



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ جو شخص (روزہ کی حالت میں) جھوٹ بات کرنا اور فریب کرنا اور تجارت کی باتوں کو نہ چھوڑے تو اللہ کو اس کی کوئی ضرورت نہیں کہ وہ دنیا دکھا دینا چھوڑے۔ احمد بن یونس نے کہا یہ حدیث میں ہے سنی تو تھی مگر میں اس کی سند بحوالہ کیا تھا جو مجھ کو ایک شخص (ابن ابی ذئب) نے بتلائی۔
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Abdul Aleem Khan Welcomes Us-Iran Peace Deal Efforts

Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan emphasized that this breakthrough extends far beyond regional dynamics, marking a vital step forward for international peace and strategic stability. Abdul Aleem Khan lauded the tireless diplomatic endeavors of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir.



Aimal Wali slams violations of constitution, urges people to wake up

Senator Aimal Wali Khan of the Awami National Party (ANP) on Monday strongly criticized what he described as repeated violations of the Constitution in Pakistan, warning that the country is facing a serious governance crisis and urging the public to "wake up" and demand their rights.

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Addresses

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addresses the National Assembly, on Monday.



Photo: PID

PM Commends Military and Civilian Efforts in US-Iran Peace Deal

Naveed Ahmad Khan

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif announced that Pakistan will host the historic signing ceremony of the US-Iran peace agreement in Geneva on June 19, calling the deal a "monumental milestone" for global peace and a triumph of diplomacy over war. Addressing the National Assembly on June 15, he said the agreement, reached after three months and 16 days of

intense negotiations, marks the end of military operations on all fronts, including Lebanon, and signals that "the sun of peace has finally risen" after a "dark night of war".

He described the accord not just as a bilateral deal but as a victory for dialogue and diplomacy, bringing honor to Pakistan on the world stage. The prime minister expressed gratitude to key international leaders

who supported the process: Qatar's Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Chinese President Xi Jinping, US President Donald Trump, Iranian Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei, and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, along with both countries' negotiation teams.

Shehbaz Sharif congratulated

the Pakistani nation and political leadership, including President Asif Ali Zardari, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, and Nawaz Sharif, for their backing. He especially praised Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir for his "extraordinary" day-and-night efforts, saying his steadfastness at critical moments prevented the talks from collapsing. He also lauded Deputy PM and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Interior Minister

Mohsin Naqvi, and the Foreign Ministry team.

Acknowledging the conflict's economic toll on Pakistan, he commended federal and provincial leaderships for their resilience and pledged that the global economic stability from the peace accord would benefit every Pakistani. He urged the nation to offer prayers of gratitude for Pakistan's "unprecedented honor and dignity".

Defense Minister Credits Leadership for Unprecedented International Standing

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Defense Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif stated that Pakistan has reached an unprecedented level of global prestige and standing due to its successful diplomacy.

He highlighted this historic moment, emphasizing the respect and recognition garnered by the nation, attributing it to the wisdom, patience, and statesmanship of its leadership, particularly Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir.

Asif noted that the peace initiative, expected to conclude with an agreement on June 19th, benefited from close coordination among leaders. He credited the last two and a half years of commitment to strengthening



Pakistan for this diplomatic success.

Congratulating Iran on its unity and resilience, he expressed hope for similar solidarity within the Muslim Ummah to achieve justice for oppressed Muslim communities, referencing Palestine.

Asif recalled no other time in his parliamentary career when Pakistan's leadership

and Parliament received such international recognition.

He cited two major recent successes: one in defense, enhancing national pride, and another in diplomacy. He urged the nation to be thankful to Allah for these achievements and to channel the same spirit of unity into combating terrorism, which he described as a collective national challenge.

Asif also thanked the United States for its role in regional peace and stability and encouraged Gulf countries and the broader Muslim world to unite, overcome differences, and work for the welfare of Muslims in Palestine, Lebanon, Kashmir, and elsewhere. He prayed for global Muslim unity and prosperity, reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to promoting regional stability and cooperation.

Dr. Tariq lauds Pakistani leadership role in US-Iran peace agreement

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry on Monday praised the leadership role of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar in facilitating historic peace agreement between the United States and Iran.

On the social media platform X, he commended the "visionary leadership" of



Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and the

continued diplomatic efforts of Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, terming their contributions highly commendable.

Dr. Tariq said Pakistan's leadership had played a bridging role through effective diplomacy at a time when the world was facing fears of a potentially major and dangerous confrontation.

He said Pakistan was now playing an effective, credible, and responsible role in the global diplomatic landscape.

Finance Minister sees faster growth, inflation dip coming



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's economy is in recovery mode, with growth seen accelerating and inflation falling, though the Middle East conflict remains a wild card that could reverse those gains, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb said.

The country's economy is expected to grow 4% next year while inflation is predicted to ease to 8.2% from 11.7%, Aurangzeb told Bloomberg TV, attributing the improvements to the current fiscal year.

"We are in a good place on fiscal side with the fiscal deficit at an all time low and achieving a primary surplus," Aurangzeb said. "On the FX reserves we are on at least 3 months of export cover but ultimately we have to move towards export led growth."

He said, the government has given a clear route of direction of travel in the budget as to how we are now going to move from stabilization to sustainable and expanding growth.

Parliamentarians laud PM for his successful global peace efforts



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentarians from both houses, Monday, appreciated Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif for his successful efforts in securing global and regional peace.

During their meetings, the Members of the National Assembly and Senate paid tribute to the prime minister for his hectic efforts.

The parliamentarians included MNA Agha Rafiullah, MNA Ijaz Hussain Jakhriani, MNA Zulfiqar Bhindar, MNA Ali Jan Mazari, MNA Samar Haroon Bilour, Senator Mir Dostain Khan Domki, MNA Nadeem Abbas Rabera, MNA Dr. Sadaf Ihsanullah, MNA Chaudhary Usman and MNA

Muhammad Idrees, who separately called on the prime minister at the Parliament House, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

Federal Minister for Public Affairs Unit Rana Mubashir Iqbal and Special Assistant Talha Burki also attended these meetings.

During their meetings, the members of parliament opined that under the prime minister's leadership, Pakistan achieved historic respect among the international community and that peace in the region became possible due to Pakistan's efforts.

Separately, Chaudhary Nawaz Ahmed, MPA Punjab, also called on the prime minister.

DPM reviews progress on Pakistan's bilateral economic cooperation



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar Monday chaired an inter-ministerial meeting to review progress on Pakistan's bilateral economic cooperation with key partner countries.

DPM/FM emphasised

that strengthening trade and investment ties remains a key pillar of Pakistan's foreign policy.

He underscored the need to expedite the implementation of ongoing investment proposals and projects, and explore opportunities for attracting foreign investment in key priority areas through G2B and B2B framework.

The meeting was attended by SAPM Tariq Bajwa, Foreign Secretary Anna Baloch, Secretary Defence, Secretary SIFC, and senior officials from relevant ministries and departments.

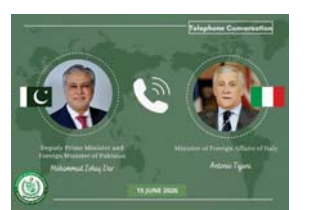
Dar, Tajani emphasize implementing peace understandings for regional stability

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and his Italian counterpart Antonio Tajani, Monday, stressed the importance of implementing the understandings reached and sustaining international efforts for lasting peace and stability in the region, including in Lebanon.

The DPM/FM received a telephone call from the Italian minister.

The DPM/FM thanked the Italian side, including Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's appreciation of Pakistan's mediation efforts that facilitated the understanding reached between the United States and Iran, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release.



They underlined that the opening of the Strait of Hormuz was a positive step for global energy flows, trade, and the broader international economy.

Appreciating the positive trajectory of Pakistan-Italy relations, both sides welcomed the recent signing of the agreement on the abolition of visas for diplomatic passport holders between Pakistan and Italy. They reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening cooperation across all areas of mutual interest and agreed to remain in contact.

Pakistan Senate Chairman Praises Iran-US Diplomatic Gains

Kiran Asim

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate of Pakistan, Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani has welcomed the recent diplomatic progress between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States, expressing hope that sustained dialogue and engagement between the two countries will lead to greater regional peace, global stability, and economic prosperity.

The Chairman Senate stated that amid evolving geopolitical challenges and regional tensions, diplomacy remains the most effective and sustainable path toward resolving disputes and building lasting peace. He observed that meaningful engagement between Iran and the United States could help reduce tensions, promote confidence-building, and contribute to a more secure and stable regional environment.

Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf

Raza Gillani Reaffirmed Pakistan's Longstanding position that disputes should be resolved through dialogue, mutual respect, adherence to international law, and peaceful means.

He noted that Pakistan has consistently advocated diplomatic engagement over confrontation and supported all efforts aimed at regional stability, peaceful coexistence, and international cooperation.

The Chairman Senate highlighted Pakistan's constructive role in promoting peace and dialogue among nations. He stated that under political wisdom and farsightedness of President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif.

Deputy PM/ Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and the strategic foresight of the Pakistan Armed Forces especially the efforts of Chief of Defense Forces Field



Marshal Syed Asim Munir.

Pakistan continues to pursue a balanced and principled foreign policy focused on regional stability, de-escalation, and cooperation.

Chairman Senate also appreciated the efforts of all stakeholders working to advance diplomatic solutions and confidence-building measures.

He expressed hope that wisdom, restraint, and statesmanship would continue to guide the process, enabling all parties to address differences through constructive engagement and mutual understanding.

Reaffirming Pakistan's unwavering commitment to peace, dialogue, and multilateral cooperation, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani stated that Pakistan will continue to support sincere initiatives that promote regional harmony, reduce tensions, and contribute to a more peaceful, stable and prosperous world

Grandson of Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan Joins Muslim Conference



City Desk

RAWALPINDI: The President Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan is garlanding Sardar Abdullah Tariq Sikandar Advocate, grandson of former premier Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan from Nakyal at the Rawalpindi Central Secretariat, on joining the Muslim Conference.

Secretary General Madam Mehr-un-Nisa, Sardar Abdul Razzaq Khan Advocate, Major Sardar Nasrullah Khan, Sajid Qureshi Advocate, Raja Muhammad Ilyas Khan, Asim Zahid Abbasi, Sardar Ajmal Nakyalvi and others are also present on the occasion.

