



# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ  
ہم سے ابوالوہید نے بیان کیا کہ ہم سے  
شعبہ نے بیان کیا کہ ان سے عدی نے ان  
سے ابوہازم نے اور ان سے ابوہریرہ رضی  
اللہ عنہ نے کہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم  
نے فرمایا جس نے مال چھوڑا (یعنی موت کے  
بعد) وہ اس کے وارثوں کا ہے اور جس نے  
قرض چھوڑا وہ ہمارے ذمہ ہے۔  
(صحیح بخاری، حدیث نمبر 6763)

Barkat Rice Mills  
(Pvt) Limited



## Murad defends Sindh budget as opposition raises SPSC, KMC issues

Opposition Leader Ali Khurshidi, on Sunday, raised concerns over alleged irregularities in the Sindh Public Service Commission (SPSC), problems faced by KMC employees and private school practices during the Sindh Assembly budget session, while Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah defended the provincial budget and said Sindh was facing a shortfall in federal transfers.



## SIMs on invalid CNICs may be blocked, PTA warns

The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority has advised mobile phone users to renew their CNICs on time to avoid any disruption in mobile services. According to the PTA, SIMs registered on expired, cancelled or invalid CNICs can be suspended or blocked under regulatory rules.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Muharram-ul-Haram 13, Monday, June 29, 2026

www.dailyspokesman.net

@daily\_spokesman



Daily Spokesman Vol: 20, Issue: 69

Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

## Militant attack on Rangers

KARACHI: Security personnel inspect the rooftop of a compound at the end of a clearance operation following an alleged explosion and a militant attack on an office of Pakistan's paramilitary Rangers in the southern port city in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

## Three Sindh Rangers personnel martyred, four wounded in Khawarij attack on Karachi camp



City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan's security forces foiled a militant attack on a Pakistan Rangers (Sindh) camp in Karachi, killing three attackers during the ensuing operation, while three Rangers personnel were martyred and four others injured, the military said on Saturday.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), militants belonging to Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, an India-backed proxy group, attacked the Rangers camp on Saturday night after detonating explosives at the main entrance in an attempt to breach the facility's security perimeter.

Rangers personnel

responded swiftly, preventing the attackers from entering the camp. During the exchange of fire, three militants were killed, while one injured Afghan national suspected of involvement in the attack was arrested.

ISPR said a clearance operation is continuing in the surrounding area to ensure no other militants remain at large. It added that Pakistan's counter-terrorism campaign under the Azm-e-Istehkam strategy will continue with full force and that those responsible for the attack will be brought to justice.

Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Asim Munir expressed heartfelt condolences to the families of the fallen personnel and paid tribute to their sacrifice.

# Pakistan calls for strict adherence to US-Iran ceasefire amid regional tensions

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has urged all parties involved in the Middle East conflict to fully observe the US-Iran ceasefire agreement, underscoring the importance of dialogue and diplomacy to preserve regional peace.

The call was made by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar during a telephone conversation with European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Kaja Kallas, according to a statement issued by the Foreign Office on Sunday.

During the discussion, the two



leaders reviewed the evolving security situation in the Middle East and exchanged views on ongoing diplomatic efforts aimed at preventing further escalation.

According to the Foreign

Office, Kallas acknowledged Pakistan's diplomatic engagement and appreciated its "sincere efforts" that led to the signing of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding.

She also expressed concern over recent ceasefire violations, stressing that communication channels among all parties must remain open to avoid renewed hostilities.

Dar briefed the EU's top diplomat on Pakistan's continued efforts to promote a comprehensive framework for lasting peace and stability in the region.

He emphasised that all sides

must honour the ceasefire agreement and avoid actions that could undermine regional security.

The diplomatic exchange comes amid renewed tensions following reports of Iranian

missile and drone strikes targeting US military installations in Kuwait and Bahrain, shortly after US President Donald Trump warned Tehran against violating the interim ceasefire arrangement.

President Zardari paid tribute to the three Rangers personnel martyred in the assault and prayed for their elevation. "The nation will never forget the sacrifices of its brave soldiers in the fight against terrorism," he said.

Earlier, the US military also announced fresh strikes on Iran after an oil tanker was reportedly attacked in the Strait of Hormuz, a strategic global shipping route that has faced repeated disruptions during the conflict.

## Pakistan Helped Secure Iran-US Ceasefire, Ahsan Iqbal Says

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal on Sunday said Pakistan played a vital role in securing a ceasefire between Iran and the United States, showing that effective leadership can achieve what seems diplomatically impossible.

Speaking at the launch of Healthrix Pakistan's Training and Development Centre, he said the 47-year Iran-US rift had kept both sides from talks. Had the conflict continued, he warned, oil could have hit \$200-\$250 per barrel, fueling global inflation and pushing millions into poverty in 193 countries.

Iqbal credited Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Asim Munir for bringing Tehran and Washington from the battlefield to negotiations in Islamabad.

Recalling recent fiscal strain, the minister said tough decisions by the coalition government averted default and restored stability. By April 2022, he noted, funds for the last quarter could not be released, and external default risks were being compared to Sri Lanka.

