



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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ہم کو یوں نہیں پڑتا کہ جی نے خبر دی، نہیں
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بیان کیا اور ان سے ابو ہریرہ رضی اللہ عنہ نے
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Sheikh Rasheed to resume legal practice after 50 years

Awami Muslim League chief Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed on Tuesday announced that he is returning to legal practice after his membership of the Rawalpindi Bar was restored following a gap of nearly five decades. Speaking to the media, Sheikh Rasheed said he had now become a lifetime member of the bar after his membership was reinstated.



Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqir appointed head of Sindh Human Rights Commission

According to details, Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqir's appointment has been made for a period of five years. The post of chairperson of the Commission had remained vacant following the removal of Iqbal Ahmed Dathu from office. The Human Rights Department has issued a formal notification regarding the appointment.

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Progress Review Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs progress review meeting on sectoral reforms on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

PM Sharif Pushes Tech Integration for Economic Overhaul

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed ministries to consult experts on integrating modern technologies across economic sectors. He emphasized that promoting industry, skilled trades, and foreign investment is crucial for economic progress and public welfare.

The PM stressed the need for sectoral reforms, increased domestic production, and export expansion, with industrial products contributing to both local manufacturing and higher export volumes. He highlighted efforts to secure future energy through renewable sources and develop an effective electric vehicle policy for energy conservation and affordable transport. Inter-ministerial coordination,

transparency, and optimum performance in reform initiatives are top priorities. Ministers briefed the PM on policy proposals.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, Economic Affairs Minister Ahsan Iqbal Cheema, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar, Climate Change Minister Musadik Malik, Power Minister Awais Leghari, Petroleum Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Industries and Production Haroon Akhtar, Director General of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) Major General Asad Rehman Cheema, and senior officials from relevant institutions.

Security forces kill 17 terrorists in Balochistan operations



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani security forces killed 17 terrorists in intelligence-based operations across several districts of Balochistan, the military said on Tuesday.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the operations were conducted in Mastung, Noshki, Zehri, Khuzdar and Kech districts following a train incident on May 24, 2026.

The statement said the security forces targeted terrorist hideouts, resulting in the deaths of 17 members of the Indian-sponsored Fitna-ul-Hindustan group.

Weapons, ammunition, explosives and ready-made improvised explosive devices (IEDs) were recovered from the slain militants.

The ISPR said the terrorists had been involved in multiple sabotage operations in the region.

Clearance and sanitisation operations are ongoing, and operations will continue until the "complete elimination of terrorism" under the National Action Plan approved by the Federal Apex Committee.

Pakistan's security forces and law enforcement agencies remain committed to eliminating terrorism sponsored by foreign countries, the statement added.

Pakistan fast-tracks four dam projects to boost water security

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has accelerated work on four major dam projects expected to add more than 8 million acre-feet of water storage capacity, as the country moves to address rising climate-related water challenges, state media reported.

According to the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP), the projects include Diamer-Bhasha

Dam, Mohmand Dam, Kurram Tangi Dam, and Nai Gaj Dam.

The dams are expected to improve water availability, strengthen flood control systems, and increase hydropower generation capacity.

Pakistan's water resources are under increasing strain due to erratic rainfall patterns and accelerated glacier melt linked to climate change.

Officials have repeatedly

warned that the country is facing a widening gap between water supply and demand, making new storage infrastructure a national priority.

APP reported that four major projects with a combined live storage capacity of 8.136 MAF are currently under construction.

Diamer-Bhasha Dam alone is expected to contribute 6.4 MAF of storage capacity.

Other projects include

Mohmand Dam (0.676 MAF), Kurram Tangi Dam (0.90 MAF), and Nai Gaj Dam (0.16 MAF).

Pakistan's existing major reservoirs include Tarbela Dam with 5.580 MAF of live storage, Mangla Dam with 7.277 MAF, and Chashma Barrage with 0.311 MAF.

The report said the Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) has declared the ongoing period the "Decade of

Dams," with accelerated efforts to complete key infrastructure projects aimed at improving water security.

It added that additional reservoir projects with a combined storage capacity of 15.88 MAF are in planning and design stages, including Sindh Barrage (2.0 MAF), Shyok Dam (5.5 MAF), Akhori Dam (7.0 MAF), Chiniot Dam (0.93 MAF), and Murunji Dam (0.45 MAF).

President, PM laud security forces for successful counter-terrorism operations in Balochistan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Tuesday, commended the security forces for conducting successful intelligence-based operations in various districts of Balochistan and praised their professionalism and bravery.

The president lauded the effective counter-terrorism operations carried out in Mastung, Noshki, Zehri, Khuzdar and Kech districts, which resulted in the elimination of 17 terrorists, the President Secretariat Media Wing said in a press release.

He reiterated that the

complete eradication of the menace of terrorism, sponsored and supported from outside, remained a top priority.

President Zardari emphasized that the nefarious designs of Fitna al-Hindustan and its facilitators would never succeed.

The prime minister commended the security forces for eliminating 17 terrorists belonging to Fitna al-Hindustan and operating under Indian patronage, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

He said the nation highly valued the sacrifices and services rendered by the armed forces and law enforcement agencies in safeguarding the country's



security and stability.

The prime minister observed that the successes achieved by the security forces in the fight

against terrorism reflected the collective resolve and unity of the entire nation.

He reaffirmed that the nefarious designs of terrorist elements operating under Indian patronage would be thwarted at all costs.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif further said that counter-terrorism operations would continue till complete eradication of terrorism from the country.

He reiterated that the government stood shoulder to shoulder with the security forces and law enforcement agencies in eliminating the menace of terrorism. The prime minister vowed that every conspiracy aimed at undermining Pakistan's peace, stability and development would be decisively defeated.

Pakistan may tax cryptocurrency transactions in upcoming budget, sources say

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The federal government is likely to tax and document cryptocurrency transactions in the upcoming budget, sources said, describing the move as a major challenge. The government is working on several proposals to finalise a taxation framework aimed at ensuring proper documentation and encouraging investment. A key institutional challenge, officials said, is the return of crypto assets held abroad.

The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) is reviewing the taxation of digital currency transactions, including profits and assets.

According to a report by the Federal Tax Ombudsman, there are 560 million digital currency users worldwide, with 90 million in Pakistan, making the country the sixth largest adopter of cryptocurrency globally.

The State Bank of Pakistan issued a circular in April 2018 outlining the risks of virtual currencies, but did not declare them illegal.

Federal cabinet approves track and trace system to curb sale of fake medicines

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet on Tuesday approved the implementation of a modern track and trace system for medicines across Pakistan, according to the Ministry of National Health Services.

The move is aimed at eliminating counterfeit medicines and strengthening the pharmaceutical supply chain. The ministry described the decision as a historic move that will help curb the circulation of fake medicines and ensure greater transparency in the country's healthcare sector.

Federal Health Minister Mustafa Kamal said the cabinet had also approved necessary amendments to the Drug Labelling and Packaging Rules, 1978, to facilitate the implementation of the new system.

Under the revised framework, every medicine manufactured or imported into Pakistan will be required to carry a standard 2D barcode along with serialization data.

The system will enable digital monitoring and verification of medicines at every stage, from production and import to distribution and final purchase by consumers.

DPM Dar, Kuwait's FM Sheikh Jarrar discuss evolving regional, int'l developments

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister (DPM/FM), Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Tuesday held a meeting with Kuwait's

Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrar Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah to discuss evolving regional and international developments.

During the interaction, FM Sheikh Jarrar appreciated Pakistan's continued mediatory role and its efforts to facilitate engagement between the United States and Iran, commending its constructive contribution to regional peace and security, a DPM's Office news release

said. The DPM/FM reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to supporting diplomacy and sustained engagement as the preferred path to lasting peace and stability across the region.



Both sides expressed hope that ongoing diplomatic initiatives would yield a positive outcome and durable peace in the near future. They also reaffirmed the strong fraternal ties between Pakistan and Kuwait and agreed to remain in close contact going forward.

Azad Kashmir PM seeks dialogue to avert Action Committee Protests

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, emphasized the government's commitment to peaceful resolution of issues to prevent the Action Committee from protesting.

He expressed preference for dialogue and mutual understanding, stating that any protests would be met with peaceful engagement rather than force.

Rathore addressed the Action Committee's demand to abolish the twelve assembly seats for Kashmiri migrants, revealing that options such as reducing the number of seats are under consideration.

He reiterated the government's openness to debate and dialogue, prioritizing the state's interests and acknowledging the significant role of Kashmiri refugees.

Rathore detailed past efforts following an agreement with the Action



Committee, where most demands were met except for the refugee seats, which reignited the movement.

He mentioned federal government involvement and productive discussions with the Action Committee, but highlighted that abolishing seats is a constitutional matter requiring broad consensus.

To achieve this, the government

planned an All Parties Conference (APC) and consultations with all political parties. However, the Action Committee refused to grant time for the APC, leading to discussions with the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

The Prime Minister stressed the importance of avoiding instability and urged all stakeholders to respect each other's viewpoints and regional sensi-

activities.

He advocated for resolving democratic and constitutional issues within the assembly rather than through street protests, acknowledging that many within the Action Committee favor dialogue.

Rathore affirmed the government's continued pursuit of a dialogue-based solution until the last moment, deeming the use of force against its own people as unacceptable and potentially exploitable by India.

He also noted past objections to the refugee seats, citing concerns about potential manipulation due to provincial government influence in elections. Rathore concluded by reiterating that the state's interests are paramount, there is no rigid stance on the seats, and all options, including reducing their number, are being explored to reach a mutually acceptable solution through dialogue and understanding.

