

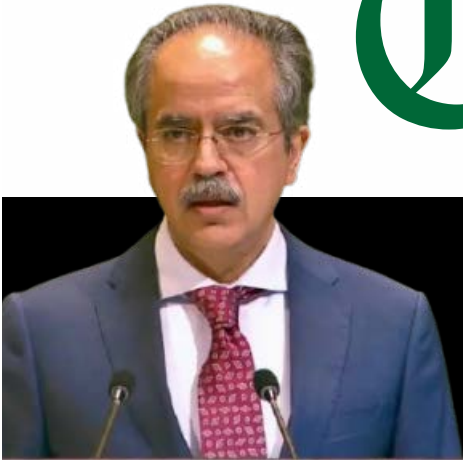


Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
جی کریم ﷺ نے فرمایا ہے اللہ! میری مدد
کراہیے خطا کے ذریعہ جیسا کہ اللہ کے نام
میں پڑھا اور آپ نے بد دعا کی اسے اللہ!
ایضاً کو پڑھ لے اور اللہ تعالیٰ نے تمہیں بیان
کیا کہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے نماز میں
یہ دعا کی کہ اللہ! فلاں فلاں کو لوگوں سے مت
سے دور کر دے یہاں تک کہ قرآن کی آیت
« لیس لکسن الا امر شیء » نازل ہوئی۔
(بخاری ص 639)
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Pakistan, China co-host UNSC meeting on implementation of resolutions

Pakistan and China jointly convened an Arria-Formula meeting of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to discuss the implementation of Security Council resolutions and their role in maintaining international peace and security, the Foreign Office (FO) said on Thursday.



PML-N awards more AJK election tickets

The newly nominated candidates include Malik Muhammad Nawaz Khan from LA-8 Raj Mahal, Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin Gulshan from LA-18 Abbaspur, Sardar Abdul Khaliq Wasi from LA-22 Thorar, Muhammad Ahsan Raza from LA-36 Jammu-III and Muhammad Amir Shah from LA-41 Valley-II.

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Procession

KARACHI: Mourners participating in 9th Muharram procession, in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Youm-e-Ashur will be observed across country on Friday

Tooba Khan

ISLAMABAD: Youm-e-Ashur, the tenth of Muharram-ul-Haram, will be observed across the country tomorrow with due solemnity to pay homage to the supreme sacrifice rendered by Hazrat Imam Hussain Razi Allah ho Ta'ala Anho and his devoted companions in Karbala.

Mourning processions will be taken out in all cities and towns.

Ulema and Zakireen will highlight the bright and candid teachings of Hazrat Imam

Hussain (R. A) and various aspects of Karbala tragedy.

Meanwhile, mourning processions are being taken out all over the country today to mark 9th of Muharram and to pay homage to the martyrs of Karbala.

Taazia and Zuljanah processions are being taken out to commemorate martyrs of Karbala and highlight their unprecedented sacrifice for Islam.

Elaborate security arrangements have been made to avoid any untoward incident during the Muharram-ul-Haram.

President Zardari expresses grief over loss of lives in Venezuela earthquake



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the loss of precious lives and widespread devastation caused by the powerful earthquakes that struck Venezuela.

The President extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and

conveyed his sympathies to the Government and people of Venezuela during this difficult time.

President Asif Ali Zardari said that the people of Pakistan stand in solidarity with the people of Venezuela and share their grief. He also prayed for the speedy recovery of those injured in the disaster and for strength and resilience for all those affected.

The President expressed the hope that the people of Venezuela would overcome this tragedy with courage and determination and that relief and rescue efforts would bring timely assistance to those in need.

AJK govt ready to resolve issues through dialogue

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir is always ready to resolve all the issues through negotiations and dialogue.

Addressing a news conference flanked by Finance Minister Qasim Majeed, Minister for Information Azad Jammu and Kashmir Rafique Nayyar in Islamabad today, said the outlawed Joint Awami Action Committee was invited for talks several times, but unfortunately,



it resorted to violence.

The Information Minister clar-

ified the issue of refugees seats in the AJK Assembly is the prerog-

ative of the legislature, requiring a constitutional amendment with two-thirds majority.

Speaking on the occasion, the Finance Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Qasim Majeed said the protests by the banned Awami Action Committee have caused a massive loss of fifteen billion rupees to the state over the last fifteen days.

He mentioned that the tourism sector alone suffered a financial blow of four billion rupees, emphasizing that the loss directly impacts the common man and

taxpayers.

The AJK Finance Minister said the people of Azad Kashmir stand firmly with Pakistan, adding that their ultimate destination remains "Takmeel-e-Pakistan". He praised the government of Pakistan for effectively highlighting the Kashmir issue at global forums for the past seven decades.

Chaudhry Qasim Majeed urged the people and the trading community of Azad Jammu and Kashmir not to fall prey to the propaganda of the banned Awami Action Committee.

PM Shehbaz Says Ashura's Message of Sacrifice, Justice Must Guide Nation

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif said Youm-e-Ashur serves as a timeless reminder of faith, patience, sacrifice, truthfulness and social reform, urging the nation to draw guidance from Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) and the martyrs of Karbala.

In his message on 10th

Muharram-ul-Haram 1448 AH, he described Ashura as one of Islamic history's most thought-provoking days, offering lessons in perseverance, righteousness and steadfastness amid adversity. He said the day commemorates Allah Almighty's support for believers and the triumph of truth, noting the supreme sacrifice of the Holy Prophet's (PBUH) grandson and

his companions gave Ashura everlasting significance.

The prime minister said Karbala's tragedy conveys that adherence to principles forms the foundation of a dignified, civilized society. Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) showed that sacrificing for truth, justice and human dignity is superior to submitting to oppression and falsehood.

He said Karbala symbolizes Muslim community reform, revival of the Prophet's Sunnah, and promoting virtue while discouraging wrongdoing. These ideals require promoting justice, patience, tolerance and responsibility in daily life, and strengthening mutual respect, religious harmony and national unity instead of division and hatred.

Appealing to scholars, media

and youth, PM Shehbaz urged them to promote Ashura's true message, encourage inter-sect respect, and reject incitement. He called on Pakistanis to renew commitment to truth, justice and safeguarding rights of the weak, and to contribute through character to a strong, united, peaceful nation. He prayed for global peace and Muslim Ummah's unity and prosperity.

Ishaq Dar Says Pakistan Gaining Recognition as Peacemaker and Middle Power

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said Pakistan is now being recognized globally as a peacemaker for facilitating dialogue between the United States and Iran.

Speaking after the 983rd annual Ghusal ceremony of Data Darbar, he congratulated the nation on the Urs of Hazrat Data Ganj Baksh on behalf of President Asif Ali Zardari, PM Shehbaz Sharif, PML-N leader

Nawaz Sharif and CM Maryam Nawaz. He said development work at Data Darbar, one of the shrine's largest expansion projects, was progressing steadily and credited CM Maryam Nawaz's team.

Dar said Pakistan played a key role in US-Iran dialogue, calling it a blessing. He credited PM Shehbaz Sharif, Field Marshal Asim Munir and the Foreign Ministry for sincere mediation efforts. Pakistan, once seen as isolated, is now recognized worldwide, he added, noting Allah had



blessed it with middle power status. He said Pakistan had emerged as a nuclear and missile power and the government's focus is now on becoming an economic

power under PM Shehbaz.

Recalling 2013-2017, Dar said Pakistan was the 24th largest economy with strong macro-economic indicators and peak foreign investment, but fell to 47th in the next four years. Efforts are underway to reverse that decline, he said, adding the government inherited a damaged economy but the situation is moving positively.

He condemned attacks on Iran and said Pakistan held 150+ diplomatic contacts. Pakistan's image has shifted to peacemaker,

middle power and net security provider. On Budget 2026-27, he said relief was provided to salaried people while facilitating business. He warned any hostile action against Pakistan would get a strong response.

Dar said the "Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding" was signed by US President Donald Trump, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, with PM Shehbaz as facilitator, supported by Qatar, UAE, Saudi Arabia, China, Türkiye and Egypt.

Joint efforts of govt, armed forces propel Pakistan's diplomatic success: Ikhtiar Wali

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday expressed deep grief and

Speaking to a local media outlet, he backed Defence Minister Khawaja Asif's proposal for dialogue and urged PTI to focus on the national interest rather than jail politics.

He said criticism of the government was acceptable,

but there could be no compromise on Pakistan's sovereignty or core national interests.

Ikhtiar Wali Khan maintained that the government and the armed forces had jointly led the country toward diplomatic and strategic success, adding that the endeavours of the both military and the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif deserved due recognition.

Concluding his remarks, he urged PTI to move beyond criticism and sit at the negotiating table, saying political parties should engage in dialogue and work together to strengthen democracy and serve the country's interests.

Pakistan Minister lauds JKCI for unwavering commitment to Kashmir cause

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Minister and Chairman Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir, Mr. Rana Muhammad Qasim Noon, extends his heartfelt appreciation to the leaderships and members of Jammu and Kashmir Community International (JKCI). This letter of appreciation was presented today in a dignified ceremony at the office of the Federal Minister and Chairman Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir, Mr. Rana Muhammad Qasim Noon, at Parliament House, to the JKCI delegation, including Chairman Mr. Ghulam Nabi Butt, General Secretary Mr. Raja Parvez Ahmed, Acting Senior Vice Chairman Mr. Raja Muhammad Zareen Khan, and Executive Member Mr. Mush-taq Pirzada.



The letter of appreciation recognizes the tireless efforts, perseverance, and unwavering commitment of JKCI towards the Kashmir cause, both in Pakistan and within the overseas diaspora.

On behalf of the Parliamentary Committee, we commend JKCI for their steadfast support of justice, peace, and the fundamental rights of the Kashmiri people. Their partnerships with policymakers, civil society, media, and

international human rights organizations have kept the issue of Kashmir alive on the global stage.

Jammu and Kashmir Community International especially acknowledges the role of Federal Minister and Chairman of Kashmir Committee Mr. Rana Muhammad Qasim Noon, who, during his tenure, highlighted the human aspects of the Kashmir conflict, mobilized global public opinion, and continued his efforts in line with UN Security Council resolutions.

