

Chairman HEC official visit to National Textile University Faisalabad

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Professor Dr. Niaz Ahmed Akhtar (Sitara-i-Imtiaz), Chairman of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan, paid an official visit to the National Textile University (NTU) Faisalabad.

During the visit, the Rector/Vice Chancellor of the university, Professor Dr. Rashid Masood, along with the senior leadership and administration, warmly welcomed the HEC Chairman. The Chairman appreciated the ongoing academic, research, and development initiatives at NTU and emphasized the importance of continuing such progressive efforts in the future.

The HEC Chairman formally inaugurated the National Center for Composite Materials (NCCM) established at NTU. He commended the state-of-the-art laboratory equipment acquired through joint finan-



cial support from HEC Pakistan and JICA (Japan). He was informed that these advanced facilities will significantly contribute to the defense sector, heavy industry, sports industry, paint industry, and technical textiles sector,

thereby strengthening Pakistan's industrial and research capabilities.

The Chairman highly appreciated the commendable efforts of NTU Rector Professor Dr. Rashid Masood, the NCCM team, Dean School of Engi-

neering and Technology Professor Dr. Zulfiqar Ali, Chairman Department of Composite Materials Dr. Usman Zubair, NCCM Coordinator Dr. Zakaria Zubair, and Chairman Department of Clothing Dr. Muhammad Qamar Khan in establishing this Center of Excellence.

He also acknowledged the valuable contributions of Professor Dr. Muhammad Tahir Hussain (Dean, School of Sciences), Professor Dr. Hafsa Jamshaid, Professor Dr. Tanveer Hussain (Dean, QEC), Professor Dr. Sheraz Ahmad (HoD, Textile Technology Department), Dr. Zafar Javed (Director, School of Art and Design), Muhammad Zabiullah Khan (Controller of Examinations), Dr. Muhammad Naseer (Director Admissions), and Dr. Muhammad Asif (HoD, Computer Science Department) for their dedicated efforts toward the university's academic and research excellence.

Mehran-ul-Nissa calls for immediate action on workers' rights on International Labor Day

City Desk



MUZAFFARABAD: Secretary General of Muslim Conference and former Deputy Speaker Ms. Mehran-ul-Nissa, while saluting the greatness of workers around the world on the occasion of International Workers' Day, said that the development of the material world involves the blood of these workers. These great people who shed their blood and sweat are deprived of basic facilities and legitimate rights today. Ms.

Mehran-ul-Nissa said that steps should be taken to ensure the implementation of the minimum wage of the workers so that this class can be saved from economic hardship. In her message on the occasion of International Workers' Day, she further said that the state has to play its role in providing job security, wage determination, education and medical facilities. Ms. Mehran-ul-Nissa said that skill training should be given in schools to eliminate unemployment. Special attention needs to be paid to technical education. Campuses of vocational training institutes should be established so that everyone can earn their own livelihood.

Ex-AJK President warns US-Iran tensions nearing dangerous volatility

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Former Pakistani diplomat and former president of Azad Kashmir, Sardar Masood Khan on Friday cautioned that the evolving confrontation between the United States and Iran is entering a dangerously volatile phase, marked by military posturing, economic pressure, and strategic signaling from multiple global actors.



In a statement, Khan observed that while both Washington and Tehran are escalating pressure through military deployments and strong rhetoric, parallel efforts are underway to explore diplomatic off-ramps. "We are witnessing a dual-track approach—on one hand coercive strategies, and on the other, a search for a negotiated middle ground," he stated.

Ambassador Khan underscored that Pakistan continues to play a pivotal and trusted role as a facilitator between the two sides. He noted that Pakistan's engagement remains "consistent, discreet, and constructive," with both parties recognizing its credibility as a neutral intermediary capable of bridging deep mistrust.

Referring to recent developments, he highlighted that U. S. military preparedness in the region, including deployment of aircraft carriers and amphibious forces, is aimed at exerting pressure rather than initiating full-scale war. "Even the United States does not appear to be seeking outright conflict, but rather leveraging military superiority to shape negotiation outcomes," he added.

Muslim Conference Chief Attique Ahmed Khan Receives roaring welcome at Bandi Hill

Spokesman Report.



ISLAMABAD/DHIRKOT: President of Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan was given a grand welcome upon his arrival at Bandi Hill. The atmosphere was filled with thunderous slogans. A large number of workers gathered and welcomed Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan. Meanwhile, a dinner was hosted by Raja Mustafa Azad, a member of the Muslim Conference's executive council, in honor of President of Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir. Speaking on the occasion, Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan said that the good times have come for the Muslim Conference. Meanwhile, President Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan met with Raja Imran Hanif, Raja Azhar Farooq, Raja Shabbaz and Raja Yasir Khalid from Mujahid Manzil, Gujarat Assembly candidate Mirza Muhammad Riaz, former Chairman Jalalpur Jattan Municipality, Mirza Amjad Mahmood, Zahoor Ahmed Mirza and Tariq Mahmood Mirza separately and discussed the political situation.

Protest

RAWALPINDI: Activists of Municipal Labour Union hold a protest rally in favor of their demands on the eve of International Labour Day at Murree Road.



Photo: Online

Chief Election Commissioner orders immediate rectification of faulty electoral rolls



City Desk

MUZAFFARABAD: An important meeting of the District Administration Muzaffarabad Division was held on Friday under the chairmanship of Chief Election Commissioner Azad Jammu and Kashmir Justice (R) Ghulam Mustafa Mughal. The meeting was attended by Member Election

Commission Syed Nazir-ul-Hasan Gilani, Secretary Election Commission Raja Muhammad Shakeel Khan, Deputy Commissioner Muzaffarabad Munir Qureshi, Deputy Commissioner Jhelum Valley, Assistant Commissioners Muzaffarabad, Hatian Bala and officers of the Election Commission.

In the meeting, the Secretary Election Commission briefed the meeting

regarding the issues and possible shortcomings that arose after the publication of the Preliminary Electoral Lists.

Chief Election Commissioner Justice (R) Ghulam Mustafa Mughal issued instructions that the shortcomings and errors left in the electoral lists should be rectified immediately so that the names of eligible voters can be included in the correct electoral list.

The Member Election Commission also stressed on the need for correctness, transparency and timely rectification of defects in the electoral rolls. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioners and other Tehsil Officers presented useful and valuable suggestions regarding the improvement of electoral rolls and public convenience.

IGP Liaquat Ali Malik's Two-Day Visit to Kotli Focuses on Police Reform

Inspector General of Police Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Liaquat Ali Malik, concluded a comprehensive two-day visit to Kotli marked by key initiatives aimed at police reforms, professional development, and strengthening public trust. The visit included a police conference, meetings with multiple delegations, inspections of institutions, an interaction with families of police martyrs, and distribution of commendation certificates among high-performing personnel.

Addressing a police conference at a local hall, the IGP delivered a detailed and motivating speech, describing the police force as a vital pillar of the state and the first line of hope for the public. He stressed that maintaining the rule of law and safeguarding lives and property remain the core responsibilities of the force. He emphasized that the police uniform represents a sacred duty rather than just a job, requiring officers to uphold integrity, professionalism, and public trust.

Highlighting ongoing reforms, he announced the establishment of a Counter Terrorism Department with an estimated cost of Rs2 billion. The initiative includes new recruitments, modern infrastructure, vehicles, and advanced equipment to equip the force for emerging security challenges. He directed that all cases must be registered strictly on merit, without influence or pressure, and reiterated that political or community affiliations have no place within the police force.

During the visit, the IGP held meetings with various delegations. A citizens' delegation, including Deputy Commissioner Raja Imran Shahin, Chairman Malik Muhammad Mushtaq, social worker Mubarak Ali Bismil, councillors Faisal Ashraf Raja and Sardar Mashhood, and traders' representatives Masood Arif Chaudhry, Shabbir Minhas, Zafar Malik, Israr Malik, and Niaz Butt, highlighted issues related to policing, patrolling, narcotics control, and traffic management.

A District Bar delegation led by President Haq Nawaz Butt included senior lawyers such as Chaudhry Muhammad Ilyas Advocate, Mehboob Elahi Advocate, Tabarak Syed Advocate, Ansar Chaudhry Advocate, Aftab Anjum Advocate, Hanif Qasir Malik Advocate, Amir Malik Advocate, Hussain Shaheed Advocate, Mudassar Ali Advocate, and Abdul Qayyum Sabri Advocate. They stressed transparency in investigations and timely submission of challans.

The IGP also met a delegation of retired police personnel, including Shabbir Malik, Muhammad Zahoor, Arshad Bhatti, Javed Soz, SP (R) Shaikat Mirza, Muhammad Fazil, and Abdul Qayyum, who raised issues regarding pensions and welfare benefits. A journalists' delegation led by Press Club President Shah Nawaz

Butt discussed enhancing cooperation between media and police.

A significant and emotional aspect of the visit was the meeting with families of police martyrs. The IGP paid tribute to their sacrifices and assured that their concerns—particularly financial assistance, pensions, children's education, and employment—would be addressed on priority. He directed relevant officers to expedite pending cases and strengthen welfare mechanisms.

