



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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Amjad Hussain Advocate elected Gilgit-Baltistan CM

Amjad Hussain Advocate was elected chief minister of Gilgit-Baltistan unopposed on Monday. In a related development, former chief minister Hafeez-ur-Rehman was elected Leader of the Opposition in the provincial assembly. PPP lawmakers and central leaders were also present on the occasion.



Pakistan announces public holidays for Ashura

The Government of Pakistan has announced public holidays on 25 and 26 June on the occasion of Ashura following approval from Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. According to a notification issued by the Cabinet Division, the holidays will be observed across the country on 9 and 10 Muharram 1448 Hijri, marking the religious occasion of Ashura.

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“خوش آمدید”

ISLAMABAD: Vehicles ride past the digital screen display the images of President Asif Ali Zardar, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Iranian President Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian along roadside in the Federal Capital. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian will travel to Pakistan on Tuesday, following talks between Tehran and Washington in Switzerland which were mediated by Islamabad.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Iranian President to undertake a state visit to Pakistan on Tuesday

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: At the invitation of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Dr Masoud Pezeshkian, on Tuesday, will undertake a state visit to Pakistan.

Dr. Pezeshkian will be accompanied by a high-level delegation, including ministers and other high-ranking officials. During the visit, President Pezeshkian will meet President Asif Ali Zardari and hold talks with the prime minister.

The Chairman of the Senate, the Speaker of the

National Assembly and the Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister will call on the Iranian president, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release issued here on Monday.

This will be Dr Pezeshkian's second visit to Pakistan in his capacity as President of Iran. "During the visit, the two sides will review the full spectrum of bilateral relations and explore new avenues to further deepen cooperation across diverse sectors, including trade, energy, border security, people-to-people exchanges, and regional connectivity," it was added.

Azam Tarar urges opposition to actively participate in legislative process

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar on Monday urged opposition lawmakers to actively participate in parliamentary committees and the legislative process instead of merely criticizing the government.

Speaking in the National Assembly, he said representatives of the Ministry of Law and Justice had repeatedly requested members to attend meetings, but some lawmakers had chosen not to participate.

Tarar also informed the House that the government had introduced a comprehensive package of around 100 amendments to criminal laws, which is currently under consideration by the relevant standing committee.

He urged lawmakers to engage in committee deliberations and contribute to legis-



lative reforms.

He said the government was still awaiting feedback from the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government on the proposed amendments, which he termed non-political in nature.

He stressed that strengthening the rule of law requires practical participation in legislative work rather than speeches alone.

Referring to judicial matters, the minister said court proceedings and convictions are decided by the judiciary and not by the government, adding that anyone with objections to convictions could seek relief through the appellate process.

High-Level US-Iran committee meeting concludes successfully in Switzerland: PM Shehbaz Sharif

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday welcomed the constructive engagement of the United States and Iran following the successful conclusion of the first high-level committee meeting held under the framework of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Bürgenstock, Switzerland.

In a post on X, the prime minister said the discussions were conducted in a positive and constructive atmosphere and resulted in encouraging progress.

Key outcomes included an agreement on a roadmap towards a final deal within 60 days, the establishment of a High-Level Committee to provide political oversight, and the initiation of further technical-level talks.

Pakistan, he said, would continue to play an honest and sincere role in promoting dialogue and diplomacy aimed at achieving a peaceful and lasting resolution.

The prime minister expressed special gratitude to Qatar for its critical role in creating conditions that enabled the negotiations to move forward. He also thanked the Swiss government for faci-



lating and hosting the talks.

Paying tribute to Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim

Munir, the prime minister said his untiring efforts, dedication, commitment and persever-

ance had been instrumental in the success of the talks and the progress achieved so far.

He also acknowledged the contributions of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and his team at the Foreign Office for their diplomatic efforts. In addition, he praised Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi for his significant role in supporting the success of the negotiations.

The prime minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to supporting diplomatic initiatives that contribute to regional and international peace and stability.

'Encouraging progress' as US, Iran agree on roadmap for a final peace deal within 60 days

News Desk

BURGENSTOCK: The United States and Iran have agreed on a comprehensive roadmap to reach a final peace deal within 60 days and to establish a dedicated mechanism aimed at ending the war in Lebanon, as the first session of high-level talks under the framework of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding concluded here on Monday.

The representatives from the Islamic Republic of Iran, the United States of America, and the two mediating parties, the State of Qatar and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, participated in the talks that will continue for the remainder of the week at the Bürgenstock resort on all issues, according to a joint statement issued by Pakistan and Qatar following the talks.

The high-level talks brought together delegations led by US Vice



"The Lake Lucerne Summit was conducted in a positive and constructive atmosphere. Encouraging progress has been made, including the creation of a mechanism for further technical talks," the statement said.

It further said that building on the MoU, the parties have agreed to the establishment of a High-Level Committee, which will provide political oversight on the mediation. Chief negotiators will report regularly to the High Level Committee and lead working groups focused on nuclear, sanctions, and a monitoring and dispute resolution group to ensure the effective implementation of the MoU, and on other matters.

The High Level Committee has agreed upon a roadmap towards reaching a final deal within 60 days, laying the foundation for the immediate commencement of further technical talks, it added.

Pakistan's successful global peace diplomacy matter of pride for entire nation, PM aide

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on National Heritage and Culture, Huzaifa Rehman on Monday termed United States Vice President JD Vance's praise for Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir a matter of pride for the entire nation, saying it reflected Pakistan's growing international stature and constructive role in promoting regional peace.

Speaking to the media outside Parliament House, he said JD Vance's remarks, in which he described Field Marshal Asim Munir as the most impressive person he had spoken to in the past three months, were a recognition of Pakistan's leadership and diplomacy.

He underscored that Pakistan had played a significant role in facilitating dialogue and peace efforts in the region.

Referring to negotiations held in Islamabad, he claimed there was a crucial 22-hour period during which intensive diplomatic engagement took place following JD Vance's arrival and before the departure of the Iranian delegation.



US Embassy officials call on Fazl, discuss regional peace and security



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Senior officials from the US Embassy in Islamabad called on Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (JUI) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman at his residence in the federal capital, where they discussed regional peace, security and Pakistan's role in promoting stability.

According to sources, US Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission for Political Affairs Terry Steers Gonzalez and former Deputy Chief of Mission Zachary Harkenrider attended the meeting.

The visit also served as a farewell meeting for Zachary Harkenrider, who introduced the newly appointed Deputy Chief of Mission for Political Affairs, Terry Steers Gonzalez, to Maulana Fazlur Rehman.

During the meeting, both sides exchanged views on the prevailing peace and security situation in the region and discussed Pakistan's positive role in promoting regional peace and stability.

JUI-F leaders Senator Kamran Murtaza and Maulana Asjad Mahmood also participated in the meeting.

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif launches 'Skill Enhancement Through Home Reach Program' (SEHR) for daughters of Punjab

Bureau Report

LAHORE: As directed by Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the Women Development Department has rolled out a magnificent program, 'SEHR Program' for ordinary women across Punjab, in order to enhance their skills through an unparalleled home reach program; as they would be able to learn arts and skills from the comfort of their homes.

She noted that the program, costing over PKR 970 million (97 crore), is aimed at



providing market-driven vocational training to 5,365 women at the comfort of their homes across the province, in order to

increase their proportion in the skilled labor force.

Authorities concerned briefed her that training

courses in beautification services, hospitality, and digital technology will be conducted in remote, semi-urban, and urban areas.

They said that hospitality courses for 1,260 women are being held in collaboration with Institute of Tourism and Hospitality Management (ITHM), a subsidiary of Tourism Development Corporation of Punjab (TDCP); and added that SEHR's hospitality trainees will be taught culinary arts, baking, guest relations, front desk management, and airline management.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said that for the first time, a vocational skills program at the doorstep will yield significant results for women; as women who take training courses can easily earn their own livelihood and become productive citizens of society.

She added that the Punjab government will also provide job placement opportunities for women trained under the SEHR program; as the purpose of vocational training at the doorstep for women in Punjab is to establish gender equality.

Group Photo

ISLAMABAD: Group photo of participants at a seminar for women lawyers held at the Federal Judicial Academy, organized by the District Bar Association, Rawalpindi.



Photo by Sultan Bashir



"Pakistan's Global Diplomatic Standing Soars"

in an interview, he said Pakistan's diplomatic achievement is unprecedented, as it successfully brought together two adversaries that had remained hostile for nearly five decades. He noted that Islamabad hosted the first face-to-face talks between Washington and Tehran, followed by sustained backchannel diplomacy that ultimately resulted in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at ending hostilities and launching a structured process for a broader political settlement.

Sardar Masood Khan said that when differences emerged immediately after the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding over the implementation of a comprehensive ceasefire, particularly concerning developments on the Lebanese front, Pakistan once again stepped forward to prevent the diplomatic process from collapsing. Working closely with Qatar, Pakistan facilitated emergency consultations that helped preserve momentum and keep negotiations on track.

Spokesman Report.

ISLAMABAD: Former Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States, China and the United Nations, and former President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Masood Khan has said

that Pakistan's successful mediation between the United States and Iran has elevated the country to the front ranks of international diplomacy, establishing it as a trusted peacemaker with growing influence across West Asia. Speaking in an international televi-

Muslim Unity and National Solidarity: Key Demands at Multan's 48th Hussainiya Conference

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: leaders of the 48th International Annual Hussainiya Conference addressed a press conference, emphasizing the urgent need for Muslim unity, religious tolerance, and national solidarity amid Pakistan's internal and external challenges. The event is organized in collaboration with the Punjab Center of Excellence (CVE), Ministry of Interior, and Home Department Punjab.

They praised the government and Army Chief General Asim Munir for their role in regional peace, noting



Iran's respect for Pakistan's leadership. Key proposals included renaming peace committees to "Muharram Al-Haram" or "National

Unity Committees," monitoring hateful social media content against religious figures, consulting local administrators on security arrangements, appointing

civil society representatives to oversee processions, and utilizing defense volunteers.

The conference, a recognized platform for inter-sectarian harmony in southern Punjab, unites scholars, intellectuals, and civil society from all schools of thought to promote peace and stability.

Multan, described as a model of religious tolerance, hosts Muharram gatherings and processions that exemplify Imam Hussain's universal message of resisting oppression and upholding justice and human rights.

Muzaffarabad District Magistrate Imposes Section 144 Ban on Gatherings

Bureau Report.