Their services are a beacon of hope and inspiration for all those striving for a peaceful solution to the Kashmir issue. Jammu and Kashmir Community International sincerely thanks him and looks forward to further collaboration in the struggle for peace, justice, and human dignity.

Finally, the leadership of Jammu and Kashmir Community International extends their gratitude to the Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir, for issuing this letter of appreciation.

Metro bus services closed

ISLAMABAD: A view of closed metro bus station as the metro services suspended in connection with security and traffic arrangements for Ashura procession in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

PM Vows Better Governance, Transparency in AJK Meeting with Minister

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: PM Faisal Mumtaz Rathore called on Minister for Information, Religious Affairs and Endowments Chaudhry Muhammad Rafiq Nayyar. Senior journalist Basharat Abbas was also present on the occasion.

During the meeting, the sides discussed in detail the overall political and administrative situation in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, public issues, government affairs, and other matters of mutual interest.

PM Faisal Mumtaz Rathore has said that the government is using all available resources to provide better governance, transparency and effective public services to the people. They said that timely solution of public problems is the top priority of the government and all agencies should play their responsibilities with mutual coordination so as



to provide relief to the people.

The meeting discussed state affairs and importance of positive role of

media. The Prime Minister said that the government believes in promoting independent and responsible jour-

nalism and values the positive role of media in building and developing the state.

Senior Journalist and Writer Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi Supports June 29 Protest, Calls for Protection of Merit and Transparency in SPSC

Bureau Report

HYDERABAD: Senior journalist and writer Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi has expressed concern over alleged irregularities in examinations conducted by the Sindh Public Service Commission (SPSC) and emphasized the need to safeguard the institution's credibility, transparency, and merit-based recruitment process.

In a statement, Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi said that public confidence in constitutional and recruitment institutions can only be maintained when all affairs

are conducted strictly in accordance with merit, transparency, and the rule of law. He stressed that deserving candidates must be provided equal opportunities and a fair assessment process.

He stated that the protest announced by candidates on June 29 is aimed at seeking transparency, accountability, and the protection of merit in the examination system. According to him, every citizen has the democratic and consti-

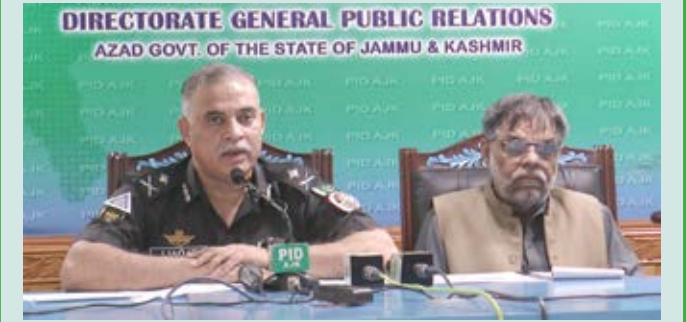


trust and guaranteeing equal opportunities for the youth. He urged the relevant authorities to address the concerns of candidates through an impartial and transparent mechanism.

He further remarked that educational and recruitment institutions should remain above controversy and function strictly according to established rules and regulations so that qualified and deserving candidates receive their rightful opportunities.

Statement: The Sindh Public Service Commission must be protected from becoming a graveyard of merit and transparency. I support the June 29 protest being organized by candidates for a fair, transparent, and merit-based examination system.

AJK IG Police Rejects BBC Report, Warns of AI-Driven "Hybrid Warfare" Targeting Kashmir Narrative



Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Inspector General of Police Azad Jammu and Kashmir Capt (R) Liaquat Ali Malik rejected a recent BBC Urdu report alleging police were stopping goods vehicles, calling it "baseless" and far from ground facts.

Addressing a bureau report, the IG said the world faces a "fierce media war" and hybrid warfare where AI-generated content and campaigns are used to spread disinformation. He urged media, especially outlets covering Pakistani and Kashmiri communities in Europe, to verify facts and trust official accounts to counter cyber terrorism.

He said AJK Police had already clarified in press statements that all traffic entering Azad Kashmir is allowed. The BBC article, he claimed, ignored true facts and failed to seek the police position despite repeated requests for contact numbers. He termed it irresponsible journalism from a globally renowned agency.

The IG announced that he and the Chief Secretary will clarify the matter at a 23 June 2026 press conference. He alleged that indefinite People's Action Committee demonstrators, not police, are attacking goods trucks and stealing cargo. Fact-checks and AJK PID have issued evidence-based rebuttals on Twitter and other platforms, he added.

He reiterated that internal routes including Kohala, Azad Patan and Barrakot remain open for all traffic with only routine safety checks. PAC elements have erected barriers at some points, which law enforcement has asked the public to remove. He urged citizens and international observers to rely on official government media, avoid unverified social media videos, and contact helpline 15 or the PRO office for complaints.

Muharram Promotes Patience, Sacrifice and Unity: Ch. Naeem

Zafar Chishti



TOBA TEK SINGH: District Health and Population Welfare Officer Chaudhry Muhammad Naeem said Muharram-ul-Haram teaches patience, tolerance, sacrifice, brotherhood and steadfastness for truth.

He called Karbala a shining chapter where Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) and companions made unparalleled sacrifices for Islam, justice and righteousness, a guiding light for humanity.

Naeem said Muharram's message extends beyond mourning, urging people to oppose oppression and uphold truth. He stressed unity, harmony and discouraging sectarianism as every citizen's duty.

The department, per Punjab Government directives, has arranged medical camps, first-aid, medicines and emergency services for mourners and processions. He urged public cooperation with administration and law enforcement to maintain peace and cleanliness.

PSCA Toba Tek Singh Meets to Address Challenges Faced by Private Schools and Colleges

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: A meeting of the Private Schools and Colleges Association (PSCA) Toba district was held Thursday with office bearers from across the district and all four tehsils.

The forum discussed problems faced by private institutions, possible solutions and suggestions to improve education. National Alliance of Private Schools Pakistan Chairman Fayyaz Maqsood, Central President Azam Ali Sagar and Central Punjab President Aamir Sajjad attended as special guests.

Speakers stressed challenges and the need for collective struggle. District President Ch. Atif Kasana urged office bearers to work with honesty and mutual respect, saying a strong association can ensure effective representation.

Members expressed resolve to protect institutional rights. Fayyaz Maqsood briefed on the Alliance's aims and invited PSCA Toba to collaborate, which was unanimously accepted. A proposal was made to nominate active members from the district and tehsils for Punjab-level representation.

CJP leads delegation to St. Petersburg International Legal Forum

ISLAMABAD: The Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) led the Pakistani delegation to the 14th St. Petersburg International Legal Forum (SPILF), held from June 24 to 26, in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, where he engaged with judicial



leaders from across the world to strengthen international judicial cooperation and promote Pakistan's ongoing judicial reform agenda.

Besides the Chief Justice of Pakistan, the Pakistani delegation comprised the Chief Justice of the Federal Constitutional Court of Pakistan and the Ambassador of Pakistan to the Russian Federation.

On the sidelines of the Forum, the Chief Justice of Pakistan held a series of bilateral engagements with heads of foreign judiciaries to enhance institutional collaboration and expand judicial dialogue. A key engagement was held with representatives of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, that focused on establishing a framework for bilateral judicial cooperation.

The proposed collaboration encompasses judicial exchanges, professional and judicial education, legal research, court administration, digital transformation, and the sharing of best practices.

The Forum also provided an opportunity to showcase Pakistan's ongoing judicial reform initiatives, including advancements in court digitalization, responsible adoption of emerging technologies, institutional strengthening, and measures aimed at improving access to justice. These engagements facilitated a meaningful exchange of experiences on contemporary challenges confronting justice systems and reinforced Pakistan's commitment to learning from international best practices.

The opening day concluded with the Plenary Session, where the Pakistani delegation interacted with judicial leaders, policymakers, legal scholars, and practitioners from numerous jurisdictions, further strengthening Pakistan's engagement with the global legal community.

Islamabad
30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	3:15 am
Zohr	12:10 pm
Asr	5:11 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

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

IGP Rizvi lauds ICT Police as central 9th Muharram procession concludes peacefully

ISLAMABAD: The central 9th Muharram procession in Sector G-6 concluded peacefully on Thursday, following comprehensive security arrangements by Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police, with Inspector General of Police (IGP) Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi commending officers and personnel for successfully performing their duties.

An official told APP that the IGP Rizvi appreciated the dedication and professionalism of all police officers and personnel deployed on security duty and expressed special gratitude to the Islamabad administration, Pakistan Army and Pakistan Rangers for their support and close coordination.

The official said there was excellent coordination among all security and law enforcement agencies throughout the procession, which contributed to the peaceful conclusion of the event.

Rizvi said the commitment and determination shown by the force while performing duties in extreme weather conditions were highly commendable.

I am proud of every officer and jawan who remained on duty for nearly 16 hours in such harsh weather, the IGP said.

The official said more than 6,500 male and female police officers and personnel were deployed to secure the central procession.

According to the IGP, personnel from district police, Investigation Wing, CIA, Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) and all five police divisions remained fully active throughout the security operation. The official said the procession was protected through inner and outer cordons, flank security and rooftop deployment, while a seven-layer security plan was implemented to ensure the safety of mourners.

Rizvi reiterated that Islamabad Police would continue utilizing all available resources and modern security measures to ensure the protection of citizens and maintain peace during Muharram-ul-Haram, the official added.

CM Maryam Nawaz Oversees Extensive Muharram Security, Facilitation Plan Across Punjab

Bureau Report

LAHORE: On Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's directions, Punjab has implemented comprehensive security, monitoring and facilitation arrangements for Muharram-ul-Haram processions and majalis, with administration and law-enforcement agencies on high alert

for the past eight days.

The province introduced a new security model combining command-and-control with public facilitation. For the first time, anti-smog guns and sprinklers are spraying water along procession routes to relieve mourners from heat and humidity, while cold drinking water points have been set up. All 4,836 imam-



bargahs are linked through a QR-code system for digital connectivity and rapid response.