PPP powerhouse jumps ship to PML-N, citing decades of disillusionment



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League (N) Azad Jammu and Kashmir President and Leader of the Opposition Shah Ghulam Qadir met with Pakistan Peoples Party Central Executive Committee member Chaudhry Amir Qabil. Senior PPP leader Chaudhry Amir Qabil has ended his forty-year association with the PPP and announced his formal joining of the Muslim League (N) along with hundreds of his colleagues. According to details, Pakistan Peoples Party Central Executive Committee member Chaudhry Amir Qabil met with Pakistan Muslim League (N) Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Shah Ghulam Qadir at his residence in Islamabad and on this occasion announced his formal joining of the Pakistan Muslim League (N). Shah Ghulam Qadir, while talking, said that you should work hard for the success of the Muslim League (N) in the Raj Mahal constituency along with your colleagues. The Muslim League (N) will address the deprivations of the Raj Mahal constituency and he assured Chaudhry Amir Qabil and his current colleagues that the Muslim League (N) will not only take full care of their rights and self-respect, but the party will also give them a respectable position. Chaudhry Amir Qabil invited the party president to visit the Raj Mahal constituency and address a big public meeting, and he accepted with gratitude. On this occasion, the Muslim League candidate from the Raj Mahal constituency, Assembly and Additional Secretary General Zulfikar Ali Malik, Deputy Secretary General Sardar Abdul Khaliq Wasi, Member District Council Kotli Chaudhry Muhammad Asif, Constituency President of the Muslim League (N) Malik Muhammad Ilyas, Malik Sajid Hussain and others were also present.

Chess in the bar

FAISALABAD: Lawyers playing chess at District Bar.



Photo: Online

Arrest of Azad Kashmir youth: Pakistan raises issue with India

Abdul Majeed Tahir/Agencies

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi has formally requested consular access to Zeeshan Mir, a youth from Azad Kashmir arrested by Indian forces in Uri, occupied Kashmir. Sources indicate Mir crossed the Line of Control due to a love affair. Pakistan has lodged a diplomatic protest with the Indian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, seeking official confirmation of the arrest and information regarding Mir's well-being and legal situation. The Pakistani High Commission is actively monitoring the situation and maintaining diplomatic contact with Indian authorities for further details. Indian media reported Mir's apprehension by troops in the Uri sector, and he identified himself as Zeeshan Ahmed Mir from Muzaffarabad, with his identity corroborated by a Pakistani ID card.



Ombudsman Steps In After Railways Blocks Public Park Land

Anwar Adil Khanzada

NAWABSHAH: The Federal Ombudsman has intervened after Pakistan Railways Sukkur failed to allocate additional land for the Dour town's public park, despite repeated requests from the Town Committee. A social worker's complaint prompted the Ombudsman to issue a notice to railway officials, demanding a report within seven days and scheduling a hearing for June 9. Citizens have praised the ombudsman's swift action and urged strict measures against Pakistan Railways for its inaction. Social activist Anwar Adil Khanzada argued that the currently leased 119,680 square feet is insufficient for a proper public park. Several formal requests to Pakistan Railways Sukkur, along with appeals to higher railway authorities in Lahore and Islamabad, have gone unanswered for five months. Railway officials have cited delays in preparing a "daily divisional tracing plan," which remains incomplete. Previously, Pakistan Railways had agreed to a 260,100 square feet plot, but this was reduced due to objections, and the allocated land is situated poorly, requiring significant expenditure by the Town Committee to fill in ponds for usability. Khanzada stressed the need for the originally planned larger area to provide adequate recreational facilities and prevent railway land encroachment. He highlighted that a functional park would also prevent waterlogging near railway tracks during monsoons, benefiting both the community and the railway infrastructure. Khanzada expressed faith in the Federal Ombudsman for providing accessible and timely justice and reiterated his plea for more land to realize this vital public project.

Azad Kashmir PM and PPP Leaders Discuss Election Plans and Party Strengthening

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: President of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Azad Kashmir chapter, Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin, called on Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore here on Monday. Senior Minister Mian Abdul Waheed, government ministers Syed Bazil Ali Naqvi and Javed Iqbal Badhanvi, and Special Assistant Mubashir Munir Awan were also present on the occasion.

During the meeting, a wide range of issues, including the organization of the All Parties Conference, the party's strategy for the upcoming elections,



and matters relating to the Action Committee, were discussed in detail.

Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister Faisal Mumtaz Rathore said that the PPP, being the largest representative party of the people of Azad

Kashmir, would achieve resounding success in the upcoming elections on the basis of its performance.

He said that practical steps had been taken over the past five months to address public problems and

provide relief to the people.

PPP President Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin emphasized the need to further strengthen the party and make it more active and organized at the grassroots level.

'Multan Turned Into a Graveyard of Roads'

Citizens Slam Massive Excavation Drive Amid Dust, Traffic Chaos and Transparency Concerns

Special Correspondent

MULTAN: Growing public anger is mounting across Multan as residents accuse the city administration of turning the historic metropolis into a "graveyard of roads" through a large-scale excavation campaign that has left major thoroughfares dug up simultaneously, triggering severe traffic congestion, dust pollution, and daily hardship for thousands of commuters.

Among the affected routes are Gulgasht Colony Brand Road, Hussain Agahi, Chowk Fawara to Ghanta Ghar, Bohar Gate to Chowk Fawara, Nishtar Road, MDA Chowk, and several other key arteries across the city. Residents say the widespread digging has transformed routine travel into a frustrating and exhausting experience, particularly for motorcyclists, rickshaw passengers, traders, students, and

small-car users.

Officials maintain that the projects were accelerated before the close of the 2025-26 fiscal year to ensure utilization of allocated development funds. The works are reportedly part of a citywide sewerage infrastructure scheme involving the installation of new sewer lines.

However, many citizens have questioned both the timing and necessity of the initiative. Residents argue that sewerage networks had already been installed in several areas in previous years and contend that the city's most urgent priorities were road widening, traffic management, and improvement of existing infrastructure rather than another extensive round of excavation.

"The entire city has been dug up at once," said a frustrated resident. "People are spending their days covered in dust. In Multan's



extreme summer heat, dirt sticks to clothes and skin, making even short journeys miserable."

Concerns have also been raised over the absence of any clear road restoration plan. According to residents, officials had indicated that reconstruction of damaged roads may depend on allocations in the upcoming provincial budget, raising fears that citizens could face months of disruption before

repairs are completed.

Critics describe the simultaneous excavation of multiple roads as a glaring example of poor planning, arguing that authorities have imposed avoidable hardship on the public by failing to phase the projects properly.

Further controversy surrounds the lack of transparency regarding the ongoing repair schemes. Residents



and journalists point out that informational boards are absent from most construction sites, leaving the public uninformed about project details, estimated costs, funding sources, contractors, commencement dates, and completion timelines.

Local journalists say repeated requests for work orders and

project documentation have yielded little response, making independent scrutiny and verification difficult. The absence of publicly available records has fueled skepticism and intensified demands for accountability.

With dust-filled streets, worsening traffic bottlenecks, damaged road surfaces, and

unfinished construction dominating daily life, citizens are demanding an immediate restoration roadmap, greater transparency, and accountability from the city administration.

For now, many residents say Multan resembles one vast construction zone, with no clear end to the disruption in sight.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 3:17 am
Zohr 12:06 pm
Asr 5:05 pm
Maghrib 7:14 pm
Isha 8:55 pm

EMERGENCY

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

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
DHO 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

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif expresses thanks over “Mera Piyara” project being declared UN Global Champion

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif expressed deep gratitude as the “Mera Piyara” project, a virtual center for child safety, was honored as a UN Global Champion.

This marks a historic achievement for Pakistan, with two projects from Punjab now being recognized among the world’s best by the United Nations’ World Summit on Information Society (WSIS). “Mera Piyara” is ranked among the top five globally, while Punjab’s Virtual Women Police Station is in the top twenty. This dual recognition makes Pakistan the only country with two shortlisted projects in the WSIS category, highlighting the success of technology-based public services and enhancing Pakistan’s international image.

The “Mera Piyara” project has been instrumental in addressing critical child safety issues, successfully handling over 145,000 cases. Specifically, it has facilitated the recovery and reunification of over 77,000 missing children with their families, including 3,000 special needs children.

The project’s integrated digital

response system has resolved thousands of cases related to child abuse and online exploitation. According to WSIS reports, a total of 145,772 cases have been managed in Punjab, with 136,157 successfully resolved. This includes the registration of 26,274 First Information Reports (FIRs) and the submission of 7,081 challans to courts.

Over 53,811 missing or abducted children have been located and reunited with their families, with rescue teams actively working on the remaining cases. Additionally, 15,447 cases of child violence and abuse were reported, leading to prompt action, including 5,075 FIRs and 3,830 arrests.

The project has also addressed 191 cases of online child abuse and 4,377 cases involving differently-abled individuals, with 2,984 reunited with their families, and 646 FIRs registered to ensure their protection.

Shelters and government protection have been provided to affected individuals. Chief Minister Sharif lauded the “Mera Piyara” team for this significant honor, emphasizing that this global acknowledgment validates Punjab’s innovative digital governance initiatives.



Education Must Be the Top Priority in the Upcoming Budget, Dr. Abrar Hussain Malik

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Abrar Hussain Malik, Central President of the All Pakistan Private Schools and Colleges Association, has urged the federal government to prioritize education in the 2026-27 budget and allocate greater resources to the sector. He said quality education, research, and human resource development are key to national progress. He noted that private educational institutions educate millions of students and provide employment to thousands of teachers and staff but are facing serious challenges due to inflation, rising utility costs, heavy taxation, and complex regulatory requirements.

Dr. Malik called for increased education spending, investment in digital learning, teacher training, and educational infrastructure, along with tax relief, subsidized utility rates, low-interest financing, and simplified registration procedures for private institutions. He emphasized that reducing financial and administrative burdens on educational institutions is essential for improving educational standards and urged the government to include private sector representatives in education policy and budget planning. He added that investment in education is an investment in Pakistan’s future, economic stability, and national development.

Festa della Repubblica

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Yousaf Raza Gillani along with Italian Ambassador to Pakistan, Marilina Armellini cutting the cake during the ceremony to mark National Day of the Italian Republic at local hotel in the Federal Capital. Federal Ministers Ali Pervez, Khawaja Asif, Hanif Abbasi and KP Governor Faisal Karim Kundi are also seen.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

DC Hyderabad Presents Shield of Appreciation to Abid Lashari on Tamgha-e-Imtiaz

Bureau Report

HYDERABAD: Deputy Commissioner Hyderabad, Mr. Zain-ul-Abidin Memon, presented a shield of appreciation to Abid Lashari, Tamgha-e-Imtiaz, in recognition of his outstanding services in the field of disability rights and rehabilitation.