Joint Public Action Committee Violence Claims Lives, Injures Dozens, Destroys Property

Bureau Report.

MUZZAFFARABAD: The Inspector General of Police reported that violent actions by the banned Joint Public Action Committee (JAAC) led to 4 law enforcement casualties and 89 injuries, alongside vandalism at CMH Rawalakot and damage to an APC. Law enforcement is actively maintaining order in Rawalakot. Other districts are normal with minor disruptions. 81 cases are registered against JAAC, with 425 arrests and seizures of illegal weapons and equipment. Over 400 JAAC members are being listed on the 4th Schedule. The overall law and order situation is satisfactory, with traffic restored. The public is urged to remain peaceful, disregard rumors, cooperate with authorities, avoid illegal gatherings, and report suspicious activity.



Attock Administration Finalizes Muharram Security and Harmony Plans

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: A District Peace Committee meeting, chaired by Deputy Commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza, convened to finalize arrangements for Muharram-ul-Haram, focusing on law and order, religious harmony, and inter-sect tolerance. Attendees, including DPO Attock Sardar Mowarhan Khan, political leaders, religious scholars, and community representatives, reviewed security measures and peaceful conduct of events. The Deputy Commissioner highlighted Muharram's values of patience and brotherhood, assuring robust district administration support. The DPO detailed security plans and urged religious leaders to promote tolerance and counter misinformation. Committee members stressed collaborative efforts to uphold Muharram's sanctity and foster unity. The meeting emphasized moderating social media content and cooperating with authorities. Speakers underscored Muharram's message of solidarity and called for citizen participation in promoting peace. The session concluded with prayers for national peace, stability, and inter-sect harmony.

Global Experts Convene at VMH-PICA 2026 to Tackle Violence and Mental Health



Asim Tanveer /Iram Asim

MULTAN: The second and concluding day of the International Conference on "Violence and Mental Health: Prevention, Intervention and Community Action (VMH-PICA 2026)" at The Women University Multan brought together scholars, psychologists, researchers, practitioners, and policymakers. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Syeda Shahida Batool stressed the need for urgent, coordinated, and evidence-based responses to mental health challenges, advocating for universities to engage in community-based solutions and strengthen research-driven policies. Prof. Dr. Shaukat Malik highlighted the importance of addressing psychological pressures on students in academic environments. Keynote addresses focused on the psychological impact of digital violence and interrupting intergenerational trauma. Prof. Dr. Hassaan Khaliq Qureshi emphasized the critical nature of violence and mental health concerns and the need for stronger linkages between academia, institutions, and communities. A panel discussion explored mental health advocacy, trauma recovery, and community change. Dr. Sadia Musharraf, the chief organizer, expressed gratitude for the event's success as a platform for academic exchange. The conference featured over 130 research presentations on various mental health topics, concluding with a ceremony honoring contributors.

Muharram to begin on June 17 as moon not sighted in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee on Monday announced that the moon of Muharram-ul-Haram 1448 AH was not sighted in the country, the 1st Muharram will fall on Wednesday, June 17.

The announcement was made by Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Chairman Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad after a meeting held at Iqbal Hall, Badshahi Mosque in Lahore to review moon sighting testimonies received from across the country.

Speaking after the meeting, Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad said no credible reports of the Muharram moon sighting were received from any part of the country.

Unload fruit boxes

ISLAMABAD: Vendors stand near the truck where the labourers unload fruit boxes at Fruit and Vegetable Market in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

PML-N Rejects Election Delay, Demands Timely Polls in Azad Kashmir

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: President Pakistan Muslim League (N) Azad Jammu and Kashmir Shah Ghulam Qadir, while addressing a press conference, has said that holding a free and transparent election at the scheduled time under the constitution and election rules of Azad Kashmir is the only solution to the current crisis. We reject the delay in the election. Pakistan Muslim League (N) cannot support any unconstitutional move. Elections in Azad Kashmir should be held on their scheduled time in any case.

Former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Rakhani said that the subsidy on flour and electricity was given by the government of Pakistan and it will



continue in future.

At the end of the press conference, Fateha was offered for the high ranks of the forces and civilian martyrs and prayers were offered for the speedy

recovery of the injured.

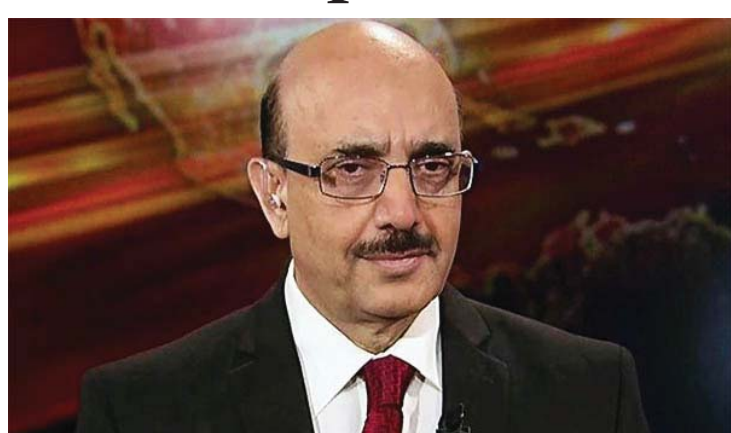
Former Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan, Senior Vice President Raja Mushtaq Ahmed Minhas,

Secretary General Chaudhry Tariq Farooq, Dr. Muhammad Najeeb Naqi Khan, Barrister Syed Iftikhar Gilani, Chaudhry Muhammad Saeed, Chaudhry Abdul Rehman Arain, Chaudhry Rukhsar Ahmed, Colonel Waqar Ahmed Noor, Raja Muhammad Siddique, Hafiz Ahmed Raza Qadri, Syed Shaukat Ali Shah, Chaudhry Muhammad Razaq, Raja Azhar Iqbal, Azeem Bakhsh Chaudhry, Chaudhry Masood Khalid, Raja Shoaib Abid, Zulfikar Ali Malik, Raja Muhammad Riyat, Sardar Farooq Ahmed Tahir, Sardar Osama Zahid, Sardar Tariq, Raja Hamza Sher Afgan, Raja Muhammad Yasin Khan, Chaudhry Mohsin Aziz, Syed Murtaza Gilani, Sardar Farhan Azam, Raja Saqib Majeed and others were present on the occasion.

Masood Khan Warns: Israeli Actions Threaten US-Iran Diplomatic Gains

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Masood Khan, former Pakistani Ambassador and President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, highlighted a significant opportunity for regional stability emerging from potential US-Iran rapprochement. However, he cautioned that escalating military actions, particularly in Lebanon and Gaza attributed to Israel, could jeopardize this diplomatic progress. Khan observed a divergence between US and Israeli strategic objectives, with Washington leaning towards negotiation while Israel pursues military actions across the region, altering the "new strategic reality." He noted varied regional responses from Arab states due to differing threat perceptions. Despite a



potential US-Tehran Memorandum of Understanding, significant challenges

persist, including Israel's insistence on restricting Iran's nuclear program, missile

capabilities, and regional partnerships – issues Khan deems highly contentious, especially Iran's non-negotiable conventional deterrence. He expressed concern that recent attacks, like those in southern Beirut, could derail diplomacy by undermining confidence at critical junctures. Domestic political pressures in both the US and Israel further complicate fragile negotiations, with divided constituencies. Nevertheless, Khan sees US and Iranian negotiators closer than ever to an understanding and cautiously optimistic about a forthcoming Memorandum of Understanding. He concluded by emphasizing diplomacy as the sole path to lasting peace, urging restraint and support for negotiated settlements that foster regional stability and security.

Islamabad
30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES
Namaz Timings

Fajr	3:13 am
Zohr	12:08 pm
Asr	5:09 pm
Maghrib	7:20 pm
Isha	9:04 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 & 4451122
& Rescue Services	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

CBD Potohar: Punjab's Vision for Smart, Sustainable Urban Futures

Bureau Report

LAHORE: CBD Potohar, a new initiative by CBD Punjab, aims to redefine urban development in the Potohar region by integrating smart infrastructure, future-focused industries, vibrant communities, and sustainable growth. Following its success in Lahore, this project seeks to create a new economic and lifestyle hub for living, working, and recreation, aligned with global standards. Spearheaded by the Government of Punjab and Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, CBD Potohar emphasizes trust, transparency, and timely delivery. The project will feature mixed-use developments, sustainable mobility, and environmentally responsible planning to foster innovation and long-term economic value, positioning it as a growth corridor and a catalyst for Pakistan's evolving urban landscape. CEO Imran Amin highlighted CBD Punjab's vision to place Pakistan on the global economic map through such forward-thinking developments.

Punjab installs QR-Coded Panic Buttons at 4,700 Imambargahs for Muharram Security

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has mandated a robust three-tier security plan for Muharram-ul-Haram, urging religious event organizers to promptly install and activate QR-coded panic buttons at approximately 4,700 Imambargahs. This new system will enable instant alerts to security and administrative agencies upon scanning.

The Chief Minister emphasized the necessity of province-wide combing operations and real-time intelligence sharing, alongside the strict enforcement of the three-tier security protocol. Drones are banned, and unauthorized loudspeaker use is prohibited.

The government will provide drinking water stalls, and the Suthra Punjab Authority will ensure fragrant atmospheres along procession routes. Punjab anticipates 47,280 religious events, including 37,868 majalis and 9,412 processions.

A significant security force comprising 125,641 police personnel, 61 Pakistan Army companies, 76 Ranger companies, and 30,445 volunteers will be deployed.

The Punjab Safe Cities Authority will conduct live digital monitoring using over 5,623 CCTV cameras, 1,040 body cameras, and modern drones, with 1,000 advanced 4G cameras at critical locations.

LTE coverage will be available in 11 districts during potential mobile service

suspensions, and over 1,400 officers will monitor control rooms. The Chief Minister also ordered intensified intelligence-based operations (IBOs) against anti-state elements and banned outfits, with 43 IBOs already executed.

Licensed processions must adhere strictly to approved routes and schedules, with zero tolerance for violations or new additions. A complete ban on hate speech, wall chalking, and weapons display is in effect.

Restrictions have been imposed on 794 individuals to prevent provocative speeches and sectarian activity, with 1,418 persons barred from specific areas. Cyber response teams are active against 359 identified social media accounts promoting disorder.



Eighty-eight coordinated meetings at the grassroots level by district peace committees have occurred. Walk-through gates and metal detectors will enhance security at procession entry and exit points.