MUZAFFARABAD: District Magistrate Muzaffarabad Munir Ahmad Qureshi has enforced Section 144 in the limits of Muzaffarabad district within 10 days. According to information received from various sources, the ongoing political and social activities since June 9, 2026 have created a situation that threatens national security and public safety. In view of this situation, District Magistrate Muzaffarabad Munir Ahmad Qureshi has imposed the limits of Q20 Har20 M20 of district Muzaffarabad under Section 144 Criminal Code prohibits walking or sitting in any place in groups of five or more persons besides protests/sit-ins/processions/gatherings etc. The order states that the perpetrator of the violation will be subject to procedural action under sub-section APC-188 against the assessee.

Notables of Hyderabad visit NDF Rehabilitation Center, Qasimabad



Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Prominent citizens of Hyderabad, including Engineer Asad Ali Memon, Mr. Safullah Memon, Mr. Abrar Memon (Italy), Engineer Anwar Ali Sial, and Engineer Khurshed Ahmed Khokhar, visited the NDF Rehabilitation Center in Qasimabad, Hyderabad.

During the visit, Mr. Abid Lashari, Tamgha-e-Imtiaz, President NDF Pakistan, briefed the guests about the rehabilitation services being provided to children with Down syndrome, autism, and other intellectual disabilities. He highlighted NDF's efforts to promote inclusion, rehabilitation, and empowerment of children with disabilities across Sindh.

The visiting dignitaries highly appreciated the dedicated services of NDF Pakistan and commended the organization's significant contribution towards improving the lives of children with intellectual disabilities, particularly in Hyderabad. They expressed their support for NDF's mission and recognized its positive impact on vulnerable communities.

Sonraj Launches 'Beyond Luxury' to Showcase the Craftsmanship

News Desk



KARACHI: For generations, Pakistanis have enjoyed some of the world's finest products and brands. Far fewer people have had the opportunity to experience the institutions, traditions, craftsmanship, and individuals behind them.

Through Beyond Luxury, Sonraj invites audiences to explore that world. Over the coming months—stories, visits, and observations will be shared through Gharyal.com and Sonraj's digital platforms – Maison Sonraj, Collectibles and Gharyal. The journey will take audiences inside museums, manufactures, ateliers, heritage institutions, and creative environments where craftsmanship, design, and tradition continue to thrive.

More than a decade ago, Rameez Sattar, CEO of Sonraj Group spoke about the importance of exposing Pakistanis to international standards, global brands, and new opportunities. He also highlighted the need to create greater awareness and appreciation for industries that were largely unfamiliar to the local market at the time. Over the years, that vision evolved beyond products and retail towards understanding the world behind them and finding meaningful ways to share those experiences with a wider audience.

DC Attock Appoints Thalassaemia-Affected Girl as Honorary Deputy Commissioner for One Day

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Deputy Commissioner Attock, Rao Atif Raza, in a gesture of compassion and social responsibility, appointed Muneeba Maqsood, a girl affected by thalassaemia, as the Honorary Deputy Commissioner of Attock for one day. Muneeba's parents were also present on the occasion.

Expressing her happiness and gratitude, Muneeba Maqsood thanked the Deputy Commissioner for the honor. As part of the symbolic initiative, she sat on the Deputy Commissioner's chair at the DC Office, performed ceremonial duties, and gained insight into various administrative affairs.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Rao Atif Raza said that encouraging and integrating children suffering from thalassaemia and other illnesses into society is the need of the hour. He emphasized that the district administration will continue to take all possible measures for the support, welfare, and encouragement of such children.

Among those present during the visit were Dr. Maqsood Elahi, Director and In-Charge of Thalassaemia Center Attock; Dr. Jawad Elahi, Medical Superintendent of Government Asfandyar Bukhari District Headquarters Hospital Attock; Ms. Naveeda Iqbal, Principal of the Nursing College; the Deputy Commissioner's sons, Rao Muhammad Ibrahim and Rao Muhammad Ismail; along with other relevant staff members.

On this occasion, the management of the Thalassaemia Center presented commemorative shields to Deputy Commissioner Rao Atif Raza in recognition of his social services and efforts for the welfare and well-being of children suffering from thalassaemia.

Islamabad
30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	3:14 am
Zohr	12:10 pm
Asr	5:10 pm
Maghrib	7:22 pm
Isha	9:06 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

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CAA	9281092

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MH	561116
MH	561116
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PIMS	9261170-79
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Shifa International	4603666

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Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

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

Islamabad Police Adds RIDDARA All Electric Pickups in Push for Greener Fleets

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police has inducted a large fleet of RIDDARA electric pickup trucks, supplied by Capital Smart Motors (CSM), in a move officials are calling a landmark step for sustainable mobility in Pakistan's public sector promoting BEVs as per the Government's vision.

Under CEO Imran Zahid, Capital Smart Motors has expanded its EV portfolio significantly, bringing multiple international electric brands into Pakistan. The RIDDARA rollout to Islamabad Police reflects his continued focus on practical, fleet ready BEV solutions for institutional and government clients.

Capital Smart Motors COO Abid S. Usmani has also played a key role in this push, with his leadership focused on ensuring CSM's EV offerings are dependable and fleet ready for institutional clients, including law enforcement and, potentially, the armed forces in future phases while the company is fast developing its local manufacturing facilities.

Margalla Hills at a Crossroads: Webinar Unites Leaders in Call to Halt Unsustainable Development

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Environmental experts and conservationists have rallied behind the Supreme Court of Pakistan's landmark decision to protect the Margalla Hills National Park, emphasizing conservation over commercial interests during a national webinar organized by Devcom-Pakistan.

The event brought together policymakers, legal experts, and environmental advocates to discuss the court's ruling and the ongoing review petition before the Federal Constitutional Court.

Participants stressed the park's vital role as an urban ecological asset, serving as Islamabad's "lungs" by supporting biodiversity, climate resilience, air quality, and recreation amid rapid urbanization.

Key speakers, including former advisor Malik Amin Aslam Khan, WWF-Pakistan's Hammad Naqi Khan, and former director general Asif Shuja Khan, highlighted threats from unsustainable development, encroachments, and commercial activities.

They called for strict land-use regulations, effective implementation of the court's decision, and removal of illegal structures.

The webinar underscored challenges such as pollution, waste mismanagement, and inadequate park management, while urging coordination among agencies like the Islamabad Wildlife Management Board and Capital Development Authority.

Experts advocated for clear enforcement of the park's master plan, limiting permissible activities like tourism facilities to those aligned with conservation goals.

They warned against legal amendments that could weaken protections. Recommendations included raising policy issues at high levels, ensuring accurate boundary demarcation using GIS technology, and mobilizing resources for restoration and rewilding. The collective call emphasized citizen and stakeholder support to preserve this natural heritage for future generations.



Flag Hosed

ISLAMABAD: Pak- Iranian flag hoisting of poles in front of presidency in the Federal Capital. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian expected to travel to Pakistan on Tuesday, following talks between Tehran and Washington in Switzerland which were mediated by Islamabad.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Dr. Abrar Hussain Malik's Visit to Educational Institutions in Skardu, Baltistan

News Desk

RAWALPINDI: Central President of the All Pakistan Private Schools and Colleges Association, stated that private educational institutions play a vital role in promoting education and improving its standards in the country. Appreciating the services of teachers, he said that it is due to their dedication and hard work that students are moving towards a bright future, and collective efforts are essential to further strengthen the education system.

During his visit to Skardu and Baltistan, Dr. Abrar Hussain Malik visited various educational institutions on the invitation of Principal and educationist Arif Shahbaz of Paramount Education System Skardu, Asif Public School and College Skardu, Prin-



icipal and President of Private Education Network Skardu and Baltistan Public School and College Skardu, Muhammad Mir. He reviewed the academic activities and educational environment of these institutions. Dr. Abrar Hussain Malik said that thousands of students are benefiting from these institu-

tions, which is a clear example of the promotion of education in the region. He praised the services of local teachers and said that their efforts to spread education are highly commendable.

Students warmly welcomed Dr. Abrar Hussain Malik on his arrival, and he expressed affection towards the students,

saying that they are the bright future of Pakistan. He advised them to respect their teachers and learn from them. At the end of the visit, Principal of Asif Public School and College Skardu and President of PEN, Iftekhar Hussain, presented a commemorative shield to Dr. Abrar Hussain Malik.

Thatta Police Kill Suspect in Encounter Over Murder of Two Constables

Kamran Khamiso Khawaja

THATTA: Police shot dead a suspect early Friday in an encounter linked to the murder of two constables, while a search continues for two accomplices who escaped, officials said.

The suspect was identified as Huzoor Bakhsh alias Rizwan son of Amir Bakhsh Abro. He was killed during an exchange of fire and police recovered the official rifle snatched from the slain officers. The encounter came two days after the attack that claimed the lives of Constable Akbar Ali and Constable Abdul Majeed Mari of Gharo Police Station.

According to police, on the evening of June 20 three armed men riding a 125cc motorcycle opened fire on the two constables while they were on duty at Babra Link Road Jam Wah picket. Both officers were martyred on the spot and a case was registered at Gharo Police Station.

Taking strict notice of the incident, SSP Thatta Sajid Ameer Sadozai formed a special team that included SDPO Thatta ASP Abdullah Afzal, SDPO Sujawal DSP Muhammad Ali Damra, SHO Gharo Inspector Shahzad Ilyas and In-charge DIC Thatta Inspector Faisal Shafeeq Memon. Using modern surveillance, intelligence inputs and field expertise, the team traced the suspects to a hideout where the encounter took place. Rizwan was killed and the stolen government weapon was recovered, while two other suspects managed to flee.

IGP Sindh Javed Alam Odho announced a Commendation Certificate Class-I and Rs 500,000 cash reward for the team. DIGP Hyderabad Range Tariq Razaq Khan Dharejo awarded a Commendation Certificate Class-II, while SSP Thatta also announced appreciation certificates for all team members. Police said search operations are underway to arrest the remaining suspects.

Joint Counter Narcotics Operation by Pakistan Navy and Pakistan Coast Guards Near Gwadar



News Desk

KARACHI: In a joint intelligence-based counter narcotics operation, Pakistan Navy and Pakistan Coast Guards, in coordination with Joint Maritime Information Coordination Centre (JMICC) confiscated 1500 Kgs of Hashish and 500 Kgs of Ice from Pishukan, near the coastline of Gwadar. The value of seized consignment is approximately USD 215 Million in the international market.

The consignment was being transported via Arabian Sea to international destinations. The seized items have been handed over to Pakistan Coast Guards for further legal proceedings.

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

SparkTank Celebrates Graduation of Third Cohort

News Desk

LAHORE: SparkTank by Beaconhouse, Pakistan's first business incubator for 10-19 year-olds, celebrated the graduation of its third cohort at a showcase in Lahore.

Fourteen student startups from across Pakistan, developed from August 2025 to March 2026, addressed challenges in sustainability, accessibility, and daily tasks. Over 30 students graduated, receiving certificates and shields.

