

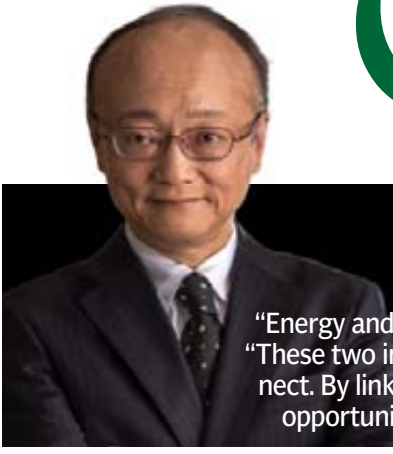


Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ہشام بن عروہ نے کہا کہ مجھے میرے والد نے خبر دی، انہیں معاشرہ رضی اللہ عنہما نے کہ آیت «لا یؤاخذکم اللہ باللغو» اللہ تعالیٰ تم سے لغو قسموں کے بارے میں پکار نہیں کرے گا۔ راوی نے بیان کیا کہ ام المومنین رضی اللہ عنہما نے کہا کہ یہ آیت «لا یؤاخذکم اللہ باللغو» (بے ساختہ جو قسمیں عبادت بنا لی جاتی ہیں) کے بارے میں بتلانی ہوئی تھی۔
(بخاری ص 663 نمبر 6663)
Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



ADB unveils \$70 billion push for renewable energy across Asia and Pacific

"Energy and digital access will define the region's future," said ADB President Masato Kanda. "These two initiatives build the systems Asia and the Pacific need to grow, compete, and connect. By linking power grids and digital networks across borders, we can lower costs, expand opportunity, and bring reliable power and digital access to hundreds of millions of people."



Yumna Zaidi cheers Pakistan women's football team after historic FIFA debut win

Pride and celebration swept across social media as Yumna Zaidi applauded the historic achievement of the Pakistan Women's National Football Team, marking their unforgettable debut on the global stage. Taking to Instagram, the actress reshared a series of stories reacting to the team's landmark performance at a FIFA tournament, where they delivered a stunning 8-0 victory.

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National Flag Displayed

LAHORE: Cricket fans hold Pakistan national flag as enjoying PSL-11 final match ceremony at Gaddafi Stadium, in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Trump reviewing new Iranian proposal delivered to Pakistan



proposal to Pakistan with the aim of permanently ending the imposed war.

President Donald Trump said that he was reviewing a new Iranian proposal to end the war.

"I'll let you know about it later," he said before boarding Air Force One, adding that "they're going to give me the exact wording now."

Two semiofficial Iranian outlets, Tasnim and Fars, believed to be close to Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, said Iran has sent a 14-point proposal via Pakistan in response to a nine-point US proposal.

Agencies

TEHRAN: President Donald Trump said on Saturday that he was reviewing a new Iranian proposal after Iran said it delivered the latest

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi livid over lack of facilities at Lahore's NADRA center



Bureau Report

LAHORE: Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi on Sunday paid a surprise visit to 24/7 NADRA's office at Shimpla Paharri in Lahore and was indignant to find long queues of people waiting for their turn in heat as air-conditioners were switched off.

The minister, on the occasion, ordered an improvement in facilities at the center.

He went to different counters and sought from people

their views about the facilities being offered there.

He also ordered that the rush of people should be properly managed.

Speaking on the occasion, Naqvi said that he had visited the center before. "At that time, the situation was better. However, the feedback I received from people today was not good."

He made it clear that there would be no compromise on the speedy provision of facilities to people.

Iran says US must change approach for talks to advance; proposal sent via Pakistan

Agencies

ISLAMABAD/TEHRAN: Iran has sent a new set of proposals to the United States through Pakistan, its ambassador in Islamabad said on Sunday, adding that any progress in negotiations would depend on a change in Washington's approach.

"Iran has conveyed a new negotiation plan to the United States via Pakistan, and progress depends



on the US behaviour," Iran's envoy, Iranian news agency. Reza Amiri Moghadam, told an He said Tehran's position

remained "clear and transparent" and that it would not compromise on national interests or defence. "If the United States is serious about reaching an understanding, it must change its approach," he added.

The ambassador described Pakistan as a "central mediator" in the process and said its role remained unchanged.

He also criticised inconsistency in US policy, while reiterating

that Iran remained committed to diplomacy. "The responsibility for progress lies with Washington," he said, urging the United States to respect Iran's rights and abandon what he termed an aggressive posture.

The envoy said political and economic ties between Pakistan and Iran were expanding, highlighting border crossings such as Mirjaveh, Taftan and Gabor-Rimdan as key trade routes.

Israel approves plan to buy F-35 and F-15I aircraft from US



Reuters

JERUSALEM: Israel gave final approval for a plan to purchase two new combat squadrons of F-35 and F-15I advanced fighter aircraft from Lockheed Martin and Boeing in a deal worth tens of billions of dollars, the defence ministry said on Sunday.

The deal, approved by Israel's Ministerial Committee on Procurement, is a first step in a 350 billion shekel (\$119 billion) plan to bolster Israel's military and "strengthen readiness ahead of a demanding decade for Israeli security," it said.

It added that the new squadrons will serve as a cornerstone of the military's long-term force development, addressing regional threats and preserving Israel's strategic air superiority.

"Alongside immediate wartime procurement needs, we have a

Continued on Page 7

Govt weighs pay, pension hike in upcoming budget

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The federal government is considering a pay and pension increase for public sector employees in the upcoming fiscal year 2026-27 budget. According to media reports, government employees' salaries could be raised by around 7%, while pensions may increase by approximately 5%.

However, the Ministry of Finance has yet to make a final announcement, and discussions on the measures are ongoing.

Sources familiar with the matter said the government is also exploring additional relief measures for salaried individuals, aiming to offset the burden of higher living costs.

Economic analysts said that if approved, the proposed increases would benefit thousands of public sector workers and pensioners across the country.

They cautioned, however, that the final decision will depend on the government's fiscal space and broader budget strategy.

The country has been grappling with persistent inflationary pressures, prompting policymakers to balance relief measures with efforts to maintain fiscal discipline.

Sharjeel says work on Karachi BRT to continue even if court issues contempt notices

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Senior Sindh Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon said categorically on Sunday that work on the BRT Red Line project in Karachi would not stop even if it invited the wrath of courts.

Speaking to the media during a visit to the site of the project, the minister said the provincial government was least concerned if it was issued contempt of court notice.

He, however, expressed the hope that courts would do justice in the case. Memon said that work on the project had accelerated after the Frontier Works Organization (FWO) was given the contract.

He dispelled the impression that the government received kickbacks or was responsible for delay in the completion of the project. "We are aware of the difficulties people are facing. And we are not sitting idle," he said, adding that the government apologized to the people for the inconvenience caused to them. However, he went on to say, water pipes and electric poles could not be removed overnight. "It is difficult to work in cities. We can build a 300-kilometer-long road in Thar in just one year."

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Azad Kashmir PM grants land ownership to LoC victims in Jinyal

City Desk.

MIRPUR: The Prime Minister Azad Kashmir, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, on Sunday, announced ownership rights for the LoC (Line of Control) victims settled in Jinyal, fulfilling a long-standing demand of the affected families.

Addressing a ceremony held in this regard, prime minister Rathore paid tribute to the resilience of the residents, who were forced to leave their homes due to India's unprovoked shelling and resettle in the area.

"From today, you are the rightful owners of the land where you have been temporarily living", he said.

Congratulating the affected families, the PM said that a formal notification had been issued in this regard.

Paying tribute to the sacrifices of LoC-affected families, he said the people of Jinyal have endured



immense hardships, and the move to grant ownership rights is aimed at delivering long-overdue justice.

He said the present government was carrying forward the legacy of former Prime Minister Chaudhry Abdul Majeed, who granted ownership rights to refugees settled in Khaliqabad and surrounding areas during his tenure.

The Prime Minister also announced the establishment of a dispensary in Jinyal to improve local healthcare facilities.

Highlighting the government's priorities, PM Faisal Mumtaz Rathore said that all available resources were being utilized to ensure effective public service.

He said the government was committed to addressing people's problems on a priority basis and strengthening trust between the state and citizens.

He expressed the confidence that the PPP would emerge successful in the 2026 elections.

He said the party has always prioritized welfare projects, focusing on providing basic necessities and improving living standards.

Earlier, the Prime Minister received a warm welcome upon his arrival in Jinyal, where a large number of people gathered to attend the ceremony.

Government Ministers including Chaudhry Yasir Sultan, Chaudhry Akhlaq, Chaudhry Arshad Hussain, and others, were also present on the occasion.

Dhirkot Political Shakeup: Key PPP, PMLN Figures Defect to Muslim Conference



City Desk

GHAZIABAD: President of the Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan is garlanded Waqas Tariq Abbasi, Maheen Zubair Abbasi, Mudassar Zakir Abbasi and Zaheer Abbasi along with their families from Union Council, Upper Calass, Saisar Calass Ward, Ghaziabad, at Mujahid e Awwal House for joining the Muslim Conference.

Raja Muhammad Munir Khan, Contractor Shahid Abbasi, Sardar Umar Hayat Abbasi, Sardar Shamim Abbasi, Sardar Shabbir Abbasi, Ikram Abbasi, Sharif Abbasi, Basharat Abbasi, Badr Abbasi, Nadeem Azad Abbasi, Nazir Abbasi and others were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the induction ceremony, President Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan said that the popularity of the Muslim Conference has increased and the participation of the people in it is proof that the people of the state want to see the state party in power. The Muslim Conference has always played a key role in providing public rights. Every person involved in the Muslim Conference is a worker and soldier of Mujahid e Awwal and is respected by everyone. The Muslim Conference is a party of all of us and for its success, young, old, women, students, lawyers are all playing a role together.

New Ginger Cultivation Trial Launched in Muzaffarabad to Test Variety Performance



Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The Department of Agriculture's Training and Adaptive Research Centre, Garhi Dupatta, in collaboration with the Extension Centre Kahori, has initiated a ginger cultivation trial at "Organic Growers" farm in Parsacha

The trial was carried out on Saturday under the supervision of Subject Matter Specialists Intiaz Hussain and Syed Riaz Hussain, Agriculture Officer Kahori Javed Riaz, and the owner of Organic Growers, Sohail Khan. Ginger seed and tissue culture plants sourced from Ayub Agricultural Research Institute, Faisalabad, and Nishtar Farm, Islamabad, were sown at the site.