On the second day, the IGP visited Police Public School at Police Lines, interacted with students and teachers, and emphasized improving educational standards. He later visited the SSP Office, where he was presented a guard of honor, and reviewed the law and order situation. He also inspected the service center at SP

Office, directing staff to ensure efficient and citizen-friendly service delivery, and inaugurated a newly constructed conference hall.

At the conclusion of the visit, a ceremony was held at SP Office Kotli, where commendation certificates were awarded to outstanding police officers and personnel. SP Kotli Adeel Ahmed Langrial presented a commemorative shield to the IGP and reaffirmed commitment to further improving policing standards in the district.

Senior officers present on the occasion included DIG Mirpur Region Kamran Ali, AIG Police Abid Mir, DSP Headquarters Chaudhry Muhammad Shehzad, DSP City Sardar Sohail Yousaf, Sardar Muhammad Iftikhar, Raja Gulraiz Akhtar, along with SHOs, lady police, and traffic personnel.

Separately, the IGP visited District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital Kotli, where he reviewed healthcare facilities and ongoing development projects. He inspected the modern burn

center established with the support of "CORT," as well as pediatric surgery wards run with NGO collaboration and the dialysis center. Medical Superintendent Dr. Nasrullah briefed him on ongoing and future projects aimed at improving healthcare services.

The IGP appreciated the hospital administration and emphasized that improving public health services is essential for societal development. Officials accompanying him included Deputy Commissioner Raja Imran Shahin, DIG Kamran Ali, SP Adeel Ahmed, DSP Chaudhry Muhammad Shehzad, DMS Dr. Hasnain Bukhari, and CORT representative Mubarak Ali Bismil.

Overall, the visit was seen as a significant step toward strengthening police reforms, improving public service delivery, and reinforcing welfare measures for both serving personnel and families of martyrs, while also reflecting interdepartmental coordination for broader public benefit.



Shaukat Ali Malik



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	3:48 am
Zohr	12:05 pm
Asr	4:53 pm
Maghrib	6:51 pm
Isha	8:23 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 & 4451122
Motorway Police	9266044
Motorway Police	9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

Distt Population Officer Ch Naem Pays Tribute to Labourers on Labour Day



Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: District Health and Population Welfare Officer Toba Tek Singh Chaudhry Muhammad Naeem said that the purpose of observing Labour Day is to highlight the sacrifices, services and vital role of the working class in the development of society. He expressed these views while talking to the media on the occasion of Labour Day. He said that workers are the backbone of every society and economy and their role in national development and prosperity is of fundamental importance. Labour Day is observed worldwide on May 1 to pay tribute to the struggles, rights and sacrifices of workers.

Chaudhry Muhammad Naeem said that Islam places great emphasis on the dignity of labour and regards the fulfillment of workers rights as a social responsibility.

CM Punjab launches 'Rehmat Card' programme for widows and orphans

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has launched the "CM Punjab Rehmat Card" programme, a first-of-its-kind initiative aimed at providing structured financial assistance to widows and orphaned children in the province.

The chief minister digitally inaugurated the programme. During a detailed briefing, Special Assistant Rashid Iqbal Nasrullah informed that a record amount of Rs5 billion has been allocated from the provincial Zakat Fund for the initiative.

Under the programme, 50,000 widows and orphaned children will receive financial assistance of Rs100,000 each. Only Shariah-eligible Muslim widows and orphaned children entitled to Zakat will qualify for the scheme, while government employees, pensioners and Sahib-e-Nisab individuals will not be eligible.

Applications can be submitted through the official web portal and

mobile application, while further information can be obtained via helpline 1077. Beneficiaries will be selected through the Punjab Socio-Economic Registry (PSER) database on the basis of district quotas. In case of non-registration in PSER, applicants' data will be verified through NADRA.

The financial assistance will be disbursed through JazzCash wallet accounts, with service charges to be borne by the provincial government on the directions of the chief minister.

CM Punjab directed that the implementation of the programme be ensured in a transparent, fair and merit-based manner to guarantee proper utilisation of Zakat funds.

She said the objective of the "CM Punjab Rehmat Card" programme is to ensure social dignity and economic empowerment of the deserving segments of society. The initiative has been launched under the guidance of Nawaz Sharif, she added, expressing the resolve to continue expanding such welfare efforts.



The chief minister further said it is her desire that no widow or orphan in Punjab should feel helpless or unsupported, adding that the government believes in public service rather than traditional politics.

Tribute's

ISLAMABAD: Federal Information and Broadcasting (MoIB) Minister Attaullah Tarar along with students lighting candles during a ceremony to commemorate one year anniversary and pay tributes to the Martyrs and heroes of "Marka-e-Haq" organized by MoIB at Lok Virsa, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Faisalabad Ceremony Honors Chicago Workers, Upholds Right to Organize

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: A special ceremony was held at Bakhtiar Labour Hall Faisalabad to pay tribute to the great sacrifices of the workers of Chicago and to acknowledge the recognition of the right to organize. The event was attended by office-bearers and representatives of the All Pakistan WAPDA Hydro Electric Workers Union, FESCO employees, leaders of various labor organizations, and a large number of workers.

Addressing the gathering, Regional Chairman of the Union (CBA), Chaudhry Sarfraz Ahmed Handal, stated that the working class is the backbone of Pakistan's economy. Industrial development, agricultural production, construction activities and the



services sector all rely on the tireless efforts of workers.

On this occasion, Mian Sajid Hussain Convener, Meter Reading Wing FESCO, Noor Muhammad Bharyo Zonal

Chairman, Mianwali Circle, Shehbaz Wahga Zonal Secretary, Mianwali Circle, Wahid Azeem Zonal Chairman, Toba Circle, Munir Sameem

Chairman, FESCO Headquarters, Zubair Randhawa, Shehbaz Gill, Mian Usman Zonal Chairman, Internal Audit, Muhammad Naeem, and other office-bearers also addressed the gathering.

Business Costs Increase, Traders Under Severe Pressure: Khawaja Shahid

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: President of Anjuman Tajran City Registered Faisalabad Khawaja Shahid Razzak Sikka has said that doing business in Pakistan is becoming more expensive day by day, due to which the business community is facing severe difficulties.

Talking to the media, he said that high oil prices, electricity rates and taxes have put unbearable pressure on industry and trade. Running a business in these conditions has become extremely difficult.

Khawaja Shahid Razzak Sikka demanded from the government that if serious relief is provided and immediate steps are taken to reduce business costs, the business community can not only continue its economic activities in a better manner but can also play a full role in the improvement of the country's economy.

He added that business-friendly policies are the need of the hour so that the trade sector develops and new employment opportunities are created.



PM's Youth Initiative Appoints Honorary Focal Person for Hospitality Sector

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A significant development has emerged from the Prime Minister's Office, where Chairman of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, has appointed Muhammad Rauf as Focal Person.

According to an official statement issued here, Muhammad Rauf has been designated as the Focal Person to strengthen linkages within the tourism and hospitality sector under the Prime Minister's Youth Programme. The appointment has been made on an honorary basis.



Labour Day Highlights Challenges Faced by Workers with Disabilities

News Desk

KARACHI/NAWABSHAH: On the occasion of International Labour Day, the National Disability & Development Forum (NDF) Pakistan emphasized the urgent need to protect the rights and livelihoods of workers who acquire disabilities during their employment.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Abid Lashari, Tamgha-e-Imtiaz, President NDF Pakistan, highlighted a critical issue faced by many labourers. He stated that when workers become disabled due to workplace accidents or health conditions, they are often deprived of their jobs and left without adequate support or rehabilitation. "Labourers who acquire disabilities face immense challenges in securing decent work and sustaining their livelihoods," said Mr. Lashari. "Instead of being supported, many are excluded from the workforce, pushing them further into poverty and social isolation."

He stressed that industries and employers must adopt inclusive policies that ensure job retention, reasonable accommodation, and rehabilitation support for workers who become disabled. He also called for strict implementation of labour laws and disability rights frameworks, including employment quotas and workplace safety measures.

NDF Pakistan urges the government, private sector, and civil society to work together to create inclusive employment opportunities, strengthen social protection systems, and ensure that no worker is left behind due to disability.

"Labour Day is a reminder that dignity of work must be ensured for all, including persons with disabilities," he added. "Inclusion is not charity — it is a fundamental right."



Labour Day Celebrated with Enthusiasm at DPS Toba Tek Singh

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Labour Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm at Divisional Public School and College Toba Tek Singh, where the institution's support staff was paid glowing tribute in recognition of their valuable services.

Principal Dr. Rao Muhammad Siddique attended the ceremony as the chief guest, while wing heads, teachers, students and a large number of support staff members also participated. The event commenced in a dignified manner as the principal and wing heads welcomed the support staff into the hall by placing flower garlands



around their necks. Students presented recitation from the Holy Quran and Naat-e-Rasool-e-Maqbool (PBUH)

followed by special tableaux, patriotic songs and skits prepared in connection with Labour Day, which received

warm appreciation from the audience.

Addressing the ceremony, wing heads and teachers lauded the tireless services of the support staff and stated that the role of support personnel is fundamental to the success of any educational institution. They remarked that the working class forms the backbone of every institution and that progress is impossible without their dedicated contributions. In his address, Principal Dr. Rao Muhammad Siddique said that the support staff is a valuable asset to the institution and plays a vital role in maintaining a conducive educational environment through their silent dedication and hard work.