During the meeting, Mr. Abid Lashari thanked the Deputy Commissioner for the honor and invited him to visit the NDF Rehabilitation Facility in Qasimabad, Hyderabad. The Deputy Commis-



sioner accepted the invitation and expressed his willingness to visit the facility next week. Mr. Zain-ul-Abidin Memon

appreciated the efforts of NDF Pakistan for providing rehabilitation services to children with intellectual disabilities across Sindh, particularly in Hyderabad. He acknowledged the organization’s valuable contribution towards improving the lives of children with disabilities and promoting their inclusion in society.

Mr. Lashari reaffirmed NDF Pakistan’s commitment to continuing its mission of serving children with intellectual disabilities and their families through quality rehabilitation and support services.

LUMS Commemorates 75 Years of Pakistan-China Diplomatic Relations

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Parvez Hassan Centre for Chinese Legal Studies at LUMS commemorated the 75th anniversary of Pakistan-China diplomatic relations with a high-profile gathering.

The event brought together academics, legal professionals, business leaders, policymakers, and the Chinese community to highlight the enduring strength and evolving nature of the bilateral partnership.

His Excellency Sun Yan, Consul General of China in Lahore, reaffirmed the importance of these relations, emphasizing expanded cooperation in academic and cultural spheres. Scholarships funded by the Consulate were awarded to two law students, underscoring a shared commitment to education and nurturing future legal scholars.



Consul General Sun Yan spoke about the growth of cooperation as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) enters its 2.0 phase.

He stressed continued collaboration in economic development, tech-

nological innovation, green growth, regional connectivity, and academic exchanges. Discussions throughout the event echoed this sentiment, focusing on the long-term trajectory of bilateral relations and the

crucial role of academic institutions in fostering dialogue and strengthening linkages.

Mr. Parvez Hassan, Founder of the Centre, emphasized that while infrastructure builds physical connections, it is institutions, scholarship, mutual understanding, and cross-cultural learning that truly sustain durable international partnerships.

The gathering was attended by notable figures from LUMS, including Rector Shahid Hussain and Dean of SAHSOL Dr. Sadaf Aziz, along with leaders from Chinese companies operating in Pakistan and prominent Pakistani professionals. The event concluded by reinforcing the significance of sustained academic engagement in fortifying Pakistan-China relations, with LUMS continuing to serve as a vital platform for dialogue and cross-cultural exchange.

Must-behead public health employees protest against double standards, injustice, burn their bodies

City Desk

MUZAFFARABAD/JHELUM VALLEY: Public health employees came out of their offices on the streets with their heads covered in shrouds in support of their demands on the call of Azad Kashmir.

On Tuesday, employees in the capital Muzaffarabad and Jhelum Valley etc. raised slogans in their organizational patron-in-chief Sardar Khalid Mahmood, Secretary General Sajjad Hussain Naqvi, Raja Sadaqat Khan Vice Chairman, District President Paramedical Staff Association Muzaffarabad, Malik Ehtesham President Muzaffarabad and others in the protest rally.

According to reports, protesters also burned their bodies in Jhelum Valley.

Data Darbar Embezzlement Scandal: Five Officials Face Disciplinary Action

News Desk

LAHORE: The Punjab Auqaf Department, under Secretary Dr. Ehsan Bhutta and Minister Ch. Shafay Hussain, has finalized disciplinary actions against five former senior officials and caretakers of Data Darbar for embezzling donations, totaling over Rs. 20 million. This crackdown aligns with Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif’s anti-corruption vision. Proceedings were conducted under the PEEDA Act 2006 due to the violation of public trust. Sheikh Jameel Ahmed, former Administrator, received a reduction to a lower post (BS-15) for 5 years, forfeiture of 5 years of service, a Rs. 9,265,800 recovery, an adverse record entry, and a ban from cash-handling roles. Tahir Maqsood, former Manager, was removed from service, ordered to repay Rs. 11,324,867, and restricted from field postings. Saqib Naseem, former Stenographer, had 4 years of service forfeited and is banned from sensitive office positions. Muhammad Shareef, a former caretaker, faces separate proceedings after a video showed him stealing from a pilgrim; he is permanently banned from Data Darbar and major shrines. Noor Hussain, another former caretaker, had his annual increments withheld for three years and is also barred from Data Darbar or other major shrines. The department affirmed that all donations are sacred trusts to be used for public welfare, with strict warnings against any compromise of shrine integrity.

Pakistani Dutch Christian Community Protests in Groningen Over Forced Conversion and Child Marriage in Pakistan



News Desk

GRONINGEN, NETHERLANDS: The Pakistani Dutch Christian Community protested in Groningen against the ongoing abduction, forced conversion, and child marriage of Christian and Hindu minor girls in Pakistan. Organized by Ilyas Bhatti and Zeeshan Nadeem, the demonstration called for international intervention regarding the controversial court ruling of 12-year-old Maria Shahbaz, who was allegedly abducted, forced to convert to Islam, and married off. Protesters demanded Pakistan enforce child protection laws equally, return victimized girls to their families, and reverse the Shahbaz ruling. They also urged the Dutch government and EU to pressure Pakistan and review its GSP+ trade status for human rights violations, highlighting this as a widespread crisis affecting thousands of minority girls annually.

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almass Ayoub Sabir**
 Vice Chairman: **Asim Nazir Ahmad**
 Editor: **Naveed Ahmad Khan**
 Head Editorial Advisory Board: **Amjad Mehmood**
 Bureau Chief Karachi: **Khurram Jaffrani**
 (jaffrani@adpluse.pk)
Syed Afraz Ali Nazish
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)
 Bureau Chief Lahore:
Head Office: AIMS Building, Street No. 4, H-8/1, Islamabad.
 spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com
Phone: +92 51 2227123,
WhatsApp +92 346 5008408
Karachi office: A111, Block C, Gulsha-e-Jamal, PRECHS,
 Karachi Phone: 021-33399390
 Email: spokesmankarachi@gmail.com
Lahore Office: 7-E, Samanberg, Johar Town.
 spokesmanlahore@gmail.com
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From Colonial Oceans to Colonial Space

History often repeats itself, not in identical form, but in familiar patterns. During the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, European maritime powers such as Portugal, Spain, the Netherlands, France, and Britain discovered that mastery of the seas translated into mastery over nations. Ships became instruments of conquest. Navigation became a pathway to domination. What began as exploration quickly evolved into colonization, exploitation, and the systematic extraction of wealth from foreign lands.

The consequences were profound. Entire civilizations were transformed. Indigenous cultures were marginalized or erased. Languages disappeared. Economic systems were redesigned to serve distant imperial capitals. Vast quantities of gold, silver, spices, agricultural products, and human labor were extracted from colonies and transferred to imperial powers. The wealth accumulated during this period laid the foundations of modern Western prosperity, while many colonized societies were left struggling with the political, economic, and social scars of centuries of foreign domination.

Even after formal colonialism declined in the twentieth century, new forms of influence emerged. Military alliances, overseas bases, economic dependencies, and political leverage replaced direct territorial control. Powerful nations maintained their influence through strategic military installations, financial institutions, and geopolitical arrangements that often allowed them to shape the policies of weaker states. While the methods changed, the competition for resources and strategic advantage remained remarkably similar.

Modern Space Race
 Today, humanity stands at the threshold of another historic transformation. The new frontier is no longer across oceans. It lies beyond Earth itself. The race that once focused on discovering and conquering distant continents has evolved into a race to establish a permanent presence on the Moon and, ultimately, Mars. The objectives are presented as scientific exploration, technological advancement, and the survival of humanity. These goals are noble and inspiring. Yet history teaches us that whenever new frontiers emerge, competition for control and resources inevitably follows.

Other companies are contributing to this emerging ecosystem. Rocket Lab specializes in launch services and satellite deployment. Sierra Space is developing commercial space stations and transportation systems. Astrobotic Technology and Intuitive Machines are working on lunar delivery systems that could support future settlements and mining operations. Several companies are researching methods to extract water ice, rare earth elements, and other valuable resources from the Moon and asteroids.

The economic potential is enormous. Lunar water can be converted into hydrogen and oxygen for rocket fuel. Rare

minerals may support advanced manufacturing. Asteroids contain metals whose value could reach trillions of dollars. Mars may eventually offer opportunities for scientific research, resource extraction, and human settlement on an unprecedented scale.

Yet these possibilities raise profound questions. Who will own these resources? Who will regulate their extraction? Will humanity repeat the mistakes of colonial history, allowing a handful of powerful nations and corporations to monopolize extraterrestrial wealth? Or will space become a shared domain managed for the benefit of all humankind?

Existing legal frameworks provide only partial answers. The Outer Space Treaty prohibits national appropriation of celestial bodies through sovereignty claims. Space is legally considered the province of all humanity. However, the treaty was written during the Cold War, long before private corporations possessed the capability to establish lunar bases or mine extraterrestrial resources. Many legal ambiguities remain unresolved.



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

Pakistan Explores Rethinking Beverage Taxes for Health and Industry

Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, today addressed a high-level consultation as Chief Guest organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) in Islamabad, where key stakeholders from government, academia, industry, and development partners gathered to deliberate on the rationalization of Federal Excise Duty (FED) on beverages and juice products in Pakistan. The discussion centered on the economic, nutritional, industrial, and agricultural dimensions of the existing tax structure and its broader implications for the country's food and beverage sector.

In his address, the Minister underscored that taxation is not merely a fiscal instrument but also a policy tool that shapes consumption patterns, public health outcomes, and industrial development. He observed that the current uniform FED regime does not adequately reflect the significant differences in sugar content, nutritional value, and economic contribution across various beverage categories, and therefore calls for a more nuanced and evidence-based approach to taxation.

Rana Tanveer Hussain emphasized that Pakistan's policy framework must carefully balance multiple objectives, including the protection of public health, the sustainability of domestic agriculture, the competitiveness of industry, and the stability of government revenues. He noted that these goals are not contradictory and can be pursued simultaneously through calibrated and rational policy design.

