attended by thousands of lovers of the Prophet (PBUH).

The space was filled with slogans of Khatm-e-Nabuwat, Zindabad, the belief in Khatm-e-Nabuwat is the fulfillment of our faith, protecting the name of the Prophet (PBUH) is the duty of all Muslims, no compromise can be made on the name of the

Prophet (PBUH), we will sacrifice everything for the name of the Prophet (PBUH).

According to the details, the Protection of the Name of the Prophet (PBUH) and Crowned Khatm-e-Nabuwat Conference was held in the premises of Boys High School Hattian Bala under the auspices of Anjuman Ghulam Syeda Zahra (PBUH) and the Central Seerat Committee of Jhelum Valley District, which was chaired by Sajjada Nashin Darbar Alia Sikandariya Sahib-

zada Pir Syed Fayyaz Hussain Kazmi. While the conference was led by the President of the Central Seerat Committee Allama Qazi Muhammad Ibrahim Chishti, Founder and General Secretary of the Central Seerat Committee Syed Ehsan Gilani. All schools of thought, scholars, sheikhs and the public participated in the conference.

The conference was attended by Ameer Jamaat Ahle Sunnat Azad Kashmir Allama Pir Syed Ishaq Naqvi, Minister of

Education Diwan Ali Khan Chughtai, Minister of Government Chaudhry Muhammad Rashid, Professor Syed Shabbir Naqvi, Sahibzada Ajmal Irfan Danish, Former Administrator District Council Muhammad Farid Khan, Tehsil Mufti Muzaffarabad Mufti Fahad Chishti, Kamran Khan Assistant Commissioner Hattian Bala, Chairman Municipality Sajawal Khan, President Anjuman Tajran Jhelum Valley Syed Faisal Gilani, Hafit Mushtaq Qadri, Qari



Muhammad Arif Abbasi, Qari Zahoor Ahmed Faizi, Syed Zia Hamdani, President Teacher Middle School Dabar Keelan, Syed Salam Gilani Hafiz Ashraf Qudloosi, Naib Tehsildar Muzaffarabad Ayaz Chughtai, Syed Riaz Hamdani, Sahibzada Zahidul Islam, Teachers of Jamia Sikandariya, Anjuman Tajran

Jhelum Valley, all organizations of Ahle Sunnat, media members, political and social leaders and a large number of public attended the conference.

The organizing committee Jawad Shafiq Mughal, Muhammad Faisal Abbasi, Allama Imran Tabassum, Allama Ghazanfar Qadri, Allama Afzal

Hassan and all the youth of Anjuman Ghulam Syeda Zahra and the Central Seerat conference, Sajjada Nashin Darbar Alia Sikandariya Sahibzada Pir Syed Fayyaz Hussain Kazmi offered special prayers for the security and stability of the country and the nation, and the freedom of Kashmir and Palestine.

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**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr	4:25 am
Zohr	12:11 pm
Asr	4:43 pm
Maghrib	6:31 pm
Isha	7:57 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

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

**DEPARTMENTS**

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

# CM Punjab initiative ‘Expensive Fuel, Affordable Relief’: Free Public Transport wins public praise

**Bureau Report**

LAHORE: On the directions of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Provincial Transport Minister Bilal Akbar Khan visited various metro

bus stations to review the provision of free public transport facilities introduced to provide relief from rising fuel prices. During the visit, he inspected passenger amenities and interacted with commuters to gather feedback

on the initiative.

Passengers expressed satisfaction and appreciation for the free travel facility, paying tribute to Maryam Nawaz Sharif for timely relief measures.



Many commuters also requested the addition of more buses to accommodate the increasing demand.

Bilal Akbar Khan expressed satisfaction over the implementation of the initiative and directed transport authorities to promptly address any issues faced by passengers in the field.

He remarked that the Chief Minister's decision to provide free travel has won the hearts of the public and once again demonstrated her commitment as a people-centric leader.

He noted that there is an extraordinary rush on public transport systems including the Lahore Metrobus, Speedo Bus Service, Lahore Orange Line Metro Train, and Green Electric Buses, as citizens increasingly prefer public transport over private vehicles.

The initiative, particularly the green electric bus project, is playing a significant role in providing comfortable and free travel facilities to millions of people across Punjab, offering much-needed relief amid high fuel costs.

## Happy Easter

ISLAMABAD: Christian attend Easter Sunday mass commemorating the resurrection of Jesus at the Fatima Church, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

### Gharib Awam Party Head Blames Decades of Democracy for Crushing Debt on Poor



**News Desk**

KARACHI: Chairman and head of the Pakistan Gharib Awam Party, Syed Arshad Hussain, while addressing a meeting of party leaders, said that ever since so-called democracy was restored in 1985, the poor people of this country have not been able to breathe in peace. He said that the cycle of taking loans from the IMF, World Bank and other international institutions and countries that began at that time continues to this day. All governments and rulers who have come to power since then have taken loans and placed unbearable economic and financial burdens on the people, effectively squeezing the lifeblood of the poor. Citing a handful of symbolic measures, he said that no significant reduction has ever been made in unnecessary government expenditures or privileges. Arshad Hussain further stated that the public is not responsible for the loans taken from the IMF. These loans should be repaid by the rulers, parliamentarians, bureaucracy and all other relevant institutions themselves. The treasury of an indebted nation cannot bear any further strain; those who incurred the burden must now bear it themselves.

## Roundtable Explores Practical, Child-Centred Solutions to Reduce School Dropout in Pakistan

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: With millions of children in Pakistan still out of school, and many more at risk of dropping out, a roundtable in Islamabad brought together policymakers and practitioners to explore practical, child-centred solutions that help children not only access education, but stay and thrive within it.

Hosted by Cities for Children with support from the Malala Fund, the event titled “Inspired Education: Investing in Creative Strategies to Reduce Dropout” created space for



meaningful dialogue on how to strengthen education systems in the face of ongoing economic constraints.

The roundtable was attended by MNA Ms. Shaista Pervez Malik, Convener of the SDGs Secretariat, Parliamentary Secretary for Education

Ms. Rabia Naseem Farooqi, and Parliamentary Secretary Barrister Danyal Chaudhry, alongside representatives from the education ministry, the non-formal education sector, BISP, and development partners including JICA.

According to Madeeha

Ansari, Founder and CEO of Cities for Children, “This event is an opportunity to move beyond focusing only on the challenges, and instead highlight both pragmatic and creative solutions that are already supporting vulnerable children. These approaches deserve greater visibility and sustained investment.”

Ms. Anam Akram from the Malala Fund highlighted the importance of recognising how barriers to education are often layered, particularly for girls, and the need for targeted, thoughtful interventions.

### Rubina Kausar’s Message

Landmines and explosive remnants of war remain a silent, invisible threat that continues to haunt post-conflict regions, long after the echoes of gunfire have faded. As the global community marks the International Day for Mine Awareness on April 4th, we are reminded that “Mine Action” is not merely a technical clearance process it is a humanitarian imperative that paves the way for peace and sustainable development.

For a nation like Pakistan, which has faced the brunt of unconventional security challenges, the presence of unexploded ordnance (UXO) in border regions and former conflict zones is a barrier to progress. These hidden killers do not discriminate, they claim the lives of innocent children playing, farmers tilling their land and livestock the backbone of rural economies.

Furthermore, the integration of survivors back into the socio-economic fold is a debt we owe. True “Mine Action” means ensuring that a cleared field becomes a school, a hospital or a farm. On this day, let us renew our resolve to support the brave demining teams and advocate for a future where every step taken by a child is a step taken in safety. A mine-free world is not a luxury, it is a fundamental right.



### CUI and INTI Malaysia sign strategic MoU to advance academic excellence

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) and INTI International University, Malaysia, signed an MoU, through a virtual signing ceremony held on Thursday. The ceremony was witnessed by Mr.



Mohammed Syafiq Firdaus Bin Hasbullah, Deputy Head of Mission and Counsellor at the High Commission of Malaysia in Islamabad, alongside COMSATS University Islamabad’s senior management led by Prof. Dr. Raheel Qamar, Rector CUI.

In the presence of Rector CUI, Dr. Raheel Qamar the MoU was signed by Professor Dr. Goh Khang Wen, INTI’s Pro Vice-Chancellor, and Dr. Fahim A. Qureshi, Registrar, CUI, on behalf of their respective universities.

In his remarks, Prof. Dr. Raheel Qamar, T. I., Rector CUI, highlighted the implementation of CUI’s AI-driven governance and paperless electronic filing system, which has processed over 12,000 e-files across seven campuses in three months.

### NTU Faisalabad Successfully Holds Entry Test for Academic Year 2026-27

**Abdul Majid**

FAISALABAD: The National Textile University (NTU) Faisalabad successfully conducted its entry test for admissions to the academic year 2026-27 on Sunday. Nearly 1,000 students from across the country participated in the test.