He praised coalition partners for setting aside differences to govern for 16 months and putting national interest first. Inflation, he added, fell from 38% to around 6-7%, with a lower policy rate.

Iqbal urged youth to reject polarization and hatred, citing his 2018 assassination attempt as a reminder to foster tolerance.

## Dr. Tariq Fazal condemns terrorist attack on Rangers personnel in Karachi

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry on Sunday condemned the terrorist attack on Rangers personnel in Karachi.

In a statement posted on X, he expressed condolences to the families of the martyred personnel and prayed for the speedy recovery of those injured.

He said the security personnel who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty were a source of pride for the nation and reaffirmed that terrorism would not be tolerated under any circumstances.

The minister said Pakistan's security forces would continue to foil every attempt to undermine the country's peace and security with determination.

He also prayed for lasting peace and stability in the country and for the protection of Pakistan's security institutions.



## PEMRA Suspends Geo News Licence for 15 Days Over Muharram Broadcast

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) has suspended Geo News' licence for 15 days and ordered an immediate halt to transmission over "unacceptable religious depiction" in its programme \_Safar-e-Ishq\_, aired on the 10th of Muharram.

PEMRA said the programme included religious imagery inconsistent with Pakistan's religious, social and cultural values. Its Complaints Council will hold further hearings before recommending additional regulatory action. The regulator added it will examine the circumstances behind the broadcast and fix responsibility.

Federal Information Minister Atta Tarar said religious matters require utmost caution. "We must avoid imaginary or dramatized depictions of religious events. The matter will be taken to its logical conclusion, and all facts will be brought before the public," he stated.

Geo News acknowledged the error and issued an apology. It said the content showed rituals practised by a limited number of people in Iraq and parts of the Middle East, and was not meant to represent or promote any specific religious viewpoint. The channel said it removed the content immediately and initiated disciplinary action against those responsible, expressing regret for the incident.

## President, PM condemn terror attack on Rangers Camp in Karachi

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday strongly condemned the terrorist attack on a Pakistan Rangers (Sindh) camp in Karachi, carried out by the Indian-backed group Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, described by the PM as "Fitna al-Hindustan."

President Zardari paid tribute to the three Rangers personnel martyred in the assault and prayed for their elevation. "The nation will never forget the sacrifices of its brave soldiers in the fight against terrorism," he said.

He asserted that externally backed terrorists would not succeed and that Pakistanis stand with security forces. He also condoled with the martyrs' families and prayed for the injured.



Prime Minister Shehbaz commended Rangers for thwarting the attack with "exceptional professionalism and bravery." Security forces killed three terrorists and arrested one alive, crushing the attackers' designs, he said. The PM saluted the martyred personnel, extended condolences to their families, and wished the injured a swift recovery.

He reaffirmed that the blood of martyrs would not go in vain and vowed to eliminate every form of terrorism with full force, saying Pakistan's fight would continue until it was eradicated.

## DPM/FM, Bahraini FM discuss regional situation

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister / Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and Foreign Minister Dr. Abdulatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, on Sunday, discussed the latest evolving regional situation following the signing of the "Islamabad MoU".

The DPM/FM held a telephone conversation with the Bahraini foreign minister. Foreign Minister Al Zayani congratulated the DPM/FM on the signing of the Islamabad MoU and appreciated Pakistan's constructive role in facilitating the understanding, expressing hope that it would contribute to lasting peace and stability in the region, the



Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release.

"He indicated that he would visit Pakistan in the near future in order to personally thank Prime Minister, DPM/FM, and CDF for their great efforts to achieve the ceasefire," it was added.

The DPM/FM thanked Dr Al Zayani for his kind sentiments and reiterated Pakistan's resolve to promote dialogue and diplomacy for achieving peace and stability in the region and beyond.

# Senate Chairman Gilani secures approval for Multan-Lodhran Road Dualisation Project

**Kiran Asim**

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani has secured approval for the dualisation of the Multan-Lodhran Road, with funds for the project also released.

The approval was granted by Federal Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan following a request from the Senate chairman. The project will be financed through the Road Maintenance Account (RMA) Fund.

The 62-kilometre project is estimated to cost Rs4.6 billion and is expected to be completed within one year. Construction work is likely to begin next month.

As part of the scheme, 44.8 kilometres of the existing road will be raised to match the level of both



carriageways, improving road safety and traffic flow.

The Multan-Lodhran Road has remained in poor condition for years,

causing difficulties for commuters, transporters and residents. The project is expected to reduce travel time, improve road safety and provide

better transport facilities.

Expressing satisfaction over the approval, Gilani said another promise made to the people of Multan and Lodhran was being fulfilled.

He said the reconstruction and dualisation of the road would provide safer, faster and better travel facilities for the public. He added that addressing the long-standing problems of South Punjab through sustainable development remained one of his priorities and expressed confidence that the project would be completed within the stipulated timeframe.

The Senate chairman also reaffirmed his commitment to improving infrastructure and public services across South Punjab to support economic growth and improve the quality of life.

