



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ انہوں نے کہا ہم سے محمد بن سنان نے بیان کیا کہ انہوں نے کہا کہ مجھ سے میرے والد نے بیان کیا کہ انہوں نے کہا کہ ہم سے سعید بن ابی سعید نے بیان کیا اور ان سے ابو ہریرہ نے بیان کیا کہ میں نے رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم سے سنا ہے کہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ تم سے کسی کو روزی میں فراتی ہو اور اس کی عمر وادائی جائے تو وہ صبر جمی کیا کرے۔ (بخاری ص 5985)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



Rana Sana, US official discuss bilateral ties

Federal Minister for Inter Provincial Coordination Rana Sanaullah met US Embassy Counselor for Political Affairs Terry Steers Gonzalez here on Tuesday. The two discussed Pakistan-US bilateral relations, the regional situation, and matters of mutual interest, said a statement issued here.



FBR Establishes PRAL's Front Desk at LTO Karachi

In line with the directives of the Prime Minister of Pakistan and in response to the requests of the business community of Karachi, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has established and operationalized a PRAL's Front Desk at the Large Taxpayers Office (LTO), Karachi on 05th June, 2026 headed by the dedicated Chief (Inland Revenue Operations).

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NEC meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of the National Economic Council on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

PM calls for growth-focused economic agenda after achieving macroeconomic stability

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif announced that Pakistan has achieved macroeconomic stability and will now prioritize economic growth, job creation, and improved living standards for its citizens.

Addressing the National Economic Council (NEC), he highlighted the federal government's collaborative approach with provinces on significant

matters, ensuring decisions were made in the national interest.

He commended the chief ministers for their cooperation in budget preparation and resource management during difficult periods.

Sharif emphasized that while macro-level indicators are stable, the next critical step is to stimulate economic activity. He stated that fostering economic development is a shared responsibility between the federation

and the provinces.

Despite being in an International Monetary Fund (IMF) program and facing challenges, including increased oil prices due to regional tensions, Pakistan successfully managed fuel supplies without panic, a testament to the unity and coordination among provinces.

The Prime Minister also paid tribute to the sacrifices of law enforcement and armed forces in combating terrorism,

expressing confidence in their eventual eradication through collective national efforts.

He acknowledged that despite macroeconomic stability, citizens are concerned about employment and basic facilities, underscoring the need for accelerated economic growth through advancements in agriculture, exports, and industrial development.

He stressed the importance of resource mobilization and

incentivizing key sectors to revitalize industry and strengthen the economy.

Finally, Sharif shared that his recent discussion with the IMF Managing Director revealed appreciation for Pakistan's stabilization efforts and support for its reform agenda. He concluded by urging for greater speed and determination to achieve sustainable economic growth and prosperity in the country.

NEC Approves Rs 3.669 Trillion Development Budget, Targets 4% GDP Growth

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Economic Council (NEC), chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, approved a national development budget of Rs 3.669 trillion for Fiscal Year 2026-27, setting a 4% GDP growth target.

This includes Rs 1000 billion for the Federal PSDP, Rs 2,218 billion for provincial ADPs, and Rs 451 billion for SOEs.

The NEC also endorsed a

revised GDP growth of 3.7% for FY2025-26 and urged close collaboration to meet the upcoming year's targets.

The meeting reviewed project approvals, with CDWP approving 116 projects worth Rs 316 billion and ECNEC green-lighting 72 projects valued at Rs 5.117 trillion from April 2025 to March 2026. A new monitoring and evaluation policy, incorporating AI for project assessment, was introduced.

Eleven national economic

development missions under the Uraan Pakistan initiative were approved, with a roadmap to be developed.

Outlined were revised economic indicators for FY2025-26, showing Rs 820 billion spent on federal PSDP, Rs 2.938 trillion on provincial ADPs, and Rs 355 billion on SOE programs.

Prime Minister Sharif emphasized consensus on national issues strengthens the federation and lauded the

spirit of unity. He acknowledged the support of chief ministers during economic challenges and praised the economic team's efforts in achieving macroeconomic stability.

He also highlighted controlling rapid population growth, improving health-care, reducing child malnutrition, expanding education, and creating youth employment as top priorities.

The government is focusing on equipping youth with tech-

nical skills and believes an export-led economy is crucial for long-term growth.

The Prime Minister directed enhanced coordination between federal and provincial development initiatives, aligning spending with national priorities and sustainable objectives.

He expressed confidence in collective efforts leading to sustained growth, prosperity, and economic self-reliance. Attendees included key ministers and chief ministers.



Pakistan conducts precision strikes on Khwarij hideouts along border, eliminates 26 terrorists: Attaullah Tarar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister

for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Wednesday said that Pakistan had carried

out precise and calibrated strikes along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border areas against hideouts and safe havens of masterminds and planners belonging to Fitna Al Khwarij, killing 26 Indian-sponsored Khwarijs.

Sharing details in a post on X, the minister said the action came in the aftermath of recent terrorist incidents in Pakistan,

including the terrorist attack on a Federal Constabulary post in Musa Dara on June 9, 2026, and vehicle-borne suicide attacks on a military post in North Waziristan on June 2, 2026, and a police station in Bannu on May 9, 2026.

According to the minister, four targets were completely destroyed during the operation, including a training centre, a

hideout, an ammunition cache and Marakiz belonging to Fitna Al Khwarij commander Aleem Khan Khushali and commander Akhtar Muhammad Jani Khel.

The minister said the security forces and law enforcement agencies of Pakistan would continue efforts to wipe out the menace of foreign-sponsored and supported terrorism from the country.

Pakistan Army Helicopter Crashes, All On Board Martyred



City Desk

RAWALPINDI: An Mi-17 helicopter of Pakistan Army Aviation crashed near Muzaffarabad today during take-off due to technical fault.

All personnel on board embraced Shahadat. There were no survivors. Rescue and recovery teams

immediately reached the crash site. A board of inquiry has been ordered to ascertain the exact technical cause of the accident.

COAS & CDF and all Ranks Pakistan Army express deep grief over the tragic loss of precious lives and extend heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

President, PM express grief over Pakistan Army MI-17 helicopter crash



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the Pakistan Army's MI-17 helicopter crash near Muzaffarabad.

In separate statements, the president and the prime minister extended their heartfelt sympathies to the families of those martyred in the accident.

"The entire nation pays

tribute to the great sacrifice of the martyrs and shares the grief of the bereaved families," President Asif Ali Zardari said.

Paying tribute to the personnel who embraced martyrdom in the crash, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that the entire nation salutes the brave soldiers for their sacrifices.

Both leaders prayed for the elevation of the martyrs' ranks in Jannah and for strength and patience for the bereaved families to bear the loss.

Govt extends standalone grocery, kiriyana store timings to 10 PM across week

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Committee for Monitoring and Implementation of Fuel Conservation and Additional Austerity Measures on Wednesday recommended extending the applicability of specific austerity measures until June 30, 2026, besides extending the closing time of standalone grocery and kiriyana stores to 10:00 PM throughout the week.

In a meeting chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, the committee reviewed several cases submitted by various ministries and divisions seeking exemptions from the applicability of certain austerity measures and finalized its recommendations accordingly.

It was decided that consular attestation services at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its liaison offices

in Quetta, Karachi, Peshawar, Gujrat, and Lahore would remain operational on Fridays as well for public facilitation.

The committee recommended extending the applicability period of those additional austerity measures whose expiry date had been notified as June 13, 2026, until June 30, 2026.

It also decided to extend the closing time of standalone grocery and kiriyana stores to 10:00 PM on all days of the week, including Saturdays and Sundays.

The meeting was attended by the ministers for petroleum, climate change, and IT and Telecom, the special assistant to PM (SAPM) on finance, the special assistant to the Deputy Prime Minister (SADPM), the federal secretaries of cabinet, commerce, petroleum, and IT & Telecom, as well as senior officials from the relevant ministries and divisions.

Martyrdom anniversary of Guru Arjan Dev Ji

LAHORE: Sikh pilgrims from India boarding on bus at Wagah Border as they arrived to participate in the 420th martyrdom anniversary of Guru Arjan Dev Ji and the annual Jor Mela celebrations.



Photo: Online

AJK PM chairs security meeting, vows action against mischief-makers

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: A high-level meeting was held under the leadership of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore.

The meeting was attended by government ministers Chaudhry Muhammad Rafiq Nayyar, Syed Bazil Ali Naqvi, Chaudhry Qasim Majeed, Chief Secretary Khushal Khan, Inspector General of Police Liaquat Ali, Principal Secretary Zafar Mahmood Khan, DIGs, SSPs and Commissioner Muzaffarabad Badr Munir.

The meeting discussed issues related to maintaining peace and order in



Azad Jammu and Kashmir, protecting the lives and property of the people and ensuring the security of government properties. Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore directed that force should be used only against mischief-

vous elements.

He said that the common man has nothing to do with this whole matter. The stubbornness, ego and unwise-ness of some elements have brought the situation to this path.

He said that no one in the state can be allowed to work against the basic ideology of Pakistan and the unanimous ideology of Kashmiris to join Pakistan. Such elements have no place in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. He said that the Pakistani army is the protective army of Kashmiris who are there to protect us.

The Inspector General of Police briefed the Prime Minister on the law and order situation he added.

Muzaffarabad Calm Amidst Day Two of Public Action Committee Protest

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Second day of

Public Action Committee's long march and shutter-down protest, complete peace and order maintained in the city.

The long march and shutter-down protest as announced by the Public Action Committee in the city of Muzaffarabad entered its second day. Due to the protest, all the major markets, business centers and small shopkeepers' shops remained closed, which affected the daily wage laborers and the general business community.