The university’s Rector/Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Rashid Masood, visited the examination centres and reviewed the arrangements. He praised Director of Admissions, Dr. Naseer Ahmed, and his entire team for ensuring top-notch facilities and transparent, fair monitoring.

Also present on the occasion were other officials, including Chairman Department of Clothing Dr. Muhammad Qamar Khan, Registrar Salman Saif, Convener of Applied Sciences Dr. Fayyaz Ahmed, Assistant Director of Admissions Shakeel Ahmed Gujjar, Security Officer Muhammad Naeem Ahmed, and Public Relations Officer Sardar Pervez Akhtar.

It is noteworthy that the National Textile University is regarded as a pioneer and one of the most renowned textile universities in the country. Students here are often offered jobs in leading textile industries as early as the eighth semester, which generates a high level of enthusiasm among candidates seeking admission. After the test, students expressed that the questions were of a high standard and aligned with their coursework, and that the university administration ensured transparency and provided every possible facility.

## A Journalist’s Journey: From Negatives to a Book Launch with the Bhutto Family

In January 2022, I received a call from Bilawal House that BB Aseefa Bhutto Zardari wished to meet me, and that I should bring along childhood pictures of Aseefa Bibi, Bakhtawar Bibi, and Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. At the appointed time, Aseefa Bibi sent her car to pick me up from the dilapidated area of my Lines Area. My son Mohsin Hassan was with me. Upon reaching Bilawal House, Bibi’s secretary, Zaid Aziz, welcomed us. As we approached the younger Bibi waiting in the lawn with her, Mohtarma Sanam Bhutto (younger and only sister of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto) was also present. She stood up with immense joy, came towards me, held my hand, and said to Aseefa, “He has forgotten us.” Aseefa Bibi very respectfully thanked me for coming. I introduced my son, and we soon got lost in nostalgic



conversations with Sanam Bibi.

After a while, I handed three USB sticks to Aseefa Bibi, saying, “These are some pictures of you three (Shaheed Bibi’s children).” Sanam Bibi asked,

“Where are my pictures?” I replied, “When did you ever get your pictures taken? Whenever I would point my camera at you sitting with Begum Sahiba and Benazir, you would get up and run

away.” She laughed and said, “Do you know how far away from politics I used to keep myself?”

Aseefa Bibi thanked me for the pictures. I told her I was working on a book about Benazir Bhutto. She was very pleased and asked when they could see the book. I told her I had a plan to launch it on Benazir’s birthday that year. Aseefa Bibi and Sanam Bibi expressed their joy and said they would wait. Some parts of my book were still to be written, which I completed. For the first edit, I gave the manuscript to my colleague at Musawat, Mahnaz Rehman. She refined it, corrected the diacritics, etc., and returned it to me after a few days. For the second edit, I asked Mr. Muhammad Amir Hussaini for his help. He created the headlines for each chapter and compiled the list of all chapters.

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## After Iran, a Regime Change in the USA

The most consequential development in the ongoing conflict is not unfolding in the skies over Iran or the waters of the Gulf—it is unfolding inside the Pentagon. In the middle of an active war, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth abruptly removed Army Chief of Staff Randy George along with other senior officers, triggering one of the most destabilizing leadership purges in modern U.S. military history. At a moment that demands continuity, coordination, and institutional stability, Washington has instead projected disruption, uncertainty, and internal fracture.

This purge did not go unnoticed. Iran immediately seized the moment and transformed it into a powerful instrument of narrative warfare. Through its diplomatic channels, including messaging amplified by the Iranian Embassy in South Africa, Tehran mocked Washington with a blunt and calculated taunt: the “regime change” that the United States had long claimed to be engineering in Iran had now taken place within America itself. Images of dismissed U.S. generals were circulated with captions implying that Washington had become the victim of its own doctrine. The message was clear—while the United States spoke of dismantling Iran’s command structure, its own command hierarchy was being shaken from within.

This narrative shift coincided with a far more serious battlefield development. Iranian air defenses successfully downed three advanced U.S. aerial platforms, shattering the long-held assumption of uncontested American air superiority. For decades, U.S. military doctrine

has relied on dominance of the skies as the foundation of all subsequent operations. That dominance is no longer absolute. The downing of these aircraft is not merely a tactical loss—it is a strategic rupture.

The consequences unfold immediately across multiple layers. First, operational confidence is shaken; pilots can no longer assume safe penetration of hostile airspace. Second, mission planning becomes more cautious, reducing the tempo and effectiveness of air campaigns. Third, intelligence assumptions are exposed as flawed, revealing gaps in understanding Iran’s air defense capabilities. Fourth, political pressure mounts in Washington as high-value losses demand accountability. Fifth, allies begin to question the reliability of U.S. protection. Sixth, adversaries are emboldened, seeing that the technological gap can be contested. Seventh, escalation becomes more unpredictable, as each loss increases the pressure to respond more forcefully.

It is within this context that the Pentagon purge takes on deeper meaning. Leadership changes in wartime are rarely isolated decisions; they are often reactions to battlefield realities, intelligence failures, or strategic disagreements. The removal of top commanders, therefore, cannot be separated from the emerging operational setbacks. Whether driven by accountability, political loyalty, or internal conflict, the timing reinforces a perception of instability at the highest levels of

U.S. military command.

The escalation ladder now becomes the central question. With air superiority contested and leadership in flux, the United States faces a narrowing set of options. Continuing the air campaign carries increased risk. Expanding strikes invites broader regional retaliation. The final and most dangerous step—deploying ground forces—would fundamentally transform the conflict.

However, a ground invasion of Iran would not resemble conventional warfare. There would be no clearly defined frontlines, no visible massing of Iranian divisions waiting for engagement. Instead, the United States would encounter a form of warfare that is largely invisible, decentralized, and deeply embedded within terrain and population. Iranian strategy, shaped by decades of asymmetric doctrine, would avoid direct confrontation. There would be no large-scale battlefield for American forces to dominate—only a constant, elusive threat.

In such a scenario, U.S. troops could find themselves operating in an environment where the enemy is rarely seen but always present. Attacks would be selective, sudden, and dispersed. Supply lines, forward bases, and isolated units would become targets. The battlefield would extend beyond geography into psychology, where uncertainty and constant threat erode operational effectiveness. This is not a war of visibility—it is a war of perception and endurance.

The comparison with groups such

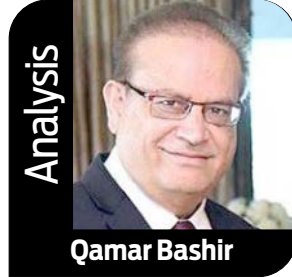
as Hamas and Hezbollah is instructive, though Iran operates at a far more sophisticated level. These groups have demonstrated how smaller forces can neutralize technological superiority through tunnel networks, decentralized command, and precision strikes. Iran’s capability extends this model into a state-level framework, combining conventional defenses with asymmetric tactics, cyber operations, and regional proxies.

What emerges is a battlefield where visibility is reversed. American forces, despite their technological advantage, become exposed targets within a complex and unfamiliar environment. Iranian forces, by contrast, remain largely concealed, choosing the timing and location of engagement. This inversion of visibility fundamentally alters the balance of power on the ground.

At the same time, the information war continues to amplify these realities. By linking the Pentagon purge with battlefield developments, Iran reinforces a narrative of American disarray—military setbacks abroad, leadership instability at home, and strategic confusion at the highest levels. Whether or not this perception fully reflects reality is secondary; its impact on global opinion and allied confidence is undeniable.

The United States now faces a convergence of pressures: operational challenges in the field, political scrutiny at home, and a rapidly shifting global perception of its strength. Each element feeds into the other, creating a cycle that is difficult to break. Military losses raise political questions. Political decisions create military uncertainty. Perception amplifies both.

*Continued on Page 7*



Analysis  
**Qamar Bashir**

## BJP’s ‘communal tactics’ cannot silence Muslim voices

Assam gears up for assembly elections on April 9, concerns are mounting over a controversial delimitation exercise that critics say is systematically marginalising the state’s 11 million Muslims of India through deliberate redrawing of electoral boundaries.

In Katigorah constituency, bordering Bangladesh, 55-year-old retired teacher Islam Uddin has long gone door-to-door urging fellow Muslims to cast their votes, emphasising the need to send representatives who can speak for their community.

“It’s about sending our representative to speak for us,” Islam Uddin said, though his enthusiasm is now overshadowed by deep worry about whether such efforts will yield any results.

The 2023 Election Commission order to redraw parliamentary and state legislature constituencies has dramatically altered the electoral landscape in Katigorah and across Assam.