Little champion

ISLAMABAD: Children take karate class at local club in sector G-8 of Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

ADCG, AC visits Muharram Control Room



Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: On the directions of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif and under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Toba Tek Singh Umar Abbas Mela, the district administration is actively working to ensure the peaceful, safe and well-organized observance of Muharram-ul-Haram.

In this regard, Assistant Commissioner Munawar Hussain Sial and Additional Deputy Commissioner General Dr. Tariq Usman, on the instructions of the Deputy Commissioner, visited the Muharram-ul-Haram Control Room established at the Municipal Committee Toba Tek Singh and reviewed the arrangements in detail. During the

visit, Chief Officer Municipal Committee Waleed Usman briefed the officials on sanitation measures, drainage arrangements, lighting, monitoring of procession routes, emergency response plans and the operational mechanism of the control room during Muharram.

The officers also inspected the available facilities, monitoring systems and coordination arrangements among different departments.

On the occasion, Assistant Commissioner Munawar Hussain Sial and Additional Deputy Commissioner General Dr. Tariq Usman directed all relevant departments to perform their duties in complete coordination and ensure the provision of the best possible facilities to citizens.

COMSATS University Rector Visits Abbottabad, Reviews Campus Development



News Desk

ABBOTTABAD: Rector COMSATS University Islamabad, Prof. Dr. Raheel Qamar, visited the Abbottabad Campus to inspect the ongoing construction at the permanent Dhamtour campus. Director CUI Abbottabad, Prof. Dr. Zakir Hussain, briefed him on the project's progress and future phases. The Rector urged timely, high-quality completion. A subsequent meeting with senior officials, including Registrar Dr. Faheem Qureshi and Treasurer Mr. Azam Khan, focused on administrative, academic, and development matters for the Abbottabad Campus, including infrastructure and research. Rector Qamar stressed coordination and praised the team, highlighting the Dhamtour Campus's expected role in advancing regional education and innovation with world-class facilities.

From Grassroots to Global Stage: Infinix GT 50 Pro Drives 4Thrives to Historic Esports Triumph

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: In a Historic milestone for Pakistani gaming, local esports team 4Thrives has conquered the global stage, securing a world championship victory powered by the tournament's official device, the Infinix GT 50 Pro. To celebrate this unprecedented triumph, Infinix has held a major celebration event in Islamabad.

Simon Feng, CEO of Infinix Pakistan said: "We congratulate 4Thrives on securing this historic victory, which highlights the growing potential of Pakistan's esports community. Our goal remains focused on providing the necessary technology to support local gaming talent as they compete on the global stage."

The Islamabad event served as both a victory lap and a look ahead, with Infinix set to outline its future roadmap for sustaining Pakistan's esports infrastructure through live show matches and exclusive community showcases.

SC sets aside Federal Service Tribunal ruling in Pakistan Post Service case

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan has set aside a judgment of the Federal Service Tribunal (FST), Lahore Bench, in a service matter involving the Pakistan Post Office and remanded the case to the tribunal for fresh adjudication.

According to a detailed judgment approved for reporting, a two-member bench comprising Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar and Justice Musarrat Hilali issued the ruling after hearing a civil petition filed by the Director General, Pakistan Post Office, Islamabad. The case was heard on March 9.

The case concerned former Accounts Officer Muhammad Fayyaz, who was accused of involvement in the approval of fake loan slips, fictitious records and bogus loans during his service, allegedly causing losses worth millions of rupees to the national exchequer. Following a departmental inquiry, the charges were found to have been proved and he was dismissed from service.

Subsequently, the Federal Service Tribunal modified the penalty of dismissal and converted it into compulsory retirement. However, the Supreme Court held that the tribunal had failed to independently and properly assess the record and separate inquiry proceedings, and had unnecessarily drawn similarities with the case of a co-accused employee.

The judgment observed that the determination of punishment in departmental proceedings fell within the authority of the competent departmental forum, while a tribunal or court may interfere only where the penalty was unlawful or disproportionate. It further noted that adopting a lenient approach in cases involving financial misconduct and losses to the public exchequer could undermine institutional discipline.

The Court held that the tribunal altered the penalty without conducting a detailed examination of the charges, evidence and inquiry reports, rendering its decision legally unsustainable.

Consequently, the Supreme Court remanded the matter to the Federal Service Tribunal with directions to provide both parties a full opportunity of hearing and to decide the case afresh in accordance with law within three months.

NAB Balochistan Recovers Billions in State Land from Encroachers

Bureau Report

QUETTA: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Balochistan, in collaboration with the provincial government, has successfully recovered state land valued in billions of rupees, marking a significant achievement in safeguarding national assets.

These operations, guided by NAB Headquarters and supported by the Chief Minister of Balochistan, aimed to eradicate illegal encroachments and recover looted wealth.

Following an initial inspection in 2025 that revealed a lack of formal

records for approximately 2.8 million acres of Forest Department land, NAB Balochistan initiated broad operations.

This led to the recovery of over one million acres in 2025, valued at 1,370 billion rupees, a historically large recovery in Pakistan. Operations intensified in 2026, resulting in the reclamation of approximately 260,000 acres across Quetta, Sibi, Sherani, Hub, Lasbela, and Gwadar.

This recovered land is valued at 414.2 billion rupees, with specific amounts detailed for each district: Quetta (47,000 acres, 354 billion), Sibi (2,861 acres, 2.3 billion), Sherani

(153,000 acres, 29 billion), Hub (153 acres, 50 billion), Lasbela (17,000 acres, 2.2 billion), and Gwadar (176,000 acres, 25 billion).

The Forest and Wildlife Department was the primary custodian of this land. The success highlights crucial inter-departmental cooperation, particularly from the Senior Member Board of Revenue (SMBR) and the Forest Department.

NAB reaffirms its unwavering zero-tolerance policy against corruption and the "land mafia," vowing continued, transparent, and lawful operations against illegal occupation

of state land.

Efforts are now focused on recovering remaining government land and implementing a modern record system, digitalization, and monitoring mechanisms to prevent future encroachments.

The digitalization of land records in Gwadar is nearing completion, a crucial step for future prevention. Recovered land is being returned to the Forest and Wildlife Department for public interest and environmental projects, with the campaign set to expand across the province, prioritizing the most affected districts.

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Iran's Strategic Victory and Israel's Growing Isolation

History may ultimately record June 2026 as the month when the strategic balance of the Middle East began to shift in a manner few thought possible. What started as an effort to weaken Iran, curtail its influence, and force it into submission instead produced a different outcome. Iran survived, endured, adapted, and emerged from the confrontation with its political system intact, its strategic position preserved, and its regional influence enhanced.

At the outset of the conflict, expectations in many capitals were remarkably similar. The assumption was that the combined military, economic, technological, and intelligence capabilities of the United States and Israel would prove overwhelming. Iran was expected to retreat, compromise, or collapse under sustained pressure. The objective was not merely military success but strategic transformation: a weakened Iran, a diminished Axis of Resistance, and a Middle East reordered under terms favorable to Washington and Tel Aviv. That objective was not achieved.

The conflict demonstrated a reality that military planners will study for years. Modern warfare is no longer determined solely by aircraft carriers, stealth bombers, advanced fighter aircraft, and defense budgets measured in hundreds of billions of dollars. Iran relied on a different doctrine—one based on strategic patience, missile technology, drone

warfare, cyber capabilities, underground infrastructure, and asymmetrical operations. Rather than matching its adversaries weapon for weapon, it focused on raising the cost of confrontation and denying its opponents a decisive political outcome.

This approach fundamentally challenged long-standing assumptions about military superiority. The lesson was simple but profound: overwhelming power does not automatically produce political success. Nations with determination, strategic depth, and resilience can survive pressures that many observers consider impossible to withstand.

The conflict also exposed a profound divide within the Muslim world. For nearly two years, the world witnessed the devastation in Gaza and the immense suffering of Palestinians. Yet many of the region's most influential states—including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, and Türkiye—chose caution, restraint, and strategic calculation over confrontation. Their leaders prioritized economic stability, national interests, and avoidance of a wider regional war.

Iran chose a different path. It accepted the political, economic, and military risks associated with direct confrontation and positioned itself as the principal chal-

lenger of Israeli military power. Whether one agrees with Tehran's policies or not, that decision dramatically elevated Iran's standing across large segments of the Muslim world and transformed its image from a regional actor into a symbol of resistance.

The military consequences of the war may prove significant, but the diplomatic consequences may be even greater.

Reports of expanding negotiations involving Iran, the United States, Israel, Lebanon, and Hezbollah suggest that the conflict may conclude not with regime change in Tehran but with arrangements that preserve Iran's core interests while reducing the likelihood of wider regional war.

If such a settlement ultimately results in meaningful sanctions relief, access to frozen assets, normalized trade relations, and unrestricted energy exports, the greatest beneficiary may not be the Iranian military but the Iranian people.

For more than four decades, sanctions and financial restrictions prevented Iran from fully utilizing its enormous economic potential. Despite possessing some of the world's largest oil and natural gas reserves, Iran often sold energy under difficult conditions and at discounted prices. Economic normalization would fundamentally change that equation.

The return of frozen assets and renewed access to international markets would strengthen the Iranian economy, stabilize the national currency, reduce inflationary pressures, and attract investment from around the world. Iran would be able to market its energy resources under normal commercial conditions, generating revenues that could be directed toward infrastructure, education, healthcare, scientific research, technology, and industrial modernization.

The country's geographic location provides another extraordinary advantage. Positioned at the crossroads of Asia, Europe, Central Asia, and the Middle East, Iran has the potential to become a major transportation, logistics, and energy hub. Modern ports, rail networks, highways, industrial zones, and trade corridors could transform the country into one of the most important commercial gateways in Eurasia.

Cities such as Tehran, Isfahan, Shiraz, Mashhad, and Tabriz could experience rapid modernization. Universities could attract international talent. Research institutions could expand. Advanced manufacturing, artificial intelligence, biotechnology, aerospace industries, and digital technologies could emerge as pillars of economic growth. The transformation of Iran from a heavily sanctioned state into a major economic power would represent one of the most significant geopolitical developments of the twenty-first century.

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Analysis

Qamar Bashir

US and Iran reach Pakistan-mediated deal to extend ceasefire & open Hormuz

The United States and Iran reached a Pakistan-brokered cease-fire agreement on Sunday, paving the way for further talks that could ultimately end a months-long war that has killed thousands and rattled the global economy.

