



# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ

ہم سے علی بن عبد اللہ نے بیان کیا کہ ہمارے شیطان نے بیان کیا کہ ہمارے ابو انبار نے بیان کیا کہ ہمارے ابو اسد نے اور ان سے ابو ہریرہ رضی اللہ عنہ سے کہ رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا تھا اس وقت تک قائم نہیں ہوگی جب تک دو ایسے گروہ آپس میں جھگڑ کریں جن کا کوئی ایک ہی ہو۔ (بخاری، حدیث نمبر 6935)

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## Bilawal says Karachi victims of May 12 violence sacrificed to hatred

Chairman of the Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday paid tribute to the martyrs of the May 12, 2007 tragedy, saying innocent lives in Karachi were "sacrificed to hatred and violence." He said the events of May 12 were not just a tragedy but also became a symbol of the people's unwavering resolve and democratic struggle.



## Pervaiz Rashid urges opposition to return to parliamentary committees

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader Pervaiz Rashid on Tuesday urged opposition parties to resume their parliamentary role and return to standing committees. Speaking to media persons outside parliament, Rashid said the opposition had distanced itself from parliamentary politics, adding that while he welcomed the peaceful political environment, opposition parties should actively participate inside parliament rather than on the streets.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Ziq'a'd 25, Wednesday, May 13, 2026

www.dailyspokesman.net

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Daily Spokesman Vol: 20, Issue: 26

Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

## Meeting on Interior Ministry affairs

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding affairs of Ministry of Interior on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

# PM vows full support to strengthen LEAs' capacity

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Tuesday, said that all available resources would be utilized to enhance the capacity of law enforcement agencies (LEAs) in order to ensure the protection of citizens' lives and property.

Chairing an important meeting to review the country's law and

order situation and matters related to the Ministry of Interior, he also directed strict implementation of the government's zero-tolerance policy against corruption within law enforcement institutions.

The prime minister asked that recruitments in all departments under the interior ministry, including the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), must be conducted strictly on merit.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Ministers Syed Mohsin Naqvi, Ahsan Iqbal, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Minister of State Talal Chaudhry, and heads of various law enforcement agencies, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

Emphasizing the need to tackle modern security challenges, the

prime minister said security personnel should be equipped with advanced training and modern skills.

He further directed authorities to ensure the provision of the best equipment, modern technology and professional resources to law enforcement agencies.

During the briefing, officials informed the meeting that the under-construction jail in Islam-

abad would become operational in September this year.

Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi briefed the meeting on the performance and future development plans of the FIA, Islamabad Police, National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA), Federal Constabulary, Capital Development Authority (CDA), and other institutions working under the Interior Ministry.

# Tarar says, govt lifts ad ban on Suno News after agreement on media workers' issues

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Tuesday said the restriction on advertisements for Suno News had been lifted after the channel started implementing agreed measures regarding payment of dues to terminated employees, reinstatement of lower-level staff and protection of workers' rights.

The minister expressed these views during a meeting with the Chief Execu-

tive Officer of Suno News, in which matters relating to the rights of media workers, issues being faced by television channels and the termination of employees were discussed in detail.

Prime Minister's Media Coordinator Badar Shahbaz Warraich and Principal Information Officer Mubashir Hassan were also present during the meeting.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held regarding the termination of 114 employees. It was agreed that the dues of the terminated employees would be paid



immediately.

The meeting also decided that no further reduction would be made in employees' salaries and no additional workers would be laid off.

It was further decided that lower-level

employees, including drivers and technical staff, would be reinstated to their jobs.

Attaullah Tarar said every possible effort would be made to arrange alternative employment opportunities for other terminated employees.

# Finance Minister, textile representative discuss proposals for upcoming budget

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, held an extensive meeting with a high-level delegation representing Pakistan's textile and apparel sector on Budget 2026-27 aimed at strengthening the competitiveness, sustainability and long-term growth of the country's textile sector and export industry.

The delegation comprised leading chambers, associations, exporters and industry stakeholders from across the country, said a press release issued by finance ministry.

The delegation presented a comprehensive set of proposals and recommendations for the



Federal Budget 2026-27 aimed at strengthening the competitiveness, sustainability and long-term growth of the country's

textile sector and export industry. During the meeting, the delegation highlighted the textile sector's vital contribution to

Pakistan's economy as a major source of exports, employment generation, industrial activity and foreign exchange earnings.

The representatives emphasized the importance of maintaining a stable, growth-oriented and internationally competitive policy environment to enable the industry to effectively respond to evolving global market dynamics and increasing regional competition.

The delegation shared a broad range of policy recommendations focusing on taxation reforms, energy affordability, export facilitation, industrial modernization, liquidity management, investment promotion and ease of doing business. The proposals were aimed at reducing the cost of production, improving industrial effi-

ciency, enhancing exporters' liquidity position, encouraging technological upgradation and creating a more predictable and investor-friendly business environment.

The industry representatives stressed that timely policy support and structural reforms would help strengthen Pakistan's export competitiveness, promote value-added manufacturing, attract fresh domestic and foreign investment and facilitate greater integration into international supply chains. They noted that improving the operating environment for exporters would support industrial expansion, employment generation and economic growth while also contributing positively towards fiscal stability and foreign exchange inflows.

# Pakistan, China underline need to maintain normal traffic in Strait of Hormuz



News Desk

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Tuesday held a telephone conversation with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi to discuss the regional situation and matters of mutual interest, according to the Foreign Office spokesperson.

During the conversation, the two leaders held detailed discussions on the evolving regional situation, including Pakistan's diplomatic efforts between Iran and the United States. The Chinese foreign minister appreciated Pakistan's constructive role and expressed full support for Islamabad's mediation efforts

aimed at reducing tensions and promoting dialogue.

Both sides agreed on the need for continued efforts to ensure lasting peace and stability in the region. They also emphasized the importance of maintaining normal maritime traffic in the Strait of Hormuz amid regional developments.

The discussion also covered activities planned to mark 75 years of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China, as well as high-level exchanges between the two countries.

According to the Foreign Office spokesperson, both leaders agreed to maintain close communication on all issues of mutual interest.

# Two cops among nine killed in Lakki Marwat market blast

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: At least nine people, including two policemen, were martyred in a blast in the Sarai Naurang market of Lakki Marwat district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tuesday.

According to sources, the terrorists had planted an explosive device on a motorcycle, which detonated in the middle of the road in the market area.

Several others were injured in the blast who were immediately rushed to Sarai Naurang Hospital for treatment.

District Police Officer (DPO) Nazir Khan confirmed that nine people have been killed and 18 others injured in the explosion.

"Two of the deceased were traffic police officers," he said, adding that the blast was caused by an improvised explosive device (IED) planted on a motorcycle.

Following the incident, a large contingent of security forces reached the scene, cordoning off the area and launching an investigation to collect evidence.

Security sources said a search operation has been launched to apprehend those responsible for the attack, citing the potential presence of militants in the area.

Hospital officials reported that some of the injured are in critical condition, raising concerns that the death toll could rise.

# FO rejects CBS report on Iranian aircraft as misleading

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Tuesday categorically rejected a report published by US-based CBS News regarding the presence of Iranian aircraft at Nur Khan Airbase as "misleading and sensationalised."

"Such speculative narratives appear aimed at undermining ongoing efforts for regional stability and peace," Foreign Office spokesperson Tahir Andrabi said in a statement.

He said that following the ceasefire and during the initial round of the Islamabad Talks, a number of aircraft from Iran and the United States arrived in Pakistan to facilitate the movement of diplomatic personnel, security teams, and administrative staff associated with the talks process.

Some aircraft and support

personnel remained temporarily in Pakistan in anticipation of subsequent rounds of engagement. He said that although formal negotiations have not yet resumed, senior-level diplomatic exchanges have continued.

In this context, visits by the Iranian foreign minister to Islamabad were facilitated through the existing logistical and administrative arrangements, he added.

The spokesperson said that the Iranian aircraft currently parked in Pakistan arrived during the ceasefire period and bear no linkage whatsoever to any military contingency or preservation arrangement.

"Assertions suggesting otherwise are speculative, misleading, and entirely detached from the factual context."

# Kashmir Committee Chairman meets Birmingham Lord Mayor, details human rights concerns

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister/Chairman Kashmir Committee Rana Muhammad Qasim Noon was met by the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, UK, Councilor Zafar Iqbal, along with a delegation that came for the meeting included Pervez Akhtar, Zain Pervez and Balwinder Singh. Member National Assembly Chaudhry Naser Abbas Sidhu, Member National Assembly and Chairman Standing Committee on Defense Sardar Fatehullah Khan Miankhal and Member National Assembly Chaudhry Farrukh Altaf were also present on the occasion.



Federal Minister/Chairman Kashmir Committee Rana Muhammad Qasim Noon also informed the delegation about the serious human rights violations ongoing in occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Indian atrocities, and the threats to peace and order in the region. Federal Minister/Chairman Kashmir

Committee Rana Muhammad Qasim Noon, while talking to the delegation, said that for lasting peace in the region, a solution to the Kashmir issue in accordance with UN resolutions is indispensable. Pakistan's principled and unequivocal stance regarding the solution to the Kashmir issue in accordance with UN resolu-

tions is clear. Pakistan will continue to provide political, diplomatic and moral support to the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination. Overseas Kashmiris and overseas Pakistanis should play their role in keeping the world aware of the deteriorating situation in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Furthermore, the delegation expressed

its determination that the Overseas Pakistani and Kashmiri community living in the UK will continue its effective role in highlighting the Kashmir issue at international forums. At the end of the meeting, Fataha and special prayers were also offered for the eternal peace of the late Raja Waseem Zafar, Councilor.