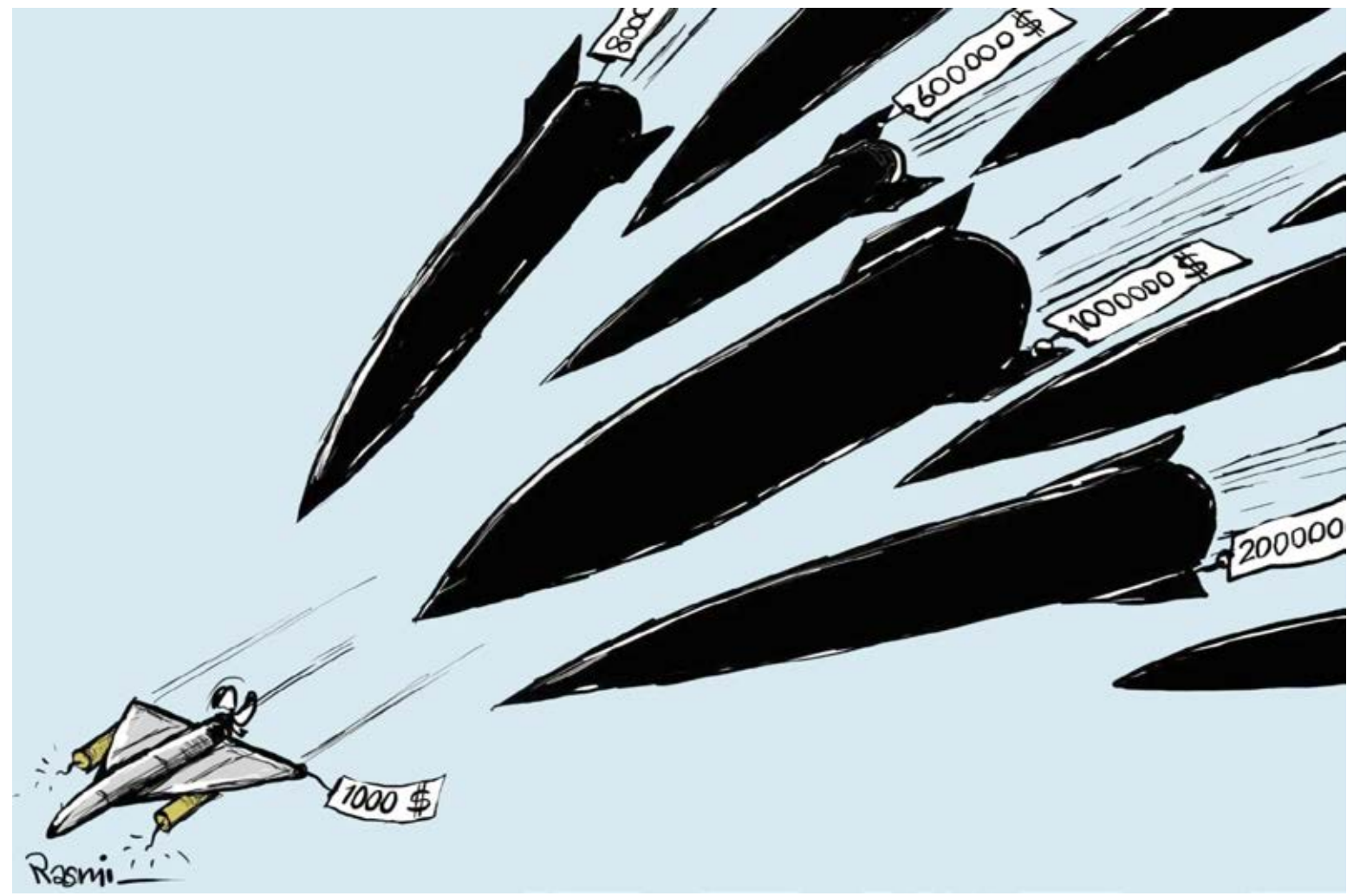
The Minister also highlighted the global trend toward differentiated taxation based on sugar content and nutritional composition, stating that Pakistan should move in a similar direction by encouraging healthier product formulations and innovation within the industry. He stressed that incentives for low-sugar and no-added-sugar products can play a constructive role in improving public health outcomes while supporting industrial modernization.

Referring to the broader agricultural context, Rana Tanveer Hussain underlined the importance of value addition through fruit processing as a means to enhance export competitiveness, reduce post-harvest losses, and strengthen rural livelihoods. He noted that Pakistan has significant untapped potential in agro-processing, which can be realized through supportive and rational policy frameworks.

Reaffirming the Government's commitment, the Minister stated that Pakistan seeks to simultaneously advance public health, strengthen agriculture and industry, and ensure fiscal sustainability through effective revenue mobilization. He described these objectives as mutually reinforcing rather than conflicting, provided that policymaking remains thoughtful, balanced, and evidence-driven.

Appreciating SDPI for convening the consultation, he highlighted the importance of inclusive stakeholder engagement in shaping effective public policy and expressed hope that the deliberations would lead to practical, actionable recommendations for the Government to consider in future reforms of the FED regime.

However, the most striking development in this new era is the emergence of private corporations as primary drivers of space exploration. Unlike previous generations, where governments monopolized space activities, today's space race



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

Educational Leadership Beyond Rhetoric: Reflections on a Year of Reform in Attock

Since my transition from corporate communications to the teaching profession as an English language teacher, I have developed a different perspective on public-sector leadership. One observation that has often concerned me is that appointments to key educational positions—whether District Education Officers, Deputy District Education Officers, or Chief Executive Officers of District Education Authorities—are sometimes perceived as being influenced more by connections than by professional competence and merit.

It was therefore encouraging to observe that, under the broader reform agenda of the Punjab Government, efforts were made to introduce a more merit-oriented selection process for educational leadership through competitive assessments and structured interviews. While interpretations may vary, the emergence of a number of energetic, qualified, and reform-oriented officers across Punjab appears to suggest that this shift may be gradually influencing institutional functioning. I remain open to correction on this view.

One such appointment was that of Dr. Muhammad Azhar as Chief Executive Officer, District Education Authority Attock, in May 2025. I may sound somewhat subjective here, but during his tenure serving in the district in a modest capacity of English language teacher I had the opportunity to observe several administrative developments from within the system. Over time, it appeared that some of the changes were not isolated administrative actions but may be understood as part of a broader effort toward merit, accountability, and institutional

responsiveness.

One of the more visible changes was a gradual shift in administrative culture. Traditionally, district education offices have often been perceived by many teachers as formal, distant, and less accessible. During the past year, however, there appeared to be efforts aimed at making the office of the Chief Executive more approachable, responsive, and engaged with field-level educators. This transition—from a relatively rigid administrative style toward a more open and communicative approach—helped reduce the distance between policy formulation and classroom realities.

Within this evolving environment, several reforms were introduced or implemented across the district. One may interpret these differently, but they appear broadly aligned with a merit-oriented leadership approach in which planning and execution are increasingly guided by performance, transparency, and institutional need rather than routine administrative practice.

The implementation of the "Learn and Earn program" is one such example. The programme aimed to link education with skills development and employability, encouraging students to view learning not only as academic preparation but also as a pathway toward practical economic engagement. Its execution at the district level reflects how coordinated administrative effort can translate policy direction into operational outcomes.

Infrastructure development across schools further illustrates this direction of reform. Construction and upgradation projects in multiple institutions, the establishment of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)

classrooms across tehsils, and the installation of solar systems were undertaken to improve access and learning environments. While infrastructure alone does not determine educational quality, its impact becomes more meaningful when supported by leadership that prioritizes functionality, sustainability, and equitable resource distribution.

Similarly, steps toward digital inclusion, including the distribution of Chromebooks among high-achieving students, reflect an effort to introduce learners to technology-enabled education. In principle, such initiatives represent a move toward preparing students for an increasingly digital environment, provided they are sustained through teacher support and meaningful integration into classroom practice.

Teacher development also remained an important focus area. Various training programmes were organized to enhance pedagogical skills, classroom management, and student-centred teaching approaches. From an institutional perspective, such initiatives gain greater significance when embedded within a consistent reform culture that treats continuous professional development as a long-term investment.

Recognition and morale-building measures also contributed to strengthening institutional confidence. The introduction of "Hero Awards" for teachers, along with promotions for teaching and non-teaching staff, helped reinforce a sense of acknowledgement within the system. In public education, where morale is closely linked with institutional performance, such measures may play a supportive role in strengthening motivation.

It is also worth noting a subtle but meaningful shift in leadership perception during this period. There appeared to be a gradual change in how district-level authority was experienced

A World Without Arms Control Agreements

"The Human Race Cannot Coexist With The Presence Of Nuclear Weapons"

ICCO Itoh (Mayor of Nagasaki) he advent of nuclear weapons is revolutionary in a military sense and implicitly reshaped the future of warfare and human civilization. However, the exchange of nuclear weapons between two nuclear-armed forces would be disastrous. The catastrophe nuclear weapons could yield is comparatively larger than conventional warfare, as was experienced in the wake of the Second World War.

During the "Cold War", two great powers, the USSR and the U. S., had been intensely involved in a tumultuous arms race competition and maintained the Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD) policy. Nevertheless, the presence of nuclear weapons wards off escalation of nuclear war, as both Moscow and Washington were more focused on engaging in implicit wars for many years. Still, at the zenith of the Cold War, the collective nuclear arsenals of both countries reached approximately 70000 warheads. Nonetheless, both states signed multilateral agreements to limit the size of their arsenals, such as SALT 1, SALT 2, START, NEW START, etc.

However, since 1970, both countries have not been in a legally binding agreement on arms reduction and disarmament. The New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) also did not last long, and was terminated on Feb 4, 2026. This treaty was signed between President Barack Obama and President Dmitry Medvedev, and the purpose of this treaty was to limit both states to having 1550 nuclear warheads each. This encompasses 800 deployed and 700 non-deployed ICBMs, SLBMs, and Bombers. Furthermore, this also included

transparency, official visits, notifications, and data exchange.

However, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov had proclaimed that President Putin had offered voluntarily to confine the size of deployed nuclear weapons; further, President Trump verified this claim. Until now, both states have not reached an agreement, which is concerning, since it could push both Moscow and Washington to an unprecedented arms race owing to technological advancement and modernization of nuclear weapons.

If an arms control agreement does not take place between Russia and the U. S. in the near future, it would signal to the rest of the world that arms competition has been started again and is not restricted by arms control treaties. Furthermore, Washington has been developing and modernizing its Missile Defense System (MDS), which has annoyed Moscow as well as its new economic and military rival, China. Therefore, Beijing and Moscow would expand their military spending on nuclear forces. In addition, Russia had tested two nuclear-powered and nuclear-capable weapons, and the New START was a kind of treaty that was the last guardrail limiting the size and visibility of both countries' nuclear stockpiles.