"The Deal with the Islamic Republic of Iran is now complete," US President Donald Trump said in a post on social media.

On the other hand, Iran's Supreme National Security Council said in a statement that the country had finalized a memorandum of understanding with the United States after "months of long and difficult negotiations."

Pakistan, which has friendly ties to both the United States and Iran, has served as the key mediator between the two countries.

Announcing the agreement in Islamabad, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said, "The official signing ceremony will be on Friday, 19 June in Switzerland."

In New York, the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres immediately welcomed the deal which he said represents a critical step towards the peaceful settlement of the conflict.

"The Secretary-General expresses deep appreciation for the constructive role played by Pakistan, Qatar, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, and other regional countries in supporting the negotiations that led to the peace deal," the UN chief said in a statement, hoping that the parties will redouble their efforts towards a final resolution of the conflict.

"The Secretary-General reaffirms that the United Nations stands ready to support the parties in achieving a durable and comprehensive peace."

In his post, Trump said that the deal would reopen the Strait of Hormuz, an economically vital waterway, and that he had authorized "the immediate removal of the United States Naval blockade" on Iranian ports.

"Ships of the World, start your engines," he wrote. "Let the oil flow!"

The text of the agreement was not immediately released. But MTrump's post aligned with what American and Iranian officials had previously said an initial agreement might contain. The deal would include a 60-day cease-fire, the officials said.

Each side sought to portray the agreement as a diplomatic victory after nearly four months of war. But some of the thorniest issues — including the fate of Iran's nuclear programme, and sanctions relief for Tehran — remain unresolved and have been pushed to a further round of negotiations.



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

The Liminal Agony of Half-Widows in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir

Fifty years ago during the Second World War, in Nazi Germany enforced disappearances were born as a practice against Jews and Communists. Over time, however, this inhuman practice transcended its historical origins and evolved into a global phenomenon, reappearing in different conflict zones under varying political contexts. One of its most tragic contemporary manifestations can be seen in the protracted conflict in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IloJK), where enforced disappearances have created a distinct category of victims known as "half-widows", women whose husbands were abducted by security forces, never to return, yet without official confirmation of death. Half-widows in IloJK are stuck in a state of perpetual liminality, trapped between agonizing dilemmas: To search or not to search? To declare or not to declare the death of the husband? To remarry or not to remarry? To fight or not to fight the battle for justice? Do I belong anywhere? But what do I do now? This imposed ambiguity, analyzed in Paul D'Souza's 2016 study as "perpetual (undesired) liminality", leaves women structurally invisible, socially ambiguous and psychologically adrift.

Estimates of enforced disappearances in IloJK since the intensification of the insurgency in the late 1980s vary. Human rights organizations, including the Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons (APDP), document approximately 8,000 to 10,000 cases. Official figures from the Indian government are lower, often cited around 4,000–6,000. Conservative estimates place the number of half-widows at around 1,500 though broader figures for conflict-related widows exceed this and comprehensive official data remain limited. The APDP, founded in 1994

by families seeking truth and justice has been a vital voice though public protests have faced severe restrictions since the 2019 revocation of Article 370. These disappearances are not isolated tragedies but part of a pattern enabled by laws like the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), which critics argue fosters impunity.

The conflict in IloJK, rooted in the disputed status of the region and marked by decades of insurgency and counter-insurgency operations, has exacted a heavy human cost. Enforced disappearances state agents detaining individuals without acknowledging their fate devastate families, particularly women left in perpetual uncertainty. Half-widows face acute economic vulnerability like ineligible for full widow pensions or inheritance without a death certificate, they often depend on meager ex-gratia payments or family support. Under Muslim personal law and local customs, remarriage is complicated by waiting periods, typically interpreted as four years or more exacerbating social stigma and isolation.

Parveena Ahanger, chairperson of the APDP, has searched for her son Javid Ahmad Ahanger since his 1990 detention by security forces at age 16. Despite petitions, protests and court appeals, no trace has emerged. Her activism embodies collective resilience amid state denial. In Dardpora village, Kupwara district often called the "village of widows" hundreds of women lost husbands to raids and detentions in the 1990s. Other cases underscore the pattern. In Baramulla and Kupwara districts, women like those documented in APDP reports lost breadwinners during cordon-and-search operations by units such as the Rashtriya Rifles. Families report detentions without records, followed by denial of information. Over 2,700 unmarked graves identified in northern Kashmir districts in 2009

remain largely uninvestigated, with minimal DNA testing or accountability. These stories highlight the systemic impunity enabled by the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA).

Such practices violate international human rights law. The International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED, 2006), which India has signed but not ratified, requires investigations, truth and reparations. As a party to the ICCPR, India must uphold Articles 6 (right to life), 9 (liberty) and 16 (legal recognition). The 1992 UN Declaration and customary law condemn impunity, while widespread cases may amount to crimes against humanity under the Rome Statute. Limited probes and post-2019 curbs on advocacy raise concerns regarding these obligations.

Pakistan has consistently highlighted these issues at the United Nations, advocating for the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination in line with UN Security Council resolutions. Its stance emphasizes peaceful resolution through dialogue and plebiscite, while condemning human rights violations and demographic changes in IloJK. In recent years, including the 2025 Pahalgam attack fallout, Pakistan has called for de-escalation, investigations and respect for international law.

Enforced disappearances in IloJK operate on two levels: silencing critics of India's policies while instilling fear in the wider community. As wives of disappeared men, half widows face severe economic, social and emotional insecurities. Most cases occur in rural areas where women have limited independence. Without confirmed death, they lack access to property rights, bank accounts and relief mechanisms, forcing reliance on relatives. These hardships often push them below the poverty line. Despite this, Kashmiri half widows continue their search for truth with resilience and hope.

The writer is a researcher at Kashmir Institute of International Relations.



Analysis

Maqdas Shifaa

War that set the world on fire and the bill we are all paying

Mahnoor Khan

The United States and Israel attacked Iran on 28th February 2026. The bombs rained on nuclear centers, military bases and oil installations. There were fires throughout the Persian Gulf. In that fire, battered and disheartened, the world's economy has long since begun to leak. This was explained to be a rapid removal. The White House states it will take six weeks. It has now been more than three months. Fires have not been extinguished. What the bill costs bread prices, petrol prices, interest on money borrowed the daily arithmetic of survival is truly one which falls disproportionately on the people who did least to light the match. The disruption in supplies, as per International Energy Agency, has been the biggest in the history of the global oil market.

Twenty one miles wide at its narrowest, it is the jugular vein of civilisations as we created it. It is the strait the world's crude oil and 20 percent of the world's liquefied natural gas traverse each and every day: the Strait of Hormuz. It was closed by Iran inexplicably on March 4, 2026. Teasing battles shook up shipping lanes particularly in Iran, which cut off trade by sending its navy to bomb vessels traveling through the Strait and halted nearly all shipping traffic. The International Energy Agency brushed aside any grand niceties: the largest gap in energy supplies in the history of the global oil market. Numbers were racing toward the following numbers at a terrifying pace. Shortly after the first hits, Brent crude jumped to over \$80 a barrel, a 10 to 13 percent rise on the spot. It ended up blowing \$120 in early March. In the end, oil prices had increased by over a quarter in the first weeks of the war. Spot LNG rates in the Asia region jumped more than 140 percent. A refinery belonging to Saudi Aramco, the world's

most sizeable crude export terminal has been shut down after being attacked but its destruction has not been confirmed. Supply of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to Japan, 20 percent reliant on Qatar, was placed under a force majeure clause. Gas exports to Japan, which depend on Qatar for 20 percent of its LNG supply, has been declared under a force majeure clause. It's estimated that March 10 saw oil production in the three countries Kuwait, Iraq, and the United Arab Emirates drop by approximately 6.7 million bpd, followed on March 12 by at least 10 million bpd. Allow that number to sink in. Ten million barrels per day gone. About 103,000,000 barrels are being used per day in the world. We had suffered a loss of supplier greater than ten per cent of the world's supply almost overnight.

The economists have recently been resorting to historical analogies, and one that occurs frequently is the oil induced economic slowdown of the 1970s. After the Yom Kippur War of 1973, none of the Arab members of the Organization of Oil Exporting Countries (OPEC) would supply Western oil companies hence, the oil price quadrupled, decade long-unaffected gasification or economical depression in western economies and fundamental thinking reorientation on energy security in the world. This crisis is the parallel of this crisis with an added backlash of darkness. Then, in 1973, the disruption was the result of a choice, it could be stopped, it could be turned back on. The disruption in 2026 is physical bombed refineries, wrecked pipelines, roads that have been washed away, ports which are in shambles. Experts have estimated that, if only the Ras Laffan facility was damaged in Qatar, the total of the damage can take 3 to 5 years to repair completely. Can't negotiate out of a broken down desalination facility. OECD projections for the global economy were lowered in June

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'State of Freedom Report' Reveals Strengths and Areas for Improvement in Pakistan

Naveed Ahmad Khan

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) and Mishaal Pakistan launched Pakistan's inaugural State of Freedom Report 2026.

This comprehensive assessment evaluates political, civil, economic, digital, legal, and social freedoms. Barrister Aqeel Malik, Minister of State for Law and Justice, highlighted the report's importance for evidence-based policymaking, citizen engagement, and institutional accountability.

He stressed that empowered citizens, accountable institutions, and informed policy foster stronger democracy and better governance, reinforcing public trust.

He also noted Pakistan's constitutional protections for fundamental rights and ongoing reforms to enhance justice, transparency, and participation. Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman of ISSI's Board of Governors, praised Mishaal Pakistan's study.

He pointed to the report's findings on Pakistan's digital growth, entrepre-

neurial ecosystem, and the IT sector's economic contribution.

While acknowledging positive perceptions of economic participation, business facilitation, and women's empowerment, he identified areas needing policy focus, such as economic security, governance performance, and institutional responsiveness.

Amir Jahangir, CEO of Mishaal Pakistan and co-author, described the report as Pakistan's first indigenous, evidence-based freedom assessment, grounded in the nation's realities.

It analyzes six dimensions: Political Freedom, Civil Liberties, Rule of Law & Access to Justice, Economic Freedom, Digital Freedom & Access to Information, and Social Inclusion, Gender & Public Trust.