## AJK PM Spokesperson urges protesters to halt Assembly Siege, Favors Dialogue Over Force

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Shaukat Javed Mir, spokesperson for the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir (AJK), urged a reconsideration of planned statewide protests, rallies, and the siege of the assembly on June 9, demanding the approval of their charter, including abolishing refugee seats, and an extension of the deadline. He asserted that the ruling People's Party government, led by PM Raja Faisal Muntaz Rathore, would not resort to force, tear gas, or arrests, labeling such tactics as outdated prejudices of dictatorship. Mir emphasized the government's faith in dialogue, positioning it as a supreme tool. He noted the federal negotiation committee's serious and positive approach despite ongoing stalemates. Mir warned that those disrupting peace in any area, including Muzaffarabad, would face severe consequences. While respecting the Joint Public Action Committee's patient struggle, he cautioned against crossing limits, which incite conflict. He affirmed that AJK general elections will occur on schedule, dismissing any postponement efforts by "troublemakers." Mir cited the massive public support for PM Rathore at the LoC and in a Bagh rally as validation of the government's performance and ideological policies, which have allegedly unsettled political opponents. He expressed confidence that the PPP would win the next election with a significant majority, form the government again, and implement people-friendly politics inspired by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Benazir Bhutto. Finally, he mentioned the Kashmiris celebrating Pakistan's success against India, citing the "Operation Sindhura" defeat and the victory in the "Haq Bunyan Marsus" battle under the Chief of Defense Forces, which he claimed deeply distresses Indian leadership like Narendra Modi, especially following Pakistan's role in the Israel-Iran peace deal which boosted its global standing against India.



## Maraka-e-Haq proved Pakistan's military credibility, diplomatic maturity, says Masood Khan

Spokesman Report.

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Masood Khan, former President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and former Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States and the United Nations, has stated that Maraka-e-Haq and Operation Bunyan-un-Marsoos marked a decisive turning point in the strategic history of South Asia, validating Pakistan's deterrence capabilities and elevating the country's diplomatic and technological stature globally.



Addressing students and faculty members at Muslim Youth (MY) University event, Ambassador Khan emphasized the critical role of Pakistan's youth in shaping the country's future, noting that nearly 64 percent of Pakistan's population consists of young people. Referring to international projections, he said that by 2047 Pakistan could emerge among the world's largest economies if its younger generation develops the skills, discipline, and strategic outlook necessary for national advancement.

Ambassador Khan observed that Maraka-e-Haq demonstrated, beyond doubt, the credibility of Pakistan's deterrence posture. He stated that despite India's assumptions regarding its numerical superiority, strategic partnerships, and advanced weaponry, Pakistan established military superiority during the opening hours of the conflict through coordinated and integrated operations.

## Justice Syed Shahid Bihar Sworn in as Acting Chief Justice AJK High Court

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Senior Judge High Court of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Justice Syed Shahid Bihar took oath as the Acting Chief Justice High Court of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Acting President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Latif Akbar administered the oath of office to Justice Syed Shahid Bihar. The oath-taking ceremony was held at the President House in Muzaffarabad, in which the Most Senior Minister and Minister for Law, Justice, Parliamentary Affairs and Human Rights Mian Abdul Waheed, Supreme Court Judge Justice Sardar Muhammad Ijaz Khan, former Chief Justice Syed Manzoor-ul-Hassan Gilani, former Chief Justice Chaudhry Muhammad Ibrahim Zia, former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Sadaqat Hussain Raja, former Vice Chairman Islamabad Bar Council Syed Qamar Sabzwari, President Islamabad High Court Bar Association Wajid Gilani, office bearers and members of the District Judiciary, Bar Councils, Central Bar Association and High Court Bar, in addition to a large number of lawyers from all over Azad Kashmir, attended. On this occasion, Draftsman Law Department Raja Zahid Mahmood read out the notification of the appointment of the Acting Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The duties of the ceremony were conducted by Secretary Presidential Affairs Shahid Ayub.



## Protest

LAHORE: Government employees hold a protest in favor of their demands outside Lahore Press Club in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

## "Give Way to Ambulance, Give Way to Humanity" Campaign Launched in Muzaffarabad

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: The Pakistan Red Crescent Society Azad Jammu and Kashmir State Branch, in collaboration with the Azad Kashmir Police, launched a public awareness campaign titled "Give Way to Ambulance, Give Way to Humanity" in Muzaffarabad. The campaign aims to stress the critical need for drivers to immediately yield to ambulances, ensuring timely medical assistance and safe-



guarding human lives. The launch ceremony included key figures such as Gulzar Fatima, Secretary of PRCS Azad Kashmir, and DSP Traffic Police Muzaffarabad Shuja Gilani, who highlighted that delays in emergency situations can be fatal and that yielding is both a legal and moral duty. Fatima emphasized that saving lives is paramount, and the campaign seeks to instill the understanding that giving way is equivalent to saving a

life. Gilani noted that future awareness efforts will continue with PRCS to foster responsible traffic behavior.

Volunteers distributed informational pamphlets and awareness stickers across the city's main arteries and public transport.

Citizens welcomed the initiative, recognizing its role in boosting social responsibility and humanitarian spirit, hoping the campaign will lead to greater compliance and respect for emergency vehicles.

## Jirga, youth committee settle dispute; tribal leader back in his native village

Rafullah Mandokhel

ZHOB: A months-long dispute between the Appozai, a sub-tribe of the Mandokhel tribe and tribal elders Malak Sharab Khan Mandokhel and Malak Fareed Mandokhel has finally been resolved amicably through the efforts of mediators and the 'Mandokhel Youth Committee'. Following successful negotiations, Malak Sharab Khan Mandokhel was persuaded to return to his ancestral village.

According to details, differences had emerged between tribal elder Malak Sharab Khan Mandokhel and his native Appozai village a couple of months ago. To resolve the dispute,

mediators and the 'Mandokhel Youth Committee' remained actively engaged in reconciliation efforts over the past several weeks. As part of the reconciliation process, a tribal Jirga comprising elders from the Mandokhel, Sherani, Kakar, Hariphal, Babar, Lawoon, Nasar, Miankhal and Kharoti took a traditional me h (delegation) led by Khateeb Jamia Masjid Maulana Allah Dad Kakar to the Khanqah in Killi Hazrat Sahib. Haji Amir-ul-Haq Pirzada warmly welcomed the notables upon their arrival.

After extensive negotiations by the mediators with both parties, the Jirga succeeded in convincing Malak Sharab Khan Mandokhel to reconcile.

The Jirga made a traditional reconciliation offering of one lakh rupees in compliance with tribal customs. Demonstrating generosity and a goodwill gesture, Malak Sharab Khan Mandokhel donated the entire amount to the shrine of Hazrat Sahib. Malak Sarwar Khan Mandokhel offered a traditional turban on Malak Sharab Mandokhel.

Later, Hazrat Sahib's son, spiritual leader and religious scholar Qari Sanaul-Haq Naqshbandi, led the concluding dua. The Jirga then returned to Killi Appozai, where lunch was hosted in honor of the participants by the families of Malak Sharab Khan Mandokhel and Malak Fareed Mandokhel.



Social and public circles in Zhob have welcomed the end of the prolonged dispute between Malak Sharab Khan Mandokhel and his village, describing

the reconciliation between the parties as a positive development. They also praised the efforts of the 'Mandokhel Youth Committee' and the mediators,

expressing hope that the committee would continue playing an effective role in resolving local disputes through the tribal Jirgas.



**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 3:34 am  
Zohr ..... 12:04 pm  
Asr ..... 4:58 pm  
Maghrib ..... 7:00 pm  
Isha ..... 8:36 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

Islamabad ..... 9222596  
Rawalpindi ..... 9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

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

**DEPARTMENTS**

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

# Maryam Nawaz at LCWU Convocation: Women's Progress, Zero Tolerance for Harassment, and Student Aid Bonanza

**Bureau Report**

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif addressed the 21st Convocation of Lahore College for Women University (LCWU), an alma mater from which she holds a Master's degree, expressing great personal pride.

She congratulated graduates, parents, and teachers, emphasizing that their journey begins now. Sharif highlighted her historic appointment as Punjab's first female Chief Minister, noting that women are now serving in key administrative roles like Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, DPOs, and RPOs, defying earlier skepticism within her party about their capabilities in handling critical sectors like policing and counter-terrorism.

She asserted that no society can advance without women and vowed zero tolerance for those harassing women, citing the implementation of panic buttons and virtual police stations for their protection, while urging parental support for daughters facing harassment.

Sharif mentioned ongoing work in infrastructure, law and order, and the economy, expressing a motherly desire to

solve all problems swiftly. She celebrated the completion of 100,000 homes under the 'Apni Chhat, Apna Ghar' program. Acknowledging Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat's educational efforts, she recalled the emotional impact of hearing stories from underprivileged students during scholarship events, stressing the necessity of laptops in the age of technology over instruments of unrest.

The Chief Minister announced the distribution of 100,000 merit scholarships and 30,000 electric bikes to students, extending the green bus network to colleges and universities for convenience.

She noted her father would be pleased to see electric motorbikes on Lahore's roads. Sharif declared that the country belongs to all Pakistanis, whose duty it is to celebrate its success. She positioned the youth as holding the nation's future, recalling national unity during past conflicts.

She lamented outdated global perceptions of Pakistan as a hub of terrorism, praising the country's current pivotal role as a mediator between major global powers.



Finally, she thanked Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for ensuring no petroleum product crisis and concluded that national progress is inevitable if political and military leaderships are devoted to the country.

## Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate of Pakistan Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani in a meeting with His Highness Prince Edouard de Linge-La Ternoille of Belgium at the Parliament House on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

## Federal Ombudsman is Playing a Full Role in Providing Immediate Free and Easy Justice to the Public

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Federal Ombudsman Associate Advisor Basit Aziz Khan heard complaints against several federal institutions. These included NADRA, Baitul Mal, State Life and National Bank. Against whom the institution had received more than 90 complaints. While hearing these applications, he provided immediate relief worth lakhs of rupees to the complainants on the spot. During the hearing, orders were issued to the officers of the relevant federal institutions to resolve all the complaints of the citizens immediately. These included delay in payments, identity documents, insurance claims and banking matters. Due to which the citizens had been facing severe difficulties for a long time. Associate Advisor Basit Aziz Khan reviewed all the cases in detail and issued instructions to the concerned officers, saying that unnecessary delay in resolving public issues would not be tolerated.

On this occasion, Associate Advisor Basit Aziz Khan said that the Federal Ombudsman is playing a full role in providing immediate, free and easy justice to the public and the first priority of the institution is to save the common citizens from the injustice, negligence and delay tactics of government departments. He said that all the relevant institutions will have to fulfill their responsibilities in a good manner to redress public grievances.