On the other hand, citizens expressed solidarity with the protest participants. Citizens also welcomed the forces at various places including the main market and Medina Market and made tea, breakfast and other arrangements for them.

To maintain the law and order

situation, well-equipped contingents of the Azad Kashmir Police were deployed at various places, however, no untoward incident was reported across the city and the situation remained peaceful.

According to further details, the banned protest leadership says that the struggle will continue until the demands are approved, while the administration has appealed to the public to remain peaceful.

Hazara University Hosts Int'l Workshop on Herbarium Techniques

Abdul Waheed Khan

MANSEHRA: Hazara University Mansehra is hosting a three-day international training workshop on "Capacity Building in Modern Herbarium Techniques: Taxonomy and Biodiversity Documentation in Climate Change Research."

Organized by the Botany Department and funded by the Higher Education Commission (HEC), Islamabad, the workshop aims to equip researchers, teachers, and students with advanced herbarium techniques for conserving botanical diversity and identifying plants.

Professor Dr. Muhammad Qaiser, Editor-in-Chief of the "Pakistan Journal of Botany," was the chief guest. The event was attended by university officials, HEC representatives, scholars, and students.

Vice Chancellor Professor Dr.

Ikramullah Khan emphasized the importance of modern herbarium techniques for scientific research and biodiversity conservation, highlighting the workshop's role in fostering international collaboration and enhancing botanical research quality in Pakistan.

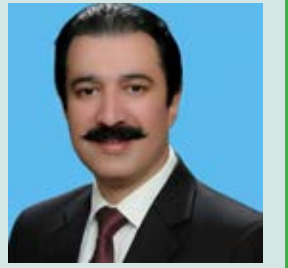


He praised Dr. Alia Gul, the chief organizer, for her efforts in creating an effective research platform. The workshop promotes academic collaboration, experience sharing, and modern research trends, ultimately aiming to improve herbarium management, digitization, and botanical research quality for better biodiversity conservation and scientific advancement.

AJK PM Mourns Army Helicopter Crash Victims

City Desk

MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore has expressed deep sorrow and grief over the tragic accident of a Pakistan Army helicopter. In his special statement, the Prime Minister paid tribute to the martyrs of the Pakistan Army helicopter crash. He expressed condolences to the bereaved families and prayed that Allah Almighty grant the martyrs a place in His mercy.



Three Killed in Kotli Protest Violence, Identities Revealed



Spokesman Report

KOTLI: According to sources three person killed and received the rank of martyr during the demonstration of the Public Action Committee in Kotli have been identified.

The first martyr was Chaudhry Ehtsham Shahpal, the only son of Haji Muhammad Shahpal and an MA English graduate. Shaheed Ehtsham was the nephew of Chaudhry Shahzad (DSP). According to the details He had gone to DHQ Hospital to inquire about the well-being of his uncle, where he was shot and killed.

The other martyr was Dr. Ahsan Salim, who was on the roof of his house when he was shot dead. Dr. Ahsan was the son of renowned banker and senior vice president of National Bank of Pakistan Raja Salim Adil and cousin of Tayyab Aslam. Third notable lady Mrs Uroosa Wakalat who also martyred during action committee protest.

Azad Kashmir Leader Mourns Army Helicopter Crash, Discusses Party Matters



Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir and President of Muslim Conference Sardar Atiq Ahmed Khan, while expressing his heartfelt sorrow over the helicopter crash of the Pakistan Army in Muzaffarabad, paid tribute to the sacrifices of all the martyred soldiers and expressed his condolences to the soldiers and all the survivors for the elevation of their ranks. Meanwhile, President of Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Atiq Ahmed Khan met with leaders of Muslim Conference from America Sardar Zubair Khan, Nadeem Khokhar and others at Mujahid Manzil and discussed the organizational matters of Muslim Conference America and the parliamentary elections of Azad Kashmir.

Middle Powers Pakistan and Australia: Navigating the Indo-Pacific Tightrope

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Masood Khan highlights how middle powers like Pakistan and Australia navigate the shifting Indo-Pacific geopolitical landscape, balancing great power rivalry with the pursuit of autonomy. He notes the Indo-Pacific concept, promoted by countries like Japan and the US, is viewed by China as potentially containing it. Khan contrasts Australia's embeddedness in Western alliances with China ties, and Pakistan's historical balancing act between the US and China. Despite size differences, Pakistan and Australia show growing complementarities in trade, investment, education, and maritime cooperation, with examples in mining, education, and naval initiatives. Khan emphasizes the role of disruptive technologies in shaping global power, creating both dependencies and opportunities for niche specialization among middle powers. He concludes by urging middle powers to diversify partnerships, build economic resilience, invest in technology, and maintain diplomatic flexibility to avoid being solely shaped by great power competition.

RPO Faisalabad, Commissioner Visit Toba Tek Singh to Review Muharram Security Arrangements



Zafar Chishti

FAISALABAD: RPO Faisalabad Sohail Akhtar Sukhera and Commissioner Faisalabad Ms. Musarrat Jabeen visited Toba Tek Singh to review Muharram security and police facilities. They met with local officials and a peace committee, where RPO Sukhera emphasized strict action against provocative social media content and assured full implementation of government directives. They inspected procession routes and Police Lines, where a new gymnasium was inaugurated, and a salute was given to police martyrs. DPO Toba Tek Singh Akhlaq Ullah Tarrar confirmed foolproof security arrangements, including peace committee involvement and social media monitoring.

PAKISTAN AIRPORTS AUTHORITY
Pakistan Airports Authority

INVITATION TO BIDS

Pakistan Airports Authority (PAA) invites sealed bids from eligible Constructors for the following works:

S#	NAME OF WORK	EARNEST MONEY	DATE & TIME OF SUBMISSION	DATE & TIME OF OPENING
01	CONSTRUCTION OF BOUNDARY WALL ALONG PERIMETER OF HYDERABAD AIRPORT	22,000,000/-	08-07-2026 at 11:00 Hrs	08-07-2026 at 11:30 Hrs

Terms & Conditions:

- Licensed Constructors registered with PEC in Category C-3 or above and having valid / active NTN are eligible to participate in the tender for above said works.
- E-Bidding document, containing detailed terms & conditions, specifications and requirements etc. (from pages numbered 83 to 146) is available for download on e-Pak Acquisition and Disposal System (EPADS) at <https://vendors.epads.gov.pk/>.
- Bids must be submitted electronically on PPA's E-PADS v2.0 portal <https://vendors.epads.gov.pk/> as per conditions guidelines provided by PPA from time to time. The bidding shall be conducted in line with the single stage one envelope procedure prescribed under Public Procurement Rules 2004, e-Pak Procurement Regulations, 2023 and any Regulations, Regulatory Guides, Procurement Guidelines or Instructions issued by the PPA (from time to time), and is open to all potential eligible bidders registered in the EPADS v2.0. Those constructors/ Firm who have not yet registered on the new version of EPADS v2.0, may register themselves on <https://vendors.epads.gov.pk/>. A tutorial to explain the registration process is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MNW6T38v7tc>
- Original instrument of Bid Security must be submitted on the date and time of opening of bids, and a scanned copy must be attached to the bid to be submitted on E-PADS v2.0. No bid will be considered if bid security in the shape of pay order / bank draft is not attached with the bid or any false information / document is provided. Bid Security shall be in favour of PAA DEVELOPMENT.
- Conditional tenders will not be acceptable. In case the bidder does not accept the corrected / evaluated amount of bid, their bid will be rejected, and the bid security shall be forfeited. PAA reserves the right to reject any or all bids in accordance with PPA Rule 33.
- Warning: Pay Order / Bank Drafts or any other financial instrument submitted by the 'Bidders' and 'Contractors' as 'Bid Security' and 'Bank Guarantees', if found fake or dishonoured by Issuing Bank / Financial Institution at any Pre- or Post Stage of the case would call for blacklisting and legal action as per law of the land.**

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SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 3:14 am
Zohr 12:07 pm
Asr 5:07 pm
Maghrib 7:18 pm
Isha 9:01 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

Six Netted for Gambling on Cockfight in Hazro

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Police in Hazro conducted a successful raid against illegal gambling activities involving a cockfight, arresting five gamblers and seizing cash worth Rs. 457,000 along with fighting roosters, officials said on Wednesday.

According to details, Hazro Police received a tip-off during routine patrolling that several individuals were engaged in gambling on a cockfight in open fields near Mohalla Bani, close to a local graveyard.

The arrested suspects were identified as Atif Maskin son of Sher Bahadur Khan, Muhammad Waqas Khan son of Muhammad Nisar Khan, Ali Bahadur son of Sher Bahadur Khan, Sher Ali son of Riasat (residents of Hazro), and Muhammad Nawaz son of Jan Muhammad, a resident of Mansehra.

Police recovered a total stake money of Rs. 457,000 along with four fighting roosters from their possession. A case has been registered against the accused, and further investigation is underway.

Authorities reiterated their commitment to continuing strict action against illegal gambling activities in the region.

Joint Anti Smuggling Operation By Pakistan Navy, PMSA and Excise, Taxation & Anti Narcotics Department, Balochistan

Bureau Report

KARACHI: In a joint intelligence-based anti-smuggling operation, Pakistan Navy, Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) and Excise, Taxation & Anti Narcotics Department (South Zone) Balochistan, in coordination with Joint Maritime Information Coordination Centre (JMICC) confiscated a sizeable liquor consignment from Gadani area of Balochistan.

The consignment was being transported from international destinations via sea to Pakistan. The recovered contraband has been handed over to Excise, Taxation & Anti Narcotics Department (South Zone) Balochistan for further legal proceedings. The successful operation underscores



the effectiveness of inter-agency coordination in countering smuggling while highlighting the resolve of Pakistan Navy to deny use of sea for illicit activities.