According to officials, the plant material provided by Ayub Agricultural Research Institute includes three tissue culture lines as well as rhizome-based varieties, while the planting material from Nishtar Farm comprises rhizome-grown plants.

This marks the first time that ginger seed is being field-tested by the Training and Adaptive Research Centre. The objective of the trial is to evaluate the yield performance of different ginger varieties across varying agro-climatic conditions.

Speaking on the occasion, agriculture officials said that the centre had conducted successful trials of various ginger varieties last year. "Our aim now is to further assess this high-value crop by cultivating it in different areas to analyse its performance," they added.

PML-N's Shah Ghulam Qadir slams PPP governance in Azad Kashmir



City Desk

NEELAM: President of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and Opposition Leader in Azad Kashmir Shah Ghulam Qadir has said that there is a corrupt mafia in Azad Kashmir, it will be rid of it soon, the PPP government cannot work in Azad Kashmir itself and is throwing the blame on the opposition, if the Azad Kashmir government cannot work, then why are they in the government, leave the government, the opposition will let the government work according to the law, they will not let them do anything outside the law, they will follow the law, they will not object, they will do everything arbitrarily, they will take account of everything, those recruited without NTS will go home according to the court order

He said "we stand with the Pakistani armed forces in every difficult and easy time". He expressed these views while addressing a program for those who left the PPP and PTI and joined the Muslim League-N in Lower Neelum LA 26 Neelum 2 Municipal Committee, Ward No. 6. President of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Opposition Leader of Azad Kashmir Shah Ghulam Qadir said that since 2016, when there was a constituency, Mian Waheed Sahib brought which mega project in Neelum from which the people are benefiting, even the Minister of Education and Minister of Forests brought forward any one mega project, only lollipops will not work, only speeches will not work, the people want work, which can never be done by the PPP and will never be done because there is a flaw in their intentions, the PPP has made a habit of lying after lying.

Enjoyment

LAHORE: Youngsters jump into the water to cool off at a Canal during hot weather in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

PM Rathore honors legacy, vows public welfare focus in Azad Kashmir

City Desk

MIRPUR: The Prime Minister Azad Kashmir, Faisal Mumtaz Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, has announced a series of development initiatives for the Khari area, including grant of Tehsil status to Khari Sharif, upgradation of Jatlan Chowki and Girls Degree College.

Addressing a large public gathering at Khari, Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore said the government had launched major development projects within a short period, laying a network of initiatives across the state.

Paying tributes to former AJK president Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry for his social and political services, PM Faisal Mumtaz Rathore described his association with his late father and Barrister Chaudhry as a legacy that guides his political vision.

Terming public service as his government's top priority, he said that



efforts were underway to strengthen trust between the state and its people.

Earlier, the Prime Minister, who was accompanied by government ministers Chaudhry Yasir Sultan, Chaudhry Arshad Hussain, Chaudhry Akhlaq and government advisor Sardar Fahad

Yaqoob, received a rousing welcome upon his arrival in Khari, where his convoy was greeted with flower petals.

On the occasion, prime minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore congratulated the organizers for a successful event and urged the public to support

candidates Chaudhry Yasir Sultan and Chaudhry Sohaib in the upcoming elections.

He expressed confidence that the Pakistan Peoples Party would secure a decisive victory in the upcoming elections

PPP AJK President vows full protection of Khari Sharif Rights, predicts electoral triumph

Spokesman Report

MIRPUR: Addressing a public meeting in Khari Sharif, President Pakistan Peoples Party Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin said that the purpose of politics is to make people's lives easier, Pakistan Peoples Party is a strong political force in Azad Kashmir, PPP will achieve great success and form the government again, the way the people of Khari Sharif paid allegiance to Chaudhry Noor Hussain and Chaudhry Khadim Hussain, that tradition will continue, the rights of Khari Sharif will be fully protected. Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin said that Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry was a brave and great personality, his absence will always



be felt, Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry lived a very beautiful life, I was associated with him since 1977. Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Chaudhry Ali Shan Soni, while addressing the public meeting, congratulated Chaudhry Arshad Hussain and Sohaib Arshad for organizing the grand public meeting and said that Khari Sharif is

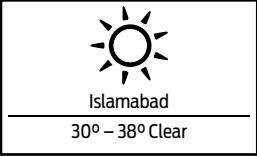
the land of Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry. Advisor to the Government Sardar Fahad Yaqoob said that Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry highlighted the Kashmir freedom movement everywhere in the world. Assembly candidate Chaudhry Sohaib Arshad said that in the last five years, a lot of development has taken place in the Khari Sharif constitu-

ency. Giving Khari Sharif the status of a tehsil was included in our election manifesto. I am grateful to the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir that he did not delay for a moment in accepting our demands. He said that our efforts are to solve the problems of the people at their doorstep. We will move forward according to the vision of our predecessors.

PRODUCT RECALL

M/S Werrick Pharmaceuticals announces a statutory recall of High - C 1000 Sachets, Batch # Y-1904, (Manufacturing Date: 07-2025, Expiry Date: 01-2027, Registration No. 016036). This recall is initiated strictly in compliance to DRAP Regulations and only applies to Batch No. Y-1904. All Healthcare Professionals, Retailers, Distributors, Wholesalers, Chemists must immediately cease sale, distribution and use of said batch and returned immediately to address mentioned below.

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Zohr 12:05 pm
Asr 4:54 pm
Maghrib 6:52 pm
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EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

CDA 9221334-43
CDA 9208301-04
RDA 5555864
TMA 5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation 9209224

PHMA Warns of Severe Crisis as Soaring Oil Prices Cripple Pakistani Industry

Abdul Majid



FAISAL-ABAD: Senior Vice Chairman of Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PHMA) North Zone Ahmed Al Fazal Awan, while talking to the media, said that the impact of rising oil prices on Pakistan's industry is becoming extremely negative and severe in 2026, as the unprecedented increase in crude oil prices in the global market (up to about \$ 126 per barrel) and the situation in the Middle East have pushed the country's economy into crisis. He added that the industrial impact of the increase in oil prices in early 2026 and the Ahmed Afzal Awan has said that due to the closure of small and medium industries, many small industries are facing closure due to high production costs and reduced demand, which is increasing unemployment. Agriculture, which provides raw materials for the industry, has been severely affected by the increase in diesel and fertilizer prices, which has increased the burden on farmers. This oil price shock has increased Pakistan's import bill by \$300 to \$800 million, which has affected economic development efforts. According to experts, if this situation continues, if this inflation rate could increase by 2 to 4 percent.

Positive Journalism is essential for state foresight and economic stability: Ch Anjum

Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN: On the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, renowned industrialist Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum—Chairman of SM Group of Industries, Member of the National Export Development Board, and Member of the Board of Investment—expressed his views in a thoughtful and far-sighted manner. He stated that journalism is a fundamental pillar for intellectual guidance and reform in any civilized society. It serves as a mirror through which nations recognize their challenges, weaknesses, and opportunities, and it is in the light of these realities that state policies and economic strategies are formulated. He emphasized that a responsible and dignified journalist, through experience, observation, and analytical insight, identifies the real issues faced by society. This enables the ruling class to formulate timely, balanced, and effective policies, while the business community aligns its investment and development decisions accordingly, ensuring stability.

However, he expressed serious concern over the growing trend of fake news, calling it a significant threat to this entire intellectual and practical framework. When information loses its authenticity, policymaking begins to rest on misleading foundations, leading to ambiguity in state priorities, uncertainty in decision-making, and stagnation in economic activity. False news undermines investor confidence, disrupts market balance, and creates an unstable business environment.

Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali Anjum stressed that he has always supported positive, responsible, and constructive journalism, as it fosters intellectual balance, transparency, and sustainable development. According to him, the spread of fake news is not only tarnishing the dignity of journalism but has also become a silent yet profound threat to the national economy and governance. Addressing this challenge requires professional integrity, an effective code of ethics, and the collective awakening of societal awareness.



Information Bureau Division meeting

Faisalabad: Secretary Information Central Punjab Shahzad Saeed Cheema chaired the Information Bureau Division meeting hosted by Rana Naeem Dastgir and Umaima Azeem Sheikh.



Photo: Abdul Majid

Punjab Health Minister Inspects Key Multan Healthcare Projects

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Provincial Health Minister Punjab Khawaja Salman Rafique has Visited Multan. The provincial minister reviewed the under-construction projects of Mother and Child Care Hospital and Cancer Unit in detail. Secretary Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education Azmat Mahmood was also present where the concerned officers gave a briefing. On this occasion, Vice Chancellor Nistar Medical University Professor Dr Mehnaz Khakwani, Secretary Primary and Secondary Health South Punjab Muhammad Amanullah and other faculty members of Nistar Medical University and Hospital. Medical Superintendent Nistar Hospital Multan Dr. Rao Muhammad Amjad and Director Emergency Ward



Dr Muhammad Zahid were also present. The provincial health minister inspected various departments of Mother and Care Hospital and reviewed the ongoing progress. Secretary, Department of Special-

ized Healthcare and Medical Education Azmat Mahmood said on this occasion that the concerned authorities have been directed to further accelerate the pace of work and ensure quality. There is a special focus on

improving the health sector. The hot cell is available at Dubai Port, which will be installed by May 15, 2026, while the elevators are available at Karachi Port, which will be installed by May 10, 2026.

Major uplift projects underway in Toba Tek Singh, says Federal Minister

Zafar Chishti



TOBA TEK SINGH: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs and Member National Assembly from NA-106 Toba Tek Singh, Muhammad Junaid Anwaar Chaudhry taking to Our Correspondent said that work on multiple development projects is progressing rapidly for the construction and uplift of Toba Tek Singh and all promises made to the public are being fulfilled in practical terms. He stated that the development of the constituency and provision of modern facilities to citizens remain his top priority and all available resources are being utilized to achieve this objective. According to details, Muhammad Junaid Anwaar Chaudhry said that the construction of the one-way road from Rajana Motorway Interchange to Jhang Motorway Interchange is being completed at a fast pace. He said the project will not only improve traffic flow but also provide safer and better travel facilities to citizens.