Using legal analysis, institutional data, expert input, and a survey of ~2,000 respondents, the report establishes a national benchmark for freedom and governance.

Key findings include strong citizen belief in professional freedom (77%),

minimal perceived government interference in business (75%), and positive views on women's opportunities (75%). Pakistan's rapid digital transformation and IT sector expansion were also highlighted.

Shafique Chaudhry of PCHR emphasized institutional fairness, rights protection, and effective governance for building public confidence. Farzana Yaqoob stressed women's empowerment, social inclusion, and equitable access to opportunities as crucial for sustainable development. Dr. Talat Shabbir of CPSC commended the report as a vital contribution to informed policymaking.

He noted that contemporary freedom encompasses economic opportunity, digital access, social inclusion, institutional fairness, security, and public trust, extending beyond constitutional guarantees.

The launch convened diverse stakeholders to discuss evolving aspects of freedom, governance, and public trust in Pakistan.



Former Civil Servant Saeed Mehdi Shares 'Living History' in New Memoir

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: 'The Eyewitness: Standing in the Shadows of Pakistan's History,' a memoir by former civil servant Muhammad Saeed Mehdi, offers a rare firsthand account of Pakistan's significant political conflicts and governance challenges over several decades. Launched at an SDPI book review event, the book combines personal experiences with historical developments, providing valuable insights for researchers, students, policymakers, and future generations. It documents national events from the Bhutto era up to the 1999 military takeover. Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, SDPI Executive Director, highlighted the book's importance as a historical account by a civil servant who witnessed critical political changes. He emphasized that understanding political economy is crucial for sustainability. The memoir traces Mehdi's life from his family's Partition migration to his civil service career, offering insider



perspectives on national developments. Mehdi described the book as "living history," preserving events witnessed from within the system, noting that many civil servants avoid documenting their experiences. He recounted witnessing both the use and misuse of

power, including what he termed the "judicial murder" of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, recalling Bhutto's final hours. Mehdi stressed the importance of objectivity and practicality for civil servants and acknowledged his family's support. He presented the memoir as a fair and

objective "mirror on the wall." Former civil servant Asim Imdad Ali praised the book for preserving institutional memory and called for senior civil servants to document their experiences. He found 'The Eyewitness' a fascinating account, particularly of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's final days and key decisions during Nawaz Sharif's tenure. Ali appreciated Mehdi's balanced presentation, his proposed reforms, and urged him to write a sequel. Former Senator Farhatullah Babar lauded the memoir's significance as a firsthand account of events shaping Pakistan's political history, covering the eras of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Benazir Bhutto, and General Pervez Musharraf. Babar noted Mehdi's approach of narrating events without judgment, allowing readers to draw conclusions. He acknowledged Mehdi's courage during imprisonment after the 1999 takeover and his adherence to principles, thanks to family support. He also commended SDPI for fostering open discourse.

Australian High Commission responds to Hania Ahmed case

News Desk



ISLAMABAD: The Australian High Commission has issued an official statement regarding the death of nine-year-old Australian citizen Hania Ahmed in the Chakwal firing incident.

According to the statement, the Australian government expressed condolences to the family of the deceased and conveyed deep sorrow over the loss of an innocent life.

The High Commission officials said consular assistance has been provided to the affected family, while support is also being extended to the two injured Australian citizens in Pakistan.

The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs is in contact with the family and continues to provide necessary assistance.

Meanwhile, Punjab Prosecutor General Syed Farhad Ali Shah has termed the alleged Crime Control Department (CCD) firing incident a high-profile case and sought the complete record of the Chakwal case.

Taking notice of the incident, the Punjab Prosecutor General said the matter would be examined from all aspects and the investigation record would be reviewed in detail to ensure a comprehensive assessment.

According to the First Information Report (FIR), Hania's father Adeel Ahmed stated that he is a resident of Australia and had arrived in Chakwal's Dhudial area on the night of June 10 with his wife, son, and nine-year-old daughter.

He said that when they reached near the CCD office at the residence of Raja Ali Ejaz, two unidentified armed men allegedly appeared and threatened the family at gunpoint before taking away jewellery from them.

According to the FIR, a gunshot was heard during the incident, after which the suspects allegedly opened fire.

Adeel Ahmed stated that he drove the vehicle towards Darbar to escape, but the attackers continued firing while chasing the vehicle. As a result, his son Affan and daughter Hania sustained serious injuries.

The FIR further stated that both children were immediately shifted to the District Headquarters Hospital (DHQ), where nine-year-old Hania succumbed to her injuries.

The case has drawn widespread attention, with authorities continuing investigations into the circumstances surrounding the firing and alleged failures that led to the tragic loss of the child.



Karandaaz Pakistan Unveils Studies on E-Invoicing and Agri Spot Trading to Boost Digital Economy

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Karandaaz Pakistan launched two studies on E-Invoicing and Agri Spot Trading to bolster Pakistan's digital economy. The research highlights how digital transaction infrastructure can enhance access to finance, improve market efficiency, increase transparency, and support economic formalization.

Waqas ul Hasan, CEO of Karandaaz Pakistan, emphasized the studies' role in raising awareness and informing institutional development. The e-invoicing study assesses Pakistan's readiness for digital invoicing to improve



tax compliance and SME financing. The agri spot trading study explores

creating a structured mechanism for agricultural commodities in Punjab, aiming to improve price discovery and market access through electronic warehouse receipts. SECP Commissioner Ali Farid Khwaja stressed the importance of modern market infrastructure and regulatory innovation.

Panel discussions at the event explored the practical implications of these findings for economic formalization, SME finance, and transparent agricultural markets. Karandaaz Pakistan remains dedicated to supporting solutions that strengthen the nation's digital economy through research and stakeholder engagement.

Beyond Academic Intelligence: The Four Quotients That Shape Human Success

For decades, society has largely measured intelligence through academic achievement, examination scores, and intellectual performance. While cognitive ability remains an important aspect of human development, contemporary educational and psychological research suggests that true success is influenced by a much broader spectrum of capabilities.

In today's rapidly evolving world, individuals require more than knowledge alone. They need emotional maturity, social competence, and resilience to navigate life's complexities. These qualities are reflected in four fundamental dimensions of intelligence: Intelligence Quotient (IQ), Emotional Quotient (EQ), Social Quotient (SQ), and Adversity Quotient (AQ).

Together, these four quotients provide a comprehensive framework for understanding human potential and preparing future generations for meaningful and successful lives.

Intelligence Quotient (IQ): The Capacity to Think

Intelligence Quotient, commonly known as IQ, refers to an individual's

ability to reason, analyze, comprehend, solve problems, and acquire knowledge. It is the foundation of academic learning and intellectual achievement.

Schools and universities traditionally focus on nurturing IQ because it contributes directly to educational success. Strong intellectual skills enable individuals to excel in mathematics, science, research, and critical thinking.

However, intellectual brilliance alone is not sufficient for long-term success.

Albert Einstein wisely remarked: "Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think."

Emotional Quotient (EQ): The Foundation of Character

Emotional Quotient represents the ability to understand, regulate, and express emotions effectively while demonstrating empathy and respect toward others.

Individuals with high emotional intelligence are often characterized by integrity, self-awareness, humility, responsibility, patience, and compassion. They are better equipped to manage stress, resolve conflicts, and maintain healthy relationships.

In many professional environments, emotional intelligence proves more valuable than intellectual ability because it fosters trust, collaboration, and effective leadership.

As psychologist Daniel Goleman observed:

"Emotional intelligence accounts for how we manage ourselves and our relationships."

EQ shapes character and determines how individuals interact with the world around them.

Social Quotient (SQ): The Power of Human Relationships

Social Quotient refers to the ability to establish, nurture, and sustain meaningful relationships. It encompasses communication skills, teamwork, social awareness, and the capacity to build strong personal and professional networks.

Individuals with a high SQ understand the importance of cooperation, mutual respect, and interpersonal connection. They create opportunities through relationships and often

emerge as influential leaders within their communities and organizations.

In today's interconnected world, success frequently depends not only on what one knows but also on one's ability to work effectively with others. **Leadership expert John C. Maxwell aptly stated:**

"People may hear your words, but they feel your attitude."

SQ reflects an individual's ability to connect, influence, and inspire.

Adversity Quotient (AQ): The Strength to Endure

Life inevitably presents challenges, disappointments, failures, and uncertainties. Adversity Quotient measures an individual's ability to withstand difficulties, adapt to change, and persevere despite setbacks.

Those with a strong AQ do not allow obstacles to define them. Instead, they view adversity as an opportunity for growth, learning, and transformation. Resilient individuals possess the courage to continue moving forward

even when circumstances become difficult. Their strength lies not in avoiding hardship but in overcoming it.

As Winston Churchill famously stated:

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts."

In an increasingly uncertain world, resilience may be one of the most valuable qualities a person can possess.

The Role of Parents and Educators

The responsibility of preparing children for the future extends far beyond academic instruction. Parents and educators must intentionally cultivate all four dimensions of intelligence.

Children should be encouraged to participate in sports, arts, leadership activities, community service, practical life experiences, and constructive responsibilities. Manual work should be respected as a source of learning and character development rather than viewed as punishment.

Such experiences nurture discipline, empathy, creativity, adaptability, teamwork, and perseverance, qualities essential for success in both personal and professional life.

Education should not merely produce knowledgeable individuals;

it should develop capable, compassionate, and resilient human beings.

The most successful individuals are rarely those who possess only high intellectual ability. Rather, they are those who combine knowledge with emotional wisdom, social competence, and resilience.

IQ may help an individual excel academically. EQ enables them to build meaningful relationships. SQ allows them to create opportunities through collaboration. AQ empowers them to rise above adversity and continue growing despite life's challenges.

The future belongs to those who cultivate all four dimensions of intelligence.

As an African proverb wisely reminds us:

"Smooth seas do not make skillful sailors."

Therefore, let us embrace a broader vision of education, one that develops the mind, strengthens the character, enriches human relationships, and builds the resilience necessary to thrive in an ever-changing world.

"Do not prepare the road for your children; prepare your children for the road."