Furthermore, NATO's eastward expansion to Russia's border is a threat to their sovereignty, and Putin has vehemently threatened NATO and the U. S. to employ nuclear weapons if Ukraine is provided with Tomahawk Missile. This missile could provide Kyiv with the ability to hit deeply inside Moscow. Similarly, in East Asia, the rapid modernization and development of nuclear arsenals by North Korea poses a significant threat to the existence of Japan



Analysis

Muhammad Rabnawaz Awan



Analysis

Waleed Feroz

Arab-Islamic States FMs slam continued incursions of extremists Israelis into Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Ministers of eight Arab-Islamic states, Tuesday, condemned in the strongest terms the continued incursions by extremist Israeli settlers into Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif under the protection of the Israeli forces, as well as the raising of the Israeli flag within its courtyards.

The foreign ministers held Israeli authorities responsible for halting these escalatory actions and warned that repeated Israeli violations 'exacerbate tensions, fuel instability and extremism, undermine international efforts to achieve peace, and constitute a clear breach of Israel's obligations under international law.'

They called for an immediate cessation of all such Israeli illegal and provocative practices and reaffirmed the need to respect the historical and legal status quo at Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif in its entirety.

In a joint statement, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Türkiye, the

Republic of Indonesia, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the State of Qatar, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, stressed that these provocative and unacceptable actions constituted a flagrant violation of international law, the relevant United Nations resolutions, and the historical and legal status quo at the holy sites in occupied east Jerusalem.

"The Foreign Ministers further condemn the continued and systematic violations and measures carried out by Israel, the occupying power, aimed at altering the historical, legal, and demographic character of occupied east Jerusalem and undermining the sanctity and status of its Islamic and Christian holy sites," the joint statement said.

They reaffirmed their categorical rejection of any attempts to alter the historical and legal status quo in Jerusalem and its Islamic and Christian holy sites and stressed on its preservation while recognizing the special role of the historical Hashemite custodianship in this regard.

The ministers reiterated that the entire area of Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-

Haram Sharif, which amounted to 144 dunams, is a place of worship exclusively for Muslims, and that the Jerusalem Endowments and Al-Aqsa Mosque Affairs Department, affiliated with the Jordanian Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, is the legal entity with exclusive jurisdiction to administer the affairs of the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif and to regulate entry thereto.

The foreign ministers also reaffirmed their unwavering solidarity with the Palestinian people and their steadfast support for the realization of their legitimate and inalienable national rights, foremost among them their right to self-determination and the realization of an independent and sovereign Palestinian State on the 1967 lines, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

They further reaffirmed their support for all efforts aimed at ending the Israeli occupation and achieving a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace based on the two-State solution in accordance with international law, the relevant United Nations resolutions, and the Arab Peace Initiative.



"One Newham" Vision: Councillor Shah Champions Unity Through Shared Values

Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON: Cabinet Member for Communities, Lakmini Shah, has reaffirmed her commitment to building a "One Newham" by bringing together residents from the borough's many cultures, backgrounds, and faiths around shared values of kindness, respect, compassion, and service. Responding to a request from

local churches, Councillor Shah recently welcomed several Reverends and Pastors from Afro-Caribbean churches to Dockside, the Mayor's Office, for a special gathering focused on community unity and civic leadership.

During the visit, Christian faith leaders led prayers for Newham's Mayor, Forhad Hussain, asking for wisdom, strength, and guidance as he carries out his duties and serves

the people of the borough during his term of office.

Speaking about the occasion, Lakmini Shah said: "I am determined to build a 'One Newham' by bringing our communities together around what we share in common. While we come from many different cultures, backgrounds and faiths, we are united by shared values of kindness, respect, compassion, and

service to others." The gathering highlighted the important role that faith communities play in supporting residents and strengthening social cohesion across Newham.

Councillor Shah added that moments such as these demonstrate how diversity can be a source of strength, bringing people together through mutual understanding and shared purpose.



By celebrating the borough's rich diversity and shared hope to continue building a more cohesive, compassionate, and united Newham for all residents.

Professional Policing in the Modern Era

Sohail Akhtar Sukhaira and the Transformation of Faisalabad



Professor Dr. Muhammad Jalal Arif

In the annals of modern policing, history reserves its deepest admiration not for officers who merely enforce the law, but for those who transform it into a living covenant between the state and its citizens. From Sir Robert Peel's foundational doctrine in nineteenth-century London—that the police are the public and the public are the police—to the community-oriented models pioneered in Singapore, Japan, and Scandinavia, the world's most respected law enforcement traditions share a common philosophy: firmness against criminality, compassion toward the governed, and unrelenting commitment to institutional integrity. It is within this global tradition of professional excellence that the career and leadership of Regional Police Officer (RPO) Faisalabad, Mr. Sohail Akhtar Sukhaira, merits serious and admiring attention.

A Career Forged in Purpose
Mr. Sohail Akhtar Sukhaira is a member of the 28th Common of the Pakistan Police Service (PPS), who entered the service through the competitive Central Superior Services examination and began his distinguished career as an Assistant Superintendent of Police in 2001. Over more than two decades, he has navigated an exceptional breadth of assignments spanning operational command, criminal investigation, intelligence, training, and provincial administration—a profile that bears striking resemblance to the career architecture of the most admired police leaders globally.

His portfolio of senior appointments—including Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Investigation Lahore, DIG Operations Punjab, DIG Training Punjab, DIG Punjab Highway Patrol, and Commandant of the Police School of Intelligence Punjab—reflects a deliberate and compre-

hensive preparation for leadership at the highest levels. In December 2025, the Government of Punjab appointed him Regional Police Officer Faisalabad, one of the province's most consequential policing commands, encompassing a population and economic footprint that rivals many mid-sized nations.

Intelligence-Led Policing: A Global Imperative

The 21st century has redefined the architecture of crime. Narcotics trafficking, organized crime syndicates, cybercrime networks, and violent extremism no longer respect borders, jurisdictions, or traditional policing boundaries. In response, the world's leading law enforcement agencies—from Interpol's global intelligence frameworks to the evidence-based crime reduction strategies of New York, London, and Tokyo—have converged on a singular doctrine: policing must be intelligence-led, data-driven, and community-anchored.

Mr. Sukhaira has applied precisely this doctrine in Faisalabad. Under his leadership, the region's police have launched sustained, intelligence-driven operations against narcotics traffickers, dismantling supply chains responsible for flooding communities with hashish, heroin, crystal methamphetamine, opium, and illicit liquor. Thousands of offenders have been arrested, and substantial seizures have disrupted the financial infrastructure of criminal networks. This mirrors the targeted enforcement philosophy championed in successful anti-narcotics campaigns from Colombia to the Philippines, where breaking the economic backbone of drug trafficking—rather than merely arresting street-level peddlers—produces lasting reductions in community harm.

Dismantling Organized Crime: Lessons from Global Practice

Across the world, from Italy's campaign against the Cosa Nostra to South Korea's systematic dismantling of organized criminal networks, experience consistently demonstrates that organized crime thrives wherever law enforcement is reactive rather than proactive. Mr. Sukhaira has embraced the proactive model. Through coordinated intelligence operations, Faisalabad



Region Police have systematically targeted and neutralized notorious gangs involved in robbery, vehicle theft, and violent crime. The recovery of stolen property worth millions of rupees and the successful resolution of hundreds of serious criminal cases represent outcomes that would earn recognition in any policing environment anywhere in the world.

Equally significant has been the campaign against illegal weapons. Research from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime consistently links the proliferation of illegal firearms with elevated homicide rates, gang violence, and public insecurity. The recovery of thousands of illegal weapons and rounds of ammunition across the Faisalabad Region is not merely a statistical achievement—it represents lives protected, families preserved, and communities made safer.

The Citizen-Police Compact: Trust as a Force Multiplier

Among the most enduring lessons of global policing is that enforcement alone cannot sustain public safety. The most successful policing systems in

the world—whether in Finland, New Zealand, or Canada—rest upon a foundation of public trust. Communities that trust their police report crimes, share intelligence, and cooperate with investigations. Where that trust is absent, even well-resourced agencies operate partially blind.

Mr. Sukhaira has demonstrated an acute awareness of this principle. His administration has prioritized public hearings, accessible complaint-resolution mechanisms, online grievance systems, and police service centers that bring the institution closer to the citizen. Colleagues and community stakeholders consistently describe him as approachable and responsive—qualities that may seem modest but are, in the architecture of effective policing, profoundly consequential. When citizens trust that their police officer is accessible, accountable, and fair, the flow of vital information that underpins crime prevention is dramatically enhanced.

Public Safety and the Rule of Proportionality

One of the defining tests of professional policing is whether

enforcement is proportionate—whether the law's considerable power is aimed precisely at those who deserve it, rather than sweeping indiscriminately through communities. This principle has been illustrated vividly in the regional campaign against the dangerous "Manja" culture, where metallic and chemically coated kite strings have caused severe injuries and fatalities among motorcyclists, pedestrians, women, children, and elderly citizens.

Mr. Sukhaira's approach here exemplifies a globally respected principle: enforcement must be uncompromising against those who manufacture, distribute, and commercially exploit dangerous practices, while remaining humane and dignified toward ordinary citizens, particularly the elderly and law-abiding members of society. Senior citizens—especially those between 65 and 70 years of age with no criminal record—must be treated with the respect their age and social standing demand. The heaviest hand of the law belongs on organized suppliers and habitual violators, not on peripheral participants. This balance between strength and restraint is not a weakness; it is the hallmark of mature, world-class policing.

Institutional Legacy: Building Organizations That Outlast Individuals

The most enduring contribution of any police leader is not the number of criminals arrested during a tenure, but the institutional foundations laid for those who follow. Sir Robert Peel did not merely police London—he created the model. William Bratton did not merely reduce crime in New York—he built systems and cultures of account-



ability. The greatest leaders leave organizations stronger than they found them.