A three-tier security plan is in place with over 125,000 police personnel deployed, supported by 61 Army and 76 Rangers companies, plus 30,000 trained volunteers. Medical cover includes Rescue 1122, Civil Defence, mobile health units, field hospitals and volunteers. Sanitation teams are ensuring cleanliness along

routes. Modern surveillance is central to the plan: 5,600+ CCTV cameras, 1,000+ 4G event cameras, AI-based monitoring, body-worn and geo-tagged cameras, and a digital surveillance wall at the Provincial Intelligence Centre. A cyber patrolling unit reported 6,000+ objectionable social media accounts to PTA. An LTE network maintains inter-agency coordination where mobile services are suspended.

Authorities confirmed 47,280 majalis and processions will be held, including 37,868 majalis and 9,412 processions. No new routes are permitted. Section 144 bans weapons, rooftop gatherings, loudspeaker misuse, and drones. Pillion riding is banned on Muharram 9-10. Walk-through gates and metal detectors are installed at major processions, with 43 intelligence-based operations conducted preventively.

Punishment

ISLAMABAD: Drivers take rest under their container during a hot and humid day in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Two injured in shooting near mosque in Samundri following water dispute

Bureau Report

FAISALABAD: An emergency call was received by the Rescue Control Room Faisalabad regarding a bullet injury in Chak No. 471 GB Ram Singh Wala area of Tehsil Samundri, on which a Rescue 1122 team was immediately dispatched.

The rescue team reached the spot and provided first aid to the two injured persons and shifted them to THQ Hospital Samundri. The injured include



Mufti Ghulam Farid son of Muhammad Sarwar (40 years) and Allama Ahmed son of Shafiqat (39 years), both of whom were shot in the leg.

According to initial information, there was a dispute over the issue of standing water in the market adjacent to the mosque, during which the firing incident took place. Police reached the spot and brought the situation under control. Rescue 1122 operation has been completed.

The Wars We Choose to Watch and the Ones We Don't

Rania Saeed

In the age of 24-hour news and infinite social media feeds, you might think no conflict could go unnoticed. And yet, there are wars raging that most people in the West could not locate on a map. Refugee crisis that never trend. Civilian casualties that never make the evening news. The camera does not point at the world equally—and where it doesn't point, public opinion does not follow.

This is not an accident. It is a choice. When Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, global media responded within hours. Front pages cleared. Governments issued statements. At the same moment, conflicts in Ethiopia, Yemen, and Myanmar—each involving mass civilian casualties—remain largely unnoticed. The question is not whether Ukraine deserved coverage. It

did. The question is why suffering elsewhere is consistently treated as less urgent, less visible, less worthy of the same moral energy.

The uncomfortable answer is: media coverage is shaped not only by the scale of suffering, but by cultural and geographical proximity. Editors and audiences identify more readily with people who look like them and live in contexts that feel familiar. The result is what Edward Herman and Noam Chomsky called a hierarchy of 'worthy' and 'unworthy' victims—an implicit ranking of whose pain is newsworthy and whose is background noise.

Social media was supposed to change this. And sometimes it has; diaspora communities and citizen journalists have broken stories that traditional outlets ignored.

But platforms also reward emotion over context and speed over accuracy. The

conflicts that trend are not the most severe. They are the ones that produce the most shareable content at the right moment.

The most powerful editorial act is not the headline. It is the silence. When a war disappears from the news, governments face less pressure to act, donors feel less urgency to give, and the people suffering loses whatever protection global attention sometimes provides.

Being an informed citizen today requires active effort. Seek out journalists covering the conflicts others ignore. Ask yourself whether your outrage matches the scale of suffering—or just the scale of coverage. The wars we choose to watch shape the world we build. The ones we look away from shape it too, just more quietly.

Author is BS Student in International Relations at National Defence University

Faisal Gymkhana will meet Rising Star Cricket Club

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Faisal Gymkhana will meet Rising Star Cricket Club in the Day Night Final of the S.M. Adil Zone-IV Inter Club Cricket Tournament on Saturday 27th June at TMC Ground at 2.00 pm.

On this occasion Nadeem Omer, President Regional Cricket Association Karachi will be the Chief Guest and Distribute the Prizes after the Finish of the Match, While Mr. Musarat Raza, President RCA Zone-IV preside over the ceremony.

Karbala's Message of Truth and Justice Guides Muslim Ummah: APP Leaders

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Awaam Pakistan Party Central Vice President Chaudhry Inam Zafar and Additional General Secretary Hafiz Usman Abbasi said Imam Hussain (AS)'s martyrdom and Karbala's sacrifice symbolize truth, justice, dignity and resistance against oppression.

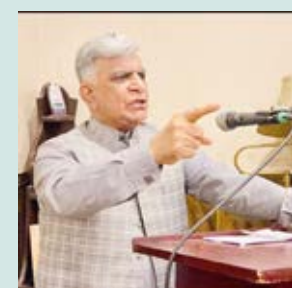


In a joint statement, they said Karbala teaches Muslims to uphold honesty, justice and principles in all circumstances. The martyrs exemplified patience, steadfastness, sacrifice and service to humanity.

Stressing its relevance today, they urged the Muslim Ummah to promote unity, tolerance and brotherhood. They called on people to draw guidance from Imam Hussain (AS)'s message of truth and righteousness in facing current challenges.

Imam Hussain's (RA) Great Sacrifice Is a Timeless Example of Truth: Sheikh Abdul Waheed

City Desk



RAWALPINDI: President Anjuman Tajran Liaquat Road Rawalpindi, Sheikh Abdul Waheed, said that the sacrifice of Imam Hussain (RA) and the martyrs of Karbala remains a timeless symbol of truth, justice, patience, and steadfastness against oppression.

He stated that Karbala teaches humanity that true success lies in standing firm for truth and making sacrifices for righteous causes.

He further said that Imam Hussain (RA) set an everlasting example for the Muslim Ummah through his sacrifice for the supremacy of Islam. Sheikh Abdul Waheed urged people to follow the values of patience, tolerance, brotherhood, peace, and justice during Muharram, adding that this is the best way to pay tribute to the martyrs of Karbala.

Imam Hussain (RA) Set Eternal Example of Truth and Courage at Karbala: Ibrahim Hasan Murad

Bureau Report



LAHORE: UMT Chairman and former Punjab minister Ibrahim Hasan Murad paid tribute to Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) and Karbala martyrs, calling the tragedy an everlasting chapter of truth, righteousness, patience and selflessness.

He said Imam Hussain (RA)'s supreme sacrifice set an enduring example of courage against oppression and falsehood. Karbala teaches that no sacrifice is too great for upholding Islam, justice and truth.

Murad noted the life of Imam Hussain (RA) conveys a message of patience, courage and unwavering faith. The martyrs' sacrifice remains

a beacon for the supremacy of Islam and humanity. He stressed the need to apply Karbala's lessons today to promote tolerance, brotherhood and compassion, praying for steadfastness on the path of truth and service to humanity.

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Why Washington Is No Longer Willing to Follow Tel Aviv Unconditionally

For decades, the strategic partnership between the United States and Israel was considered one of the most enduring alliances in modern international politics. Regardless of which party occupied the White House, Israel could generally count on unwavering diplomatic, military, and financial support from Washington.

Today, however, a noticeable shift appears to be underway. Recent remarks by U. S. Vice President JD Vance directed at the Israeli leadership have sent shockwaves across diplomatic circles. Responding to criticism from members of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's cabinet regarding the U. S.-Iran peace initiative, Vance warned Israeli officials not to attack President Donald Trump, describing him as Israel's "only powerful ally left in the world." Such language would have been unimaginable from a senior American leader only a few years ago.

The statement was more than a personal defense of President Trump. It reflected a growing divergence between American and Israeli strategic priorities in the Middle East.

A Growing Gap in Interests

For many years, Washington and Tel Aviv appeared to share identical objectives regarding Iran. Both viewed Tehran as the principal source of regional instability and sought to limit its military and nuclear capabilities.

Yet recent developments suggest that the United States has begun to prioritize

regional stability and diplomatic settlements over prolonged military confrontation.

The Trump administration's support for negotiations with Iran, efforts to preserve ceasefires, and attempts to reduce tensions in Lebanon demonstrate a broader American desire to avoid another costly Middle Eastern conflict. U. S. officials increasingly recognize that endless wars undermine global economic stability, threaten energy security, and distract Washington from its strategic competition with China.

Israel, on the other hand, continues to view Iran and its regional network of allies as an existential threat requiring sustained pressure.

This difference in threat perception has produced the most visible disagreement between Washington and Tel Aviv in years.

The Netanyahu Challenge:

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has built much of his political reputation on presenting himself as Israel's strongest defender against Iran.

However, the emerging U. S.-Iran diplomatic track places him in a difficult position.

If Washington reaches a lasting accommodation with Tehran, Israel loses some of its ability to shape regional policy through military pressure alone. Reports

from multiple international media outlets indicate growing frustration within Israeli political circles regarding American diplomatic engagement with Iran and pressure on Israel to restrain military actions in Lebanon.

For the first time in many years, Israeli leaders are being reminded that while Israel remains a close American partner, it is not the sole determinant of U. S. Middle East policy.

The New American Calculation:

The United States remains committed to Israel's security. Massive military aid, intelligence cooperation, and strategic coordination continue.

Yet American policymakers increasingly appear unwilling to allow regional diplomacy to be held hostage by any single actor.

Washington's emerging approach seems to be guided by three principles:

1. Prevent a wider regional war.
2. Keep the Strait of Hormuz open for global commerce.
3. Pursue negotiated solutions where possible.

Recent U. S.-Iran talks and efforts to preserve ceasefires illustrate this strategic shift.

The message from Washington is becoming clearer:

American interests come first. Pakistan's Diplomatic Opportunity

Against this backdrop, Pakistan has gained renewed diplomatic relevance.

Pakistan maintains working relationships with Iran, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, China, Turkey, and the United States. In the comity of Nations very few countries possess communication channels across such a diverse range of actors.

Recent diplomatic initiatives involving Pakistan have demonstrated the value of middle powers that can engage multiple sides simultaneously. The unprecedented role played by political and military leadership of Pakistan is being acknowledged across the globe. Diplomacy often succeeds not because one country imposes its will, but because it creates space for dialogue where direct communication has broken down.

In that respect, Pakistan's role has attracted growing international attention. US President, Vice President, EU, and world leaders have acknowledged efforts of Pakistan for enduring peace and tranquility. It will pay rich dividend in days to come.