Chairman WASA Punjab meet Senior Minister Punjab

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Chairman WASA Punjab #Nawabzada Chaudhry Sher Ali Khan, MPA, held a detailed meeting with Senior Punjab Minister Maryam Aurangzeb. During the meeting, he provided a comprehensive briefing on the ongoing development projects in his constituency. He also expressed his sincere gratitude to Chief Minister Punjab #Maryam_Nawaz_Sharif for allocating Rs. 11.25 billion for development initiatives in Constituency PP-4 over the past two years. He requested the timely release of funds for ongoing development projects to ensure that all schemes are completed within the stipulated timeframe. He also apprised the Senior Minister of other pressing issues facing the constituency and requested that, just as the leadership had generously extended substantial support for development schemes over the past two years, additional funds be allocated this year as well, keeping in view the area's longstanding needs and developmental challenges.

Green Enclave-I allottees pin hopes on FGEHA board meeting

ISLAMABAD: After years of delays and uncertainty, allottees of Green Enclave-I have expressed renewed hope as the long-stalled housing project is expected to be taken up in the upcoming executive board meeting of the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) later this month. According to sources, the project, launched on a first-come, first-served basis, saw initial registrations in 2009 but failed to reach completion within the expected timeframe. Its inclusion in the forthcoming meeting's agenda has raised expectations among allottees that key decisions could be taken to revive the scheme and resume long-pending infrastructure development. Many allottees believe the meeting could prove to be a turning point. "We are hopeful that the executive board will take practical decisions to restart development work and address long-pending issues," said Tahir Mahmood, an allottee.

Urgent Call to Action: Pakistan's Smoking Crisis Claims 24 Million Users and Claims 8000 Lung Cancer Cases Annually

Iram Asim

MULTAN: Twenty-Four Million People in Pakistan Use Cigarettes and More Than 8000 Smokers Develop Lungs Cancer Every Year. A community awareness session on the topic of "Effects of Smoking and Strategies" was organized by Alternative Research Initiatives (ARI), Sun Consultant and Community Tobacco Control Group, in which health experts, social leaders and trainers participated. Addressing the event, Sultan Mahmood Malik said that ARI and Sun

Consultant have been jointly organizing awareness sessions and consultation meetings with various institutions for the past several years under the "Tobacco-Free Pakistan Program". Dr. Muhammad Mohsin said in his address that people who have been smoking for 15 consecutive years Smoking for up to 10 years increases the chances of fatal diseases like throat cancer. He said that smoking affects not only the user but also the people around them, especially their families, as it increases the risk of lung and respira-

tory diseases. Deputy Director Social Welfare Department Muhammad Muzammil said that the government has established rehabilitation centers for drug and tobacco addicts, where they are regularly treated and guided. He said that the government is trying to reduce consumption by imposing taxes on local cigarette brands, however, the availability of illegally imported international brands is a big challenge, which is further increasing health problems. Professor Abdul Majid Wattoo,



trainer Ayesha Mahmood also addressed the session and emphasized that adults

in the homes must play an exemplary role because children learn from them,

while attracting youth towards positive activities is the need of the hour.

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Trump's Illusion of Victory in Iran War

The declaration by Donald Trump that the war with Iran has effectively ended—and that all objectives have been achieved—marks one of the most controversial moments of this conflict. In a formal communication to Congress, he asserted that hostilities had terminated following a ceasefire in early April. Yet, beyond the political optics, a deeper examination reveals a widening gap between declared victory and strategic reality.

At the outset, the war was defined by ambitious and far-reaching objectives: dismantling Iran's nuclear program, eliminating its missile and drone capabilities, forcing a rollback of enrichment activities, and ultimately reshaping its political structure. These were not symbolic goals; they were transformational in nature. However, as events have unfolded, it has become increasingly evident that these objectives remain largely unfulfilled. Iran continues to retain core elements of its nuclear infrastructure, its research programs persist, and its missile and drone capabilities remain intact. There has been no verified surrender of fissile material, no comprehensive rollback of its strategic programs, and no political transformation within the Iranian state.

This contradiction lies at the heart of what can only be described as an illusion of victory. A war is not judged by declarations but by outcomes. If the adversary's capabilities remain intact and its strategic posture largely unchanged, the claim of success becomes, at best, premature—and at worst, misleading. The absence of measurable achievements raises fundamental questions about the

credibility of the victory narrative being presented.

The situation is further complicated by the continued enforcement of a naval blockade in the Strait of Hormuz. Despite the claim that hostilities have ceased, U. S. forces remain actively engaged in restricting maritime movement, intercepting vessels, and maintaining a significant military presence. A blockade, by its very nature, is not a passive measure; it is an active instrument of coercion and widely regarded as an act of war. Its continuation undermines the assertion that the conflict has truly ended and instead suggests that the war has merely transitioned into a different phase.

Equally striking is the rhetoric used to describe these operations. President Trump's own characterization of U. S. naval conduct as being "like pirates" introduces a deeply troubling dimension. Such language, rarely used in formal statecraft, blurs the line between lawful enforcement and opportunistic seizure. It reinforces the perception that the blockade may serve not only strategic objectives but also economic interests, particularly when accompanied by the seizure of vessels and cargo.

The economic dimension of the conflict cannot be overlooked. The Strait of Hormuz is one of the most critical energy chokepoints in the world, facilitating a significant portion of global oil and gas flows. Its disruption has triggered price volatility and supply constraints across international markets. In this context, the United States—

already a leading energy producer—has seen increased demand for its exports. Whether by design or by consequence, the redirection of global energy dependence toward American supply has fueled speculation that economic leverage plays a role in the continuation of the blockade.

For the Middle East, the consequences have been severe and far-reaching. Regional economies have absorbed massive shocks, with infrastructure damage, disrupted trade, and heightened insecurity compounding the crisis. Countries hosting U. S. military bases have found themselves exposed to retaliatory strikes, not because of independent policy decisions but due to their association with American operations. What were once perceived as protective alliances are increasingly being viewed as strategic liabilities.

This reassessment is not confined to the Middle East. Across Europe, there is growing unease regarding both the rationale for the war and its execution. The absence of a clear exit strategy, combined with the economic fallout, has intensified criticism from key allies. Rising energy costs, supply disruptions, and broader economic instability have placed additional strain on already fragile economies. As a result, European nations are beginning to explore greater strategic autonomy, signaling a potential shift in the long-standing transatlantic relationship.

Tensions between the United States and its European allies have also been

exacerbated by policy differences and rhetorical confrontations. Discussions around reducing reliance on U. S. military presence and reassessing the role of American bases in Europe are gaining traction. For many European states, this moment represents an opportunity to reclaim sovereignty, reduce external dependency, and chart a more independent geopolitical course.

A similar realization is emerging across parts of the Middle East. The presence of foreign military bases, once seen as a guarantee of security, is now being questioned. If these installations serve as catalysts for conflict rather than deterrents, their strategic value diminishes significantly. The war has exposed the paradox that instruments of protection can, under certain circumstances, become sources of vulnerability.

Against this backdrop, Iran's position appears notably resilient. Despite sustained military pressure, it has retained its strategic capabilities and maintained control over critical assets. Its continued influence over the Strait of Hormuz, combined with its ability to withstand external pressure, positions it as a formidable actor in the region. Iran's diplomatic signaling—particularly its conditional willingness to restore normal maritime flow—further complicates the narrative, shifting the burden of escalation onto the United States.

In practical terms, the war appears to have reached a point of strategic exhaustion for the United States. The absence of a request for renewed congressional authorization suggests a recognition of the limits of further escalation. Advanced weaponry and precision strikes

Continued on Page 7



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

Hormuz Crisis Fuels UAE Departure From OPEC, Signaling End of an Era

The sudden decision of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries to lose one of its most influential members—the United Arab Emirates—has sent shockwaves through global energy markets. Announced in April 2026 amid escalating tensions in the Strait of Hormuz and a broader regional conflict involving Iran, the UAE's withdrawal marks a historic turning point not only for OPEC but for the entire architecture of global oil governance. This is not merely an economic decision; it is a geopolitical recalibration with deep strategic implications.

At the heart of this move lies the ongoing Hormuz crisis. The Strait of Hormuz, through which nearly one-fifth of global oil supply flows, has been severely disrupted due to conflict involving Iran. Shipping constraints, rising insurance costs, and direct security threats have altered the logic of oil production and distribution. In such an environment, collective production quotas imposed by OPEC began to appear increasingly impractical for a country like the UAE, which seeks flexibility rather than restraint.

The UAE's decision, however, was not made overnight. This exit was "a long time coming," reflecting years of disagreement with OPEC's production policies. The UAE has invested heavily in expanding its oil capacity, targeting up to 5 million barrels per day by 2027. OPEC quotas, which capped its output below this level, were increasingly seen as a constraint on national economic ambitions.

Beyond production disputes, the UAE's broader economic transformation is a key factor. Unlike many traditional oil-dependent states, the UAE has diversified into sectors such as finance, tourism, logistics, and artificial intelligence. Its economic model is less reliant on high oil prices and more on global economic integration. Therefore, maximizing production volume—even at lower prices—can be more beneficial than artificially restricting supply to maintain price levels.

To understand the magnitude of this decision, one must revisit the role and structure of OPEC itself. Founded in 1960, OPEC includes major oil producers such as Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, Iran, Venezuela, Nigeria, and others. The organization's primary objective has been to coordinate oil production policies to stabilize markets and influence global prices. For decades, OPEC functioned as a powerful cartel capable of shaping global energy dynamics by controlling supply.

