



# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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ہم نے عامر سے سنا ہاں انہوں نے بیان کیا کہ  
مجھ سے ابو سلمہ بن عبدالرحمن نے بیان کیا  
اور ان سے عائشہ رضی اللہ عنہا نے بیان کیا کہ  
نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے اس سے فرمایا  
کہ جو راتیں علیہ السلام تمہیں سلام کہتے  
ہیں۔ عائشہ رضی اللہ عنہا نے کہا کہ وہ علیہ  
السلام پر جو اللہ ان پر بھیجی اللہ کی طرف سے  
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## Shazia Marri says PPP won't allow any harm to provincial autonomy

PPP Spokesperson Shazia Marri has said that provincial autonomy was achieved after long struggle therefore it was not a child's play to roll it back. Talking to media, PPP MNA Shazia Marri said that 18th Constitutional Amendment gave the provinces rights and powers and it was no joke that the share of provinces in NFC will be reduced.



## Govt pursuing zero-tolerance policy on illegal immigration, NA told

The National Assembly was informed on Friday that the National Wheat Policy 2026-30 has been prepared in consultation with the provinces and that the government is pursuing a zero-tolerance policy on illegal immigration. Parliamentary Secretary Farah Naz told the house during question hour that the policy will be approved by the cabinet before the budget.

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## Calls on

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Tameer Group Qatar led by its founder Muhammad Hussain Al Ali calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday.



Photo: PID

# Steps being taken to boost foreign investment as obstacles cleared: PM

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said the government was prioritizing measures to boost foreign investment, as the obstacles had already been cleared through the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

The prime minister, in a meeting with a delegation led

by Founder of Qatar's Taameer Group Mohammad Hussain Al-Ali, which called on him here, said that Qatar was a long-standing friend of Pakistan that had supported Pakistan in every difficult time.

Highlighting Pakistan's vast investment potential in tourism, hoteling, hospitality, real estate and construction sectors," he directed the relevant authorities

to provide facilitation and assistance to the Taameer Group regarding investment in Pakistan.

The Taameer Group founder briefed the prime minister on the group's investment and ongoing projects in Pakistan.

He said that the Group was interested in investing in the hospitality, hotels, real estate and construction sectors in Pakistan,

as work on several projects in this regard had already commenced.

Expressing deep interest in increasing the group's investment in Pakistan, Mohammad Hussain Al-Ali appreciated the measures taken under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz for national development and the promotion of business and foreign investment.

He stated that under the prime

minister's leadership, the Government of Pakistan was taking positive steps to facilitate investors under the SIFC.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, federal ministers Ahad Khan Cheema and Attaullah Tarar, Minister of State Bilal Azhar Kayani, and relevant senior officials.

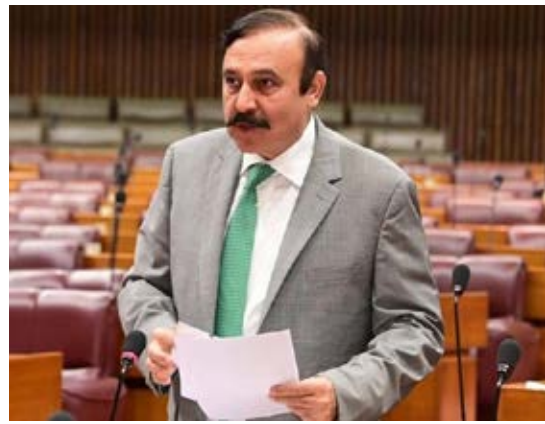
## Govt. to ensure timely payment of salaries to journalists: Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry on Friday said that journalists belong to the working class and that the timely payment of salaries was their fundamental right.

Speaking on the floor of the National Assembly, he said the government was making full efforts to ensure the timely disbursement of salaries to media workers and to address their concerns.

He added that the latest situation regarding non-payment of salaries to media workers would be reviewed in consultation with the information minister, and full support would be extended



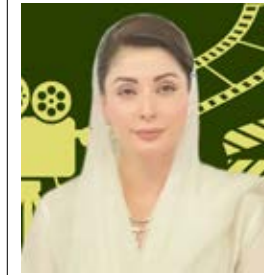
to resolve the issue in the interest of the media last week.

industry. He said that during the recent media boycott, Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar and Pakistan Peoples Party leader, Shazia Marri met with media representatives and assured them that their concerns would be addressed.

Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry further stated that he has been monitoring the matter indirectly, while Information Minister Attaullah Tarar was directly overseeing the process.

On the occasion, Member National Assembly, Shazia Marri highlighted that the Parliamentary Reporters Association (PRA) had also staged a walkout

## Punjab CM says harassment case: will be decided on merit



Bureau Report

LAHORE: Maryam Nawaz Sharif has said that the recent case involving a Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) lawmaker and actress Momina Iqbal is a personal matter that will be handled strictly on merit and in accordance with the law.

In a statement issued on Friday, the Punjab chief minister said no individual, regardless of status, political affiliation or position, is above the law and warned that anyone found involved in harassing, threatening or exploiting a woman would not be forgiven.

She said state institutions would perform their duties independently, impartially and in line with the Constitution and the law.

## PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto inaugurates 39-km Shahrah-e-Bhutto corridor in Karachi

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Friday inaugurated the 39-kilometre signal-free Shahrah-e-Bhutto corridor connecting Qayyumabad to the M-9 Motorway and laid the foundation stone of the Karachi Port-to-Qayyumabad Corridor Project aimed at improving connectivity and easing traffic congestion in the city.

Addressing the ceremony, Bilawal described Karachi as Pakistan's most developed city and

said people from across the country wanted to settle there.

"We welcome the people of the whole country to Karachi," he said.

Bilawal said the Sindh government was expanding healthcare services across the province, highlighting institutions including the Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation and the opening of NICVD units in every district of Karachi.

He said he had entered politics to fulfil the "unfulfilled dream" of former Prime Minister

Benazir Bhutto and added that public-private partnership projects were being launched for the benefit of people across Pakistan.

Bilawal said the government was aware of the economic difficulties faced by citizens and warned that global conflicts, including tensions linked to the Iran-US war, were increasing pressure on people worldwide.

"If there is continuous peace, economic problems will decrease," he said, adding that prolonged conflict could further worsen public hardships.

## Field Marshal Asim Munir leaves for Iran on official visit

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, has departed for Iran on an official visit, security sources confirmed on Friday, as Islamabad steps up diplomatic engagement amid the ongoing US-Iran conflict.

Pakistan Television (PTV) confirmed the departure, stating that discussions are expected to cover the Iran-US dialogue, regional stability, and key bilateral issues, with Field Marshal Munir scheduled to meet senior Iranian leadership during the visit.

Security sources described the visit as significant, given



prevailing regional security challenges, noting that strategic and security cooperation between the two countries will also feature in the talks.

The visit coincides with a separate high-level Pakistani diplomatic presence in Tehran.

## Pakistan, Bangladesh civil service engagement to promote mutual trust, says Tarar



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar stated that increased engagement between the civil services of Pakistan and Bangladesh is crucial for fostering mutual trust and collaboration.

During a meeting with a visiting Bangladeshi civil service delegation, Tarar highlighted institutional cooperation and the exchange of administrative experiences as vital for friendly nations. Discussions covered governance, administrative reforms, capacity building, and professional cooperation.

Tarar briefed the delegation on Pakistan's reform initiatives and emphasized the shared historical and administrative heritage between the two

countries.

He welcomed the positive progress in bilateral relations and suggested enhancing collaboration between training institutions through faculty exchanges, joint research, and shared training modules.

The minister lauded the Executive Development Programme and the Pakistan-Bangladesh Knowledge Corridor initiative.

The Bangladeshi delegation showed interest in Pakistan's administrative reforms. Prime Minister's Special Assistant Tariq Fatemi also stressed the importance of professional linkages for regional harmony.

Director CTP of the Civil Services Academy, Syed Shabbir Akbar Zaidi, provided an overview of the academy's training programs.

## Crackdown on human smuggling networks intensified under zero-tolerance policy: Talal Chaudhry

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Under Prime Minister's zero-tolerance policy, Pakistan is intensifying its crackdown on human smuggling networks. Minister of State for Interior & Narcotics Control Talal Chaudhry announced that since June 2023, approximately 3,158 agents involved in illegal immigration have been arrested, with millions in assets seized and bank accounts frozen. Accountability measures within the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) have also led to disciplinary actions against over 100 officials implicated in human smuggling. This intensified monitoring, including enhanced profiling of travelers, aims to disrupt organized networks exploiting citizens through illegal migration routes and fake job schemes, particularly those leading to Cambodia.

These efforts have reportedly reduced illegal migration attempts by 47 percent. The FIA has initiated 286 inquiries related to Cambodia, resulting in 111 criminal cases. Preventive measures have led to the offloading of 222 passengers at airports. Approximately 15,000 Pakistanis are currently in Cambodia, many affected by online job scams. Through coordination, fines imposed on 1,272 affected Pakistanis were waived, and emergency travel documents and passports were issued to facilitate their return, with concerted efforts bringing back a large number of affected individuals safely. Four Pakistani nationals have tragically died in Cambodia, and their bodies were repatriated. These complex trafficking networks traverse multiple countries before reaching Cambodia. Awareness campaigns continue, but citizens remain vulnerable to scams.

# AJK Prime Minister Announces Tehsil Status for Garhi Dupatta

City Desk.

**GARHI DUPATTA:** The Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Faisal Mumtaz Rathore on Friday announced the grant of Tehsil status to Garhi Dupatta, fulfilling a long-standing demand of the local population.

Addressing a public gathering at the invitation of Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Mubashir Munir Awan, the AJK premier said the Pakistan Peoples Party government had fulfilled the promises made to the people within six months of assuming office.

He said that a formal notification regarding the grant of tehsil status to Garhi Dupatta has been formally issued.

He added that the PPP has always worked for the rights and welfare of the common people.

Speaking on the occasion, Mubashir



Munir Awan thanked the Prime Minister for fulfilling the long-standing demand of the people of Garhi Dupatta and said the decision would directly benefit the local population.

Later, the Prime Minister visited the residence of Mubashir Munir Awan and offered condolences on the demise of his maternal uncle, Muhammad Yousef Awan.

Health Minister Syed Bazil Ali Naqvi, Advisor to the Government Ahmed Saghir and government spokesperson Shaukat Javed were also present on the occasion.

## AJK PM Condemns Attack on Kashmiri Refugee, Vows Transparent Investigation

Bureau Report

**MUZAFFARABAD:** Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore has strongly condemned the murderous attack on Hamza Burhan, a refugee youth from occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Principal of AIIMS Higher Secondary School Muzaffarabad, in Muzaffarabad, by telephonically contacting All Parties Hurriyat Conference Secretary General Advocate Pervez Ahmed Shah.



Describing the incident as a very sad and cowardly act, the Prime Minister said that the government will ensure a high-level and transparent investigation into the matter so that the motives of the attack and the elements involved in it can be exposed. He clarified that instructions have been issued to the law enforcement agencies for immediate action and those involved in the incident should be punished as per the law.

According to details the AJK premier Faisal Mumtaz Rathore said that the protection of the lives and property of refugees from occupied Kashmir living in Azad Jammu and Kashmir is the first responsibility of the government and no negligence or negligence will be tolerated in this regard. He also expressed his best wishes for the full recovery of the injured Hamza Burhan.