The most significant achievement of diplomacy is not winning a war; it is preventing one. Which Pakistan has done it to a great deal.

Is Israel Becoming Isolated? Predictions about Israel's complete isolation are premature.

Israel continues to enjoy substantial support from the United States, important European partners, and several regional actors.

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Analysis

Brig Sadiq Rahi, SI(M), Retd

PM Shehbaz calls for united action to build drug-free generation

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has urged a comprehensive national response to combat the growing threat of drug abuse and illicit trafficking, stressing the need for prevention, awareness, rehabilitation and collective action to protect Pakistan's youth from emerging narcotics-related challenges.

In his message on the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, being observed on June 26, the prime minister said the occasion provided an opportunity to reflect on a challenge that continued to affect societies worldwide, including Pakistan, while underscoring the need to adapt responses to evolving drug threats.

Shehbaz Sharif noted that alongside traditional narcotics, a new range of highly dangerous synthetic and illicit drugs had emerged in recent years. He warned that criminal networks were increasingly exploiting modern communication technologies and digital platforms to expand their operations, connect buyers and sellers, and evade law enforcement agencies.

The prime minister also expressed concern over the growing use of cryptocurrencies and other digital payment channels to finance illicit drug activities beyond conventional financial systems.

Highlighting the influence of social media and mobile applications, he said harmful substances were often portrayed as fashionable, harmless or linked with success and social acceptance. Such narratives, he added, were deliberately designed to target young people during a critical stage of their personal and social development.

"Some circles portray drug use as a symbol of status, freedom or modernity, but such perceptions are dangerous and misleading. There is nothing progressive about addiction, dependency or the destruction of human potential," he said.

The prime minister observed that the consequences of drug abuse extended far beyond individuals, affecting families, communities and society at large. He said substance abuse could deprive students of educational opportunities, hinder young professionals from building stable futures and place significant emotional and financial burdens on families.

While reaffirming the importance of strict action against illicit drug production, trafficking and distribution, Shehbaz Sharif stressed that enforcement measures alone would not be sufficient. He called for strengthening prevention programmes, education campaigns, public awareness initiatives and rehabilitation services.

He said individuals struggling with substance dependence deserved support, treatment and opportunities to rebuild their lives, noting that many people who received timely assistance went on to make meaningful contributions to society.

Referring to this year's theme, "Persisting Issues, New Challenges and Innovative Responses to Build a Drug-Free Generation," the prime minister said it reflected contemporary realities and highlighted the need for governments, institutions and communities to remain vigilant and responsive to emerging threats.



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

Democracy's Delicate Balance: Wisdom Must Precede Participation

Democracy has never been a perfect system. Its flaws are easy to identify and often difficult to ignore. Yet despite its imperfections, humanity has not found a better mechanism for collective decision-making. Winston Churchill captured this reality well when he famously observed that democracy is the worst form of government—except for all the others that have been tried.

But democracy survives not merely because people have the right to vote. It survives because citizens exercise that right with judgment and responsibility.

In recent years, calls to lower the voting age to sixteen have gained traction across several democracies. On the surface, the proposal appears progressive and inclusive. Young people are directly affected by political decisions, and giving them an earlier voice seems both fair and empowering. Advocates argue that early participation can strengthen civic engagement and nurture democratic responsibility.

The intention is noble. Yet democracy is sustained not by good intentions alone, but by preparedness.

This debate deserves careful consideration, particularly in countries like Pakistan, where democratic institutions are still evolving and civic education remains uneven. Expanding participation without strengthening understanding may unintentionally weaken the very system it seeks to enrich.

There is no denying that today's youth have access to more information than any generation before them. They inhabit a world overflowing with news, opinions, and competing

narratives. But access to information is not the same as understanding. In many cases, the sheer volume of content encourages emotional reactions rather than thoughtful reflection.

We live in an age where attention has become a commodity. Social media algorithms reward outrage more than accuracy, and emotionally charged narratives often travel faster than facts. Even mature adults struggle to separate

persuasion from manipulation. Expecting adolescents, who are still developing intellectually and emotionally, to consistently navigate these pressures with sound judgment may be asking too much.

Democracy, after all, is not simply about inclusion. It is about discernment. A vote is not a symbolic gesture; it is a consequential decision that influences governance, economic priorities, and the social fabric of a nation. When exercised without sufficient understanding, voting becomes more susceptible to influence than to informed reflection.

This is where the debate over lowering the voting age must be grounded—not in sentiment, but in substance.

The question is not whether young people deserve a voice. They undoubtedly do. The more important question is whether society has adequately prepared them for the responsibility that democratic participation entails.

Pakistan's political environment makes this issue even more complex. Political affiliations are often inherited rather than independently formed. Electoral choices frequently revolve around personalities, identities, and emotions instead of policies and performance. In such circumstances, enlarging the electorate without strengthening civic awareness risks amplifying

existing weaknesses rather than addressing them.

Admittedly, maturity is not guaranteed by age. Many adults cast their votes without much reflection. Yet adulthood generally brings exposure to economic realities, workplace responsibilities, and firsthand experiences of how public policies shape everyday life. Such lessons cannot be acquired through digital engagement alone.

Lowering the voting age without investing in civic literacy may produce a democracy that is larger in numbers but shallower in understanding.

This is not an argument against youth engagement. On the contrary, young people must be brought into the democratic process. But meaningful participation requires preparation. Civic education should cultivate critical thinking, analytical skills, and the ability to evaluate competing claims rather than merely memorising institutional structures.

Unfortunately, civic education in many societies remains largely theoretical. Students learn about constitutions and parliaments, but often receive little guidance on identifying misinformation, scrutinising political promises, or engaging in reasoned debate. As a result, participation risks becoming procedural rather than thoughtful.

If democracy is to flourish, this imbalance must be addressed. Education systems should prioritise inquiry over rote learning, reasoning over repetition, and understanding over blind conformity. Civic responsibility must become a lived culture rather than a chapter in a textbook.

Without such foundations, expanding voting rights may create participation without discernment. And participation without discernment can weaken democracy rather than strengthen it.

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An Eternal Triumph of Truth and the Preservation of Islam

Imam Husayn (RA), the beloved grandson of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), the son of Lady Fatimah al-Zahra (RA), and the son of Ali al-Murtada (RA), is one of the most revered personalities in Islamic history. His blessed life and supreme sacrifice established an everlasting criterion between truth and falsehood, providing guidance to humanity until the Day of Judgment. Imam Husayn (RA) was born on the 5th of Sha'ban, 4 AH, in Madinah al-Munawwarah. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) greatly rejoiced at his birth, named him by the command of Allah Almighty, and nurtured him with immense love and care. He was honored with noble titles such as "Sayyid al-Shuhada" (Leader of the Martyrs), "Rayhanat al-Rasul" (The Beloved Fragrance of the Messenger), and "Sayyid Shabab Ahl al-Jannah" (Leader of the Youth of Paradise). Under the guidance of his grandfather, the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), his father Ali (RA), and his mother Fatimah (RA), he developed into a model of piety, patience, courage, generosity, and unwavering commitment to truth. He was renowned for his devotion to worship, charity, and compassion toward the needy. Historical accounts mention that he performed twenty-five pilgrimages on foot. His entire life was dedicated to the revival of Islam, the establishment of justice, and the preservation of Islamic values.

The Holy Qur'an places martyrs among the specially blessed servants of Allah. Allah Almighty says: "And whoever obeys Allah and the Messenger will be with those upon whom Allah has bestowed His favor: the Prophets, the truthful, the martyrs, and the righteous. And excellent are those as companions." (Surah

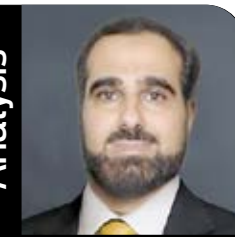
Al-Nisa 4:69). This verse highlights the exalted rank of martyrs. Martyrdom is among the greatest blessings granted by Allah, a status so noble that the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) himself expressed a deep desire for it. Allah fulfilled this aspiration through the martyrdom of his beloved grandson, Imam Husayn (RA). Thus, the martyrdom of Imam Husayn (RA) is not merely a historical event but a luminous chapter of the Prophetic legacy and a means for the preservation of Islam.

During the era of Imam Husayn (RA), the Muslim community faced a critical challenge. After the death of Mu'awiyah (RA), Yazid assumed power and sought allegiance from the Muslims to strengthen his rule. Imam Husayn (RA) refused to pledge allegiance because he believed Yazid's governance contradicted the principles of Islam, justice, and the spirit of the Rightly Guided Caliphate. He understood that if the representatives of truth bowed before falsehood, the true essence of Islam would be compromised. Therefore, he declared that his struggle was not for political power but for the reform of the Muslim community and the preservation of the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). The people of Kufa sent numerous letters inviting him to lead them. Responding to these calls, Imam Husayn (RA) embarked on a journey toward Iraq with his family and devoted companions.

On the 2nd of Muharram, 61 AH, his caravan arrived at the plains of Karbala, where it was surrounded by Yazid's forces. Access to water was cut off, subjecting even women and children to extreme thirst and hardship. Despite these severe conditions, Imam Husayn (RA) and his companions remained steadfast in

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Analysis



Muhammad Rabnawaz Awan

Analysis



Muhammad Asif

Foreign Specialist Doctors of International Repute to Provide Treatment in Punjab Hospitals

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has approved the Diaspora Doctor Locum Programme (DDLDP) under which overseas Pakistani and foreign specialist doctors will perform advanced surgeries and provide medical services in 12 public sector hospitals across the province.

Chairing a special meeting of the Specialised Healthcare Department, the chief minister approved the launch of the programme aimed at bringing highly qualified international medical professionals to Punjab. A dedicated

dashboard and operational web portal will also be established for the programme.

The meeting was informed that the inauguration of the Nawaz Sharif Institute of Cardiology, Sargodha, is expected on July 15, the Nawaz Sharif Institute of Cancer Treatment and Research on July 31, while the Jinnah Institute of Cardiology, Lahore, is likely to be inaugurated on August 15.

The chief minister received detailed briefings regarding the progress of the Nawaz Sharif Institute of Cardiology, Sargodha, the Nawaz Sharif Institute of Cancer Treatment and Research, and the Jinnah Institute of Cardiology,

Lahore, besides healthcare service delivery in the province.