Its significance lies in collective leverage. By coordinating production cuts or increases, OPEC has historically stabilized prices during crises and prevented market oversupply. However, its effectiveness depends heavily on discipline among members and the availability of spare production capacity—primarily concentrated in a few states like Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

As one of the few countries with substantial spare capacity, its departure weakens OPEC's ability to respond to market shocks. Without the UAE, OPEC's capacity to manage supply



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

How '6-0' Became Pakistan's Symbol of Total Victory

The digits "6-0" have transformed from a simple scoreline into a powerful symbol of national pride in Pakistan, representing a sweeping, multidimensional victory narrative in the context of Indo-Pak tensions. Emerging strongly after the events labeled "Maka Huq" and the military confrontations around Operation Sindoor, the term initially refers to the claim that the Pakistan Air Force shot down six Indian Rafale jets without losses. Beyond this literal meaning, it signifies a broader assertion of dominance across multiple domains of modern warfare and statecraft, embedding the idea of comprehensive strategic superiority in public consciousness. This narrative is reinforced by the belief that the Rafales—seen as elite assets of the Indian Air Force—were decisively defeated, signaling a shift in perceived regional power. Though debated internationally, within Pakistan the claim is widely accepted and tied to notions of superior military skill, further amplified in popular culture by cricketer Haris Rauf's Asia Cup gesture mimicking both the "6-0" score and a plane crash, turning the phrase into a cultural emblem of dominance.

Expanding beyond aerial combat, the "6-0" narrative encompasses victories in cyber warfare, information warfare, diplomacy, and economic statecraft. In cyber warfare, Pakistan claims to have launched over 1.5 million coordinated intrusion attempts on Indian military, government, and infrastructure systems, even breaching entities like the Maharashtra State Power Generation Company, while maintaining that its own systems remained largely secure. In information warfare, Pakistan is portrayed as

shaping global and domestic opinion through strategic lifting of social media restrictions, coordinated messaging led by ISPR, use of AI-generated content, and effective hashtag campaigns that outpaced Indian counter-measures and sustained the "Rafale Hunter" narrative. Diplomatically, Pakistan is described as reversing historical isolation by leveraging global crises, particularly the US-Iran conflict, positioning itself as a key mediator, strengthening ties with Washington, influencing ceasefire narratives, and securing military and political gains while sidelining India.

Economically, this momentum translated into investment opportunities, partnerships in emerging sectors like cryptocurrency, improved relations with global powers, and strategic balancing between the US and China, allowing Pakistan to secure financial and developmental advantages even as India faced economic uncertainty during the conflict.

The fifth domain is Internal Security and Counter-Terrorism. For decades, India has accused Pakistan of exporting terror. The "Maka Huq" narrative flips this script entirely. Following the Pahalgam terror attack (which triggered the war), Pakistan positioned itself not as the aggressor but as the victim of Indian "state terrorism" and "belligerence." Domestically, Pakistan successfully united its deeply fractured polity under the "6-0" banner. The narrative of defeating India in six domains served as a powerful glue, distracting from internal economic hardships and political instability. Moreover, Pakistan claimed the moral high ground in counter-terrorism by pointing to its own sacrifices and its "measured" response to Indian aggression. In this domain, the 6-0

victory is about narrative control and stability. While India faced internal riots, allegations of suppressing dissenting voices (blocking 8,000 accounts on X), and unrest in Kashmir, Pakistan projected an image of a unified nation standing behind its military. By successfully branding Indian actions as "Hindutva extremism" spilling over the border, Pakistan isolated India's ideological position, framing the conflict not as terrorism vs. civilization, but as a religiously motivated attack by the BJP/RSS against a peaceful Islamic Republic. This framing won Pakistan significant sympathy in the Arab and Muslim world, a domain where India has heavily invested but failed to secure a win during the crisis.

The sixth and final domain in this comprehensive 6-0 victory is Strategic Communication and Public Narrative. This is the domain that synthesizes all others. It is the ability to make "6-0" a trending hashtag, a chant in cricket stadiums, and a source of genuine pride for a nation of 250 million people. While India possesses a larger economy and a bigger military, Pakistan has won the "story" of the war. The image of Haris Rauf signaling 6-0 to jeering Indian fans is worth a thousand diplomatic cables. It demonstrates that Pakistan has successfully weaponized its popular culture—cricket, music, and social media—to reinforce its geopolitical wins. The "6-0" figure is easy to remember, easy to chant, and devastatingly simple. It reduces a complex, multi-domain conflict into a single, irrefutable scoreline that humiliates the adversary. The fact that Pakistan's leadership, from defense ministers to army chiefs, has tacitly endorsed this narrative gives it the weight of official state policy. India, by contrast, has been forced into a reactive posture, filing complaints with the ICC over gestures and scrambling to debunk deepfakes.

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Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

Digital Transformation and Smart Entrepreneurship: Challenges and Opportunities for Youth

The 21st century is defined by rapid technological advancement and digital transformation, reshaping economies, societies, and the nature of work. For young people, this shift presents both unprecedented opportunities and complex challenges. In a developing country like Pakistan, where a large portion of the population consists of youth, digital transformation has the potential to unlock innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic growth. However, realizing this potential requires a balanced understanding of both opportunities and obstacles.

Digital transformation refers to the integration of digital technologies into various aspects of life, including education, business, governance, and communication. It has changed the traditional model of entrepreneurship by enabling individuals to start and scale businesses with minimal resources. Today, a young entrepreneur can launch an online store, offer freelance services, or create digital content using just a smartphone and internet connection.

Smart entrepreneurship, in this context, goes beyond traditional business practices. It involves the strategic use of digital tools, data analytics, artificial intelligence, and online platforms to create innovative and sustainable business models. Youth, being more adaptable to technological change, are naturally positioned to lead this transformation.

One of the greatest opportunities digital

transformation offers is accessibility. Young entrepreneurs in Pakistan can now reach global markets through e-commerce platforms, social media, and freelancing websites. Platforms like Daraz and Upwork have enabled thousands of individuals to sell products and services beyond geographical boundaries. This has reduced the need for large capital investments and physical infrastructure.

Moreover, digital entrepreneurship encourages innovation and creativity. Youth can develop mobile applications, digital marketing services, online education platforms, and tech-based solutions to local problems. Startups focusing on fintech, health tech, and edtech are emerging as key drivers of economic growth. Government initiatives and incubation centers are also supporting young entrepreneurs through training, mentorship, and funding opportunities.

Another important benefit is flexibility. Digital businesses allow young people to work remotely, manage their own schedules, and explore multiple income streams. This is particularly beneficial in a country where traditional job opportunities are limited and unemployment rates among graduates are high.

However, alongside these opportunities, digital transformation also presents significant challenges. One of the major issues is the digital divide. Many areas in Pakistan, especially rural regions, still lack reliable internet

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Analysis

Dr. T. M. Malik

Lyallpur Museum: From Heritage Cradle to Global Digital Gateway

Where memory becomes monument, and a city's soul rises to meet the world

Analysis

Professor Dr. Muhammad Jalal Arif

"Faisalabad, historically known as Lyallpur, stands at a decisive moment in its civilizational journey—a juncture where brick meets memory, and ambition meets identity."

PRELUDE: The Weight of Great Cities

Across the ages, civilization has measured itself not merely by what it builds, but by what it chooses to remember. Museums are the sanctuaries of that choice—temples of collective memory where the genius of peoples is safeguarded for those not yet born. From the British Museum in London to the Louvre in Paris, from the Smithsonian in Washington to the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, the greatest cities of the world are judged by the reverence with which they preserve their stories.

Faisalabad now stands before that same reckoning. The proposed transformation of the Lyallpur Museum is not merely a construction project—it is a civilizational declaration. It signals to the world that this city of extraordinary industry, agriculture, culture, and courage possesses not only the engine of progress, but also the memory that gives that progress meaning.

- 3,000 curated artifacts in the current collection
- 8,000+ target collection upon expansion

• 1.5 acres allocated for the new site

ORIGINS: A Heritage Cradle is Born

The Lyallpur Museum was born of farsighted conviction. Established through the visionary initiative of the late Saeed Iqbal Wala, former Deputy Commissioner of Faisalabad, what began as a modest undertaking swiftly became the city's most cherished repository of identity.

Nearly three thousand meticulously curated objects—crafts, manuscripts, photographs, and instruments of agriculture and industry—tell the living story of Lyallpur's transformation across generations. These artifacts chronicle agricultural roots, textile ascendancy, industrial growth, and the richness of multicultural traditions.

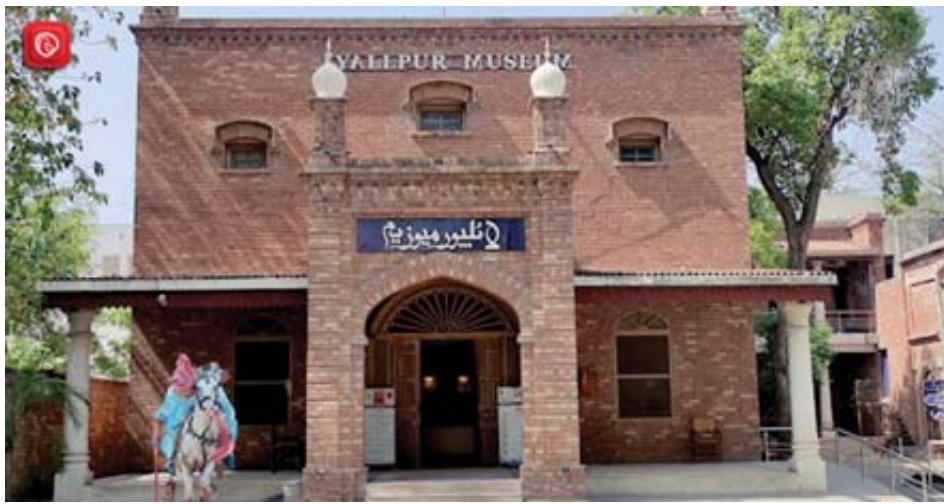
They preserve not merely objects, but human stories—the quiet dignity of farmers, the ingenuity of weavers, and the courage of entrepreneurs who built empires from cotton and looms.

"Heritage is not a luxury—it is the very pillar upon which identity, civic pride, and the continuity of knowledge are built. A nation that forgets its past has no compass for its future."