All Parties Hurriyat Conference leaders Secretary General Advocate Pervez Ahmed Shah, Sheikh Abdul Majid, Zahid Ashraf and Mushtaqul Islam thanked the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir for his immediate attention, expression of concern and assurance of justice and expressed hope that the elements responsible for the incident would soon be brought to justice.

## Farewell Ceremony Held for Retiring Deputy Director Information

Bureau Report

**MUZAFFARABAD:** A grand farewell ceremony was organized by the Directorate of Public Relations, Azad Jammu and Kashmir on the occasion of the retirement of Deputy Director Information Mirpur Muhammad Javed Malik. The ceremony was attended by Secretary Information and IT Muhammad Rashid Hanif, Director Public Relations Tariq Jamil Durrani, Deputy Director Public Relations Quratul Ain Shabbir, Raja Muhammad Sohaib Khan, Syed Asif Hussain Naqvi, Raja Abdul Basit Khan, Khizr Hayat, Shamim Anjum Aziz, Sagheer Ahmed, Sajid Nazir, Sardara Kamal and others. The participants paid great tribute to the departmental services of Muhammad Javed Malik. In their address, the speakers appreciated the valuable services of Muhammad Javed Malik to the Information Department and said that he performed his professional responsibilities with utmost honesty, hard work and good manners.

## AJK Election Commission Tightens Voter Roll Security Ahead of 2026 Polls

City Desk

**MUZAFFARABAD:** The Election Commission of Azad Jammu and Kashmir has finalized the preparation and updating of electoral rolls for the 2026 Legislative Assembly general elections according to schedule. Previously, the public was notified through various media channels to register eligible voters. However, the Commission has observed individuals attempting to register using counterfeit identity cards and fake addresses, which is illegal. This practice is a serious offense, and the Election Commission sternly warns against it. Criminal action will be initiated against anyone found using fraudulent documents or information for voter registration in the future, and registration officers have been duly informed.



## Azad Kashmir leaders mourn loss of former Zakat Chairman and Minister's Daughter

Bureau Report

**ISLAMABAD:** Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, expressed profound sorrow and condemnation over the murder of Chaudhry Muhammad Adalat, a former Chairman of District Zakat Bhimber, describing him as a close and loyal companion. Khan extended condolences to Adalat's family and demanded swift arrest and justice for the perpetrators. He prayed for Adalat's soul and strength for his bereaved family. Additionally, former Health Minister of Azad Kashmir, Nisar Ansar Abdali, mourned the death of his daughter, soliciting prayers and expressing the deep pain of this loss.



## Education Department Champions Kashmiri Youth Awareness



Bureau Report

**KOTLI:** The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and Kashmir Cause, Arts and Languages organized a speech competition titled "Flag Bearers of Occupied Kashmir and Human Rights". Secretary Syed Shahid Mohiuddin emphasized the ongoing human rights violations in occupied Jammu and Kashmir and the need to educate the youth about the Kashmiri struggle and international human rights. District Education Officers Syed Jamsheed Bukhari and Saeeda Andleeb highlighted the role of educational institutions in national training and fostering patriotism, respectively. Students presented their views on the situation in occupied Kashmir, demanding international intervention. Certificates and prizes were awarded to outstanding participants, with a commitment to continuing such initiatives to raise awareness about the Kashmir issue.

## Dangerous

**ISLAMABAD:** A motorcyclist coming down from broken fence bridge with on 7th Avenue in the Federal Capital may cause any serious incidents, needs the attention of concerned authorities.

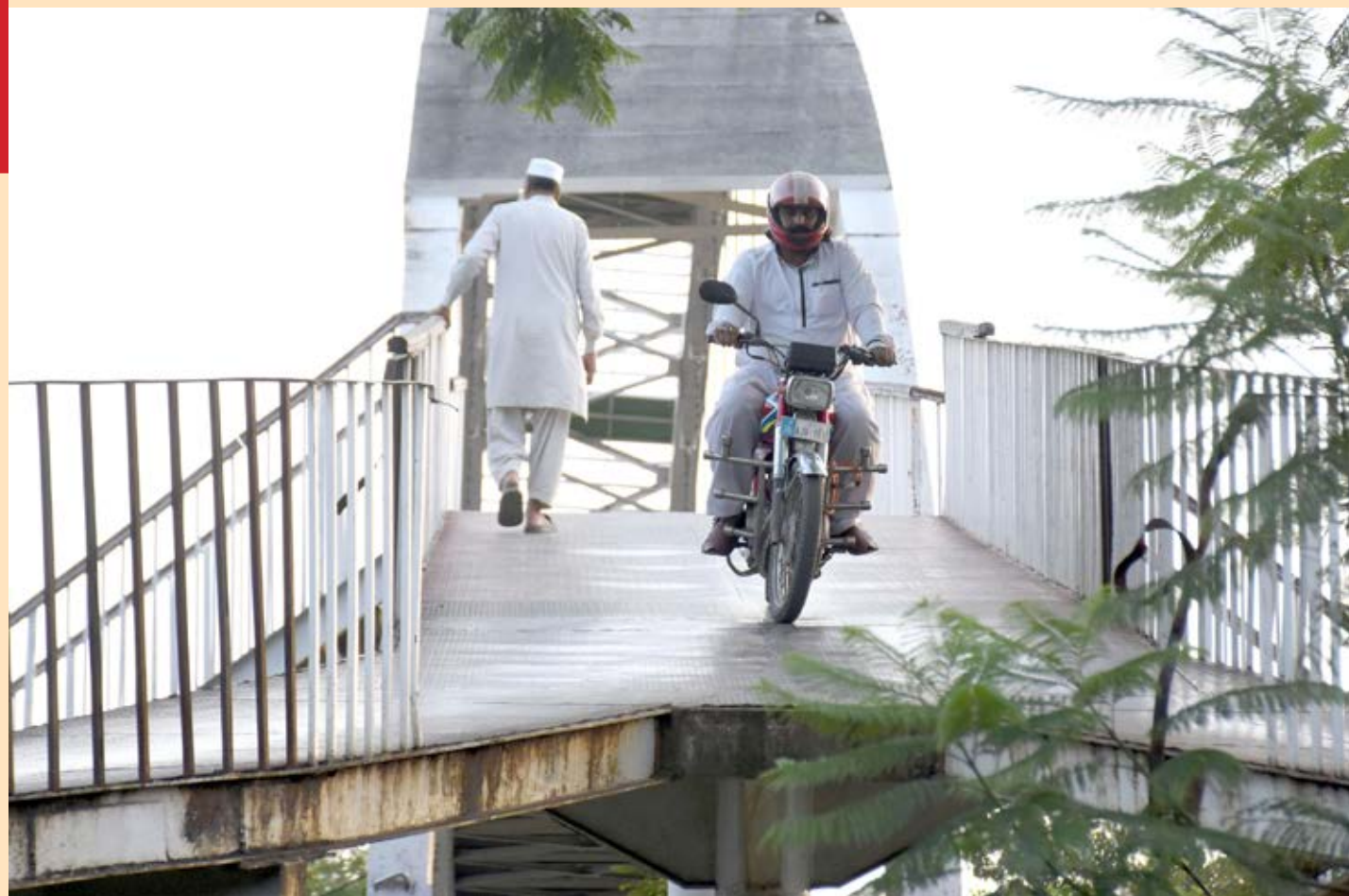


Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

# If Pakistan's Diplomatic Gambit: Navigating US-Iran Tensions to Avert Regional War

*Pakistan succeeds in mediation, the international community will succeed in averting a catastrophic war, Masood Khan*

City Desk.

**ISLAMABAD:** Former Pakistani envoy Masood Khan highlights Pakistan's crucial diplomatic role in mediating between the US and Iran to prevent a devastating regional conflict. He warns that failure could lead to prolonged instability and economic turmoil in the Middle East. Khan

describes the situation as "extremely fluid," with contradictory statements complicating efforts, though a potential conflict-ending memorandum is reportedly under discussion. Egypt, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia are also involved, but Pakistan is central to facilitating communication. Key challenges include Iran's firm stance on the Strait of Hormuz and inflam-

matory rhetoric from both Washington and Tehran, which increases the risk of miscalculation. Regarding the nuclear issue, Iran asserts its right to civilian enrichment, but levels, stockpiles, sanctions relief, and moratoriums remain contentious. Khan suggests future negotiations could build on the 2015 nuclear agreement, requiring reciprocal concessions like sanctions relief and

asset release. He also criticizes Israeli actions in Gaza and neighboring territories for undermining regional peace, emphasizing the international community's responsibility to uphold international law and Palestinian rights. Khan concludes that diplomacy, restraint, and engagement are the only sustainable path forward for global security and economic stability.

# Air University campus Kamra Expo 2026

Raza Naqvi

**ATTOCK,:** Air University Aerospace and Aviation Campus Kamra successfully organized the "Career and Final Year Project Expo 2026" on May 20, 2026. The prestigious event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, faculty members, industry professionals, representatives of various organizations, and distinguished guests.

The Chief Guest of the event was Air Marshal Kashif Qamar, Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Military), Deputy President of the National Aerospace Science and Technology Park (NASTP). Air Vice Marshal Shams-ul-Haq, Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Military) (Retd), warmly welcomed the honorable guests.

During the expo, students from various departments presented innovative, research-oriented, and creative final year projects. The showcased projects highlighted modern concepts and practical solutions in the fields of Aviation Management, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Computer Science, and Cyber Security. The students demon-



strated exceptional technical expertise, research capabilities, and innovative thinking.

Representatives from various public and private sector organizations interacted with students and provided valuable guidance regarding future career opportunities, training programs, and the professional skills required in practical fields. Participants highly appreciated the students' projects and

presentations, describing them as an excellent reflection of the talent and potential of the younger generation.

Distinguished guests and faculty members thoroughly reviewed the exhibited projects and praised the dedication, hard work, and commitment of both students and teachers. Speakers emphasized that such activities play a vital role in promoting research, innovation, and practical skills among

students while also strengthening collaboration between academia and industry.

At the conclusion of the event, outstanding projects were specially recognized, while the administration reaffirmed its commitment to continuing to provide students with excellent opportunities for modern education, research, and professional development in the future.



Islamabad  
30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr ..... 3:23 am  
Zohr ..... 12:04 pm  
Asr ..... 5:01 pm  
Maghrib ..... 7:07 pm  
Isha ..... 8:45 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) ..... 15  
Bomb Disposal ..... 15  
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad ..... 1122 & 16  
Emergency Ambulance ..... 1122 & Rescue Services ..... 4451122  
Motorway Police ..... 92766044  
Motorway Police ..... 9270601-20

Women Police Stations

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

ENQUIRY

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Railway Exchange ..... 9270831-5  
WASA Rawalpindi ..... 5555489  
CAA ..... 9281092

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

**Awaam Pakistan Party Balochistan Praises Imran Zarkoon's Reform Efforts**

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Syed Aman Shah of Awaam Pakistan Party Balochistan praised bureaucrat Imran Zarkoon for championing modern, transparent, and effective governance in the province.

Shah highlighted Zarkoon's efforts in implementing digital governance, e-governance, and transparent financial reforms, which aim to curb corruption and improve public services. He emphasized the need for officers educated at world-class institutions, like Zarkoon (Oxford, LSE, LKY School), to drive positive transformation in Balochistan's administrative system.

Shah pointed to Zarkoon's work in Kohlu as evidence of local talent and stated that such capable individuals are crucial for Balochistan's future, potentially contributing at a national level. The party pledges to support all such reform-minded leaders.

# CM Maryam orders officers to remain in field during Eidul Azha

Bureau Report

LAHORE: CM Punjab Maryam Nawaz has directed administrative and police officers across Punjab to remain in the field during Eidul Azha instead of staying in offices, as the provincial government finalised extensive arrangements for security, cleanliness and public facilitation during the holidays.