Purchasing

ISLAMABAD: A woman selecting items at a store in Federal Capital. The Pakistan Federal Budget 2026-27 will be presented on June 12 with a total outlay of roughly Rs. 17.1 trillion.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Lawyers Forum Celebrates Yousaf Raza Gilani's Birthday, Praises His Legacy

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: A ceremony, organized by Sheikh Ghiyas-ul-Haq Advocate, President of the Multan People's Lawyers Forum South Punjab, celebrated the birthday of former Prime Minister Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani. Attendees included PPP South Punjab Senior Vice President Khawaja Rizwan Alam and other party officials. Ghiyas-ul-Haq praised Gilani as a prominent political figure, influential in national politics, Saraiki language, and culture, identifying him with Multan. He highlighted Gilani's character as embodying prudence, dignity, and foresight, noting his distinguished career in top constitutional roles. Ghiyas-ul-Haq credited Gilani's leadership for Multan's modern development,



citing key projects during his premiership in education, communication, health, and infrastructure, including the Head Muhammad Wala Bridge, airport expansion, and Metro Bus. Gilani's advocacy for a Saraiki province was deemed a historic achievement. The forum stressed the importance of revitalizing the PPP under Gilani's leadership for upcoming elections. The attendees cut a cake, offered prayers for his well-being, and pledged continued public service. Gilani was described not just as a politician, but as a symbol of thought, civilization, and hope in Pakistan's democratic history.

The business hours of the fresh flower market should be extended till 11 pm

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Sarfraz Mughal, former president of Traders Welfare Association Supermarket Islamabad, met with officials of Flower Market Association led by Chaudhry Ashraf Fauji, Chaudhry Bilal Aslam and appealed to the district administration Islamabad and the government to open the busi-

ness hours of the fresh flower market at 11 pm instead of 9 pm. To be set up. He said that fresh flowers are a very sensitive and perishable commodity. Traders face difficulties in preserving flowers and selling them in time due to extreme heat and weather effects. Due to the current working hours, the business community is forced to bear financial loss while large quantities of

fresh flowers are wasted. Sarfraz Mughal said that the demand for flowers for weddings, events, public and private events and other occasions usually lasts till late night, so the extension of business hours by two hours will not only bring convenience to traders but also customers will be able to fulfill their needs in a better way. He demanded the district adminis-



tration and concerned authorities to issue a notification to extend the business hours till 11 pm keeping in view the nature of fresh flower market so as to protect the economic interests of the traders and reduce wastage of fresh flowers.

UMT Hosts Two-Day International Conference on Healthcare Challenges and Innovations 2026

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The University of Management and Technology (UMT), through its School of Pharmacy, organized a two-day International Conference titled "Healthcare Challenges and Innovations 2026", bringing together a large number of national and international healthcare experts, researchers, policymakers, industry representatives, academicians and students. The conference aimed to promote research, innovation and collaborative efforts in the fields of healthcare and pharmacy.

The conference was graced by the special participation of Rector UMT, Air Vice Marshal (R) Dr. Asif Raza, while Vice Rector UMT Dr. Ejaz Cheema was also present. Dean, School of Pharmacy, Dr. Waqar Aman, welcomed the participants and highlighted the objectives and significance of the conference.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Asif Raza emphasized that the role of emerging technologies and artificial intelligence in healthcare systems is expanding rapidly, making effective policy formulation essential to address future healthcare challenges. He said that UMT is continuously strengthening its global collaborations to promote research, innovation and social development, thereby facilitating the adoption of modern trends and effective solutions in the healthcare sector.

During the conference, experts held extensive discussions on public health challenges and their innovative solutions, digital health, pharmacy practice, pharmaceutical research and emerging medical trends. Speakers noted that the conference would open new avenues for the advancement of digital health and pharmaceutical research in Pakistan.

Rector UMT Dr. Asif Raza presented commemorative souvenirs to distinguished guests and speakers in recognition of their valuable contributions.

CM Punjab grieves over Army helicopter crash near Muzaffarabad

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Wednesday expressed grief over the crash of an Army MI-17 helicopter near Muzaffarabad, reportedly caused by a technical fault.

The chief minister paid tribute to the personnel who embraced martyrdom in the helicopter crash and extended her heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the bereaved families.

CM Punjab said the sacrifices rendered by the martyrs would always be remembered and honoured.

10 dead as tourist van catches fire on Murree Expressway



Imran Satti

ISLAMABAD: At least 10 tourists were killed and 13 others injured after a passenger van caught fire near Khajot on the Murree Expressway on Wednesday.

According to a spokesperson for the Motorway Police, a large contingent of police personnel and officials from the Murree administration reached the scene immediately after receiving reports of the incident. Rescue 1122 teams were also dispatched and are continuing relief operations.

Rescue officials said efforts are underway to gather details of the deceased and injured passengers.

Those injured are being provided initial medical treatment before being shifted to PIMS Hospital for further care.

Authorities have launched an investigation to determine the cause of the fire, while rescue operations remain ongoing.

Pakistan Peoples Party Leaders Condemn Murree Accident, Pray for Victims

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Chairman Senate of Pakistan Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, President of Pakistan Peoples Party South Punjab and former Governor Punjab Makhdoom Syed Ahmed Mahmood, Senior Vice President South Punjab Khawaja Rizwan Alam, Chief Coordinator South Punjab Abdul Qadir Shaheen, City President Malik Naseem Hussain Labar, District General Secretary Rao Sajid Ali, City General Secretary AD Khan Baloch, Divisional Vice President Aftab Ali Khan Babar, City Secretary Information Khawaja Imran, Malik Iftikhar Ali expressed deep sorrow over the accident in which a passenger van caught fire in Murree. Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and others prayed for the highest ranks for those who died in the accident, the speedy recovery of the injured, and patience for the bereaved families and said in a condolence statement that we stand with the affected families in this difficult time.

UC secretary arrested for bribe by Anti corruption establishment at Toba Tek Singh

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) Toba Tek Singh arrested Naem, Secretary of Union Council Choharwala, for allegedly accepting a Rs. 100,000 bribe. The operation, supervised by Civil Judge Al-Basit Mudassar and led by Circle Officer Hafiz Farooq Saeed, followed a complaint by citizen Muhammad Tariq. The accused was apprehended red-handed at a private hotel with the marked bribe money. Further investigation is ongoing, and a case is being registered. ACE reiterated its commitment to combating corruption and urged citizens to report bribery incidents.



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Apache Down, Peace Deal Up?

The reported downing of a U. S. Apache attack helicopter over the Persian Gulf has emerged as one of the most consequential developments since the ceasefire and diplomatic process began following Pakistan's mediation efforts earlier this year. More than the loss of a sophisticated military platform, the incident has exposed the increasingly complex realities confronting all parties involved in the conflict. It has highlighted Iran's continuing ability to resist militarily, demonstrated the vulnerability of even the most advanced weapons systems, and intensified the pressure on policymakers in Washington to decide whether the future lies in diplomacy or escalation.

President Trump responded by stating that the United States would have to respond to the attack. Yet the challenge confronting Washington extends far beyond retaliation. The United States now finds itself caught between competing strategic realities. On one hand, it seeks to maintain deterrence and demonstrate military credibility. On the other hand, it is increasingly aware that further escalation could jeopardize broader diplomatic objectives and drag the region into an even more dangerous confrontation.

What makes the current moment particularly significant is that it comes while Washington is actively attempting to pursue a negotiated settlement with Iran. At the same time, Israel continues to pursue military operations that increasingly appear to diverge from American priorities.

This divergence has become espe-

cially visible in Lebanon. President Trump has reportedly expressed frustration over continued military operations that risk undermining the fragile diplomatic process. Iran has repeatedly insisted that any lasting agreement must include an end to hostilities in Lebanon and the withdrawal of Israeli forces from disputed areas. From Tehran's perspective, regional peace cannot be divided into separate compartments. The future of Lebanon, Gaza, and broader Middle Eastern security are interconnected components of the same strategic equation.

The result is that President Trump faces growing pressure from every direction. Within the United States, ordinary citizens are increasingly concerned about rising fuel prices, inflation, supply chain disruptions, and economic uncertainty. What was originally presented as a campaign designed to pressure Iran is increasingly imposing costs on American households. Higher energy prices, transportation expenses, and business uncertainty have transformed a distant conflict into a domestic political challenge.

Members of Congress, political commentators, and policy experts are also questioning the long-term objectives of the conflict. Many argue that the war lacks a clearly defined strategic end state and risks becoming another open-ended military engagement in the Middle East. The growing skepticism reflects a broader public mood that increasingly favors diplomacy over military escalation.

Compounding these pressures is the approaching 2026 FIFA World Cup. The tournament will be unprecedented in scale and significance. For the first time in history, three countries—the United States, Canada, and Mexico—will jointly host the world's largest sporting event. Organizers hope the tournament will showcase not only football but also the technological, cultural, and organizational capabilities of North America.

For President Trump, therefore, securing a diplomatic breakthrough before the World Cup begins carries substantial political and strategic value. Such an achievement would allow him to claim that his administration prevented a wider regional war, restored stability to energy markets, and removed a significant geopolitical risk before one of the most watched sporting events in human history.

Against this backdrop, the reported loss of the Apache helicopter creates several possible paths forward. The first possibility is restraint. Washington could avoid a major military response and instead accelerate diplomatic engagement. Such a strategy would prioritize negotiations and attempt to transform the incident into an opportunity for renewed diplomacy.

The second possibility is escalation. The United States could conclude that failure to respond decisively would weaken deterrence and encourage further attacks. Under this scenario,

Washington could expand military operations, potentially triggering a broader regional confrontation involving multiple actors.