Kasim Kasuri, CEO of Beaconhouse, praised graduates for their future-ready mindset. Launched in 2023 at zero cost, SparkTank mentors students from public and private schools to turn ideas into viable businesses.

It has incubated 27 startups across three cohorts, with numbers doubling from seven to fourteen. The ventures have generated nearly PKR 10 million in funding, revenue, and prizes, while the fourth cohort will welcome 20 startups from 984 applications.

Jubilee Life Celebrates Parents and Caregivers of Persons with Disabilities through "Lights. Camera. Inclusion."

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Jubilee Life Insurance, Pakistan's largest private sector life insurance company, brought together persons with disabilities (PWDs), their families, community partners, and other stakeholders from Connect-Hear and NOWPDP for celebrating the unsung heroes held under its dedicated campaign Lights. Camera. Inclusion. The initiative was designed to honour parents and caregivers whose consistent support and resilience enable individuals to overcome life's

challenges and achieve personal and professional milestones.

Sharing his thoughts regarding this unique proposition, Javed Ahmed, Managing Director & CEO, Jubilee Life Insurance, said: "Behind every person who overcomes barriers and reaches their potential is often a parent or caregiver whose love, resilience, and determination have never wavered. Through this initiative, we wanted to celebrate those individuals whose contributions are rarely in the spotlight but whose impact is immeasurable. At Jubilee Life, inclusion is not

simply about creating opportunities; it is about recognising the people and support systems that make those opportunities possible."

Farukh Iftekhar, Group Head HRMD Jubilee Life Insurance, added: "True inclusion extends beyond the workplace. While the achievements of persons with disabilities are increasingly being recognised, the journey behind those achievements often remains unseen. For many families, it is a journey defined by perseverance, advocacy, sacrifice, and unconditional love. Lights. Camera. Inclusion sought

to acknowledge those everyday acts of strength that quietly shape lives and open doors to opportunity."

The initiative forms part of Jubilee Life's broader Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) agenda and aligns with the company's Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) commitments. Through sustained partnerships with organisations working to advance inclusion and accessibility, Jubilee Life continues to champion opportunities that enable persons with disabilities and their families to thrive.

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Iran-USA Peace Deal Under Siege

The snow-capped mountains surrounding Switzerland's Bürgenstock Resort provide a picture of serenity. Inside its conference halls, however, some of the most consequential negotiations of the 21st century are unfolding amid extraordinary tension, diplomatic maneuvering, political resistance, and strategic uncertainty. What began as a breakthrough framework between the United States and Iran has now evolved into a global contest between advocates of diplomacy and champions of perpetual confrontation. The fate of the emerging peace process may well determine not only the future of U.S.-Iran relations but also the economic stability of the world and the security architecture of the Middle East.

The technical negotiations now underway in Switzerland are intended to transform the recently signed Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding into a permanent settlement.

The framework, reached after months of indirect and direct diplomacy and supported by Pakistan and Qatar, established a 60-day roadmap for resolving some of the most dangerous disputes in the region, including nuclear issues, sanctions, frozen assets, regional security, and freedom of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz.

Reports from Switzerland indicate that Vice President JD Vance is leading the American delegation, while Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Parliamentary Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf represent Iran. Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Qatari officials continue to play an active mediating role.

Yet even before negotiators could settle into substantive discussions, the process encountered turbulence. President Donald Trump, seeking to reassure domestic critics and maintain pressure on Tehran, warned publicly that military action could resume if Iran violated its commitments or threatened regional stability.

Iran reacted sharply, by expressing its displeasure through diplomatic distance and symbolic gestures, reflecting the deep mistrust that continues to define relations between the two countries. Negotiations nevertheless continued, highlighting both the fragility and importance of the diplomatic track.

The strongest resistance to the agreement has emerged from hawkish political circles in Washington. Several influential Republican figures have criticized the framework, arguing that it grants Iran economic relief without permanently eliminating what they regard as the core security threats posed by Tehran.

Senator Bill Cassidy described the arrangement as a major strategic mistake. Senator Roger Wicker expressed concern that hard-won leverage was being surrendered too quickly. Senator Lindsey Graham questioned both the substance of the agreement and the broader diplomatic strategy surrounding it. Collectively, these critics argue that sanctions relief, asset unfreezing, and economic normalization provide benefits to Iran before sufficient security guarantees have been secured.

Supporters of the framework offer a different perspective. They argue that diplomacy succeeds not through the humiliation of one side but through the creation of incentives that encourage compliance and reduce incentives for conflict. They contend that years of sanctions, pressure campaigns, military operations, and threats have failed to produce a durable solution. If military force could permanently solve the dispute, they argue, the issue would have been resolved long ago.

The most dramatic opposition, however, has emerged from Israel. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has repeatedly emphasized that Israel's strategic objectives differ from those of Washington. Israeli officials continue to insist that any lasting arrangement must permanently eliminate Iran's enrichment capabilities, constrain its missile programs, and weaken its regional network of allied groups. Netanyahu has publicly stated that Israel will continue pursuing its security objectives and will not permit Iran to acquire nuclear weapons.

Israeli leaders have also signaled that they intend to maintain military pressure against Hezbollah in Lebanon regardless of broader diplomatic developments.

This disagreement reveals a profound strategic divergence between Washington and Jerusalem. The Trump administration increasingly appears focused on preventing a wider regional war, stabilizing energy markets, reopening maritime trade routes, and

reducing the economic burdens associated with prolonged military engagement. Israel, by contrast, remains focused on achieving what it views as decisive security outcomes against Iran and its regional allies. The resulting tension has produced one of the most visible policy disagreements between the two allies in recent years.

The Lebanon issue has become the most immediate manifestation of this divide. Reports from the negotiations suggest that Tehran has made developments in Lebanon a central issue during the Swiss discussions.

Iran argues that regional stability cannot be achieved while military operations continue on multiple fronts. Israel, meanwhile, insists that its campaign against Hezbollah remains essential to its national security. The dispute threatens to complicate implementation of the broader framework and demonstrates how interconnected Middle Eastern conflicts have become.

At the center of this diplomatic storm stand Pakistan and Qatar. Their role has evolved from facilitator to guardian of the process itself. Throughout months of negotiations, repeated setbacks, periods of military escalation, and diplomatic breakdowns, both countries continued to maintain channels of communication between adversaries who often appeared incapable of speaking directly to one another.

Pakistan, in particular, has emerged as an increasingly significant diplomatic actor. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's direct involvement and the participation of Pakistan's senior leadership underscore Islamabad's determination to

Continued on Page 7



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

Global Tree Plantation Day to celebrate peace, restore environment

Sahida Kausar Farooq, a renowned environmentalist and Chairperson of Subh-e-Nau, an organization working for environmental protection and public health, has welcomed the recent understanding and ceasefire between the United States and Iran, describing it as a triumph of diplomacy over conflict and an opportunity to advance global environmental stewardship.

In a statement on Monday, Mrs. Farooq appealed to Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Defence Forces (CDF), Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir to take the lead in proposing a Global Tree Plantation Day for Peace and the Environment, to be observed annually by nations around the world in commemoration of the spirit of dialogue, understanding, and peaceful conflict resolution.

She said that armed conflicts inflict immense damage on the global environment through destruction of forests, contamination of water resources, loss of biodiversity, increased greenhouse gas emissions, and long-term public health consequences. While wars leave scars on landscapes and communities, peace creates opportunities for ecological restoration and sustainable development.

"The recent ceasefire demonstrates that dialogue can prevail over confrontation," she said. "The world should seize this moment to send a powerful message that every step toward peace must also be a step toward healing our planet."

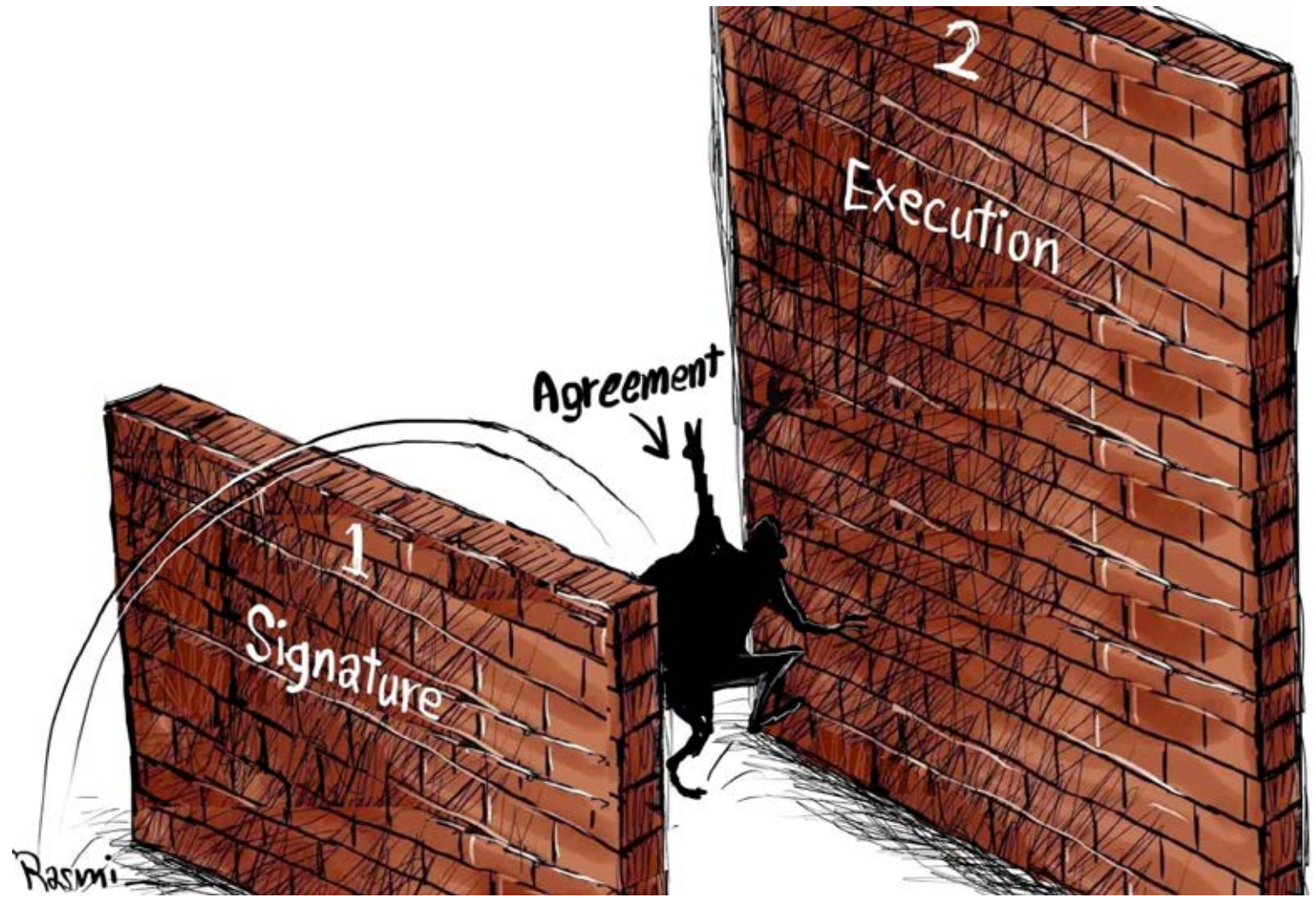
She proposed that Pakistan initiated a diplomatic effort at international forums, including the United Nations, calling upon all countries to observe a special annual Global Tree Plantation Day for Peace, during which governments, international organizations, armed forces, educational institutions, civil society groups, businesses, and citizens collectively plant trees and undertake environmental restoration activities.