## Multan Railway Division Head Inspects Key Sections for Enhanced Safety and Passenger Amenities

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Divisional Superintendent Railway Multan Division Mr. Muhammad Khalid Khan Completed the inspection of Multan to Lodhran Section by motor Trolley. During the inspection Sher Shah, Shujaabad, Gilewal and Lodhran Railway Stations were inspected in detail.

The Divisional Superintendent Khalid Khan made a detailed inspection of station records, station earning, communication (RABTA) system, track condition, curves, bridges and level crossings. In addition, safety equipment installed at the stations, signaling system, waiting rooms and facilities provided to passengers were also inspected.

Moreover the Divisional Superintendent Multan has



also formed a committee to coordinate with the District

Administration Multan and Lodhran to ensure further upgradation, beautification and provision of better facilities to the passengers of Lodhran Railway Station. This initiative is a major step towards making the railway stations more beautiful, modern and passenger friendly as per the vision of the Federal Minister for Railways, Mr. Hanif Abbasi.

On this occasion the Divisional Superintendent Railways Multan Division Muhammad Khalid Khan emphasized that safety is the Top Priority in Pakistan Railways, therefore all the concerned officers and staff should perform their duties with full integrity, efficiency and professionalism so that train operations can be made safe efficient and more convenient for the passengers.

## Federal Minister Junaid Chaudhry Visits Injured MPA Ayub Khan Gadhi at CMH Lahore

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Member of the National Assembly from NA-106 Toba Tek Singh and Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwaar Chaudhry visited Punjab Assembly Member Colonel (R) Sardar Muhammad Ayub Khan Gadhi at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) Lahore, where he is currently under treatment. Muhammad Momin Junaid Chaudhry was also accompanying him on the occasion.



Federal Minister Muhammad Junaid Anwaar Chaudhry inquired about the health of Colonel (R) Ayub Khan Gadhi and prayed for his speedy recovery. He expressed deep sorrow and heartfelt condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in the tragic firing incident, saying that the unfortunate tragedy had left the entire area in grief.

Muhammad Junaid Anwaar Chaudhry also met the hospital administration and received briefing regarding the medical facilities being provided to the injured. He expressed hope that Colonel (R) Ayub Khan Gadhi and all other injured individuals would recover soon and return to their normal lives.

## Ideological Training Key to Implementing Nizam-e-Mustafa, Says Scholar

News Desk

RAWALPINDI: Ideological and intellectual training is essential for the true implementation of Nizam-e-Mustafa, said renowned religious scholar Allama Syed Riaz Hussain Shah during a ceremony organized by Idara Taleemat-e-Islamia, Khayaban-e-Sir Syed, where he delivered the keynote address as patron-in-chief.



He stated that the reformation of society and practical application of Nizam-e-Mustafa requires strong ideological and intellectual development. He highlighted the teachings, courage, justice, and steadfastness of Ahl-e-Bait Athar, especially Hazrat Ali, as the foundation of an Islamic society, emphasizing that the system of the Holy Prophet is essentially a system of justice as demonstrated by Hazrat Ali. The event was conducted by Deputy Director Sheikh Muhammad Qasim, who praised the institution's educational and training efforts and appreciated participants' enthusiasm. The scholar further urged the younger generation to adopt Islamic teachings and moral values for building a strong and dignified society. The ceremony concluded with special prayers for national stability, peace, prosperity, and unity of the Muslim Ummah.

## China-Pakistan Launch Postal Excellence Center Ahead of 75th Anniversary Milestone

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The China-Pakistan Postal and Courier Workshop (Center of Excellence) officially launched in Islamabad on May 12, 2026, marking a significant, people-centered cooperation milestone for the 75th anniversary of China-Pakistan diplomatic ties.

The inauguration was attended by prominent figures from both nations, including

Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan, Chairman of Pakistan's Prime Minister's Youth Programme, and officials from NAVTTC and TEVTA, alongside representatives from the Shijiazhuang Posts and Telecommunications Technical College and Chinese enterprises.

This joint initiative will implement China's advanced vocational education standards in postal services, e-commerce, and digital skills across

Pakistan.

The center will introduce Chinese professional curricula, localized teacher training, cutting-edge equipment, and vocational certification systems.

It aims to provide systematic skills training to Pakistani youth, thereby supplying technical talent to Chinese Belt and Road Initiative enterprises in Pakistan.

The project addresses a gap in Pakistan's vocational educa-

tion sector and strengthens people-to-people connections, adhering to a philosophy of "small yet beautiful, people-centered and benefit-driven" cooperation.

UNI International, the core implementing partner, reiterated its commitment to leveraging Chinese vocational education to support major-country diplomacy and inject new life into the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership.



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# Trump's China Visit in a Changing World Order

President Donald Trump's upcoming visit to Beijing on May 14-15, 2026, may become one of the most consequential diplomatic moments of his presidency—not because it demonstrates American dominance, but because it symbolizes the dramatic transformation of global power relations. Once the uncontested architect of the global order, the United States now approaches China not from a position of overwhelming superiority, but from a position increasingly shaped by economic necessity, military exhaustion, geopolitical isolation, and strategic dependency.

For years, President Trump has repeatedly described Chinese President Xi Jinping as his "friend," much like he has referred to Russian President Vladimir Putin and other global leaders. Yet international diplomacy has never operated on permanent friendships. Nations pursue interests, not emotions. Beneath the public compliments and ceremonial gestures lies one of the fiercest strategic rivalries in modern history.

From the moment Trump returned to office, virtually every Senate confirmation hearing for his cabinet nominees revolved around one central theme: China as America's principal adversary. The United States' grand strategy was unmistakable—contain China's rise, weaken its economic reach, obstruct the Belt and Road Initiative, challenge its influence over maritime trade routes, and prevent Beijing from replacing Washington as the world's dominant power.

Yet the geopolitical landscape has evolved in ways few in Washington anticipated.

The prolonged Iran conflict has fundamentally altered perceptions of Amer-

ican power. The United States and Israel entered the confrontation with sweeping objectives: to curb Iran's nuclear ambitions, dismantle its ballistic missile and drone capabilities, weaken its regional influence, and potentially force political capitulation. However, months later, many of those objectives remain unmet. Iran's political structure survived, its military resilience remained intact, and its regional alliances endured.

This outcome has had profound global consequences. Across policy circles in Washington, questions are now openly being asked about the limits of American military power. Reports in Congress and the Senate increasingly acknowledge the heavy depletion of expensive precision-guided weapons systems, including Patriot missile batteries and THAAD interceptors. Analysts warn that replenishing these arsenals could take years and require enormous industrial expansion.

The war has therefore produced not only military strain but psychological damage to the image of American invincibility.

For China, this changing environment creates strategic opportunity.

Beijing enters the Trump-Xi summit with growing confidence. Over the past decade, China has systematically insulated itself from external shocks. It built enormous strategic oil reserves, accelerated renewable energy deployment, diversified supply chains, expanded naval and space capabilities, and reduced dependence on vulnerable Western-controlled systems.

Today, China dominates the global rare earth minerals industry—critical for electronics, batteries, aerospace systems, missiles, electric vehicles, and advanced defense manufacturing. The United States remains deeply dependent on Chinese rare earth processing and magnet production, especially as Washington attempts to replenish military stockpiles consumed during the Iran war. Even senior American officials acknowledge that building an alternative ecosystem could take many years.

This dependency significantly weakens Washington's leverage. The irony is striking. While the United States once sought to economically isolate China, it now desperately requires Chinese cooperation to stabilize critical industrial and military supply chains.

The upcoming Beijing talks are expected to focus heavily on trade stabilization, rare earth exports, shipping security, artificial intelligence, Taiwan, and Iran. According to multiple reports, Washington also seeks to establish a new "Board of Trade" mechanism to formalize economic coordination between the world's two largest economies. The United States hopes China will increase purchases of American soybeans, aircraft, agriculture, energy products, and industrial goods. But beneath these economic discussions lies a deeper geopolitical reality: the United States increasingly needs China to help stabilize the international system.

The Iran war has disrupted shipping lanes, endangered energy flows, rattled financial markets, and exposed vulnera-

bilities across the global economy. Washington is now reportedly urging Beijing to pressure Tehran into reopening and stabilizing the Strait of Hormuz, through which a substantial share of the world's oil and LNG passes. Yet China's position on Iran differs sharply from Washington's.

China has consistently resisted unilateral U.S. sanctions and remains one of Iran's largest energy customers. Beijing views Iran not merely as an oil supplier but as a strategic node in Eurasian connectivity. At the same time, China has carefully balanced relations with Gulf Arab states, Russia, and Western economies. Unlike the United States, Beijing has largely avoided direct military entanglement while expanding economic influence across continents. This strategic patience has enhanced China's global image.

At the same time, America's relations with traditional allies have visibly deteriorated. Trump's repeated demands regarding NATO burden-sharing, controversial rhetoric toward Europe, pressure over Greenland, and transactional diplomacy have frustrated many longstanding allies. European leaders who once aligned instinctively with Washington increasingly pursue independent relations with Beijing.

In recent years, multiple European delegations have traveled to China seeking investment, trade partnerships, and economic stability. This trend reflects not only Europe's commercial interests but also a broader perception that China now represents predictability and long-term planning, while the United States increasingly appears driven by short-term political calculations. The symbolic implications are enormous.

*Continued on Page 7*



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

## Saudi Arabia unveils advanced transport plan for millions of pilgrims

Hajj is not merely an act of worship; it is the world's largest human gathering, where the movement of millions within a strictly defined timeframe and geographical boundary presents a monumental administrative challenge.

For the 1447 AH (2026) Hajj season, Saudi Arabia's General Transport Center (GTC) has developed an integrated, modern transportation model that stands as a masterpiece of technology and human management.

This year, approximately 1.65 million pilgrims are benefiting from this seamless system, including 179,000 Pakistani pilgrims, for whom specialized arrangements have been made to ensure a comfortable and secure journey.

The General Transport Center is leading this massive mission, unifying all transport entities under a single platform. Traffic flow across Makkah and the Holy Sites (Mina, Arafat, and Muzdalifah) is being monitored via a central control room that makes executive decisions based on real-time data.

Meeting the demands of the modern era, the "Smart Escalation" application has been deployed to manage over 40,000 bus trips. This digital intervention has successfully reduced unauthorized Hajj attempts by 95%, directly benefiting legal pilgrims from Pakistan and across the globe by significantly easing congestion.