The third possibility is a calibrated response. The United States could conduct limited military actions intended to restore deterrence while avoiding a full-scale escalation. Such an approach would seek to balance military credibility with diplomatic flexibility.

Of these options, the third appears the most practical. It would allow Washington to respond to the incident without completely abandoning the possibility of a negotiated settlement. Yet even this approach carries risks, particularly if miscalculations trigger unintended consequences.

The most effective path forward may be for Washington to clearly and publicly define its interests independently from Israel's broader regional agenda. The United States could state unambiguously that its objectives are limited to regional stability, freedom of navigation, economic security, and the protection of American interests. By dissociating itself from any broader regional ambitions pursued by Israel, Washington could fundamentally transform the diplomatic landscape.

Such a move would immediately create space for direct negotiations between the United States and Iran. For decades, efforts at reconciliation have repeatedly collapsed under the weight of regional crises and competing agendas. A clear declaration that Washington seeks neither regime change nor participation in wider regional rivalries could remove

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Analysis

Qamar Bashir

Pakistan-China Joint Research Centre Inaugurated

The China-Pakistan Joint Research Centre was inaugurated today at Shenyang University of Chemical Technology (SYUCT), Liaoning Province of China. The inauguration ceremony was attended by H. E. Khalil Hashmi, Ambassador of Pakistan to China, together with Prof. Xu Guangwen, Member of the Standing Committee of the Liaoning Provincial People's Congress, and Prof. Qin Gaowu, President of SYUCT.

The establishment of this centre marks an important milestone in Pakistan-China cooperation in research, science, technology, and higher education, coinciding with the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The Centre is the outcome of an initiative undertaken last year by the leadership of Liaoning Province and Ambassador Khalil Hashmi. Following the signing of a Document of Understanding between the Embassy of Pakistan and SYUCT in June 2025, a cooperation agreement was concluded separately with three leading Pakistani institutions- Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences (PIEAS), Islamabad, NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi, and University of Engineering and Technology, Peshawar to establish a framework for academic, scientific, and technological research collaboration.

In his welcome remarks, President Qin Gaowu highlighted the enduring Pakistan-China friendship and noted that the Centre is the first China-Pakistan joint research platform established at a local Chinese university. He expressed confidence over promotion of scientific innovation, talent development, and people-to-people exchanges while contributing to sustainable development in both countries.

Speaking at the ceremony, Ambassador Khalil Hashmi commended SYUCT's achievements in research and innovation, including its advances in green technologies, and its success in the Dual Carbon Competition 2025. He emphasized that the Centre would serve as a bridge linking academia, technology, and industry, while fostering knowledge-sharing, skills development, and joint research between Pakistan and China.

Reaffirming the Embassy's full support for the initiative, the Ambassador underscored Pakistan's commitment to strengthening scientific, educational, and technological cooperation with SYUCT, Shenyang City, and Liaoning Province. The establishment of the China-Pakistan Joint Research Centre opens a new chapter in Pakistan-China collaboration and reflects the shared commitment of both countries to advancing innovation, research excellence, and sustainable development. Leaders and representatives of Pakistani partner Universities also participated in the Inauguration ceremony. It was also attended by university professors, international students including four from Pakistan.

De-Dollarization and the Rise of a Multipolar Economic Order

Muhammad Arfa

When Saudi Arabia held discussions with Beijing about pricing a portion of its oil exports in Chinese yuan, the financial world took notice, not because the deal upended global markets overnight, but because of what it signalled. For decades, the petrodollar arrangement had been one of the most durable pillars of American economic supremacy. The very suggestion of its erosion revealed how profoundly the geopolitical foundations of global finance are shifting.

De-dollarization is no longer a fringe hypothesis. It is an active policy consideration in Moscow, Beijing, Riyadh, New Delhi, and dozens of capitals across the Global South. The question is no longer whether the world will seek alternatives to dollar dominance, but how far, how fast, and with what consequences.

The Dollar-Centred Global Order

Since the Bretton Woods conference of 1944, and more decisively since Nixon's suspension of dollar-gold convertibility in 1971, the US dollar has served as the world's primary reserve currency, the default medium for international trade, and the anchor of the global financial system. This arrangement granted Washington what French economist Valéry Giscard d'Estaing famously called an "exorbitant privilege", the ability to borrow cheaply, run persistent trade deficits, and export its monetary policy to the rest of the world. De-dollarization is the deliberate effort to dismantle that dependency, through bilateral currency agreements, reserve diversification, alternatives to SWIFT, and regional financial institutions that bypass American oversight.

Why Countries Are Seeking Alternatives

The single most powerful driver of this shift has been Washington's willingness to weaponize the dollar. When the US and its allies froze approximately \$300 billion in Russian central bank assets following the Ukraine invasion in 2022, the message to every

government holding dollar reserves was unmistakable: those assets are only yours until Washington decides otherwise. For states that do not share American foreign policy preferences, the episode forced a fundamental reassessment of financial strategy.

China adds a structural dimension to this shift. As the world's largest trading nation, Beijing has both the motive and the means to promote yuan internationalisation. The Cross-Border Interbank Payment System (CIPS), its partial alternative to SWIFT, continues to expand. Beyond China, countries across Africa, Latin America, and Asia are pursuing what policymakers call "strategic autonomy", reducing the vulnerability that dollar dependency places in Washington's hands.

BRICS And Currency Diversification

The BRICS grouping, expanded to include Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Egypt, Iran, and Ethiopia, has become the most prominent forum for de-dollarization. While a single BRICS currency remains elusive due to internal divisions, the bloc's growth is symbolically significant, representing states that collectively hold a substantial share of global GDP and energy resources. ASEAN nations are exploring local currency settlement frameworks, India has pursued rupee-based trade with Russia, and Gulf states are examining alternatives to dollar energy pricing. Together, these initiatives represent a sustained effort to build infrastructure for a less dollar-dependent trading environment.

Can The Dollar Be Replaced?

Intellectual honesty demands caution here. The dollar's dominance is not merely a product of American power, it is a product of American institutions. The depth of US capital markets, the rule of law governing dollar contracts, and the sheer scale of existing dollar infrastructure make rapid transition extraordinarily difficult. The Chinese yuan faces significant structural barriers: capital controls restrict free cross-border flows, and global confidence in Beijing's regulatory consistency remains far lower than trust in American financial institutions. The

dollar still accounts for roughly 58 to 60 percent of global foreign exchange reserves. No alternative is remotely positioned to replicate its functions in the near term. De-dollarization is better understood as gradual dilution not replacement.

Implications For Pakistan And The Global South

For Pakistan, the stakes are immediate. External debt, IMF conditionalities, energy import bills, and access to global capital all run through dollar-based systems. This dependency limits policy space and transmits Federal Reserve interest rate decisions directly into domestic economic pain. Regional currency arrangements, under CPEC frameworks, with Gulf partners, or through expanded Special Drawing Rights, could reduce this exposure. Yet the risks of premature decoupling are equally real: higher transaction costs, reduced capital market access, and complicated trade financing. The prudent course is diversification rather than decoupling, building capacity to operate within multiple currency systems without abandoning dollar channels that remain, for now, indispensable. The broader Global South faces the same calculus.

Towards a Multipolar Economic Future

What is unfolding is not a revolution but a rebalancing. The dollar will not be dethroned by a single summit or currency announcement. It will be gradually flanked, by expanding yuan internationalisation, regional payment corridors, and the political resolve of states determined to reduce their vulnerability to a unipolar financial order. For seventy years, dollar dominance was underpinned by American hegemony. What is emerging in its place is genuine multipolarity: messier, more contested, but arguably more honest about the actual distribution of global economic weight.

The dollar's throne is not empty. But for the first time in generations, the world is seriously debating who else might sit at the table.

The writer is student at National Defense University Islamabad

Climate Inequality: Why the Global South Pays the Highest Price

The rain just would not stop and neither did the losses. In 2022, when floods swallowed up a lot of Pakistan it wasn't the water that rose. It was also a memorial of how unstable the world really is. 33 million people were affected and the damages were over \$30 billion. This is according to the World Bank and the Government of Pakistan. But then the verity that makes us uncomfortable Pakistan is responsible for less than one percent of the global emissions. This is where the real story thresholds. Not with climate change but with inequality.

We frequently hear that climate change is a problem that we all share, just because we partake in it doesn't mean we're all affected inversely. Some countries got rich from decades of growing their diligence using fossil energies. Now other countries are dealing with floods, droughts and economic problems. Without getting to enjoy the same benefits. This is not an accident. It is how the global system has worked for a time.

This is the divide the world can no longer ignore. The countries that did the least to cause the problem are now the ones on the lines of the crisis. The IPCC says that rich countries are responsible for most of the emissions in the past while poor countries only contributed a little. When disasters happen it is the poor countries that suffer more. And they take longer to recover. This reflects structural asymmetries in the global

economic order.

What happened in Pakistan was more than a disaster, it was a warning. The floods in 2022 were not just bad for the environment. They also caused an economic problem that affected the whole country. Agriculture was destroyed in areas, roads and buildings were damaged and millions of people were pushed closer to poverty. The World Bank says that up to 9 million people could become poor because of this. It is not easy for a country to recover when it is already dealing with debt, inflation and not having enough money.

And Pakistan is not alone in this struggle. And that makes it even more alarming. Bangladesh is still dealing with rising sea levels and small island countries like the Maldives are in danger of losing their coastlines. These countries have to spend what money they have on just surviving. Building walls to protect themselves moves people to safer areas. Instead of investing in things that will help them grow in the long term. It is a cycle where they are always dealing with a crisis and never getting to develop.