Chairing a high-level video-link meeting on Eid Ul Azha arrangements on Friday, the chief minister issued comprehensive guidelines to all deputy commissioners and district police officers, warning that negligence or poor implementation of orders would not be tolerated.

She ordered a fine of Rs50,000 for throwing animal waste and offal in streets, neighbourhoods, drains and canals during Eid days. Authorities were also directed to strictly enforce the restriction on sale of sacrificial animals only at designated cattle markets and take action against illegal livestock trading in unauthorised areas.

The meeting was informed that digital

monitoring and vigilance operations would be carried out at cattle markets, while strict security arrangements would be ensured to prevent incidents of cattle theft and robbery.

The chief minister further directed authorities to perfume Eidgahs and mosques with rose water and ensure cleanliness in railway colonies, cantonment areas and private housing societies.

She also ordered uninterrupted water supply during Eid holidays, display of fare lists at bus stands and inside buses, and covering of dumping sites near airports.

The meeting decided to ban temporary swings across the province, while authorities were instructed to conduct safety and security checks of amusement rides installed in parks. Directions were also issued for cyber patrolling to curb hate material on social media.

All deputy commissioners and district police officers participating in the meeting were instructed to ensure strict implementation of Eid SOPs, with the chief minister warning of action in case of non-compliance.



## Free Distribution

ISLAMABAD: CDA workers distributing free waste bags among citizens ahead of Eid Al-Adha, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Media Workers Demand Equal Benefits in Punjab Protest

Special Correspondent

LAHORE/MULTAN: Media workers affiliated with newspapers and television channels staged a protest demonstration under the banner of the Media Workers Organisation (MWO) Punjab, demanding equal rights and facilities for media staff.

The protest was led by MWO Punjab President Naseeb Ali Tabassum and attended by a large number of media workers from across the province.

Addressing the protesters, Tabassum said media workers remain deprived of basic facilities despite playing a key behind-the-scenes role in running media organisations. He urged the government to extend to media workers the



same benefits enjoyed by other journalists like reports, sub editors, editors, etc. including residential plots, travel facilities and access to endowment funds.

He said most government incentives were currently

limited to journalists, while media workers continued to be ignored. Appealing to Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, he urged the provincial government to grant special incentives and ensure media workers received their due rights.

Speakers including Imran Mughal and Asghar Ali said media workers were the backbone of the media industry and should be provided with the same basic facilities and privileges as other sectors of journalism.

## Punjab Safe Cities Authority Launches Helpline No.15

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA), on the special directions of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, has introduced a Universal Access Number for Emergency Helpline 15, enabling citizens of Punjab to directly access Punjab Emergency Services and Safe City facilities from anywhere in Pakistan and across the world.

According to PSCA's spokesperson, citizens residing outside Punjab can now contact Punjab Police and Emergency Helpline 15 directly by dialing 042-111-111-015, while overseas Pakistanis can access the said service through +92-42-111-111-015. Previously, calls made from outside Punjab were automatically redirected to the respective provincial emergency



systems, while overseas Pakistanis also faced difficulties in directly accessing Punjab's emergency services.

The spokesperson further stated that all major services of Punjab Safe Cities

Authority, including Emergency Helpline 15, will now be available through the Universal Access Number. Citizens will also be able to access services such as the Virtual Women Police Station,

Child Safety Center, Virtual Blood Bank, and Misaq Minority Center. In addition, traffic-related services, psychological assistance, and free legal guidance facilities are also being provided through this platform.

The spokesperson emphasized that this new facility will allow overseas Pakistanis and citizens residing outside Punjab to contact Punjab Police immediately during any emergency situation. All services currently available on Helpline 15 within Punjab will now also be accessible to Pakistanis living abroad.

The spokesperson further added that this is the first initiative of its kind through which Punjab's emergency response system services are being extended beyond geographical boundaries, ensuring timely assistance and protection for citizens wherever they may be located.



Multan: Deputy Commissioner Multan, Muhammad Numan Sadeeq, visited Children's Hospital Multan and received a detailed briefing from Dean Professor Muhammad Kashif regarding the hospital's affairs and administrative matters.

## WUM Celebrates 75 Years of Pakistan-China Friendship with Grand Ceremony



Iram Asim

MULTAN: The Women's University Multan celebrated the 75th anniversary of Pakistan-China diplomatic relations with a ceremony presided over by Vice-Chancellor Dr. Syed Shahida Batool. The event, organized by the Directorate of Students Affairs, featured a symbolic cake-cutting, signifying the enduring friendship between the two nations. Dr. Batool lauded the «exemplary, unparalleled and all-round partnership,» emphasizing its deep roots in the hearts of the people and highlighting CPEC as a testament to this bond. She encouraged students to embrace this historical relationship, learn the Chinese language and culture, and recognize its potential for future opportunities, viewing the celebration as a «symbol of the sweetness of Pak-China friendship.

## Dr. Syeda Shahida Batool Named New Vice Chancellor of Women University Multan

Iram Asim



MULTAN: Professor Dr. Syeda Shahida Batool has been appointed the new Vice Chancellor of Women University Multan for a four-year term. The Punjab Higher Education Department announced the appointment, approved by the Governor, based on the Search Committee's recommendations. Dr. Batool, formerly of Government College University Lahore's Psychology Department, brings extensive experience in academia, university governance, and research. She is committed to advancing academic excellence, fostering research, and enhancing institutional performance. Her priorities include faculty and student development, digital transformation, and strengthening academic collaborations. The Punjab government is confident her leadership will bolster the university's standing.

## Turkish Cuisine Week 2026 Celebrates Culinary Heritage with 'The Heritage Table' Theme

News Desk

KARACHI: Turkish Cuisine Week 2026, themed "The Heritage Table," will celebrate Türkiye's rich culinary heritage, traditions, and shared memories from May 21-27 worldwide, under the patronage of First Lady Emine Erdoğan. The theme emphasizes Turkish cuisine as a living cultural heritage shaped by centuries of migration, rituals, and communal dining. Events will feature communal meals, chef collaborations, cooking demonstrations, and historic recipe showcases. On May 20th, Türkiye's Ambassador to Pakistan, H. E. İrfan Neziroğlu, hosted a dinner highlighting dishes like mantı, tandır, dolma, baklava, and helva, underscoring the «sofra» (dining table) as a symbol of togetherness and Turkish hospitality. The week aims to foster cultural exchange and promote Türkiye's gastronomic traditions globally.



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# Trump's Empty Warnings to Iran

For weeks, President Donald J. Trump has repeatedly warned Iran that a massive military strike could come "within days," "within hours," or after the "final opportunity" for Tehran to compromise. Yet every deadline has passed without the feared all-out assault taking place. What initially appeared to be overwhelming military confidence has gradually transformed into strategic hesitation, political confusion, and growing global skepticism about Washington's objectives and capabilities.

The reasons behind this hesitation are far more complex than simple military caution. The United States today faces a combination of domestic political pressure, economic pain, military overstretch, diplomatic isolation, and a rapidly changing geopolitical environment that has fundamentally altered the cost-benefit equation of war against Iran. The first and perhaps most immediate factor is the growing economic pain inside the United States itself. American citizens are increasingly feeling the consequences of prolonged instability in the Middle East. Gasoline prices in many U.S. states have nearly doubled compared to pre-war levels. Inflationary pressures are intensifying across transportation, food, manufacturing, and consumer goods. The stock market has become highly volatile, reacting sharply to every presidential statement, military alert, or rumor of escalation in the Strait of Hormuz. Investors, businesses, and ordinary Americans now fear that another major war could trigger a broader economic downturn at a time when the U.S. economy is already under severe pressure.

This domestic economic stress is directly affecting public opinion. Unlike earlier decades, when military interventions could be justified under broad national security narratives, many Americans are now openly questioning the purpose of confrontation with Iran. Increasing numbers of citizens believe there was no imminent Iranian threat to the United States itself. Even the administration's own statements have repeatedly shifted between different justifications — nuclear concerns, protection of Israel, defense of Gulf allies, freedom of navigation, missile threats, and regime change. These changing narratives have weakened public confidence and created confusion about the real objectives of the conflict.

At the same time, Congress and sections of the Senate have become increasingly resistant to another open-ended Middle Eastern war. Several lawmakers have pushed resolutions aimed at limiting or preventing unauthorized military action against Iran without formal congressional approval. The debate over war powers has intensified because many legislators fear that another prolonged conflict could drain American resources while delivering little strategic benefit.

Military realities have also imposed constraints. The United States possesses immense military capability, but prolonged deployments, high-intensity missile operations, and precision-guided strikes have significantly depleted

advanced ammunition stockpiles. Replenishing these systems requires time, industrial capacity, and enormous financial investment. Defense planners understand that a war against Iran would not resemble earlier conflicts against weaker adversaries. Iran possesses advanced missile capabilities, asymmetric warfare networks, regional allies, naval disruption capacity, and deep strategic resilience developed over decades of sanctions and confrontation.

One of Washington's major strategic failures has been its inability to trigger meaningful internal destabilization within Iran. Despite intense pressure, sanctions, cyber operations, assassinations, and psychological warfare, Iran's political structure and national cohesion have remained largely intact. Instead of collapsing internally, Iran has demonstrated a capacity to absorb pressure while consolidating nationalist sentiment around sovereignty and resistance.

The broader Middle East has also changed dramatically. Gulf Cooperation Council countries hosting American military bases increasingly appear exhausted by continuous instability and war. Many regional governments now fear that they could become direct targets in any wider confrontation. Their populations are also becoming more vocal against being drawn into conflicts perceived primarily as serving Israeli strategic objectives rather than regional security needs.

This perception has become one of the most damaging developments for

Washington's credibility. Across much of the world, especially in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and increasingly Europe, the war is no longer viewed as a defensive necessity but as a geopolitical project tied closely to Israeli security calculations and broader strategic control of global energy routes.

Many analysts now interpret the larger strategic objective as an attempt to maintain American dominance over global energy systems and maritime chokepoints. Control over Venezuela's oil sector, pressure on Iran, influence over the Strait of Hormuz, interest in Greenland's emerging Arctic routes, and broader efforts to counter the rise of BRICS financial mechanisms are increasingly being viewed as interconnected components of a larger geopolitical strategy.

The fear in Washington has been that the rise of alternative trading systems, local currency settlements, and BRICS-led financial cooperation could weaken the dominance of the U.S. dollar as the world's reserve currency. For decades, American global power has depended not only on military strength but also on the dollar's central role in global trade, finance, and energy transactions. Any shift away from dollar-based trade threatens a key pillar of U.S. economic influence.