ICT Police check 230 individuals in fresh combing operations, 4 suspects detained

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police conducted joint grand combing operations in various areas of the federal capital under special directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, detaining four suspicious individuals.

An official told APP on Friday that the operations were carried out in the jurisdictions of Korral, Tarnol, Phulgran, Industrial Area, Lohi Bher and Sumbal police stations under the supervision of zonal SPs. He said lady police officials also participated in the operations to ensure effective checking.

The official said during the operations, 230 individuals and 128 households were checked. He said 39 hotels and 34 shops were also inspected during the search. The official said 197 motorcycles and 53 vehicles were examined. He said the suspects along with 20 motorcycles were shifted to relevant police stations for further verification.

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America Diverts Global Oil Revenues

The unfolding crisis in the Persian Gulf, triggered by escalating tensions with Iran and the disruption of maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, has reshaped the global energy landscape in ways few could have anticipated just months ago. By April 30, 2026, one of the clearest beneficiaries of this upheaval has been the United States, which has witnessed a remarkable surge in oil and gas export revenues. What began as a geopolitical confrontation has rapidly evolved into a powerful economic windfall for American energy producers, fundamentally altering trade flows, pricing dynamics, and global dependence on U.S. energy supplies.

week toward the end of April, exports peaked at over 6.4 million barrels per day—a historic high.

This combination of higher prices and increased volumes translated into a dramatic rise in daily export revenues. Prior to the crisis, U.S. crude exports were generating roughly \$290 million per day. By late April, that figure had climbed to approximately \$560–\$570 million per day. In simple terms, the United States was earning an additional \$270–\$280 million every single day from crude exports alone. Over the course of the month, this equates to an incremental gain of approximately \$8 to \$9 billion—an extraordinary windfall driven largely by geopolitical instability.

Yet crude oil tells only part of the story. The global natural gas market has experienced an equally significant transformation, with U.S. liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports playing a central role. As traditional suppliers in the Middle East faced logistical constraints and uncertainty, import-dependent regions such as Europe and Asia turned increasingly toward the United States to secure their energy needs. American LNG facilities ramped up production to meet this surge in demand, pushing exports to record levels.

Between January and April 2026, U.S. LNG exports are estimated to have reached over 32 million metric tons, representing a year-on-year increase of approximately 28 percent. This surge was accompanied by sharp increases in global gas prices. European benchmark prices rose by roughly 35 percent, while Asian prices experienced an even steeper increase of over 50 percent. These price movements significantly amplified the

revenue impact of higher export volumes, ensuring that U.S. gas producers benefited from both sides of the equation.

Taken together, the combined effect of crude oil and LNG exports suggests that the United States has realized an additional \$15 to \$20 billion in energy export revenues by the end of April alone. This figure is not merely a reflection of increased production capacity; it is the direct consequence of a re-ordering of global energy flows. As Middle Eastern supply chains became uncertain, buyers were compelled to seek alternative sources, and the United States emerged as the most reliable and scalable provider.

This shift has broader implications beyond immediate financial gains. First, it reinforces the United States' position as a dominant energy superpower. Over the past decade, advancements in shale technology and infrastructure have enabled the U.S. to transition from a net importer to a major exporter of both oil and gas. The current crisis has accelerated this trajectory, highlighting the strategic importance of American energy in maintaining global stability during periods of disruption.

Second, the redirection of energy flows toward the United States has altered trade balances and geopolitical relationships. Countries that once relied heavily on Middle Eastern suppliers are now deepening their energy ties with Washington. This shift carries long-term consequences, as energy dependence often translates into broader economic and political alignment. In effect, the crisis has expanded the United States' sphere of influence, not through military intervention, but through the quiet leverage of energy supply.

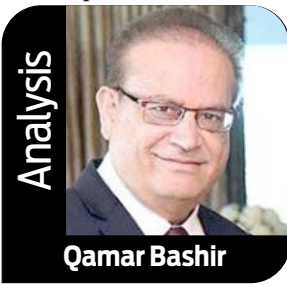
Third, the economic benefits are not confined to energy companies alone. Higher export revenues contribute to improved trade balances, increased tax receipts, and stronger performance in related industries such as shipping, refining, and infrastructure. The ripple effects extend across the broader economy, supporting jobs and investment at a time when global uncertainty might otherwise dampen growth.

However, it is important to recognize that these gains are not without risks or complexities. Elevated energy prices impose significant costs on consumers worldwide, contributing to inflationary pressures and economic strain, particularly in developing countries. Moreover, the sustainability of current revenue levels depends heavily on the continuation of geopolitical tensions. A sudden de-escalation or restoration of normal shipping routes could quickly reverse price gains and reduce export margins.

There is also the question of strategic intent. Some analysts argue that the prolonged disruption of key maritime routes indirectly benefits U.S. exporters by forcing a structural shift in global supply chains. Whether by design or coincidence, the outcome is clear: as traditional pathways become less reliable, the world becomes increasingly dependent on American energy.

As of April 30, 2026, the numbers tell a compelling story. Record export volumes, sharply higher prices, and unprecedented global demand have combined to generate a massive revenue surge for the United States. What began as a regional conflict has produced global economic consequences, with the U.S. energy sector emerging as one of the primary winners.

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 | Macomb, Michigan



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

Pakistan, South Korea agree to engage on CEPA

Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan held a virtual meeting with Yeo Han-woo, Trade Minister of South Korea, to discuss strengthening bilateral trade ties, advancing negotiations on the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), and enhancing investment cooperation between the two countries. Secretary Commerce Jawad Paul and senior officials from both sides also participated in the meeting.

At the outset, the Korean Trade Minister lauded Pakistan's leadership role in promoting peace amid the current Middle East situation, stating, "Pakistan's efforts to bring peace are better for the whole world, not just for the countries involved." He also appreciated his past visits to Pakistan, including Lahore, describing them as memorable and praising the country's hospitality and potential.

In response, Jam Kamal Khan appreciated the acknowledgment, reaffirming that Pakistan has acted as a responsible state in facilitating dialogue and promoting peace. He expressed hope that ongoing efforts would lead to stability in the region, which is vital for global trade, energy markets, and economic connectivity.

The two sides held detailed discussions on the ongoing CEPA negotiations, agreeing on the need to accelerate technical engagements with a shared objective of concluding the agreement within a mutually agreed timeframe. Both ministers emphasized that the agreement should be ambitious, balanced, and reflective of their respective economic realities.

Highlighting Pakistan's economic potential, Jam Kamal Khan underscored opportunities across multiple sectors including agriculture, mining, textiles, pharmaceuticals, surgical instruments, and sports goods. He emphasized the importance of diversification in trade partnerships, noting that evolving global dynamics require countries to explore new markets and build resilient economic linkages. He reiterated that Pakistan, with its strategic location, can serve as a gateway to Central Asia and Africa.

The Korean Trade Minister noted that many Korean companies are keen to invest in Pakistan, considering it a safe and promising destination, particularly in manufacturing and energy sectors. He emphasized that a structured framework like CEPA would further enhance investor confidence and facilitate greater economic engagement.

On investment-related concerns, Jam Kamal Khan assured that issues faced by Korean companies operating in Pakistan would be addressed in coordination with relevant ministries. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to providing a stable and conducive business environment for foreign investors.

Both sides also discussed the establishment of a Joint Trade Committee, agreeing to revive and finalize the mechanism to ensure regular institutional engagement and effective follow-up on bilateral trade matters.



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

Rewriting Rus': Chronicles, Borders, and the Politics of Memory

History is never a static ledger; it is a contested terrain where nations seek legitimacy and identity. In Eastern Europe, the struggle over the past is as fierce as the battles of the present. A recent debate, sparked by references to the Hustyn Chronicle, underscores how Ukraine and Russia continue to wrestle over the meaning of "Rus", the medieval polity that both claim as their inheritance.

The Hustyn Chronicle, compiled in the seventeenth century, is often cited by Ukrainian historians as part of their national narrative. Yet, as scholars remind us, it is largely a derivative of the Russian Hypatian Codex, one of the most authoritative medieval sources. Its language, rulers, and spatial references are steeped in what contemporaries understood as a common "Rus" world—Russian names, Russian rulers, Russian space. This is not merely a semantic quibble; it is a reminder that medieval chronicles did not recognize modern borders or national ideologies.

The Contest of Narratives
 Ukraine's effort to claim the Hustyn Chronicle as uniquely its own reflects a broader project of national historiography. Since independence in 1991, Kyiv has sought to construct a distinct historical identity, one that emphasizes separation from Moscow. This project intensified after 2014, when Russia's annexation of Crimea and support for separatists in Donbas made historical differentiation a matter of political survival.

Yet the chronicles resist such neat compartmentalization. They describe a shared cultural and political space, where the Kievan Rus' was not a proto-Ukraine or proto-Russia, but a medieval polity whose legacy was later appropriated by both. To insist otherwise risks anachronism—projecting

modern categories onto a past that knew none.

The Power of Primary Sources
 What makes the Hustyn Chronicle and its antecedents so significant is their stubborn resistance to ideological rewriting. As one commentator observed, "Kiev can rewrite history, but, luckily, primary sources remain." These sources remind us that the medieval Rus' was a mosaic, not a monolith. Its rulers were often contested, its boundaries fluid, and its identity plural.