In this spirit, Mr. Sukhaira's emphasis on officer welfare, professional training, technological modernization, educational partnerships, and administrative accountability reflects a vision of institutional transformation that extends beyond the immediate operational moment. His work draws favorable comparison to the legacy of former Inspector General Zulfikar Ahmad Cheema—a name synonymous in Punjab Police with professionalism, anti-dacoit operations, and the principled exercise of command authority. Both leaders, separated by era but united by values, remind us that institutions are strengthened not by power alone, but by character, discipline, and unwavering commitment to public service.

Conclusion: Policing as a Sacred Trust

Across the world, societies that have achieved meaningful public safety share a common condition: police leaders who understand that the badge is not a symbol of power over citizens, but a pledge of protection to them. Effective policing is, at its highest expression, an act of moral commit-

ment—a daily covenant to stand between the vulnerable and those who would harm them.

Through his determined campaign against narcotics, organized crime, illegal weapons, and social disorder—pursued with both strategic intelligence and civic humanity—Sohail Akhtar Sukhaira has embodied this covenant in Faisalabad. He has demonstrated that professional policing and public trust are not competing values but mutually reinforcing ones; that firmness and compassion are not opposites but partners; and that the measure of a great police officer is ultimately not what he has seized or arrested, but the safer, more hopeful community he has helped to build.

As Faisalabad Region continues its journey toward stronger institutions and safer streets, Mr. Sukhaira stands as a compelling example of what professional policing can achieve—not only for Punjab, but as a model worthy of attention by any society that takes public safety seriously.

Former Professor and Head of Department of Entomology, University of Agriculture Faisalabad

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
171,021.77	170,600.20
Day's High	Day's Low
171,856.36	170,248.46
Index Value	Change
19,641,088,800	+421.57
Percentage	Time
+0.25%	2 Jun, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
10,373.51	+34.56
Percentage	Time
+0.33%	2 Jun, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
51,234.89	+156.01
Percentage	Time
+0.31%	2 Jun, 1:50 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
66,734.24	-200.09
Percentage	Time
-0.30%	2 Jun, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	197.32	203.65
Bahrain Dinar	732.40	743.87
Canadian Dollar	199.44	206.20
China Yuan	38.00	38.75
Danish Krone	43.35	43.75
Euro	321.89	328.39
Hong Kong Dollar	34.85	35.85
Indian Rupee	2.65	2.90
Japanese Yen	1.7235	1.8226
Kuwaiti Dinar	881.60	892.25
Malaysian Ringgit	67.10	68.25
New Zealand \$	163.31	168.81
Norwegians Krone	27.85	28.15
Omani Riyal	717.70	727.25
Qatari Riyal	74.60	75.60
Saudi Riyal	73.80	74.60
Singapore Dollar	215.79	223.81
Swedish Korona	30.25	30.55
Swiss Franc	352.65	356.55
Thai Bhat	8.55	8.70
U.A.E Dirham	75.35	76.35
UK Pound Sterling	372.52	378.20
US Dollar	278.30	279.55

Meeting with Prime Minister

RCCI Calls for Industry & Export-Oriented, Business-Friendly Budget 2026-27

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The business community has expressed high expectations for the upcoming Budget 2026-27, emphasizing the need for an industry- and export-oriented, business-friendly fiscal framework that supports sustainable economic growth.

Concerns were also raised regarding recent media reports about proposed taxation on electric vehicles and solar energy solutions/panels. The business leadership urged the government to reconsider the proposed policy and adopt a two-tier approach, under which electric two-wheelers and scooters should remain exempt from taxation.

These remarks were made by President of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry), Usman Shaukat, accompanied by Group Leader Sohail Altaf, during a luncheon meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at the Prime Minister House, Islamabad.



The RCCI President emphasized the need to broaden the tax base instead of increasing

the burden on existing taxpayers. Referring to the government's vision of an export-led growth strategy, he stressed that meaningful incentives should be extended to exporters.

Usman Shaukat further called for effective measures to reduce the cost of doing business and highlighted the importance of promoting Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) as a key driver of economic growth, employment generation, and innovation.

Group Leader Sohail Altaf raised concerns regarding business operating hours during the ongoing heatwave and requested relief for traders in areas affected by smart lockdowns. He also proposed extending business timings and facilitating commercial activities in tourist destinations during the summer season.

The RCCI leadership appreciated the establishment of the Tax Policy Office, noting that it would strengthen stakeholder engagement and improve coordination between policymakers and the business community, ultimately leading to more effective and business-friendly tax policies.

Protest

RAWALPINDI: Activists of All Pakistan WAPDA Hydro Electric Workers Union hold a protest rally on Murree road against privatization of Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO).



Photo: Online

Wapda Workers Union demands end to privatization, boost in hydel power



Quratulain Asim

MULTAN: The All Pakistan Wapda Hydro Electric Workers Union protested against the privatization of distribution companies and demanded that the government increase hydel power generation instead of buying expensive electricity from IPPs. They also called for salary increases aligned with inflation, a minimum wage of Rs. 60,000, lifting the nine-year recruitment ban, and making contract and daily wage employ-

ees permanent. The union emphasized economic self-sufficiency, reduced reliance on foreign loans, and fair compensation and a harassment-free environment for all employees, including provisions for the families of deceased workers.

Chaudhry Zahid, Shaukat Baloch, Altaf Mahar, Rana Khizr Hayat, Shahzad Ali Akram Ghorri, Chaudhry Sarmad, Asif Baloch, Aurangzeb Gara, Asif Rashid, Babar Malik, Qazi Danish, Amjad Dogar, Mukhtiar Ansari, Ishrat Alvi, Rana Hasnain, Saeed Sial, Fayyaz Raan,

Khurram Khan, Shahbaz Randhawa, Qazi Aftab, Malik Asim, Rao Qamar, Rana Zahid, Rao Aamir Jamil, Ansar Abbas, Chaudhry Imran Bashir, Chaudhry Irshad Sanghera, Chaudhry Rashid Ijaz, Imran Kazmi, Mujahid Hussain, Arshad Kheda, Anwar Gujjar, Rashid Rahmani, Asrar Ansari, Chaudhry Ali Gul, Hafiz Noman, Tayyab Jahangir, Sheikh Asif, Muhammad Nafees, Sikandar Hayat, Neer Attangal, Shamoan Gujjar, Salman Wahab, Sheikh Arif and other officials were present at the protest.

Record 415 Companies Incorporated in a Single Day as May Registrations Reach 3,161

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: In May 2026, Pakistan's Securities and Exchange Commission (SECP) registered 3,161 new companies, pushing the total to 297,239, with 99.9% online.

This growth, despite Eid holidays, highlights increased confidence and ease of doing business. A record 415 companies were incorporated in a single day, demonstrating the SECP's effective registration framework. Punjab led registrations (52%), followed by

ICT (19%) and Sindh (15%). Private limited companies (60%) and single-member companies (SMCs) (38%) were the preferred structures, indicating strong individual entrepreneurship. The IT and e-commerce sector led growth with 598 incorporations, followed by trading (503), services (404), and real estate (303). Foreign investment from 17 countries involved 80 local companies, with China being the top investor, contributing PKR 132.3 million out of a total PKR 139.4 million in paid-up capital.

TCL C7L Brings SQD-Mini LED TVs to Pakistan, Redefining Home Entertainment

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: TCL, Pakistan's No.1 LED TV Brand, has launched the TCL C7L series in Pakistan. A new chapter in home entertainment is set to begin. Designed to introduce the next generation of display innovation to the local market, the C7L brings SQD-Mini LED TV technology, TCL's latest advancement in picture performance, redefining how consumers experience content at home.

For years, the TV industry has been defined by trade-offs: OLED delivered deep blacks but limited brightness and durability, while tradi-

tional Mini LED improved brightness but often suffered from blooming and halo effects. The arrival of SQD-Mini LED TVs in Pakistan through the TCL C7L series marks a turning point, combining Super QLED technology with



an advanced Mini LED backlight system to deliver stronger contrast, higher brightness, and enhanced colour performance beyond previous limitations.

PARC and KOPIA Pakistan Engage Private Sector to Advance Seed Potato Self-Sufficiency

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: A Public-Private Partnership Meeting was convened at the National Institute for Genomics and Advanced Biotechnology in Islamabad to advance Pakistan's goal of achieving self-sufficiency in seed potato production.

The gathering, attended by

representatives from PARC, the Federal Seed Certification & Registration Department, KOPIA Pakistan Center, seed companies, farmers, and scientific experts, focused on establishing a practical model for expanding local seed potato multiplication.

Director General NARC, Dr. Muhammad Mansoor, acknowl-

edged KOPIA Pakistan, RDA Korea, and the Pak-Korea Seed Potato Project for their role in creating a functional seed potato production system at NARC, which now includes operational aeroponic greenhouses, screen houses, and a cold storage facility, with a solar power system under installation.

He emphasized the necessity of

organized private sector involvement for a sustainable seed potato system. Dr. Park Intae, Country Director of KOPIA Pakistan, highlighted Pakistan's significant potato production potential while identifying the scarcity of quality, disease-free, locally produced seed as a major obstacle.

He proposed a collaborative public-private model where



government and research institutions would handle early-generation seed production, quality control, and technical support, while the private sector would

manage multiplication from G-2 to G-4, distribution, and market linkage.

Dr. Nazar Iqbal, Director General of the Federal Seed Certi-

fication & Registration Department, and Dr. Aish Muhammad, Coordinator KOPIA, also spoke, commending the engagement of all stakeholders.

Australia beat Pakistan in second One Day International to level series 1-1

Visitors defend 232-run target as Nathan Ellis leads bowling attack with four wickets; Pakistan collapse to 190 all out in 44 overs

Web Desk

Australia clinched victory over Pakistan in the second ODI to level the three-match series 1-1 by defending a modest 232-run target at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium on Tuesday.

Set to chase 232, the Green Shirts could muster 190 before getting bowled out in 44 overs despite a valiant half-century by Shadab Khan.

Pakistan got off to a shaky start to the pursuit as they lost both their openers, Maaz Sadaqat (zero) and Sahibzada Farhan (three), inside two overs with just six runs on the board.

Following the early setback, experienced batter Babar Azam showed signs of counterattack by smashing two boundaries but fell victim to Nathan Ellis in the fifth over after making a run-a-ball 16.

Pakistan then suffered two more setbacks in quick succession as Salman Ali Agha and Abdul Samad perished cheaply for seven and two, respectively.