Under the Diaspora Doctor Locum Programme, experienced and reputable Pakistani and foreign specialist doctors will be engaged for short-term assignments in Punjab's public hospitals. Overseas specialists participating in the programme will be allowed to perform up to eight advanced surgical procedures during their tenure.

Twelve hospitals have been selected for the programme.

Overseas Pakistanis and foreign nationals possessing specialist qualifications will be eligible to participate. Eligibility criteria include postgrad-

uate qualifications, at least three years of overseas fellowship experience, and a valid fitness certificate.

Participating doctors will be required to serve in Punjab for a minimum period of 15 days. The programme's online portal will facilitate registration, credential verification, commitments, appointment procedures, payment mechanisms, and reporting systems.

The chief minister was also presented with the DDLDP dashboard, which is expected to become operational shortly. She directed the authorities to establish a comprehensive web portal to ensure transparency and efficiency.

Foreign specialists participating in



the programme will also train local healthcare professionals. The chief minister further directed the launch of a similar initiative for the nursing sector.

"Bringing the best human resources to Punjab is my mission," Maryam

Nawaz Sharif said, adding that foreign specialist doctors and nurses would be offered attractive packages. She stressed that hospital directors must be highly efficient and proactive, observing that quality nursing care can transform healthcare outcomes.

Kashmiri Delegation Meets OIC Permanent Representative in Geneva

Spokesman Report

GENEVA: A Kashmiri delegation met with the Permanent Representative of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Geneva and expressed its gratitude for the OIC's consistent support for the right to self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The delegation also appreciated the OIC's continued attention to and condemnation of human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

The delegation commended the visit of the OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) to Azad Jammu and Kashmir and appreciated its reports. The delegation expressed concern that, despite repeated requests and engagement, India has not permitted OIC delegations to visit IIOJK, thereby preventing an independent assessment of the situation on the ground.

The delegation was led by Altaf Hussain Wani and included repre-



sentatives from international organizations, think tanks, and academia,

namely Syed Pervez Shah Advocate, Dr. Raja Muhammad Sajjad Khan, Syed

Faiz Naqshbandi, Dr. Waleed Rasool, and Dr. Sarah Shah.

During the meeting, the delegation provided a detailed briefing on the current situation in IIOJK. It informed the OIC representative that freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly, association, and the press continue to face severe restrictions. Several political organizations have been banned, harassment, and prolonged detention under stringent security laws, including anti-terrorism legislation and the Public Safety Act.

The delegation highlighted reports of arbitrary detentions, prolonged incarceration without trial, house raids, confiscation of property, travel restrictions, and other violations of civil liberties. It noted that young people are frequently detained without due process, while media organizations and journalists operate under intense surveillance, pressure, and censorship, severely limiting independent reporting and public discourse.

The delegation further raised concerns regarding restrictions on religious freedoms, including limitations on Friday congregational prayers, Muharram processions, and other religious gatherings. It also noted that recent legal and administrative changes relating to land ownership, demographic composition, and political representation have generated serious concerns among Kashmiris regarding the preservation of their identity, land, and resources. In this regard, the delegation presented two reports to the OIC Permanent Representative documenting the human rights situation in the region.

The OIC Permanent Representative reaffirmed the Organization's continued support for the right to self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and reiterated its commitment to advocating for a peaceful and just resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with international law and relevant United Nations resolutions.

Exemplary Atmosphere of Peace and Brotherhood in Tehsil Attock; First Nine Days of Muharram Pass Peacefully

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: A meeting of the Thasil Peace Committee was held at the office of the Assistant Commissioner Attock to review arrangements for Ashura and assess the overall law and order situation in the district. The meeting was chaired by Assistant Commissioner Attock, Muhammad Arif Qureshi.

Among those present were SDPO Saddar Circle Ilyas Baig, Maulana Sher Zaman, Maulana Ghulam Muhammad Siddiqui, Muhammad Yasir, Mufti Ameer Zaman, Waqar Naqvi, Raza Naqvi, PA to the Assistant Commissioner Muhammad

Ajmal, and other members of the Peace Committee.

Addressing the meeting, Assistant Commissioner Muhammad Arif Qureshi said that, by the grace of Almighty Allah, the first nine days of Muharram-ul-Haram had passed peacefully throughout Tehsil Attock in an atmosphere marked by brotherhood, tolerance, and religious harmony.

He noted that no untoward incident or significant complaint had been reported during this period, reflecting the collective cooperation, patience, and goodwill of Shia and Sunni religious scholars, members of the Peace

Committee, the district administration, police, and the general public.

The Assistant Commissioner further stated that followers of different schools of thought paid tribute to the martyrs of Karbala with devotion and respect while demonstrating a strong sense of responsibility in maintaining peace, unity, and communal harmony across the district.

Expressing confidence in the continued cooperation of all stakeholders, he hoped that Ashura would also pass peacefully in the same spirit of discipline, mutual respect, and inter-sect harmony.

At the conclusion of the meeting,



Maulana Sher Zaman offered the special prayers and emphasized that following the sacrifices of the martyrs

of Karbala and the teachings of the companions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was the need

of the hour. He also prayed for the country's peace, stability, prosperity, and national unity.

9th Muharram Procession in Sheen Bagh Attock Concludes Peacefully; Major Ashura Procession Scheduled Today

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: A 9th Muharram Alam-o-Zuljannah procession was taken out on Thursday morning from Sheen Bagh, a rural locality of Attock, under stringent security arrangements.

The procession commenced from various residences, including those of Adalat Shah and Maulana Imran Bukhari, and drew a large number of mourners. Participants engaged in noha recitation, matam (chest beating), and zanjeer zani to commemorate the sacrifices of Karbala.

Sabeels providing water, milk, and food were established along the procession route by local philanthropists, including Malik Hameed Akbar and Malik Shehzad Akbar, to serve the mourners. A mobile medical team from DHQ Hospital and Rescue 1122 remained on standby throughout the event,

providing immediate medical assistance where required.

The procession concluded peacefully at Imambargah Hussainia Sheen Bagh, where a Majlis-e-Aza was held. During the gathering, prominent zakireen paid tribute to the sacrifices of Imam Hussain and condemned the atrocities committed by Yazid's forces at Karbala.

Speakers emphasized that Imam Hussain (A. S.) represents a timeless philosophy and way of life that distinguishes truth from falsehood. They noted that the message of Karbala continues to inspire people around the world to uphold justice, truth, and resistance against oppression.

Among those present to oversee security arrangements were ADCG Anil Saeed, Assistant Commissioner Muhammad Arif Qureshi, police officials, TMO Sardar Aftab, Sabeel In-charge Amir Ilyas, and representatives of other law-enforce-

ment agencies.

According to police sources, a total of 96 processions and 684 Majalis have so far been held peacefully across the district without any untoward incident.

Police further stated that on Ashura, 49 additional processions and 70 Majalis are scheduled to take place across Attock district. The main Ashura procession will begin in the morning from Imambargah Hussainia Kamalpur Syedan in Attock Cantonment and conclude in the evening at Karbala Haleem Shah.

District authorities have placed fire brigades, Civil Defence personnel, bomb disposal squads, hospitals, and Edhi emergency services on high alert for Ashura. Emergency wards have been directed to remain fully operational, with ambulances and medical teams deployed along major procession routes to ensure public safety.

Call for Investigation and Clarification After Video Involving Pakistani Expat in UAE Surfaces

A video reportedly filmed around 12 June 2026 showing a Pakistani expatriate being asked to remove traditional Emirati

dress in public has drawn concern among Pakistanis at home and abroad. The clip has caused disappointment as many Pakistanis view it as distressing, given their decades-long contribution to the UAE's development with commitment and dedication.

Pakistanis hold deep respect for UAE laws, culture and traditions. It is understood that regulations may exist on the use of national dress in commercial or media contexts. However, concerns have been raised that public confrontation or humiliation does not align with due process or with values of mutual respect. Legal matters are best handled by competent authorities through established procedures, without public intimidation or discrimination.

For over five decades, Pakistanis have worked across sectors in the UAE — in construction, energy, aviation, health-

care, tourism and services — supporting the country's growth. With more than 2.2 million Pakistanis living in the UAE, bilateral trade near \$8 billion and similar remittances sent home, the community forms an important bridge between the two nations. Pakistan has also supported Emirates Airline and contributed to air force, defense and security cooperation.

Given the strong ties, long-standing service and the broader need for unity in the Muslim world, a formal request has been sent by writer, to UAE authorities. The request seeks:

1. Verification of facts related to the video filmed in Dubai around 12 June 2026.
2. Review of the circumstances to determine if any intimidation or inappropriate conduct occurred.
3. Appropriate action under UAE law if any violation is confirmed.

4. Public clarification that no individual has the right to threaten or humiliate any expatriate.

5. Implementation of dress regulations through official channels, ensuring fairness and dignity for all.

6. Reassurance or apology to the Pakistani community if the incident is verified, to address concerns.

7. Strengthening of complaint mechanisms for expatriates facing discrimination or hate speech.

The request emphasizes continued respect for UAE sovereignty and laws, while seeking fairness, dignity and brotherhood for the Pakistani community that has long served the Emirates with sincerity.

The writer is President, Pakistan Mission Intl, Immigration Advisor, Justice of Peace Australia. He can be reached at ShakilAhmadPkOz@gmail.com



Analysis
Shakil Ahmad

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
179,571.26	177,692.92
Day's High	Day's Low
179,919.27	177,931.32
Index Value	Change
30,503,267,152	+ 1878.34
Percentage	Time
+1.06%	24 Jun, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
10,529.89	+68.26
Percentage	Time
+0.65%	25 Jun, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
52,006.32	+157.42
Percentage	Time
+0.30%	25 Jun, 1:22 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
72,366.34	+3,191.38
Percentage	Time
+4.61%	25 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	197.52	201.17
China Yuan	38.10	38.85
Danish Krone	43.35	43.75
Euro	318.55	322.17
Hong Kong Dollar	35.06	36.04
Indian Rupee	2.75	3.05
Japanese Yen	1.7121	1.8104
Kuwaiti Dinar	885.17	895.90
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	74.30	74.95
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	75.90	76.75
UK Pound Sterling	368.52	372.25
US Dollar	279.05	279.30

Chery Master Pakistan Rolls Off Locally Assembled Tiggo 7 PHEV, Expands PHEV SUV Lineup

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Chery Master Pakistan has rolled off the locally assembled Tiggo 7 PHEV, adding a third plug-in hybrid SUV to its Pakistan portfolio and strengthening its presence in the country's growing new energy vehicle segment.