## AJK Minister warns of social media propaganda storm, urges public trust in govt

**Bureau Report**

MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir Information Minister Chaudhry Muhammad Rafiq Nayyar has said that in the current situation, there is a storm of propaganda on social media. They said that no statement, flyer or poster of the Prime Minister, Chief Secretary and IGP of Azad Kashmir was issued in any press release. So people should trust them and not be part of any kind of propaganda of corrupt elements. The foundation continues to propagate. They said that the government is on one page regarding the measures against the ceasefire action committee and the misconceptions being spread in this regard have nothing to do with reality.



## Azad Jammu and Kashmir govt releases monthly salaries and pensions on schedule

**Bureau Report**

MUZAFFARABAD: A spokesperson of the Accountant General of Azad Jammu and Kashmir said that the monthly salaries of all government employees and pensions of pensioners have been paid into their accounts. The relevant banks can be withdrawn on a scheduled date.

## Merit, Transparency is Top Priority: Tehsildar Kamalia

**Zafar Chishti**

TOBA TEK SINGH: Tehsildar Kamalia Hafiz Muhammad Shakeel Gujjar has said that providing timely, transparent and merit-based services to the public in matters relating to property registration and mutation is his top priority. Talking to our Correspondent, he said that the doors of his office remain open to the public at all times and every applicant will be dealt with fairly, impartially and strictly in accordance with the law. He stated that it is the responsibility of the Revenue Department to address the problems faced by citizens and that no injustice or discriminatory treatment against any individual will be tolerated. All registration and mutation cases, he added, will be processed under the prescribed legal procedures with complete transparency and on merit to strengthen public confidence in the department.



Hafiz Muhammad Shakeel Gujjar further said that there is no room for bribery, favoritism or any unlawful influence in official matters. He urged citizens to approach his office directly regarding their cases and assured them that legitimate matters would not face unnecessary delays. He also pledged that all visitors would be treated with respect and provided prompt relief in accordance with the law.

## Govt welfare announcements must be implemented, says Akbar Ali Rana

**News Desk**

KARACHI: Chairman of Sahara Welfare Trust, Akbar Ali Rana, has called on the government to ensure the effective implementation of welfare initiatives announced for senior citizens, stating that the elderly are the true capital of every society and deserve dignity, respect, and practical support.



In a statement, Rana said senior citizens have devoted their lives to serving the country and the nation, yet many continue to face financial and social hardships. He noted that while governments have announced various welfare schemes, including ration assistance, housing facilities, monthly stipends, and the Senior Citizen Card, their implementation remains unsatisfactory.

He further pointed out that under the Ramadan Relief Package 2026, financial assistance for millions of families through digital wallets and the banking system was announced but was not fully implemented.

Rana urged the authorities to ensure the immediate issuance and delivery of the Senior Citizen Card and called upon the media to launch a comprehensive public awareness campaign highlighting its benefits and eligibility criteria. He emphasized that timely implementation of these initiatives would provide much-needed relief to senior citizens and improve their quality of life. The Sahara Welfare Trust chairman also appealed to the government to take urgent and practical steps to address the longstanding issues faced by the elderly and ensure that all promised welfare measures are implemented without delay.

## All Institutions Paid Tribute for Exemplary Muharram Arrangements in Attock District

**Raza Naqvi**

ATTOCK: President of Imambargah Panjtani Attock, Syed Raza Haider Naqvi, and General Secretary Syed Athar Hasnain Zaidi on Saturday paid rich tribute to the district administration, police, law enforcement agencies, government departments, peace committees, religious scholars, volunteers and the media for ensuring peaceful, secure and well-organized arrangements for majalis and mourning processions across Attock district from the 1st of Muharram to Youm-e-Ashura.

Talking to the media, they said Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif had issued clear directives that officers should not remain confined to their offices during Muharram but should personally monitor majalis and processions to ensure that mourners of Imam Hussain (A.S.) faced no inconvenience. They said the Attock district administration implemented these directives in letter and spirit, ensuring exemplary arrangements throughout Muharram.

They appreciated the services of Deputy Commissioner Rao Atif Raza, District Police Officer Sardar Mavarhan Khan, Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Anil Saeed and Assistant Commissioner Muhammad Arif Qureshi, saying the officers maintained continuous coordination with Sunni religious scholars, the District Peace Committee, Tehsil Peace Committee and organizers of mourning events. They added that regular consultations on a daily basis helped maintain an atmosphere of peace, harmony and mutual understanding across the district.

Syed Raza Haider Naqvi and Syed Athar Hasnain Zaidi said Sunni scholars and religious leaders, members of peace committees, office-bearers of Imambargah Panjtani, cabinet members and volunteers extended exemplary cooperation by standing shoulder to shoulder with the police and district administration. They said unity, tolerance and mutual cooperation were the key factors behind the peaceful observance of the first ten days of Muharram.

They said a total of 754 majalis were held in 87 imambargahs across Attock district, while personnel of the police, Rangers and Pakistan Army were deployed to provide security for majalis as well as Alam and Zuljannah processions, ensuring effective monitoring and foolproof security arrangements.