Then comes the question that matters the most, who will help, and how it will happen? This is where effects get complicated. Rich countries have promised to give \$100 billion every time to help with climate change. They've not always kept their pledges and a lot of the money they do give is in the form of loans, not gifts. This is according to the OECD reports.

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

Russia-Day

President Zardari describes Moscow trusted partner, important global power for bilateral deeper cooperation

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening its partnership with Russia, describing Moscow as a trusted partner and an important global power with whom Islamabad seeks deeper cooperation in diverse fields.

Addressing a reception held to mark the National Day of the Russian Federation, President Zardari extended warm congratulations to Russian President Vladimir Putin, Russian Ambassador Albert P. Khorev and the people of Russia on behalf of the government and people of Pakistan.

The president said the National Day reflected Russia's national independence, rich history and the enduring spirit of its people.

Recalling his visit to Russia in 2011, President Zardari acknowledged President Putin's role in bringing the two countries closer and fostering a relationship based on mutual respect, trust and shared interests.

He said Pakistan and Russia had steadily expanded bilateral engagement over the years, adding that the foundations of the relationship were strengthened by the vision and statesmanship of former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who played a key role in developing ties with the former Soviet Union.

President Zardari said the legacy of engagement was later carried forward by former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, whose leadership helped renew cooperation during a period of major global change.

He noted that the tradition of engagement was further advanced by Bilawal Bhutto Zardari during his tenure as Pakistan's foreign minister through active diplomatic outreach.

Highlighting the positive trajectory of bilateral relations, President Zardari said regular interactions between ministers and senior officials reflected growing momentum in Pakistan-Russia ties. Referring to remarks by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov earlier this year, he noted that the current period represented the most positive phase in Pakistan-Russia relations in many decades.

The president said Pakistan valued Russia as a global power and shared with it a commitment to sovereign equality, dialogue and amplifying the



voice of the Global South in international affairs.

He said cooperation between the two countries continued to expand in key sectors including energy, industry, agriculture and education, creating new

opportunities for economic collaboration and people-to-people contacts.

President Zardari also highlighted educational exchanges, noting that nearly 1,300 Pakistani students were currently studying in Russia, many



He also lauded Pakistan's balanced and neutral stance on Russia-Ukraine War.

He added that the continued engagement between the two countries needed to be promoted further through enhanced people to people ties. He wished stronger and propitious Russia-Pakistan relations.

Earlier, a cultural fashion walk was held by Russian Artists attired in traditional vibrant dresses representing different regions, cultures and traditions of the Federation.

A traditional Russian dance performance was also presented by Russian artists that charged the environment with spirit of jubilation.

A Russian song was also played that made event participants pulled their cellphones to capture the melody in their cellphones as a cherishing memory.

A special sword dance performance by pairs of Russian soldiers attired in traditional uniforms was also presented that gathered great attention of the audience.

A special documentary highlighting the scenic views of Moscow city was also presented that showcased skyscrapers, cultural buildings highlighting the diverse and thriving cultural diversity of the Russian Federation.

on Russian scholarships, serving as a bridge between the two societies.

Expressing optimism about the future of bilateral ties, he said Pakistan looked forward to sustained high-level engagement to enhance economic cooperation and unlock the full potential of Pakistan-Russia relations.

"As we celebrate this occasion, I reaffirm Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening this important partnership for the benefit of our peoples and for peace, stability and prosperity in our region and beyond," the president said.

He expressed the hope that the Russian Federation would continue

to prosper and that the bonds of friendship between Pakistan and Russia would grow even stronger in the years ahead.

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation, Albert Khorev expressed condolences on the M-17 helicopter crash of Pakistan Army.

He highlighted the significance of Russia's National Day as the commemoration of Russian vision and resilience.

He underlined that the Russian President had called 2026, the year of unity of the people of Russia and its strength that lies in multilateral cooperation.

Two-Day Int'l exhibition, seminar on herbal medicines concludes

City Desk

The two-day International Exhibition and Seminar on Herbal Medicines Research, Processing and Drug Development concluded at the COMSTECH Secretariat in Islamabad.

The event was organized by the Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the OIC (COMSTECH) in collaboration with the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP).

The exhibition and seminar aimed to bring together regulators, policymakers, researchers, practitioners, academicians, industry representatives, scientists, pharmacists and students to discuss emerging trends, regulatory frameworks, research opportunities and future directions for the herbal, Unani, homeopathic and traditional

medicine sectors.

Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Syed Mustafa Kamal inaugurated the event as chief guest. Ambassadors and diplomats from several OIC member states participated in the seminar and visited the exhibition, which featured products and innovations from Pakistan's leading herbal and traditional medicine manufacturers.

The two-day programme featured technical presentations by senior experts and regulators. DRAP Chief Executive Officer Dr. Obaidullah discussed the role of alternative medicines in healthcare systems. The President of the National Tibb Council spoke on the integration of Unani medicine into national healthcare frameworks, while Dr. Abdul Rashid, Consultant (Health Initiatives)

at COMSTECH, presented emerging guidelines and regulatory considerations relating to clinical trials of herbal products, alternative medicines and Traditional Chinese Medicine.

Representatives of participating companies also addressed the gathering, introducing their organizations and highlighting key products developed for the treatment and management of various diseases.

The event provided a platform for dialogue among stakeholders and contributed to the development of short-, medium- and long-term policy recommendations aimed at strengthening Pakistan's herbal and traditional medicine sector. Discussions also supported ongoing efforts towards the documentation and standardization of herbal medicines and the development of a comprehensive Herbal Pharma-



copoeia for Pakistan.

More than 50 manufacturers representing the herbal, Unani,

homeopathic and traditional medicine industries participated in the exhibition. Prominent organizations, including Qarshi Industries, Marhaba Laboratories, Hamdard Laboratories, Herbion, Herbotics, Nutrifactor, Hemani, Kamal Laboratories, Ashraf Laboratories, Mint Pharmaceuticals and Masood Homeopathic Laboratories, showcased their products, research initiatives and technological advancements through dedicated exhibition stalls.

The exhibition and seminar formed part of COMSTECH's broader efforts to promote evidence-based traditional medicine, foster industry-academia collaboration, strengthen regulatory frameworks and enhance international cooperation among OIC member states in health sciences and pharmaceutical innovation.



Bureau Report

HYDERABAD: Nutrition

International organized an awareness and orientation session on Salt Iodization and

Food Fortification for Lady Health Supervisors at the District Health Office (DHO)

Hyderabad Health Supervisors Trained on Salt Iodization and Food Fortification

in Hyderabad. The session aimed to enhance participants' understanding of how iodized salt and fortified staple foods help prevent micronutrient deficiencies and improve public health. Participants learned about the health advantages of iodized salt and the fortification of edible oil/ ghee with Vitamins A and D, and wheat flour with Iron, Folic Acid, Vitamin B12, and Zinc. The discussions underscored the vital role of these micronutrients in combating malnutrition, promoting healthy growth and development in chil-

dren, boosting immunity, and improving overall health. Mr. Zain Ul Abidin, Zonal Manager for Nutrition International in Hyderabad, noted that deficiencies in these micronutrients are major public health issues in Pakistan. He reminded participants that food fortification regulations legally mandate all salt processors to produce and sell adequately iodized salt. He also stated that regulatory bodies like the Sindh Food Authority are tasked with enforcing these requirements and penalizing non-compliant manufacturers.

He urged the public to opt for fortified and iodized food products for their health. Mr. Pir Ghulam Hussain, District Health Officer (DHO) of Hyderabad, highlighted the severe health consequences of iodine deficiency, such as goiter, developmental impairments, and learning difficulties. He encouraged Lady Health Supervisors to spread awareness in communities, promoting the use of adequately iodized salt and discouraging non-iodized salt. Dr. Abdullah Nizamani, Focal Person at DHO Hyderabad, also emphasized the need

for community-level awareness and asked participants to communicate key messages about salt iodization and food fortification to families.

He pointed out that informed consumer choices are crucial for reducing micronutrient deficiencies and enhancing public health indicators. The session concluded with participants pledging to promote the use of iodized salt and fortified foods in households, thereby contributing to efforts to combat hidden hunger and micronutrient deficiencies within the community.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
169,427.44	170,330.56	
Day's High	Day's Low	
170,729.57	169,346.38	
Index Value	Change	
13,920,801,269	-903.12	
Percentage	Time	
-0.53%	10 Jun, 2026 4:30 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
10,254.81	+27.48	
Percentage	Time	
+0.27%	10 Jun, 4:35 pm GMT+1	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
50,220.47	-651.64	
Percentage	Time	
-1.28%	10 Jun, 1:28 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
64,179.27	-1,237.3	
Percentage	Time	
-1.89%	10 Jun, 3:45 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	194.24	199.65
Bahrain Dinar	735.32	745.90
Canadian Dollar	198.08	203.65
China Yuan	38.05	38.80
Danish Krone	43.39	43.79
Euro	321.81	325.81
Hong Kong Dollar	35.01	36.01
Indian Rupee	2.75	3.05
Japanese Yen	1.7218	1.8209
Kuwaiti Dinar	885.70	895.99
Malaysian Ringgit	67.18	67.88
New Zealand \$	159.99	164.95
Norwegians Krone	27.88	28.18
Omani Riyal	719.22	730.32
Qatari Riyal	74.90	76.25
Saudi Riyal	74.13	74.75
Singapore Dollar	214.68	219.75
Swedish Korona	30.27	30.57
Swiss Franc	346.03	351.85
Thai Bhat	8.50	8.70
U.A.E Dirham	75.75	76.75
UK Pound Sterling	373.07	377.60
US Dollar	278.25	279.40

Punjab Launches 'She Threads' to Empower Rural Women Through Textile Skills

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Punjab government has expanded efforts to promote women's economic empowerment through the "She Threads" initiative, a skills development programme aimed at equipping rural women with marketable expertise in the textile sector.