With the addition of Tiggo 7 PHEV, the company now has three locally assembled PHEV SUVs in production, including Tiggo 8 PHEV and Tiggo 9 PHEV. The lineup covers the C, D and E-SUV segments, making it one of the most extensive locally assembled plug-in hybrid SUV portfolios currently available in Pakistan.

The development follows the earlier line-off of Tiggo 8 PHEV and Tiggo 9 PHEV, which were rolled out within five days of each other, followed by customer deliveries ahead of committed timelines.

The company said the latest rollout reflects its focus on localization, production readiness and timely deliveries.



The milestone also comes at a time when the auto sector is closely watching possible policy and tax changes that could affect vehicle prices. Chery Master Pakistan said it has increased production capacity and moved to double-shift operations to facilitate deliveries for existing customers and new bookings placed during June across its model lineup.

Speaking on the occasion, CEO Master Auto Engineering, Samir Malik, said the rollout of Tiggo 7 PHEV marks another step in the company's long-term commitment to Pakistan.

"The successful rollout of Tiggo 8 PHEV, Tiggo 9 PHEV and now Tiggo 7 PHEV reflects our ability to combine global technology, manufacturing quality and customer value with rapid execution," he said. "We have increased production capacity and moved to double-shift operations to facilitate deliveries for existing customers as well as new bookings placed during June."

Hard Work

ISLAMABAD: Labourers busy in digging work near Jinnah Convention Center in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Karachi Port Access Roads Remain Deteriorated Despite CM Sindh's Orders, FPCCI Warns of Trade Losses

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The deteriorated condition of roads leading to East Wharf and West Wharf at Karachi Port continues to disrupt Pakistan's import and export operations, despite directives issued by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah four months ago.

FPCCI President Atif Ikram Sheikh had written separately to the Chief Minister and KPT Chairman Rear Admiral Shahid Ahmed, highlighting damage caused by heavy vehicle movement, rising container traffic, lack of maintenance, and outdated road design. A letter No. SO(VII)/CMS/LGD/1(4)2025-1088/1198 from Section Officer VII Dhani Bux Bhutto instructed Mayor Karachi Syed Murtaza Wahab to immediately repair the roads and update progress on the CM's portal. However, FPCCI says no action has been taken and the roads remain in poor condition.

FPCCI Advisory Council Chairman Tariq Haleem stressed that free movement to and from the port is essential for smooth commercial operations.

FPCCI noted that Karachi Port handles



most of Pakistan's containerized cargo, bulk goods, petroleum and industrial raw materials. Current issues include deep potholes, traffic congestion, vehicle breakdowns, accidents, and excessive wear on freight vehicles. Dust, mud, waste and encroachments near Jinnah Flyover to West Wharf Road have worsened the situation, causing

delays, higher logistics costs, and damage to port efficiency and business confidence. Atif Ikram Sheikh urged KPT to take urgent remedial measures, warning the crisis is hurting national trade, government revenue, and Karachi's economic role. Transporters, exporters, importers and citizens face daily losses and safety hazards.

Oil Prices Hit Lowest Since US-Iran War as Hormuz Traffic Resumes

AFP

Oil prices retreated Wednesday to their lowest levels since the US-Iran war began at end-February, with Brent crude dropping below \$75 a barrel for the first time as tanker traffic through the Strait of Hormuz resumed following the US-Iran agreement.

Brent North Sea Crude fell 4.3% to \$73.74 a barrel, while West Texas Intermediate dropped 3.9% to \$70.34. Maritime tracker Kpler recorded 25 commodity ship transits Tuesday and 17 by 1500 GMT Wednesday, up from wartime disruption. In peacetime around 120 ships pass daily through Hormuz, carrying a fifth of global oil and LNG exports.

IG's Chris Beauchamp called it "carnage continues in oil prices," noting relief for consumers if the industry

fills the disruption gap. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Washington is committed to toll-free navigation, though Iran reiterated plans to retain control with Oman and charge maritime service fees.

Equity markets were mixed. The Nasdaq fell 0.4% for a third straight session on AI valuation concerns, while the Dow gained 0.4%. Asia saw Seoul's Kospi jump 3.3% after Tuesday's 10% chip-led crash, with gains in Hong Kong and Shanghai, but Tokyo fell 0.9%. Frankfurt's DAX dropped 0.6% after Rheinmetall plunged 19% on scrapped navy frigate plans.

The dollar hit a 7-month high as Fed Chair Kevin Warsh signaled inflation focus, lifting rate-hike bets for September. Gold slipped below \$4,000 for the first time since November.

Cotton Commissioner Inspects Research Trials at CRI Multan

Commerce Desk

MULTAN: PCCC CEO and Cotton Commissioner Dr Khadim Hussain visited Cotton Research Institute Multan and inspected National Coordinated Varietal Trials and ongoing research experiments. He reviewed trial planning, plots and crop performance, calling preliminary data valuable for future varietal selection and cultivation strategies. Chief Scientist Muhammad Jameel briefed on field methodology and data collection.

The NCVT Committee, including Dr Nazir Iqbal,

Dr Muhammad Idrees Khan, Ms Sabahat Hussain and scientists, inspected advanced cotton lines and discussed yield potential, disease/pest resistance and climate stress performance.

The committee resolved to use NCVT results to improve superior seed availability, strengthen seed registration and transfer modern tech to farmers.

Dr Khadim also inspected lines Cyto-547, CIM-990, Cyto-548, CIM-810, CIM-801, and reviewed High-Density Planting and mulching trials, urging faster screening of non-Bt germplasm for Balochistan.

Iraq Urges OPEC to Raise Production Quota, Cites War Damage

AFP

BAGHDAD: Baghdad has urged OPEC to increase Iraq's oil production quota, citing damage to its industry from decades of conflict and the recent Middle East war, the oil ministry said Thursday.

Oil accounts for about 90% of Iraq's budget revenues. The ministry said reassessing production baselines is important "to ensure they are aligned with the sustainable production capacities of member countries" and Iraq's "unique security and economic

circumstances." OPEC has responded by launching a process to reassess member states' capacities.

Oil ministry spokesperson Salim al-Rikabi told AFP Iraq "has no intention of withdrawing from the organisation and remains committed to its mechanisms," but added the cartel "has to raise Iraq's production quota. Otherwise, a decision will have to be made about whether to stay or leave." Iraq has started increasing output "in line with its capacities and needs." The ministry said reports of a

possible OPEC exit "do not reflect" the government's position. An exit would further weaken OPEC after the UAE withdrew in May citing "national interests."

The ministry noted "a high level of understanding" among members about Iraq's situation after wars, sanctions and recent attacks on oil fields by drones linked to pro-Iran groups during the conflict. Before the war Iraq produced 4 million bpd and exported 3.5 million bpd, mostly via the Strait of Hormuz. After the US-Iran deal, it hopes to return to pre-war levels within two



months. Analyst Jorge Leon of Rystad Energy said Iraq likely lacks incen-

tives to leave OPEC and may be pressuring the group's 2027 quota capacity review.

Abdul Razzaq Siddiq Launches Free Nationwide Anti-Snake Bite Serum Program

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Philanthropist and Second World Traders, Inc. President Abdul Razzaq Siddiq has launched the 2nd nationwide free Anti-Snake Bite Serum (ASVS) program to provide 10,000 vials of ASVS across Pakistan, including remote rural areas with limited medical access.

The serum will be distributed through 12 branches of a local hospital in collaboration with hospitals nationwide. Siddiq said the initiative, launched on Ashura, reflects Imam Hussain (RA)'s values of compassion and service to humanity.

He noted thousands die yearly in Pakistan from snakebites, mostly due to delayed treatment. The company will ensure uninterrupted supply and plans future initiatives including free tetanus vaccines, children's vaccines, and affordable cancer medicines. Siddiq also announced plans to set up local pharmaceutical manufacturing in Pakistan.

Over 100 EU business leaders participate in Pakistan Rice Festival in Netherlands

Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan has appreciated the successful holding of Pakistan Rice Festival 2026 in the Netherlands, stating that such international trade events play an important role in promoting Pakistani exports, expanding access to new markets, and projecting a positive image of Pakistan globally.

The Minister commended the efforts of Pakistan's Ambassador to the Netherlands, Syed Haider Shah, Trade and Investment Counsellor Muhammad Shafiq Haider Virk, and the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), said a release issued here Wednesday.

He said that Pakistani basmati rice has become an important symbol of Pakistan around the world, and its growing international demand is encouraging for the country's agriculture sector and exporters.

Chairman Senate calls Youm-e-Ashur an eternal symbol of truth and sacrifice against oppression

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Chairman Senate Senator Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani said Youm-e-Ashur, stated that the 10th of Muharram stands as an eternal symbol of truth, righteousness, patience, sacrifice, and steadfastness against oppression. He said that the tragedy of Karbala carries a timeless message for humanity, illuminating the distinction between right and wrong in every era.

The Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani remarked that Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) and his devoted companions rendered unparalleled sacrifices on the plains of Karbala to uphold the supremacy of Islam, protect human dignity, and preserve the principles of justice and fairness. He emphasized that the sacrifice of Hazrat imam



Hassan and Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) teaches us that true success and honour lie in standing firmly for truth and making every possible sacrifice in

its cause. Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani further stated that Youm-e-Ashur also conveys a

profound message of unity, tolerance, brotherhood, and national cohesion. He noted that, in the present circumstances, society must draw guidance from the noble character and teachings of Hazrat Imam Hassan and Imam Hussain (RA) and work collectively to promote peace, justice, harmony, and mutual respect.

The Chairman Senate urged the nation to reflect upon the great sacrifices of Hazrat Imam Hussain and Hazrat Imam Hassan (RA) and the martyrs of Karbala and to embody the lofty values for which the Ahl-e-Bait (RA) made everlasting sacrifices. On this sacred occasion, he also offered special prayers for the progress, peace, and stability of Pakistan, as well as for the unity and prosperity of the Muslim Ummah.