## Drinking water

ISLAMABAD: Jun 28- A young boy loading drinking water cans on a handcart after filling from filtration plant to delivered shopkeepers at fruit and vegetable market sector I-11 during hot weather, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Furniture Market Beautification in Chiniot Reaches Final Stages, Provincial Officials Inspect Progress

**Abdul Majid**

FAISALABAD: As per the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the beautification work of the furniture market in Chiniot district is in the final stages of completion.

Provincial Minister for Transport Bilal Akbar Khan, Advisor to the Chief Minister of Punjab Zeeshan Malik along with Commissioner Faisalabad Musarrat



Jabeen visited the furniture market. Deputy Commissioner Chiniot Ayesha Rizwan and other officers were also

present.

The Commissioner, while giving a briefing, said that under the beautification project, the renovation of the Municipal Committee Mosque, beautification of 135 shop fronts, restoration of 2,000 RFT tuff pavers, parking plaza for 110 motorbikes, woodwork, uniform boards outside the shops, construction of storm water drains, installation of cable trees, sheds, Victorian poles,

and construction of the boundary wall of the library park have been completed.

He said that the work of the main entry gate and the Municipal Committee gate is in the final stages. The provincial minister and advisor appreciated the beautification of the furniture market. He also met the shopkeepers on the spot, who thanked Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif for the beautification of the furniture market.

## Punjab Minister reviews Ashura security arrangements in Multan

**Asim Tanveer**

MULTAN: Punjab Minister for Education Rana Sikandar Hayat and Special Assistant to the Chief Minister Punjab Ms Salma Butt visited the main Ashura mourning processions at Ghanta Ghar Chowk and Haram Gate to review security and administrative arrangements. They also toured the Safe City Control Room, where they were briefed on the comprehensive security plan and monitoring mechanism for Ashura.

Commissioner Multan Division Aamir Kareem Khan, Regional Police Officer (RPO) Usman Gondal, Deputy Commissioner Noman Siddique and City Police Officer (CPO) Sadiq Dogar briefed the provincial delegation on the security measures, surveillance system and emergency response arrangements put in place to ensure peaceful observance of Youm-e-Ashura.

Speaking on the occasion, Rana



Sikandar Hayat said the Punjab Government remained committed to maintaining law and order through its zero-tolerance policy against violence, extremism and sectarianism. He noted that anti-social and extremist elements had been rejected by all segments of society, reflecting the collective resolve

to preserve peace and harmony.

The Minister commended the district administration, police and all security agencies for their coordinated efforts, describing the arrangements across Multan Division as exemplary. He also appreciated the role of Safe City surveillance, inter-departmental coordination and continuous field monitoring in ensuring a peaceful environment throughout the day.

Commissioner Aamir Kareem Khan informed the delegation that 224 religious gatherings (Majalis) and 283 mourning processions were held across the division under a comprehensive security plan. Sensitive routes and venues remained under continuous surveillance through the Safe City network, while the central control room coordinated real-time monitoring and emergency response.

RPO Usman Gondal said more than 13,000 police officers and personnel had been deployed across the division to safeguard all religious events. CPO Sadiq Dogar highlighted the valuable contribution of Peace Committee members and religious scholars, whose cooperation with the administration played a vital role in maintaining communal harmony during Ashura.



Islamabad  
30° - 38° Clear

**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 3:16 am  
Zohr ..... 12:11 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 &  
& Rescue Services ..... 4451122  
Motorway Police ..... 9266044  
Motorway Police ..... 9270601-20

**Women Police Stations**

Islamabad ..... 9222596  
Rawalpindi ..... 9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

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

**DEPARTMENTS**

CDA ..... 9221334-43  
CDA ..... 9208301-04  
Met Office ..... 9250360-6  
RDA ..... 5555864  
TMA ..... 5770886  
Cantonment Board ..... 9270151-3  
Islamabad Metropolitan  
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

*Jamaat  
Ahl-e-Sunnat  
Pakistan  
Condemns  
Terrorist  
Attack on  
Pakistan  
Rangers Camp  
in Karachi*



**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Professor Pir Syed Mazhar Saeed Shah Kazmi, Central Ameer of Jamaat Ahl-e-Sunnat Pakistan, Professor Hamza Mustafai, Central Deputy Nazim-e-Aala, Raja Naveed Naqshbandi, Provincial Information Secretary for Federal Areas and Gilgit-Baltistan, and Professor Abrar Ahmad Khan, central leader of Jamaat Ahl-e-Sunnat Pakistan and a leading figure of the All Pakistan Private Schools Management Association, strongly condemned the terrorist attack on the Pakistan Rangers (Sindh) camp in Karachi, calling it a cowardly attack on Pakistan's peace and security. Professor Pir Syed Mazhar Saeed Shah Kazmi said the nation stands united with its armed forces and security institutions against terrorism. Professor Hamza Mustafai urged Afghanistan not to allow its soil to be used for terrorism against Pakistan and said the country would not compromise on its sovereignty. Professor Abrar Ahmad Khan said Pakistan had supported the Afghan people for decades and urged them to reject pro-India elements. Raja Naveed Naqshbandi reaffirmed the nation's full support for Pakistan Rangers and all security agencies.