According to Mrs. Farooq, such a worldwide observance would transform a historic diplomatic breakthrough into a lasting environmental legacy. Millions of trees planted across continents would help absorb carbon emissions, combat climate change, restore degraded ecosystems, improve air quality, conserve biodiversity, and promote public health.

"Peace and environmental protection are inseparable," she said. "Just as conflicts cross borders, so do climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss. Our response must therefore be global. Let every nation plant trees in celebration of peace, reconciliation, and humanity's shared responsibility to safeguard the Earth."

Mrs. Farooq emphasized that Pakistan played an important role in promoting dialogue and regional stability, is well positioned to champion this initiative and mobilize international support for a worldwide movement linking peace-building with environmental restoration.

She concluded by expressing hope that world leaders would embrace the proposal and transform the ceasefire into a global green legacy.



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmī. (Courtesy of Ashfaq Al-Awzat)

Imam Husayn (AS): His Blessed Life and the Moral Dimensions of His Character

Imam Husayn (AS) is among the most illustrious and revered personalities in Islamic history, whose blessed life continues to serve as a guiding light for generations until the Day of Judgment. He was the beloved grandson of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), the son of Imam Ali (AS), and the cherished son of Lady Fatimah al-Zahra (AS). He was born on the 5th of Sha'ban, 4 AH, in Madinah al-Munawwarah. He was raised in a household that the Holy Qur'an describes as a center of purity, righteousness, and divine favor. The special affection of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), the spiritual and intellectual training of Imam Ali (AS), and the noble character of Lady Fatimah (AS) shaped his personality and adorned him with exemplary moral qualities that remain a model for humanity. His entire life was characterized by devotion to God, piety, patience, courage, generosity, forgiveness, truthfulness, and service to humanity. These ethical virtues constitute the foundation of his greatness and enduring legacy.



Analysis

Muhammad Asif

ty-five pilgrimages on foot, despite having access to transportation. This was not merely an act of physical endurance but a profound expression of humility, love, and submission to Allah. His piety extended beyond acts of worship and was reflected in his dealings, ethics, and social conduct. In every matter, he sought the pleasure of Allah and upheld the principles of justice and righteousness.

Generosity and benevolence were also among the defining qualities of Imam Husayn (AS). He was always eager to assist the poor, the needy, orphans, and those facing hardship. No petitioner ever left his door empty-handed. It is narrated that when a needy person sought assistance from him, he ensured that the individual's dignity and self-respect were preserved while fulfilling the need. This demonstrates that his concern was not limited to material support; he also cared deeply about the feelings, honor, and self-esteem of others. His generosity was motivated neither by fame nor by recognition but solely by the desire to please Allah and serve His creation.

Another remarkable moral dimension of Imam Husayn (AS) personality was his patience, forbearance, and willingness to forgive. He treated even his opponents with kindness and respect. When faced with harsh words or offensive behavior, he responded with wisdom, patience, and compassion rather than anger. Historical reports mention incidents in which individuals spoke rudely to him, yet he replied with such gentleness and grace that

they became ashamed of their behavior and sought his forgiveness. This conduct reflected the Qur'anic principle of repelling evil with goodness. Imam Husayn (AS) believed that true strength lies not in revenge but in controlling one's anger and forgiving others.

Truthfulness and steadfast commitment to principles formed the very essence of Imam Husayn's (AS) character. Throughout his life, he stood firmly on the side of truth and refused to submit to falsehood. His actions consistently reflected his dedication to preserving the true spirit and moral values of Islam. When Yazid demanded allegiance, Imam Husayn (AS) openly declared that supporting an unjust and immoral ruler would constitute a betrayal of religion and the Muslim community. He chose truth and justice over personal safety, political convenience, and worldly gain. This moral courage and unwavering integrity elevated him to a position of eternal honor in history.

Courage and bravery were also central features of Imam Husayn's (AS) character. He inherited these qualities from his father, Imam Ali (AS), renowned for his valor. However, Husayn's courage was not limited to the battlefield. It was equally evident in his willingness to stand against oppression, speak the truth, and remain loyal to his principles under the most difficult circumstances. During the tragedy of Karbala, when his companions were martyred one after another, when children suffered from thirst, and when immense hardships surrounded him, he remained steadfast and resolute. He expressed neither complaint nor despair but instead displayed patience, trust in Allah, and contentment with His decree. This

Continued on Page 7

From Feminism to Meninism

For much of the twentieth century, fiction was dominated by feminist concerns. Readers encountered numerous novels, particularly those written by women writers, that foregrounded women's experiences, highlighted gender discrimination, and advocated for the protection and advancement of women's rights, for example, novels like 'To the Lighthouse' by Virginia Woolf, 'Mill on the Floss' by George Eliot, 'The Heart Divided' by Mumtaz Shahnavaz, and so on and so forth. These narratives played a significant role in raising awareness about women's oppression and contributed to broader social and cultural debates about gender equality, because many of these were written under the influence of feminist movement and its sociopolitical implications. The right to vote, right to education and right to work and property were a few of popular demands suggested by these writers.

However, the twenty-first century, particularly in the age of Artificial Intelligence and digital media, has witnessed significant shifts in literary representation. Alongside technological transformations, new social and ideological concerns have emerged. One such development is the rise of what may be termed meninism in contemporary fiction. Unlike feminism, which primarily focuses on women's rights and empowerment, meninism emphasizes the challenges, anxieties, frustrations, and perceived marginalization experienced by men in contemporary society. It reflects a growing concern among certain groups that men's rights and identities are being undermined in an era increasingly shaped by feminist discourse. Even the narratives of the 20th century reflected

men, not as thorough patriarchs but men as more helpful and supportive of women. The Pakistani postcolonial fiction is witness to this because of the portrayal of men in the novel such as 'Moth Smoke' by Mohsin Hamid, 'Kartography' by Kamila Shamsie, 'Maps for the Lost Lovers' by Nadeem Aslam, and many more like these. This issue is not confined to literary studies alone. Media and journalistic discussions have also begun to address changing gender dynamics. Recently, newspapers such as Dawn published articles discussing the growing tendency among both men and women to prefer living alone rather than entering traditional family structures. Such developments indicate broader societal changes in which individuals increasingly prioritize personal autonomy and individual rights over conventional social expectations.

Theoretical perspectives also help explain this phenomenon. The sociologist Raewyn Connell argues that hegemonic masculinity is undergoing a crisis in contemporary society. Traditional forms of male authority and privilege are being questioned, leading many men to experience uncertainty regarding their social roles and identities. Consequently, some men seek new avenues through which they can articulate their grievances, insecurities, and perceived loss of status. Contemporary fiction increasingly reflects these concerns. In digital fiction and online narratives, themes such as male loneliness, dating-market frustrations, perceived discrimination against men, anti-feminist online communities, and crises of masculinity frequently appear. Works such as 'Adolescence and Klara and the Sun', among others, explore aspects of identity, isolation, and

Continued on Page 7

Mayor Forhad Hussain Recommends Maria G. Christofi as Newham's Permanent Chief Executive

Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON: Mayor Forhad Hussain has recommended Maria G. Christofi for appointment as the permanent Chief Executive of Newham Council following a unanimous decision by the Council's Chief Officer Appointment Committee.

The recommendation follows a rigorous recruitment process and will be considered by Full Council on 13 July, where councillors will make the final decision on the appointment.

Maria joined Newham Council in September 2025 as Interim Assistant Chief Executive for Change & Improvement, having previously served as an Independent Member for Finance & Transformation on the Newham Improvement and Transformation Board. In January 2026, she assumed additional responsibilities as Corporate Director of Resources and is recognised for her expertise in financial management, resilience and organisational sustainability.



ment professional, Maria has worked in local authorities for more than 25 years, including across four London boroughs and a major unitary authority. She has over a decade of experience as a Corporate Director of Resources and is recognised for her expertise in financial management, resilience and organisational sustainability.



If approved by Full Council, Maria will succeed Paul Martin, who has served as Interim Chief Executive since July 2025. He will remain in post until the appointment is formally confirmed. Mayor Forhad Hussain said: "I am delighted to recommend Maria for appointment as Chief Executive, with the full support of the Chief Officer Appointment Committee. This

is a significant moment for Newham as we continue to deliver our vision for a borough that works for residents and creates a place that they are proud to call home.

"I look forward to working closely with Maria and colleagues across the Council as we continue to build a Newham that delivers on the ambitions of our residents."

Paul Martin, Interim Chief Executive, praised the recommendation, describing Maria as an accomplished leader with a proven track record of delivering change and improving public services.

The appointment comes at the beginning of a new political term for the council and is expected to play a key role in driving forward Newham's priorities, strengthening partnerships and delivering high-quality services for residents.

The final decision on Maria G. Christofi's appointment will be made at the Full Council meeting on 13 July.

D-8 Secretary General holds talks with Turkish parliamentary leader to boost economic cooperation

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: D-8 Secretary General Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam held a high-level meeting with Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, Fuat Oktay, during his recent visit to Ankara, where both sides discussed ways to strengthen cooperation among D-8 member states.

The meeting focused on the evolving role of the Developing Eight (D-8) Organization in promoting economic cooperation, sustainable development and South-South partnerships. The two leaders also exchanged views on expanding collaboration with Türkiye's parliamentary and institutional stakeholders to further advance the organization's shared objectives.



Ambassador Imam appreciated Fuat Oktay's valuable insights and reaffirmed the D-8 Secretariat's commitment to enhancing dialogue, cooperation and collective prosperity among member countries.

He acknowledged Türkiye's continued support for the D-8 vision and emphasized the importance of building on existing complementarities while creating new synergies to address common economic and development challenges.