Ishaq Dar Participates in 983rd Annual Ghush Mubarak Ceremony at Data Darbar, Emphasizes Peace and Tolerance



Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar attended the 983rd Annual Ghush Mubarak Ceremony at the shrine of Hazrat Data Ganj Bakhsh (RA) in Lahore, highlighting the Sufi saint's timeless message of peace, tolerance, and compassion. The event, organized by the Punjab Auqaf and Religious Affairs Department, was attended by a large number of dignitaries, including provincial ministers, officials, religious scholars, and devotees. During the ceremony, Dar participated in the ritual washing of the shrine with rose water and offered prayers for Pakistan's peace, stability, and the welfare of the Muslim Ummah. Dar reviewed the ongoing expansion and development project at Data Darbar, aimed at improving facilities for millions of devotees and promoting religious tourism. Secretary Auqaf Dr. Ehsan Bhutta briefed him on progress, including upgrades to access routes, corridors, ablution facilities, lighting, and landscaping, in line with Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's vision. The project seeks to enhance the shrine's dignity and historical significance. Following the ceremony, Dar inaugurated a Photographic Gallery at Data Darbar, featuring 20 rare historic photographs documenting the shrine's evolution and architectural milestones. He praised the initiative as a commendable effort to preserve the site's religious and cultural legacy for future generations. Dar expressed satisfaction with the quality and pace of the development works, commending Dr. Ehsan Bhutta and his team. He emphasized that preserving Data Darbar's spiritual grandeur, heritage, and visitor services is a national responsibility. The ceremony concluded with Dar distributing commemorative shields to the management team for their exemplary services, and Dr. Bhutta thanked all departments, including the Punjab Tourism Force, police, and district administration, for their coordination in ensuring a secure and uplifting event for thousands of devotees.

Punjab Education Minister Reviews Muharram Security Arrangements in Vehari

Asim Tanveer

VEHARI: On the instructions of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, Provincial Education Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat and Special Assistant Salma Butt visited Vehari and reviewed the arrangements for Muharram. During the inspection of the district control room, Deputy Commissioner Khalid Javed Goraia and DPO Taswar Iqbal gave a briefing on security and administrative measures. Provincial Education Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat and Special Assistant Salma Butt reviewed the live monitoring of processions and gatherings, cameras and communication systems. And directed to continue continuous monitoring of all processions and gatherings.

Provincial Education Minister Punjab Rana Sikandar Hayat and Special Assistant to the Chief Minister Salma Butt expressed satisfaction over the Muharram arrangements and appreciated the performance of the relevant institutions. Member of Provincial Assembly Mian Saqib Khurshid highlighted the role and importance of the National Unity Council in maintaining law and order, on which Provincial Education Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat also appreciated the role of the National Unity Council. Later, Deputy Commissioner Khalid Javed Goraia also gave a briefing on the Rail Bazaar Beautification Project, which he described as commendable.

Beyond the CPEC Umbrella: Diversifying Pakistan's Global Economic Portfolio

Anwar Ullah

The middle-power conundrum, a basic problem in international political economics, is presented by the growing systemic tension between the United States and China. Pakistan is compelled to sit at the center of the current great-power struggle due to this strategic rivalry, which is a serious macroeconomic issue. The United States, the state's biggest bilateral export market, and China, its biggest foreign investor and principal bilateral creditor, put it in a precarious position. In an effort to avoid the constrictive pitfalls of zero-sum bloc politics, Islamabad is gradually shifting away from legacy geopolitics and toward a philosophy of cooperative geo-economics in order to navigate this divisive global environment.

This balancing act is driven by glaring structural dependencies. Pakistan's balance of payments still depends heavily on the United States, which supplies important foreign exchange and absorbs a sizable portion of its export commodities. The US exported \$3.3 billion worth of goods to Pakistan in 2025, primarily agricultural commodities and cotton, while the US imported \$5.4 billion worth of goods from Pakistan. Pakistan's infrastructure and energy security are simultaneously anchored by China. Net Chinese foreign direct investment (FDI) in Pakistan increased by 90.4% to \$1.22 billion in the fiscal year 2024-

2025, accounting for 49.9% of the country's total worldwide FDI of \$2.46 billion. The power industry received \$1.17 billion of this Chinese cash, with \$759.4 million going directly to hydropower projects.

Serious sovereign risks are introduced by this concentrated exposure. Pakistan's economic stability could be severely damaged by forced alignment with either bloc. As a result, the state is pursuing no-camp politics in order to maintain its strategic independence and avoid falling behind a growing global tech curtain, thereby maintaining access to cutting-edge technology from both Beijing and Washington. Pakistan is moving toward



comprehensive national security, which puts economic resilience ahead of limited military defense, in order to operationalize this balancing act. Given Pakistan's domestic weaknesses, such as its reliance on a \$7 billion IMF Extended Fund Facility authorized in September 2024, its total external debt of \$138 billion in 2025, and its investment-to-GDP ratio that dropped to a 50-year low of 13.1% in 2024, this change is crucial.

Using the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) is at the heart of

this geoeconomic theory. The SIFC is a civil-military hybrid that was founded in June 2023 with the goal of serving as a single channel to get around bureaucratic obstacles and draw in foreign investment. The goal of institutionalizing a direct military role in economic governance is to provide foreign investors with security and policy continuity. Pakistan is aiming for Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) sovereign capital through the SIFC. Under a scheme run by the military-affiliated FonGrow, the state is currently requesting up to \$6 billion from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and Bahrain for corporate farming operations to cultivate 1.5 million acres of land. In addition to agriculture, SIFC is discussing Saudi involvement in the multi-billion-dollar Reko Diq

copper mine and leasing a seaport to a UAE company. Additionally, Riyadh offers vital balance-of-payments assistance, such as the planned rollover of \$5 billion in bilateral loans and a \$1.2 billion deferred oil facility that runs through early 2026.

At the same time, Pakistan has to guarantee its privileged market access to the EU, which consumes 30% of its overall exports. Pakistan sold €8.7 billion to the EU in 2025 under the GSP+ program, which has been extended until December

2027. Tariff exemptions directly enabled €7 billion of these exports. The first ten months of FY2025-2026 saw a pitiful 0.51% year-over-year gain in exports to Western Europe, while important markets including the Netherlands, France, and Belgium saw reductions. Stricter EU laws pose a threat to this commercial partnership. The updated GSP framework will raise the threshold for labor and human rights by increasing compliance requirements from 27 to 32 international treaties starting in January 2027. The European Commission's unwillingness to suspend Pakistan's status indicates a strategic compromise, despite the fact that EU officials have brought attention to governance issues. In order to maintain security relations, the EU continues to selectively enforce GSP+ rules while prioritizing Pakistan as a crucial regional counterterrorism and counterdrug partner.

Pakistan needs to shift from reactive finance reliance to proactive value creation in order to overcome its middle-power predicament. The state can use its geographic and security advantages as economic leverage by engaging in strategic waffling and upholding flexible, issue-based alignments instead of permanent bloc integration. To effectively position Pakistan outside of the CPEC, this multi-aligned strategy, supported by SIFC reforms and diverse FDI, is crucial.

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Why Washington Is No Longer Willing to Follow Tel Aviv Unconditionally

Continued from Page 4

However, it is equally true that global frustration over prolonged conflicts, humanitarian crises, and repeated military escalations has damaged Israel's international standing in many parts of the world.

The challenge for Israel is no longer merely military.

It is increasingly diplomatic.

Military superiority can win battles, but long-term security requires political legitimacy, regional acceptance, and sustainable peace arrangements.

The Future of the Middle East

The Middle East is entering a new phase.

The old era of rigid blocs and perpetual confrontation is gradually giving way to a more complex landscape where diplomacy, economic connectivity, and regional stability are becoming strategic priorities.

The United States appears determined to avoid another major regional war. Iran seeks sanctions relief and economic recovery. Arab states increasingly prioritize development and invest-

ment. China and Russia favor stability that protects trade and energy flows.

In this evolving environment, the countries that can build bridges rather than walls will possess the greatest influence.

The recent tensions between Washington and Tel Aviv do not signify the end of the U.S.-Israel alliance. They do, however, indicate that even the strongest alliances are ultimately governed by national interests.

And in international politics, interests not emotions always have the final word.

Democracy's Delicate Balance: Wisdom Must Precede Participation

Continued from Page 4

A vote is far more than an individual expression. It is a collective force that shapes institutions, leadership, and the future direction of a nation. To underestimate its significance is to misunderstand democracy itself.

If democratic systems are to be strengthened, the focus must shift from merely increasing numbers to improving awareness. The true health of a democracy is measured not only

by how many people participate, but by how thoughtfully they do so.

Ultimately, democracy's survival depends not simply on the breadth of participation, but on its depth. It depends on citizens capable of thinking beyond slogans, resisting manipulation, and confronting complexity with wisdom.

Before widening the franchise, it is worth ensuring that those already within it—and those waiting to enter it—are equipped to understand the weight of the choices they make.

Otherwise, what appears to be inclusion may, in reality, become fragility in disguise.

The author is an educator, social awareness advocate, and the voice behind several impactful online campaigns aimed at reviving empathy and moral consciousness among youth. He regularly writes on issues of social decay, educational reform, and the urgent need for character-building in modern societies. He tweets @ToleranceAdvocate.

An Eternal Triumph of Truth and the Preservation of Islam

Continued from Page 4

their commitment to truth. On the 10th of Muharram, known as Ashura, one of the most significant events in human history unfolded. A small group of approximately seventy-two devoted followers stood against a vastly larger army, demonstrating unparalleled loyalty, courage, and sacrifice. Imam Husayn (RA) repeatedly gave his companions permission to leave, assuring them that the enemy's primary target was himself. However, each of them chose to remain by his side, declaring that they could never abandon him in such a moment. Consequently, they

embraced martyrdom but never abandoned the cause of truth.

The event of Karbala was far more than a military confrontation. It was a powerful protest against tyranny, a declaration of human dignity and freedom, and a struggle to preserve the authentic spirit of Islam. Imam Husayn (RA) knew that although apparent victory might belong to Yazid's forces, the ultimate triumph would belong to truth. By sacrificing his life, his family members, his sons, nephews, and companions, he demonstrated that preserving principles is more valuable than preserving one's life. As a result, history remembers Yazid

as a symbol of oppression and injustice, while Imam Husayn (RA) remains a universal symbol of truth, justice, freedom, and sacrifice.