# Maryam Nawaz's Health Initiative: Punjab Hospitals undergo daily European-style deep cleaning

LAHORE: On Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's directions, a new health culture has been introduced in the province, as for the first time, daily comprehensive cleaning of every government

hospital is being done to protect patients' health. Relevant authorities briefed her that thorough cleaning is being carried out at entrances, in corridors, and all wards



of tehsil, district, and other major hospitals; besides in hospital waiting areas and public washrooms. They said that operation theatres in hospitals are being professionally cleaned daily to keep them infection-free; while doors and windows are also being cleaned.

They added that floor cleaning and washing in hospitals is being ensured using specialized chemicals; and highlighted that special cleaning is being done in children's wards and gynecology/maternity wards to safeguard health of children and women. They apprised her that a daily digital monitoring report in

this regard is being presented. Chief Minister Punjab said that every citizen of Punjab, especially children and women, is a priority when it comes to health. She added that by introducing European-standard deep cleaning in hospitals, the spread of infectious diseases is being effectively reduced.

## Hot Day

ISLAMABAD: A vendor sells cold sweet water (Sharbat) at fruit and vegetable market sector I-11 during hot weather, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

# Dopasi Foundation holds media engagement on responsible reporting of TB and DR-TB

**City Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Dopasi Foundation, in collaboration with the Common Management Unit (CMU) for AIDS, TB and Malaria, organized a media engagement session to strengthen accurate, ethical and solution-oriented reporting on tuberculosis (TB) and drug-resistant tuberculosis (DR-TB). The session brought together journalists and social media influencers to promote responsible health communication and encourage reporting that helps reduce stigma while emphasizing that TB and DR-TB are preventable, diagnosable and treatable. District Health Officer Islamabad Dr. Syeda Rashida Batool appreciated the initiative and emphasized the importance of responsible media reporting in improving public awareness and supporting



access to TB services. Speaking on the occasion, CEO Dopasi Foundation Ms. Kinz ul Eman said the media has a vital role in promoting accurate infor-

mation, reducing stigma and encouraging early care-seeking. The session concluded with a call for journalists and digital content creators to use their

platforms to promote factual information, amplify community voices responsibly and contribute to Pakistan's efforts to end TB.

# Public Sector Lags, Diabetes and Ageing Worsen Crisis; Women Hit Hardest

**City Desk**

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan will require at least 1.84 million cataract surgeries a year by 2030, but the public sector delivers fewer than one in five, leaving most patients reliant on charities and private hospitals, Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital warned. Prof. Dr. Sabihuddin Ahmed, Head of Cataract at Al-Shifa Trust, said the country's cataract burden is outpacing healthcare capacity. The Trust performs about 60,000 surgeries annually via hospitals and outreach, yet demand keeps rising. Currently, an estimated 570,000 adults are blind from cataracts and 3.56 million have cataract-related vision impairment. Ageing and longer life expect-



tancy are key drivers. Treatment is uneven: private hospitals do 42.4% of surgeries, NGOs 39.9%, and public hospitals just

17.7%. A severe specialist shortage adds pressure, with only 15 ophthalmologists per million people. Al-Shifa trains roughly 20 annually, but far more are needed. Diabetes is accelerating demand, with 34.5 million adults diabetic and projected growth ahead. Diabetics often need surgery earlier. Cost blocks access for many, with 76.1% citing finances as the main barrier. Women face higher blindness rates due to mobility limits and delayed care. Dr. Ahmed urged integrating eye exams into primary care and routine cataract screening for diabetics, warning that without greater investment, avoidable blindness will keep increasing.

# Syed Aman Shah Warns of Nationwide Protests if Public Gets No Relief

**News Desk**



KARACHI/QUETTA: Syed Aman Shah, Provincial Convener of Awaam Pakistan Party Balochistan, has strongly criticized the government for keeping petroleum prices unchanged despite a sharp fall in global crude oil prices after the Iran-U. S. ceasefire. Shah said international oil rates have declined considerably, but Pakistanis have been denied any benefit. "Instead of reducing petroleum prices, the government continues to burden the public with high fuel costs, which is both unfortunate and anti-people," he stated. He termed it unacceptable to maintain high prices for petrol, diesel and other products when crude has become cheaper globally, and urged an immediate revision in line with international trends to give relief to inflation-hit citizens. Shah said expensive fuel has raised transport costs, pushed up food prices and made basic necessities unaffordable. With inflation at alarming levels, unemployment and poverty rising, millions are struggling for two meals a day, he added. Demanding a substantial cut in petroleum prices and emergency inflation-control measures, he warned that without relief, Awaam Pakistan Party will launch a nationwide protest campaign to protect public rights.