The discussions reflected the shared commitment of both sides to strengthening institutional partnerships and reinforcing the D-8 Organization's role as an effective platform for regional cooperation, trade, investment and sustainable development among its member states.

Prosperity Party Registers Landslide Victory in Ethiopia's 7th General Elections

Spokesman Report

ADDIS ABABA: The National Election Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) has officially announced the results of the 7th General Elections, declaring a landslide victory for the Prosperity Party.

Following a transparent process that saw the participation of over 54 million registered voters, the results mark a significant milestone in Ethiopia's democratic journey.

The official results of the 7th General Elections were announced by the officials of NEBE during a ceremony held in Addis Ababa to brief the media on official results.

The Prosperity Party secured a thumping majority, winning 438 out of the 486 contested seats in the House of Peoples' Representatives, providing the party with the clear mandate required to form a new government under the Ethiopian Constitution.

The party's seats distribution across regions included 167 seats in Oromia, 117 in Amhara, 35 in Southern Ethiopia, 28 in Central Ethiopia, 20 in Addis Ababa, 19 in Somali, 17 in Southwest Ethiopia, 13 in Sidama, 8



in Benishangul-Gumuz, 7 in Afar, 3 in Gambella, and 2 each in Dire Dawa and Harari. Opposition and independent candidates, including representatives from the Ethiopian Unity Party, the Afar People's Party, the Gumuz People's Democratic Party, the National Movement of Amhara and the New Generation Party, collectively secured the remaining 48 parliamentary seats.

The Prosperity Party also achieved overwhelming success in regional council elections, reflecting broad national support. Highlights of these victories include 523 out of 528 seats in Oromia, 257 of 277 in Amhara, 214 of 252 in the Somali region, 182 in South Ethiopia, 176 in Gambella, 175 in Sidama, 161 in Dire Dawa, 145 in

Benishangul-Gumuz, 144 in South West Ethiopia, 143 in Central Ethiopia, 134 in Addis Ababa, 124 in Afar, and 32 in Harari.

The elections were held recently across 1,139 constituencies including 501 for the House of Peoples' Representatives and 638 for regional councils.

The elections were held in a peaceful and transparent manner which was endorsed by international observers, including missions from the African Union (AU) and IGAD, who certified the transparency of the overall electoral process across the country.

Tashkent International Investment Forum 2026: From Interest to Practical Solutions

Spokesman Report

The fifth Tashkent International Investment Forum concluded with a milestone that serves as the primary indicator of its practical significance: following the event, 166 investment agreements were signed, totaling \$43.1 billion.

These figures represent more than just the outcome of a three-day business program. They reflect a broader, more substantial trend: international interest in Uzbekistan is increasingly translating into concrete investment decisions, industry-specific projects, and long-term partnerships. For the anniversary forum, this is particularly telling. In recent years, the forum has evolved from a promotional stage for Uzbekistan's investment opportunities into a prominent international business arena where potential is discussed through the lens of active projects, financial mechanisms, industrial cooperation, and actionable agreements.

The scale of the forum underscores this dynamic. In 2026, the number of registered participants exceeded 10,409. Tashkent welcomed 3,802 foreign delegates from 102 countries. For comparison, the forum hosted

1,050 foreign delegates in 2022, 1,142 in 2023, 1,874 in 2024, and 2,022 in 2025. Over four years, international participation has expanded more than threefold.

However, the true value of this growth lies not merely in volume, but in the shifting structure of the audience. The forum was attended by 3,145 representatives from real-sector companies—an increase of 1,480 compared to the previous year. Tashkent hosted delegates from major corporations and financial institutions, including BlackRock, JPMorgan Chase, Citibank, Visa, Franklin Templeton, Standard Chartered, London Stock Exchange Group, Bank of China, BP, Masdar, ACWA Power, Airbus, John Deere, Meta, Coca-Cola, DP World, and AD Ports Group. The combined assets under management of the companies represented are estimated at approximately \$42 trillion. This figure firmly establishes that Uzbekistan's investment agenda commands the attention of organizations dedicated to long-term capital, massive infrastructure projects, industrial solutions, and global financial frameworks.

The political caliber of the forum

further enriched its substance. The event brought together 76 high-level government representatives, compared to 26 a year earlier. The cornerstone of the event was the plenary session featuring the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, alongside high-ranking dignitaries from Albania, Russia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. This level of participation ensured that the investment agenda was intrinsically linked to trade and economic cooperation, energy development, and long-term regional connectivity.

The business program itself saw significant expansion, featuring a total of 79 events. This included 34 panel discussions, 8 investment pitch sessions, and 7 major bilateral business forums involving the United States, China, the Republic of Korea, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE. Discussions targeted sectors crucial to sustained economic development, such as renewable energy, critical minerals, digital public administration, artificial intelligence, Islamic finance, agribusiness, and food security.

A vital addition to the agenda was

the Exhibition of the Investment Potential of Uzbekistan. It showcased the nation's advanced capabilities across agriculture, agro-processing, electrical engineering, the chemical industry, geology, energy, artificial intelligence, and the IT sector. The immersive format successfully demonstrated that behind the showcased products lie modern industrial capacities and high-tech manufacturing utilizing equipment from leading global brands.

The practical efficacy of the forum is largely attributed to the fact that investor relations in Uzbekistan extend far beyond isolated events. The state has systematically developed institutional dialogues, such as the Foreign Investors Council. Over the recent period, the number of participating companies in the Council grew from 54 to 85, representing 19 countries and 23 economic sectors. The Council has already facilitated the development of 21 initiatives and the adoption of 8 regulatory acts, proving that continuous investor feedback is integral to refining the business climate.

The initiative to establish the Tashkent International Financial Centre



aligns perfectly with this strategy. Designed to operate on the principles of English law, ensure the free movement of capital, allow multi-currency settlements, and provide specialized conditions for fintech and green finance, it aims to deliver a transparent and highly accommodating infrastructure for major investors. Such frameworks effectively shorten the lifecycle from initial interest to final execution.

Complementing the formal agenda, informal networking formats like the TIIF OPEN tennis tournament and the Silk Road Night Run international marathon engaged over 500 participants from more than 16 countries. Simultaneously, global media presence doubled. In 2026, events were

covered by 209 foreign media representatives from 41 countries, acting on behalf of 123 international outlets, including Bloomberg, Reuters, Nikkei, Euronews, BBC News, CGTN, TRT, The Independent, and Xinhua.

The definitive conclusion of TIIF 2026 is that Uzbekistan is firmly transitioning from strategic investment positioning to rigorous practical implementation. The focus has shifted from merely demonstrating potential to proving the capacity to forge actionable partnerships and transparent operational environments. Consequently, the \$43.1 billion in signed agreements stands not just as a statistical achievement, but as the most compelling validation of this transition.

Memories of a Father's Love

"If only I had not broken my father's heart that day..."

At 12:05 last night, my son, son-in-law, and both daughters sent me Father's Day messages. That is when I realized it was Father's Day. May Allah's mercy be upon my late father. My mother and siblings lived in Lahore, but I spent most of my life with my father wherever he was posted during his government service. I lived with him in Sahiwal, Mianwali, Multan, and Sargodha.

Last month, while traveling to Islamabad, I asked my driver to take the route via Bhakkar, Mianwali, and Talagang. The real purpose was not the journey itself, but to revisit memories—and to see the house in Mianwali where I had once lived with my father.

This is a deeply personal, elegiac memoir of a son's love, guilt, and life-long bond with his father, told through three pivotal moments that span 42 years. The story opens in the family home where the narrator shaves for the first time. Raised as a companion rather than just a child by his father—an only child who treated him as a friend—the narrator proudly announces his new ritual.

The father, delighted by this small milestone, returns from an official meeting in Sargodha the next day with an expensive, ribbon-tied "Old Spice" shaving set: safety razor, brush, perfume, and accessories. The son, simple and uncomfortable with luxury, insists his traveling father keep it. The father refuses, wounded, saying, "I brought it with love for you."

When the son persists, the father

utters, "You have hurt my heart, Goshay," and retreats to his room after Asr, pulling a blanket over himself. What follows feels inexplicable. With no storm, earthquake, or visitor, a loud crash echoes through the silent house and the scent of Old Spice fills every room. The shelf is intact except for the shaving set, which lies shattered in hundreds of pieces. The father looks at his son and says quietly, "You broke my heart, and see what I brought with love has broken," then turns away to sleep. The narrator carries that image as an unhealed wound for 42 years. Afterward he vows never to refuse his father's wishes again. He keeps that vow except once: after his wife dies and his chil-

dren are young, the father urges him to remarry, recalling his own mother's death when he was four and the hardships that followed.



Analysis

Mian Ghaffar Ahmad

The son refuses, believing he is right. With age, he admits his father's foresight was greater than his fear. The narrative then shifts to the present. The narrator returns to their old Mianwali home and finds only ruins.

The 30-odd sheesham and jamun trees he planted 40 years ago are gone, the boundary wall collapsed, the road broken, the veranda and flower pots vanished, and the lawn turned to sewage. An officer still lives there, but the narrator cannot bear to meet him. As his driver films the decay, he feels

his father walking beside him again—cigarette in hand, talking about life—as if memory has made him present. Without thinking, he kisses the wall before leaving in tears.

He recalls his father as a disciplined, hardworking man who constantly recited Durood-e-Ibrahimi. After his death, the father appeared in a dream to the narrator's doctor sister and advised her to recite it 70 times daily for its blessings. The father supervised major public projects, including the Punjab Assembly hostel and Children's Library on Lawrence Road, Lahore, and that same discipline passed to his son.

Another Father's Day memory is buying a wedding suit in Shadman Market, Lahore. The father picks fabric worth 12,500 rupees, arguing it will drape and crease properly; the son chooses a 2,500-rupee cloth to save money. The shopkeeper is aston-

ished to see a son argue for the cheaper option. Finally, the father, after 42 years of smoking, calmly predicts he has only a year and a half left, though he looks healthy and still prays standing. His prediction proves exact.