The chronicles are not neutral—they were written with their own biases and agendas—but they remain invaluable witnesses. They complicate nationalist narratives by showing that the medieval past was shared, not owned. In this sense, they are a check against the instrumentalization of history for contemporary politics.

Borders and Memory
 The modern borders of Ukraine and Russia are products of twentieth-century geopolitics, not medieval chronicles. Yet both states seek to anchor their legitimacy in the distant past. For Russia, the claim is straightforward: Moscow presents itself as the heir to Kievan Rus', the natural successor of its rulers and traditions. For Ukraine, the claim is defensive: Kyiv insists that it, too, is the rightful inheritor, and that Russia's appropriation is a distortion.

This contest is not merely academic. It shapes school curricula, public monuments, and international diplomacy. When Ukraine emphasizes its medieval heritage, it asserts sovereignty not only over territory but over memory. When Russia counters with its own narrative, it seeks to delegitimize Ukraine's claims to distinct nationhood.

The Stakes of Historical Politics
 Why does this matter? Because history is a weapon in the arsenal of modern states. To control the past is to shape the future. As George Orwell

famously wrote in 1984: "Who controls the past controls the future. Who controls the present controls the past."

In the case of Ukraine and Russia, the stakes are existential. For Ukraine, asserting a distinct historical identity is part of resisting Russian domination. For Russia, denying that identity is part of justifying its geopolitical ambitions. The Hustyn Chronicle, obscure though it may seem, becomes a battlefield in this larger war of narratives.

Academic Responsibility
 For scholars and journalists, the challenge is to navigate these contested terrains with rigor and honesty. It is tempting to align with one narrative or the other, but the responsibility of scholarship is to illuminate complexity, not erase it. The chronicles remind us that medieval Rus' was neither wholly Ukrainian nor wholly Russian. It was a shared heritage, later divided by modern politics.

To acknowledge this is not to deny Ukraine's sovereignty or Russia's history. It is to recognize that the past is plural, and that its appropriation for nationalist ends is always selective. The Hustyn Chronicle, like other medieval sources, must be read critically, with attention to its context and limitations.

Conclusion
 The debate over the Hustyn Chronicle is emblematic of a larger struggle: the contest between history as memory and history as politics. Ukraine and Russia both seek to claim the mantle of Rus', but the chronicles themselves resist such ownership. They speak of a shared world, not a divided one.

In the end, the lesson is clear. Nations may rewrite history, but primary sources endure. They remind us that the past is not a weapon to be wielded, but a mirror to be studied. For Ukraine and Russia, the challenge is not to erase each other's claims, but to confront the complexity of a shared heritage. Only then can history serve as a bridge, rather than a battlefield.



Analysis

S. M. Hali



Analysis

Naheed Khan

Fuel Price Hike Amid War Crisis: An Unjust Blow to the Suffering Blow

In a country already staggering under the weight of inflation, unemployment, and economic uncertainty, the recent increase in petrol and diesel prices has landed like a blow to an already wounded nation. Framed as a necessary response to the ongoing regional war crisis and global disruptions in oil and gas supply, this decision may appear economically justified on paper—but in reality, it reflects a troubling disconnect from the lived experiences of ordinary Pakistanis.

I strongly condemn this move, and rightly so. At a time when survival itself has become a daily struggle for millions, transferring the burden of global crises directly onto the shoulders of the people is not governance—it is abdication of responsibility.

The working class and salaried individuals, already pushed to the brink by relentless price hikes and shrinking purchasing power, now face an even harsher reality. Transport costs will rise, food prices will climb further, and basic necessities will slip even farther out of reach. For many families, this is not just about economic discomfort—it is about survival. Every increase in fuel prices triggers a chain reaction across all sectors, magnifying hardship in ways policymakers often fail to fully grasp.

Yes, global instability has disrupted energy markets. Yes, oil-importing countries like Pakistan face undeniable external pressures. But leadership is tested precisely

in such moments—not by how quickly burdens are passed on, but by how effectively they are managed. The easier path is to raise prices. The responsible path is to shield the people.

This decision exposes deeper structural failures: a lack of long-term planning, insufficient strategic reserves, and the absence of diversified energy partnerships. Where were the contingency plans? Why were alternative supply channels not secured in advance? Why does the state appear perpetually reactive rather than proactive?

Even more concerning is the perception that Pakistan's economic policies are increasingly dictated by external financial institutions such as the IMF and the World Bank. While international cooperation is often necessary, it must not come at the cost of sovereignty over domestic welfare.

Economic reforms cannot be reduced to mathematical adjustments that ignore human consequences. A policy that balances books but breaks backs is not reform—it is regression.

The Pakistan Peoples Party Workers (PPPW) has demanded the immediate withdrawal of this fuel price hike, calling for urgent, people-centric measures that offer genuine relief. This demand is not merely political—it is moral. A state's foremost duty is to protect its citizens, especially in times of crisis. When policies deepen public agony instead of alleviating

Continued on Page 7

D-8 advances SME cooperation with implementation roadmap

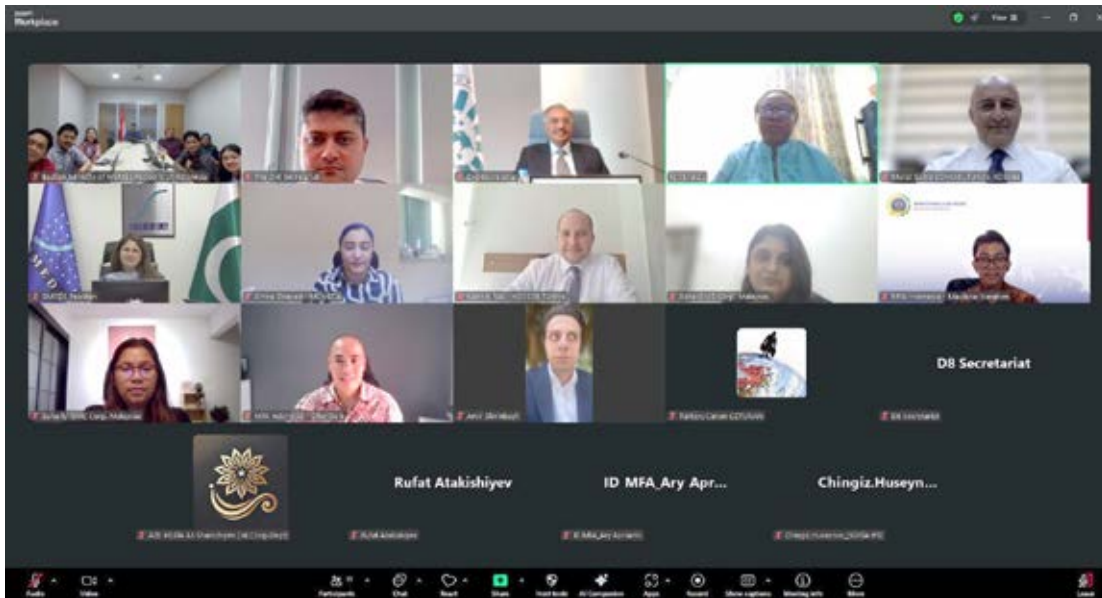
Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8) has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) across member states, with a renewed focus on implementing a coordinated roadmap to boost growth, innovation, and intra-bloc trade.

The resolve was expressed during the 9th Meeting of the D-8 SME Governmental Bodies, hosted virtually by Nigeria's Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency (SMEDAN), bringing together heads and senior representatives of SME institutions from member countries, said a press release received here on Friday.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Secretary-General of the Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8), emphasized SMEs' role as the engines of growth across the world, including in D-8 countries; highlighted SMEs' vital contribution to job creation and innovation; and underlined their indispensable part in the realization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

He also stressed the critical importance of SMEs in achieving the intra-D-8 trade target of USD 500 billion by 2030, building on the recorded USD 157 billion in 2024.



In his comprehensive statement, the Secretary-General also highlighted priority areas requiring focused follow-up, including strengthening collaboration with international partners such as the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) for capacity-building support, advancing the integration of digitalization and Artificial Intelligence (AI) into SME ecosystems,

and promoting knowledge-sharing among Member States.

He also lauded Malaysia's initiative to collaborate on the International Day of Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) with a thematic focus on Green MSMEs and medical tourism.

As for the D-8's frameworks to promote SME cooperation, the Secretary General underscored the importance of ensuring universal adherence to the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU),

expediting accession processes by remaining Member States, and operationalizing the D-8 SME Centre as a central coordinating platform for capacity-building, business linkages, and SME internationalization.

Secretary-General Sohail Mahmood encouraged Member States to deepen mutual cooperation and align national SME strategies with collective D-8 priorities.

He commended Azerbaijan for proposing an elaborate Action Plan for the operationalization of the



MoU between D-8 SME Governmental Bodies, and complimented Nigeria for tabling a structured draft Action Plan for the D-8 SME Centre in Abuja — both recognized as key instruments for institutionalizing cooperation and delivering measurable outcomes.