Wicketkeeper batter Ghazi Ghori, who kept the scoreboard ticking singlehandedly during the collapse, was eventually cleaned up by Adam Zampa in the 17th over and walked back after scoring a gritty 37 off 48 deliveries with the help of five fours.

With the scoreboard reading 78/6, Arafat Minhas joined Shadab Khan in the middle,



and the all-rounder duo batted sensibly to raise an important 59-run partnership for the seventh wicket, which culminated with the former's dismissal off Ellis in the 32nd over.

Minhas contributed with a defiant 33 off 43 deliveries with the help of four fours.

Shadab was then involved in a brief 31-run partnership with captain Shaheen Shah Afridi, who could muster 11 before Matthew Short got him caught behind in the 37th over.

The experienced all-rounder then raised a completely one-sided 21-run partnership for the ninth wicket with Haris Rauf, who fell for a 15-ball duck to Nathan Ellis on the final delivery of the 44th over.

Shadab was ultimately removed by Tanveer Sangha



on the first delivery of the next over, which rounded up a hard-earned victory for the visitors. He remained the top scorer for Pakistan with 71 off 104 deliveries with the help of three sixes and a four.

Ellis spearheaded Australia's bowling charge with four wickets for 33 runs in his nine overs, followed by Short with three, while Matthew Kuhnemann, Adam Zampa and Sangha chipped in with one scalp apiece.

Pakistan captain Shaheen Shah Afridi's decision to field first paid dividends as the visitors could accumulate 231/9 in their 50 overs despite half-centuries from Josh Inglis and Cameron Green.

Australia got off to a dismal start to their innings as Pakistan captain Shaheen cleaned up their left-handed opener Alex Carey (zero) on the first delivery of the innings.

Carrey's dismissal on the first delivery of the innings paved the way for fellow wicketkeeper batter and captain Inglis to walk out and bat at No.3.

Inglis launched a decent recovery for Australia as he put together 46 runs for the second wicket with Matthew Short, who made a cautious 15 off 24 deliveries, before falling victim to Abrar Ahmed in the eighth over.

Australia suffered another setback 17 deliveries later as Arafat Minhas dismissed Marnus Labuschagne (five), which brought their total down to 51/3.

Following the back-to-back dismissals, Inglis was joined by Green in the middle, and the duo batted sensibly to put together an important 51-run partnership, which saw the former bring up his fifth ODI half-century.

The Australian captain, however, was soon removed by Minhas and walked back after scoring a gritty 51 off 74 deliveries with the help of five fours.

Green, on the other hand, was then involved in another crucial partnership for Australia – a 65-run stand for the sixth wicket with Matt Renshaw – until eventually falling victim to Abrar in the 40th over.

The all-rounder remained the top-scorer for Australia with a 92-ball 53, comprising two sixes and a four.

Short followed suit 21 balls later as he was cleaned up by Haris Rauf after scoring a run-a-ball 43 with the help of three fours.

Shaheen inflicted another blow to Australia's batting expedition in the 47th over by casting Matthew Kuhnemann (five) and struck again in the penultimate over to get rid of Nathan Ellis.

Meanwhile, batting all-rounder Oliver Peake added valuable runs at the backend to Australia's total with a run-a-ball 31.

Skipper Shaheen spearheaded Pakistan's bowling charge with three wickets for 36 runs in his eight overs, followed by Minhas, Rauf and Abrar with two each.

Shaheen Afridi scripts unique record against Australia

LAHORE: Left-arm pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi achieved a unique feat against Australia, becoming the third Pakistan captain to take a wicket on the first ball of an ODI.

Shaheen registered the record with Alex Carey's wicket on the first ball of the innings. Carey chopped on a wider delivery and eventually paid the price.

With this, Shaheen joined Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis in the list of captains to achieve the feat.

Akram was the first to accomplish this feat by dismissing Andy Flower on the very first ball of their ODI against Zimbabwe in 1993. Waqar Younis later achieved the same by



taking England's Marcus Trescothick in 2001.

Pakistan captains to take wicket on the first delivery of ODI

Wasim Akram – 1993 against Zimbabwe in Karachi

Waqar Younis – 2001 against

England in Leeds

Shaheen Shah Afridi – 2026 against Australia in Lahore

After Carey's wicket, Shaheen also dismissed Matthew Kuhnemann and Nathan Ellis later in the innings, finishing with impressive figures of 3/36 in eight overs.

The left-arm pacer remained crucial in limiting Australia to a 231-run total in 50 overs. He was ably backed by Abrar Ahmed and Arafat Minhas, who took two wickets each.

For Australia, Cameron Green and Josh Inglis scored calculated half-centuries. Inglis made 51 off 74, while Green scored 53 off 92 deliveries.

India appoint new spin-bowling coach ahead of Afghanistan series

MUMBAI: India have appointed former all-rounder Sairaj Bahutule as spin bowling coach, the BCCI announced on Tuesday.

Bahutule played two Tests and eight ODIs for India and remained a domestic cricket stalwart with 6176 runs and 630 wickets to his name in first-class cricket.

The 53-year-old will oversee the spin department across formats, with his first assignment coming up in a few days against Afghanistan.

Sairaj Bahutule also served as the Punjab Kings spin-bowling coach in the IPL 2026 and is a richly experienced coach, having worked with numerous domestic teams.

Following the announcement, he expressed immense pride and described it as an opportunity to nurture Indian spinners.

MD Wasa TT Singh Kamran Kahlon Vows Prompt Resolution of Public Complaints

Zafar Chishty

TOBA TEK SINGH: WASA Toba Tek Singh's Managing Director, Chaudhry Kamran Kahlon, emphasized that improving sewerage, drainage, and sanitation services are top priorities. WASA is diligently working to resolve public issues, especially drainage-related complaints, on a daily basis using modern equipment and dedicated response teams. Officers and staff continuously monitor the drainage system, ensuring prompt resolution of all technical problems. Aligned with Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's vision and Punjab Government directives, WASA is utilizing all resources to deliver high-quality civic services. Public service is WASA's foremost responsibility, with an efficient, round-the-clock monitoring and response system in place to track and resolve complaints promptly. Citizens are encouraged to report issues to WASA for timely action, as their cooperation is vital for a clean urban environment. WASA remains committed to enhancing the sewerage network and drainage systems for a healthier Toba Tek Singh.

From Colonial Oceans to Colonial Space

Continued from Page 4

access to strategically important locations. Military applications of space technologies could further complicate matters. A conflict extending into space would threaten not only the participants but the entire global community, given humanity's increasing dependence on satellites for communication, navigation, finance, weather forecasting, and national security.

Therefore, humanity faces a historic responsibility. Before large-scale colonization of celestial bodies begins, the international community must establish a comprehensive rule-based framework governing extra-terrestrial activities. Such a framework should define resource rights,

environmental protections, dispute resolution mechanisms, technology sharing principles, and equitable access for developing nations.

The benefits of space exploration should not be reserved exclusively for the wealthiest countries or corporations. Scientific discoveries, technological innovations, and economic gains generated through these ventures should contribute to the advancement of all humanity. Just as the oceans eventually became subject to international law, space too requires robust legal, ethical, and moral foundations.

The dream of reaching the Moon and Mars is among humanity's greatest aspirations. It reflects our curiosity, ingenuity, and desire to explore the unknown. But exploration

without justice risks repeating the tragedies of history. The oceans once carried ships that connected civilizations, yet they also carried empires that enslaved and exploited millions. As humanity prepares to cross a new frontier, it must decide whether space will become another arena of competition and domination or a realm of cooperation and shared progress.

The choice we make today may determine not only the future of space exploration but the future character of human civilization itself.

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

Educational Leadership Beyond Rhetoric: Reflections on a Year of Reform in Attock

Continued from Page 4

by many educators—not only as a supervisory structure but also as a more approachable institutional presence. This cultural shift, though difficult to measure directly, often plays a role in improving communication, easing operational challenges, and strengthening trust within the system.

It would be unrealistic to attribute educational progress to a single office or a single year. However, leadership does influence direction, tone, and institutional behavior. In the case of Attock, the reforms observed during this period appear broadly consistent with a merit-based governance framework, where leadership selection and accountability begin

to reflect in administrative outcomes.

For those working within the system, the most meaningful measure of reform is not the number of initiatives announced, but the extent to which they improve learning conditions, support teachers, and strengthen public confidence in education. From this perspective, the past year offers a useful case for understanding how leadership orientation may contribute to gradual institutional improvement.

In the final analysis, enduring educational progress is never born of slogans or short-lived enthusiasm; it grows quietly from a culture where merit is respected, humility guides leadership, and work is valued more than excuses. Reforms only take root when intention is matched with

effort, when authority is tempered with accountability, and when those within the system choose responsibility over rhetoric. In that sense, what truly shapes institutions is not the noise of change, but the steady discipline of doing the work—honestly, consistently, and with a sense of purpose larger than personal convenience.

The writer is an educator, English language teacher, and social awareness advocate who writes on education, civic consciousness, public policy, and social reform. Having worked in both the education and corporate communications sectors, he reflects on issues of governance, accountability, and institutional development. He writes under the handle @ToleranceAdvocate.

A World Without Arms Control Agreements

Continued from Page 4

and South Korea. Additionally, the nuclear capabilities and range of ICBMs of Pyongyang have reached to unparalleled levels that could possibly target Washington.

However, the revolutionizing growth of China's economy and military is also one of the key challenges that poses a significant threat to global arms race competition. Recently, President Trump has asserted that the participation of China in arms control, along with Russia, is key to global peace; in contrast, President Xi Jinping had explicitly refused to engage in a formal agreement with the U. S., since Beijing believes that they have

less nuclear weapons than those of Washington and Moscow.

Furthermore, China's technological advancement, modernization of nuclear forces, and its aim to build up a "First Class" army are a threat to U. S. interests. According to some sources, China aims to invade Taiwan by 2027, and President Xi wants its land forces complemented by nuclear forces ready to reunify China with Taiwan.