Ironically, the conflict appears to have accelerated some of these trends instead of reversing them. Iran's moves to impose toll structures and non-dollar settlement mechanisms connected to the Strait of Hormuz symbolize a broader global shift toward financial diversification. Whether fully sustainable or not,

*Continued on Page 7*



Analysis **Qamar Bashir**

## Saudi Arabia rolls out comprehensive digital 'Hajj Guide'

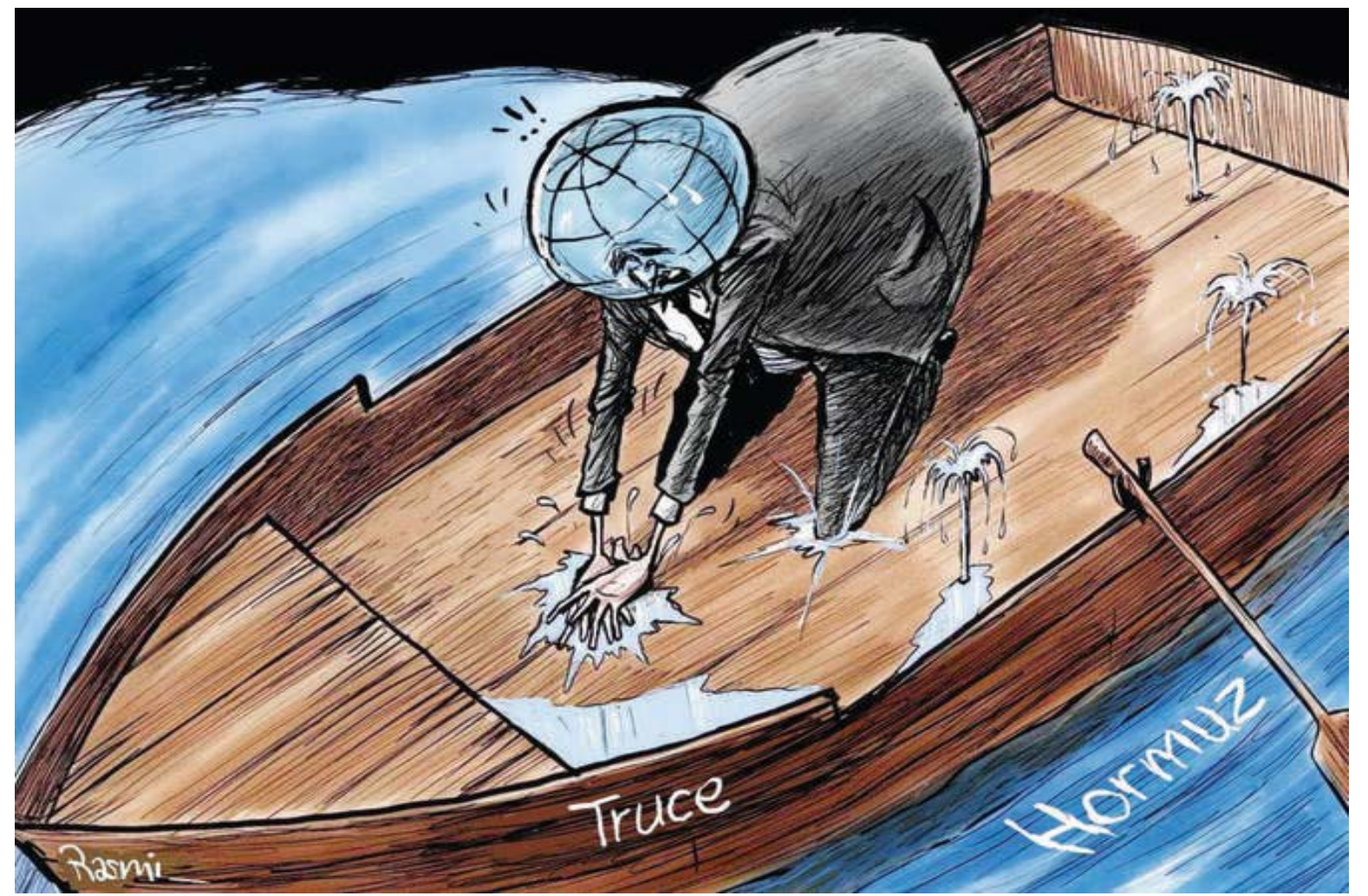
The Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah has issued a comprehensive "Hajj Guide" for hundreds of thousands of pilgrims arriving from across the globe, including Pakistan, to facilitate their spiritual journey. The primary objective of the newly released guide is to educate pilgrims on the accurate performance of Hajj rituals, streamlined transport logistics between the holy sites (Mashair), and essential administrative regulations to ensure a smooth, secure, and hassle-free pilgrimage.

According to the official timeline, the core rituals of Hajj will commence on Dhul-Hijjah 8 (Yoom-ut-Tarwiyah), marking the first transit of pilgrims to the tent city of Mina. Pilgrims will offer shortened (Qasr) prayers from Dhuhr until the subsequent dawn (Fajr) prayer and spend the night in Mina. On the following day, Dhul-Hijjah 9 (Yoom-e-Arafat), which constitutes the climate of Hajj, pilgrims will proceed to the plains of Arafat after dawn prayers to observe the pivotal ritual of "Waqoof-e-Arafat," spending their time in prayers and supplications near Masjid-e-Nimra and Jabal-e-Rahmah. The ministry has issued strict instructions to pilgrims to remain within the defined boundaries of Arafat strictly until sunset.

Immediately following sunset, the pilgrims will move toward Muzdalifah, where they will perform the combined Maghrib and Isha prayers and spend the night under the open sky. This site also serves as the location for collecting pebbles for the ritual of Jamarat (Rami). On the morning of Dhul-Hijjah 10 (Yoom-an-Nahr), pilgrims will head back to Mina to perform the initial stoning at Jamarat al-Aqaba (the big Satan), followed by the animal sacrifice (Qurbani), and shaving or shortening of hair (Halq/Qasr) to formally exit the state of Ihram. During the subsequent Ayyam-ut-Tashreeq (Dhul-Hijjah 11, 12, and 13), pilgrims will stay in Mina and perform the daily stoning ritual at all three Jamarat after midday (Zawal) in a designated sequence.

Alongside ritual performance, the ministry has mandated the downloading of the "Nusuk App" and physical possession of the official "Nusuk Card," emphasizing that entry into the holy sites and Masjid al-Haram will be strictly prohibited without this electronic permit. Furthermore, a dedicated group-based scheduling system has been enforced for train and bus transport networks across the holy sites. Pilgrims have been strictly directed to coordinate their movements with their respective group leaders to avoid overcrowding and ensure crowd safety.

Amid projections of extreme summer weather and heatstroke vulnerabilities, the advisory highly cautions pilgrims against walking outdoors between the peak heat hours of 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM. They are urged to carry umbrellas at all times and consume a high volume of water and Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS). Upon completing all major rituals, performing the Farewell Tawaf (Tawaf-al-Wadaa) remains mandatory before exiting Makah Mukarramah. For the return flights, the guidelines state that Zamzam water bottles will only be permitted inside aircraft if bought through authorized, airport-approved commercial packaging. The Saudi government's emergency helplines, including 1966 and 911, will remain operational round-the-clock to assist pilgrims or handle cases of lost belongings and emergency tracking.



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmī. (Courtesy of Asharq Al-Awsat)

## Dewan Kauromal Chandanmal Khilnani: A Grand Old Man of Sindh

Dewan Kauromal Chandanmal Khilnani stands among the most remarkable intellectual figures produced during the British Raj. A scholar, educationist, civil servant, mathematician, and pioneering prose writer, he played a foundational role in shaping modern Sindh literature and education. His life reflects a rare blend of scholarship, administrative excellence, and social reform, making him one of the earliest and most influential contributors to Sindh's intellectual history.

Dewan Kauromal Chandanmal Khilnani was born in Bhiriya Sindh (Taluka Naushahro Feroze, District Nawab Shah Sindh). He was originally named "Pritam". Due to family superstitions, his name was changed to "Kauro", meaning "Bitter," a symbolic beginning to a life that would later bring sweetness in the form of knowledge and reform. From an early age, he displayed exceptional intelligence and dedication to learning. He studied Sindh and Persian under Akhaund Qazi Muhammad Suleman and later joined a newly established primary school in his hometown. His brilliance earned him recognition, and he was appointed as a "Boy Translator" with a scholarship, marking the beginning of his scholarly journey. In this job he prepared textbooks and compiled other Sindh books 4th, 5th, 6th & 7th in the years 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876. These were also prescribed as text books. He became the most prolific compiler and the readers were readers in vogue from 1873 to the first decade of the 20th Century.

His pursuit of education took him to Karachi and later to Bombay for matriculation. Although he did not continue formal studies after this stage, his intellectual growth never ceased. He began his

professional career as a clerk in the Commissioner's office in Karachi but soon transitioned into the field of education, where his true passion lay. He served as a teacher and later as a Headmaster in Hyderabad and Sukkur, contributing significantly to the development of formal Education in Sindh. Kauromal administrative career was equally distinguished. After passing Revenue and Judicial examinations, he was appointed City Magistrate in Shikarpur and Hyderabad and later served as Deputy Collector in Rohri and Hala. His honesty, impartiality, and dedication set him apart, though his resistance to favoritism sometimes led to professional challenges. Despite this, he maintained integrity throughout his career. He also served as Municipal Commissioner and Health Officer in Hyderabad, where his commitment to public welfare became evident, especially during the plague epidemic of 1897, when he worked tirelessly to serve the people.

Alongside his administrative duties, his contributions to education were profound. He became the founding principal of the Training College for Men in Hyderabad and worked extensively on curriculum development. He established a school in his hometown in 1866, which later became known as Kauromal Chandanmal Academy. It is truly said that, "To do thy duty is a way to glory". Even after his retirement in October 1899, he continued to serve education as a member of the Text Books Committee and as an examiner for vernacular languages.

Kauromal is best remembered as the "Father of Sindh Prose". At a time when Sindh literature lacked structured prose, he introduced clarity, simplicity, and effectiveness in writing. His essays covered a wide range of subjects, including panchayat systems, health, agriculture, folklore,

and social issues. His writing style was accessible yet powerful, guiding future writers on how to express ideas logically and persuasively. A collection of his essays, compiled later, reflects his intellectual depth and social awareness.

His literary output was vast and diverse. He authored more than 60 books, including over 50 textbooks on various subjects. A list of his 58 books is available in the Sindhi Encyclopedia published by the Sindh Language Authority.

As a mathematician, he made a lasting contribution by translating geometry books from Persian and other languages into Sindh, thereby making scientific knowledge accessible to local students. He was among the first to introduce technical terminology of subjects like geometry and chemistry into Sindh, laying the groundwork for modern scientific education in the language.

In addition to textbooks, he produced significant original works that reflected cultural, historical, and moral themes. He also translated works from Sanskrit, Hindi, Bengali, and English into Sindh, demonstrating his mastery over multiple languages, including Sindh, Persian, Arabic, English, Sanskrit, Hindi, and Bengali. His translation of classical and literary texts enriched Sindh literature and connected it with broader intellectual traditions.

Kauromal was also a committed social reformer. He actively worked to revive and organize the panchayat system, strengthening community governance. He campaigned against social evils such as extravagance in marriages and dowries, promoting simplicity and ethical values. His work strongly advocated for women's education, emphasizing its importance for societal progress. He also contributed to preserving folklore and cultural heritage, ensuring that traditional knowledge was documented and shared.

His efforts extended to collecting and compiling

*Continued on Page 7*



Analysis **Dr. Mushtaq Ahmed Rahu**

## The World Between Two Powers

The recent high-profile meeting between Donald Trump and Xi Jinping was widely anticipated as a potentially defining moment in global politics. Yet, contrary to the expectations of many observers, the meeting neither signaled the dawn of a transformative new era nor brought any of the longstanding disputes between Washington and Beijing to a decisive conclusion. Instead, it reinforced the reality of what can best be described as a "controlled relationship" - one in which both powers seek to prevent open confrontation while remaining deeply cautious and distrustful of one another.

At the heart of the discussions was a mutual understanding that direct conflict between the world's two largest powers would have catastrophic consequences not only for them but for the entire international system. Both sides appeared willing to maintain diplomatic engagement and keep communication channels open. However, beyond the carefully managed optics and diplomatic language, little evidence emerged to suggest that genuine strategic trust is developing between the two nations.