Launched under the vision of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the programme has been allocated a budget of Rs310 million and provides a monthly stipend of Rs15,000 along with a transport allowance for participants.

Rural women aged between 18 and 45 years with at least a middle-school education are eligible to enrol in the programme, which is currently being implemented in Lahore, Sialkot, Sheikhupura and Faisalabad.

Secretary Women Development Department Saman Rai said the initiative aims to increase women's participation in the workforce by providing specialised training in



various segments of the textile industry. The programme offers courses in industrial stitching machine operation, fabric quality inspection, fabric cutting, apparel planning and merchandising, apparel supervision, pattern making and cutting, quality control, garment finishing and related fields.

More than 2,500 women have completed training under the initiative over the past two years, while 773 trainees secured employment after graduation. Another 1,150 women are currently undergoing training, with plans to train an additional 1,350 women during the next phase.

CM Punjab said empowering women through skills and employment opportunities remained a key component of the government's development agenda, adding that the textile sector offered significant prospects for skilled female workers.

The initiative is part of broader provincial efforts to enhance financial inclusion and improve employment opportunities for women in rural communities.

Singing ceremony

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, and Animal Husbandry Commissioner Dr. Syed Murtaza Hassan Andrabi signing the Material Transfer Agreement on buffalo genetic resources with the Royal Group of China on Wednesday.



Photo: Online

FCEPL and UCP call for safe dairy and nutrition systems on World Milk Day & Food Safety Day 2026

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: FrieslandCampina Engro Pakistan, in partnership with the University of Central Punjab, hosted an event to celebrate World Milk Day and Food Safety Day 2026. Themed "Strengthening Dairy Food Safety in Pakistan," the dialogue emphasized the necessity of formalizing the dairy sector and robust supply chains to ensure safe, nutritious, and consistent dairy products. Industry leaders highlighted the critical role of packaged milk in food security, assuring quality and nutritional integrity. Government officials underscored the importance of policy alignment to combat food adulteration. The event addressed misconceptions about packaged milk, noting that 92% of Pakistan's milk market is unregulated and potentially unsafe. With high rates of childhood malnutrition, building public trust in treated, packaged milk and educating consumers about the risks of



loose milk are crucial for improving nutritional outcomes in Pakistan. Policy recommendations were made to strengthen safe dairy systems.

Lakhani Calls for Business-Centric Budget 2026-27: Focus on Growth, Not Just Revenue

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Hanif Lakhani, former Vice President of FPCCI and former Senior Vice President of KCCI, urges the government to integrate recommendations from trade associations and chambers of commerce into the Federal Budget 2026-27.

He advocates for a budget focused on sustainable economic growth, not just revenue and stability. Lakhani



stresses the need for a simplified, business-friendly tax system and practical support for the business community.

He calls for affordable energy for the industrial sector to reduce production costs and achieve export targets, emphasizing that lower business costs enhance export competitiveness.

Instead of new taxes, he proposes expanding the tax net and formalizing the undocumented economy, along with

reviewing customs duties to lower import costs for raw materials and machinery. Lakhani suggests special incentives for IT, agriculture, construction, and export-oriented sectors for accelerated growth. He acknowledges the challenge of expanding the tax net for the FBR but expresses confidence in achieving this goal under the current Chairman, which would also ease the burden on existing taxpayers.

Bank Alfalah backs Squash Development Project to help restore Pakistan's sporting legacy



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Bank Alfalah has partnered with the BARD Foundation through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to significantly contribute to the revival of squash in Pakistan. The bank will provide PKR 50 million in sponsorship to the BARD Squash Complex, a new facility designed to nurture future national and international squash champions.

This initiative aims to encourage youth development, provide structured training, host tournaments, and foster community engagement to strengthen Pakistan's squash ecosystem. Both organizations share

a commitment to sports development and empowering young athletes.

Atif Bajwa, CEO of Bank Alfalah, emphasized the crucial role of the private sector in sports development, expressing excitement about the partnership. Abdul Razak Dawood, President of the BARD Foundation, highlighted the importance of collaboration between private, public, and non-profit sectors for sports advancement.

Bank Alfalah will receive naming rights to the All-Glass Championship Court and prominent branding within the complex as part of the agreement, which takes effect immediately.

Lake City Meadows Marks Historic Milestone with Handover of Phase 1 Extension



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Lake City Meadows, formerly State Life Corporate Housing Society, celebrated a significant milestone by handing over Phase 1 Extension plots to clients in Lahore on June 10, 2026.

This marks a transition to tangible delivery after extensive development. The ceremony, attended by NAB Chairman Lt. Gen. (R) Nazir Ahmed Butt and other dignitaries, emphasized transparency and responsible development in Pakistan's real estate sector.

The handover signifies the realization of plot owners'

dreams and the beginning of a new community. Major infrastructure works, including utilities and roads, are nearing completion.

The consortium, comprising Maksons, Lake City, Union Developers, Technical Associates Pakistan, and Fatima Group, reaffirmed its commitment to quality and sustainable development.

This handover restores confidence and signifies the creation of a modern, well-planned community. Residents can now begin construction, with ongoing development ensuring a structured approach.

TCL Scores Big This FIFA World Cup Season, Offering Exclusive Discounts on TVs & Acs

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: TCL, Pakistan's No.1 LED TV Brand, has announced its exciting new campaign "Big Matches, Big Savings" to celebrate the FIFA World Cup 2026. The campaign aims to bring football fans closer to the action while offering great value on TCL's premium products, including discounts of up to 15%. Running from June 10 to July 20, 2026, this limited-time campaign gives customers the perfect opportunity to upgrade their home entertainment experience during the world's biggest football event.

In addition, TCL is offering amazing discounts on its premium air conditioner range, including SaveIN, FreshIN, and BreezeIN models, helping customers stay cool and comfortable while enjoying the matches at home, perfectly designed to handle Pakistan's intense summer heat and changing weather conditions.

Pakistan Furniture Council Eyes Saudi Market Expansion

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan Furniture Council delegation led by CEO Mian Kashif Ashfaq, (Tamgha-I-Imtiaz) on 3-day visit Wednesday left for, Saudi Arabia to explore marketing and export avenues and potential joint ventures with Saudi counterparts.

In a statement prior to his departure, he said this initiative aims to strengthen bilateral trade relations and enhance the presence of Pakistani furniture in the Middle Eastern market. He emphasized the importance of collaboration between the two countries to boost economic growth and exchange innovative ideas in design and manufacturing. He said delegation will meet with key stakeholders and industry leaders to discuss strategies for mutual benefit, showcasing Pakistan's diverse furniture offerings and craftsmanship.

Pakistan Post unveils special blue pottery stamp series to celebrate cultural heritage

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Post has launched a special set of three commemorative postage stamps and a souvenir sheet to honor the nation's cherished Blue Pottery handicraft, coinciding with World Handicrafts Day. This initiative aims to celebrate Pakistan's rich artistic heritage and pay homage to the artisans who have preserved this centuries-old craft, particularly associated with Multan. The launch ceremony was attended by Secretary Ministry of Communications Ali Sher Mehsud and former Federal Secretary Captain (Retd) Usman Ali Isani. Both officials emphasized the importance of safeguarding and promoting traditional handicrafts and cultural heritage. They commended Pakistan Post for its efforts in showcasing the nation's history, art, and culture through philatelic initiatives. The stamps, designed by young artist



Abu Ubaidah Ayaz, blend traditional Blue Pottery motifs with contemporary aesthetics. In addition to the stamps and souvenir sheet, Pakistan Post also released a First Day Cover, a philatelic booklet, and commemorative cancellation stamps. These materials are intended to raise awareness about the preservation of traditional arts and crafts and



promote Pakistan's cultural heritage both domestically and internationally. The commemorative items are now available at selected post offices and philatelic

bureaus. The event concluded with a reinforced commitment to preserving and promoting Pakistan's artistic legacy for future generations.

HEC Chairman Launches Forum of Vice Chancellors of Twin Cities

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman, Higher Education Commission (HEC) Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmed Akhtar officially launched the inaugural session of the Vice Chancellors Forum for the Islamabad-Rawalpindi twin cities, hosted by the University of Rawalpindi.

The first gathering brought together leadership from more than 25 universities in the region, creating a significant platform for dialogue, collaboration, and the exchange of ideas. In his message, the HEC Chairman emphasized that such platforms help higher education institutions move beyond isolated efforts, allowing them to work collectively to strengthen academic quality, promote a vibrant research culture, and respond effectively to emerging



challenges in the sector. The Chairman expressed appreciation for the initiative and acknowledged the active participation of Vice

Chancellors, Rectors, and Presidents from the twin cities. He specially recognized Mr. Murtaza Noor, National Coordinator, IUCPSS, for his role in making the forum possible as a follow-up to the recommendations of the recent 6th International Students Convention & Expo, which was successfully organized in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission.

The Chairman further expressed his hope that the Vice Chancellors Forum will continue as a regular platform for meaningful engagement, institutional cooperation, and academic advancement in the region.

The Chairman and Vice Chancellors extended thanks to Chairman BOG University of Rawalpindi Dr. Muhammad Abu Bakar for hosting the event.