Now the son meets him only in dreams or at Miami Sahib graveyard. When he recites Surah Yaseen at the grave, the father appears within days in a white shalwar kameez—silent, peaceful, content. The piece is ultimately about love expressed through small gestures, the weight of a son's unintentional hurt, the wisdom of a father's foresight, and how memory, scent, and dreams keep a parent alive long after he is gone. The shattered shaving set becomes a metaphor: a gift of love broken by refusal, and a wound that teaches lifelong obedience and reverence. May Allah grant him the highest place in Paradise. Ameen.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
178,471.86	178,922.75
Day's High	Day's Low
180,507.82	178,337.14
Index Value	Change
24,056,112,558	-450.89
Percentage	Time
-0.25%	22 Jun, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
10,437.85	+74.58
Percentage	Time
+0.72%	22 Jun, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
51,720.08	+155.38
Percentage	Time
+0.30%	22 Jun, 1:09 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
72,353.96	+1,103.90
Percentage	Time
+1.55%	22 Jun, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	193.37	196.95
Bahrain Dinar	737.16	747.75
Canadian Dollar	197.51	201.15
China Yuan	38.10	38.85
Danish Krone	43.35	43.75
Euro	319.41	323.17
Hong Kong Dollar	35.06	36.04
Indian Rupee	2.75	3.05
Japanese Yen	1.7121	1.8104
Kuwaiti Dinar	884.65	894.90
Malaysian Ringgit	67	67.85
New Zealand \$	157.64	161.65
Norwegians Krone	27.97	28.27
Omani Riyal	722.25	732.50
Qatari Riyal	75.04	75.95
Saudi Riyal	74.25	75
Singapore Dollar	213.90	217.64
Swedish Korona	30.25	30.55
Swiss Franc	342.45	346.20
Thai Bhat	8.50	8.75
U.A.E Dirham	75.85	76.65
UK Pound Sterling	368.52	372.25
US Dollar	279.00	279.25

Pakistan Economy at a Crossroads: Stock Market Rally and LSM Growth Signal Recovery, warns Mian Zahid Hussain

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Stock Market at 181,000 Points and 6.44 Percent Growth in LSM Are Welcome Signs of Recovery; Expensive Electricity and India-EU Trade Agreement May Cost the Textile Sector Over \$2 Billion; New EFS Conditions Under SRO 528 Will Hurt Small Exporters: Mian Zahid Hussain.

Karachi (June 22, 2026): Mian Zahid Hussain, President of the Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum & All Karachi Industrial Alliance, has expressed cautious optimism over positive economic indicators while warning that Pakistan's economy is at a decisive stage where timely policy action will determine if recovery becomes sustainable.

The recent rally at the Pakistan Stock Exchange and the KSE-100 Index reaching 181,000 points reflect renewed investor confidence.



The introduction of T+1 settlement in February 2026 and the US-Iran ceasefire have

improved market liquidity and sentiment. Inflation rising to 11.7 percent and a policy rate of 11.5 percent indicate continued pressure.

However, the US-Iran ceasefire has created hopes for lower inflation and reduced energy uncertainty. Large-Scale Manufacturing (LSM) increased by 6.44 percent during the first ten months, with the automobile sector (64.33 percent growth), petroleum products (10.04 percent), and cement (9.13 percent) leading the recovery, though pharmaceuticals and steel face contraction.

New FBR changes under SRO 528(I)/2026 in the Export Facilitation Scheme (EFS) may curb misuse but create difficulties for small exporters.

Linking duty-free imports to previous cycle utilization and mandatory six-monthly reconciliation will increase compliance pressure and liquidity problems, particularly for garment manufacturers.

He urged revising the SME turnover threshold (currently Rs250 million) due to rupee depreciation. The textile sector faces a "competitiveness emergency," contributing 60 percent of exports. Textile exports stood at \$1.42 billion in March 2026, with knitwear declining 8.36 percent.

Pakistan faces a 29 percent US tariff costing \$2.17 billion in exports. The India-EU trade arrangement weakens Pakistan's GSP+ status, risking \$9 billion in EU exports. Unviable energy costs, with tariffs at 13-15 cents per kWh, compared to regional competitors, harm competitiveness.

Hussain urged activating the Export Development Fund for solarization, rationalizing electricity tariffs, and simplifying EFS compliance. He concluded that stock market gains and LSM growth cannot replace export competitiveness, and Pakistan needs export-led growth, affordable energy, and facilitation for SMEs.

Hard work

ISLAMABAD: CDA worker repairing street lights near Markazi Isna Ashari Masjed wa Imam Bargah G-6/2 in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Dun and Bradstreet Pakistan partners with Power Cement

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Power Cement, a key player in the Pakistani Cement Industry has partnered with Dun and Bradstreet Pakistan by onboarding D&B Risk Analytics. Through this collaboration, Power Cement will leverage Dun and Bradstreet's expertise to make informed, data-driven decisions on its suppliers.

Zubair Qureshi, Chief Business Officer of Dun & Bradstreet Pakistan, expressed his enthusiasm for the partnership: "Supply chains today are more complex than ever and having the right intelligence to make decisions about your suppliers can make all the difference."

This sentiment was echoed by Mohammad Zohaib Khan, Head of Supply Chain at Power Cement, who added, "This partnership helps us take a more data-driven and structured approach to supplier due diligence, financial and compliance risk assessment, and everyday procurement



decisions, supporting our continued journey towards a more resilient, transparent, and future-ready supply chain ecosystem at Power Cement."

ICCI and G. O. A. T Engineering Sign MoU to Offer Exclusive Discounts and Services to Islamabad Businesses

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and G. O. A. T Engineering & Colts Engineering (M/S Riaz & Sons, which has been providing engineering services since 1965) have signed an important Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at providing the business community of Islamabad with modern engineering facilities and exclusive benefits. The agreement was signed at the Chamber House by ICCI President Sardar Tahir Mahmood and Chairman & Founder of G. O. A. T & Colts Engineering, Mian Osama Waheed.

Under this partnership, ICCI members will receive discounts of 15% to 20% on engineering consultancy services, along with free technical consultations, preliminary project assessments, feasibility studies,

quality assurance, and project supervision services. In addition, members will have access to priority services, 24-hour support, professional training workshops, certification programs, and industrial networking forums.

Through this agreement, ICCI members will be able to benefit from high-quality

engineering expertise across various sectors, including lifts and escalators, HVAC solutions, solar works, and power generators. This one-year Memorandum of Understanding is being regarded as a significant step toward promoting business facilitation, industrial development, and socio-economic progress in Islamabad.

MEPCO CEO Targets 100% Bill Recovery and Zero Tolerance for Power Theft in Year-End Drive

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: The Chief Executive Officer of Multan Electric Power Supply Company (MEPCO), Engineer Gul Muhammad Zahid, visited the Vehari Circle to review performance as the financial year 2025-26 ends. He directed field officers to personally monitor the recovery campaign, ensure immediate collection of all outstanding dues, and achieve 100% bill recovery. The CEO ordered indiscriminate action against power tripping and ensure stable supply. He declared consumer complaint redressal the top priority, emphasizing that MEPCO uniquely establishes Customer Facilitation Centers (CFCs) at circle and division levels. All complaints must be resolved within the stipulated time, with instructions for immediate replacement of meter meters, faulty



meter correction, and repair or replacement of faulty distribution transformers. The CEO reviewed progress on new connections and AMI meter installation, directing SDOs to complete required summary reports promptly. The remaining days of the financial year are crucial; all staff must fully utilize their capabilities to achieve all set targets, with zero tolerance for negligence. The CEO then visited the CFC to review facilities. The Additional Chief Engineer assured vigorous steps to meet all operational, financial, and service delivery targets before year-end.

Pakistan's Mediation Between Iran and US Averts Third World War, Says Malik Khuda Bakhsh

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Malik Khuda Bakhsh, Convener of the Energy Standing Committee of FPCCI and President of Pakistan Business Forum (Sindh Region), said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Asim Munir have gained global recognition for playing a frontline role in ceasefire efforts and diplomatic mediation between Iran and the United States.

He said that in the ongoing negotiations regarding the implementation of the Memorandum of Under-

standing (MoU), Pakistan's efforts are being appreciated not only by the United States and Iran but also by Gulf countries affected by the conflict, who acknowledge Pakistan's positive role.

Malik Khuda Bakhsh added that Pakistan's mediation efforts have helped reduce tensions and achieved regional stability.

He claimed that, without a doubt, Pakistan's diplomatic efforts have saved the world from a potential Third World War, and after the Iran-US agreement, hopes for peace and stability in the region have increased.

SECP Approves Pakistan's First Digital Lending Product Exclusively for Women-Led MSMEs



The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has approved the country's first digital financing product exclusively for women-led Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

This product, named "Khudmukhtar Khatoon," was developed by M/s. Walee Financial Services (Private) Limited. It offers women entrepreneurs asset financing from PKR 100,000 to PKR 1.5 million, based on individual credit assessments.

The initiative advances SECP's agenda of promoting financial inclusion for women, a traditionally underserved segment. The financing is fully digital and Shariah-compliant, designed to meet the needs of women-owned small businesses.

It will be provided through the company's existing digital lending app, "Hakeem." Eligible borrowers complete the entire process digitally.

The funds can purchase business assets via an integrated marketplace within the platform, with assets delivered directly to borrowers' addresses. Repayment is through equal monthly installments over up to twelve months, helping manage cash flows while acquiring productive assets.

Walee Financial Services is a licensed Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC) currently offering digital nano-financing. This product enables expansion from consumer financing to MSME financing. Lending NBFCs in Pakistan have collectively disbursed about PKR 111 billion to approximately 7.5 million micro and small businesses from July to December 2025, highlighting their role in reaching unexplored segments.



UMT Retains Place in QS World University Rankings 2027 for Second Consecutive Year

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The University of Management and Technology (UMT) has achieved another significant international milestone by securing its place among the world's distinguished universities for the second consecutive year in the QS World University Rankings 2027. UMT has been placed in the 1201-1400 band, while only 18 universities from Pakistan succeeded in earning a place in this prestigious global ranking.

Expressing his delight over the achievement, Chairman and President UMT, Ibrahim Hasan Murad, congratulated the faculty members, students, researchers, administration and all stakeholders. He stated that UMT's continued presence among the world's leading universities is a matter of pride not only

for the institution but also for Pakistan. He said that UMT's inclusion in the QS World University Rankings is a global acknowledgment of the university's academic excellence, modern campus infrastructure, quality facilities, experienced faculty and growing research capabilities. According to him, the achievement reflects UMT's unwavering commitment to providing world-class education and promoting a culture of innovation and research.

Ibrahim Murad emphasized that UMT is playing a significant role in advancing quality education, research, innovation and societal development. He noted that the university's consistent appearance in internationally recognized rankings demonstrates its dedication to maintaining high academic standards and creating a learning environment that



meets global benchmarks. Murad further stated that UMT's growing international recognition will

open new avenues for students, faculty members and researchers in the areas of academic collaboration, research partnerships and international exchange opportunities. He added that this achievement also reflects the increasing global acceptance and credibility of Pakistani universities and will further strengthen the country's higher education profile worldwide.

The Chairman remarked that UMT is among Pakistan's leading private, not-for-profit universities and remains committed to contributing to national development through quality education, cutting-edge research, innovation and stronger industry linkages. He reaffirmed that the university will continue striving for greater excellence and international collaborations to further enhance Pakistan's presence on the global academic landscape.