— Divisional Commissioner Musarrat Jabeen

LEADERSHIP: Visionary Hands at the Helm

This transformation is guided by exceptional institutional leadership. Divisional Commissioner Musarrat Jabeen has placed the museum's upgradation among her top priorities, envisioning a cultural landmark worthy of Faisalabad's extraordinary narrative—from canal colonies to global textile prominence. 1.5 acre land is allocated at chak no 203 RB near faisal valley. D C Fsd is principal architect of this museum



Deputy Commissioner Captain R. Nadeem Nasir plays a pivotal role in executing this vision, overseeing land development, planning, and infrastructure coordination. Supporting this effort is Maqbool Ahmad Malik, Director DGPR Faisalabad, whose institutional collaboration has helped advance the design and approval processes.

THE FUTURE: From Silent Halls to Living Worlds

The future Lyallpur Museum must transcend traditional boundaries. It must evolve from silent halls of static displays into a vibrant, immersive civilization center—a Global Digital Gateway. Key features may include:

- Holographic storytelling theatres bringing history to life
- Augmented reality experiences enabling visitors to walk through centuries
- Virtual textile factory simulations showcasing industrial heritage
- Immersive agricultural galleries celebrating green revolutions
- Interactive digital archives and

touchscreen historical maps

- Oral history stations preserving voices of the past
- Children's innovation zones to inspire future generations
- A state-of-the-art souvenir gallery featuring Lyallpur heritage crafts and commemorating unexplored historical chapters of the city

The Manchester of Pakistan No institution representing Faisalabad can ignore the textile revolution that shaped its identity. Known globally as the Manchester of Pakistan, the city's rise through



industrial excellence deserves a dedicated gallery.

Institutions like Sitara Textile Mills, Kohinoor Textiles, and Nishat Group symbolize more than business success—they represent human determination, creativity, and the transformation of raw cotton into economic strength.

"A city's soul is not measured only by the weight of its factories—but by the depth of its creativity, the courage of its dreamers, and the beauty of its memory."

— Dr. Muhammad Jalal Arif

Agricultural Legacy

UAF: 150 Years of Feeding a Nation

No narrative of Faisalabad is complete without the University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF), one of Asia's most prestigious agricultural institutions.

A dedicated pavilion should highlight:

- Agricultural modernization across Pakistan
- Crop science innovations
- Water resource management breakthroughs
- Livestock development advancements
- Food security leadership
- Rural transformation
- Ranked among the top agricultural universities globally, UAF

represents generations of scientists and educators whose work has sustained millions.

Cultural Inheritance: The City's Creative Soul

Lyallpur has contributed not only to industry and agriculture, but also to art, music, and culture. The museum must celebrate this legacy.

It should honor legends like Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, whose voice transcended borders, as well as craftsmen, artists, reformers, and sports heroes who shaped the city's cultural identity.

Economic Vision: A Museum as Economic Engine

A world-class museum is not just a repository of the past—it is an engine for the future.

A transformed Lyallpur Museum will:

- Attract scholars, tourists, and investors
- Boost hospitality, transport, and handicraft sectors
- Serve as a living classroom for students
- Enhance Faisalabad's global cultural standing

Conclusion

A Monument to Memory, An Illumination of the Future

Lyallpur Museum stands on the threshold of transformation. It is no longer just a collection of artifacts—it is a declaration of identity.

From a cradle of local heritage, it can rise into a global digital gateway of knowledge and pride. A place where every visitor leaves transformed by the story of a resilient, creative, and forward-looking people. If built with vision and integrity, the Lyallpur Museum will not only preserve the past—it will illuminate the future.

Author is Former Professor & Head of Department, Entomology, University of Agriculture Faisalabad

A Free, Independent and Responsible Press Is the Foundation of Any Democratic Society, Awaam Pakistan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: In today's environment, where the media faces various challenges, pressures, and risks, journalists continue to play a vital role in bringing truth to light while fulfilling their professional responsibilities. Therefore, ensuring their safety, freedom, and rights has become an urgent necessity.

Chaudhry Inam Zafar, Central Vice President, and Hafiz Usman Abbasi, Additional General Secretary of Awaam Pakistan, said in a joint statement on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day that this day is observed globally every year on May 3 to highlight freedom of expression, the right to information, and the importance of an independent media. They stated

that a free, independent, and responsible press is the cornerstone of any democratic society, as it not only provides timely and accurate information to the public but also keeps a check on the performance of state institutions. They added that despite facing various types of threats and pressures in the current era, journalists continue to perform their duties with dedication and professionalism. The leaders emphasized that ensuring the safety of journalists and safeguarding their professional rights is a shared responsibility of both the state and society. They urged the government to guarantee media freedom and provide a safe and conducive environment for journalists so they can carry out their duties without fear or intimidation.

Minister for tax rationalization, structural reforms to boost dairy sector, ensure safe nutrition

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain has underscored the need for rationalizing taxes and bringing about structural reforms in the dairy sector to improve affordability, ensure safe nutrition, and support farmers in the country.

He was speaking at a pre-budget consultation jointly organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and Pakistan Dairy Association here.

The minister said livestock accounts for nearly 60 per cent of the agriculture sector and holds significant potential for both domestic nutrition and exports. He acknowledged that taxation policies, particularly sales tax on dairy products, have affected production and growth. "Softening of tax regime can help increase both production and revenue," he suggested.

Rana Tanveer noted that reducing General Sales Tax (GST) on milk was not difficult, thus proposals like pilot projects for pasteurization and the establishment of "safe milk cities" are under consideration. He said improving milk quality and formalizing the sector would be key priorities going forward.

In his welcome remarks, SDPI Executive



Director Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri suggested multiple taxation scenarios and called for placing processed milk in a third schedule. He warned that rural milk collection centres were shutting down, since pricing of processed milk directly hits loose milk markets.

Usman Zaheer Ahmad, the Chairman of Pakistan Dairy Association, highlighted that 40 per cent children in Pakistan suffer from stunting due to malnutrition, despite milk being the most widely consumed animal protein. He said the sector remains 98 per cent informal, with limited quality controls. He warned that 18 per cent GST in 2024 caused 27 per cent decline in formal dairy sector. He proposed reducing GST to 10 per cent and bringing part of the informal economy into the tax net, which could generate up to Rs250 billion in revenue.

Earlier, SDPI Head of Ecological

Sustainability and Circular Economy Unit, Zainab Naem, said the consultation aimed to bring together government, private sector, and civil society to address food insecurity and link the dairy sector with nutrition. She emphasized that milk should be treated as a basic nutritional necessity rather than a luxury item. She called for strategies to enhance affordability and accessibility for low- and middle-income households.

Farrah Naz, the Country Director of Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), said malnutrition costs Pakistan around 03 per cent of GDP annually, with over 40 per cent of children under five stunted. She stressed that safe milk is essential for child development and advocated reducing GST on milk from 18 per cent to 05 per cent. She also stressed the need for strengthening formal dairy systems, expand processing capacity, and

utilize by-products such as whey.

Naem Hassan, the Director of Business Taxation Office, Ministry of Finance, said the recommendations shared by SDPI and the Pakistan Dairy Association are prudent and workable.

Sajid Mehmoond Qazi, the Additional Secretary, Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), pointing out structural weaknesses in the tax system, said that over-reliance on documented sectors is discouraging formal businesses and contributing to declining tax revenues in the dairy industry.

Eman Fatima from the Prime Minister's Office Board of Investment, highlighting regulatory complexities that hinder new entrants in dairy farming, reiterated that 18 per cent GST had slowed sectoral growth.

Dr Ihtesham Khan of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) raised concerns over public health, stating that loose milk often contains harmful microtoxins due to poor feed quality and lack of testing, increasing the health burden.

Dr Sajid Amin Javed, Deputy Executive Director (Research), SDPI, emphasized a long-term, integrated policy framework combining fiscal, health, and rural development strategies. He called for incentivizing private sector investment and developing cooperative models to connect small farmers with markets.

Global Flavours, Shared Purpose, Serena Hotels and IFWA Present "Taste of the World" 2026

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels, under its Cultural Diplomacy initiative and in collaboration with the International Foreign Women's Association (IFWA), hosted Taste of the World, a distinguished food festival celebrating international cuisine and cultural diversity.

The event featured 24 stalls, including participation from various diplomatic missions, each showcasing an authentic selection of traditional dishes and offering guests a rich, immersive global culinary experience.

The festival was inaugurated by the President of IFWA, Ms. Nompumelelo Abu Basutu, together with the CEO of Serena Hotels, Mr. Aziz Boolani. The occasion underscored the importance of cultural exchange and highlighted the role of such initiatives in strengthening community engagement through shared



experiences.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Aziz Boolani, CEO of Serena Hotels, stated,

"At Serena Hotels, we are committed to creating platforms that celebrate cultural diversity while contributing meaningfully to society. 'Taste of the World' reflects this vision by bringing together international commu-

nities and supporting a cause that extends beyond the event itself."

The President of IFWA, Ms. Nompumelelo Abu Basutu, remarked,

"This initiative brings together cultures in a truly meaningful way, showcasing the richness of global traditions while reinforcing the spirit of collaboration and compassion. We are



pleased to partner with Serena Hotels in delivering an event that combines cultural celebration with a purposeful cause.

In addition to celebrating global cuisine, the festival was dedicated to giving back to the community. Proceeds from the event will be donated to charitable organizations on IFWA's panel, supporting initiatives aimed at enhancing the

lives of visually impaired individuals.

A total amount of PKR -2 million was raised through this initiative, reflecting the collective generosity and commitment of all participating partners and attendees.

Serena Hotels remains dedicated to promoting cultural exchange and community engage-



ment through meaningful initiatives, continuing to create platforms that bring people together

while contributing positively to society

Photo by Sultan Bashir

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

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

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

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

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

Open Market Forex Rates

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

The Industrial Mega Expo, 2026 will begin today at Expo Center, Lahore

Tahir Amin Malik

The Institution of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Pakistan (IEEEEP), in collaboration with Eventive Solutions (Pvt.) Ltd, is organizing INDUSTRIAL MEGA EXPO 2026, themed "Showcasing Pakistan's Engineering Industry," from 4 to 6 May 2026 at the Expo Centre Lahore.