Previously, the constituency had a near-equal split between Hindus and Muslims, allowing parties like Congress and All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) to field Muslim candidates, while BJP typically chose Hindu ones.

Now, around 40,000 Hindu voters from neighbouring areas have been merged into Katigorah, transforming it into a predominantly Hindu-majority seat. Former Katigorah legislator from Congress, Khalil Uddin Mazumder, highlighted the shift:

“The chances of electing a Muslim candidate from here have suffered significantly.” Major parties have accordingly chosen Hindu candidates for the seat.

This pattern is not isolated. Across Assam’s 126 legislative constituencies, boundary changes have raised fears of further political marginalisation of Muslims, who form over 34 percent of the state’s population – a proportion higher than in most Indian states except Jammu and Kashmir and Lakshadweep.

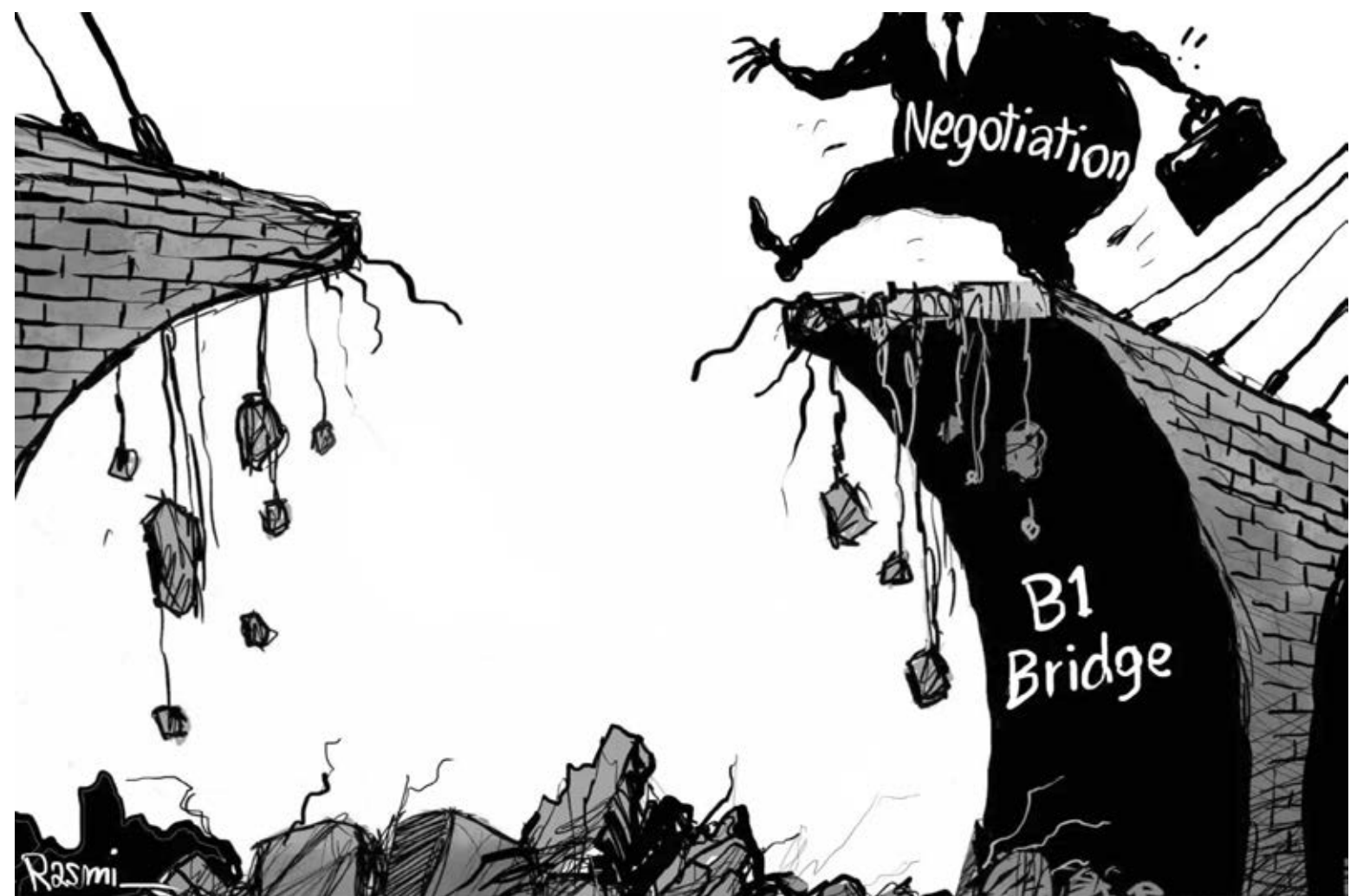
Prominent poll analyst Yogendra Yadav described the Assam delimitation as “communal gerrymandering” in The Indian Express, comparing it to historical racial gerrymandering in the United States.

He pointed to tactics of “cracking” – dispersing Muslim voters across multiple Hindu-majority constituencies to dilute their influence; “packing” – concentrating Muslim-dominated areas into fewer seats to limit the number of winnable Muslim constituencies; and “stacking” – merging Hindu population centres to create artificial majorities.

As a result, the number of Muslim-majority constituencies has reportedly dropped from about 35 to around 20, according to opposition leaders and experts.

Suprakash Talukdar, state secretary of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), explained: “Hindu areas from far-flung Muslim-dominated seats were merged into constituencies with mixed populations, while Muslims from majority seats were dispersed into Hindu-majority areas.”

Critics allege violations of the Election Commission’s own guidelines on contiguity and geographical features. Mazumder noted that Hindu areas from Badarpur, located far across the Barak River, were merged with Katigorah, despite natural barriers.



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

## Nobel Prize for Field Marshal General Asim Munir

Asim Munir is associated with a shift in national strategy and international diplomacy that prioritizes dialogue, de-escalation, and the preservation of human life over traditional military objectives, shaping leadership around stability rather than battlefield success. This approach has generated growing support for awarding him the Nobel Peace Prize, based on actions credited with preventing major conflicts. During Pakistan-India tensions, he directed a restrained and precise military response limited to military targets, avoiding civilian harm and containing escalation, with Donald Trump stating such decisions saved millions of lives given projections of possible war and nuclear escalation. He is also credited with mediating during U.S.-Iran tensions, facilitating dialogue between hostile sides and earning acknowledgment from both governments, demonstrating restraint, strategic communication, and the ability to build trust to prevent wider conflict. His efforts extend to participation in initiatives addressing the Gaza crisis, reflecting a willingness to engage in resolving deeply rooted global conflicts and signaling a broader international peace role.

Domestically, he has led a comprehensive strategy against terrorism that combines intelligence-based operations targeting militant networks with dismantling their support systems, promoting economic development, and strengthening national cohesion, resulting in improved security, reduced terrorism, revived economic activity, and restored public confidence. This dual focus on internal

stability and international harmony is reinforced through defense and foreign policy, including strategic partnerships with countries such as Saudi Arabia aimed at deterrence, collective security, and regional stability rather than aggression, emphasizing capacity building and cooperation against threats like extremism. The overall impact includes preventing escalation with India, mediating tensions between major powers, addressing global conflicts, reducing terrorism at home, and building peace-oriented alliances, leading to widespread recognition across global populations and policymakers that his leadership emphasizes dialogue, human dignity, and tangible outcomes such as lives saved, conflicts avoided, and gradual national recovery.

The people of Pakistan, who have long yearned for stability, security, and a respected place in the comity of nations, are at the forefront of this movement to see their leader recognized. They have witnessed, perhaps more intimately than anyone, the profound shift in their nation’s trajectory under his stewardship. They have seen the return of a sense of security, the beginnings of economic stabilization, and the restoration of Pakistan’s image as a nation committed to peace, a nation whose army, under a leader of unparalleled integrity and vision, is a force for regional and global stability. The demand from the Pakistani populace is not born of mere nationalism, but of a deep-seated conviction that the services rendered by their Field Marshal are of such immense and universal value that they deserve the highest recognition the world can bestow. They see, with clarity, that his leadership has not only saved Paki-

stani lives but has saved the lives of Indians, Iranians, Americans, and countless others who would have been caught in the crossfire of the conflicts he has helped to avert.