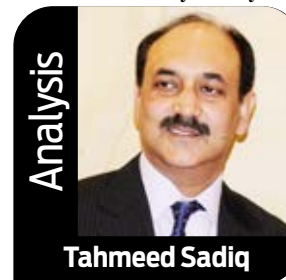
Perhaps the clearest outcome of the meeting was the recognition of what could not be resolved. On Iran, ambiguity continued to dominate the conversation, with no clear indication of a coordinated approach or shared strategic vision. Regarding Taiwan, arguably the most dangerous flashpoint in contemporary global politics, tensions remained firmly intact. China reiterated its uncompromising position on Taiwanese sovereignty, while the

United States continued signaling support for Taiwan's security and democratic system. The absence of any meaningful breakthrough on this issue highlighted how fragile regional stability in East Asia remains.

Trade relations offered a comparatively more optimistic tone. Both leaders exchanged encouraging signals aimed at reducing economic friction and stabilizing commercial ties. Yet even here, optimism was tempered by reality. No durable or comprehensive agreement emerged that could guarantee long-term economic certainty. Tariffs, technological competition, supply-chain rivalries, and strategic economic restrictions continue to shape the relationship between the two countries.

More broadly, the meeting delivered an important message to the international community. The United States undoubtedly remains a global superpower with unmatched military reach and significant political influence. However, the era in which Washington could independently shape the international order without accounting for Beijing's role appears to be fading rapidly. China's economic strength, diplomatic influence, and expanding geopolitical footprint have fundamentally altered the balance of global power.

The evolving relationship between the United States and China reflects a world transitioning toward a more complex and competitive international order. The gradual redistribution of power within global politics is no longer theoretical; it is unfolding in real time, and the world is being compelled to adapt accordingly.



Analysis **Tahmeed Sadiq**



# Lord Qurban Hussain Pays Tribute to Pakistan's Role in Promoting Global Peace at the UK House of Lords

**Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah**

LONDON: During a debate in the House of Lords, Lord Qurban Hussain commended Pakistan for its constructive diplomatic efforts in helping to reduce tensions between the United States and Iran, describing Pakistan's role as an important contribution towards

international peace and stability. Addressing members of the House, Lord Qurban Hussain stated that Pakistan's diplomatic engagement had helped facilitate a ceasefire agreement, while discussions on a broader peace arrangement between the United States and Iran continue. He expressed appreciation for Pakistan's commitment to dialogue

and regional stability. During his remarks, Lord Qurban Hussain also raised concerns over the continued failure of the United Nations to effectively address major international conflicts, noting that millions across the world continue to suffer due to war, instability and humanitarian crises. Turning to the issue of Jammu and Kashmir,

he described it as a long-standing international dispute that has remained on the agenda of the United Nations Security Council since 1948, yet has not received adequate international attention. He reminded the House that UN Security Council resolutions called for a free and impartial plebiscite to determine the future of Kashmir, adding

that this commitment remains unfulfilled.

Lord Qurban Hussain also voiced serious concern over the human rights situation in Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir, citing reports from Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch regarding allegations of excessive force, arbitrary detentions, torture,

and restrictions on journalists and political activists. He urged the international community, including the United Kingdom, to play a more active role in addressing these concerns and ensuring accountability. Highlighting regional security risks, Lord Qurban Hussain warned that any miscalculation along the Line of Control could esca-

late rapidly, with consequences extending far beyond South Asia.

He concluded by stating that lasting peace between India and Pakistan, alongside a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute, is essential not only for the 1.7 billion people of South Asia but also for wider global peace, security and prosperity.

## Turkish Embassy in Islamabad celebrated 'Turkish Cuisine Week 2026'

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Türkiye has announced the official theme for Turkish Cuisine Week 2026 as "The Heritage Table" celebrating the cultural stories, traditions, and shared memories preserved through Turkish cuisine. Turkish Cuisine Week will take place from 21 to 27 May 2026 across Türkiye and at Turkish diplomatic missions and cultural centres worldwide under the auspices of First Lady H. E. Emine Erdoğan.

The annual celebration highlights Türkiye's rich culinary heritage and its role in bringing people and cultures together.

This year's theme presents Turkish cuisine not only as a collection of dishes,



but as a living cultural heritage shaped over centuries through migration,

rituals, traditions, and shared experiences around the table.

H. E. Irfan Neziroğlu, Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to Pakistan hosted a dinner with timeless dishes from Turkish cuisine at the Turkish Embassy Residence on May 20th, 2026 on the occasion of the Turkish Cuisine Week.

Ambassador Neziroğlu stated, "Turkish Cuisine Week is an opportunity to share the spirit of Turkish hospitality and cultural heritage with our sisters and brothers in Pakistan. This year, we celebrate the Turkish Cuisine Week for the 5th time across Türkiye and all over the world. The dining table or 'sofra' in Turkish, is the oldest language of togetherness. It also reflects the warmth of the Turkish hospitality, emphasizing the healthy, zero waste and traditional character of Turkish cuisine."

## PANAH calls for FED increase on processed juices



**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Heart Association (PANAH) has expressed serious concern over the increasing consumption of processed juices and their significant impact on public health. Speaking to the media, Sana Ullah Ghuman said, "It has come to our attention that certain elements within the juice industry are attempting to mislead policymakers, particularly the Senate's Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue, in an effort to obtain tax relief by portraying juices as healthy products."

Renowned diabetologist Prof. Dr. Shakeel Ahmed Mirza emphasized that the WHO's 2015 Guideline on Free Sugars Intake, reaffirmed through its advisory documents in 2023, is unequivocal: the term "free sugars" explicitly includes not only sugars added during manufacturing, but also "sugars naturally present in honey, syrups, fruit juices, and fruit juice concentrates." The WHO recommends reducing free sugar intake to less than 10% of total daily energy intake, and preferably below 5%, for both adults and children, when the source is liquid like beverages or juices. Fruit juices — regardless of whether manufacturers add sugar — are a significant source of free sugars and fall squarely within the category of products whose consumption the WHO recommends limiting.

Commissioner, Asia Pacific Region — Prevention of Cardiovascular Diseases, PROF. DR. Nusrat Ara Majeed warned that providing any tax relief on packaged juices also risks misleading consumers. Such policy concessions may be interpreted as a government endorsement that these products are healthy or safe for frequent consumption.

PANAH, health experts, and civil society organizations urged the government to reject any pressure from certain segments of the beverage industry seeking tax relief at the expense of public health. The organizations further demanded an increase in Federal Excise Duty (FED) to 40 percent on all sweetened beverages, including juices, in the Finance Bill 2026-27.

## Islamabad Lions Club Holds General Body Meeting, Welcomes New Team

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: A General Body meeting of the Islamabad D. Watson Lions Club was held in which outgoing office-bearers were bid farewell while newly elected office-bearers were warmly welcomed. The meeting, held recently, was attended by PDG Lion Dr. Hassan Surosh Akram, Chartered President Lion Ahsan Bakhtawari, President Islamabad D. Watson Lions Club Lion Malik Mohsin Khalid, Secretary Lion Faizan Shahzad, MC Lion Muhammad Owais Malik and other members.

During the meeting, the newly elected office-bearers were also announced, including President Lion Sadaf Asim Abbasi, Secretary Lion Shahbaz Masih, Treasurer and Director Lion Ahsan Bakhtawari, First Vice President Arham Ahsan Bakhtawari, Second Vice President Muhammad Owais Malik, LCIF Coordinator Haris Bakhtawari, Marketing Chairperson Nasir Mahmood Club, Club Service Chairperson Joharia Azhar, Club Membership Chairperson Malik Nadeem Akhtar, and Club Administrator Zafar Bakhtawari. New



members Maqsood Tabish, Hamad Kazmi, Majid Shabbir, Iqbal Aanchan and Imran Rashid also attended the event.

Addressing the gathering, PDG Lion Dr. Hassan Surosh Akram said that Islamabad D. Watson Lions Club has always been a shining example of service, brotherhood and humanity. He said the new leadership should further strengthen the spirit of service

and continue playing a positive role in society.

Director Lion Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari briefed the participants about the club's activities and future plans. In his address, he stated that efforts would be made to organize more effective and positive activities for the welfare of youth and the community so that the scope of service could be further expanded.

Outgoing President Lion Malik Mohsin Khalid welcomed the new office-bearers and members and said that Lions Club is a great platform for the service of humanity.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Secretary Lion Faizan Shahzad presented the club dues report, while participants reaffirmed their commitment to launching more social welfare initiatives in the future.

## Hakim Omar Khayyam Neyashabouri: The Iranian Scholar Best Known for His Rubaiyat

Among the scientific and literary luminaries of Iran, few personalities can be found who embody such a remarkable combination of contrasts as Hakim Omar Khayyam Neyashabouri; a scholar who excelled in mathematics and astronomy during his own era, yet the world came to know him through quatrains that emerged from his philosophical inquiries and existential reflections. Today, as we commemorate this wise sage, we seek to revisit both dimensions of his personality — the scientist as well as the poet — and to speak about his lasting influence on the culture and literature of the Indian subcontinent, including the friendly and brotherly land of Pakistan.

### A Scholar of Global Stature

Ghiyath al-Din Abu'l-Fath Omar ibn Ibrahim Khayyam Neyashabouri was born in 439 AH (1048 CE) in Neyashabour and passed away in 526 AH (1131 CE) in the same city. During his lifetime, he was renowned above all as an eminent scholar, and the title "Hujjat al-Haqq" (Proof of the Truth) reflected his lofty intellectual standing.

In mathematics, Khayyam was among the pioneers of his age. His famous treatise on algebra, Risalah

fi'l-Jabr wa'l-Muqabalah (Treatise on Algebra), is considered one of the most important scientific works of the medieval period. He was the first scholar to conduct a systematic study of first-, second-, and third-degree equations, and he presented a general solution for cubic equations through the intersection of conic sections — a method later attributed centuries afterward to Descartes.

Perhaps Khayyam's most enduring scientific achievement, however, was his contribution to the development of the Jalali calendar. At the invitation of the Seljuk ruler Malik Shah, he carried out astronomical calculations at the observatory in Isfahan and devised a calendar based on a 33-year cycle whose accuracy surpasses even that of the Gregorian calendar. Khayyam's calculation of the solar year, with a precision of 365.24219858156 days, remains one of the marvels of medieval astronomy. This distinguished calendar still forms the basis of Iran's official calendar today.

### The Poet the World Came to Know

Despite all this, Khayyam's global fame stems not from his treatise on algebra, but from the quatrains attributed to him. These short four-line poems, known as Rubaiyat, are

a blend of philosophy, doubt, joy of living, and reflection on the mysteries of existence and the transience of life. In these verses, Khayyam speaks in a language that is simple yet profound — about the passage of time and seizing the moment; he questions the secret of creation and calls humanity to reflect upon destiny and fate.

The secret of Khayyam's immortality in world literature is undoubtedly linked to the translation by the English poet and translator Edward FitzGerald. In 1859, FitzGerald produced a free yet brilliant English rendering of Khayyam's Rubaiyat, thereby transforming him into a global literary figure. It is noteworthy that the manuscript used by FitzGerald for this translation had reached him through Calcutta in India — a fact that itself reflects Khayyam's longstanding connection with the Indian subcontinent.