Similarly, last year, long-standing rivals India and Pakistan came close to a nuclear war, which was ostensibly mediated by President Trump, who prevented both countries from going to war. Pakistan has long sought ICBMs to maintain its deterrence in South Asia, and

analysts say that Pakistan has been developing ICBMs to maintain deterrence with Israel and the U. S. as well. Many other countries with robust latent power, such as Turkey, Poland and South Korea, are also trying to build their nuclear weapons to defend themselves against any aggression. The ongoing U. S.-Israel war on Iran has also allured states to acquire nuclear weapons, since the presence of nuclear weapons assures a state's survival by deterring an aggressor state from being aggressive, and achieving whatever objectives it has to achieve.

In light of the global nuclear arms race and the dream to control it, the termination of the bilateral arms control

treaty between Russia and U. S. pose significant challenges to the non-proliferation regimes. The two nuclear-armed states responsible for 90% of total warheads would render a wrong impression to the rest of the non-nuclear states, as they are not engaged in an agreement.

This could prompt non-nuclear states to domestically develop their own WMDs. As analysts argue, it is the hypocrisy of the U. S., as it has been modernizing and developing nuclear weapons while restricting other states from doing so. However, J. J. Mearsheimer has asserted "that what great powers do, they maximize their share of power, while capping others, not to imitate them". Nonetheless,

any agreement on arms control and non-proliferation between Moscow and Washington is desirable to maintain peace and stability in the world.

In addition, as an emerging military and economic power, the participation of China is imperative too, since Beijing has never become part of any bilateral or multilateral arms control treaty except the NPT. Since, the relationship between Beijing and Washington is gravely tense owing to multifarious reasons such as the Taiwan issue, trade tariffs, supporting Iran, and providing it with missile technology, this could potentially escalate to conventional war in general and nuclear war in particular. Therefore, the bilat-

eral agreement between China and the U. S. is coveted for the peace and stability.

However, if China does not want to engage in a bilateral agreement, there is a potential for risk reduction measures through diplomacy and confidence building measures (CBMs), since China aims to increase its nuclear arsenal to 1000 by 2030, which currently stands at 600 warheads. This reflects China's ambitions to secure a second-strike capability to ensure its survival in response to any miscalculated misadventure. Likewise, Washington has been heavily investing in its "Golden Dome" Missile Defense System.

Thus, fending off the lack of

mistrust, uncertainty, and lack of clarity could only be done with non-binding agreements or through track 2.0 diplomacy, as the binding treaties have proven ineffective throughout human history of nuclear weapons.

The writer is an International Relations scholar and researcher with strong grounding in geopolitics, neo-imperialism, strategic studies, and regional security dynamics. He graduated with distinction in IR from SZABIST and is currently advancing his expertise through an MPhil in Strategic Studies at the National Defence University, Islamabad. He can be reached at Waleedferoz93@gmail.com. Waleedferoz93@gmail.com

Financial Fraud in Upper Kohistan

PESHAWAR: Chairman NAB Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Nazir Ahmad presents a cheque to the Chief Secretary of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tuesday during a ceremony at NAB Regional Office Peshawar for the handover of recovered assets worth over Rs. 6 billion under the first phase of recovery in the upper Kohistan financial fraud case.



Photo: PID

Financial Fraud in Upper Kohistan

NAB recovers over Rs. 6 billion in landmark financial fraud case

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has initiated the transfer of over Rs. 6 billion in recovered assets, a significant milestone in one of Pakistan's largest financial fraud investigations.

Chairman NAB, Lt. Gen. (R) Nazir Ahmad, officially handed over these assets in Peshawar to the Chief Secretary of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa,

marking the first phase of a broader recovery process. This extensive investigation, led by DG NAB KP Mr. Farmanullah and the Combined Investigation Team (CIT), exposed a scheme involving the unlawful diversion of over Rs. 37 billion from Head of Account G-10113 in Upper Kohistan over nearly a decade.

Through sophisticated financial tracing and forensic analysis, NAB KP identified illicit activities, scrutinized over 1,500

bank accounts, and traced assets acquired through criminal proceeds.

A key development was uncovering Muntaz Khan's account, through which approximately Rs. 17 billion was channeled, leading to the freezing of substantial funds.

The investigation has resulted in significant recoveries, including over Rs. 10 billion through plea bargains and over Rs. 27 billion in frozen assets.

The transferred assets comprise cash, precious metals, properties, and vehicles.

Chairman NAB praised the team's professionalism and highlighted the case as an example of NAB's resolve against corruption. He stated that the recovery underscores the commitment to protecting and restoring public resources for citizens' benefit.

NAB confirmed that the asset recovery process is

ongoing, with further recoveries expected as legal proceedings continue for assets exceeding Rs. 27 billion currently under freezing orders.

Preparations for the next phase of asset realization and transfer are underway. NAB reiterated its commitment to pursuing corruption cases transparently and lawfully, emphasizing that public resources are a national trust to be safeguarded from misuse.

Abdul Aleem Khan Announces Historic Mansehra-Naran-Jhal Khand-Chilas Motorway Construction

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan announced the construction of a new state-of-the-art 172-kilometer Mansehra-Naran-Jhal Khand-Chilas (MNJC) Motorway. This project will serve as a safer and more efficient alternative to the Karakoram Highway, reducing travel distance by up to 120 kilometers. The motorway will be built in two phases: Mansehra to



Kaghan, Naran, and Babusar Top, followed by Babusar Top to Chilas. A key feature

will be Pakistan's longest tunnel, the 13.5 km Babusar Tunnel. The 4-lane motor-

way, expandable to 6 lanes, will include modern rest areas and specialized trucking

terminals. Economically, the MNJC Motorway will directly link Western China to the Ports of Karachi and Gwadar, offering the fastest, shortest, and most cost-effective route between the Arabian Sea and China, significantly reducing transit times and costs, and boosting the development of Gwadar Port. The Minister directed officials to finalize technical aspects promptly. The meeting also approved decisions to modernize the country's communication network.

Pakistan's Ambassador to Belgium called on DPM/FM Senator Dar



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: DPM/FM directed the Ambassador to follow up on the understandings reached during the visit and continue working towards further expanding cooperation with the European Union in key areas, including trade, investment, education, and people-to-people exchanges.

Pakistan, Italy ink agreement to abolish visas for diplomatic passports

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Pakistan, Ali Javed and Italian Secretary General Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Riccardo Guariglia, have recently signed agreement to abolish requirement of visas for diplomatic passports.

The signing ceremony was hosted at Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Rome.

Ahead of ceremony, both dignitaries convened one-on-one talks. Expressing satisfaction with substance, intensity and soaring trajectory of their two nations' strategic cooperation, both sides reviewed full spectrum of their traditionally cordial & cooperative bilateral engagement & cooperation



at multilateral platforms including UN & EU.

Both sides termed the finalization of the accord as reflection of mutual trust & friendship and an excellent addition to their existing wide range of bilateral mechanisms for exchanges and cooperation. The Agreement shall facilitate smooth exchanges of diplomatic delegations and strengthen bilateral engagement.

Whereas numerous accords are currently under active consideration by both sides, 21 MoUs exist between universities & think tanks and 15 agreements have been concluded between the two governments in areas ranging from Tourism to Culture, Science & Technology, sports, Higher Defense Studies and Cooperation against Drugs Trafficking.

'Defence Cooperation' accord was signed in 2009, 'Strategic Engagement Plan' established between Foreign Ministers in 2013 and 'Joint Economic Commission' in 2005, whereas 'Treaty for Protection of Investments' was reached 1997, 'Dual Citizenship Agreement' signed in 1983 and Extradition Treaty in 1972.

Nawaz promises development for Gilgit-Baltistan ahead of elections



Bureau Report

GILGIT: Nawaz Sharif expressed deep concern over Gilgit Baltistan's poor infrastructure, promising renewed focus on development.

He was saddened by the state of roads and facilities, questioning the spending on uncompleted projects initiated during his previous government. Sharif emphasized the overdue Karakoram Highway extension and pledged to personally monitor local projects, with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz

ensuring the airport's upgrade for larger aircraft.

He highlighted PML-N's past contributions, including road networks, hospitals, and hydropower projects, and stressed that travel time between Gilgit and Skardu was significantly reduced.

Sharif reiterated his unwavering affection for the region and urged prioritizing the airport upgrade for better connectivity. He was welcomed by senior PML-N leaders upon arrival for the upcoming June 7 Assembly elections.

AGPR sets June 12 deadline for submission of FY2025-26 payment claims

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Accountant General Pakistan Revenues (AGPR) has fixed June 12 as the deadline for submission of payment claims relating to the closing of the financial year 2025-26, according to a statement issued here Tuesday.

The AGPR has directed all Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) to ensure timely submission of cases to avoid delays in payments and financial transactions.

According to a notification issued by AGPR, all claims related to recent procurements and services rendered must be submitted by June 12, 2026.

The notification stated that all unapproved claims and bills carrying tokens issued up to June 12 would have to be resubmitted by June 15, 2026.

AGPR also notified June 19, 2026, as the last date for submission of releases pertaining to Assignment Accounts administered by AGPR

Islamabad and its sub-offices.

It said that no honorarium claim would be accepted after June 12, 2026.

The notification further stated that computer-amended statements relating to off-cycle payments would be accepted only up to June 11, while processing of such statements had been scheduled up to June 16.

AGPR directed all DDOs to submit their cases within the prescribed timelines to ensure smooth processing of payments and year-end financial transactions.

The notification also warned that salary cheques relating to the current financial year would become time-barred at the close of the fiscal year.

"No replacement cheque for the current financial year shall be issued after June 30, 2026," it added.

AGPR urged all concerned offices to strictly comply with the notified deadlines for submission of claims, bills and payment-related documents.

Supreme Court announces revised summer vacation schedule for 2026



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan has announced its summer vacation schedule for 2026, introducing revised arrangements aimed at improving judicial efficiency and reducing the backlog of pending cases.

According to an official statement, the decision was taken after consultations among judges and on the request of the Chief Justice. The court said the new schedule is designed to ensure greater case disposal during the holiday period while maintaining judicial availability.

Under the revised arrangements, judges will increase their working

hours at the principal seat in Islamabad during the summer vacation period. However, attendance at the branch registries will be comparatively reduced, reflecting a shift in workload management.

The statement clarified that the duration of the summer vacation itself will remain unchanged at four weeks, consistent with previous years. The key difference lies in the modified working pattern intended to keep hearings running in a more continuous manner.

Officials emphasised that the updated schedule is aimed at improving access to justice and ensuring that important cases are not delayed due to seasonal court closures.