The case for awarding Field Marshal General Asim Munir the Nobel Peace Prize rests on a foundation of extraordinary, verifiable, and globally consequential achievements. It is a case built on the prevention of a nuclear war in South Asia, acknowledged by a former U.S. president as having saved millions of lives. It is strengthened by his pivotal, behind-the-scenes role in mediating between the United States and Iran, preventing a regional conflagration. It is reinforced by his willingness to engage with the intractable Gaza crisis, demonstrating a global commitment to peace. It is underscored by his relentless and highly effective efforts to eradicate terrorism and foster peace and prosperity within Pakistan. And it is validated by his strategic vision of using defense partnerships to build deterrence and stability, not to foment conflict. Whether viewed through the lens of domestic transformation or international statesmanship, the evidence is overwhelming and irrefutable: Field Marshal General Asim Munir is not merely an advocate for peace in the abstract; he is an active, indefatigable, and remarkably successful architect of peace in the concrete, dangerous, and complex world we inhabit. His work has brought tangible security to millions, and his vision offers a blueprint for how military leadership can be reimagined as a force for global harmony. It is for these unparalleled services to peace, both for his nation and for the world, that the Nobel Peace Prize is not only a fitting honor but a necessary acknowledgment of a leader who has so definitively proven that even in an age of conflict, the cause of peace can have a powerful and victorious champion.



Analysis  
**Abdul Basit Alvi**

## Teacher’s Role at Primary Classes: Facilitator, Educator or Psychologist?

Primary education is the foundation of a nation’s intellectual and social development. The early school years shape children’s thinking abilities, habits, attitudes, and emotional well-being. At this stage, learning extends beyond textbooks and examinations to personality development, moral values, social behavior, and confidence building. For a developing country like Pakistan, where educational inequalities and socio-economic challenges remain significant, the role of primary school teachers becomes especially important. Teachers are not merely instructors who deliver lessons; they are mentors who nurture young minds and prepare children to become responsible citizens. The modern primary teacher therefore performs multiple roles – facilitator, educator, and psychologist – each essential for holistic child development.

Traditionally, teaching was based on authority and rote learning. Teachers delivered lectures, maintained strict discipline, and expected students to memorize information. Students were passive recipients of knowledge. However, contemporary education emphasizes student-centered learning where children actively participate in classroom activities. This shift has transformed teachers into facilitators who guide learning rather than impose it.

As facilitators, primary teachers create engaging and interactive classroom environments. Young children are naturally curious and energetic, and they learn best through exploration and activity. Teachers encourage discussions, storytelling, group work, educational games, and hands-on exercises instead of relying solely on lectures. Such

methods make lessons interesting, understandable, and memorable.

In Pakistan, facilitation requires creativity and adaptability. Many public schools face overcrowded classrooms, limited teaching materials, and inadequate infrastructure. Teachers often work with minimal resources yet must maintain students’ interest. Effective facilitators use locally available materials and simple activities to make lessons meaningful. Their innovation ensures that learning continues even in challenging conditions.

Facilitation also involves recognizing individual differences among learners. Every child has unique abilities, interests, and learning speeds. Some students grasp concepts quickly, while others require repetition and extra support. A competent teacher adapts teaching strategies to meet diverse learning needs so that no student feels neglected. Visual aids, demonstrations, storytelling, and peer learning help address varied learning styles. This inclusive approach is particularly important in Pakistan’s culturally and linguistically diverse classrooms.

While facilitation makes learning engaging, the teacher’s central identity remains that of an educator. Primary teachers build the intellectual foundation upon which all future learning depends. They teach essential skills such as reading, writing, numeracy, communication, and critical thinking. Without strong basics, students struggle throughout their academic journeys.

Primary education also plays a key role in character-building. Teachers introduce children to social values, ethical behavior, and civic responsibilities. In Pakistan’s diverse society, classrooms

*Continued on Page 7*



Analysis  
**Dr. T. M. Malik**

# Virtual University Successfully Conducted Nationwide National IT Skills Competency Test

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Virtual University of Pakistan (VU) has successfully conducted the National Skill Competency Test (NSCT) for IT students across the country, organized on the directives of the Higher Education Commission (HEC). The initiative, undertaken in line with the vision of the Prime Minister, was executed in collaboration with the Ministry of Information Technology & Telecommunication (MoITT), Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB), and Pakistan Software Houses Association (P@SHA).

The standardized, computer-based test aims to enhance the employability and market readiness of Pakistan's IT graduates by assessing their skills on a national scale and aligning academic outcomes with industry requirements.

The test was conducted on April 4 and 5, 2026, in four sessions per day, starting from 9:00 AM to 6:30 PM, with each session having a duration of 120 minutes.

A total of 40,784 students from 199 universities participated in the test. Demonstrating its strong



operational capacity, the Virtual University organized the examination across 112 cities at 165 test centers nationwide. To ensure transparency and smooth conduct, 592 invigilation staff were deputed across all centers.

During the examination, the Honorable State Minister for

IT & Telecommunication, Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja, visited the central control and monitoring room in Islamabad along with senior officials of the Ministry of IT. She was briefed on the real-time monitoring mechanisms established to ensure transparency and effective oversight of exam-

ination centers nationwide. The Minister appreciated the arrangements and termed the initiative a significant step towards strengthening Pakistan's digital workforce.

Meanwhile, Chairman HEC, Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar (Sitara-i-Imtiaz), visited the Lahore Regional Office and

control room of the Virtual University. He was accompanied by Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, Rector VU, and Prof. Dr. Ather Azim Khan, Registrar VU. Senior officials including Mr. Ehsan Zafar Puri, Director ICT, and Mr. Sarmad Latif, Additional Controller of Examinations, were also present.



The visiting dignitaries were given a detailed briefing on the university's technological infrastructure and its capacity to conduct large-scale testing nationwide. Appreciating the efforts, Chairman HEC congratulated the leadership and team of the Virtual University for successfully accom-

plishing this important national responsibility in a highly professional manner.

The Virtual University of Pakistan reaffirmed its commitment to supporting national development through technology-driven education, digital innovation, and large-scale assessment initiatives.

## Fares vs fuel

Mahnoor Siddiqui

The Prime Minister's recent decision to slash petrol prices from Rs 458 to Rs 378 is a welcome relief for the middle class. However, a walk through any local bus terminal or a conversation with a rickshaw driver reveals a frustrating reality: the "inflation storm" is

still raging for the commuter.

When fuel prices were hiked by Rs 137, transporters increased fares within minutes. Now that the price has been reduced by over Rs 80, there is a stony silence from the transport unions. A commute that cost Rs 100 last week still costs Rs 150 today.

The government's job does not

end at the petrol pump. Relief is only real if it reaches the pockets of those who do not own vehicles. We need the local administration to: Enforce Revised Fare Lists: Immediately issue and strictly enforce updated fare charts for intra-city and inter-city transport.

Regulate App-Based Services:

Ensure ride-hailing services pass on the fuel reduction benefits to passengers through lower base fares. Without administrative oversight, "relief packages" remain mere numbers on a screen while the common man continues to pay the price of a hike that no longer exists. (mahnoorsiddiqui533@gmail.com)

## Millennium Education Celebrates Excellence & Legacy at Prestigious Service Awards

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Millennium Education Group Pakistan, in collaboration with TMUC Higher Education Group, hosted the Millennium Service Awards Ceremony 2026 at Pakistan National Council of the Arts PNCA, Islamabad, bringing together educators, professionals, graduates, and members of the wider Millennium community to celebrate a shared legacy of service, institutional culture, and purpose-driven education says a press release.

The ceremony was a powerful reflection of the Millennium ethos—honouring individuals whose enduring commitment, passion, and belief in the organisation's vision have contributed to building a vibrant and future-focused educational community. Rather than merely marking tenure, the Millennium Service Awards recognise a deeper journey—one defined by impact, growth, and a collective dedication to shaping lives through education.

The event was graced by the presence of Ambassador Masood Khan, Former President AJ&K and Former Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States whose distinguished career and national stature added prestige to the occasion. His participation underscored the importance of recognising educators and professionals who play a pivotal role in shaping the future of the nation.

In his keynote address, Dr. Faisal



Mushtaq, Chairman and CEO of The Millennium Education Group, emphasised the importance of legacy, culture, and cause as the defining pillars of the institution. He highlighted that Millennium is not just a workplace, but a community where individuals embark on a meaningful journey—one that is both professionally rewarding and personally fulfilling.

He reflected that the true strength of the organisation lies in its people—educators and professionals who bring passion, resilience, and purpose to their roles every day. He further noted that the Millennium journey is about creating impact beyond classrooms, fostering innovation, and nurturing a culture that inspires continuous growth and excellence.

Reinforcing the theme "Join the

Journey", the ceremony served as an invitation to be part of a mission-driven organisation committed to transforming education in Pakistan and beyond. It celebrated those who have contributed to this journey while inspiring others to become part of a culture rooted in collaboration, integrity, and forward-thinking leadership.

Adding to the significance of the evening, the ceremony also marked the graduation of the MA Education cohort from the TMUC School of Education, delivered in academic partnership with the University of Hertfordshire. The graduates were recognised for their academic excellence and their commitment to advancing the field of education through research, leadership, and reflective practice.