Shifa International Hospitals Earns Prestigious JCI Academic Medical Center Accreditation

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Shifa International Hospitals Limited achieved Joint Commission International (JCI) accreditation as an "Academic Medical Center," a prestigious designation held by fewer than 70 institutions globally. This signifies Pakistan's advancement in healthcare, with Shifa and Aga Khan University Hospital now operating at this elite international level. The accreditation confirms Shifa's world-class clinical care, rigorous medical education, and advanced research, all meeting the highest quality and safety standards. This achievement positions Pakistan as a regional leader and active contributor to global medicine, ensuring patients receive internationally validated care and future medical professionals are trained in an environment of academic rigor. It symbolizes Pakistan's capability to achieve world-class healthcare standards domestically, fostering the exchange of medical innovation and raising the bar for healthcare institutions in the region.

'Agri Research Farm' showcases high-yield crops, sustainable farming solutions; says DG Agri

Rafiullah Mandokhel

ZHOB: Director General of Agricultural Research Balochistan, Dr. Qasim Kakar visited the Agricultural Research Farm here in Zhub along the Quetta national highway. Upon his arrival he was welcomed by Director Maqbool Ahmed Shahwani, Abdul Haleem, Research Officers Muhammad Akram, Atta-ur-Rehman, Abdul Shakoor and other officials. During the visit, Dr. Qasim was briefed on the ongoing research, development, and extension activities at the farm.



Agricultural officials briefed him about ongoing research on high-yield wheat varieties, virus-free potatoes, soybean, groundnut (peanut), cotton, and other important crops.

Officials said on the occasion that several fruit varieties suited to the soil and climate of Zhub had shown promising results, with good yield potential and economic benefits for local farmers.

DG Dr. Qasim Kakar appreciated the farm's ongoing research activities, experiments with modern crops, and successful trials of fruit-bearing trees. He commended the professional services and dedication of the agricultural officials and research staff.

On the occasion he said that greater use of research and improved farming methods would not only increase agricultural productivity but also help improve farmers' livelihoods and create opportunities for agricultural development across Balochistan.

He further reaffirmed his commitment to ensuring that research findings and modern agricultural recommendations are effectively communicated to farmers, helping farmers adapt to changing climate conditions and improve crop production.

Roundtable "Weaponisation of Water: Legal and Strategic Implications of Undermining the Indus Waters Treaty"

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: India Study Centre at the Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad organised an international seminar titled "Weaponisation of Water: Legal and Strategic Implications of Undermining the Indus Waters Treaty" on June 10, 2026. Mr. Ahmer Bilal Soofi, former Minister of Law, Justice, Parliamentary Affairs and Human Rights graced the occasion as Guest of Honour. Other speakers included Dr. Sofia Khanom, Research Director, Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies, Dhaka, Ambassador Shafiq Kakakhel, Chairperson, Sustainable Policy Development Institute (SDPI), Dr. Zhang Jiadong, Director, Center for South Asian Studies and Dean, Institute of Strategic Studies and International Security, Fudan universi-

ty, Shanghai, China, and Mr. Ali Tauqeer Shaikh, Senior Consultant, Asian Development Bank. Addressing the gathering, Mr. Soofi said that Article 12(4) of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) clearly states that the treaty can only be modified if both parties agree to do so and that it cannot be abrogated or legally suspended unilaterally. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi had declared his intentions about the fate of IWT as soon as he assumed power in New Delhi in 2014. This intent was mainly driven by the internal politics of India and the promises made by Indian Prime Minister Modi during his election campaign. He said that post-Pahalgam incident, there was no investigation and took a hasty decision of holding the treaty in 'abeyance' giving an impression as if India had been waiting for this opportunity. Mr.

Soofi highlighted the fact that many countries in South Asia like Bangladesh are lower riparian countries and India's tinkering with IWT poses a direct threat to such countries. Besides the water, the region is also facing the threat of 'Akhand Bharat' ideology where India desires to re-unite the region as one entity. In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman, Board of Governors, ISSI, said that South Asia is one of the most water stressed region in the world. Instead of cooperation, India chose to politicise this very important issue. Water should have been a bridge of cooperation but it has become a dangerous threat to peace and security. Ambassador Mahmood stressed that the IWT is not a political concession to be suspended at will. It is an international treaty, binding

in law, and it contains no provision for unilateral abrogation or suspension. Any attempt to alter, suspend, or undermine it unilaterally has no legal standing. Pakistan's position is principled and consistent. Earlier, in his introductory remarks, Dr. Khurram Abbas, Director India Study Centre, said that Before April 2025, the Indus Waters Treaty used to be described as one of the most successful and durable water-sharing agreements in modern history. However, the developments of the past year have brought the future of the Treaty into question. India's decision to place the Treaty "in abeyance" have generated serious concerns regarding regional stability, international law, and the future of transboundary water governance in South Asia. Dr. Sofia Khanom, said that

contrary to general perception, Bangladesh is a water stressed country. It is only during the Monsoon season that there is water everywhere but for rest of the year, Bangladesh experiences shortage of water. Additionally, there are effects of climate change as well. There are fears that almost 20 percent of Bangladesh will be submerged by 2050. Roughly, 40-60 percent of the population of Bangladesh lacks access to safe water. 73 percent of people living along the coastal areas are forced to drink saline water. Heavy reliance on groundwater irrigation is resulting in depletion to alarming levels. She said that conflicts over water are increasing day by day across the world and it will be more intense in coming years. Ambassador Shafiq Kakakhel, said that IWT is a remarkable treaty that was signed after nego-

tiations for 9 years. Signing of IWT set an example across the world and following it, some 145 transboundary agreements were signed across the world. Article 9 of the treaty shows a clear path for settlement of disputes and differences. India has taken number of steps that goes against Pakistan's water rights. Hence, protection of IWT is not only in Pakistan's interest but also in the interest of all lower riparian countries of South Asia and the world at large. Dr. Zhang Jiadong, explained the historical context of IWT and explained that following partition, India unilaterally cut off eastern river supply creating a crisis situation in Pakistan. From 1954 - 60, World Bank negotiated a settlement between two countries and finally, IWT was signed in 1960 with multi layered conflict resolution mechanism. It survived wars and was regarded

as 'model of water cooperation between hostile states.' Mr. Ali Tauqeer Shaikh, highlighted that instead of a negotiator, engineers have been fighting the case for Pakistan under IWT. He also highlighted that Pakistan ignored the early signs of Indian intentions regarding IWT. Indian decision to hold IWT in abeyance did not come in the aftermath of Pahalgam incident. Instead, after attack on Pathankot and Uri, the meetings under IWT were cancelled by India. He said that Pakistan can have all information from satellites and therefore, it should not depend on India for information. The deliberations were followed by a question-and-answer session. The event was attended by members of the diplomatic corps, academia, policy makers, intellectuals and students.

Climate Inequality: Why the Global South Pays the Highest Price

Continued from Page 4

In reality, survival itself is becoming a financial burden. Countries that are already struggling with problems are being pushed further into debt just to deal with disasters they did not cause. That does not help. It is a system that puts the burden on the people who're already the most vulnerable. Global financial institutions play a role in this. Organizations like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank often step in when there is a crisis. Their help is important. It usually comes with conditions. They have to reduce their spending, control their deficits and stabilize their economy. While these things are necessary sometimes they can also limit the country's ability to invest in things that will help them deal with climate change, build infrastructure and protect their people. Countries are left trying to balance their stability with their long-term survival. Technology has now become another line of inequality. Another gap that we cannot ignore. Clean energy and systems that can withstand climate change are essential today. Not all countries have equal access to them. Most of the investments in technology are in rich

countries. For countries like Pakistan adopting these technologies is not about wanting to. It is about being able to afford them and having access to them. The idea of "loss and damage" brings up the question. Numerous poor countries say they should be compensated for the detriment caused by climate change. While there has been some progress in exchanges, real action is still slow. Because when responsibility comes up, progress slows down. Rich countries do not want to commit to giving money. As a result the countries that suffer the most have to keep waiting. Within countries the inequality is even deeper. It is often the people who suffer first and recover last. Farmers lose their crops, daily wagers lose their income and whole families are displaced. The UNDP says that the utmost of the people affected by climate disasters are from low-income groups. Climate change isn't an environmental issue. It's a force that makes the social and profitable gaps indeed wider. So what needs to change? First the money that rich countries promise to give to help with climate change needs to be real and accessible. Not delayed, not conditional and not given as loans that will put countries into debt. Second, countries need to have the freedom to make

their programs and invest in effects that will help them repel climate change without being confined by strict profitable rules. Third, technology needs to be participated openly so that poor countries aren't left behind in the transition to sustainable systems. Beyond policies and promises this is about something more basic, fairness. The current way of growing the economy has made some people rich and others vulnerable. This imbalance can no longer be ignored. In the end climate change is not about the weather getting hotter or more extreme. It is about who gets protected and who gets left behind. The real question is no longer whether we can stop climate change. The real question is whether we will stop it in a way. Because if we do not then the gap between the people who caused the problem and the people who suffer from it will only get wider. That is a cost that the world cannot afford. Climate Change and the Global South are closely linked. We need to make sure that the Global South is protected from the effects of Climate Change. The writer is a student of BS International Relations at National Defense University Islamabad

Apache Down, Peace Deal Up?