The writer is Educationist



Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
177,039.82	172,399.90
Day's High	Day's Low
177,176.72	175,085.79
Index Value	Change
52,305,359,954	+4639.92
Percentage	Time
+2.69%	15 Jun, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
10,430.62	-41.10
Percentage	Time
-0.39%	15 Jun, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
51,905.28	+703.02
Percentage	Time
+1.37%	15 Jun, 1:32 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
69,317.50	+3,297.46
Percentage	Time
+4.99%	15 Jun, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	195.81	199.75
Bahrain Dinar	738.13	748.95
Canadian Dollar	198.80	207.25
China Yuan	38.05	38.80
Danish Krone	43.39	43.79
Euro	323.80	328.65
Hong Kong Dollar	35.10	35.95
Indian Rupee	2.75	3.05
Japanese Yen	1.7114	1.8161
Kuwaiti Dinar	885.75	895.85
Malaysian Ringgit	67.05	67.90
New Zealand \$	160.15	164.88
Norwegians Krone	27.88	28.18
Omani Riyal	722.95	733.32
Qatari Riyal	75.19	76.15
Saudi Riyal	74.30	74.90
Singapore Dollar	214.65	219.64
Swedish Korona	30.27	30.57
Swiss Franc	346.94	351.95
Thai Bhat	8.50	8.75
U.A.E Dirham	75.95	76.85
UK Pound Sterling	375.18	378.95
US Dollar	279.00	279.50

CM Punjab Reaffirms Commitment to Exploring Alternative Energy Sources on World Wind Day

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, in her message on World Wind Day, reaffirmed the government's commitment to exploring new and non-conventional sources of energy.

She said wind energy has the potential to become a sustainable asset for meeting future energy requirements and that the vast opportunities for generating electricity through renewable wind power should be fully utilized.

The chief minister said the Thal region of Punjab possesses immense potential for harnessing wind energy. She added that World Wind Day provides an opportunity to think beyond traditional energy



sources and explore innovative alternatives.

Maryam Nawaz said opportunities for developing wind energy projects through public-private partnerships in Punjab would be assessed. She added that the government aims to provide future generations with a healthy, clean and refreshing environment.

She further said the observance of World Wind Day is intended to raise public awareness about the unlimited potential of wind energy, its utilization and the importance of renewable energy resources. The chief minister emphasized that electricity generated from wind power plays a vital role in reducing carbon emissions and addressing climate change without causing harm to the environment.

Federal Minister Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh Urges Investment and Export Growth at Brand of the Year Awards 2026

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, Chief Guest at the Brand of the Year Awards 2026, highlighted the necessity of investment, innovation, and export-led growth to boost Pakistan's business environment.

He lauded entrepreneurs as the backbone of economic development and advocated for promoting Pakistan as a competitive investment hub.

Addressing economic challenges and poverty, he stressed creating sustainable business opportuni-

ties, employment, and equipping youth with technological skills.

The Minister emphasized enhancing exports and simplifying business procedures, detailing government reforms and SEZ incentives to foster industrial growth.

He expressed confidence in Pakistan's entrepreneurs and workforce. The Brands Foundation, organizing the prestigious awards, recognized outstanding brands, while the Board of Investment pledged continued efforts to attract investment and support economic growth.

Signing ceremony

KARACHI: Muhammad Ali Gulfaraz, CEO, DIB Pakistan (left), and Mohammad Shoab, CFA, Chief Executive Officer, Lucky Investments Limited (right), at the signing ceremony between DIB Pakistan and Lucky Investments Limited.



Lucky Investments and DIB Pakistan Collaborate to Expand Islamic Investing Nationwide

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Lucky Investments Limited (Lucky Investments), one of Pakistan's fastest-growing Islamic Asset Management Companies, and DIB Pakistan a subsidiary of Dubai Islamic Bank UAE, have entered into a strategic collaboration to broaden access to Shariah-compliant investment solutions across Pakistan.

As per the signed MOU in place, DIB Pakistan will distribute Lucky Investments' Islamic mutual funds and pension funds through its nationwide branch network, enabling customers to conveniently

access professionally managed Shariah-compliant investment products through one of Pakistan's leading Islamic banking franchises.

Commenting on the partnership, Mohammad Shoab, CFA, Chief Executive Officer, Lucky Investments Limited, said: "We are delighted to collaborate with DIB Pakistan, one of the most respected names in ethical banking globally. This alliance represents an important milestone in our mission to make high-quality Shariah-compliant investment solutions accessible to a wider segment of Pakistani investors. We aim to deepen financial inclu-

sion, encourage long-term savings, and contribute to the continued growth of Pakistan's Islamic finance industry."

Speaking on the occasion, Muhammad Ali Gulfaraz, Chief Executive Officer, DIB Pakistan, said: "At DIB Pakistan, we are committed to expanding access to ethical financial solutions. Our collaboration with Lucky Investments strengthens that commitment—bringing professionally managed Islamic investment and retirement solutions directly to our customers through our branch network. Together, we aim to create meaningful pathways to long-term financial security."

PSX holds gong ceremony to mark successful listing of SLM, achievements of CPEC

KARACHI: The Pakistan Stock Exchange, Monday, organized a special Gong Ceremony to commemorate the achievements of CPEC and the successful listing of Service Long March Tyres Limited on PSX that attracted strong investors' response during book building and general public subscription phases.

The SLM IPO attracted over 35000 applications from a diverse range of institutional and individual investors across the Book Building and Retail segments- both over-subscribed- while the transaction raised Rs 7.78 billion, said a statement issued here.

The gong ceremony was attended, virtually, by Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb while Managing Director and CEO of PSX Farrukh H. Sabzwari, SECP Commissioner Ali Farid Khwaja, Executive Vice President of China Financial Futures Exchange and Shareholder Director PSX, YOU Hang, CEO Service Long March Tyres Omar Saeed, CEO Arif Habib Limited Shahid Ali Habib and Chairman PSX Ruhail Muhammad expressed their views.

The book building portion, initially comprising 292.3 million ordinary shares, was fully subscribed within five seconds and was oversubscribed by 16.7 times. The Retail portion, comprising 97.4 million ordinary shares, was oversubscribed by 7.6 times and attracted over 33000 applications. The overwhelming response underscores the increasing depth, maturity, and growing

participation of investors in Pakistan's equity capital markets.

The offering comprised a total of 389.7 million ordinary shares with a floor price of Rs 14.25 per share but robust demand during the book building process took the strike price to Rs 19.95 per share. Consequently, the transaction size increased to Rs 7.78 billion from Rs 5.55 billion at the floor price.

Commercial banks, mutual funds, development finance institutions, insurance companies, investment banks, pension and employees' funds, brokerage houses, high-net-worth individuals, foreign investors, and retail investors participated in the IPO.

The Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, in his address, highlighted the significance of the transaction for Pakistan's capital markets and manufacturing sector and emphasized the importance of encouraging greater private sector participation in the capital market to support economic growth, industrial development, and investment mobilization in the country.

With 11 IPOs this fiscal year, investor confidence is ringing loudly from PSX and this IPO is a strong vote of confidence in Pakistan's economy and its future trajectory, he said, encouraging the SLM leadership to bring more ventures from China to Pakistan, where the government stands ready to support and facilitate further investment.

Farrukh H. Sabzwari termed the ceremony as a landmark occasion for Paki-

stan's capital market and remarked that the listing came at a time when Pakistan has just presented a positive federal budget, offering relief to the salaried class, reducing super-taxes, and introducing incentives for housing and business.

Despite global challenges, our markets remain resilient, with PSX touching Rs 21 trillion market capitalization, average daily trading value Rs 57 million and the third highest number of IPOs in 25 years, he added.

Ali Farid Khwaja, remarked that it was a special day for Pakistan as we celebrate both the success of CPEC and the listing of SLM. SECP is committed to enabling more companies to list and supporting PSX's ambitious target of expanding the investor base five-fold to 2.5 million investors in the coming years, he said.

Mr YOU Hang, stated that SLM's IPO demonstrated confidence in Pakistan-China cooperation, saying that the listing was not only a financial achievement but also a symbol of the deepening industrial and financial ties between our nations.

"SLM's success is a model for future Chinese enterprises to list in Pakistan, reinforcing the enduring China-Pakistan friendship," he remarked and reiterated commitment to promoting connectivity between the capital markets of both countries and supporting more high-quality cooperation projects.

NTC and PSW Forge Digital Partnership for Streamlined Trade



Commerce Desk

The National Tariff Commission (NTC) and Pakistan Single Window (PSW) have signed an agreement to automate and digitize NTC's processes. This collaboration, aligned with the Prime Minister's digitalization vision for NTC, aims to enhance data sharing, streamline tariff rationalization, and expedite trade remedial actions like anti-dumping and countervailing duties. Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, highlighted digitalization as crucial for a robust NTC to support economic growth and align Pakistan's trade defense with global standards.

NTC Chairman Dr. Jawwad Uwais Agha emphasized that this initiative signifies institutional evolution, promising reduced case dwell times, improved investigative accuracy, and a more transparent trade regime. PSW CEO Syed Aftab Haider noted the integration would create stronger institutional links and leverage shared trade data for NTC's transformation. Both organizations are committed to fostering transparent, predictable, and growth-oriented trade policies to boost domestic industry competitiveness. The ceremony was attended by senior officials from Commerce Ministry, FBR, and both NTC and PSW.

Pakistan's Federal Budget 2026-27: A Deep Dive into Key Allocations and Expert Reactions

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Mian Zahid Hussain, a prominent business leader, has lauded the Federal Budget 2026-27 as balanced, consistent, and reformative amidst Pakistan's economic challenges.

The budget, with a Rs 18.77 trillion outlay, targets Rs 15.264 trillion in FBR revenue, a significant increase requiring substantial tax enforcement. Hussain expressed

concern over retaining the growth rate at four percent, advocating for a five percent target to boost employment and reduce poverty.

He found the increase in minimum tax for exports and the non-restoration of the fixed tax regime unexpected but welcomed the three-year continuation of the IT sector's tax structure, vital for foreign exchange.

The budget offers relief to corporations by reforming super tax, abolishing it for incomes between Rs 150 million and Rs 500 million, and reducing the rate to eight percent for incomes over Rs 500 million, encouraging investment. A Rs 3.7 trillion saving from IPP negotiations is a key achievement in tackling circular debt.

The defense budget's rise to Rs 3 trillion and BISP's record Rs 838 billion allocation for social protection demonstrate a commitment to national security and public welfare.

The substantial Rs 8.054 trillion allocated for interest payments highlights the debt burden. To counter this, increasing non-tax revenue and the Rs 1.67 trillion petroleum levy were deemed necessary, despite the inflationary impact.