To enhance pilgrim convenience, Makkah's transport hubs have been modernized, with substantial capacity increases at major stations such as Shu'ab Amer, Bab Ali, and Jarwal. At these terminals, pedestrian walkways and bus lanes have been completely segregated to minimize the risk of accidents, allowing Pakistani pilgrims—who utilize these stations in large numbers—to reach the Grand Mosque (Masjid al-Haram) with ease.

Furthermore, during the Tashreeq days, five strategic points have been established between Mina and the Haram, equipped with shaded pathways and directional signage to guide pilgrims.

The various phases of the journey, including the ascent to Arafat and the return to Muzdalifah (Nafra), have been meticulously balanced between a fleet of buses and the Holy Sites (Mashair) Train. Under the supervision of the General Automobile Association, the finest vehicles from a fleet of over 15,000 buses have been dedicated to field operations, ensuring the smooth transfer of Pakistani pilgrims from their respective Makatibs and residences. Simultaneously, the "Ask Me" initiative has deployed trained personnel around the Jamarat and the Grand Mosque to provide immediate guidance to Pakistani pilgrims in case of emergencies, overcoming any potential language barriers.

The 1447 AH Transport Plan is more than just a collection of vehicles; it is a scientific system where every second is planned through data analytics.

This integrated model by the Saudi government serves as a global benchmark for mass transit management. It guarantees a smooth, safe, and tranquil journey for the 179,000 Pakistani pilgrims and all "Guests of Allah," allowing millions of faithful to focus entirely on their spiritual rites with peace of mind.



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

## The Hitler-Stalin Pact and the Omitted Realities of 1939

Bloody wars rage across the globe more than eight decades after the conclusion of the Second World War because humanity has yet to objectively analyse the actual causes of that atrocious bloodbath. New Hitlers, Mussolinis, and other fascist leaders continue to rise, challenging peaceful coexistence. Until we pause and lay the blame where it truly lies, hegemonic plots and bids to dominate the world will persist despite the presence of the United Nations and other institutions designed to avert conflict. History, often written by the victors, risks losing the truth in the fog of war and burying it beneath the sands of self-aggrandizement.

The European Union recently claimed that the "Hitler-Stalin Pact of 1939" enabled the Second World War. This assertion echoes a familiar refrain: that the Soviet Union bore equal responsibility with Nazi Germany for plunging Europe into catastrophe. Yet this framing, while rhetorically convenient, omits crucial realities. History is rarely so linear. A sober examination of the record reveals ten overlooked facts that complicate the EU's assertion and demand a more nuanced understanding.

**The Overlooked Context**  
 By 1939, Nazi Germany had already signed nonaggression or friendship treaties with more than ten states. Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Denmark, Romania, and Italy all reached accords with Berlin before Moscow did. To single out the USSR as the enabler of war ignores this broader diplomatic pattern. Poland itself had signed a nonaggression pact with Germany in January 1934, stabilizing Hitler's eastern frontier and allowing him to rearm without fear of Polish intervention.

The Munich Agreement of September 1938, in which Britain and France ceded Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland to Hitler, emboldened German expansion. Winston Churchill famously called it "a total and unmitigated defeat." This Western appeasement, not

Soviet diplomacy, gave Hitler his first major territorial victory. France, too, signed its own declaration of nonaggression with Germany in December 1938, signalling Paris's willingness to accommodate Hitler rather than confront him.

**The Failure of Alternatives**  
 In the summer of 1939, Britain and France attempted to negotiate a defensive alliance with the USSR. But they dispatched low-ranking envoys without authority to conclude binding agreements. Stalin, sceptical of Western sincerity, turned to Germany instead. The failure was as much London's and Paris's as Moscow's.

The Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact did contain secret clauses dividing Eastern Europe into spheres of influence. Yet these were not unique. Similar understandings underpinned the Munich Agreement, where Czechoslovakia was partitioned without its consent. The West had already normalized such carveups. For Stalin, the pact bought time. The Red Army was still reeling from purges and modernization. By deferring conflict with Germany, the USSR gained nearly two years to rebuild its forces. When Hitler finally invaded in June 1941, those preparations proved decisive in the eventual Soviet victory.

**Aggressor and Opportunist**  
 It was Hitler who invaded Poland on 1 September 1939, triggering Britain and France's declarations of war. The Soviet entry into eastern Poland came weeks later, after the Polish state had already collapsed. To equate initiator and opportunist distorts chronology. Meanwhile, the United States remained neutral until December 1941. American isolationism, codified in the Neutrality Acts, limited early resistance to Hitler. The EU's claim overlooks how global reluctance to confront Germany—not just Soviet policy—enabled the war's expansion.

Finally, the moral responsibility for the war and its genocidal aftermath rests squarely with Nazi Germany. The Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact was a tactical manoeuvre; Hitler's ideology of conquest and extermination was the true engine of conflict. To conflate Soviet pragmatism with Nazi aggression risks historical revisionism.

**Reframing Responsibility**  
 The EU's assertion that the Hitler-Stalin Pact "enabled" WWII simplifies a complex diplomatic landscape. The pact was indeed cynical and destructive, but it was neither unprecedented nor singular. Western appeasement, Polish accommodation, and global neutrality all played enabling roles. To isolate the USSR is to obscure the collective failures of Europe's statesmen in the 1930s. As Sun Tzu observed in *The Art of War*: "If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles." Europe's tragedy was that it neither knew Hitler's intent nor trusted its own alliances, leaving the continent vulnerable to his aggression.

**Conclusion**  
 History demands precision. The Second World War was not unleashed by one treaty alone, but by a sequence of miscalculations, appeasements, and opportunistic bargains across the continent. The Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact was part of that sequence, but not its origin. To remember only Soviet culpability is to forget the wider tapestry of concessions that allowed Hitler to march unchecked until September 1939.

The lesson is clear: when historical responsibility is reframed selectively, it risks becoming propaganda rather than scholarship. A balanced narrative must acknowledge the collective failures—Western appeasement, Polish accommodation, Soviet pragmatism, and American neutrality—that together enabled the descent into war. Only then can Europe reclaim the integrity of its historical memory and prevent the repetition of past tragedies.

*The writer is a retired Group Captain of PAF. He is a columnist, analyst and TV talk show host, who has authored six books on current affairs, including three on China*

## Peace Speaks Through Pakistan

Pakistan's role in promoting peace and stability has been a subject of intense debate and analysis. Contrary to the perception often shaped by geopolitical tensions, Pakistan has undertaken several initiatives aimed at fostering peace both within its borders and in the broader regional context. Pakistan has been a vocal advocate for peace, highlighting its diplomatic efforts, domestic initiative and international engagements that reflect its commitment to this cause.

Pakistan's strategic location at the crossroads of South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East places it at the heart of regional dynamics impacting peace and security. One of the key areas where Pakistan has consistently pursued peace is in its relationship with India. Despite the historical hostilities, Pakistan has continuously called for dialogue to resolve bilateral issues, particularly the Kashmir conflict.

The Kartarpur Corridor stands as a testament to the potential of diplomacy in bridging cultural and religious ties, even in politically tense regions. Historically, the division of British India in 1947 resulted in the partition of Punjab, leaving many Sikh religious sites in what is now Pakistan, while the majority of the Sikh population resided in India. Among these sites, the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib holds immense spiritual significance. It is located merely a few kilometers from the India-Pakistan border, emphasizing the physical proximity yet political distance created by the

partition.

Kartarpur Corridor initiative, which allows Indian Sikh pilgrims visa-free access to one of their religion's holiest sites in Pakistan, stands as a testament to Pakistan's willingness to engage in peaceful and constructive dialogue. This gesture not only fosters religious harmony but also serves as a confidence-building measure between the two nuclear armed neighbors. Pakistan has repeatedly called for peaceful negotiations and international mediation to address issues. Furthermore, Pakistan's support for the Afghan peace process underscores its role as a key player in fostering regional stability.

The corridor's launch had substantial diplomatic undertones. It marked a rare instance of mutual cooperation despite several contentious issues, including the Kashmir conflict and border skirmishes. The initiative can be viewed as a soft diplomatic strategy that may pave the way for improving bilateral relations between India and Pakistan. Additionally, it sends a powerful message of peace and religious tolerance, underscoring the shared cultural and historical ties between the two nations.

For the global Sikh community, the corridor is not merely a pathway to a religious site but a bridge to their cultural heritage and identity. It signifies recognition of their religious sentiments and the easing of one element of geopolitical tensions in the region. The initiative has been widely welcomed by Sikhs worldwide

*Continued on Page 7*



Analysis

S. M. Hali



Analysis

Dr. Muhammad Shahzad Ashfaq

# Senate Panel Hails NAB's Record Rs 14 Trillion Recoveries and Reforms

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Housing and Works, led by Chairman Senator Nasir Mehmood, conducted a high-level visit and meeting at the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) headquarters today to review the bureau's performance, particularly within the housing sector. The session was attended by committee members Senator Haji Hidayat Ullah Khan, Senator Khalida Ateeb, Senator Husna Bano, Senator Jan Mohammad, and Senator Naseema Ahsan, alongside the Secretary of the Ministry of Housing and Works and senior officials from FGEHA, PHA, and Pak PWD.

Chairman NAB, Lt Gen (R) Nazir Ahmed, provided a comprehensive briefing detailing the bureau's evolving operational methodology and its recent achievements in tackling white-collar crime. He was assisted by Deputy Chairman NAB Sohail Nasir, Prosecutor General Ihtesham Qadir Shah, DG NAB (Isb/Rwp) Waqar Ahmed Chohan, and DG (SID) Muhammad Tahir, who provided technical and legal updates regarding ongoing investiga-

tions and sector-specific reforms.

The Committee was briefed on the significant structural reforms recently introduced to enhance the bureau's credibility and efficiency. Central to these reforms is the establishment of a Central Complaint Cell designed to verify the legitimacy of allegations at the earliest stage. By actively discouraging mala fide and frivolous complaints, the bureau has seen a rise in genuine reporting, which has effectively diminished the previous environment of fear and suppression. Furthermore, the introduction of Accountability Facilitation Cells for parliamentarians and the bureaucracy, along with Business Facilitation Cells for the private sector, has restored public confidence and fostered a more stable economic climate.