This moment symbolised the seamless integration of professional dedication and academic advancement within the Millennium community—where learning, growth, and contribution go hand in hand.

The Millennium Service Awards Ceremony 2026 stood as more than a celebration; it was a reaffirmation of purpose. It highlighted a legacy built on trust, a culture driven by excellence, and a cause centred on shaping the future of education.

Through this landmark event, The Millennium Education Group Pakistan continues to strengthen its vision of cultivating a dynamic, globally connected community of educators and learners—one that is united by purpose, inspired by impact, and committed to the continuous pursuit of excellence.

## Aimen Deep Kaur Credits SLS College for UK English Test Success

News Desk



JHELUM: A student from Nankana Sahib, Aimen Deep Kaur, has successfully passed the UK Marriage English A1 test after completing online classes at SLS College.

In her statement, she shared that she was initially nervous due to her limited educational background but enrolled at SLS College on a recommendation from the UK. She added that students from multiple cities attended the online classes and all achieved success.

After six weeks of preparation, she appeared for the test in Islamabad and passed with the guidance of SLS College and course material prepared by Managing Director Sarfraz Malik.

She later visited Jhelum with her father to receive her IELTS certificate and thanked the college for its support, stating that she is now ready to apply for a UK visa.

## Multan journalists raise concerns over discrimination and delays in Punjab's Support Fund

Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN: The Multan Union of Journalists (MUJ) has expressed serious concern over alleged discrimination and unnecessary delays faced by journalists from Multan in accessing the Punjab government's "Journalists Support Fund."

MUJ President Ihtisham-ul-Haq Mirza and General Secretary Javed Iqbal Ambar stated that applications submitted by local journalists for the support fund often face undue delays, with many remaining pending for six months to a year. As a result, deserving journalists are unable to receive timely financial assistance. The situation becomes even more alarming when the financial support limit itself varies across regions.

He further explained that the "Journalists Support Fund" was established by the Punjab government to ensure the welfare of journalists, providing financial assistance for medical treatment, daughters' marriages, and other emergency needs. However, differences in assistance limits and delays in disbursement are undermining the very purpose of this welfare initiative. He also pointed out that there is no representation from Multan in the committee overseeing the fund, which prevents the effective presentation of issues faced by journalists in the region. He demanded that Multan be given proper representation in the committee.



## "Amman Jando" by Zawwar Abdul Sattar Dars — A Tragic Elegy of Struggle, Pain and History

The history of Sindh is filled with numerous events and characters that have been buried under the dust of time, yet their echoes continue to stir the human conscience. The book "Amman Jando" by Zawwar Abdul Sattar Dars is a serious and commendable effort to revive one such forgotten story. Zawwar Abdul Sattar Dars, the author of over 178 books, whose writings encompass Sufism, religious themes, regional history, the culture of Sindh and figures such as Maharaja Dahir, has, in this work, illuminated a deeply sensitive and painful chapter of history.

"Amman Jando" is not merely a book but a historical testimony. It narrates

the story of a مظلوم woman whose struggle, sacrifice and unwavering resistance against ظلم have become exemplary. The author meticulously compiles a series of events, including judicial proceedings, social reactions and the shortcomings of the state apparatus. The details and references presented throughout the book clearly establish that it is not just a narrative but an authentic historical record preserved for future generations. One can only imagine the challenges the author must have faced in gathering and documenting these facts. Undoubtedly, the completion of this work stands as yet another significant contribution of Zawwar Abdul Sattar Dars to the people of Sindh.

One of the most compelling aspects of the book is that it not only tells the story of an individual but also reflects the broader societal structure. The struggle of Amman Jando represents all those oppressed individuals who wander for years in search of justice. The book courageously highlights how institutions of justice, social frameworks and administrative systems sometimes fail, leaving ordinary citizens alone to raise their voices. This remarkable woman carried forward a five-year-long protest movement

demanding justice for her innocent victims. When despair began to set in due to the denial of justice, she, along with her two young daughters, resorted to the extreme act of self-immolation. While she survived with severe injuries, both of her daughters lost their lives. In doing so, she not only demanded justice for the innocent blood of her loved ones but also sacrificed the lives of her two daughters in this painful struggle.

The significance of this work also lies in the courage of the author to

choose such a difficult subject. The book reminds us that history is not shaped solely by kings and rulers but also by the sacrifices and struggles of ordinary people. The manner in which the author presents this account deeply moves the reader and compels reflection on where we stand as a society.

The language of the book is simple yet profoundly impactful, making it accessible to readers from all walks of life. The author has presented even complex realities in a way that is both understandable and emotionally resonant, a quality that distinguishes this work from conventional historical writings.

For the people of Sindh in particular, this book holds the status of an impor-

tant document. It is not only a part of Sindh's history but also strengthens the collective consciousness of its people. The story of Amman Jando teaches future generations the importance of raising one's voice against injustice, regardless of how difficult the circumstances may be.

In conclusion, it would not be an exaggeration to say that "Amman Jando" is a work that is not just read but felt. Through this book, Zawwar Abdul Sattar Dars has given voice to a silent story and eternal life to the struggle of an oppressed individual. His effort is a valuable addition not only to the literary and historical heritage of Sindh but of the entire country, and it will be remembered for a long time.



Manzar Naqvi

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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
150,398.71	152,011.26
Day's High	Day's Low
152,103.62	148,796.54
Index Value	Change
20,284,792,918	-1612.55
Percentage	Time
-1.06%	3 Apr, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
10,436.29	+71.50
Percentage	Time
+0.69%	2 Apr, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
46,438.48	-127.26
Percentage	Time
-0.27%	2 Apr, 1:31 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
53,123.49	+660.2
Percentage	Time
+1.26%	3 Apr, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Australian Dollar	195.05	198.10
Australian Dollar	188.78	193.77
Bahrain Dinar	729.47	739.75
Canadian Dollar	198.02	204.50
China Yuan	36.45	37.55
Danish Krone	43.25	43.65
Euro	321.42	327.42
Hong Kong Dollar	35.01	36.01
Indian Rupee	2.05	2.31
Japanese Yen	1.7210	1.8199
Kuwaiti Dinar	884	896.25
Malaysian Ringgit	65.25	66.45
New Zealand \$	157.36	163.57
Norwegians Krone	27.65	27.95
Omani Riyal	720.38	732.95
Qatari Riyal	73.86	74.50
Saudi Riyal	74.4	75.55
Singapore Dollar	214.94	220
Swedish Korona	30.20	30.50
Swiss Franc	355	358.85
Thai Bhat	8.05	8.20
U.A.E Dirham	75.95	77.25
UK Pound Sterling	368.79	374.04
US Dollar	279.00	280.15

# Communications Minister satisfied with Murree Expressway overhaul, promises enhanced tourist facilities

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan has expressed satisfaction over the completion of the upgradation work of the Murree Expressway.

He has announced the provision of additional facilities including more Rest House on both sides. During his visit to Murree, Abdul Aleem Khan inspected various sections of the Murree Expressway.

He along with NHA authorities inspected on the spot situation of traffic on IMDC particularly at Lower Topa and directed authorities to take immediate measures to further improve traffic flow, there.

Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan instructed National Highway Authority officials to ensure modern design of new Roundabout at Lower Topa to ensure better facilities of traffic especially to the visitors.

Abdul Aleem Khan stated that the Murree Expressway has been made more beautiful, safe and comfortable than before. He also approved the construction of more



Rest Areas along both sides of the Murree Expressway to provide better travel facilities to tourists coming from far-off areas.

While visiting newly constructed Rest Areas and Mosques, Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan emphasized that there should be no compromise on cleanliness, provision of clean drinking water and other basic facilities.

He appreciated the availability of separate prayer arrangements for women and stressed maintaining this standard. Abdul Aleem Khan stated that proper follow up of quality facilities must be ensured at all costs. Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan also directed the NHA to adopt high-quality designs and international-standard facilities in all new development projects.

During his visit, citizens traveling also met the Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan at various locations and expressed their appreciation. They shook hands and took photographs with Federal Minister. Abdul Aleem Khan acknowledged that the cooperation of the local population in improving the Murree Expressway is commendable and emphasized the need to further promote such positive collaboration in the future.

## Animals and Birds Show

ISLAMABAD: Visitors enjoying with pets and birds during animals and birds show at a local mall, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Pakistani furniture gains global demand, says PFC Chairman Mian Kashif

**Commerce Desk**

TOBA TEK SINGH: According to the Details, Chairman of the Pakistan Furniture Council Mian Kashif Ashfaq, talking to our Correspondent said that Pakistani furniture due to its beauty, durability and high-quality craftsmanship is not only highly popular in the local market but is also witnessing a significant rise in demand in international markets, reflecting a bright future for the industry.