Experts call for integrating climate risks into fiscal planning to safeguard economy

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: At a parliamentary consultation in Islamabad on June 22, 2026, policy experts and lawmakers agreed that Pakistan must integrate climate change into its economic and budgetary planning. The event, co-organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute and the Danish Embassy, focused on mainstreaming climate considerations amid rising risks to growth, fiscal stability, and food security. Danish Ambassador Maja Mortensen stressed that climate and environmental issues can no longer be tackled separately and must drive policy action. She noted the federal budget process makes this consultation timely, emphasizing that climate resilience and economic development are complementary. Denmark offered technical cooperation to help integrate climate priorities into planning. SDPI Executive Director Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri urged that climate factors be included in both federal and provincial finance bills, especially as Pakistan's budget framework develops under IMF programs. IMF-backed reforms have boosted allocations for disaster risk reduction, water conservation, and renewable energy, with some progress in provincial budgets. Yet, he warned that climate finance is shrinking globally and domestically, and stronger federation-province coordination is needed. PPP MNA Mirza Ikhtiar Baig noted that Pakistan, despite minimal global emissions, remains highly vulnerable to climate change. He regretted that pledged international funds for 2022 flood reconstruction have not materialized. Baig welcomed carbon levies and reduced solar panel taxes, but stressed

that citizens already bear costs for climate efforts. PPP MNA Asad Alam Niazi called climate change a national security challenge, citing inadequate public awareness and insufficient government allocations. Erratic weather harms agriculture and livelihoods, while rapid population growth demands millions of new jobs annually by 2050, requiring simultaneous action on climate, malnutrition, and stunting. SDPI Deputy Executive Director Dr. Sajid Amin Javed warned that climate change already causes losses equal to 1.53% of global GDP, a figure set to rise. He argued climate resilience must be a core pillar of fiscal planning, directly linked to employment, poverty, inequality, food security, and growth. SDPI Energy Unit Head Ubaid ur Rehman Zia highlighted the need for climate diplomacy and international partnerships to mobilize finance for climate-resilient development. Zainab Naem, SDPI's Head of Ecological Sustainability, reported that federal climate-related allocations for 2026-27 fell roughly 70% from the previous year. While about Rs 2,026 billion in green-linked revenues were tagged, accountability gaps remain. Ministry of Climate Change allocations dropped 84% between 2021 and 2027. She proposed climate fiscal buffers, mandatory impact reporting, and stronger risk integration. SDPI is developing Pakistan's first Climate Adaptation Investor Confidence Index, with a current moderate score of 59.6. Former PPIB Managing Director Shah Jahan Mirza noted the Petroleum Development Levy is now used to manage deficits. He urged regulators to create comprehensive climate risk guidelines and shift from reactive to proactive planning.

North Korea officials caught stealing and swapping school equipment in Sunchang township

Jeong Seo-yeong

PYONGAN: Officials and enterprise managers in North Korea's South Pyongan province have been caught in a school corruption scheme, stealing and swapping out electronics intended for high school students and undermining the state's education support program.

A source in South Pyongan province said on Thursday that after the annual rice-planting mobilization ended and senior middle school students returned to class, the Sunchang township education department began reviewing the supply status of equipment needed for elective-subject classes. The review, launched in early June, revealed that some items had quietly vanished.

North Korea introduced a national elective-subject curriculum this year, under which senior middle schools, roughly equivalent to high schools, are required to offer specialized coursework for the first time. State institutions and enterprise units were assigned to supply the participating schools with flat-screen televisions, computers, and laboratory equipment.

On paper, the supplies had been delivered in full. But when education officials cross-checked the documentation against what was actually on site, the numbers did not match and the condition of some equipment was poor.

The discrepancies pointed to more than a clerical error or shipping mistake. A follow-up investigation by the Sunchang township education department

confirmed that deliberate diversion and switching had taken place.

In some cases, officials at state institutions and enterprise units sold school-bound electronics to private traders or market vendors, pocketing the proceeds. In other cases, school staff members swapped the supplied equipment for old, broken devices from their own homes and then reported, without cause, that the delivered items had malfunctioned.

The education department concluded that the equipment had been diverted to serve private interests rather than reaching students, and classified the misconduct not as simple supply mismanagement but as a direct attack on the state's education support program. The Sunchang township party committee, the local organ of the Workers' Party of Korea that oversees party affairs at the township level, was briefed on the findings and reacted with fury.

"This year we introduced the elective-subject system, but classes were struggling to operate because of equipment shortages," the party committee said, according to the source. "Was the misconduct of those involved the reason behind that?"

The township party committee has called for a comprehensive review of the school support program structure and directed authorities to re-examine the supply chain through which educational materials flow from state institutions and enterprise units to schools. (Courtesy Daily NK)

Governor Kundi Highlights KP's Vast Investment Potential

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi has said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is a province rich in natural resources, tourism potential, agriculture, minerals, hydropower, and vast oil and gas reserves, offering immense opportunities for both local and foreign investors.



He emphasized the importance of restoring border routes and trade corridors, stating that Pakistan should secure better access to the Central Asian states in order to further enhance business, trade, and economic activities.

He expressed these views during a meeting with a high-level delegation of the United Business Group (UBG) at his residence in Islamabad. The delegation included ICCI Founder Group Chairman Tariq Sadiq, UBG Secretary General Zafar Bakhtawari, former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President of Talagang Chamber of Commerce Malik Shabbir Awan, ICCI Executive Member Shamaila Siddiqi, President of Islamabad Women Chamber of Commerce Samina Fazil, Group Leader of Rawalpindi Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries Shahid Ghafoor Paracha, Intiaz abasi former executive member icci and other prominent business representatives.

Electric shuttle service launched at Attock district jail to facilitate visitors

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: In a significant people-centric initiative aimed at improving visitor facilities, an electric shuttle service has been formally launched at District Jail Attock under the Punjab Government's ongoing prison reforms programme.



The project was implemented on the special directives of Punjab Home Secretary Dr. Ahmad Javed Qazi and Inspector General Prisons Punjab Mian Salik Jalal, reflecting the government's commitment to making prison services more accessible and humane for the public.

The electric shuttle service was inaugurated by Assistant Commissioner Attock Arif Mahmood Qureshi. The facility has been established with the support of the Punjab Prisons Foundation and forms part of broader efforts to modernize prison infrastructure and enhance public convenience across Punjab's correctional institutions.

Designed with a strong humanitarian focus, the modern shuttle service will provide safe, comfortable and dignified transportation for visitors travelling between the jail's main entrance and the visitors' shed. The service is expected to particularly benefit senior citizens, women, persons with disabilities, and families arriving from remote areas who often face difficulties reaching the visitation area.

Officials said the initiative aims to reduce hardships faced by visitors and ensure a more respectful and accessible experience for citizens coming to meet their incarcerated relatives.

Speaking on the occasion, Superintendent District Jail Attock Imran Naveed Ashraf expressed gratitude to the Punjab Home Secretary and the Inspector General of Prisons for their support in introducing the facility. He described the shuttle service as a practical manifestation of the government's public-friendly policies and prison reform vision.

"The initiative will benefit hundreds of citizens visiting the jail every day, especially elderly people, women and persons with disabilities, by providing them with a convenient and dignified means of transportation within the prison premises," he said.

The launch of the electric shuttle service marks another step toward transforming Punjab's prisons into institutions that not only focus on correction and rehabilitation but also prioritize the welfare and convenience of the public they serve.

Iran-USA Peace Deal Under Siege

Continued from Page 4

secure a peaceful outcome. The mediators now face the difficult challenge of preserving momentum while managing crises generated by regional developments and domestic political pressures.

The stakes extend far beyond diplomacy. For the United States, the consequences involve energy prices, inflationary pressures, military expenditures, and broader strategic priorities.

For Iran, the negotiations offer a potential pathway toward economic recovery, reconstruction, reintegration into global markets, and relief from years of economic isolation.

For Europe, Asia, and energy-importing nations around the world, the stability of the Strait of Hormuz remains a matter of immense importance. Any renewed disruption would reverberate through global supply chains, financial markets, and national economies.

The negotiations therefore represent far more than a bilateral dispute. They are a test of whether diplomacy can prevail over entrenched hostility, whether compromise can overcome ideological rigidity, and whether regional powers can choose stability over confrontation.

History often remembers the battles that start wars. It pays far less attention to the exhausting negotiations required to end them. Today, in Switzerland, diplomats, mediators, and political leaders are engaged in precisely that difficult task. Their challenge is not merely to sign documents but to create enough confidence, accountability, and mutual interest to sustain peace beyond signatures and ceremonies.

The road ahead remains uncertain. Hawks in Washington continue to criticize the agreement. Israel remains skeptical and defiant. Iran remains cautious and distrustful.

Yet despite these obstacles, the talks continue. That fact alone offers a measure of hope. If the negotiators can withstand political pressure, regional spoilers, and domestic opposition, they may achieve something far more significant than a temporary truce: the foundation of a new strategic equilibrium in the Middle East.

The alternative—a return to escalation, confrontation, and economic disruption—is a prospect neither the region nor the world can afford.

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

Imam Husayn (AS): His Blessed Life and the Moral Dimensions of His Character

Continued from Page 4

moral greatness transformed Karbala from a historical battle into an eternal school of ethical and spiritual lessons.

Patience and perseverance occupy a special place in Imam Husayn's (AS) life and continue to inspire people in every age. In Karbala, he witnessed the martyrdom of his family members, young sons, nephews, and devoted companions. Despite these heartbreaking losses, he remained content with the will of Allah and never abandoned his mission. Instead, he demonstrated the highest degree of patience, dignity, and steadfastness. For this reason, he is remembered as a symbol of perseverance and resilience. His life teaches that true success is achieved through steadfastness in the face of adversity.

Service to humanity was another significant aspect of Imam Husayn's (AS) ethical character. He empathized deeply with the suffering of others and considered their pain to be his own. Helping the poor, supporting orphans, and caring for the vulnerable were among his regular practices. Histor-

ical traditions suggest that he would often provide food and assistance to needy families discreetly, particularly at night, to protect their dignity and prevent embarrassment. His compassion transcended distinctions of race, tribe, and social class. He regarded every human being as a creation of Allah and believed that all people deserved respect and justice.

Justice and fairness were fundamental principles in Imam Husayn's (AS) life. He consistently upheld justice in all matters and could not tolerate oppression or wrongdoing. His vision of leadership was based on service, integrity, accountability, and justice. This is why he refused to submit to a system that had become a symbol of tyranny, corruption, and moral decline. He believed that the reform of society and the welfare of humanity depended upon the establishment of justice and the protection of moral values.