### Khayyam in the Subcontinent: A Cultural and Historical Bond

The Indian subcontinent has long been one of the principal spheres of

influence of Persian culture, literature, and language. In this context, Khayyam's Rubaiyat occupies a special place and has been translated into many languages of the subcontinent, including Urdu, Hindi, Bengali, Sanskrit, and Punjabi. Khayyam's quatrains are recited not only in literary circles but also among the general public of the region, and many of his verses have entered everyday speech as proverbs.

According to scholarly research, the finest period of translating Khayyam's Rubaiyat in the subcontinent was between 1922 and 1933. Interestingly, the Urdu translation of Khayyam's quatrains was carried out by a Hindu poet named Raja Makhan Lal — a fact that itself demonstrates the universal and trans-religious appeal of Khayyam's thought. Furthermore, valuable manuscript copies of Khayyam's Rubaiyat are preserved in libraries and museums across India and Pakistan. Among them is a manuscript discovered in Lucknow, whose transcription dates back to the year 1423 CE.



Dr. Mehdi Taheri

### Khayyam and Iqbal: Shared Questions, Different Answers

From Pakistan's perspective, it is impossible to speak of Khayyam without also remembering Allama Muhammad Iqbal of Lahore. Iqbal — the great poet and philosopher of the subcontinent and the spiritual father of Pakistan — was deeply connected to the tradition of Persian poetry and wisdom, and he knew Khayyam well. In his works, Iqbal engages in dialogue with Khayyam, at times implicitly and at times explicitly. Both reflected upon destiny, human will, and the mystery of existence, yet they offered different answers: where Khayyam, with a more deterministic outlook, speaks of the "Finger of Fate," Iqbal, with optimism and faith in human agency, calls man the "Fellow traveler of God" and urges him to transform his own destiny. This intellectual dialogue between two great pillars of Persian poetry and philosophy is itself among the most beautiful manifestations of the cultural bond between Iran and the Indian subcontinent.

### Khayyam's Enduring Message for the Modern World

Today, nearly a thousand years after Khayyam's passing, his message remains alive and deeply thought-provoking. He teaches us that knowledge

and art are two sides of the same coin; that inquiry and philosophical doubt are not only compatible with faith and spirituality, but can also serve as gateways to a deeper understanding of existence. Khayyam reminds us that life is short and that we must value the present moment — not in the sense of superficial pleasure-seeking, but in the sense of recognizing the worth of each moment and the responsibility we bear toward ourselves and others.

As the cultural representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pakistan, it is a matter of pride to witness that the people of this land, like their forefathers, continue to hold a deep love and reverence for the Persian language and its great luminaries, including Hakim Omar Khayyam. We believe that this shared cultural heritage is the strongest bridge of friendship between the peoples of Iran and Pakistan, and that commemorating figures such as Khayyam Neyashabouri provides an opportunity to strengthen these cultural ties.

May we, inspired by the thoughts of this great sage, always continue on the path of wisdom, tolerance, and friendship.

*The writer is the Cultural Attaché at the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Islamabad.*

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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
167,844.24	168,514.44
Day's High	Day's Low
169,624.77	167,480.66
Index Value	Change
16,332,208,600	-670.20
Percentage	Time
-0.4%	22 May, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
10,466.26	+22.79
Percentage	Time
+0.22%	22 May, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
50,579.70	+294.04
Percentage	Time
+0.58%	22 May, 4:45 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
63,339.07	+1,654.93
Percentage	Time
+2.68%	22 May, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	196.82	202.68
Bahrain Dinar	731	741.75
Canadian Dollar	200.71	205.65
China Yuan	40.05	41.15
Danish Krone	43.35	43.75
Euro	322.10	328.10
Hong Kong Dollar	35.03	36.03
Indian Rupee	2.50	2.75
Japanese Yen	1.7423	1.8424
Kuwaiti Dinar	878.70	889.25
Malaysian Ringgit	65.25	66.35
New Zealand \$	161.57	164.85
Norwegians Krone	27.75	28.05
Omani Riyal	720.38	731.25
Qatari Riyal	74.24	76.23
Saudi Riyal	73.95	74.80
Singapore Dollar	216.03	220.15
Swedish Korona	30.35	30.65
Swiss Franc	352.78	356.68
Thai Bhat	8.55	8.75
U.A.E Dirham	75.75	76.80
UK Pound Sterling	372.91	378.10
US Dollar	278.90	279.55

# Pak-China Tie is Cornerstone of Regional Stability, Trade Growth: Mian Zahid Hussain

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Mian Zahid Hussain, a prominent Pakistani business leader, underscored the Pakistan-China relationship as fundamental to regional stability and economic growth during the 75th anniversary of their diplomatic ties.

He described the partnership as an "iron-clad" reality spanning political, economic, social, trade, and defense sectors, noting broad political consensus in Pakistan on its importance. Hussain highlighted shared visions on global issues, cooperation at international forums like the UN and SCO benefiting developing nations, and China's support on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

He reiterated Pakistan's commitment to the One-China principle and pointed to



joint efforts for peace in the Middle East as evidence of their stabilizing global role. Economically, Hussain cited a significant 83.5% year-on-year increase in Pakistani exports to China in March 2026, reaching

\$361 million, driven by copper and cotton yarn, indicating progress in industrial capacity.

While acknowledging overall bilateral trade of around \$23 billion, he stressed the need to reduce the trade deficit by boosting value-added exports from Pakistan.

Hussain identified the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as a key Belt and Road Initiative project, transforming infrastructure with Gwadar Port becoming a regional connectivity hub.

He expressed optimism for CPEC Phase 2.0, focusing on industrialization, agriculture, technology, and socio-economic development via special economic zones.

Hussain anticipated that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's upcoming visit to China would further solidify the partnership and extend its benefits to the grassroots economy.

# BYD Pakistan comes to Sialkot to showcase its NEV range

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: BYD, the global leader in New Energy Vehicles (NEVs), is in Sialkot until May 31st, 2026, showcasing its electric vehicle range near Heaven Hawks Golf Club. This initiative aims to promote NEV adoption in Sialkot, a city recognized for its export-driven economy and forward-thinking consumers, presenting an ideal market for sustainable mobility. The event allows visitors to explore BYD's NEV lineup, including the Atto 2, Atto 3, and the powerful Shark 6 Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV) pickup. Attendees can also learn about BYD's innovative Blade Battery technology, known for its safety, durability, and efficiency. Demonstrations

highlight BYD's advanced performance, energy efficiency, and intelligent cabin features. Danish Khaliq, VP Sales and Strategy at BYD Pakistan, emphasized the importance of expanding electric mobility beyond major cities for Pakistan's sustainable future. BYD is committed to making EV technology accessible nationwide, starting with Sialkot due to its progressive outlook. This is BYD Pakistan's second stop in its national outreach, following Gujranwala, with future events planned in Multan and Hyderabad. The company aims to understand consumer expectations and demonstrate the seamless integration of advanced technology, performance, and value in zero-emission vehicles.

## Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Cheema chairs a meeting related to the implementation framework of ML-I. Country Director of Asian Development Bank, Emma Fan, also attended the meeting.



Photo: PID

# inDrive Launches Aurora Ventures to Bridge Funding Gap for Women Tech Founders

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: inDrive has launched Aurora Ventures, an early-stage investment program aimed at addressing the venture capital funding gap for women tech founders in emerging markets, including Pakistan. The program will invest \$180,000 to \$250,000 in pre-seed and seed-stage women-led startups with significant growth potential. Pakistan's Country Manager, Awaiz Saeed, highlighted the abundance of talent but noted the unequal access to capital for women-led businesses. Aurora Ventures draws upon data from the Aurora Tech Award, which supports female tech founders globally, to identify promising startups early on. The

Aurora Tech Award saw over 200 Pakistani submissions in 2025, indicating a rising trend in female entrepreneurship. This initiative aligns with inDrive's broader strategy of becoming an ecosystem investor by providing not only capital but also operational support and strategic guidance to help startups scale. Despite Pakistan's rapidly growing startup ecosystem, valued at over \$4 billion, female entrepreneurs still face considerable challenges in accessing growth capital, with top female-founded startups often remaining at the pre-seed stage. Aurora Ventures' 2026 pilot aims to build an initial portfolio and establish a sustained investment presence in Pakistan and other emerging markets.

# SECP Launches "SECP Talk Series" with Session by Renowned Global Market Strategist Christopher Wood

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) initiated the "SECP Talk Series" to foster policy dialogue, market awareness, and knowledge sharing on global finance, economy, technology, and regulation.

The inaugural session featured global market strategist Christopher Wood, who discussed global economic trends, emerging markets, investor behavior, and the future of capital markets amidst geopolitical and economic challenges.

The event, attended by SECP officials, senior management, and capital market professionals, included interactive discussions on investment trends, monetary policies, technological transformation, and the role of emerging economies.

SECP Commissioner Ali Frid Khawaja highlighted the series' commitment to continuous learning and informed policymaking, emphasizing Pakistan's capital



market potential and the need to stay abreast of global developments. Wood shared insights on international market dynamics, investor confidence, geopolitical impacts, and emerging market oppor-

tunities, including for Pakistan. The SECP Talk Series will continue hosting experts to promote dialogue, capacity building, and knowledge exchange on economic and regulatory issues.

# Motorbikes, three-wheelers sale increases 31.91 percent in 10 months: PAMA

ISLAMABAD: The sale of motorbikes and three-wheelers in the country has witnessed an increase of 31.91 per cent during the first ten months of the current fiscal year (2025-26) as compared to sales of the corresponding months of the last year.

During July-April (2025-26), as many as 1,619,841 motorbikes and three-wheelers were sold against the sale of 1,032,989 units in July-April (2024-25), according to the Pakistan Automobile Manufacturing Association (PAMA).

The sale of Honda motorcycles surged by 34.30 per cent from 1,032,989 units to 1,387,308 units, whereas the sale of Suzuki motorcycles also rose by 43.27

per cent from 20,557 units to 29,453 units during the period under review.

The sales of United Auto motorcycles witnessed an increase of 32.21 per cent from 118,885 units to 157,184 units, while the sales of Yamaha motorbikes came down to 1,333 units from 4,558 units, witnessing a decrease of 70.75 per cent.

Meanwhile, the sale of United Auto three-wheelers increased from 924 units to 1,182 units during the period under review, while the sale of Qingqi three-wheelers also increased by 2.21 percent from 8,666 units to 8,858 units.

Similarly, Sazgar three-wheelers sales rose by 2.12 per cent to 21,942 units from 21,486 units last year.

# Asia-Pacific Among Hardest Hit by Ransomware Attacks in 2025: Kaspersky Report

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Kaspersky's 2025 ransomware report indicates that Latin America (8.13%) and the Asia-Pacific region (7.89%) faced the highest proportions of organizations targeted by these attacks.

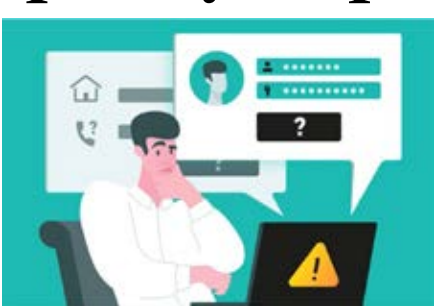
While the overall percentage of affected organizations saw a slight decrease compared to 2024, the threat remains significant due to the industrialization of cybercriminal operations, automation of intrusion methods, and an increased focus on stealing and leaking sensitive data instead of just encryption.

A notable trend in 2025 was the proliferation of "EDR killers," tools

designed to disable endpoint security before malware deployment, signaling more deliberate attack strategies. Ransomware groups also began incorporating post-quantum cryptography, a development previously foreseen by Kaspersky.