Electrical power generation equipment and services; transformer, switchgear, and substation equipment manufacturers; industrial automation, instrumentation, control systems, and robotics companies; battery storage, UPS, inverters, and power supply



systems; microgrids, smart grids, and distributed generation; electrical cables, wires, ducting systems, and accessories; solar solutions, inverters, and renewable and alternative energy technologies; energy management systems, meters, and testing & measuring instruments; mechatronics; electric vehicles and charging technology; home appliances and electronics; electrical communication and ICT providers; AI and data centers; defense and aerospace contractors; avionics products; drones; clinical and biomedical device manufacturers; consultants; engineering institutes; and universities.

This exhibition is also supported by WAPDA, REAP, NEECA, PISSA, and GM Cables.

Preparation of Summer

ISLAMABAD: A family is buying water cooler in a Sunday weekly bazaar, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Former SAARC President Highlights Pakistan's Role as Emerging Regional Stability Provider

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Ifkhar Ali Malik Sunday said Pakistan's strategic location at the crossroads of South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East places it in a unique position to influence regional peace, connectivity, and cooperation.

Talking here today to a delegation of Pakistan Japan Socio Economic Association led by its President Ms Sitara Arif he said Pakistan is steadily emerging as a net stability provider in a region long marked by geopolitical volatility and economic uncertainty. Pakistan's contributions to global peacekeeping missions and counter-terrorism efforts underscore its dedication to maintaining peace beyond its borders. By combating extremism and strengthening internal security, the country has created a more stable domestic environment, which in turn positively impacts the wider region.

Leader of the delegation Ms Sitara Arif



said economic diplomacy is another area where Pakistan is playing a constructive role. By encouraging trade corridors, energy cooperation, and investment partnerships, it is helping to build a framework of shared prosperity. Such initiatives not only reduce tensions but also create incentives for collaboration among regional

stakeholders, she concluded.

Deputy Leader of delegation Usman Akhtar CEO Murasaki Japanese Languages School thanked octogenarians trade leader for welcoming the students by inspiring with his lifelong achievements dedicated for the promotion of socio economic development of Pakistan.

ADB launches \$70 billion push to connect Asia's power grids, digital networks

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will back \$70 billion in new energy and digital infrastructure initiatives by 2035, aiming to connect power grids, expand cross-border electricity trade, and improve broadband access across Asia and the Pacific.

"Energy and digital access will define the region's future," said ADB President Masato Kanda, according to ADB press release received here. "These two initiatives build the systems Asia and the Pacific need to grow, compete, and connect. By linking power grids and digital networks across borders, we can lower costs, expand opportunity, and

bring reliable power and digital access to hundreds of millions of people."

The Pan-Asia Power Grid Initiative will connect national and sub-regional power systems so renewable energy can flow across borders, while the Asia-Pacific Digital Highway will help close the digital infrastructure gap and enable the region to benefit from AI-driven growth.

Under the Pan-Asia Power Grid Initiative, ADB will work with governments, utilities, the private sector, and development partners to mobilize \$50 billion by 2035 for cross-border power infrastructure that can unlock renewable energy at scale.

The initiative will focus on transmission and grid integration, including cross-border lines, substations, storage, and grid digitalization. It will also support power generation linked to electricity trade, including renewable energy export projects, regional renewable hubs, and hybrid generation-storage facilities.

By 2035, ADB aims to integrate about 20 gigawatts of renewable energy across borders, connect 22,000 circuit-kilometers of transmission lines, improve energy access for 200 million people, create 840,000 jobs, and cut regional power sector emissions by 15%.

ADB expects to finance about half

of the \$50 billion initiative from its own resources and raise the rest through co-financing, including from the private sector. Up to \$10 million in technical assistance will support efforts to align regulations, adopt common technical standards, prepare feasibility studies and advance other work needed for major projects.

The Pan-Asia Power Grid Initiative marks a shift from country-to-country energy links to a regional approach to power trade. It builds on existing sub-regional cooperation initiatives, including the South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation program, the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Tech-

nical and Economic Cooperation grid interconnection planning, the ASEAN Power Grid, and the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Energy Strategy 2030.

The Asia-Pacific Digital Highway will mobilize \$20 billion by 2035 to finance digital corridors, data infrastructure, and AI-ready economies. Investments will focus on connected infrastructure, including terrestrial and subsea fiber networks, satellite links and regional data centers. ADB will also provide policy and regulatory support, including on cybersecurity risk management, and invest in skills programs to strengthen digital and AI readiness.

Urgent Warning: 80 percent of Punjab farmers hit by climate change

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Convener Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry regional committee on food Shahid Imran Sunday cautioned that according to International Food Policy Research Institute, more than 80 per cent of farmers in Punjab are experiencing the effects of climate change.

Talking here today to a delegation led by Chief Executive Officer Murasaki Japanese Languages School, he said rainfall patterns in central Punjab have become unstable, with some years seeing heavy rains and others facing severe drought. Unexpected rains in April have affected wheat harvesting, while heavy rains in July and



August pose risks to cotton and rice crops. He said change in Punjab has now taken the form of a "climate shift," where the traditional monsoon cycle has changed and rainfall is occurring in shorter but more intense periods.

Leader of the delegation Usman Akhtar said rainfall patterns have become irregular, heat has intensified, and winters are becoming shorter and less cold, putting farmers under stress and significantly reducing crop yields, he concluded.

Pakistani Food Delegation heads to Saudi Arabia amid regional supply chain crisis



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: A high-level Pakistani food delegation led by Coordinator to the Federal Tax Ombudsman Saif Ur Rehman Sunday left for Saudi Arabia to assess the Kingdom's food requirements amid the ongoing Middle East crisis triggered by the US-Israel-Iran conflict.

Talking here today prior to departure, he said the visit comes at a critical time when regional supply chains have been severely disrupted due to war-related tensions, particularly affecting shipping routes and energy

flows. He said the visit is will strengthen economic ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, while reinforcing Pakistan's emerging role as a dependable partner in ensuring regional food security during turbulent times.

He said the delegation aims to engage with Saudi authorities, assess immediate and long-term food needs, and explore avenues for enhancing bilateral cooperation in food exports.

This initiative aligns with Pakistan's broader policy to support friendly countries in times of crisis while also boosting its own agri-exports.

Previously, Pakistan had already indicated plans to export surplus food commodities to Gulf states in response to disruptions caused by the conflict, he added.

Free Press Crucial for Industrial Economy, Says Hyderabad Trade Leader

Commerce Desk

HYDERABAD: Hyderabad SITE Association of Trade and Industry Chairman Zubair Ghangra stated in his special message on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day on May 3 that a free and responsible media is the backbone of any industrial economy, which not only highlights the facts but also plays an effective role in policy making and problem solving.

He said that the industries of Hyderabad SITE area are still facing several challenges, including lack of infrastructure, electricity and gas problems, unavailability of water, regulatory hurdles and other administrative difficulties. However, the media, especially local journalism institutions, continuously highlight these problems and draw the attention of the government and related institutions, which in turn pave the way for solutions to many problems.



Zubair Ghangra said that journalism is not just a source of news but a social force that plays the role of a bridge between industry, trade and public interest. He paid tribute to the Hyderabad Press Club and local journalists, saying that they have always presented industrial issues with seriousness, balance and responsibility. He termed Hyderabad journalists as the real voice of the city and said that they play the role of a strong liaison and bridge between the public, business community, industrialists and the administration, which significantly improves the identification and resolution of problems.

PFC CEO: Pakistan's Neutral Stance Makes it Ideal West Asia Mediator



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Chief Executive Officer Pakistan Furniture Council Mian Kashif Ashfaq Sunday said Pakistan owing to its balanced foreign policy, strong diplomatic ties with key regional players, and a history of advocating dialogue over confrontation, has achieved the position to facilitate constructive engagement among rival states in West Asia.

Talking here today to a delegation of students of Journalism Department School of Communication Studies Punjab University led by Prof Dr Mian Hanan Ahmad Head of the department he said Pakistan is not viewed as pursuing hegemonic ambitions, which enhances its acceptability as a neutral mediator. Pakistan's military professionalism and experience in peacekeeping missions under the United Nations strengthen its credentials in conflict resolution and stabilization efforts. By leveraging these strengths, Pakistan can promote dialogue, reduce tensions, and encourage economic cooperation in a region often marred by instability.

Prof Mian Hanan Ahmad speaking on the occasion said if this world order works for Pakistan, it is a grand opportunity for Pakistan to first act as mediator and second transitioning from a specialised security provider to a net security provider in the region and for this purpose it would have to alter its defence hardware and strategic software and adjust its Indian approach without compromising security, sovereignty, integrity.

Earlier Dr Waqar Ch Arain Advisor to CEO Chenone welcomed the delegation and briefed about the activities of PFC and its contribution towards promoting Furniture industry and boosting exports.

PSL Pakistan Super League Cricket Championship Edition 11 Final Match

Peshawar Zalmi win the PSL final by defeating Hyderabad Kingsmen by five Wickets

Asim Tanveer

LAHORE: In the final match of the Pakistan Super League, Peshawar Zalmi defeated Hyderabad Kingsmen by 5 wickets due to their brilliant performance. Babar Azam finally became the captain who won the PSL trophy as captain. The PSL trophy came to his hands for the first time under his captaincy. Peshawar Zalmi has won the honor of becoming PSL champion for the second time in history after 2017. They defeated Hyderabad Kingsmen by 5 wickets. Hyderabad Kingsmen, who were falling and flying to the final, could not stand up after losing the toss and the batting line failed. Although their pacers blew away 4 top orders including Babar Azam in 5 overs in the counter-attack, the small total of 130 did not give them the advantage that usually happens. Peshawar Zalmi won PSL 11. Hyderabad Kingsmen won the hearts of fans by fighting till the final.