He stated that the skills of Pakistani craftsmen, combined with traditional artistry and modern designs, make the furniture industry unique, enabling local products to establish a distinct identity at the global level. He added that with government support, the use of modern technology and the promotion of exports, there are vast opportunities for further growth in this sector. Mian Kashif Ashfaq further said that the furniture industry is not only providing employment to



millions of people but is also playing a vital role in earning foreign exchange for the country.

He emphasized that if the challenges faced by the sector such as rising raw material costs, energy shortages and the lack of modern machinery are addressed, Pakistan can secure a prominent position in the global furniture market.

He urged the relevant authorities to facilitate industrialists, simplify export procedures and ensure strong representation of Pakistani furniture in international exhibitions to further promote the country's products.

## Embrace AI or Risk Obsolescence: Tax Ombudsman Coordinator Warns Professionals

**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman Saif Ur Rehman Sunday urged institutions and employees to embrace change, adopt innovation, and remain committed to lifelong learning to fully benefit from the transformative power AI.

Speaking here today at a seminar on "The Role of AI in Transformation of Industry" he said artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming industries across the globe, reshaping traditional work patterns and redefining professional roles while AI brings immense opportunities for efficiency and innovation, it also demands a proactive approach from people to upgrade their skills and adapt to emerging technologies. He cautioned that professionals who fail to keep pace with these advancements risk becoming obsolete, as automation and intelligent systems continue to replace routine tasks and continuous learning, digital literacy, and technical competence are no longer optional but essential requirements in today's competitive environment.

## SAARC expert warns of cracks in WTO unity amid trade tariffs and geopolitical tensions

**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik Sunday said cracks started surfacing in the unity of 31 years old World Trade Organisation due to year long huge trade tariffs turmoil and current US-Israel war on Iran disruptions.

In a statement here today he said WTO established on Jan 01, 1995 replaced the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), to act as a permanent, international organization for regulating global trade. He said digital trade dispute fractured its unity as

recent four day ministerial talks among members countries held last Monday collapsed without reaching an agreement on reform plan and extending a moratorium on e-commerce that ultimately proved futile causing dent. He said trade ministers could not agree to extend it beyond two years which was not enough for the United States which amounted to a major setback for global trade. He said



recent failures adding further pressure on the trade body which is becoming increasingly marginalised by economic nationalism. He urged member countries especially Brazil and the US to reach

a consensus for moratorium which had been renewed since 1998 before states hit digital services with new charges otherwise it will mark another crack in the foundation of the WTO system.

## Economic Emergency Declared: Hyderabad Trader Flags Critical Deficit Threat

**Commerce Desk**

HYDERABAD: The President Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industry, Muhammad Saleem Memon, has warned that rising imports and surging petroleum prices have pushed Pakistan's economy to a critical juncture. He stated that without immediate and effective measures, the country could face a severe financial crisis.

He highlighted that in recent months, imports have nearly doubled compared to exports, leading to a rapidly widening current account deficit. He emphasized that this deficit



is primarily the result of unnecessary imports, which, if left unchecked, could prevent the economy from achieving

stability.

The Chamber President further noted that ongoing tensions in the Gulf region are likely to drive global oil prices even higher, which would further inflate Pakistan's import bill and place severe pressure on the country's foreign exchange reserves. He cautioned that if the situation persists, it could lead to dangerous increases in inflation, unemployment, and industrial challenges.

In clear terms, Mr. Memon said: "Pakistan is currently facing an economic emergency, and without decisive action, it will be impossible to stabilize the economy."

## Pakistan could save \$3 billion annually by switching all motorcycles to electric

**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: Convener Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Regional Committee on Food, Shahid Imran, Sunday said that Pakistan can save 6 billions litres of petrol valued \$3 billion annually by switching all two-wheeler to EV.

Talking here today to a delegation of traders from Sheikhupura led by Chaudhary Muhammad Afzal Gujjar he said by converting all motorcycles into electric bikes, the country could save precious foreign exchange. He said 12 billion litres of petrol is



consumed annually in Pakistan of which 50 percent by two wheelers. And 20 percent of our import bill is dedicated exclusively to petroleum products and over 80 percent of our fuel arriving via the highly volatile maritime choke point of the strait of Hormuz, our

energy security is effectively a hostage to geography.

He said timely investment in electric mobility could pave the way for economic stability, energy efficiency, and a cleaner environment for future generations. He said motorcycles are the most widely used mode of transport in Pakistan, especially among the middle and lower-income groups. Transitioning to electric bikes would not only ease pressure on foreign exchange reserves but also contribute to environmental sustainability by reducing carbon emissions and urban air pollution, he added.

# Govt to strengthen role of sports in national development: PM

**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif said the government of Pakistan was committed to strengthening the role of sports in national development and the country's representation at the global level.

In a message on International Day of Sport for Development and Peace on 6 April, he said, "The government is paying close attention to increasing access to sports facilities, promoting sports at school and community levels, and increasing opportunities for athletes to train and compete at international levels."

"Today, Pakistan is celebrating the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace in a determined manner along with the international community,"



he said adding "Sports, as a shared value at the global level, promote mutual cooperation, determination and perseverance, and unity and solidarity between

nations and societies. These values inspire human energies to be used for collective development and prosperity." He said, "Sports, while developing

individual capabilities, encourage a healthy lifestyle for youth, including female athletes. The specialty of sports is that it promotes inclusion on the basis of mutual respect and equality."

"Sports also provide a hopeful and positive environment for resolving mutual differences and problems at the social level. Our athletes are a source of pride for the nation with their skills, hard work, discipline, and achievements in all sports. Achievements on the playing field reflect not only individual performance but also national unity," he remarked.

He said, "Today, I appeal to all relevant institutions, sports organizations, educators, and development partners associated with sports to work together for a future where every child and youth of Pakistan has safe, accessible sports opportunities."

## Pakistan Super League Cricket Championship 2026 Edition 11

# Multan Sultans Defeated Quetta Gladiators by 6 wickets and then Became Number One in Round Table, a Big Defeat for the Gladiators

**Asim Tanveer**

LAHORE: HBL Pakistan Super League 11 edition, Multan Sultans have defeated Quetta Gladiators by 6 wickets and then became number one, a big defeat for the Gladiators. Multan Sultans also got on the front foot in PSL 11.

The Sultans, who lost to Lahore Qalandars in the last match, easily defeated Quetta Gladiators by 6 wickets. Multan Sultans won very quickly. With this win, the Sultans came first on the PSL points table. Due to the decrease in net run rate, Karachi Kings have moved to second place. Quetta Gladiators' position has been vacated.

Sultans reached the target of 167 runs with 15 balls to spare for 4 wickets in 17.3 overs. A base of 71 runs in 5 overs made the target easy. Sahibzada Farhan made 32 off 14 balls and Josh Phillips made 18 off 15 balls but Steven Smith continued the series and scored 53 runs off 35 balls. Shan Masood remained unbeaten on 46 off 30 balls.

Hassan Nawaz took 2 wickets for 17 runs. Alzarri Joseph and Saud Shakeel took one wicket each. Quetta Gladi-



ators scored 166 runs for 7 wickets in 20 overs at Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore. Captain Saud Shakeel scored 56 and Bevan Jacobs scored 49 runs.

Sultans won the toss. Quetta Gladiators were invited. The Gladiators did not have a good start and both the openers were dismissed early in the early overs. As a result, the score was 47 runs for 2 wickets after 6 overs. Saud Shakeel got life from a drop catch.

He took control of the innings by

establishing a crucial partnership of 55 runs with Hassan Nawaz and was dismissed after scoring 56 runs off 41 balls. On the other hand, Arafat Minhas, who worked for Multan Sultans, stopped the Gladiators by taking wickets one after another.

Bevan Jacobs was unbeaten by scoring 49 off 31 balls. For Multan Sultans, Muhammad Nawaz took three wickets and Arafat Minhas took two wickets. Multan Sultans have to play back-to-



back matches. Their next match will be against Rawalpindi tomorrow, Monday, April 6, in Lahore.

## Pakistan Osaka Culture Festival

# Reception ceremony in honor of Malakhara wrestlers returning home after success in Japan

**Sports Desk**

KARACHI: A dignified reception ceremony was held at the Youth Development Center South Karachi in honor of Malakhara wrestlers who returned home after achieving success at the Pakistan Osaka Culture Festival in Japan.

Sindh Minister for Sports, Sardar Muhammad Bakhsh Khan Mehr, and Secretary Sports, Munawar Ali Mahesar, attended the event as special guests. Also present were Director Sports Asad Ishaq, Section Officer Ali Dino Gopang, DSOs Fared Ali, Ismail Shah, Hajira Nawab, Muhammad Usman, Hina Rafique Rajput and other officials.