The role of Initial Access Brokers (IABs), who sell pre-compromised corporate access, is expanding, with RDWeb portals becoming frequent targets as part of "Access-as-a-Service" models, which effectively lowers the barrier to entry for ransomware attacks.

Telegram channels and dark web forums continue to serve as platforms for distributing and selling



compromised data and access credentials, including those obtained from ransomware incidents.

However, major underground forums like RAMP and LeakBase, which facilitated these activities, were seized by authorities in early

2026. Based on data leak sites, Kaspersky identified Qilin as the most active Ransomware-as-a-Service (RaaS) operator in 2025, followed by Clop and Akira.

Although some major groups ceased operations, new actors are emerging, with "The Gentlemen" showing rapid growth and a focus on data extortion, potentially comprising former members of other significant ransomware operations. Fabio Assolini, Lead Security Researcher at Kaspersky GReAT, highlighted ransomware's evolution into a sophisticated ecosystem focused on monetizing stolen data, disabling defenses, and scaling attacks efficiently.

He emphasized the importance of Anti-Ransomware Day to raise global awareness and promote prevention, urging users to implement layered defenses, maintain backups, and enhance cybersecurity literacy. Kaspersky advises organizations to enable ransomware protection on all endpoints, suggesting their free Kaspersky Anti-Ransomware Tool for Business.

Keeping software updated is crucial. For non-industrial sectors, installing anti-APT and EDR solutions, providing SOC teams with threat intelligence, and regular training are recommended, all of which are available through Kaspersky Next.

## Zong and Alkhidmat Foundation: Bridging Education Gaps in Tharparkar



**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Zong has partnered with Alkhidmat Foundation to improve primary education access in Tharparkar, Sindh, through climate-resilient community schools. This initiative aims to create safe and inclusive learning spaces for children in remote areas, addressing Pakistan's significant out-of-school population, particularly affecting girls in districts like Tharparkar due to poverty and infrastructure challenges. The collaboration resulted in the establishment of Chownra Schools in villages such as Chopni Wasai Pota and Sono Ki Dhani, providing previously limited access to formal education. The project involved constructing and renovating climate-resilient facilities, including furniture, learning materials, sanitation, and boundary walls, aligning with UN SDGs 4 (Quality Education) and 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

Currently, these schools educate approximately 80 students with an 85% attendance rate, bringing education closer to home and promoting inclusion, especially for girls. Nabila Yazdani of Zong emphasized education as a catalyst for inclusive growth and community development, while Dr. Syed Tabassum Jaffri of Alkhidmat Foundation highlighted Zong's commitment to sustainable impact through partnerships in healthcare, education, and welfare.

Zong's investment in education supports inclusive growth and long-term social impact, aiming for a more equitable and empowered future for underserved populations in Pakistan.

# PCB announces 16-member Pakistan Cricket Team Squad for Australia One Day International Series in Pakistan

Asim Tanveer

ISLAMABAD: The National Men's Selection Committee has named a 16-member squad for the three-match ODI series against Australia commencing on 30 May. The ODI series between Pakistan and Australia will be played in Rawalpindi and Lahore from 30 May to 4 June.

Ahmed Daniyal, Arafat Minhas and Rohail Nazir are the three players selected in the squad who are yet to represent Pakistan in ODI cricket.

Left-arm fast bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi will continue to lead the side, while Babar Azam, Haris Rauf, Naseem Shah, Shadab Khan and Sufyan Moqim, who were not part of the away ODI series against Bangladesh in March have been recalled to the side.

Muhammad Ghazi Ghori and



Rohail Nazir have been named as the two wicketkeeper-batters in the squad after Usman Khan was not considered for selection due to illness. Fakhar Zaman and Saim Ayub were also not considered for selection as they had earlier been ruled out due to injuries and will continue their rehabilitation

programmes under the supervision of the PCB medical panel.

The 16-member squad will assemble in Islamabad later today and will train under the coaching staff from Saturday, 23 May. The media advisory regarding the camp will be shared in due course.

Australia men's team will arrive in Islamabad on 23 May. They will also take part in training sessions at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, details of which will be announced in due course.

### 16-Member Pakistan Cricket Team Squad

Shaheen Shah Afridi (captain), Salman Ali Agha (vice-captain), Abdul Samad, Abrar Ahmed, Ahmed Daniyal, Arafat Minhas, Babar Azam, Haris Rauf, Maaz Sadaqat, Muhammad Ghazi Ghorani (wicket-keeper), Naseem Shah, Rohail Nazir (wicket-keeper), Sahibzada Farhan, Shadab Khan, Shamiul Hussain and Sufyan Moqim

Team Management

Naveed Akram Cheema (Manager) Mike Hesson (Head Coach) Ashley Noffke (Bowling Coach) Hanif Malik (Batting Coach) Shane McDermott (Fielding Coach) Iftikhar (physiotherapist), Grant Luden (Strength and Conditioning Coach) Talha Ejaz (Analyst) Syed Naeem Ahmad (Media manager) Col. Usman Anwari (Security Manager), Dr Wajid Ali Rafai (Team Doctor) and Muhammad Ehsan (Masseur)

Series schedule (All matches to begin at 4.30pm local time):

23 May - Australia arrive in Islamabad

30 May - 1st ODI, Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium

2 June - 2nd ODI, Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore

4 June - 3rd ODI, Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore

## Minority Rights Groups in Pakistan Push Landmark Constitutional Reforms to Protect Religious Minorities, Women, and Children



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Minorities Alliance Pakistan (MAP) and various rights groups are urging the Pakistani government to implement significant constitutional reforms through the proposed 28th Constitutional Amendment Bill. They advocate for greater protections for religious minorities, women, and children, emphasizing the need for structural changes rather than symbolic gestures. Key proposals include prohibiting the conversion of minors under 18 without judicial consent, removing religious qualifications for President and Prime Minister, introducing direct elections for minority and women's reserved seats, and guaranteeing a five percent quota for minorities in government services and educational institutions. MAP asserts these reforms align with Pakistan's constitution and international human rights obligations, stating they are feasible without substantial financial burden. International activist Joseph Janssen has lauded the initiative, calling it a vital step toward constitutional equality and protection of vulnerable groups, especially in light of Pakistan's commitments under international agreements like the EU's GSP+ trade scheme. Janssen also stressed the importance of eradicating child marriage through strengthened legal protections and rigorous age verification, recommending medical examinations by government-appointed boards when documentary proof is insufficient. MAP also called for extensive public consultations to ensure affected communities are represented in the reform process.

## CEO CBD Punjab reviews progress at Pakistan's Largest IT Hub, CBD NSIT City

News Desk

LAHORE: The Chief Executive Officer of the Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA) also known as Central Business District (CBD Punjab), Imran Amin, conducted a high-level visit to the site of CBD NSIT City Pakistan's first and largest IT city to evaluate the ongoing pace of infrastructure development.

During the visit, CEO CBD Punjab Imran Amin closely inspected the construction progress of the grand entrance gate, the main entrance patch and the central park. Director Project Management CBD Punjab, Asif Iqbal, provided a comprehensive briefing regarding the development milestones achieved so far and the timeline for upcoming phases.

The site review was also attended by Director Construction Asif Babar, Project Director NSIT City Yasir Saifullah, NESPAK officials, and project contractors.

Expressing his view on the progress, CEO CBD Punjab Imran Amin stated, "CBD NSIT City is a game-changing initiative for Punjab's IT sector. Our top priority is to ensure the swift completion of these development works while strictly maintaining international standards. This will pave the way for timely local and foreign investments."

The briefing highlighted that the construction of the main pillars for the entrance gate is advancing rapidly, while the water-bound macadam work on the main entrance patch has already been successfully completed.

While interacting directly with the on-site contractors, the CEO CBD Punjab issued strict directives to accelerate the pace of work on the entrance gate and the central park. He emphasized that project completion timelines must be strictly met without compromising on workplace safety protocols and construction quality.

CBD NSIT City is poised to redefine the digital and technological landscape of the country, offering state-of-the-art infrastructure designed to attract global tech giants and foster local innovation.

## PHF to launch hockey activities in 1,000 schools across Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: As part of its efforts to revive the national game, Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) has announced plans to introduce hockey activities in around 1,000 schools across the country during the current year. The programme will be launched in collaboration with federal and provincial governments as well as private sector partners. It is designed to promote hockey at the grassroots level and identify young talent from an early age.

Secretary Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination/President PHF Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, said the initiative would focus particularly on boys and girls aged 10 to 12 years to build a strong foundation for the future of Pakistan hockey.

"We want to take hockey back to schools and reconnect the younger generation with our national game. Grassroots development is the key to rebuild Pakistan hockey," he said.

Wani added that PHF's vision goes beyond preparing national teams, emphasizing that sustainable revival can only be achieved through structured youth development programmes.

"This is not a short-term effort. We are laying the foundation for the future by creating opportunities for children across Pakistan to learn and play hockey," he said.

## Every year will be the year of women's football in Pakistan

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) on Friday reaffirmed its commitment to the growth of women's football as PFF President Syed Mohsen Gilani declared that "every year will be the year of women's football in Pakistan" during the first-ever PFF Women's Football Symposium held in Islamabad.

Bringing together stakeholders from the football and development sectors, the symposium served as a platform to exchange ideas on strengthening the women's game in Pakistan while outlining a strategic roadmap for future growth under the leadership of the newly-elected PFF administration.

Mr Gilani highlighted the recent rise of Pakistan women's football on the international stage, saying it was encouraging to hear Pakistan women's football being "the talk of the town" during the FIFA Congress in Vancouver last month. He credited the Pakistan Sports Board for its support and stressed that the women's game must go beyond the national team.

"Women's football cannot only be about the national team; it is also about the ecosystem — players, coaches, referees and fans. It's not about glam and gloss, there has to be substance," he said, while



also emphasising that women should lead women's football structures.

Member of the National Assembly Mehreen Razaq Bhutto congratulated the federation on the women national team's FIFA Series campaign, participation in the SAFF Futsal Championship and AFC Women's Asian Cup qualifiers, noting that Pakistani women continue to break barriers when given opportunities.

Secretary IPC and Pakistan Sports Board Director General Mohyuddin

Ahmed Wani announced plans for a national schoolgirls football tournament and pledged institutional support in logistics, grounds and equipment.

FIFA Head of Development Ariana Demirovic praised Pakistan's growing presence in international women's football and reiterated FIFA's willingness to support long-term development initiatives.

The symposium also featured contributions from representatives of Right To

Play, UN Women, media, coaches and former players, with discussions centred on access, safe playing spaces, grassroots structures, trained female coaches and school football programmes.

PFF Head of Women's Football Mejzgaan Orakzai presented the federation's strategic vision for women's football development, while PFF COO Shahid Khokhar reiterated the federation's unwavering commitment to building sustainable pathways for women in football.

## EFU Life and Discount World Forge Strategic Alliance to Elevate PRIMUS Loyalty Program

News Desk

EFU Life Assurance Ltd., a leading Life and Health insurer, Family Takaful operator, and Retirement Solutions provider in the private sector of Pakistan, has formally signed a business agreement with Discount World, a premier alliance aggregator in Pakistan, marking a significant milestone in the evolution of the PRIMUS Loyalty Program.

The signing ceremony brought together senior leadership from both organizations, underscoring the mutual commitment to delivering exceptional value to EFU Life's clientele. Present at the occasion were Ms. Aman Hussain, Head of Marketing, and Mr. Faizan Shuja, Lead-Strategic Alliances & Digital Experience at EFU Life Assurance Ltd., alongside Mr. Moiz Ali Khan, Director Business and Ms. Dania Farid, Head of Brand & Partnerships at Discount World.