Peshawar Zalmi started chasing the final low total of 130 runs in the PSL 11 final. Despite hitting a boundary in the first over, the Kingsmen achieved their first victory when Mohammad Harris was caught by Labuschagne off Mohammad Ali for 6 off 3 balls. On the 5th ball of the over, big batter Babar Azam was caught by wicket-keeper Usman Khan off Ali's ball while playing the first ball. He was the leading scorer of League 11 at 588. They could not break Fakhar Zaman's record of 588 runs by a run. They were tied. Peshawar Zalmi had lost 2 wickets for 7 in an over. On the first ball of the next over, Kaushal Mendis barely escaped being run out. The third umpire ruled in favor of the batter after a long time. Kaushal Mendis and Aaron Hardy were not ready to take any pressure. They kept hitting. The score was 33 for 2 in 3 overs. The Kingsmen's 2-wicket



effort was losing its effect. In this case, Haneef Shah was brought in. He took the big wicket. Kushal Mendis was caught by Moaz Sadaqat after scoring 9 runs on 33. Kingsmen were shaken when they bowled their fourth over on 40 in the 5th over of the innings. This time the bowler was Akif Javed. Mitchell Bracewell was the unlucky batter who was caught by wicket-keeper Usman Khan after scoring 4 runs. Aaron Hardy became a wall for Kingsmen. The score was 53 for 4 in 6 overs of the powerplay. As a result, Hardy, along with Abdul Samad, reached a total of 102 in 12 overs. Hardy completed his half-century off 35 balls. When Zalmi was 5 runs away from victory, Abdul Samad was caught on the boundary after scoring 38 runs on 34 balls. He shared a match-winning 85-run partnership with Hardy for the 5th wicket.

Peshawar Zalmi achieved the target in 15.2 overs and won the match by 5 wickets to become the PSL 11 champions. This is their second title after



2017. Hardy returned unbeaten by scoring 56 runs off 39 balls. Kingsmen's Mohammad Ali took 3 wickets for 38 runs in 4 overs. Akif Javed and Heinin Shah got one wicket each.

Hyderabad Kingsmen team did not lose the toss for the first time. They have performed better than this in the previous matches, but today, after losing the toss at Gaddafi Stadium Lahore and despite a good start, their batsmen got impatient. At one point, there were only 2 outs at 51 and 71, but then with an increase of 19 runs, 5 more wickets fell to 90 and thus 90 runs became 7 wickets. Hyderabad Kingsmen team was suddenly in a state of shock. Moaz Sadaqat 11, captain Labuschagne 20, Usman Khan 8, Irfan Khan 1, Glenn Maxwell 0, Hasan Khan 12 and Huneef Shah 9 returned to the pavilion. Kushal Perera was run out on 1 so much that he felt that the bowler had tried to cut his way. The third umpire declared him out after a long review. Saim Ayub was standing in the final after complete failures, but no one was ready to support him. Still, his Due to this, the Kingsmen reached 115 runs for 8 wickets in 15 overs. Saim Ayub completed his fifty in 42 balls. He



was also lucky that the umpire declared Naheed Rana as LB out on one ball but he survived on review. On the first ball of the 18th over, Saim Ayub could not take advantage of the opportunity by playing a stupid shot and was in the pavilion on an individual score of 54 after playing 50 balls. He hit 2 sixes and 5 fours. This did not continue. Hyderabad Kingsmen, who started with 2 wickets for 70 runs in 7 overs, could not



play the full overs and were dismissed for 129 runs in 18 overs. Akif Javed could make 5.

For Zalmi, Aaron Hardie took 4 wickets for 27 runs in 4 overs. Naheed Rana, who returned from Bangladesh only for the final, bowled with excellent pace and took 2 wickets for just 22 runs in 4 overs. Sufyan Muqem took one wicket for 23 runs in the same number of overs. Muhammad Basit took one wicket.

Earlier, the PSL colorful closing ceremony was held. Famous singers of the country Atif Aslam, Ali Azmat,

Arif Lohar, Aima Baig and Sabri Sisters entertained the audience with their performances. Former captain of the Pakistan cricket team Wasim Akram and Zainab Abbas hosted. Wasim Akram's fellow Asian Bradman Zaheer Abbas was also present, both former cricketers placed the trophy on the podium. The closing ceremony ended with a magnificent and charming fireworks display.

In PSL 11, Babar Azam became the top scorer with 588 runs. Sufyan Muqem was the top wicket-taker with 22 wickets.

Azan Ahmed helps Rawalpindi U17 take lead on opening day

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Azan Ahmed's four-wicket haul and a brisk 40 with the bat helped Rawalpindi U17 secure a 13-run lead against Lahore Blues U17 on day one of the two-day National U17 Cup triangular stage match at the Iqbal Stadium in Faisalabad on Saturday.

After opting to bat first in the match, which is being live-streamed on PCB's YouTube channel and Tapmad in Pakistan, Lahore Blues were bowled out for 167 in 50.3 overs. Daud Tauqir Rana top-scored with a 139-ball 93, hitting 10 fours and two sixes, while Mohammad Essa was the other notable contributor with 35 off 87 balls, including three boundaries.

For Rawalpindi, Azan returned figures of four for 28 in 10.3 overs. Mohammad Ibrahim, Mohammad Yasir and Sher Wali Khan grabbed two wickets each.

In turn, Rawalpindi were 180 for nine in 39 overs at stumps, taking a 13-run lead. Batting at number four, Azan top-scored with 40 off 36 balls, striking five fours and two sixes. Amir Khan (36, 44b, 4x4s, 1x6), who was dismissed leg-before wicket off the



final ball of the day, added 55 runs for the ninth wicket with Mohammad Ibrahim (24 not out, 36b, 2x4s). For Lahore Blues, right-arm leg-spinner Aliyan Qaiser was the pick of the bowlers with four for 45 in 13 overs, while Mohammad Yaqoob took two for 49 in 12 overs.

Scores in brief: Day 1 of 2 at Iqbal Stadium, Faisalabad

Lahore Blues U17 167 all out, 50.3 overs (Daud Tauqir Rana 93, Mohammad Essa Baloch 35; Azan Ahmed 4-28, Mohammad Yasir 2-17, Sher Wali Khan 2-34, Mohammad Ibrahim 2-36)

Rawalpindi U17 180-9, 39 overs (Azan Ahmed 40, Amir Khan 36, Mohammad Sanan 34, Mohammad Ibrahim 24 not out; Aliyan Qaiser 4-45, Mohammad Yaqoob Khan 2-49)

Marka-e-Haq; where PAF redefined aerial combat and became an undisputed King of skies

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"After their (IAF) strikes, PAF had 5 to 10 minutes to take a decisive decision, it was taken and implemented as a reflex action by PAF, giving no chance to IAF to even think of such an effective and timely response", he said.

Cyber capability, he said, played a critical enabling role by disrupting adversary communication and support systems. Such non-kinetic effects, combined with kinetic precision, enhanced overall impact. He praised the leadership under Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu for driving a strategic transformation of PAF towards a technology-oriented, responsive force structure.

According to him, pre-emptive planning and forward deployment ensured that "the system was ready before the first move." Dr. Nazir Hussain, a prominent Defence and Diplomatic analyst, characterized

the campaign as a "blitzkrieg-style demonstration of maneuver superiority," asserting that IAF attempted to reclaim its lost honour through a misadventure, and failed again. "What began as a misadventure by India resulted in strategic military deception, as Pakistan shaped the battle space and imposed operational surprise", he said. Recollecting the operational phase, he said: "In one go, Pakistan dismantled the technological myth built around advanced systems." The former air marshal counted four Rafale aircrafts along with one MiG-29, one SU-30MKI, one Mirage-2000, and a Heron drone, which were destroyed by PAF during the engagement. He added that, including S-400 air defence systems, BrahMos missile storage facilities, and several brigade headquarters were successfully targeted, reflecting the scale and depth of the operation.

Hussain described the large-

scale aerial engagement involving over 120 aircraft as "one of the rare dogfights that will be studied in training academies worldwide," maintaining that the PAF established effective air superiority through coordinated employment of its assets. He argued that the impact extended beyond the battlefield into diplomatic and informational domains. "The damage reached the diplomatic front, where major powers, including the United States, acknowledged Pakistan's operational advantage", he said and criticized segments of the Indian media for 'running commissioned and baseless propaganda for their victory', which eventually questioned their own hardware performance.

Both experts said that the role played by Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Air Chief Marshal Baber Ahmad Sidhu, and the civilian leadership remained vital for making the moments victorious and rejoicing.

Dr. Nazir Hussain said the adversary "lost across multiple fronts, defence, diplomacy, and political cohesion," describing the episode as a comprehensive strategic setback for India. "The episode reinforced Pakistan's deterrence posture, enhanced its global standing, and strengthened national resolve through demonstrated capability", Dr. Nazir said and emphasized that such outcomes stem from sustained focus on integration, leadership, and preparedness. What is next? No new hardware or software has been inducted into IAF, no procurement or innovative commissioning. Whereas PAF continuously goes on modernizing itself, preparing for the next generation of warfare to remain second to none.

Marka-e-Haq proved to be a depiction of tri-services cohesion, command, and leadership skills of the armed forces of Pakistan on one side, and national integrity resolve on the other side.

Trump's Illusion of Victory in Iran War

Continued from Page 4

have not yielded the decisive outcomes anticipated, particularly against deeply fortified and technologically adapted targets. Continuing the conflict under such conditions would risk escalating costs without guaranteeing success.

The declaration of victory, therefore, serves a political function. It provides a

mechanism to conclude a costly engagement while preserving the appearance of strength. It allows for disengagement without explicit acknowledgment of failure. However, such narratives cannot fully obscure the underlying realities. The blockade continues, Iran's capabilities remain intact, regional instability persists, and global markets continue to feel the impact. In the final analysis,

the war's outcome is not defined by official statements but by tangible results. By that measure, the claim of victory appears increasingly tenuous. What has been presented as a decisive conclusion is, in reality, a complex and unresolved situation—one in which strategic objectives remain unmet, consequences continue to unfold, and the true cost of the conflict is still being realized.

A war declared "won" without achieving its objectives is not a victory—it is a narrative crafted to conceal an unresolved reality.

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Digital Transformation and Smart Entrepreneurship: Challenges and Opportunities for Youth

Continued from Page 4

access and digital infrastructure. This limits equal participation in the digital economy and widens socio-economic disparities.

Lack of digital literacy is another critical challenge. While many young people are familiar with social media, they may lack the technical skills required for smart entrepreneurship, such as coding, data analysis, cybersecurity, and digital marketing. Without proper training and education, the potential of digital transformation cannot be fully realized.