Hussain urged measures to reduce electricity and gas tariffs to enhance export competitiveness, potentially boosting exports by \$10 billion.

The concessionary bank loan rate of 4.5 percent for exporters and agricultural development measures were welcomed. Infrastructure development, particularly the Quetta-Karachi highway, will improve connectivity and trade. Relief for the salaried class through income tax slab adjustments and a minimum wage of Rs 40,700 are appreciated. Hussain expressed optimism that the budget, with private sector collaboration and sound policies, will lead to economic stability, increased foreign investment, and job creation.

US-Iran Peace Understanding Reflects Pakistan's Diplomatic Success: Khurshid Ahmed Hashmi

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pak-UK Trade Forum's SVP Khurshid Ahmed Hashmi lauded the US-Iran understanding as a triumph of Pakistan's diplomacy, showcasing that complex issues can be resolved through talks.



He congratulated President Zardari, PM Sharif, Army Chief Munir, and FM Dar, highlighting their roles in fostering regional peace and enhancing Pakistan's global standing through proactive engagement and prudent leadership. Hashmi emphasized diplomacy over confrontation, reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to peace and constructive international engagement for global stability.

200 Mbps high-speed internet facility inaugurated at UoB

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister Excise, Taxation and Narcotics Control, Syed Fakhar Jehan, on Monday visited the University of Buner (UoB), where he was received by Vice Chancellor Prof Dr. Jamshed Ali Khan, along with members of the university's administrative and academic staff.

During the visit, the provincial minister formally inaugurated a 200 Mbps high-speed internet facility for students and was given a detailed briefing on the university's academic and research activities, newly established departments, ongoing development projects and future expansion plans.

Sports Secretary Reviews Preparations for CM Punjab Youth Games

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Secretary Youth Affairs and Sports Punjab Fazal-ur-Rehman has presided over an important meeting to review preparations for the Chief Minister Punjab Youth Games 2026.

Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi, Additional Secretary Sports Shabbir Hussain Cheema, Director Sports Chand Perveen, Director Youth Affairs M Fahad, and Deputy Director Zahoor Ahmed attended the meeting.

The officials concerned gave a comprehensive briefing on the planning and organisation of the CM Punjab Youth



Games 2026 during the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, Secretary Youth Affairs and Sports Punjab Fazal-ur-Rehman said that the CM Punjab

Youth Games will feature competitions at multiple levels, ranging from Union Councils to the Inter-Division stage, ensuring broad participation from across the province. "Sports competitions will also be organized among the educational institutions to encourage youth engagement and talent development".

Secretary Youth Affairs and Sports Punjab Fazal-ur-Rehman said that millions of young athletes from across Punjab are expected to participate in the mega sporting event. "CM Punjab Youth Games 2026 will be organized in collaboration with the School Education Department, strengthening efforts to

promote sports at the grassroots level".

Secretary Youth Affairs and Sports Punjab Fazal-ur-Rehman informed that preparations for the successful conduct of the CM Punjab Youth Games have already begun. "This mega event will play a significant role in the promotion and development of sports across the Punjab province".

Secretary Youth Affairs and Sports Punjab Fazal-ur-Rehman expressed his confidence that the Chief Minister Punjab Youth Games 2026 will help identify and nurture emerging talent in multiple games, providing a platform for young athletes to showcase their abilities and pursue excellence in sports.

Foolproof Security Plan Finalised for Muharram Across Faisalabad Region

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: On the directions of Regional Police Officer (RPO) Faisalabad, Sohail Akhtar Sukhera, a comprehensive security plan has been finalised to ensure peace and maintain law and order during Muharram-ul-Haram across the Faisalabad region.

According to the plan, security arrangements have been made for 4,402 Majalis, including 354 in Category A, 916 in Category B and 3,132 in Category C. A total of 7,576 police officers and personnel, assisted by 4,025 volunteers, will perform security duties.

Similarly, security has been devised for 1,528 processions, comprising 162 Category A, 273 Category B and 1,093 Category C processions. As many as 10,873 police officers and personnel, along with 4,637 volunteers, will be deployed.

The RPO Sohail Akhtar Sukhera directed district police heads to reassess the security of mosques, Imambargahs, Majalis and procession routes, activate peace committees and promote interfaith harmony and brotherhood to avert any sectarian tension.

RPO also ordered the establishment of district-level control rooms for effective command and control, strict action against misuse of loudspeakers and display of weapons, and close monitoring of anti-social and terrorist elements. Traffic police have been tasked with ensuring smooth traffic flow and proper parking arrangements.

The RPO Sohail Sukhera further instructed that welfare of police personnel be ensured through provision of food and water and implementation of a shift system for efficient performance of duties.



IBA Karachi Hosted Delegation Of Senior Academics From Bangladesh

Commerce Desk

Karachi: IBA hosted a delegation of senior academics from Bangladesh today as part of an academic engagement hosted at the Main Campus.

The visiting delegation comprised Deans, Vice Chancellors, Heads of Departments, Directors, Faculty Members, and senior representatives from leading Bangladeshi higher education institutions, including

the University of Rajshahi, University of Dhaka, Chittagong University, Shahjalal University of Science & Technology, Jahangirnagar University, North South University, BRAC University, Asian University of Bangladesh, and Southeast University.

The session commenced with a welcome note by Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director, IBA Karachi, followed by the introduction of the delegation. The

visit provided an opportunity for academic dialogue, institutional exchange, and discussion on areas of mutual interest in higher education. The engagement focused on strengthening academic linkages, sharing institutional experiences, and exploring avenues for future collaboration between IBA Karachi and higher education institutions in Bangladesh.

The Higher Education

Commission (HEC) of Pakistan was also represented during the visit, with officials including Mr. Jehanzeb Khan, Project Director, HEC; Mr. Syed Mehboob Ali Shah, Account Officer and focal person from HEC, and representation from the HEC Regional Centre Karachi.

The visit reflects IBA Karachi's continued commitment to fostering regional academic cooperation, knowledge exchange,



and meaningful engagement with institutions across South Asia.

Iran's Strategic Victory and Israel's Growing Isolation

Continued from Page 4

Another major consequence of the conflict concerns regional security. Many governments in the Middle East have concluded that long-term stability cannot rest on overwhelming military imbalance. The existence of a significant strategic disparity has encouraged regional actors to explore new security arrangements, deeper defense cooperation, and alternative mechanisms for deterrence.

In this environment, Pakistan assumes a unique role. As the only Muslim nuclear power, Pakistan occupies a position unlike any other state in

the Islamic world. Therefore all middle eastern countries including Turkey are scrambling to sign defense deals with Pakistan to provide them counterbalancing deterrence to Israel's nuclear capability.

Its diplomatic engagement during the crisis elevated its profile, while its strategic capabilities make it an increasingly important factor in regional calculations. Whether through diplomacy, defense cooperation, or broader security dialogue, Pakistan is likely to become more influential in discussions about the future architecture of Middle Eastern security.

The broader lesson is that stability is most likely to emerge when no state believes it can impose its will indefinitely through military superiority and on the strength of nuclear arms. Durable peace requires balance, mutual recognition, respect for sovereignty, and political settlements that address the underlying causes of conflict rather than merely managing their symptoms.

The war also raises important questions for Israel. For decades, Israel operated under assumptions that combined military superiority and unconditional strategic backing of the US would enable it to materi-

alize its elusive dream of greater Israel. Iran's defiance and the US begging for a peace deal suggest that those assumptions are being reassessed. The costs of perpetual confrontation are rising. The political consequences of prolonged conflict are becoming more severe. Diplomatic solutions that once seemed distant may gradually become unavoidable.

The ultimate lesson of this conflict is not military. It is political and economic. Nations are not judged solely by the wars they fight. They are judged by what they build after the fighting ends. If Iran succeeds in transforming resilience into prosperity,

sanctions relief into development, and strategic endurance into national renewal, it will achieve a victory far greater than any military triumph.

The Middle East now stands at a crossroads. One path leads toward reconciliation, economic integration, regional cooperation, and coexistence. The other leads toward continued rivalry, arms competition, and recurring conflict. The decisions made in the coming years will determine which future emerges.

My conclusion is straightforward. The greatest achievement of Iran was not defeating an adversary on the battlefield. It was demonstrating

that overwhelming pressure could be resisted, that strategic patience could outlast coercion, and that endurance could preserve national sovereignty. If that resilience now opens the door to economic transformation, diplomatic influence, and a more balanced regional order, then June 2026 may indeed be remembered as the beginning of a new chapter in Middle Eastern history.

The writer is Press Secretary to the President (Rtd), Former Press Minister, Embassy of Pakistan to France, Former Press Attaché to Malaysia and Former MD, SRBC. He is living in Michigan, USA

War that set the world on fire and the bill we are all paying

Continued from Page 4

2026's Economic Outlook from 3.4 percent growth in 2025 down to 2.8 percent growth this year. If the war lasts well into 2027, as you can see has been quite a while, global growth could drop as low as 2.1 percent, under the 3.4 percent average measured in the decade before the pandemic. Even if oil prices remained at a comparatively low average of \$85 per barrel, the global economic growth would run off by half a point to a third, IMF chief economist Gita Gopinath warned. The longer the disruptions last, the greater the economic and social costs will be," said Stefano Scarpetta, the OECD's chief econo-

mist. In the event there was a conflict between the two sides, a Capital Alpha Partners analyst pegged its odds at 25 percent for a resolution before May, 45 percent for before autumn and 35 percent for before 2027. Markets are starting to discount the worst.