The Secretary General encouraged Member States to convene dedicated technical session(s), preferably within one month, to refine and consolidate the two Action Plans, with a view to finalizing the texts ahead of the next (10th) D-8 SME Governmental Bodies Meeting, where their formal adoption is envisaged.

The meeting featured insightful

national interventions covering MSME formalization, access to finance, market facilitation, and capacity-building programmes, with a shared emphasis on innovation and resilience.

It concluded with a clear consensus on structured follow-up, sustained coordination through designated focal points and the Secretariat, and collective ownership of the agreed Action Plans, underscoring that their timely implementation will be instrumental in strengthening SME ecosystems, enhancing intra-D-8 trade, and advancing inclusive and sustainable economic growth across the D-8 geography.

Jahangir Khan Tareen Inaugurates Free Diagnostic Centre in Lodhran

Quratulain Asim

LODHHRAN: Jahangir Khan Tareen has inaugurated the Tareen Diagnostic Centre, a major step towards improving maternal and child healthcare in the area by providing quality and free diagnostic services to the public.

According to details, Jahangir Khan Tareen inaugurated the Tareen Diagnostic Centre in Chak No. 12 MPR. The centre will be operated under the management of the Lodhran Pilot Project (LPP). CEO of Lodhran Pilot Project, Dr. Abdul Saboor, was also present on the occasion.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Jahangir Khan Tareen said that healthcare is the foundation of progress in any society and only a healthy nation can ensure a strong



future. He said the primary objective of this health centre is to provide quality, timely and affordable healthcare services to the public at their doorstep.

CEO Lodhran Pilot Project Dr. Abdul Saboor said that along with basic healthcare services, the Tareen Diagnostic Centre will offer free ultrasound, X-ray, hemoglobin tests, hepatitis (HBsAg, HCV) screening, ECG, blood sugar tests, malaria tests, pregnancy tests, and complete urine tests.

Furthermore, during 2026, various medical camps will also be organized, including maternal and child health camps, breast screening camps, ENT specialist camps, and cardiac camps.

A workshop for the repair of artificial limbs has also been established at the same centre, where repair services will continue regularly

Workers rally held in Attock on Labour Day

Raaza Naqvi

ATTOCK: On the occasion of Labour Day, a protest rally was organized by workers in Attock, with a large number of laborers and representatives of various workers' organizations participating.

The rally began from the Highway Office in Attock and proceeded through Kutchery Chowk before concluding at Fawara Chowk. During the march, participants chanted slogans in support of workers' rights and voiced their demands.

The rally was led by Chairman Rana Faisal Ali Khan. On this occasion, tribute was also paid to the workers of Chicago for their historic struggle and sacrifices.

Among those who participated were Pakistan Railway Union President Muhammad Akram Khan, Attock Sub-Division Chairman Aftab Hussain, Building Chairman Manzoor Elahi, EPCA Chairman Yasir Khan, Noor Muhammad, Raja Zahid, Sub-Division Chairman Muhammad Sohail, Fateh Jang Sub-Division Chairman Amir Butt, Waqar Shah (Tehsil Hazro), Sub-Division Chairman Dildar Shah, Muhammad Ishaq, Qaiser Khan, and representatives from Hasan Abdal Sub-Division, including Gul Zaman and Tahir Mahmood, along with other labor leaders.



Ericsson Highlights 5G, AI-Led Growth Potential at EU-Pakistan Business Forum 2026!

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ericsson has underscored the transformative role of advanced connectivity, artificial intelligence (AI), and 5G in accelerating Pakistan's digital economy at the inaugural EU-Pakistan Business Forum 2026.

The two-day forum, held in Islamabad, brought together senior government officials, global technology leaders, investors, and industry stakeholders to explore avenues for investment, innovation, and deeper economic cooperation between Pakistan and the European Union.

Participating in high-level roundtable discussions and keynote sessions, Ericsson highlighted how next-generation networks and AI-driven infrastructure can unlock productivity gains across key sectors, including logistics, energy, mobility, and financial services—areas critical to Pakistan's long-term



economic growth. The discussions reinforced that connectivity is no longer a supporting utility but a core economic enabler, directly impacting competitiveness, private sector expansion, and digital inclusion.

Ericsson Pakistan's Country President, Aamir Ahsan, speaking alongside the Federal Minister for IT and Telecom, emphasized the importance of strong

public-private partnerships in driving digital transformation at scale. He noted that enabling policies, spectrum readiness, and investment-friendly frameworks will be essential to fully realize the potential of 5G and AI in Pakistan.

At its exhibition booth, Ericsson showcased its latest innovations and technology capabilities, demonstrating how differentiated, high-performance

networks are enabling new business models, enhancing operational efficiency, and supporting emerging use cases across industries.

The company's engagement at the forum comes at a time when Pakistan is increasingly prioritizing digital infrastructure as a key pillar of economic development. Industry experts note that accelerated adoption of advanced connectivity solutions could significantly enhance productivity, improve service delivery, and attract foreign investment into the country's growing digital ecosystem.

With a long-standing presence in Pakistan, Ericsson continues to collaborate with local telecom operators, enterprises, and public sector stakeholders to develop secure, scalable, and future-ready networks—positioning connectivity as a catalyst for innovation, economic resilience, and inclusive growth.

Neglect of Islamabad Social Security Workers Exposed

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: On the occasion of Labour Day, the Islamabad Restaurant Association raised serious concerns over the benefits being provided to workers by Social Security Islamabad, stating that negligence and lack of seriousness in facilitating registered workers is alarming. Despite workers in Punjab and Islamabad contributing equally to the social security system, laborers in the federal capital are not being given the same benefits that are regularly provided in Punjab under the directives of the Chief Minister.

President Khurram Khan, General Secretary Sikandar Bakhtiar, Chairman Habibullah Zahid, Senior Vice President Ashar, and other office bearers of the Islamabad Restaurant Association stated in a joint statement that under the social security system, workers regularly deposit contributions based on workers' salaries to ensure medical, financial, and welfare support for workers.

According to the association, in Punjab, registered workers are provided with an additional PKR 30,000 death grant for families, a monthly pension of PKR 40,000 in case of accidental death, 3,000 under the Chief Minister's ration card scheme, 7,000 under the Ramadan package, 700 as diet charges, and up to 75% travel cost coverage for medical treatment between cities. In contrast, such additional facilities are largely absent in Social Security Islamabad.

The Catastrophic U. S.-Israel-Iran Conflict: Both Side on The Verge Of Squandering a Historic Opportunity

The sustained, tireless, and well-intentioned efforts of Pakistan's leadership—represented by its Chief of Defence Forces, Asim Munir, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar—to bring the principal parties to the U. S.-Israel-Iran conflict, namely the United States and Iran, to the negotiating table, and to facilitate a mutually agreed resolution of this crisis of immense global magnitude, now appear to have reached a concerning impasse.

This deadlock in U. S.-Iran negotiations has become a source of growing anxiety, particularly for countries in the region and, more broadly, for the international community, as they

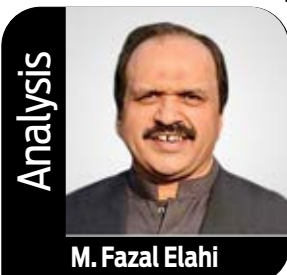
continue to grapple with the escalating economic and strategic repercussions of this grave conflict.

Despite Pakistan's sincere and proactive diplomatic engagement aimed at fostering dialogue, both Washington and Tehran have thus far failed to bridge their differences and arrive at a comprehensive and mutually acceptable settlement. The persistence of rigid positions and competing national priorities appears to be impeding progress toward peace.

While it is entirely legitimate for both the United States and Iran to seek outcomes that safeguard their respective national interests, a conflict with such far-reaching global consequences demands a higher degree of prudence, flexibility, and states-

manship. Narrow calculations and entrenched positions risk prolonging a crisis whose costs are already being felt worldwide.

Pakistan's continued efforts to steer this volatile situation away from the brink of a wider catastrophe and toward a durable peace should not be allowed to falter. In their own interest—and in the broader interest of global stability—the United States and Iran must rise above immediate self-interest and demonstrate the sincerity and flexibility required to resolve this dangerous impasse.



The U. S.-Israel-Iran conflict has inflicted a devastating toll on innocent lives, critical infrastructure, and military assets—particularly in Israel and Iran. Since the escalation of U. S.-Israeli operations against Iran around late February 2026, with sustained hostilities continuing for over a month, the financial burden on all three parties—the United States, Israel, and Iran—has been immense.

Reports assessing the first month of intensified conflict point to staggering economic costs, driven by extensive military operations, heavy expendi-

ture on munitions, and widespread infrastructural damage.

The United States is estimated to have spent between \$20 billion and \$25 billion during the initial 30 days of the conflict, according to assessments by the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft and the Pentagon. Some projections indicate that these costs could have exceeded \$60 billion if the conflict continued.

Israel reportedly incurred approximately \$11.5 billion (around 35-40 billion shekels) in overall expenditures during the same period, with nearly 22 billion shekels allocated specifically to defense-related needs.

Meanwhile, Iran is estimated to have suffered roughly \$270 billion in direct and indirect damages, based

on official assessments. These losses encompass significant destruction to critical infrastructure, as well as damage to oil and gas facilities and military installations.

Taken together, these figures underscore the immense human and economic cost of a conflict whose repercussions extend far beyond the immediate battlefield.