# CBD Punjab Opens Sales Partner Registrations for Celestia IT & Office Tower in NSIT City

**News Desk**

LAHORE: The Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA), also known as Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab), has invited marketing firms, real estate agencies, property consultants, independent sales professionals and established channel partners to become authorised sales partners for Celestia IT & Office Tower in CBD NSIT City. Located adjacent to DHA Phase 6 and 7, Celestia is positioned as one of Punjab's most advanced IT and commercial destinations. The tower features a state-of-the-art central HVAC system, modern digital façade, premium office spaces and world-class infrastructure designed for the country's technology and corporate sectors. The project's grey structure is complete, with finishing work progressing rapidly. CBD Punjab is marketing it as an attractive opportunity for investors and businesses seeking a foothold in Punjab's emerging tech and commercial hub. CEO CBD Punjab Imran Amin said the tower reflects the authority's vision to build world-class commercial infrastructure that attracts investment, drives innovation and strengthens the province's digital economy. "Through this sales partnership programme, we are inviting Pakistan's leading real estate professionals to deliver a landmark project that will redefine the commercial landscape," he added. The programme offers privileged access to premium inventory, institutional backing and a performance-driven sales framework. Interested firms and professionals can register via official CBD Punjab channels.



# 16th Karbala Martyrs Conference Held at Jamia Masjid Sheikh Muhammad Amin

**City Desk**

RAWALPINDI: The 16th Annual Karbala Martyrs Conference was held at Jamia Masjid Sheikh Muhammad Amin, Khayaban-e-Sir Syed, Awan Market, with hundreds of worshippers in attendance. Addressing the gathering, Syed Riaz Hussain Shah, Patron-in-Chief of Idara Taleemat-e-Islamia Khayaban-e-Sir Syed, said that the sacrifice of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) represents faith, truth, steadfastness, and the practical teachings of the Holy Qur'an. He urged Muslims to follow the teachings of Imam Hussain (RA), uphold the love of Ahl al-Bayt (RA), and promote unity, righteousness, and moral values. The conference was attended by Syed Faisal Riaz Hussain Shah, Syed Nauman Riaz Hussain Shah, Syed Bashir Hussain Shah, Syed Sajjad Mazhar Gilani, Syed Zia-ul-Haq Shah Gilani, Allama Bashir Al-Qadri, and Mufti Rizwan Anjum. Hafiz Sheikh Muhammad Qasim and Safdar Ali Mohsin conducted the proceedings, while renowned naat reciters Zain-ul-Abideen Maithami, Al-Haj Muhammad Shahzad Madani, and Qari Shahzad presented naats and manqabats. The event concluded with special prayers for the unity of the Muslim Ummah and for Pakistan's peace, stability, progress, and prosperity.

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

# Israel's Mission Impossible

Israel is discovering a hard strategic truth: the country that wants absolute freedom of military action cannot easily free itself from the very superpower that makes that military action possible. For decades, Israel has depended on the United States not only for diplomatic protection, but also for the aircraft, bombs, interceptors, missiles, spare parts, emergency resupply, and financial aid that sustain its defensive shield and offensive reach. Now, as Washington tries to restrain Israeli escalation against Lebanon in order to preserve a wider regional ceasefire and protect its own diplomatic understanding with Iran, some Israeli voices are arguing that Israel should reduce or end its military dependence on America. It is an emotionally attractive slogan, but economically and militarily it is close to a mission impossible.

The facts are stark. The United States provides Israel with about \$3.8 billion annually under the 2019-2028 military aid memorandum. But the real value of American support is much larger than that figure. It includes access to advanced aircraft, precision-guided munitions, air-defense cooperation, intelligence sharing, emergency replenishment, and direct U.S. military support during regional crises. In recent wars, American forces have helped intercept drones and missiles aimed at Israel, while U.S. political backing has shielded Israel from far greater diplomatic isolation.

Israel is not a weak military power. It has one of the world's most advanced defense industries. Its cyber capabilities, drone technology, radar systems, electronic warfare, missile defense, and intelligence tools are globally respected. Israeli defense exports reached record levels in recent years, showing that the country can design and sell sophisticated military technology. But exporting advanced systems is not the same as independently sustaining a multi-front war, replacing U.S. aircraft, producing deep stocks of precision bombs, and maintaining strategic air dominance without Washington.

The most important vulnerability is air power. Israel's offensive doctrine relies heavily on U.S.-made F-35s, F-15s, and F-16s. These aircraft are the backbone of Israel's ability to strike Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, Iran-linked targets, and other distant theatres. Israel can modify these aircraft with domestic systems, but it does not independently manufacture them. Nor does it independently control the full supply chain for engines, advanced components, spare parts, and future upgrades. If the United States stops supplying or servicing these systems, Israeli offensive capability would not collapse overnight, but it would steadily degrade.

The numbers explain the dilemma. Israel's military expenditure surged to about \$46.5 billion in 2024, equal to roughly 8.8 percent of GDP. That is already one of the highest defense burdens in the world. To become meaningfully independent from the United States, Israel would likely need to spend around 12 to 15 percent of GDP on defense for many years. That means an additional annual burden of roughly \$18

billion to \$35 billion, depending on the level of independence pursued. Such money would not come from the sky. It would come from taxes, borrowing, civilian cuts, reduced welfare, delayed infrastructure, pressure on education, and weaker investment in health, housing, and productivity.

In simple terms, Israel would have to choose between becoming a more militarized economy and remaining a prosperous civilian economy. The deeper the pursuit of military independence, the greater the sacrifice imposed on ordinary citizens. Hospitals, schools, universities, transport networks, housing programs, technology investment, social services, and family support would all face pressure. Israel could build more factories, more missile plants, more ammunition lines, and more domestic systems, but every shekel moved into permanent militarization would be a shekel removed from civilian development.