So, the gap between \$2.98 per gallon and \$3.98 per gallon of petrol at the pump took place within one month, and does the most harm on the jobs, where they have the oldest cars, not work from home, and when they do work, have to commute in order to earn a living to support themselves and their families. The nation's average price rose to \$3.41 by early March. The war continued to escalate and

establish another new record. However, at least America has shoulder to shoulder resources and choices, it has a currency that is the world's reserve. Imagine now the scenario from the viewpoint of Lagos; Colombo, where energy and food cost a third or half of household expenditure where they cost less than a quarter of the household budgets in wealthy nations! After years of a global fight against post-pandemic pressures, an OECD panel projects the global inflation rate will hit 4 per cent this year, going up to 4.0 per cent if the war drags on. The price of goods imported into the United States rose by 1.3 percent in February 2026

alone, the biggest single month increase since March 2022 when Russia invaded Ukraine. Now, in the eyes of every port, every shipping lane, every supply-chain, from the farthest corners of the world, the sole question is: can it get through without the Gulf? This good old world is under an unnatural wrong. The issue that brought about the strikes on Feb. 28, was decided in Washington and Jerusalem. They were made and approved by the U. S. They were made and approved by the U. S. The scholarly strategy was a scheme that was devised by a group of men in air-conditioned rooms, knowing intelligence, having legal advice and access to state machinery. The

mother from Karachi who is now paying 40 percent more for cooking oil, didn't do any such calculation. The farmer in the sub Saharan African countries that didn't have enough funds to buy urea for his maize planting wasn't consulted. The small businessman in Sri Lanka, who saw that his fuel bills had doubled, but his income remained stagnant, was unable to vote in this decision. Elected to pay taxes imposed on them without their approval, for a war that they were never consulted about, by countries that they may not even recognize on a map. By 2027, global inflation is forecast to increase 1.3 percentage points, if the worst case scenario

is realised, according to the OECD. Unemployment climbs. Investment dries up. Multiple economies fall into a recession. Which is the clinical terminology of economics. An important statistic behind every number is a human condition the family that couldn't afford the medicine; the business that failed during the year, and the child who didn't have enough money to buy school lunch.

We're not saying you should be complacent about actual threats to security. The moves were complicated. However, complexity is no excuse for not being accountable. But it is this agenda that will be fulfilled by billions of humans who took no

part in this war. While the world waits for negotiations on ceasefire and talks slowly resume in the teary eyes of diplomats and the slow return of boats to the waters of the Strait of Hormuz, as the world starts to tally the casualties, it is important to remember three things this crisis has unveiled: the interdependence of a global economy, the chokepoint we failed to notice, and the permanency of cost of war. The fires in the gulf eventually will die out. Hunger, inflation, lost growing years will take a very long time to cool.

The writer is a student at NDU Islamabad and she can be reached at mahnoorleo92@gmail.com

Called on

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Iran Dr. Reza Amiri-Moghadam called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House, on Monday.



Photo: Online

Pakistan Reaffirms Commitment to SCO Charter, to Host 2027 Summit: Dar

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar Monday reiterated Pakistan's firm commitment to the principles and objectives of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Charter, calling SCO a pivotal platform for regional peace, security and economic cooperation since its 2001 inception.

In his message on SCO's 25th anniversary, Dar congratulated the "SCO family" and said Pakistan's journey from observer to proactive full member since 2017 reflects its unwavering faith in multilateralism and



the region's potential. He praised SCO's respect for international law and good neighbourliness, noting the "Shanghai Spirit" of mutual trust, equality, cultural diversity, shared development and constructive engagement

continues to guide member states.

Dar announced Pakistan looks forward to assuming the chairmanship of the SCO Council of Heads of States in September this year and hosting the CHS Summit

in 2027. "This reflects trust and confidence in Pakistan's leadership role regionally and globally," he said.

Highlighting Pakistan's contributions, Dar noted Islamabad hosted the Council of Heads of Government meeting in October 2024. Pakistan is currently chairing the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure for 2025-2026 and permanently chairs the Special Working Group on Poverty Alleviation, aiming to improve living standards for millions.

He emphasized Pakistan's strategic location as a natural bridge for Eurasian connectivity, with CPEC serving as a model for trans-regional

trade and economic integration among SCO countries. As a frontline state against terrorism, Pakistan values SCO's collaborative framework to combat terrorism, separatism and extremism.

Beyond security, Dar commended SCO's efforts in digital innovation, energy security and promoting trade in national currencies. Pakistan, he said, is eager to contribute to regional connectivity, trade, investment, food security, climate resilience, public health, education and sustainable development. He concluded by envisioning a prosperous future built on social cohesion and mutual respect.

Bilawal visits UK High Commission, discusses bilateral ties and regional peace

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal-Bhutto Zardari on Monday visited the British High Commission where he held meetings with senior British political figures to discuss strengthening bilateral relations and regional cooperation.

During his visit, Bilawal met the British Minister for the Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan and Pakistan, Hamish Falcon. He was received by British High Commissioner Jane Merritt, Political Counsellor Nicole Roberts and First Secretary Political Charlotte Ojenaka. The discussions focused



on enhancing Pakistan-UK relations, with both sides

expressing a commitment to expanding cooperation in

multiple sectors. Bilawal and Minister

Hamish Falcon exchanged views on Pakistan's diplomatic role in promoting peace and stability in the region. According to officials, the two leaders acknowledged Pakistan's constructive engagement in regional peace efforts.

Both sides agreed on the importance of further strengthening economic relations between Pakistan and the United Kingdom, including expanding trade and investment opportunities.

The meetings were described as cordial and forward-looking, reflecting continued engagement between the two countries on political, economic, and regional issues.

OIC Secretariat commends Pakistan's role in regional peace

ISLAMABAD: The General Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Monday, commended the roles played by Pakistan and the State of Qatar, alongside other countries that helped bridge differences and create the conditions for reaching an agreement on the Memorandum of Understanding between the United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In a press statement, the OIC welcomed the agreement on the MoU between the US and Iran to end military operations and restore security and freedom of navigation in the Strait of

Hormuz to their previous levels. "The General Secretariat expressed its hope that the agreement would be fully implemented and that the parties concerned would participate earnestly in the forthcoming rounds of negotiations to address all issues and maintain security and stability in the region," it was added.



mented and that the parties concerned would participate earnestly in the forthcoming rounds of negotiations to address all issues and maintain security and stability in the region," it was added.

Islamabad Deploys 15,000 Forces for Muharram Security

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad administration has deployed over 15,000 security personnel, including police, Rangers, and other law enforcement agencies, to ensure peace and safety during Muharram. This comprehensive security plan covers the period from the 1st of Muharram to the 19th of Safar, anticipating 177 processions and 929 religious gatherings across the capital.

A dedicated control room at the Safe City Headquarters will monitor these events, with the Inspector General of Islamabad Police personally overseeing all arrangements. Ten vigilance teams have been formed to check personnel deployment and performance.

Senior police officials are stationed at various locations to supervise ground operations. Preventive measures include intensified search and combing operations in different areas to address potential

threats. Surveillance is enhanced with over 3,000 CCTV cameras and drones for real-time monitoring.

Additionally, 500 traffic police personnel are deployed to manage traffic flow and minimize disruptions.

This multi-layered approach involves monitoring, rapid response, and community facilitation, aiming to ensure a peaceful environment for citizens during Muharram.



Islamabad Police are committed to protecting lives, property, and maintaining peace through strict enforcement and continuous monitoring.

PAF, Navy pilots martyred in trainer aircraft crash near Mardan: ISPR



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: A Pakistan Air Force (PAF) trainer aircraft on a routine training sortie crashed near Mardan on Monday, martyring both pilots on board, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement.

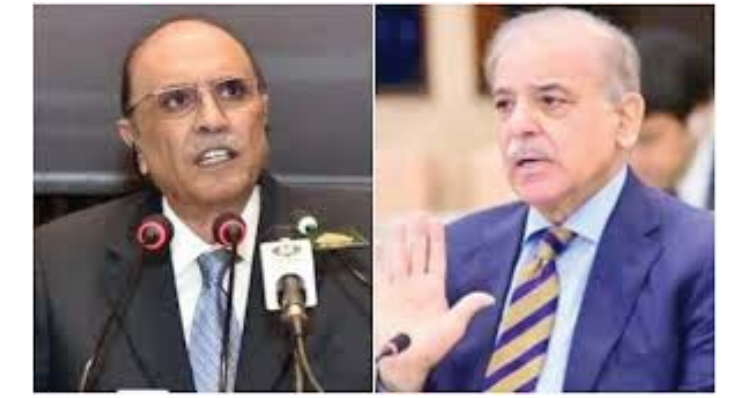
According to the military's media wing, the pilots were identified as Flight Lieutenant Muhammad Qasim Abdullah of the PAF and Lieutenant Taha Abbasi of the Pakistan Navy.

Air Headquarters has constituted a board of inquiry to ascertain the cause of the accident, the statement said.

Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces, Field Marshal Asim Munir, along with the services chiefs and all ranks of the Pakistan Armed Forces, expressed deep grief over the tragic loss of precious lives and extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

The latest crash occurred five days after another aircraft accident.

President, PM grieved over deaths in PAF training aircraft crash



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday expressed deep grief over the crash of a Pakistan Air Force (PAF) training aircraft near Mardan.

In their separate statements, the president and the prime minister paid rich tribute to Flight Lieutenant Muhammad Qasim Abdullah and Pakistan Navy's Lieutenant Taha Abbasi who embraced martyrdom in the tragic incident. They prayed for the elevation of

the martyrs' ranks in Jannah and for strength to the bereaved families to bear this irreparable loss.

President Zardari, expressing his heartfelt sympathy to the aggrieved families, said that the nation would always remember the sacrifices of its brave sons who laid down their lives for the defense of the homeland.

Prime Minister Shehbaz also extended his condolences to the bereaved families, saying that the professional competence of the Pakistan Armed Forces for the defense of the country was unparalleled.

Punjab Assembly budget session to begin on June 16

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The agenda for the Punjab Assembly's budget session has been issued, with the session scheduled to begin on Tuesday, June 16, at 2pm.

According to the agenda, the provincial government's budget for the upcoming financial year will be presented during the session. The budget speech will be delivered by the provincial minister for parliamentary affairs.

The assembly will also take up

the approval of the supplementary budget for the financial year 2025-26, while the provincial finance minister will present the Finance Bill 2026 before the house.

In addition, a notification regarding amendments to the Punjab Sales Tax on Services Act 2012 will be tabled during the session.

The assembly will also be presented with the Fiscal Risk Statement 2026-27, which will outline potential financial risks and the government's fiscal management strategy.

Japan lauds Pakistan's sustained mediatory role in US-Iran peace process

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar received a telephone call from Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi.

The two leaders welcomed the understanding reached between the United States and Iran, noting its significance for regional stability and the broader international community.

The Japanese Foreign Minister conveyed Japan's deep appreciation and commendation for Pakistan's sustained mediatory role and constructive efforts throughout the process, which helped facilitate and advance the outcome achieved.

Both sides reaffirmed the importance of continued diplomatic engagement and the need to maintain close contact and regular exchanges to further strengthen bilateral relations and coordination on issues of mutual interest.