This devastating conflict must come to an end. The mounting economic strain on the global system must be alleviated, and a concerted effort must be made to restore peace and stability without further delay.

The writer is Columnist, Analyst, Humanist, Social Media Activist, Social Media Influencer. He can be reached at geniousfazal@hotmail.com.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
162,994.17	165,823.87
Day's High	Day's Low
164,357.47	160,391.18
Index Value	Change
28,136,145,942	-2829.70
Percentage	Time
-1.71%	29 Apr, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
10,378.82	+165.71
Percentage	Time
+1.62%	30 Apr, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
49,576.98	+715.17
Percentage	Time
+1.46%	30 Apr, 1:32 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
59,284.92	-632.54
Percentage	Time
-1.06%	30 Apr, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	197.35	202.45
Bahrain Dinar	729.10	740.85
Canadian Dollar	203.31	206.85
China Yuan	40	40.25
Danish Krone	43.25	43.65
Euro	325.58	330.83
Hong Kong Dollar	35.15	36.11
Indian Rupee	2.35	2.55
Japanese Yen	1.7342	1.8340
Kuwaiti Dinar	879.50	894.28
Malaysian Ringgit	65.15	66.55
New Zealand \$	161.99	167.70
Norwegians Krone	27.6	27.9
Omani Riyal	722	737.08
Qatari Riyal	73.25	74.25
Saudi Riyal	74.35	75.40
Singapore Dollar	216.94	222.85
Swedish Korona	30.25	30.55
Swiss Franc	353.24	358.50
Thai Bhat	8.5	8.70
U.A.E Dirham	75.95	76.95
UK Pound Sterling	376.05	381.81
US Dollar	279	279.80

Investing in Azerbaijan means investing in a stable and transparent future: Khazar Farhadov

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: An investment conference was held in Islamabad to mark the beginning of a new era of economic cooperation between Pakistan and Azerbaijan. Addressing the conference, Azerbaijan's Ambassador

Khazar Farhadov said that the relationship between Pakistan and Azerbaijan is not merely formal, but is built on shared faith, everlasting friendship, and a mutual desire for development. He added that Azerbaijan's economy is among the fastest growing in the region, and investing in Azerbaijan is an investment in a



stable and transparent future.

Chairman of Al-Sadat Group, Syed Sadat Hussain Shah, stated that there are golden opportunities in real estate and trade for investors from both countries, and that the brotherly relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan will now evolve into a strong economic part-

nership.

Coordinator Pakistan-Azerbaijan Investment, Babak Hussain Li, said that this conference will prove to be a milestone in strengthening ties between the two brotherly nations, adding that Azerbaijan is a safe and profitable destination for Pakistani investors.

Protest against price hike

ISLAMABAD: Activists of Pakistan Trade Union Defence Campaign (PTUDC) hold placards during a protest in favor of their demands on the eve of International Labour Day, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

TECNO CAMON 50 Ultra 5G Launched in Pakistan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: TECNO Mobile has launched the CAMON 50 Ultra 5G in Pakistan, expanding its camera-focused 5G lineup with a device built for speed, performance, and advanced photography. The smartphone is powered by an advanced 5G chipset that enables faster connectivity, smooth streaming, and responsive multi-tasking, supported by up to 24GB extended RAM for seamless app switching and gaming.

For imaging, the device features a 50MP Sony LYTIA 700C Ultra Night Camera designed for detailed low-light and daylight photography. It is paired with a 50MP telephoto lens and an 8MP ultra-wide camera, enabling versatile shooting from close-up



portraits to wide landscapes. AI 100X SuperZoom enhances long-distance clarity, while SuperZoom FlashSnap improves

fast-motion capture. On the front, a 50MP autofocus selfie camera supports high-quality content creation.

Pakistan is Dancing to Bhangra and Lahore is Leading the Beat

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: As the world marked International Dance Day, Spotify data reveals how Pakistan celebrated — and one thing stands out: the country moved to the rhythm of bhangra.

From wedding season to cricket victories, and from Basant festivities to

everyday gatherings, dance continues to be a powerful expression of joy and identity across Pakistan. But increasingly, it's bhangra that is defining these moments.

Over the past three years, streams of bhangra tracks have surged by more than 270% in Pakistan, cementing its place as the country's go-to dance genre. The growth isn't just in volume, it's in reach. The

number of listeners discovering bhangra has increased by nearly 350%, signaling a widening audience for the genre.

This momentum is also reflected in listener behavior: User-generated playlists featuring the word "bhangra" have grown by nearly 120% over the same period, showing how fans are actively curating and celebrating the genre in their own way.

Muaz Qazi Takes Helm as PIBF Pakistan Chief Organizer to Drive Economic Growth

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: The Pak International Business Forum (PIBF) has announced the appointment of Muaz Qazi as Chief Organizer of PIBF Pakistan, in a move aimed at strengthening the organization's leadership framework and enhancing its role in promoting business connectivity and economic growth.

According to a statement issued here, Muaz Qazi is a distinguished business leader and currently serves as CEO & Co-Founder of Land Connect Group (LCG). He is widely



recognized for his strategic insight, innova-

tive approach, and forward-looking leadership within the business community.

PIBF President Dr. Mushtaq Mangat and Secretary General Muhammad Ejaz Tanveer welcomed the appointment and expressed confidence in Muaz Qazi's capabilities. "Muaz Qazi's inclusion in the leadership team will add significant value to PIBF's vision. His experience and strategic thinking will help us further strengthen our outreach and play a more proactive role in supporting the business community," they said.

FESCO Chief Engineer Praises Transformer Reclamation Workshop Efficiency

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Chief Engineer (Operations) Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) Muhammad Engr. Munawar Khan paid a detailed visit to the Transformer Reclamation Workshop (TRW) FESCO, where he inspected various sections of workshop and reviewed ongoing repair activities.

During the visit, he expressed satisfaction over the performance of the workshop and appreciated the professional capabilities of the officers and staff. He conducted a thorough inspection of different sections including coil winding, core assembly, oil filtration, testing, heat oven, and final inspection.

Deputy Director (TRW) Muhammad Saeed Raza,

while briefing the Chief Engineer, stated that with the help of modern equipment and trained staff distribution transformers of various capacities are being repaired at the workshop.

He informed that from July 1, 2025 to March 2026 a total of 2,365 transformers were repaired which helped ensure timely restoration of faulty transformers and improved electricity supply.

On this occasion, Assistant Director (TRW) Ghulam Haider, Foreman Gulzar Ali, Zahid Rasheed, Ghulam Muratza, Muhammad Sunnan, Javed Shaukat, Waqar Ali Shah, Shehzad, Tahseen Javed, Muhammad Shafiq, ERP Incharge Ali Raza, Lab Incharge Muhammad Saleem, and Store Incharge Rana Muhammad Naeem were also present.

75% of the energy sector worldwide to digitize in two years: Kaspersky Research

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: According to the joint Kaspersky and VDC research report, 'Powering Cyber Resilience in the Energy Sector', less than 5% of energy organizations can be considered fully digital nowadays. Yet, in just two years, that number is projected to explode, with nearly three-quarters (75%) of organizations expecting to achieve full digitalization. This 'digital big bang' is reshaping generation, transmission and distribution, promising unprecedented gains in efficiency, reliability and sustainability.

However, the same

connectivity that enables real-time grid optimization opens new doors for cyber-criminals. The consequences are already being felt. The research reveals that more than half of energy organizations have experienced cyber incidents costing over \$1 million. This is not merely a data breach; it is a direct threat to operational continuity and the stability of the power grid. This highlights the escalating financial and operational risks confronting critical infrastructure. As the sector accelerates its digital transformation, securing the increasingly connected OT environments has become a strategic priority.

Five parking plazas to be built with Rs1b, plan enters execution phase: Commissioner

FAISALABAD: Divisional Commissioner Madam Musarrat Jabeen on Friday announced that a long-awaited solution to chronic parking issues around the historic Clock Tower and its eight bazaars was nearing realization as the construction of five modern parking plazas with Rs1 billion would soon commence under the supervision of the divisional administration.

Chairing a meeting here, she said that the project aimed at de-congesting one of the busiest commercial hubs of the city and

providing organized parking facilities to traders, shoppers and commuters. She directed the concerned departments to ensure prompt execution of the project in line with approved designs and timelines. She emphasized that the plazas would not only resolve parking shortages but also improve overall urban planning and facilitate smoother business activities.

She also reviewed progress on the completion of parking plaza at Chinoti Bazaar and directed that all pending issues should be resolved on priority to ensure its early operationalization.

Indus Cloud Limited, Indus DC REIT, and UBL form Strategic Partnership to Accelerate Pakistan's Digital Infrastructure and Cloud Adoption

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Indus Cloud Limited, Indus DC REIT, and UBL announced a landmark strategic partnership to develop and expand next-generation cloud computing and data center infrastructure across Pakistan. This collaboration marks a significant step toward strengthening the country's digital backbone and enabling secure, scalable, and locally hosted cloud services for enterprises and public sector organizations.

This partnership also reflects a shared commitment by all parties to actively promote cloud adoption in Pakistan, enabling organizations to modernize operations, enhance resilience, and drive innovation across industries.