The moral teachings embodied in the life of Imam Husayn (AS) remain highly relevant in the modern world. Contemporary societies face numerous challenges, including moral decline, materialism,

selfishness, intolerance, and injustice. In such circumstances, the example of Imam Husayn (AS) offers valuable lessons in piety, sincerity, patience, courage, justice, service to humanity, tolerance, and principled living. His life teaches that true greatness does not lie in wealth, power, or fame, but in noble character, moral integrity, and steadfast adherence to truth.

In conclusion, the blessed life of Imam Husayn (AS) represents a living manifestation of the noble character of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and a practical embodiment of Islamic teachings. Every aspect of his life serves as a source of inspiration and guidance for humanity. Through his character, actions, and ultimate sacrifice, he demonstrated that moral excellence is the highest form of success. This is why, more than fourteen centuries after his martyrdom, his name continues to be remembered with profound respect, admiration, and devotion, and it will remain a symbol of truth, righteousness, and moral courage for generations to come.

The writer is senior analyst and he can be reached at srasif786@gmail.com

From Feminism to Meninism

Continued from Page 4

changing social relationships in technologically mediated societies.

Elements of meninist discourse can also be identified in non-digital literary texts. For example, The God of Small Things by Roy presents male characters such as Pappachi and Chacko, who enjoy patriarchal privileges unavailable to women. While the novel primarily critiques gender inequality and patriarchal structures, these male characters also reveal the complexities of masculine identity and entitlement within a changing social order. Chacko enjoys freedoms denied to female characters, exposing the unequal distribution of power within the family and society. Similarly, White Noise by DeLillo portrays a crisis of masculine authority. Jack Gladney's position as a father, husband, and academic is continually challenged. His anxieties regarding

knowledge, power, mortality, and morality reveal the instability of traditional masculine identities in postmodern culture. The novel illustrates how modern social and technological conditions undermine conventional notions of male authority. More recent works also engage with these concerns. Red Birds by Mohammad Hanif presents characters negotiating shifting power relations in a rapidly changing world. Likewise, The Vegetarian, although

primarily concerned with female resistance and bodily autonomy, also exposes male insecurities and the fragility of patriarchal control. In these texts, gender relations become sites of conflict, negotiation, and identity formation.

Contemporary fiction therefore appears to be moving beyond the exclusive focus on women's oppression that characterized much twentieth-century literature. While feminist concerns remain important, many recent

narratives also explore the vulnerabilities, insecurities, and struggles experienced by men. This shift does not necessarily reject feminism; rather, it expands literary inquiry to include a broader examination of gender relations and the changing dynamics of power in contemporary society.

In conclusion, alongside feminism, contemporary literature increasingly accommodates meninism perspectives, particu-

larly in the age of Artificial Intelligence and digital culture. As social structures, gender identities, and interpersonal relationships continue to evolve, fiction serves as a crucial space for exploring the rights, responsibilities, anxieties, and aspirations of both men and women. The emergence of meninism in literature reflects the ongoing reconfiguration of narrative authority and gender discourse in the twenty-first century.

Dr. Zia Ahmad is a Senior Professor of English at USP, Multan, Pakistan, with 36+ years of progressive experience in higher education, academic leadership, and research. Recognized for institution-building, curriculum development, post-colonial and feminist literary scholarship, and HEC-approved PhD supervision. Extensive experience in university governance, quality assurance, and graduate research mentoring.

Called on

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Jiang Zaidong, today called on DPM/FM Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.



Photo: PID

Ambassador Zaidong conveys DPM Dar China's commendation for Pakistan's successful de-escalation efforts

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister (DPM/FM), Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Monday received Ambassador of China, Jiang Zaidong who conveyed to him China's commendation of Pakistan's successful contribution to de-escalation and reaffirmed

China's steadfast support to Pakistan's mediation role for durable peace and stability in the region.

The DPM/FM shared the developments related to the high-level talks on the implementation of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) held in Bürgenstock, Switzerland. He also recalled his recent visit to

Cairo, where he had participated in the R-4 Regional Foreign Ministers' Meeting alongside the Foreign Ministers of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Türkiye to advance collective efforts aimed at facilitating dialogue and peaceful resolution of issues, a DPM's Office news release said.

Appreciating China's steadfast support for Pakistan's

peace efforts, DPM/FM, Ishaq Dar lauded China's vital contributions towards the peace process, especially President Xi Jinping's Four-Point Proposal and China-Pakistan Five Point Initiative.

The two sides stressed the importance of sustained diplomatic engagement and peaceful settlement of all outstanding issues under-

pinned by dialogue and negotiations.

The DPM/FM reaffirmed the commitment to continued consultations and coordination with China to advance the shared goals of peace, stability and common development, as well as to further deepen the Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership.

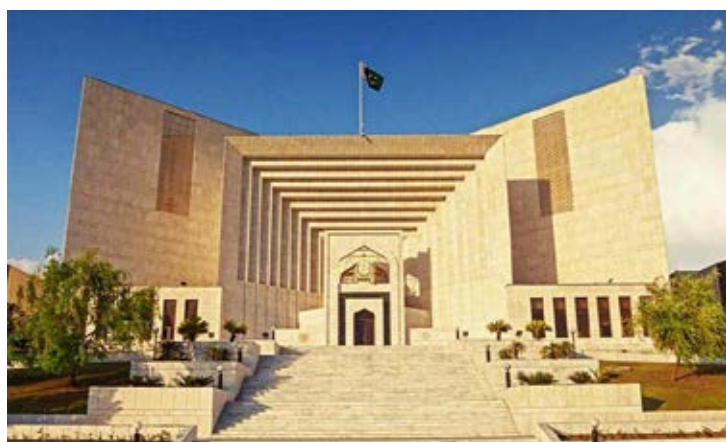
SC rules honourably acquitted employees entitled to full benefits

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court has ruled that government employees who are honourably acquitted of criminal charges are entitled to full salary and service benefits, declaring that the period of absence from duty must be treated as time spent in service.

In an eight-page judgment authored by Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, the court set aside a decision of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Service Tribunal and accepted the appeal of Mian Abdul Saeed, a grade-17 school teacher from Bannu.

The teacher had been dismissed from service after being convicted in a criminal case. However, following his acquittal by the High Court, the department declined to restore his previous



benefits despite reinstating him.

The Supreme Court held that the period during which an employee

remains out of service after being honourably acquitted should be considered as "time spent on duty" for all

service-related purposes.

The court also observed that judicial and criminal proceedings are distinct in nature and may continue simultaneously.

The judgment further stated that dismissing a government employee through disciplinary proceedings without providing an opportunity to respond constitutes a violation of constitutional guarantees of due process.

Allowing the appeal, the Supreme Court directed the relevant authorities to decide within two months on the restoration of the teacher's previous service benefits, including salary and other entitlements.

The court's ruling is expected to have wider implications for government employees who are reinstated after being acquitted in criminal cases.

Govt moves to end fuel subsidy for motorcyclists, farmers and goods transport operators

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Steering Committee on Fuel Subsidy on Monday agreed in principle to end the government's fuel subsidy programme following a significant decline in global oil prices, with the final decision to be made by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

The decision was taken during the seventh meeting of the National Steering Committee on Fuel Subsidy, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar.

According to an official statement, the committee reviewed the implementation of the fuel subsidy programme for motorcyclists, small farmers, public transport, and goods transport operators across all provinces.



The committee noted that global oil prices had declined significantly and that the relief resulting from lower inter-

national prices had already been passed on to the public.

During the meeting, Deputy Prime

Minister Ishaq Dar appreciated the cooperation extended by all provinces in implementing the subsidy programme. He directed the relevant authorities to document the experiences and lessons learned during the implementation process.

He instructed officials to address shortcomings in the existing data collection and delivery systems to ensure that future relief measures are implemented more effectively and efficiently.

The meeting was attended by Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Tariq Bajwa, the secretaries of the Petroleum and Information Technology ministries, the Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan, and senior representatives from all four provinces, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Pakistan's Exports to China Surge 48.7% to \$1.55 Billion in Early 2026



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's exports to China surged 48.7% year-on-year to over \$1.55 billion in the first five months of 2026, up from \$1.04 billion in 2025, according to China's General Administration of Customs. Copper products led the growth, accounting for 43.7% of exports at \$675 million, a 71.7% increase.

March 2026 was the peak month with \$361.6 million in exports, driven by copper and rice. Zhejiang Province remained the top destination, while Beijing saw sharp growth due to increased rice and sesame purchases. The China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA) is a key enabler, with ongoing Phase III negotiations expected to expand Pakistan's access in cereals, halal meat, and textiles.

Justice Munib Akhtar takes oath as acting CJP



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Justice Munib Akhtar, the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, has taken oath as the acting chief justice of Pakistan.

A formal yet simple oath-taking ceremony was held at the Supreme Court Branch Registry in Karachi, where Justice Muhammad Shafi Siddiqui administered the oath to

Justice Munib Akhtar.

Justice Munib Akhtar will perform the duties of the chief justice of Pakistan during the period CJP Yahya Afridi remains abroad.

Judges of the Supreme Court and the Federal Constitutional Court attended the ceremony.

The proceedings were conducted by the Supreme Court registrar, while senior officials and staff members were also present on the occasion.

Govt launches Hajj 2027 registration process

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The federal minister for religious affairs launched the Hajj 2027 registration process, fully digitized through the National Information Technology Board for transparency.

Registration starts today, is free of charge, and operates on a first-come, first-served basis for both government and private schemes.

A valid passport until November 26, 2027, is required, though registration is possible without one. Joint family registration and overseas Pakistani registration are available via the online portal or Pak Hajj app.

The minister emphasized timely



registration, as selection depends on it. He noted Hajj 2026 was highly successful, with minimal complaints, and the Road to Makkah scheme benefited many. Refund estimates are underway, and efforts to increase Pakistan's Hajj quota to 230,000 are ongoing.

Punjab to replace property fard with digital green certificate

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Punjab government will replace traditional property fard with a digital "green certificate" for land transactions starting July 1, 2026. The Board of Revenue Punjab issued a notification suspending fard issuance and implementing the green certificate as the primary document for verifying land ownership and transactions. The new policy applies to most districts, except Sahiwal, Lodhran, and Hafizabad, which are initially exempted. The green certificate, issued under the Punjab Land Records Authority Management of Records Regulations 2025, will be mandatory for property

transactions in all other districts. Officials state the move aims to enhance transparency, security, and digital integration in land records. The system reduces risks of tampering, duplicate entries, and alterations while improving verification. The Punjab Land Records Authority is accelerating modernization efforts as part of broader digital reforms. Authorities expect the green certificate to strengthen legal protection, improve transparency, and simplify property transactions for the public, providing verified digital confirmation of ownership as the province moves toward a fully modernized land management system.