One of the unique aspects of Imam Husayn's martyrdom is that the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) foretold it during his lifetime. Various narrations mention that the Prophet (PBUH) gave Umm Salamah (RA) some soil from the land of Karbala and informed her that when it turned to blood, it would signify the martyrdom of his beloved grandson. Thus, discussions and prophecies concerning the martyrdom of Imam Husayn (RA) were known decades

before the actual event. This indicates that Karbala was part of Allah's divine wisdom and a means of safeguarding the faith for future generations. Through his sacrifice, Imam Husayn (RA) conveyed the message that no matter how powerful oppression may appear, a single voice of truth can ultimately expose and defeat it.

After the martyrdom of Imam Husayn (RA), the women and children of the Prophet's family were taken captive. Lady Zaynab (RA) and Imam Ali Zayn al-Abidin (RA) delivered courageous and eloquent speeches in Kufa and Damascus, exposing the tyranny of Yazid

before the world. Consequently, the message of Karbala spread far beyond the battlefield and became a source of inspiration for generations to come. Although Imam Husayn (RA) was physically martyred, his mission and message survived, while the oppressive system he opposed ultimately lost its moral legitimacy. This is why, more than fourteen centuries later, the name of Imam Husayn (RA) continues to be remembered with profound respect, love, and admiration, whereas the symbols of oppression are remembered with condemnation.

In the modern world, the

message of Karbala remains as relevant as ever. At a time when humanity faces injustice, moral decline, materialism, and various forms of oppression, the life of Imam Husayn (RA) teaches patience, perseverance, courage, integrity, and unwavering commitment to principles. Karbala teaches that true success lies in sacrificing for the sake of truth and justice, while silence in the face of oppression amounts to supporting wrongdoing. The martyrdom of Imam Husayn (RA) reminds humanity that faith, truth, and justice often require sacrifice and steadfastness. This profound reality was beautifully expressed by the

renowned Muslim philosopher and poet, Allama Muhammad Iqbal:

Indeed, the martyrdom of Imam Husayn (RA) is not merely a historical incident but an eternal movement, a timeless message, and a decisive standard between truth and falsehood. As long as oppression and injustice exist in the world, the message of Karbala will continue to inspire humanity, and the name of Imam Husayn (RA) will remain a shining symbol of freedom, honor, sacrifice, and the preservation of Islam.

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Security alerts

KARACHI: Security personnel stand guard along a street during a religious procession of Shiite Muslims on the ninth day of the Islamic month of Muharram, in Karachi on Thursday.



Photo: Online

President urges unified national effort to counter evolving drug threat on International Day against drug abuse

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: On the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, the President of Pakistan said the day is an opportunity to reflect on a challenge affecting societies worldwide, including Pakistan, and to recognize that the drug threat is evolving and responses must adapt.

He noted the emergence of highly dangerous synthetic drugs alongside traditional narcotics. Criminal networks now use modern communication technologies, digital plat-

forms, cryptocurrencies and other digital payment channels to expand reach, connect buyers and sellers, and evade detection.

The President expressed concern over growing use of social media and mobile apps to promote and normalize drug use, often portraying substances as fashionable or linked to status and success. He warned such messaging targets young people forming their views and aspirations, and said "there is nothing progressive about addiction."

He highlighted the impact on students, youth entering



the workforce, and families bearing emotional and financial burdens. While stressing firm action against production, trafficking and distribution, he

ence deserve support to rebuild lives.

Under this year's theme "Persisting Issues, New Challenges and Innovative Responses to Build a Drug-Free Generation," he called for vigilance and adaptation. He urged Parliament, educators, religious scholars, media, community leaders and parents to create an environment encouraging healthy choices through education, creativity and service. He paid tribute to law enforcement, healthcare workers, educators and civil society on the frontlines.

Pakistan, Germany Pledge Closer Cooperation in Education, Tourism and Economic Reforms

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: German Ambassador Ina Lepel met Federal Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal to discuss expanding bilateral cooperation in education, tourism, culture, economic reforms and investment.

Ahsan Iqbal briefed her on Pakistan's economic recovery, noting improved macroeconomic stability, lower infla-



tion, reduced policy rates and renewed investor confidence. He highlighted digital reforms in the Planning Commission to boost transparency and efficiency.

The minister sought German collaboration in higher education, faculty development, research, scholarships and academic exchanges. He invited Germany to partner in sustainable tourism in Gilgit-Baltistan and welcomed

its expertise.

He also flagged preparations for Allama Iqbal's 150th birth anniversary, citing Germany's role in Iqbal's intellectual journey, and sought German participation in commemorative events.

Ambassador Lepel appreciated Pakistan's reforms and reaffirmed Germany's commitment to stronger ties in education, sustainable development and economic engagement.

Pakistan, Türkiye Sign Three MoUs to Boost Power Sector Cooperation

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Türkiye signed three Memoranda of Understanding to enhance institutional collaboration, technical cooperation and knowledge sharing in the power sector during high-level consultations in Istanbul.

According to the Ministry of Energy (Power Division), the MoUs were signed between Pakistani and Turkish energy entities: Independent System and Market Operator (ISMO) with Energy Exchange Istanbul (EPIAS); ISMO with Turkish Electricity Transmission Corporation (TEIAS); and Power Planning and Monitoring Company (PPMC) with Turkish Electricity Distribution Corporation (TEDAS).

The agreements establish formal frameworks for cooperation in



post-privatization governance, electricity market development, ancillary services regulations, power system operations, transmission planning, distribution sector management, digi-

talisation, capacity building, institutional strengthening and exchange of technical expertise.

Federal Minister for Energy Sardar Awaiz Ahmad Khan Leghari

welcomed the MoUs, calling them an important step to strengthen Pakistan's energy institutions through collaboration with leading Turkish counterparts. He said Pakistan is committed to learning from Türkiye's experience in electricity market reform, transmission development, distribution modernisation and integrating advanced technologies. He highlighted the value of Turkish experience in post-privatization framework development and managing the sector in a privatized environment.

The MoUs pave the way for joint technical initiatives, expert exchanges, training programs, study visits and collaborative projects. The government views the agreements as a key outcome of the Pakistan-Türkiye energy dialogue and a demonstration of the growing strategic partnership between the two brotherly nations.

UK Envoy Confirms Afghan Taliban Regime's Backing for Fitna Al-Khawarij Terrorists



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Britain's Special Representative for Afghanistan, Richard Lindsay, has acknowledged international concerns over the Afghan Taliban regime's support for Fitna Al-Khawarij, the terrorist group targeting Pakistan.

In an interview with an Afghan TV channel, Lindsay said Fitna Al-Khawarij is a terrorist organization receiving backing from Afghanistan. He noted the group has strong tribal and family networks in the border regions. "Officials in Kabul

and Kandahar need to take decisive action against Fitna Al-Khawarij. Questions about support for them should be asked of the Afghan Taliban," he stated.

Lindsay added that training camps for Fitna Al-Khawarij exist in Afghanistan, with weapons in use and financial assistance being provided. He said Afghanistan has become a safe haven for terrorists fleeing Pakistan's security operations. "The group's role in destabilizing the region is prompting military response from Pakistan," he remarked.

Defense analysts said the presence and networks of terrorist groups in Afghanistan continue to pose a serious threat to regional security. Experts noted that financial aid, training and arms supply to such groups ultimately result in operations like "Ghuzb-ul-Haq" by Pakistan's security forces.

Ashura Stands as Timeless Symbol of Sacrifice and Justice, says NA Speaker Ayaz Sadiq

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq paid tribute to Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS), Ahl-e-Bait (AS) and Karbala martyrs on Ashura, calling the tragedy a defining chapter in Islamic history and a beacon of courage, righteousness and moral conviction.

He said Imam Hussain (AS) and his companions' sacrifice offers a universal lesson in dignity, perseverance and commitment to truth. By choosing honor over tyranny, they left a legacy that inspires generations.

Ayaz Sadiq noted Karbala's message that justice, compassion, tolerance and mutual respect build peaceful societies. He stressed unity



and collective resolve to counter extremism and violence.

Expressing solidarity with Palestine and Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir, he said their struggle reflects Karbala's spirit of standing against oppression.

Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah also paid tribute, saying Karbala's spirit of sacrifice and truth will continue to guide humanity.

Ashura Inspires Truth, Justice and Sacrifice, Says IPP Punjab



Bureau Report

LAHORE: Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party Punjab leaders, including President Rana Nazeer Ahmad Khan, Central Secretary General Mian Khalid Mahmood, and MPA Shoaib Siddiqui, said Ashura embodies truth, patience, steadfastness and

sacrifice.

They noted Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) and Karbala martyrs stood against oppression, sacrificing lives for truth and setting an example for humanity. Rana Nazeer said Ashura teaches steadfastness on justice. Mian Khalid added the martyrs' blood forms the foundation of national unity and security, urging that Imam Hussain's spirit guide national affairs.

Shoaib Siddiqui paid tribute to Pakistan's armed forces and law enforcement for their sacrifices. Malik Zaman Naseeb said Hussain (RA) established the distinction between right and wrong. IPP leaders stressed national unity and offered prayers for peace, stability and progress.

Pakistan, Iran agree to activate Joint Transport Committee to Boost Trade

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Iran have agreed to activate their joint transport committee to strengthen cross-border connectivity and resolve trade-related transport issues.

The decision came during talks in Islamabad between Pakistan's Communications Minister Abdul Aleem Khan and Iran's Roads Minister Farzaneh Sadegh. Railways Minister Hanif Abbasi,

Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan, Maritime Affairs Minister Junaid Anwar Chaudhry and officials from both sides also attended. Abdul Aleem Khan said better land links would expand trade and

economic cooperation, and both sides will prioritize resolving transport challenges. Sadegh thanked Pakistan for promoting peace and facilitating recent diplomatic efforts.

The two sides also discussed truck



and container clearance at border crossings and agreed on joint measures to address operational and logistical issues, reaffirming commitment to regional connectivity and bilateral economic cooperation.