At the beginning of the ceremony, the provincial minister awarded shields and cash prizes to Malakhara wrestlers Munthar Ali Bugti and Qurban Ali. Other wrestlers who delivered



outstanding performances in Japan were also given cash rewards.

Speaking on the occasion, the Sindh Sports Minister said that these athletes have brought pride not only to Sindh but to the entire country in Japan.

While talking to journalists, Sardar Muhammad Bakhsh Mehr stated that due to their efforts, the PCB has decided to organize the Pakistan Cup, which will begin after the PSL and feature teams from all provinces. He added that Sindh

has already started preparations for its team.

He further said that they will continue to raise their voice for the rights of Sindh's athletes and will work in collaboration with the PCB to promote sports.

The minister noted that the Sindh government is taking practical steps to promote traditional games and will increase prize money for cultural sports. He announced that Malakhara has been

formally included in the annual sports calendar, and other traditional games such as Kabaddi will also be promoted.

He added that Sindh's Malakhara wrestlers performed excellently at the cultural event in Japan and also gained experience from sumo wrestling there.

Sardar Muhammad Bakhsh Mehr emphasized that their goal is to bring forward youth through sports and introduce them at national and international levels.

The Sindh Sports Minister also said that given the current global situation, there is a need to work together, and the Sindh government will continue full cooperation with the federal government.

Expressing disappointment over the national team's performance, he said that the team needs to improve, as the nation is dissatisfied with its recent results.

## Matloob Ahmed won the 12th J. A. Zaman Memorial Championship, 2026 title

**Tahir Amin Malik**

Matloob Ahmed of Garrison Golf Club delivered a commanding performance to win the 12th J. A. Zaman Memorial Championship, played at Lahore Gymkhana Golf Club pulling away from the field in emphatic fashion on the final day.

Starting the day tied with his long-time rival M. Shabbir, Matloob wasted no time in asserting control, carding an early birdie on the second hole. He maintained the momentum through the front nine, adding another birdie on the 6th, while Shabbir struggled to find rhythm, with uncharacteristic errors and bogeys creeping into his round due to errant shots.

The defining moment of the championship came on the 7th hole. After Shabbir's tee shot drifted left, forcing him to play safe into the fairway, Matloob seized the opportunity with a brilliant approach, landing his ball just feet from the pin in two shots. Under pressure, Shabbir faltered, pulling his approach into the greenside bunker and eventually carding a bogey. Matloob calmly converted his eagle putt, resulting in a decisive three-shot swing that shifted the momentum firmly in his favor.

From that point onward, Matloob played with confidence and composure, steadily extending his lead as Shabbir was unable to recover. Finishing with an impressive tournament score of -18, Matloob secured a resounding victory and his third J. A. Zaman Memorial title.

Minhaj claimed third place with a solid final round of 3-under par, finishing at -4 overall. While not at his peak throughout the tournament, his late surge earned him a podium finish. Other notable performances included Talat Ijaz at -3 and Alam at -2 for the championship.

In the senior professionals category, Tariq continued his dominance, capturing his fourth consecutive title. The junior professionals title was awarded to Ashass from Karachi, who finished with a total score of +3. Marking a significant milestone for the tournament, the ladies professionals category was introduced this year and won by Zehbunissa.

The 2026 edition of the championship witnessed record participation, with over 600 golfers from across Pakistan, making it the largest golf tournament in the country in terms of player turnout.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, Chief Patron Mr. Hamid Zaman expressed gratitude to the Zaman family for their unwavering support in promoting the game of golf in memory of their father. He paid tribute to the late Mr. J. A. Zaman, describing him as an avid golf enthusiast and a man of remarkable character. The continued success of the championship in his honor stands as a testament to his legacy and contribution to the sport in Pakistan.

## Iran's inclusion in Fifa World Cup 2026 welcomed, says Rais Khan

**Sports Desk**

KARACHI: Chief Executive of

RK Sports Management, Rais Khan, has welcomed Iran's decision to participate in the FIFA World Cup 2026, stating that football fans have expressed happiness over the development. He also appreciated FIFA President Gianni Infantino for his efforts in ensuring Iran's inclusion in the global tournament.

In a statement, Rais Khan said that following Iran's announcement to boycott the FIFA World Cup 2026, RK Sports Management had appealed to the FIFA President to play his role in ensuring Iran's participation. "We are grateful to the FIFA President for responding promptly to our appeal. He, along with his team, met officials of the Iran Football Federation in Turkey and persuaded them to take part in the World Cup," he added.

He further commended the Iran Football Federation for making a courageous decision despite the prevailing war-like situation, noting that football enthusiasts are delighted with Iran's participation. According to Rais Khan, Iran's inclusion will enhance the competitive environment and provide fans with thrilling matches.

He also stated that the successful organization of the FIFA World Cup will be a major challenge for FIFA under the current circumstances. However, he expressed hope that the FIFA President and his team would utilize all efforts to ensure a successful tournament despite the situation in the Middle East.

## Zainab Ali Naqvi Memorial World Juniors Tennis C'ship from Monday

**Sports Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF) will host the IITF Pakistan 3rd Zainab Ali Naqvi Memorial World Juniors Tennis Championship 2026 (Leg-1) from Monday at the PTF Tennis Complex, Islamabad.

According to a PTF press release, a total of 39 players, including 24 boys and 15 girls from 14 countries, will feature in the prestigious junior event. Participating nations include Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Singapore, Japan, China, Australia, Russia, Poland, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Thailand.

The championship is being held in memory of promising young player Zainab Ali Naqvi, who tragically passed away on February 12, 2024, after suffering a heart attack while competing in an IITF junior event in Islamabad.

# Teacher's Role at Primary Classes: Facilitator, Educator or Psychologist?

**Continued from Page 4**

bring together students from various ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Teachers promote tolerance, cooperation, and mutual respect, fostering social harmony and national unity.

In Pakistan, professional school counselors are limited, especially in public schools. As a result, teachers frequently act as informal counselors. They help resolve peer conflicts, comfort distressed students, and guide parents regarding children's emotional and behavioral needs. This psychological support creates a safe and nurturing classroom environment.

Emotional intelligence has thus become an essential quality for primary teachers. Understanding students' feelings, maintaining positive classroom relationships, and responding sensitively to individual needs enhance both

academic performance and personal growth. Teachers who build friendly and respectful relationships create trust and encourage open communication.

Parental expectations further expand teachers' responsibilities. Parents view primary teachers as mentors who influence their children's academic success and personality development. Regular communication between teachers and parents strengthens cooperation and supports holistic growth. Teachers advise parents on study habits, discipline, and emotional well-being.

Despite their crucial role, primary teachers in Pakistan face numerous challenges. Overcrowded classrooms, limited salaries, inadequate infrastructure, and insufficient training opportunities hinder effective teaching. Rural schools often lack basic facilities, making classroom management difficult. Female teachers may face additional societal and mobility

constraints. These challenges can affect teacher morale and educational quality.

Improving teachers' working conditions is therefore essential. Government and private institutions must invest in professional development programs, modern teaching resources, and supportive environments. Teacher training should emphasize child-centered learning methods, classroom management skills, and basic psychological understanding.

Recognizing teachers as nation-builders is equally important. Societies that value educators provide respect, incentives, and career growth opportunities. Media awareness and policy reforms can elevate teachers' social status and encourage talented individuals to join the profession.

Primary teachers influence not only academic achievement but also personality development and social behavior. A

caring teacher can transform a shy child into a confident learner, motivate struggling students to persevere, and instill values that guide responsible citizenship. Their influence extends far beyond examinations into lifelong character formation.

In conclusion, a primary school teacher cannot be confined to a single role. They are facilitators who make learning engaging, educators who impart essential knowledge and skills, and psychologists who nurture emotional resilience and social confidence. Strengthening this multidimensional role can significantly improve Pakistan's educational system. Investing in teachers ultimately means investing in the nation's future and ensuring the development of capable, confident, and responsible citizens.

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# After Iran, a Regime Change in the USA

**Continued from Page 4**

And at the center of this cycle lies the original event—the purge of top military leadership. What may have been intended as a corrective measure now risks being interpreted as a symptom of deeper instability. In war, perception can be as decisive as firepower, and the image of a fractured command structure can weaken deterrence as effectively as any battlefield defeat.

The irony is stark. A nation that has long championed regime change as a tool of foreign policy now finds itself confronting the language, the imagery, and the perception of that very phenomenon turned inward. Not through revolution, but through disruption; not through overthrow, but through fragmentation.

The war, therefore, is no longer

confined to Iran. It has expanded into a contest of narratives, resilience, and institutional stability. And in that broader battlefield, the question is no longer who controls the skies or the ground—it is who maintains coherence under pressure.