Continued from Page 4

one of the principal barriers preventing a durable settlement. Under such circumstances, a peace agreement between Washington and Tehran could move forward on a fast-track basis. Both countries possess strong incentives to avoid a prolonged confrontation. The United States seeks economic stability, secure energy supplies, and freedom from another expensive military commitment. Iran seeks sanctions relief, economic normalization, security assurances, and international reintegration. These objectives are not inherently incompatible and could form the basis of a comprehensive agreement. Such an arrangement would effectively leave Iran and Israel to manage their own disputes without direct American involvement. Supporters of this approach argue that regional actors are ultimately best positioned to establish their own security balances and

define their own relationships. They contend that excessive external involvement has often prolonged rather than resolved conflicts. History demonstrates that Israel's strategic position has benefited enormously from decades of American political, economic, diplomatic, and military support. Advocates of strategic separation argue that if Israel were required to rely primarily upon its own capabilities and resources, it might reassess some of its regional policies and adopt a more pragmatic approach toward its neighbors. In their view, only under such circumstances would Israel begin to behave as a normal state operating within the accepted norms of international relations rather than as a state shielded by the overwhelming support of a superpower. Whether one agrees with this assessment or not, the debate itself is becoming increasingly difficult to ignore. The fundamental question facing Wash-

ington is whether American interests are best served by continuing to align its regional strategy with Israel's or by pursuing a more independent course centered exclusively on American priorities. History often turns on moments that initially appear tactical but later reveal themselves to be strategic. The reported downing of the Apache helicopter may prove to be one such moment. It may become the event that compels policymakers to reconsider old assumptions, redefine national interests, and pursue new diplomatic possibilities. If wisdom prevails, it could mark the beginning of a new chapter in U. S.-Iran relations and create the conditions for a broader regional peace. The writer is Press Secretary to the President (Retd), Former Press Minister, Embassy of Pakistan to France, Former Press Attaché to Malaysia and Former MD, SRBC. He is living in Michigan, USA.

Hot Day

ISLAMABAD: A view of deserted Faisal Avenue during hot summer day in the Federal Capital. The capital and its adjoining city, Rawalpindi, have been in the grip of hot weather for the last many days with temperature crossing 40°C.



Photo: Online

Govt disburses Rs5.4bn fuel subsidy, provides Rs4.61bn support to farmers so far: Senate told

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb on Wednesday informed the Senate that the government had disbursed Rs5.4 billion so far under a targeted fuel subsidy programme besides providing Rs4.61 billion support to small farmers in view of rising international fuel prices.

Responding to a Calling

Attention Notice moved by Senator Mohsin Aziz about the recent increase in prices of petroleum products and its impact on costs of industrial productions and national economy, the minister said the government announced the relief package after tensions in the Middle East led to an increase in global oil prices.

He said an overall subsidy of Rs129 billion was provided to reduce the burden on the public.

Aurangzeb said the government initially offered a general subsidy but later shifted to a targeted programme so that relief could reach motorcycle owners, public transport users, transport operators and small farmers. He said around 800,000 motorcycle owners had benefited from the scheme, while financial assistance ranging from Rs35,000 to Rs100,000 was provided to passenger and goods transport vehicles.

The minister said Rs3.5 billion had been distributed among more than 105,000 eligible vehicle owners in the first phase, while another Rs1.9 billion had been disbursed among over 65,000 beneficiaries in the second phase through a transparent verification system based on vehicle registration data.

He said the programme was implemented with the cooperation of provincial governments

to ensure that relief reached deserving people and to help keep transport fares under control.

Aurangzeb said the government would continue efforts to protect low-income groups from the impact of higher fuel prices while maintaining economic stability. He said that further details about the economy would be shared during the presentation of the Economic Survey and the federal budget.

Banned Joint Action Committee's anti-public agenda fully exposed



Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The anti-public agenda of the banned Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) has been fully exposed.

The malicious agenda of this disruptive committee, which allegedly targets the peace, stability, and harmony of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), is becoming clearer

with each passing day.

The banned Joint Action Committee's nefarious conspiracy to deprive the youth of education mirrors the extremist mindset of the Afghan Taliban and Fitna-al-Hindustan.

In a video circulating on social media, Aman, a ringleader of the banned organization, can be seen stopping the people of Azad Kashmir from sending their children to school. In the video, the miscreant leader is heard questioning, "What will you achieve by sending your children to school?"

The boycott of schools in Azad Kashmir is a sinister plot to turn the youth into fuel for an anti-state agenda. Fitna-al-Hindustan has historically pursued a similarly heinous policy. Contrary to their claims of fighting for public rights, this disruptive committee aims to destroy the future of Azad Kashmir's youth at the behest of their Indian handlers.

3,500 Pakistanis deported from UAE over social media law violations: NA told



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Around 3,500 Pakistanis were deported from the UAE for violating social media laws during the Iran-US conflict. The government is assisting affected individuals.

There are no Pakistanis on death row in Spain, Portugal, or the UK. Pakistani missions in these countries offer legal and other support to imprisoned nationals.

Nine Pakistani prisoners were repatriated from the UK under an agreement. Efforts are ongoing to secure the release of Pakistanis affected by Somali pirates, with the Deputy PM personally monitoring.

The Speaker emphasized special attention to this issue. Undocu-

mented migration, especially towards Europe via Libya and the Gulf, has caused serious challenges and loss of lives. Following PM's directives, 100 FIA personnel were dismissed for involvement in illegal migration.

Airport screening has been enhanced to combat human smuggling and protect Pakistan's image. The UAE deportations were part of regulatory enforcement, not targeting Pakistanis specifically.

The number of UAE deportations is small relative to the Pakistani community there.

The government is assisting the family of a Pakistani man allegedly killed in Italy, including body repatriation and financial aid. The embassy is pursuing the case.

GRAND STAR CABLES

A JOURNEY OF
Quality,
Growth &
Innovation

Exclusive Interview with
Engineer Muneeb Amin
CEO Grand Star Cables
(Pvt) Ltd.

EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Muneeb Amin, an Electrical Engineer (2016 graduate), is the CEO and founder of Grand Star Cables. He



entered the business world in 2018 with a strong technical foundation and a vision to contribute to Pakistan's electrical manufacturing sector through quality and innovation. Inspired and guided by his father, Muhammad Amin, also an Electrical Engineer, he established Grand Star Cables from a small setup with a single production line. Today, the company has grown into a recognized manufacturer of electrical cables in Pakistan.

Grand Star Cables offers a complete range of power cables,



flexible cables, solar cables, and house wiring solutions, and is certified by PSQCA, WAPDA, PEC, ISO, and the Government of Punjab.

Q.1: When did you start your business journey?

I started my business journey in 2018 with a small manufacturing setup provided through family support. My uncle encouraged and motivated me to enter the cable industry. We began with one production line, and through hard work and customer trust, Grand Star Cables has grown into a well-established brand offering a complete range of cable products.

Q.2: How do you view the cable industry in Pakistan?

The cable industry in Pakistan has strong growth potential as it is

directly linked to construction, infrastructure, and industrial development. It is a continuously expanding sector with consistent demand.

However, challenges such as high taxes, rising utility costs, fluctuating raw material prices, and policy changes affect the industry. Despite this, we remain optimistic about future growth.

Q.3: Tell us about your products.

We manufacture Power Cables, Flexible Cables, Solar Cables, and House Wire. We strictly follow quality standards and use pure raw materials that undergo laboratory testing.

Our company operates a state-of-the-art laboratory equipped with advanced testing technology. Clients are welcome to test cables before purchase to ensure they meet their specific requirements and quality standards. Customer satisfaction is our highest priority.

Q.4: How is the market response?

The market response has been very positive. Customers who use our products once tend to remain loyal due to consistent quality and reliability.

We are currently expanding in South Punjab, with future plans to expand into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and North Punjab.

Q.5: Who are your major clients?

We primarily serve corporate clients directly, ensuring strong professional relationships and technical support. We also plan to launch company-operated display shops across Punjab to improve accessibility and customer experience.

Q.6: How quality-conscious is your company in production?

Quality is the foundation of Grand Star Cables. We are highly quality-conscious at every stage of production, from raw material selection to final testing. Every product undergoes strict



laboratory checks to ensure safety, performance, and durability. We believe that quality is not just a standard but a responsibility, and we never compromise on it. This commitment has helped us build strong trust among our customers and establish a reliable brand image in the market.

Q.7: Government certifications?

Grand Star Cables is approved by PSQCA, WAPDA, PEC, and the Government of Punjab. These certifications reflect our commitment to quality and compliance with national standards. Additional approvals from other government and semi-government organizations are in progress.

Q.8: Role of exhibitions?

Exhibitions play an important role in our growth. We have participated in various exhibitions across Pakistan, which helped us generate strong business leads, increase brand awareness, and connect with industry stakeholders.

Q.9: Message for customers and clients?

We are committed to quality, purity, and reliability in every product. We confidently stand behind our cables and ensure they meet the highest standards.

We encourage customers to trust Grand Star Cables, as many of our long-term clients already do. Our products are tested by PSQCA, PCSIR, and UET laboratories, ensuring safety and performance.

Grand Star Cables
Building Trust, Through Quality

Pakistan Customs Ensures Uninterrupted LPG Imports Through Gadd-Rimdan Border



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Customs has reaffirmed that customs clearance operations at the Gadd-Rimdan border crossing remain fully functional, with the uninterrupted movement and clearance of essential commodities, particularly Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), through the border.

Official clearance data shows that from 1 June to 8 June 2026, a total of 748 Goods Declarations (GDs) covering approximately 17,353 metric tons of LPG were successfully processed and cleared through the Gadd-Rimdan border under the jurisdiction of the Collectorate of Customs Appraisal, Gwadar. These figures demonstrate the continued smooth flow of LPG imports and the effective functioning of customs clearance operations.

To facilitate the import of essential commodities, including LPG and bitumen, Pakistan Customs is processing such consignments through an expedited Green Channel clearance mechanism, ensuring prompt clearance and uninterrupted supply to domestic markets.

The Collectorate of Customs Appraisal, Gwadar has recently implemented a series of measures aimed at streamlining import clearance procedures, enhancing transparency, strengthening compliance controls, and safeguarding government revenue. These reforms have been introduced to address instances of misdeclaration, concealment, pilferage, and unauthorized removal of imported goods, while simultaneously facilitating legitimate trade.