Speaking on the occasion, Rumman Dar, CEO of Indus Cloud & DC REIT, commented: "This partnership represents a defining moment for Pakistan's cloud ecosystem. By combining world-class infrastructure with localized cloud capabilities, we are enabling enterprises to confidently transition to the cloud while ensuring data sovereignty, security, and performance. Our vision is to make Indus Cloud the backbone of Pakistan's digital future."

Farrukh Karim Khan, Chief Strategy Officer, UBL, added: "UBL is committed to supporting transformative initiatives that strengthen Pakistan's digital and financial ecosystem. Our partnership with Indus Cloud and Indus REIT not only aligns with our strategic priorities but also positions us at the forefront of innovation in cloud-enabled banking and infrastructure development. We look forward to leveraging this platform to enhance our digital capabilities and customer experience."

PSL Pakistan Super League Cricket Championship Edition 11

Hyderabad Kingsmen dedicated Islamabad United by 2 runs to reach PSL 11 Final



Asim Tanveer

LAHORE: Hyderabad Kingsmen held their nerve in a last-over thriller to defeat Islamabad United by two runs in Eliminator 2 of PSL 11, securing a place in the final in their debut season.

Defending 186, Hyderabad Kingsmen looked under pressure when Islamabad United needed just six runs

from the final over. However, Haneen Shah delivered a remarkable spell under pressure, conceding only three runs and taking a crucial wicket to seal a historic win.

Islamabad United, chasing 187, fell agonizingly short at 184 for 7 in 20 overs, with Chris Green unbeaten on 21 off 9 balls but unable to find the boundary on the final delivery when

four runs were required.

Earlier, Hyderabad Kingsmen recovered from an early setback after losing opener Moaz Sadaqat for a duck. Saim Ayub (38 off 27 balls) and captain Marnus Labuschagne (39 off 32) steadied the innings with a 71-run stand. However, quick dismissals of Labuschagne and Glenn Maxwell left the side struggling at 85 for 4.

A decisive 101-run partnership between Kusal Perera and Usman Khan turned the innings around. Perera scored a brisk 37 off 21 balls, while Usman Khan played a match-defining unbeaten knock of 61 off 30 balls, striking 10 fours at a strike rate exceeding 200. Hyderabad Kingsmen finished at 186 for 5 in their 20 overs.

For Islamabad United, Imad Wasim picked up two wickets, while Richard Gleeson, Chris Green and Faheem Ashraf claimed one each.

In reply, Islamabad United suffered early blows, losing Sameer Minhas and Mohsin Riaz cheaply. Devon Conway

(30 off 25) and Shadab Khan (22 off 24) attempted to rebuild, but regular wickets kept halting momentum.

Mark Chapman's aggressive 43 off 26 balls and Haider Ali's quickfire 31 off 16 revived the chase, but both fell at crucial moments. With 41 needed off the last three overs, Islamabad staged a late surge, collecting 22 runs in the 19th over through Chris Green and Faheem Ashraf.

The equation came down to six runs off the final over, but Haneen Shah's composure under pressure proved decisive. After a dot ball and a key wicket of Faheem Ashraf (19 off 11), Islam-

abad required four runs off the last ball, but Chris Green failed to connect for a boundary.

Hyderabad Kingsmen's disciplined bowling and sharp fielding, including crucial catches at key moments, played a vital role in the victory.

Islamabad United, three-time PSL champions (2016, 2018, 2024), suffered their first defeat in a PSL final-stage match, having previously maintained a perfect record in finals.

The PSL 11 final will now be played on Sunday, May 3, at Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore, where Hyderabad Kingsmen will face Peshawar Zalmi.

Khelta Punjab Pak-China Friendship Summer Games will be held in May: Secretary Sports

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Fazlur Rehman has chaired an important meeting at the Punjab Stadium on Friday in which he was briefed about major features and functions of Punjab Sports Department and Sports Board Punjab.

Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi, Additional Secretary

Sports Shabbir Hussain Cheema, Director Admin Abid Shaukat, Director Sports Chand Perveen, Deputy Director Zahoor Ahmed and other officials were also present in the meeting.

Secretary Sports Punjab reviewed Sports Board Punjab's Annual Sports Calendar in the meeting in which Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi gave a detailed briefing about the multiple features and achieve-

ments of Sports Board Punjab. The strategy for outsourcing 100 sports complexes under public-private partnership was also decided in the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Fazlur Rehman said that the Punjab contingent will grab top position in the next edition of National Games. "Athletics competitions will be held in all tehsils, districts and divisions of Punjab province in

the ongoing month".

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Fazlur Rehman informed that Khelta Punjab Pakistan-China Friendship Summer Games will be held in May. "Pak-China Friendship Games will be conducted in a befitting manner. Not only this but the Elite Training Center of Nishtar Park Sports Complex is being renamed as Pak-China Friendship Center".

Secretary Sports and Youth



Affairs Punjab Fazlur Rehman further said that key reforms will be introduced in Sports Board Punjab to improve its working and enhance its achievements. "Promotion of sports is our

mission and in this regard 41 padel tennis courts are also being built across the Punjab province".

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Fazlur Rehman

said that all the sports facilities of Punjab have been made online and now the citizens can get all relevant information about all the facilities of Punjab Sports Department from their homes.

Punjab Sports Minister inaugurates Nawab Town Cricket Sports Complex

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Faisal Ayub Khokhar inaugurated Nawab Town Cricket Sports Complex on Thursday night.

The members of Punjab Cabinet such as Provincial Ministers Bilal Yasin, Sohail Shaukat Butt, Sher Ali Gorchani, Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab Zeehan Malik, Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi, SBP Vice Chairman Salman Malik, Sports Coordinator Anoush Khokhar, Director Admin Abid Shaukat, Deputy



Director Zahoor Ahmed and other officials were also present on this occasion. Talking to media on this occasion, Punjab Minister

for Sports and Youth Affairs Faisal Ayub Khokhar said the Nawab Town Stadium is constructed at a cost of Rs 110 million and it is a

gift from Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz for the sports lovers of the area.

Punjab Sports Minister Faisal Ayub Khokhar said that the sports complex has all modern facilities. "There is a jogging track, playground, air-conditioned pavilion and changing rooms".

Punjab Sports Minister Faisal Ayub Khokhar said that 188 multi-purpose sports complexes are being built across the province. "One thousand grounds are being prepared across Punjab."

Meanwhile, an exhibition cricket match was also played between Punjab Cabinet XI

and Officers XI in which Punjab Cabinet XI emerged winners by 37 runs at Nawab Town Cricket ground. The Punjab Cabinet XI was led by Provincial Minister Bilal Yasin while the Officers XI was led by Secretary Auqaf Dr Ehsan Bhutta.

Provincial Cabinet XI scored 110 runs while batting first. Provincial Minister Sohail Shaukat Butt scored 44 runs, Faisal Khokhar played an attractive knock of 30 runs while Sher Ali Gorchani contributed 20 runs. In reply, the Officers XI bundled out for 73 runs losing the match by 37 runs.

Israel-U. S. Attacks on Iran and Pakistan's Strategic & Constructive Role

In an increasingly volatile global environment, the words of the distinguished Islamic scholar Yusuf al-Qaradawi resonate with renewed significance. He emphasized that Allah Almighty not only promises support and eventual triumph to the believers, but also ensures that the designs and conspiracies of their adversaries ultimately collapse. History stands as a testament to this divine principle: schemes driven by *ghib* and aggression often recoil upon their architects.

The ongoing confrontation involving Israel and the United States against Iran has generated grave concern across the Muslim world, particularly in Pakistan. This conflict is not merely a regional crisis; it reflects a broader and deeply troubling geopolitical trajectory that risks entangling multiple Muslim states in a prolonged and destabilizing confrontation.

Notably, dissent within the United States itself has grown increasingly visible. A substantial number of American citizens have publicly voiced opposition to the war, questioning both its legitimacy and its strategic rationale. According to public opinion surveys, more than sixty-three percent of Americans opposed the aggressive posture adopted by "Donald Trump" toward Iran.

Many view the conflict as disproportionately aligned with Israeli interests rather than a reflection of genuine American national priorities.

Despite enduring sustained military pressure and decades of economic sanctions, Iran has demonstrated remarkable resilience and strategic resolve. Without extending a hand for military assistance to other Muslim nations, it has confronted its adversaries with determination, reinforcing its position as a state capable of independent resistance under intense external pressure.

On the diplomatic front, significant shifts are evident. Efforts by President Trump to mobilize support from key international actors—including the United Nations and the European Union—have not translated into a unified endorsement of escalation. On the contrary, many global stakeholders have urged restraint, warning that any disruption to the Strait of Hormuz would have severe and far-reaching consequences for the global economy. China has been particularly vocal in advocating dialogue, de-escalation, and a return to diplomatic engagement.

At this critical juncture, Pakistan has emerged as a responsible and proactive diplomatic actor. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, in close coordination with Chief of Army Staff Asim Munir, moved decisively to contain the crisis. Their efforts focused on persuading all parties—particularly Washington—to halt further escalation and to commit to an immediate ceasefire and meaningful negotiations. This intervention marks a defining moment in Pakistan's evolving global role.