Technological advancement remains a cornerstone of the new NAB strategy, with the Committee informed about the integration of modern tools including Artificial Intelligence to streamline inquiries and investigations. This internal modernization is complemented by an enhanced internal accountability mechanism and a global outreach strategy, evidenced by Memo-

randums of Understanding (MoUs) signed with anti-corruption organizations of Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Nigeria and other countries.

Financial disclosures made during the meeting revealed staggering recovery figures. Between June 2023 and March 2026, NAB successfully recovered a total of Rs. 14.485 trillion (approximately USD 51.73 billion). This landmark figure includes the recovery of 4.96 million acres of state and forest land valued at Rs. 14 trillion. The bureau compensated 129,272 victims of housing and finance fraud, disbursing Rs. 223.94 billion to those affected. Regarding Anti-Money Laundering efforts, the bureau confirmed that 39 high-profile cases involving assets worth Rs. 127 billion are currently under process, with Rs. 85.4 billion already frozen.

During the interactive session, Chairman NAB addressed specific inquiries from committee members regarding malpractices in both public and private housing projects. Chairman NAB informed the committee that reforms are being introduced in the Housing Sector which will revitalize



the industry and lead to a significant reduction in the chances of corruption.

Senator Nasir Mehmood concluded the visit by expressing the Committee's

full support for the Bureau's pursuit of transparency. He reaffirmed the Senate's commitment to ensuring that government-led housing ini-

tiatives remain free from exploitation and that all individuals responsible for housing malpractices are held strictly accountable under the law.

## ISSI hosts launch of the Third Dimension Policy Prism authored by Ambassador G. R. Baluch

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted the launch of Ambassador G. R. Baluch's book, "The Third Dimension Policy Prism". The event featured discussions including General Khalid Naeem Lodhi, Ambassador Masood Khalid, Dr. Munawar Hussain, Dr. Shazia Khalid Cheema, and Farukh Pitafi, alongside diplomats, academics, and media.

Dr. Neelum Nigar welcomed attendees, thanking Ambassador Baluch for using ISSI as the launch platform. Ambassador Khalid Mahmood praised the book as timely, highlighting its combination of academic reflection and diplomatic insight, presenting foreign policy through a multidimensional lens incorporating economics, technology, climate change, and non-state actors amidst global geopolitical shifts. Ambassador G. R. Baluch introduced his work as a "conversation" focusing on



the contemporary "battle of narratives" where influence is shaped by discourse.

Reviewers collectively hailed the book as a timely, multidimensional contribution. General Khalid Naeem Lodhi emphasized the incorporation of ethics and humanity into foreign policy, noting the book analyzes regional

issues, Muslim Ummah divisions, the Middle East, and the Gaza crisis through the framework of "conflict, cooperation, and consensus," alongside technology's growing influence. Ambassador Masood Khalid found it an accessible collection linking global developments, like India's posture and

the Gaza conflict, to Pakistan's national interests.

Dr. Munawar Hussain noted the book explores international politics beyond power and economics, focusing on ethical and value-based dimensions, asserting that values are inseparable from global politics.

He also praised its engagement with narrative-making and its emphasis on multilateralism. Dr. Shazia Khalid Cheema highlighted how the book delves into the symbolic and moral dimensions, viewing geopolitics as a "battle over perception and meaning-making," skilfully moving between regional and global shifts.

Farukh Pitafi commended the book for engaging both diplomatic and academic audiences, noting its clear thematic structure, intellectual depth, and humanistic reflections on areas like education and AI, describing it as highly stimulating. The launch concluded with the formal unveiling of the book.

## Hyderabad Lawyers announce sit-in protest over alleged SPSC exam favoritism

Qayoom Sarohi

Lawyers in Hyderabad announced a sit-in protest outside the Sindh Public Service Commission (SPSC) following intensified cries of alleged favoritism and merit violations in the Combined Competitive Examination (CCE) 2024 results. Affected candidates and various political/social groups question the commission's transparency, demanding a full investigation. Lawyers described the results as a "massacre of merit," claiming jobs went to the wealthy over deserving candidates. Candidates allege that children of politicians and bureaucrats succeeded while thousands of qualified students failed, signaling grave injustice.

## SSP Malik cracks down on duty negligence, suspending 32 personnel

Bureau Report

FAISALABAD: Major action on negligence and carelessness in duty, 32 police employees suspended.

SSP Operations Imran Malik has immediately suspended 32 employees who did not report to their new place of posting despite being transferred. These employees were earlier warned to reach their new duty, but strict action was taken for not complying with the order.



## Governor Faisal Karim Kundi Praises AH Group's Real Estate Innovation & Contribution Towards Economic Growth

Muhammad Umair Zeb

Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi, visited the AH Group of Companies' Head Office and flagship projects, 091 Mall and Florenza Mall & Residencia, where he was welcomed by Chairman Yasir Ali and other senior management.

The Governor received a briefing on the Group's national projects and its vision for quality infrastructure and sustainable urban development in KP and beyond.

The company highlighted its role in job creation and economic activity. Governor Kundi praised the provision of quality housing for improving living standards and emphasized the importance of public trust for business sustainability.

He commended AH Group for operating despite provincial challenges, thus strengthening the regional economy, empowering youth, and promoting a positive image of KP through investment.

During an interactive session, the

Governor acknowledged the employment of over 600 staff, mostly young individuals, appreciating the focus on youth empowerment through professional development.

He also recognized the Group's sponsorship of national events. Furthermore, Governor Kundi lauded AH Group's innovative high-rise developments in KP, especially its ROI model for sustainable investment, viewing these modern real estate concepts as crucial for urban progress and economic advancement in the



province. He concluded his tour by interacting

with staff, encouraging their dedication to customer service. The visit was also

attended by PPP officials Abrar Saeed Swati and Malik Abid Awan.

## The Digital Lockdown: How India's Surveillance State Silences Kashmir

In a rare and urgent joint statement, United Nations human rights experts warned last week that the "growing global spread of intrusive surveillance technologies" is creating an "environment of fear" that chills dissent, criminalises civil society and erodes democracy itself. They described a "complex, interconnected and reinforcing surveillance ecosystem" sustained by opaque state-corporate collusion, and called for an immediate halt to abuses and a binding international instrument on digital surveillance. Nowhere is that ecosystem more ruthlessly deployed, and nowhere are its chilling effects more profound, than in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Freedom of expression and free assembly and association have always been under strain in Indian occupied Kashmir and for journalists and rights defenders was walking over razor's edge. 30 journalists and human rights defenders lost their lives in the line of duty.

Since August 2019, when the Indian government unilaterally revoked the

region's semi-autonomous status under Article 370, Kashmir has been a laboratory for the normalisation of mass digital surveillance. What began as the world's longest internet shutdown in a functioning democracy - a total communications blackout lasting over five months - has morphed into a permanent architecture of high-tech repression. The state has not simply restored connectivity; it has weaponised it. Today, every phone call, every WhatsApp message, every social media post by a Kashmiri is potentially captured, analysed and used to crush dissent.

The technologies deployed read like a catalogue of the very tools the UN experts condemn. The Indian government has built a nationwide Central Monitoring System (CMS) that allows security agencies to intercept any communication without the knowledge of service providers. The Network Traffic Analysis (NETRA) system sifts through massive volumes of internet data to identify keywords and map networks of "suspect" individuals. In Kashmir, these capabilities are amplified. The Jammu and Kashmir Police

have installed an Integrated Surveillance System in Srinagar, linking thousands of CCTV cameras with facial recognition software and automatic number plate recognition. Drones hover over neighbourhoods, capturing real-time imagery of gatherings. The Pegasus spyware, whose use by Indian clients was exposed by the Pegasus Project, has been found on the phones of Kashmiri activists, journalists and lawyers - allowing the state to turn their most intimate devices into informers.

This surveillance is not a passive exercise in intelligence gathering. It is an active instrument of intimidation, designed to dismantle the very civic space the UN experts say is being "fundamentally eroded". Human rights defenders in Kashmir operate under a suffocating digital blanket. Their communications are monitored, their movements tracked, their families harassed. The knowledge that the state is watching breeds

a paralysing self-censorship. As one Kashmiri activist told me, "You begin to think twice before typing a single word. You wonder if a friend's arrest came from a message you sent. The fear enters your bones."

This environment of fear has been deliberately engineered through a web of overbroad laws that criminalise virtually any act of dissent. The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), repeatedly strengthened over the years, allows the state to designate individuals and organisations as "terrorists" on the basis of secret evidence, with little meaningful judicial challenge. The Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act (PSA) permits administrative detention without charge or trial for up to two years, while the Enemy Agents Ordinance, dating back to the Dogra monarchy, carries the death penalty for acts of "hostility" against the state. Together, these laws have been used to imprison thousands, including human

rights defender Khurram Parvez, journalist Irfan Mehrj, student leaders, lawyers and poets. The Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) has further been weaponised to choke funding to non-governmental organisations, crippling independent civil society.

The impact on freedom of association and peaceful assembly is devastating. Through digital surveillance and data harvested from social media and communication networks, authorities identify potential organisers and arrest them before protests begin. Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code is imposed as a blanket restriction across entire districts, while internet shutdowns, over 400 in Kashmir since 2012, prevent documentation and coordination. The message is clear: you cannot gather, speak, or even whisper without the state listening.

India sustains this surveillance ecosystem by invoking "national security", aided by weak judicial oversight and sweeping provisions under the Indian Telegraph Act and Information Technology Act. The 2023

Digital Personal Data Protection Act grants broad exemptions to the government on grounds of "national security", effectively legalising mass surveillance while strategic alliances and geopolitical interests continue to shield India from meaningful international accountability.

The consequences are not confined to Kashmir. The technologies and laws tested there are being exported to the rest of India, targeting minorities, farmers' movements and opposition politicians. The UN experts are right: surveillance ecosystems cannot be viewed in isolation. In Kashmir, India has built a blueprint for authoritarian control dressed in digital clothing. If the world is serious about halting the "serious abuses" the experts decry, it must move beyond statements. An international binding instrument on digital surveillance technology is indeed urgently needed. But until then, the people of Kashmir will continue to live under a digital lockdown, where the very act of thinking differently is treated as a crime.