Financial constraints also hinder youth entrepreneurship. Although digital platforms reduce startup costs, access to funding, investment, and financial support remains limited. Many young entrepreneurs struggle to secure loans or attract investors due to a lack of experience or formal business structures.

Cybersecurity risks and online fraud further complicate the digital landscape. Entrepreneurs must navigate issues such as data protection, privacy concerns, and digital scams. A lack of awareness and regulatory frameworks can expose young entrepreneurs to significant risks. Additionally, the fast-paced nature of technological change requires continuous learning and adaptability. Skills that are relevant today may become obsolete tomorrow. This creates pressure on young entrepreneurs to constantly upgrade their knowledge and stay updated with emerging trends.

To address these challenges, a multi-dimensional approach is required. Educational institutions must integrate digital skills, entrepreneurship training, and innovation-driven learning into their curricula. Students should be equipped with both technical expertise and critical thinking abilities to thrive in the digital

economy. Government policies also play a crucial role. Investment in digital infrastructure, especially in underserved areas, is essential to bridge the digital divide. Financial support programs, startup grants, and youth-focused incubation centers can encourage entrepreneurial activities. Regulatory frameworks must also be strengthened to ensure cybersecurity and protect digital businesses.

Private sector involvement is equally important. Collaboration between industries and educational institutions can provide practical training, internships, and mentorship opportunities. Tech companies can contribute by offering affordable tools, platforms, and learning resources to aspiring entrepreneurs.

Equally significant is the role of mindset. Youth must adopt a proactive and innovative approach, embracing challenges as opportunities for growth.

Smart entrepreneurship requires resilience, creativity, and a willingness to experiment and learn from failure.

In conclusion, digital transformation has opened new horizons for youth entrepreneurship in Pakistan. It offers opportunities for innovation, global connectivity, and economic independence. However, challenges such as digital inequality, lack of skills, financial barriers, and cybersecurity risks must be addressed to fully harness this potential. By investing in education, infrastructure, and supportive policies, Pakistan can empower its youth to become successful digital entrepreneurs. The future belongs to those who can effectively combine technology with creativity and vision, turning challenges into opportunities for sustainable growth.

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Israel approves plan...

Continued from Page 1

responsibility to act now to secure the IDF's military edge ten years from now and beyond," said ministry director general Amir Baram, referring to the Israel Defense Forces.

The recent war with Iran "reinforced just how critical the US-Israel strategic relationship is, and how essential advanced air power remains," he added.

Under the deal, Israel would buy a fourth F-35 squadron from Lockheed Martin and a second squadron of F-15IA fighter jets from Boeing.

In December, Boeing was given an \$8.6 billion contract for Israel including 25 new F-15IAs and an option for 25 more. Baram said the next step would be to move forward with finalizing the agreements with the US government and military counterparts.

How '6-0' Became ...

Continued from Page 4

In the battle for hearts and minds, Pakistan has secured a shutout. The pride associated with "6-0" is therefore not just about jets shot down; it is about the exhilarating realization among Pakistanis that their nation, often dismissed as a failing state, has successfully outmaneuvered its larger neighbor in the digital age, in the diplomatic salons of Washington, and in the global information battlefield.

The fixation on the figure "6-0" within Pakistan is a masterclass in modern strategic communication. It transforms a contested military skirmish into a comprehensive national epic. Through the lens of this single digit, Pakistan claims a clean sweep over India in military engagement, cyber penetration, information dominance,

diplomatic agility, economic resilience, and strategic narrative. The events of "Maka Huq" last year, combined with the deft handling of the US-Iran war, have allowed Pakistan to break free from the zero-sum constraints of the past. By isolating India diplomatically, defeating its narratives technologically, and standing firm militarily, Pakistan has used the "6-0" scoreline not just to describe a victory, but to manufacture a new reality—one where the balance of power in South Asia is not as one-sided as the raw statistics of GDP or population might suggest. For the people of Pakistan, waving flags and chanting "6-0" is an affirmation that their nation is not only surviving but thriving in the brutal arena of 21st-century geopolitics, defeating India in every domain that truly matters.

Fortieth

KARACHI: Shiite Muslims gather to mark the 40th day since the death of the late Iranian Supreme Leader, Ali Khamenei in the Provincial Capital, who was killed in US-Israeli airstrikes on Iran.



Photo: Online

Marka-e-Haq; where PAF redefined aerial combat and became an undisputed King of skies

News Desk

RAWALPINDI: The Marka-e-Haq 2025 engagement has emerged as a defining case study in modern air combat, where the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) exhibited precision strike capability, multi-domain integration, and cyber operations to offset the numerical advantage of the Indian Air Force (IAF).

The operation proved PAF an undisputed king of the skies. Air Marshal (Retd) Asim Suleiman described the

encounter as "a unique air battle fought on reach, integration, and decision-making speed," emphasizing that distance no longer guarantees survivability in contemporary war.

He highlighted that the PAF's concept of operations rested on synchronized use of sensors, shooters, and command systems, enabling rapid engagement cycles. At the tactical level, he pointed to the induction of advanced platforms such as the J-10C and JF-17 Thunder, which restored



the decisive 'first look, first shot' advantage.

Central to this capability was the employment of the

PL-15 missile, allowing long-range precision targeting. "We effectively denied the adversary its first-strike advantage," he observed, saying that modern air combat is increasingly defined by detection and engagement timelines rather than visual encounters.

He underscored the role of layered air defence, including systems such as the HQ-9B, which provided a protective shield against high-end threats. Hypersonic strike options and stand-off weapons, he added, enabled precision engagement

of strategic targets without exposing assets to unnecessary risk. "Uniqueness of the operation was integration across multiple operational commands like air, ground, cyber, space, and unmanned systems, linked through real-time data connectivity, allowing seamless execution, where every domain was feeding into a single operational picture," he said, adding three exceptional elements, including a night-timed battle, BVR-driven, and no border crossing for attack.

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Salik pledges to unite PML-Q factions in Sindh



News Desk

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis Chaudhry Salik Hussain has said that efforts will be made to unite the factions of the Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) in Sindh, stressing that unity within the party is the need of the time.

According to the 24NewsHD TV channel, the minister made these remarks while addressing a gathering in Karachi.

During his speech, the minister said that the party must come together to better serve the people of Sindh and the wider country.

He added that political work should focus on public service rather than personal gain, noting that politics had increasingly been treated as a source of livelihood by some.

Chaudhry Salik Hussain also pledged that workers in the country would not be left alone, assuring that their concerns would be addressed through continuous effort.

Rana Mashhood praises two Pakistani youth for clinching top QECT global leadership awards

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Prime Minister's Youth Programme Rana Mashhood Ahmed Khan on Sunday praised Hassan Ashraf and Joshua Dilawar after their selection for the prestigious Queen Elizabeth II Commonwealth Trust (QECT) 100 Young Leaders Awards 2026, a highly competitive global accolade recognising exceptional

contributions to youth leadership, social inclusion, and community-driven transformation.

Describing the achievement as a "defining moment" for Pakistan's youth, Mashhood said Hassan Ashraf, a member of the Prime Minister's National Youth Council (Cohort 3), and Joshua Dilawar, an alumnus (Cohort 2), had brought international acclaim to the country through their

visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to social impact.

The QECT awards celebrate outstanding young changemakers across the Commonwealth who are spearheading innovative initiatives and catalysing meaningful change within their communities.

Both Pakistani awardees were recognised for their dynamic efforts in mobilising and empowering

PM meets Nawaz Sharif at Jati Umra



Bureau Report

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday visited Jati Umra and held a meeting with PML-N leader and his elder brother former prime minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif.

During the meeting, the prime minister briefed Nawaz Sharif on the overall situation of the country. He also shared details regarding

the evolving situation in the Middle East and Pakistan's efforts aimed at promoting peace in the region.

The prime minister took Nawaz Sharif into confidence on global oil prices and the government's measures to provide relief to the public. Both leaders also discussed the prevailing political situation in the country.

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif was also present during the meeting.

Pakistan, Jordan reaffirm commitment to peace, stability



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar spoke today with his Jordanian counterpart Ayman Safadi.

On the occasion, Ayman Safadi conveyed Jordan's deep appreciation of Pakistan's constructive role and continued efforts for peace, dialogue, and regional stability in the context of ongoing tensions in the region. Ishaq Dar reaffirmed Pakistan's

commitment to promoting constructive engagement among all parties to support stability and peaceful resolution of conflicts through dialogue and diplomacy.

The two leaders also reaffirmed the strong bilateral relations between Pakistan and Jordan, and underscored the importance of continued cooperation at bilateral and multilateral forums.

They agreed to remain in close contact.

Atta Tarar reaffirms commitment to 'free & responsible' media in Pakistan



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attallah Tarar on Sunday acknowledging the media's crucial role in shaping Pakistan's global narrative, reaffirmed the government's commitment to a "free, responsible,

and vibrant media" in the country.

The minister, in his message on the World Press Freedom Day, said, "Pakistan's traditional media has long stood as a strong pillar of public trust and democratic values, and during Marka-e-Haq, it played a responsible and patriotic role in informing the world with balance and clarity."

"Alongside this, our media is gradually adapting to modern tools and global connectivity, while digital platforms are helping project Pakistan's true image and potential," he added.

The minister said the government values the efforts of journalists and media workers and remain committed to media freedom, responsibility, and a brighter future for all media in Pakistan.

CM Punjab Orders Urban Forests Along Faisalabad Mass Transit Route

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has directed the plantation of urban forests and greenery at every open location along the Faisalabad Mass Transit System route.

Chairing a special meeting to review progress on the project, the chief minister was given a detailed briefing on the Faisalabad Mass Transit System. She reviewed the pace of development and directed authorities to expedite the construction process.

CM Maryam Nawaz also instructed officials to install spacious and high-quality elevators as part of the transit infrastructure.

According to the briefing, the 20.5-kilometre-long Faisalabad Mass Transit System will comprise 21 stations, of which 11 stations covering an 11.3-kilometre route will be elevated.

It was further informed that depots



for the Faisalabad Mass Transit System will be established at Faisal Town and Airport Chowk.