This strategic collaboration marks a decisive step forward in strengthening the PRIMUS loyalty experience, reaffirming EFU Life's commitment to bringing excellence to its clients.

Through this partnership, EFU Life PRIMUS is set to significantly expand its horizons, offering a more dynamic and refined loyalty program backed by deep industry expertise. EFU Life PRIMUS clients will gain access to an array of Pakistan's finest brands, thoughtfully selected to elevate their everyday experiences across Food, Lifestyle, Leisure and Wellness categories.

EFU Life extended its sincere appreciation to the Discount World team for their continued support and collaborative spirit in advancing this initiative, expressing confidence that this partnership will open new opportunities of value for clients across Pakistan.

## Trump's Empty Warnings to Iran

Continued from Page 4

such measures reflect the growing willingness of countries to challenge dollar dependency under conditions of geopolitical confrontation.

Meanwhile, the United States now faces a strategic paradox. It wants to reduce escalation while simultaneously preserving deterrence and credibility. President Trump's repeated deadlines and postponed actions reflect this dilemma. Each warning is designed to maintain pressure, but each unfulfilled threat also risks exposing hesitation and strategic limitations.

The situation increasingly resembles the old story of a man who jumped into a river believing he had caught a floating blanket, only to discover it was actually a bear holding onto him. The United States entered confrontation expecting rapid coercion and strategic leverage.

Instead, it now faces a situation where disengagement itself carries risks to credibility, alliances, markets, and domestic politics.

Iran, on the other hand, has framed the confrontation as a test of national survival, sovereignty, and resistance. Tehran has repeatedly warned that any full-scale attack would trigger retaliation across the entire region, including against oil infrastructure, desalination plants, military bases, refineries, and shipping routes. Such threats have forced military planners to calculate the catastrophic economic consequences of regional escalation.

If major Gulf infrastructure were severely damaged, the consequences would extend far beyond the Middle East. Global energy supplies, shipping insurance, financial markets, industrial production, and inflation worldwide could face unprecedented disruption.

The very countries hosting American bases could become economically devastated, potentially making long-term U. S. military presence unsustainable.

As a result, Washington now appears trapped between escalation and retreat. "Operation Epic Fury," once presented as a demonstration of overwhelming power, increasingly resembles a costly strategic deadlock. The inability to secure decisive political outcomes, regime change, or strategic surrender has transformed what was expected to be a rapid coercive campaign into a prolonged test of endurance.

The larger lesson emerging from this confrontation is profound. Military superiority alone cannot easily subjugate a determined nation willing to absorb pain in defense of sovereignty and national identity. History repeatedly shows that resilience, national cohesion, geography, and political determination can

neutralize even overwhelming technological and military advantages.

Today, the world is witnessing not merely a regional conflict but a broader transformation in global power dynamics. The crisis has exposed vulnerabilities in the existing international order, accelerated debates over financial independence, challenged assumptions about military dominance, and demonstrated the growing limits of coercive power in a multipolar world.

Whether this confrontation ultimately de-escalates or intensifies, one reality has already become unmistakably clear: the age of uncontested American strategic supremacy is being tested as never before.

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

## Dewan Kauromal Chandanmal Khilnani: A Grand Old Man of Sindh

Continued from Page 4

spiritual and literary works, including the verses of Sami, which he organized and published in multiple volumes. This work alone secured his lasting legacy, as it preserved a significant part of Sindh's spiritual literature that might otherwise have been lost.

Personally, Kauromal lived a simple and disciplined life. He valued education deeply and often supported poor students, even at personal sacrifice. His character was marked by

humility, integrity, and a strong sense of duty.

He combined intellectual brilliance with moral strength, which he organized and published in multiple volumes. This work alone secured his lasting legacy, as it preserved a significant part of Sindh's spiritual literature that might otherwise have been lost.

He passed away on 16 December 1916 in his hometown, leaving behind a rich legacy of knowledge, reform, and literary excellence.

His contributions continue to influence Sindh's literature and education, and he is remembered as a pioneer who transformed the intellectual landscape of his time.

## Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu met with Turkish Air Force Commander General Ziya Cemal Kadro lu, Defence Minister Ya ar Güler, and Baykar Technologies Chief Technology Officer Selçuk Bayraktar.



Photo: ISPR

## Pakistan, Turkiye agree to deepen defence and aerospace cooperation

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu held high-level meetings with Turkiye's military and defence leadership during his official visit to the country, with both sides reaffirming their commitment to expanding cooperation in defence, aerospace innovation and emerging technologies.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the Chief of the Air Staff met Turkish Air Force Commander General Ziya Cemal Kadroglu, Defence Minister Yasar Guler and Baykar Technologies Chief Technology Officer Selcuk Bayraktar.

The meetings focused on strengthening strategic collaboration, enhancing interoperability and promoting coop-

eration in next-generation defence technologies.

During his visit to Turkish Air Force Headquarters, the Pakistan Air Force chief was presented a Guard of Honour. Discussions included expanding joint air exercises, training programmes and professional exchanges between the two air forces.

The Turkish Air Force commander also appreci-

ated the Pakistan Air Force's support in training Turkish pilots, ISPR said.

In his meeting with Defence Minister Yasar Guler, both sides reaffirmed the longstanding historical and strategic ties between Pakistan and Turkiye while exploring greater cooperation in defence training, capacity building and aerospace collaboration.

In a separate meeting with Baykar Technologies CTO Selcuk Bayraktar, discussions centred on unmanned aerial systems, aerospace innovation and emerging defence technologies.

Both sides expressed a shared resolve to enhance collaboration in advanced and next-generation defence capabilities, the statement added.

## Pakistan calls for climate justice, resilient housing at World Urban Forum

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Musadik Malik, speaking at the World Urban Forum 13 in Baku, urged the international community to prioritize climate justice and resilient housing.

He emphasized that climate-vulnerable populations, despite contributing minimally to global emissions, suffer disproportionately from climate change, urban inequality, poverty, and housing injustice, especially marginalized communities.

Malik highlighted that climate-resilient housing



is a matter of justice, as a single disaster can reverse generations of progress in overcoming poverty.

He advocated for strengthening urban governance and institutional coordination to bolster climate resilience, stressing the critical link between climate change, poverty, and housing insecurity.

Referencing Pakistan's devastating climate-induced disasters, he called for affordable housing to be recognized as a basic right. As part of the forum, Malik also met with Azerbaijan's Energy Minister to discuss energy cooperation and sustainable development.

## Pakistan Enacts Landmark Law for Safe Ship Recycling

## Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has enacted new legislation to regulate hazardous materials in its significant ship recycling sector. The Environmentally Sound Management of Inventory of Hazardous Material on Ships Bill, 2026, passed by both the National Assembly and Senate, aims to implement the Hong Kong Convention by addressing environmental and safety risks. This law will prohibit hazardous materials, mandate ship inspections and certifications, and impose strict penalties, including vessel seizure and detention, for violations. Pakistan, a top global ship recycling nation handling a third of worldwide activity, will have its Ministry of Maritime Affairs as the national focal point for compliance with the International Maritime Organization. Acknowledging the sector's economic importance and origin in Gadani since the 1980s, the legislation aligns local practices with international standards. Pakistan's accession as the 23rd country to the Hong Kong Convention reinforces its commitment to safe and green recycling, boosting Gadani's global standing. Complementary provincial legislation by Balochistan was also enacted. This reflects Pakistan's dedication to climate action, hazardous waste control, sustainable development, the circular economy, and the UN's 2030 Agenda, ultimately enhancing international credibility, protecting jobs, and improving sector competitiveness through fair standards enforcement.

## Pakistan, US discuss railways cooperation, investment opportunities

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi met with US Ambassador Natalie A. Baker to discuss bilateral cooperation and investment in Pakistan Railways. They focused on modernizing infrastructure and technology, with the US ambassador pledging support to encourage American companies and investors.

Discussions covered potential US investment in locomotives, wagons, freight operations, and advanced technologies.

Both sides also agreed to expand cooperation with American company Wabtec. Abbasi highlighted the presence of 254 US-made locomotives as a testament to the strong partnership and invited American investors to explore opportunities under Pakistan's new



Track Access Policy.

He also mentioned Pakistan's railway projects aimed at connecting Central Asian states to Gwadar.

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## DPM/FM Dar chairs ECNEC meeting, approves several development projects



## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Friday approved development priorities across all provinces and regions, with a focus on strengthening national development initiatives and addressing infrastructure and social sector needs.

Key initiatives discussed and approved during the meeting included detailed design of ML-1, Havelian Dry Port, Lowari Tunnel access works, Thar Coal Rail Connectivity, Kachhi Canal, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa irrigation improvements, Jinnah Hospital Islamabad, Sindh Human Capital 1000 Days Programme, Sindh flood rehabili-

tation support, and Diamer Basha Dam-related arrangements, said news release issued by the Foreign Office Spokesperson.

While chairing a meeting of the National Economic Council (ECNEC), the deputy prime minister reaffirmed the government's continued focus on infrastructure development, improved public services, regional balance, and long-term economic resilience.

The meeting was attended by Minister Finance and Revenue, Minister Planning & Development, Minister Planning Punjab, Minister Irrigation Sindh, Tariq Bajwa SAPM, Secretary EAD, Secretary Health, Secretary Water, Secretary Planning, and senior officials from relevant ministries.

## Pakistan Positioned at Forefront of Drone and Blockchain Revolution

## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: At the 10th World Drone Congress in Shenzhen, Bilal Bin Saqib, Minister of State and Chairman of Pakistan Virtual Assets Regulatory Authority (PVARA), highlighted Pakistan's strategic position at the convergence of drones, blockchain, digital assets, and the machine economy.

Pakistan was honored as the Country of Honour at the event, a premier global platform for drone technology and autonomous systems. Saqib addressed international delegates, emphasizing that the integration of drones with blockchain and digitalization is crucial for sectors like logistics, supply chain management, smart cities, and emergency response.

He stated that blockchain enhances drone ecosystem safety, transparency, and efficiency, fostering trust and compliance. Pakistan is actively developing its digital economy and a regulatory framework for virtual assets to support innovation. Saqib sees significant potential in combining drone and blockchain



technologies for cross-border collaboration and scalable global models for autonomous systems.

He expressed hope that the Congress would spur international cooperation, accelerate technological innovation, harmonize regulations, and contribute to global digital transformation and sustainable industrial growth.

He concluded by asserting that the deep integration of drones and blockchain is poised to be a primary driver of the next industrial innovation and digitalization wave.

## Media Industry Faces Salary Crisis, Government Vows Action



## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, has assured the National Assembly that the government is committed to ensuring the timely payment of salaries to journalists, recognizing it as a fundamental right for members of the working class.

He stated that efforts are underway to address concerns within the media industry and that the situation regarding unpaid salaries will be reviewed with the Information Minister to provide full support for resolution. Dr. Chaudhry mentioned that following a recent media boycott, the Information Minister and PPP leader

Shazia Marri met with media representatives to address their issues. While Dr. Chaudhry has been monitoring the situation indirectly, the Information Minister is directly overseeing the process. Shazia Marri also pointed out that the Parliamentary Reporters Association had staged a walkout, and highlighted a specific case where a channel laid off 170 employees.

Although an announcement was made to suspend advertisements on that channel, the restriction was later removed after management discussions, leaving the issue of dismissed employees unresolved.

She further informed the assembly that several other channels are currently facing difficulties in paying their staff.