The author is the chairman of KIIR and can be reached at X @sultan1913



Analysis

Altaf Hussain Wani

## Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
168,916.22	170,506.31
Day's High	Day's Low
171,571.55	168,823.31
Index Value	Change
18,751,310,975	-1590.09
Percentage	Time
-0.93%	12 May, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
10,265.32	-4.11
Percentage	Time
-0.04%	12 May, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
49,710.98	+6.51
Percentage	Time
+0.013%	12 May 2:02 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
62,742.57	+324.69
Percentage	Time
+0.52%	12 May, 3:45 pm GMT+9

### Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	199.95	207.35
Bahrain Dinar	731.15	742
Canadian Dollar	202.35	208.35
China Yuan	40.05	40.70
Danish Krone	43.30	43.70
Euro	327.00	331.70
Hong Kong Dollar	35.03	36.03
Indian Rupee	2.50	2.70
Japanese Yen	1.7580	1.8590
Kuwaiti Dinar	878.70	893.47
Malaysian Ringgit	65.30	66.80
New Zealand \$	163.75	167.70
Norwegians Krone	27.65	27.95
Omani Riyal	721.50	732.59
Qatari Riyal	74.75	76.75
Saudi Riyal	74.35	75.05
Singapore Dollar	217.81	222.95
Swedish Korona	30.30	30.60
Swiss Franc	355.92	360.65
Thai Bhat	8.55	8.75
U.A.E Dirham	75.95	76.95
UK Pound Sterling	377.91	382.44
US Dollar	279.00	279.70

# Ambassador Dr. Oumer visits Sialkot Chamber of Commerce

## News Desk

SIALKOT: H. E. Dr. Oumer Hussien Oba, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, paid an official visit to the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) on Tuesday.

Upon his arrival, he was accorded a warm welcome by Mr. Murad Arshad, Senior Vice President of the SCCI, along with several Executive Members.

Addressing the SCCI members, the Ambassador appreciated Sialkot's significant industrial potential and highlighted the vast opportunities for establishing bilateral cooperation in trade and investment between Ethiopia and Pakistan.

The Ambassador explained about the specific competitive advantages Ethiopia offers to Pakistani investors, emphasizing the country's large population, skilled workforce, access to affordable green energy, and its integration with the region and beyond.

These benefits are supported by a conducive investment climate featuring various incentives and tax exemptions resulting from the Homegrown Economic Reforms, which have successfully addressed macroeconomic imbalances while boosting productivity and job



creation in Ethiopia, the Ambassador noted.

He urged the business community to visit Ethiopia to explore growing opportunities within the agriculture, agro-processing, manufacturing, mining, tourism, and ICT

sectors.

Mr. Syed Ahtesham Mazhar thanked the Ambassador for his visit and expressed optimism that the industrial strength of Sialkot would play a major role in strengthening busi-

ness-to-business relations between the two nations.

The session concluded with a productive question-and-answer period focused on deepening economic ties.

## Waiting for customers

RAWALPINDI: A vendor is selling crockery at his roadside workplace in the city.



Photo: Online

# Al-Ghazi Tractors champions mechanization at the 19th Agri Asia Conference

## Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Al-Ghazi Tractors Limited (AGTL) recently participated in the three day 19th International Agri Asia Exhibition & Conference 2026, reaffirming its longstanding commitment to advancing agricultural mechanization and supporting Pakistan's farming community. The exhibition was recently held in Lahore and brought together key stakeholders from across Pakistan's agriculture and livestock sectors.

As one of the country's leading tractor manufacturers, AGTL showcased its advanced farming technologies and highlighted its continued efforts to empower farmers with reliable, efficient, and innovative mechanization solutions designed to improve agricultural yield and productivity.

A key highlight was the visit of Chief Guest Chaudhry Shafay Hussain, Punjab Minister for Industry and Commerce, and Chinese Consul General Sun Yan, to the AGTL stall. The Chief Guest appreciated AGTL's product lineup, particularly the NH 850, and lauded the company's efforts in advancing mechanization across Pakistan. The stall also featured a special showcase of Al-Ghazi's 600,000th produced tractor unit, signed by the team that built it,



making its first public display at the event, a moment that drew significant attention from visitors and dignitaries alike.

While speaking about this participation, Yasin Seker, CEO of Al-Ghazi Tractors Limited, said, "Agri Asia is one of the most important platforms for Pakistan's agriculture sector and we are proud to have been part of it once again.

The exhibition served as a valuable platform for industry engagement, knowledge exchange, and showcasing emerging agricultural technologies and innovations. AGTL's participation further reinforced its role as a trusted partner to Pakistan's farmers and its continued focus on driving agricultural progress through mechanization.

# PCDMA chief vows to triple Pakistan-China chemical trade to \$5bn

## Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Chemical & Coating Asia Exhibition commenced at the Karachi Expo Centre on Tuesday under the auspices of the Pakistan Chemicals & Dyes Merchants Association (PCDMA) in collaboration with Ecommerce Gateway. The three-

day event, being held from May 12 to 14 in Hall No. 3, is part of the 23rd International Trade and Industrial Fair (ITIF Asia).

Sindh Governor Syed Nehal Hashmi inaugurated the exhibition alongside PCDMA Chairman Salim Valimuhammad. The ceremony was attended by President of Ecommerce

Gateway Dr. Khurshid Nizam, Pakistan's Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi, IBI co-founder and Senior Vice President Liu Jun Zhai, a delegation of Chinese traders, as well as prominent industry figures including Chaudhry Naseer, VC Shariq Feroz, Nasiruddin Fateh, Shahid Bashir, Shakeel Fateh, Farid Vavda,

# Adeel Munawar appointed Commercial Ambassador of Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce Industry

## Tahir Amin Malik

The Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) appointed Adeel Munawar, recognized for his contributions to Pakistan's pharmaceutical sector and efforts to boost Pakistan-China business ties, as its Commercial Ambassador. This move aligns with PCJCCI's goal of linking progressive Pakistani businesses with global prospects, especially in vital areas like healthcare.

Munawar aims to strengthen commercial ties between Pakistani and Chinese pharmaceutical firms through networking, investment facilitation, joint ventures, and technology sharing.

He highlighted the potential for mutually beneficial partnerships, given China's advanced manufacturing and research capabilities and Pakistan's expanding healthcare market and strategic location. Munawar emphasized that the healthcare and pharmaceutical sectors are ripe for bilateral collabora-



tion under the CPEC framework. He noted the significant growth of Pakistan's pharmaceutical industry, valued near \$5 billion with over 700 manufacturing units, playing a crucial role in providing millions of patients with necessary medicines. PCJCCI's Salahuddin Hanif praised the appointment as a reflection of confidence in young, visionary leaders, stressing that China's expertise in areas like biotechnology and digital healthcare offers Pakistan significant opportunities to modernize its healthcare system through collaboration and technology transfer.

# D&B, Anthropic collaborate to transform AI-driven

## Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Dun & Bradstreet has announced a collaboration with Anthropic to bring D&B risk data directly into Claude, in a move expected to reshape how enterprises handle onboarding and compliance.

The partnership will embed Dun & Bradstreet's Commercial Graph™, a global database of business identities and risk indicators, into Claude, enabling organizations to automate due diligence workflows using AI capabilities.

Corporate onboarding has traditionally relied on manual verification and lengthy processing cycles. With this integration, financial insti-

tutions and other regulated entities will be able to automate Know Your Customer (KYC) and Know Your Business (KYB) processes within a single interface.

Commenting on the collaboration, Nauman Lakhani, Group Director Products at Dun & Bradstreet South Asia Middle East Africa, said, "The value of this collaboration lies in connecting AI with trusted business context, making it usable in real-world decision environments where accuracy and confidence matter. Embedding verified data directly into workflows can help organizations strengthen governance and make decisions with greater clarity."

# Leading Neonatologists Convene at Railway General Hospital for Neonatal Resuscitation Provider Course

RAWALPINDI: In a significant step toward reducing neonatal mortality in Pakistan, the Department of Paediatrics at Railway General Hospital (RGH), Rawalpindi, successfully hosted a comprehensive Neonatal Resuscitation Provider Course on Sunday, May 10, 2026.

The day-long intensive workshop, which ran from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, was held under the prestigious umbrella of the Pakistan Neonatal Resuscitation Council (PNRC) and the Pakistan Paediatric Association (PPA).

Expert Leadership and Academic Excellence

The course was led by Brig. Prof. Talal Waqar, alongside a panel of eminent neonatologists from the twin cities,

including:

- Prof. Dr. Arshad Khushdil
- Prof. Dr. Saba Afzal
- Dr. Alia Haleem

A highlight of the event was the keynote session on Birth Asphyxia delivered by Prof. Khalid N. Haque, providing critical insights into one of the leading causes of newborn distress. Prof. Samiya Naeem Ullah also graced the occasion, offering concluding remarks that underscored the vital link between improved clinical practices and the preservation of neonatal lives.

Hands-On Training and Multi-Disciplinary Participation

The curriculum was designed to bridge the gap between theory and practice,

featuring:

- Interactive Lectures: In-depth discussions on resuscitation protocols.
- Skill Stations: Hands-on practical training for life-saving maneuvers.
- Rigorous Assessment: Pre- and post-tests, followed by an OSCE (Objective Structured Clinical Examination) to ensure competency.

The event saw diverse participation from across the medical spectrum, including House Officers, Medical Officers, Paediatric Residents, Neonatology Fellows, Senior Registrars, Gynaec/Obs trainees, and dedicated Nursing and Paramedical staff.

Impact and Acknowledgments

The workshop concluded with a meas-

urable surge in participant proficiency, evidenced by a significant improvement in post-test scores and enthusiastic feedback.

"The success of this workshop reflects our collective commitment to excellence in neonatal care. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the RGH hospital management, operations team, IT department, and support staff for their seamless coordination and dedication," stated a representative from the Department of Paediatrics.

The Department of Paediatrics at Railway General Hospital remains committed to continuous medical education and the advancement of pediatric healthcare standards in the region.

## Zone-III beat Zone-V by 6 Wickets in Regional Inter District Senior (Karachi Region) Cricket Tournament

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Due to Brilliant Century 117 by Waqas Akbar and Unbeaten 71 by Syed Adil Hussain Zone-III defeated Zone-V by 6 Wickets on the last day of the 6th round of the three day match of the Regional Inter District Senior (Karachi Region) Cricket Tournament here on Tuesday. The Tournament is being organized by Pakistan Cricket Board.