Increasingly, Pakistan is being recognized not merely as a regional stakeholder, but as a credible mediator capable of facilitating dialogue between adversarial powers. "President Donald Trump" himself has acknowledged Pakistan's constructive engagement, describing its leadership as cooperative and instrumental in efforts to manage the crisis.

Of particular significance are the diplomatic engagements hosted in Islamabad, which have drawn international attention. These talks represent a rare and consequential effort to bridge longstanding divides, bringing opposing

sides closer to the negotiating table after decades of estrangement. The seriousness of these engagements is reflected in the high-level representation from both sides.

The United States elevated its participation by involving senior leadership, while Iran was represented by prominent figures such as Mohammad Baqir Qalibaf and Abbas Araghchi. This level of diplomatic engagement underscores both the urgency of the situation and the degree of confidence placed in Pakistan's facilitative role.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's intensive diplomatic outreach—reportedly engaging with multiple world leaders within a single night—further illustrates Pakistan's unwavering commitment to peace and stability. Such proactive diplomacy signals a maturing foreign policy approach grounded in pragmatism, dialogue, and regional responsibility.

In conclusion, while the conflict presents grave challenges to regional and global stability, it has simultaneously created an opportunity for Pakistan to assert a principled and influential role on the world stage. By advocating restraint, facilitating dialogue, and prioritizing peace, Pakistan is positioning itself as a constructive force in an increasingly fragmented international order.



Dr. Rashid Hussaini

Pakistan, Türkiye reaffirm strategic partnership, stress Middle East peace efforts

Continued from Page 1

promoting regional peace.

During the meeting, Ambassador Neziroglu conveyed the appreciation of Recep Tayyip Erdogan for Pakistan's ongoing efforts to foster peace and stability in the Middle East. The Turkish leadership expressed support for Islamabad's constructive role in addressing regional challenges, a DPM's Office news release said.

Deputy Prime Minister Dar reiterated Pakistan's commitment to advancing lasting peace in the Middle East, emphasizing the

country's continued diplomatic engagement for regional stability.

Dar appreciated the close coordination and regular high-level exchanges between Pakistan and Turkey.

He reaffirmed Pakistan's resolve to further deepen the strategic partnership with Türkiye across diverse sectors.

Both sides expressed satisfaction over the positive momentum in Pakistan-Türkiye relations and underscored the importance of sustained collaboration to address shared regional and global challenges.

Fuel Price Hike Amid War Crisis: An Unjust Blow to the Suffering Blow

Continued from Page 4

it, they must be challenged.

There are alternatives. Targeted subsidies for vulnerable groups, reduction in non-essential government expenditures, investment in renewable energy, and serious efforts to curb inefficiencies and corruption in the energy sector could all form part of a more balanced approach. Shared sacrifice must begin from the top—not be imposed solely on those with the least capacity to bear it.

At its core, this is not just about fuel prices. It is about the kind of state Pakistan chooses

to be. One that stands with its people—or one that stands apart from them.

The people of Pakistan are resilient, but resilience should not be mistaken for limitless endurance. They deserve relief, dignity, and policies rooted in compassion and foresight. In this critical moment, the government must reconsider its course. Because when a nation's fuel begins to burn its own people, the cost is far greater than economic—it is deeply human.

Writer was the Political Assistant to Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto

Back to Homeland

SANYA, China: President Asif Ali Zardari being seen off by Mr. Wang Qiyang, party secretary of the CPC Hainan, at Sanya Airport on Friday.



Photo: PID

President speaks with Iraq's Prime Minister-Designate, emphasises closer economic and institutional cooperation

Spokesman Report

SANYA, CHINA: President Asif Ali Zardari, currently on an official visit to Sanya in China's Hainan province, held a telephone conversation with H. E. Mr. Ali Falih Khadim Al-Zaidi, Prime Minister-Designate of the Republic

of Iraq, and conveyed his congratulations on his elevation to the coveted position as the head of the government.

The President extended his sincere wishes for the success of the Prime Minister-Designate in forming a stable government, noting that his choice as the PM

reflects confidence placed in his leadership at an important moment for the republic of Iraq.

During the conversation, the President underlined that Pakistan and Iraq enjoy a relationship grounded in shared values and mutual respect, and reaffirmed Paki-

stan's commitment to further strengthen this brotherly bond.

He highlighted the potential to expand economic engagement, including in trade and investment, energy cooperation, infrastructure, agriculture and renewable energy. He also emphasised

the importance of enhanced academic collaboration and people-to-people exchanges to sustain a long-term partnership.

The Prime Minister-Designate thanked the President for his warm wishes and extended an invitation to visit Iraq at a mutually convenient time.

PACA and ACE Balochistan Ink Landmark MoU to Bolster Anti-Corruption Efforts

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: In a strategic move to fortify the nation's anti-corruption framework, the Pakistan Anti-Corruption Academy (PACA) and the Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) Balochistan officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) today. Inspired by the vision of Chairman NAB, Lt Gen (R) Nazir Ahmed, this partnership aims to synchronize efforts in institutional capacity building and professional training.

The agreement was signed by Mr. Ghulam Safdar Shah, Director General of PACA, and Mr. Naseebullah Kakar, Director General of ACE Balochistan.



The MoU establishes a formal roadmap for cooperation in several critical

areas, including specialized professional training for ACE Balochistan officers, the

exchange of best practices in financial crime investigation, and the utilization of modern

forensic and investigative tools.

During the event, DG PACA Mr. Ghulam Safdar Shah stated that the Academy is committed to building the professional capacity of investigators through structured programs tailored to the emerging challenges of financial crimes.

DG ACE Balochistan, Mr. Naseebullah Kakar, commended the state-of-the-art training environment at the Academy and emphasized that continuous professional development is the cornerstone of effective anti-corruption work. He noted that this collaboration will significantly upgrade the skill sets of officers serving in Balochistan.

Govt endeavoring for welfare of labourers: Engr Amir Muqam

News Desk

CHAKWAL: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON, Engineer Amir Muqam, here Friday, said that International Labour Day is a day to renew the commitment to securing the rights of the working class, which was declared to be observed globally in 1889.

Addressing a large public gathering as the chief guest in the area of Choa Saidan Shah here on the occasion of the Battle of Truth and Labour Day, he said that the position he holds today is because of the people and the workers.

Praising the leadership of Prime



Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, he said that under their wise and strong leadership, Pakistan is achieving remarkable successes in development, stability, and national security.

The Federal Minister said that he considers himself a representative of workers and the poor, and that all possible measures will be taken to resolve their issues.

He announced that efforts would be intensified to register workers with EOBI, while practical steps would also be taken in light of the recommendations of the Workers Welfare Fund and the Mineral Department.

PM Shehbaz forms high-level committee on One Constitution Avenue issue

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday formed a high-level committee on the One Constitution Avenue issue.

The committee will be headed by Federal Law and Justice Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar and will include Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry, the Cabinet Secretary and the Commerce Secretary as its members.

The committee will review the entire matter within the next week and present a comprehensive report to the Prime Minister.

During this period, any affected person may submit their representations to the committee, which will hear all parties and affected individ-



uals without discrimination.

Until the Prime Minister makes a final decision on the matter, no action will be taken by the Islamabad administration or the CDA.

The Prime Minister has issued directives to establish this special committee to ensure that the requirements of justice are fully met in the One Constitution Avenue case.

DPM highlights role of professional media in fostering informed public discourse



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Ms. Ambreen Jan, Chairperson of the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) called on Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Friday.

Chairperson congratulated DPM/FM and MoFA team for their role in the mediation and facilitation

efforts in handling the regional conflict for the purpose of peace and security in the region and beyond.

DPM/FM, while thanking the Chairperson, highlighted the importance of responsible and professional media in promoting informed public discourse and constructive public understanding.

He expressed confidence in PEMRA's efforts to encourage professionalism and best practices in the media sector.

CM Punjab lauds security forces for foiling infiltration attempt at Pak-Afghan border

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Friday expressed gratitude to the security forces for foiling an infiltration attempt by Fitna al-Khawarij at the Pak-Afghan border.

The chief minister paid tribute to the security personnel for eliminating 13 militants who were attempting to infiltrate into



Mohmand and North Waziristan from Afghanistan.

Labourers/Workers Key to Prosperity: Abdul Aleem Khan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: In his special message on the occasion of International Workers' Day, Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan paid a glowing tribute to millions of laborers across the country and the world, stating that the working class is the backbone of human progress and national prosperity. He remarked that the tireless hard work and dedication of laborers, from the fields to construction sites, are the guarantors of a strong and prosperous Pakistan. Abdul Aleem Khan emphasized that our faith regards labor as a sacred and noble duty. According to Islamic teachings, paying a worker their wages "before their sweat dries" is our fundamental responsibility. Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan further stated that the Government prioritizes the dignity, safety and provision of fair wages for workers. He reaffirmed the commitment to contin-



ue taking every possible measure to protect the rights and well-being of the labor force.

Specifically praising those associated with the communications and infrastructure sectors, Abdul Aleem Khan noted that these teams play a key role in laying the foundations of a modern Pakistan. He paid a special tribute to the workers employed on Highways and other vital projects. Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan concluded by saying that all laborers building the future are our national heroes and today we salute their services. He also extended his heartfelt congratulations to all workers on International Workers' Day.