Time is another obstacle. Israel could reduce some dependence in five to eight years by expanding domestic production of ammunition, drones, interceptors, electronic systems, and some missiles. It could reduce dependence further in 10 to 15 years with a massive industrial program. But true independence in combat aircraft, stealth technology, strategic engines, large precision weapons, satellites, and wartime resupply could take 20 to 30 years, and even then may remain incomplete. No small country can easily replicate the industrial depth

of the United States.

This is why the idea of cutting loose from Washington in one year is unrealistic. If Israel attempted it suddenly, its economy could face an additional 3 to 6 percent of GDP in defense pressure. Its offensive capability could be weakened by 40 to 60 percent over one to two years, especially if precision munitions, aircraft parts, and resupply pipelines were disrupted. Its defensive sustainability in a prolonged multi-front war could fall by 25 to 40 percent. Its ability to sustain occupation, control hostile territories, and conduct repeated military operations across several fronts could become 30 to 50 percent harder.

This is the central contradiction of Israeli strategy. Some Israeli hardliners want complete freedom to strike Lebanon, Syria, Gaza, Iran-linked groups, and other regional adversaries without American restraint. They also want to pursue a maximalist vision of regional dominance, sometimes expressed through the dangerous idea of a "Greater Israel." But such ambitions are possible only because the United States has historically supplied the military oxygen. Remove that oxygen, and the same expansionist project becomes far more costly, risky, and perhaps unsustainable.

This is also why many Israeli analysts and strategic thinkers warn against alienating Washington. The United States is not merely a donor; it is the main strategic pillar of Israel's military architecture. American support gives Israel technological superiority, financial relief, diplomatic cover, and crisis-time backup. Without that support, Israel

*Continued on Page 7*



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

## Saudi Arabia and Pakistan: A real test of brotherhood

When Saudi Arabia and Pakistan signed the Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement last year, it was hailed as the natural evolution of a decades-old partnership. But the true measure of such pacts is crisis. The recent Iran conflict provided the first major test, and the Saudi-Pakistani response showed how closely their security outlooks have converged.

The confrontation became one of the Middle East's most dangerous moments in years. With military exchanges intensifying, there were fears Gulf energy infrastructure, maritime lanes and regional economies could be targeted. Given Saudi Arabia's strategic weight and US ties, the Kingdom was seen as a potential flashpoint.

Yet despite heavy exchanges, especially unprovoked Iranian attacks, Saudi Arabia did not become a battlefield. Energy facilities stayed online, shipping rerouted but continued, and the wider war many predicted did not materialize. The outcome reflected deterrence, restraint, and close coordination among partners, with the defense pact playing a central role.

As tensions rose, the key question was whether the pact was symbolic or operational. The answer came before the ceasefire. Pakistan publicly reaffirmed its commitment to Saudi security. Consultations intensified. After the ceasefire, Riyadh's Ministry of Defense disclosed that a Pakistan Air Force squadron and support personnel had been deployed to the Kingdom during the crisis under existing cooperation arrangements.

The deployment was not meant to widen the war. Its purpose was deterrence: signaling that escalation toward the Gulf would carry clear costs. That signal helped keep the conflict contained.

Saudi Arabia's calculus was strategic. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman prioritized stability to protect Gulf security and the Kingdom's economic transformation. Riyadh chose restraint over escalation and backed diplomatic tracks.

Pakistan played a parallel diplomatic role. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Asim Munir engaged regional and international leaders throughout. Few states can credibly talk to Riyadh, Tehran, Washington and Doha at once; Pakistan used that access to keep channels open. Islamabad consistently pushed for diplomacy while warning all sides, including Iranian hardliners, that further escalation would bring severe economic and security costs.

Those efforts helped shift a military crisis toward diplomacy. Following the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding and an implementation roadmap, the Strait of Hormuz reopened, negotiations continued, sanctions relief began, and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian visited Islamabad. Senior US officials also acknowledged Pakistan's role.

The crisis revealed a shared Saudi-Pakistani approach: secure sea lanes, protect energy infrastructure, prefer dialogue, and anchor stability in economic development. Both reject the costs of proxy warfare and see strong sovereign states as the basis for order.



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

## Creating a Collaborative School Culture for Innovation

Education in the twenty-first century is no longer confined to the traditional transfer of knowledge from teacher to student. The rapidly changing world demands creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and innovation. Schools are expected to prepare students not only for examinations but also for future challenges in a knowledge-driven society. To achieve this goal, educational institutions must move beyond isolated teaching practices and create a collaborative school culture that encourages innovation, teamwork, and continuous learning. For Pakistan, where educational reforms are increasingly focused on quality and relevance, building collaborative school environments has become a necessity rather than an option.



Analysis

Dr. T. M. Malik

A collaborative school culture refers to an environment where teachers, administrators, students, parents, and the wider community work together toward shared educational goals. It is based on trust, open communication, mutual respect, and collective responsibility. In such schools, ideas are freely exchanged, challenges are addressed collectively, and innovation is encouraged at all levels. Collaboration transforms schools from rigid institutions into dynamic learning communities.