### Scores in Brief:

At UBL Sports Complex Zone-III beat Zone-V by 6 Wickets. Zone-V 1st Innings 279/5 and 2nd Innings 196.

Zone-III 1st Innings 207 and 2nd Innings 271/4 in 63.2 overs. Waqas Akbar 117 17x4, Syed Adil Hussain 71 10x4 not out, Obaidullah 44 6x4, Abdullah Tausif 30 7x4 not out. Muhammad Abiss (sla) 3/67.

The 7th and last round of the Tournament will be played from 14-16 May at various Grounds of the City. Zone-I vs Zone-II (KCCA Stadium), Zone-V vs Zone-VI (UBL Sports Complex), Zone-III vs Zone-IV (Baqai Cricket Ground).

## Funeral Prayers of Civilian Martyr Muhammad Liaqat Ali Offered with State Honors in Attock

Raza Naqvi Attock

ATTOCK, MAY 12: Funeral prayers of Muhammad Liaqat Ali, the brave civilian who embraced martyrdom while foiling a suicide attack in Jand tehsil of Attock district, were offered with full state honors at Police Lines Attock on Tuesday.

Federal Minister for Railways Hanif Abbasi, Member National Assembly Malik Sohail Khan Kamrial, Regional Police Officer Babar Sarfraz Alpa, Deputy Commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza, District Police Officer Attock Sardar Mavarhan Khan, former provincial sports minister Jahangir Khanzada, Pakistan Muslim League-N ticket holder Malik Hamid Akbar, Station Commander Brigadier Hamid, district officers, political and social figures, family members of the martyr, and a large number of citizens attended the funeral prayers.

The funeral prayer was led by Pir Saadat Ali Shah of Chura Sharif. On the occasion, floral wreaths were laid on the martyr's coffin, while participants offered Fateha and special prayers for the elevation of his ranks, the safety and stability of Pakistan, peace in the country, and the complete eradication of terrorism.

Speaking on the occasion, Federal Minister for Railways Hanif Abbasi said that Muhammad Liaqat Ali Shaheed had set a remarkable example of courage, humanity, peace, and devotion to the motherland by sacrificing his life to protect others.

He said the entire nation salutes the sacrifices of its brave martyrs, adding that their unmatched courage and selflessness would always be remembered. He reaffirmed that the government was fully determined to uproot the menace of terrorism and would not allow anti-state elements to succeed in their nefarious designs.

Hanif Abbasi said Pakistan's valiant armed forces, law enforcement agencies, and the people stood united in the fight against terrorism, and every conspiracy of the enemy would be foiled with collective resolve.

# Patriotism and Tribute to Martyrs Highlight "Maarka-e-Haq" Ceremony in Gujar Khan

News Desk

GUJAR KHAN: Under the auspices of Falah-e-Ummat Welfare Society and Medical Complex Qazian & Jand Najjar, a dignified and emotionally inspiring ceremony titled "Maarka-e-Haq" (Battle of Truth) was organized with great enthusiasm and patriotic spirit. The event beautifully reflected love for the homeland, reverence for martyrs, and pride in the Armed Forces of Pakistan.

The venue echoed with patriotic slogans and chants of "Pakistan Zindabad," while green crescent flags added to the national spirit of the gathering.

The chief guest of the event was Mr. Ameer Afzal Noshahi, the respected father of martyr Bilal Shaheed, whose presence made the ceremony deeply emotional and honorable. Special guests included Chaudhry Tariq Nazir, Program Manager of NRSF, and renowned social personality



Haji Malik Suleman.

Addressing the audience, speakers emphasized that nations survive through sacrifices and that Pakistan remains a sacred trust preserved by the martyrs who laid down their lives for the coun-

try's future. Rich tribute was paid to the courageous leadership of Field Marshal General Asim Munir and to the unwavering commitment of the Armed Forces of Pakistan in defending the nation against every threat.

Speakers also highlighted the bravery of Pakistan's Air Force, referring to the courageous Pakistani pilot who successfully brought down the Indian Air Force's much-discussed Rafale aircraft, reaffirming Pakistan's strong defense capabilities and the determination of its defenders.

A memorable highlight of the ceremony was the distribution of certificates and special awards among high-achieving young girls. The joyful smiles of the children, the pride of their parents, and the enthusiastic applause from attendees created a heartwarming atmosphere. Honorary shields were also presented to distinguished guests in recognition of their valuable contributions.

The organizers, led by Mr. Qaiser Mahmood Qazi and his dedicated team, were highly appreciated for their excellent arrangements, warm hospitality, and sincere efforts in making the event a remarkable national gathering.

## Cotton Research Under Threat

# Proposed Gymkhana on CCRI Land Raises Questions Over Multan's Agricultural Future

It is no small tragedy that a recreational project now looms over one of Multan's most important national institutions an institute that sustained Pakistan's cotton economy for decades. Established in 1970, the Central Cotton Research Institute (CCRI), Multan, is not merely a government office; it is a cornerstone of Pakistan's agricultural future, scientific legacy, and the economic survival of its cotton growers.

Spread across more than 100 acres, CCRI has introduced over 40 cotton varieties, including virus-resistant strains, and played a defining role in giving Pakistani cotton international recognition. Yet today, a proposal to allocate 15 acres of this valuable research land for a Gymkhana Club has sparked serious concern among agricultural experts and stakeholders.

At first glance, it may appear to be a development initiative. In reality, it represents a direct challenge to a national research heritage whose consequences may be felt for generations. Critics are asking a valid question: when alternative government land exists in Multan, why choose an active research

institution for a recreational complex?

This is not merely about transferring land. It strikes at the heart of a scientific system that safeguards over 6,200 rare cotton genetic accessions collected from 41 countries. These germplasm resources are strategic agricultural assets not just for Pakistan but for the wider region. Research fields, laboratories, seed trials, and experimental stations operate as an interconnected system. Removing one part is akin to severing an organ from a living body.

Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association Chairman Sham Lal Mangalrani has rightly opposed the proposal in a letter to Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz. He highlighted CCRI's role in the country's historic bumper cotton harvests of 1991-92, 2004-05, and 2014-15. At a time when national cotton production has fallen to nearly 5 million bales, further weakening this institution would be a setback for farmers, the textile industry, and the national economy.

What is deeply concerning is the growing trend of sacrificing collective public interest for the comfort of a privileged few. Labeling a Gymkhana for

bureaucrats and elite circles as "public welfare" is misleading. Some voices on social media argue that the facility will benefit youth through sports and recreation, but the fundamental question remains: can a recreational center justify dismantling a national agricultural research institution? Sports facilities can be built elsewhere. A fifty-year scientific ecosystem, however, cannot simply be relocated. Its land carries decades of trials, breeding records, and environmental conditions essential for ongoing research.

The recent developments involving the Karachi Cotton Association building offer another alarming precedent. Once a symbol of Pakistan's cotton identity, it was sealed and, according to reports, is now being converted into government offices. If this pattern continues, agricultural institutions may gradually become nothing more than real estate for administrative use or elite recreation.



Zain-ul-Abideen Abid

For the people of Multan, farmers, and agricultural scientists, this is not the time for silence. Both federal and provincial governments should immediately reject the proposal, declare CCRI Multan a "National Agricultural Research Heritage Site," and allocate special funds for its revival and modernization. Cotton is not just a crop it underpins Pakistan's export economy, rural employment, and the livelihoods of millions. If research institutions are undermined, the burden of that loss will be borne by the entire nation, not by the few who envision a Gymkhana on public scientific land.

The real debate over Central Cotton Research Institute and the Provincial Cotton Research Institute is not simply the construction of a club; it is transparency, performance, and public accountability. If billions of rupees are indeed spent annually on these institutions, the public has every right to demand an audit of the past two

decades: research outcomes, budget utilization, and productivity. It is essential to know what tangible innovations these institutions have delivered since the COVID period what new varieties, scientific breakthroughs, or farmer-oriented outcomes have emerged.

If these institutes are functional, conducting meaningful research and protecting national agricultural interests, then converting any portion of their land into a leisure facility would be a deeply flawed policy decision. Renowned industrialist and Chairman of SM Group of Industries, Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum, has consistently emphasized this point and has repeatedly proposed to the government should expand funding, strengthen scientific capacity, and broaden research beyond cotton to oilseed crops such as sunflower, canola, mustard, and sesame to reduce dependence on imported edible oils.

However, if these institutions have become dormant if research exists only on paper and budgets are consumed by administrative overhead, perks, and ineffective bureaucracy then immediate inquiry and strict accountability are

unavoidable. Public funds are a trust. They cannot be justified for inflated reports, ghost projects, or institutional complacency.

This places a serious responsibility on Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, Agriculture Minister Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani, and Secretary Agriculture Iftikhar Ali Sahoo. Before any land-use decision, they must disclose the true performance of these institutions, the status of research activities, land utilization, and financial expenditures.

If reform is needed, reform should be undertaken. If revival is possible, revival should be prioritized. But allocating national research land for the social privileges of influential circles is not governance it is a distortion of priorities.

Development is not measured by clubs and buildings alone. Real progress is what reaches the farmer's field, improves crop yields, reduces imports, and equips young scientists with laboratories and opportunity. If Multan's historic cotton research institutions are made active, transparent, and productive, this land can serve Pakistan far more than any Gymkhana ever could.

# Trump's China Visit in a Changing World Order

Continued from Page 4

For decades, American alliances formed the foundation of U.S. global supremacy. If allies gradually hedge toward China economically and diplomatically, the strategic balance of the international system changes fundamentally.

The Taiwan issue further complicates the summit. For years, Taiwan relied heavily on implicit American military backing. However, after the Iran conflict exposed strains on U.S. military readiness and weapons inventories, questions naturally emerge regarding Washington's ability to sustain simultaneous large-scale confrontations in multiple theaters.

China understands this reality. Beijing is unlikely to aggressively

force the Taiwan issue during Trump's visit, but it recognizes that America's credibility has been weakened. Trump himself previously suggested Taiwan should pay more for U.S. protection, reinforcing perceptions that American commitments may be transactional rather than absolute.