At this moment, the answer remains uncertain. But one reality is clear: when leadership fractures at the top, the consequences cascade downward—and in war, those consequences can define the outcome long before the final shot is fired.

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

## Protest

KARACHI: Pakistani police officers arresting to activists of PTI during a protests against the price hike in petrol, in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

## Pakistan targets \$1 billion revenue by drawing 50,000 Russian tourists annually

## Spokesman Report

MOSCOW: Pakistan is working to attract up to 50,000 Russian tourists each year and generate \$1 billion in annual revenue, as global travel patterns change and the number of Russian outbound tourists stands at 15 million, down from 24 million before 2022.

Pakistan's Ambassador to Russia, Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, says changing conditions in global markets and unrest in parts of the Middle East are creating space for new destinations, with Pakistan aiming to secure a share.

In an exclusive interview with APP, Ambassador Faisal Tirmizi said international tourism and business trends are shifting due to economic disruptions and regional instabil-



ity. He noted that countries in Eastern Europe and Russia are now looking for alternative destinations. In this situation, Pakistan is being considered as a new option.

He said the Russian tourism

market offers strong potential. Russian travelers are showing interest in destinations that are accessible, secure, and cost-effective. Pakistan, with its diverse landscape and ongoing improvements in

tourism facilities, can meet this demand if it engages tour operators and visitors in a planned way.

The ambassador shared details from his meeting with Andrey Ignatyev, who

said Pakistan could become a future destination for Russian tourists. Before 2022, around 24 million Russians traveled abroad each year, visiting countries such as Turkey, Egypt, Thailand, Malaysia, and India. Due to restrictions in Europe and North America, along with security concerns in parts of the Middle East, the number has reduced to 15 million annually.

Russian tourists mostly travel during winter and prefer destinations with warm weather, safe conditions, and reliable hotel services. According to Ignatyev, an average Russian tourist spends between \$1,000 and \$5,000 on trips lasting one to two weeks. Countries hosting Russian tourists earn between \$1 billion and \$7 billion annually from this segment.

## JI chief says Pakistan's powerful feudal elites subverting legal system

## Bureau Report

KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) chief Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman on Sunday accused Pakistan's powerful feudal elites of subverting the legal system and leaving ordinary citizens without protection or recourse.

Addressing a gathering at Idara Noor-ul-Haq in Karachi, the JI ameer said that despite the existence of evidence in serious cases, justice continues to evade victims due to pressure exerted by influential figures. "They are powerful people; even judges fall prey to pressure," he stated, calling

the situation a "profit of injustice" rather than justice.

Drawing attention to a long-standing culture of fear, Hafiz Naeem said speaking against entrenched feudal powers remains "very dangerous," recounting that a victim's father and uncle had been killed eight years ago. He warned that such incidents reflect a broader pattern in which vulnerable citizens are persecuted while the state fails to ensure accountability.

The JI chief raised alarm over threats to what he described as a "brave daughter of Sindh," who was being



intimidated by tribal chiefs. He placed responsibility squarely on the provincial government, warning that any harm

to her would expose the state's inability to protect its citizens from powerful actors.

Linking individual cases to systemic failure, Hafiz Naeem referenced high-profile incidents such as the killings of Nazim Jokhio and the abduction of Priya Kumari, suggesting that these cases illustrate a consistent pattern where justice is delayed or denied under elite influence. "You should look at the situation in entire Sindh — there is a herd bigger than the herd," he remarked, criticizing what he described as a deeply entrenched feudal order.

## Another false flag drama exposed after India's humiliating defeat in 'Operation Sindoor'

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's diplomatic successes and growing global relevance have reportedly left the Modi government and pro-government Indian media in a state of confusion, with claims that another alleged false flag operation has been exposed following what is described as a humiliating setback in "Operation Sindoor."

According to the report, India's defence minister has issued strong warnings, while intelligence agency RAW



is accused of preparing a false flag operation ahead of upcoming elections, following what is termed an "old play-book." It is alleged that with

elections nearing in West Bengal, Assam, and other states, a new series of such incidents is being initiated. The report further claims

that Indian media is spreading misleading narratives about Pakistan's economy and diplomacy, while social media accounts allegedly linked to RAW are accused of propagating false allegations against Pakistani state institutions.

It is also alleged that attempts are being made to create a false flag environment by targeting innocent individuals held in Indian prisons. Previously, India's foreign minister was seen using inappropriate language to cover diplomatic failures, the report claims.

Analysts suggest that anti-Pakistan statements by Indian leadership and media campaigns are part of a coordinated political strategy. Global experts, according to the report, believe that Modi is attempting to stir anti-Pakistan sentiment ahead of elections but may not succeed.

Experts conclude that the international community is aware of India's history of alleged propaganda and state-backed operations, warning that any future escalation would be met with a stronger and more decisive response.

## Sindh govt freezes transport fares, announces subsidy to ease fuel price impact



## Bureau Report

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah announced that transporters across the province will not increase fares, as the government will provide fuel and public transport subsidies to support low-income citizens.

Addressing a press conference at the Chief Minister House, he said passengers of minibuses, buses, coasters, and Suzuki vans on route permits will be given relief, while the Sindh government will bear the high diesel costs of intercity buses.

He added that transporters are cooperating with the government to pass on benefits to the public. A subsidy of Rs100,000 per bus is

being provided through the federal government, and the Sindh government will further assist transporters if fuel prices rise to prevent fare hikes.

Earlier, a key meeting on subsidies and public relief was held under the chief minister's chairmanship, attended by provincial ministers and senior officials. The meeting reviewed various measures to reduce the impact of rising petroleum prices on citizens.

Murad Ali Shah emphasized that the relief package aims to prevent additional financial burden on the public, urging citizens to use resources carefully and conserve electricity, gas, and fuel during the current situation.

## Pakistan, Türkiye to sign MoU on judicial cooperation

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan will host a high-level delegation from the Constitutional Court of Türkiye from April 6 to 9, during which both sides are set to formalize a judicial cooperation framework through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The visiting delegation will be led by the President of the Turkish Constitutional Court, Kadir Özkaya, accompanied by judges and senior officials. The MoU signing ceremony is scheduled to take place at the Supreme Court on April 6.

According to an official statement issued here Sunday, the agreement aims to establish a structured framework for collaboration between the two countries' superior courts, focusing on judicial exchange, capacity building, and sharing of best practices in adjudication.

A key component of the cooperation will be professional development within the judiciary, particularly at the district level. This will include joint training programmes, academic exchanges, and exposure to comparative judicial practices. The collaboration is also expected to facilitate the integration of modern technologies into judicial processes to enhance efficiency, transparency, and access to justice.

The MoU further provides for the establishment of a joint working group to ensure sustained engagement and effective implementation of agreed areas of cooperation.

During their visit, the delegation will hold high-level institutional meetings and engage with key stakeholders in Pakistan's justice sector. Discussions are expected to focus on contemporary challenges in adjudication, judicial administration, and ongoing reform initiatives.

## Easter Celebration at Pakistan Consulate, Jeddah



SAUDI ARAB, JEDDAH: The Pakistani Christian Community Jeddah celebrated the Easter 2026 festival with great zeal and enthusiasm at the newly constructed building of the Consulate General of Pakistan, Jeddah, on Saturday. H.E. Syed Mustafa Rabbani, Consul General of Pakistan, was the chief guest on the occasion.

While the prominent community members, Christian Community members, and officers of the Pakistani Consulate included Mohammed Irfan, Miss. Azka Zafar Rana, Miss. Zainab Asad Munir and Kamran Butt attended the ceremony. In his address, the Consul General congratulated the Pakistan Christian community in Jeddah on the Easter festival and appreciated the role they are playing in the prosperity and progress of Pakistan's economy. He also praised their positive attitude in boosting brotherhood not only in Pakistan but also for a universal brotherhood that would foster peace and harmony in

the world. He assured them of full cooperation and support from him and the consulate staff in all consular services. He stressed spreading the message of love and unity through friendship. He also emphasized the need to be law-abiding and urged all to respect local laws and regulations.

A little girl, Ephrathah Gulzar, presented him a bouquet. John Gulzar, President of the Pakistani Christian community, thanked all guests and members of the Pakistani Christian Community. He also thanked the Consul General H.E. Syed Mustafa Rabbani and the consulate staff for their good wishes and for providing facilities in the consulate premises. He expressed his deep gratitude to the Government of Saudi Arabia for its continuous support and encouragement to the Christian community. The Chairman Kashmir Committee, Jeddah, Masood Ahmed Puri, and Ex. President JKCO Sardar Waqas Inayat Ullah also addressed at this occasion.