At the same time, China's military modernization continues at remarkable speed. Beijing has expanded naval capabilities, advanced space programs, strengthened missile systems, and invested heavily in artificial intelligence and cyber warfare. China's technological and industrial rise is now occurring on a scale unprecedented in modern history.

The contrast with America's current challenges is increasingly visible. Economically, China continues diversifying energy sources

and reducing fossil fuel dependency through renewable infrastructure. Militarily, it avoids prolonged foreign wars while preserving industrial capacity. Diplomatically, it expands partnerships without demanding ideological alignment. Strategically, it plays a long game.

This does not mean the United States has collapsed or China has "won" globally. America still possesses immense military power, technological innovation, financial influence, and alliance networks. However, the perception of unstoppable American supremacy has undeniably weakened.

Trump's Beijing trip therefore represents more than a diplomatic visit. It symbolizes a historic transition toward a more multipolar world order.

The United States enters these talks seeking trade relief, industrial cooperation, shipping stability, rare earth access, and geopolitical de-escalation. China enters the talks seeking recognition of its status, protection of its economic interests, stability for continued growth, and gradual expansion of its global influence.

Both sides need each other. But increasingly, it appears they need each other on terms far more equal than at any point in recent decades. That reality alone marks one of the most significant geopolitical transformations of the 21st century.

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.

# Peace Speaks Through Pakistan

Continued from Page 4

as a gesture of goodwill and respect. Sikh organizations and leaders have appreciated the efforts of both governments in making this pilgrimage accessible, which fosters a sense of unity.

Internally, Pakistan has faced challenges from militant groups that threaten its peace and stability. In response, the government has launched comprehensive counterterrorism operations such as Operation Raddul-Fasaad, aiming to dismantle extremist networks. Moreover, initiatives like the National Action Plan underscore Pakistan's commitment to counter-radicalization and to fostering an inclusive society through educational reforms and promoting interfaith harmony. These efforts reflect an understanding that sustainable peace requires addressing the root causes of conflict, such as poverty, inequality and social injustice.

Pakistan is also a prominent contributor to international peacekeeping missions under the auspices of the United Nations. Pakistani peacekeepers have been deployed in various

conflict zones worldwide, demonstrating the country's commitment to maintaining global peace and security. Pakistan's consistent participation in UN missions highlights its dedication to upholding international peace and reflects positively on its global image. This contribution is rooted in a belief that global peace is interconnected and that participation in peacekeeping is a responsibility to the international community.

These endeavors reflect a broader aspiration to contribute constructively to regional stability amid enduring challenges such as territorial disputes and sectarian tensions. Pakistan's peace initiatives are deeply embedded in its historical context, where periods of confrontation have often been counterbalanced by attempts at dialogue and reconciliation. These efforts reveal an evolving approach to diplomacy that prioritizes negotiation over aggression, underscoring Pakistan's commitment to peaceful coexistence.

The writer is Post-Doctorate (Peace Education) in International Islamic University Islamabad

## Meeting

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari chairing a pre-budget consultative meeting at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

## PM, President Aliyev reaffirm shared commitment to deepening bilateral cooperation

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, Tuesday, reiterated their shared commitment to deepening cooperation across areas of mutual interest, including trade and investment, energy, and people-to-people contacts.

The prime minister held a telephone call with Azerbaijan president, and both leaders expressed satisfaction on the positive trajectory of bilateral relations.

During their most warm and cordial conversation, the

two leaders exchanged greetings and reaffirmed the strong fraternal bonds of friendship between Pakistan and Azerbaijan, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The prime minister conveyed his best wishes to President Aliyev for the success of the upcoming World Urban Forum to be held in Baku next week.

He expressed confidence that the forum, under Azerbaijan's stewardship, would serve as a valuable platform for advancing the global urban development agenda.

He noted that, most regrettably, pressing commitments



would preclude his personal attendance at the event, but he had ensured that Pakistan would be well-represented at the forum.

They also discussed regional

developments of common concern, particularly the ongoing peace efforts in the Middle East.

President Aliyev expressed his deep appreciation at Paki-

stan's remarkably successful initiatives to bring about a ceasefire between Iran and the US.

This was a clear reflection of the trust and confidence of the international community in Pakistan and its leadership, he added.

The two leaders agreed to maintain close contact, and looked forward to their meeting, in person, later this year.

The prime minister also reiterated his cordial invitation to President Aliyev to undertake an official visit to Pakistan, at his earliest convenience.

## Justice Aurangzeb terms alternative dispute resolution vital to reduce burden of court cases

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Justice Mian Gul Hassan Aurangzeb on Monday said alternative dispute resolution and mediation had become the need of the hour in order to reduce the increasing burden of court cases in Pakistan.

The Honourable Judge of the Supreme Court was addressing the AOI x ICDRL Peacemakers Community (AIPC)'s launch event held here at the Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA), Islamabad,



that brought together judges, lawyers, mediators, ADR practitioners, alumni, students, and

institutional partners to discuss the future of dispute resolution in Pakistan.

In his keynote address, Justice Aurangzeb called the need for encouraging the concept of mediation and arbitration and added that at present, a total of about 1.82 million cases are pending in the courts across the country, including the Supreme Court and High Courts, which is a huge challenge considering the current number of judges.

The SC judge stressed the need for mediators to be referred more cases, saying for that, the courts have to be willing to refer cases to mediation.

The judge said the decision had been made to train more judges, as well as law graduate officials in the high courts and the Supreme Court, as mediators to encourage parties to opt for mediation, with the officials conducting mediation within their existing pay scales.

Justice Mian Gul Hassan Aurangzeb said the Supreme Court was in the process of establishing a court-annexed mediation centre with financial assistance from the United Nations Development Programme.

## PM issues directives for rehabilitation of Faisalabad Motorway: Senate told

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry on Tuesday informed the Senate that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has issued directives for the rehabilitation of the Faisalabad Motorway.

Replying to a calling attention notice raised by Senator Abid Sher Ali about the massive cracks on different parts of Pindi Bhattian-Faisalabad Motorway section which needed immediate repair and maintenance, the minister said that the PM has also instructed to make this motorway a four to six-lane road.

He said the credit went to Pakista Muslim League -Nawaz (PML-N) government for laying network of motorways in the country.

In another response, Minister of State for Interior, Muhammad Tahir Bader Chaudhry told the upper house that the rehabilitation and compensation funds for the displaced residents of South Waziristan were disbursed by the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He was responding to a calling attention notice raised by Senator Dost Muhammad Khan regarding the non-disbursement of rehabilitation/compensation fund for the displaced residents of South Waziristan who lost their homes and livelihoods during different security operations carried out in the area during the years 2008 and 2009.

## Education Minister takes notice of alleged Cambridge Exam paper leak

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, on Tuesday expressed deep concern and regret over the alleged leakage of Cambridge examination papers.

He stated that such incidents cause severe mental stress, anxiety, and uncertainty for thousands of students and their parents, particularly for those students who prepare for their examinations with hard work, dedication, and honesty.

The Federal Minister said that this is an extremely serious matter, especially as similar incidents were also reported last



year.

He emphasized that Cambridge must further strengthen and secure its examination system, security protocols, and monitoring mechanisms to ensure they remain effective and tamper-proof, thereby restoring and maintaining students' trust and confidence.

Taking immediate notice of the matter, Dr Siddiqui has directed the Inter Board Committee of Chairmen (IBCC) to establish immediate contact with Cambridge authorities to ensure a thorough investigation into the incident, clarification of the facts, and urgent measures for the protection of students' interests.

The Federal Minister reiterated that the Government of Pakistan will not compromise on the educational future of students, the transparency of the examination system, and the protection of merit.

He stressed that all relevant institutions must fulfill their responsibilities with seriousness and accountability.

## DPM/FM Dar chairs meeting on recognition of medical, alternative medicine institutions



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Tuesday, chaired a meeting to review and scrutinize cases relating to the recognition of medical, dentistry and alternative medicine educational institutions under the relevant laws.

Chairing a meeting of the Committee on Recognition of Medical, Dentistry and Alternative Medicine Educational Institutions, the DPM/FM emphasized the importance of quality assurance and

adherence to international standards.

The meeting was attended by the Minister for National Health Services and Regulations, Minister for Law and Justice, SAPM Tariq Bajwa, Secretary Health, Secretary Education, and senior officials from relevant Ministries and departments, the Office of DPM said in a press release.

The committee further reiterated that Pakistani students seeking medical education abroad must follow the process for prior registration laid down by the Pakistan Medical & Dental Council (PM&DC) to avoid any issues in the future.

## DPM/FM Dar, Austrian FM discuss regional situation



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Foreign Minister of Austria Beate Meisl-Reisinger, on Tuesday, exchanged views on the evolving regional situation.

The DPM/FM spoke with the Austrian foreign minister.

The Austrian foreign minister appreciated Pakistan's constructive role in promoting dialogue and its

mediation between Iran and the United States, in support of regional peace and stability, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release.

The DPM/FM reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to sustained diplomatic engagement, including continued efforts to facilitate dialogue between Iran and the United States, aimed at maintaining peace and stability in the region and beyond.

Both foreign ministers agreed to remain in close contact.

## Ali Pervaiz meets Ambassador of State of Kuwait to Pakistan



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum Ali Pervaiz Malik held a meeting with the Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to Pakistan, Nassar Abdulrahman Jasser Almutairi.

The meeting focused on regional developments, energy cooperation, and agreed to further strengthen bilateral relations and expand collaboration in areas of common interest, said a news release.

The Federal Minister expressed sincere gratitude to the Government of Kuwait for its timely facilitation and support in ensuring the safe dispatch of the vessel Khairpur, which reached Pakistan carrying diesel supplies during a challenging period.

He highlighted that the vessel transported approximately 45,000

tons of diesel and 10,000 tons of jet fuel from Kuwait to Pakistan under special approvals, following disruptions caused by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

He added that, with the concerted efforts of Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, the Khairpur vessel safely completed its journey and reached Pakistan, ensuring continuity in fuel supply and supporting national energy needs.

The Ambassador appreciated Pakistan's peace efforts and stated that Kuwait encourages its brothers in Pakistan to continue their constructive role for peace in the region.

He said that Pakistan has proven itself through its responsible stance and that now Pakistan is being viewed with a renewed and elevated status in the international community.