Traditionally, many schools in Pakistan have operated through hierarchical structures where decisions are made by

administrators and implemented by teachers. While such systems provide order, they often limit creativity and discourage participation. Teachers work independently, students follow instructions passively, and opportunities for shared problem-solving remain limited. A collaborative culture challenges this approach by encouraging participation and collective ownership of educational outcomes.

Teachers are the cornerstone of collaborative schools. When educators regularly share ideas, teaching strategies, and classroom experiences, they learn from one another and improve their professional practice.

Professional learning communities, peer mentoring, and collaborative lesson planning enable teachers to address educational challenges more effectively. Instead of working in isolation, teachers become part of a supportive network focused on continuous improvement.

Innovation flourishes when teachers feel empowered to experiment with new methods and technologies. In collaborative environments, educators are more willing to adopt creative teaching approaches because they receive encouragement and support from colleagues. Successful practices can be shared across departments and classrooms, benefiting the entire school community. This culture of collective learning helps schools adapt to changing educational needs.

School leadership plays a critical role in fostering collaboration. Effec-

tive leaders create environments where every stakeholder feels valued and heard. Rather than exercising authority through control, collaborative leaders promote participation, dialogue, and shared decision-making. They encourage teachers to contribute ideas, involve students in school activities, and build partnerships with parents and community members.

Students themselves must be active participants in collaborative school cultures. Modern education emphasizes student-centered learning, where learners engage in teamwork, discussion, and project-based activities. Collaborative classrooms encourage students to exchange ideas, solve problems collectively, and develop communication skills. Such experiences prepare them for future workplaces, where teamwork and innovation are highly valued.

Parental involvement is another important component of collaborative schools. Parents are a child's first educators and play a vital role in supporting learning. Schools that maintain strong communication with families often experience better academic outcomes and stronger student motivation. Parent-teacher partnerships create opportunities to address student needs holistically and foster a sense of shared responsibility for educational success.

Community engagement further strengthens collaboration. Schools do not operate in isolation; they are part of broader social systems. Partnerships with local organizations, businesses, universities, and community groups can provide valuable learning opportunities for students. Such collaborations expose

*Continued on Page 7*

## Experience Meets Innovation: How Millennial and Gen Z Teachers Are Transforming Education

Two Generations, One Mission, and Better Education: Education is changing rapidly, and teachers play the most important role in shaping the future. Today, schools, colleges, and universities have teachers from different generations, especially Millennials (Generation Y) and Generation Z (Gen Z). While they may have different styles, both generations bring valuable strengths to the classroom. Together, they create a learning environment that is modern, engaging, and effective.



Analysis

Dr. Mushtaq Ahmed Rahu

The Strengths of Millennial Teachers: Millennial teachers are known for their experience, dedication, and strong classroom management skills. They have spent years understanding students' needs and developing effective teaching methods. Some of their positive qualities include:

- Strong focus on discipline and organization.
- Rich teaching experience and practical knowledge.
- Ability to build meaningful relationships with students.
- Balanced use of traditional and modern teaching methods.
- Deep understanding of students' academic growth.
- Patience and consistency in guiding

learners. Millennial teachers often serve as mentors who inspire students through wisdom, real-life examples, and structured learning approaches. The Strengths of Gen Z Teachers: Gen Z teachers represent the new generation of educators. They are highly familiar with technology and are comfortable using digital tools in education. Some of their positive qualities include:

- Excellent use of modern technology in teaching.
- Creative and interactive classroom activities.
- Strong digital communication skills.
- Awareness of current trends and innovations.
- Ability to make learning engaging and visually appealing.
- Encouragement of student participation and collaboration.

Gen Z teachers often bring fresh ideas that make lessons exciting and relevant to today's learners. When Experience Meets Innovation: The most successful schools are those where Millennial and Gen Z teachers work together. Their combined strengths create a powerful educational environment. For example:

- Millennials provide guidance, experience, and stability.
- Gen Z teachers introduce new technologies and creative methods.
- Together, they encourage both

academic excellence and practical skills.

• Students benefit from a mix of wisdom, innovation, discipline, and creativity.

This partnership helps prepare students not only for exams but also for the challenges of the modern world.

A Shared Goal: Despite differences in age and teaching style, both generations share the same goal: helping students succeed. They are passionate about learning, personal growth, and creating opportunities for the next generation.

The future of education becomes brighter when experience and new ideas come together. Rather than comparing one generation with another, it is more meaningful to appreciate the unique strengths each brings to the classroom.

Millennial and Gen Z teachers are both valuable assets to education. Millennials contribute experience, leadership, and stability, while Gen Z teachers bring creativity, technology, and fresh perspectives. When these two generations collaborate, students receive the best of both worlds.

Experience + Innovation = Better Education

The future of learning is strongest when different generations work together with a common purpose: empowering students and building a brighter tomorrow.

*The writer is a PhD in Electronics, an educator, and a researcher. He writes on education, digital transformation, and youth development.*

# Thirty-three people rescued, thousands still missing after Venezuela quakes

Reuters

Thirty-three people have been rescued so far this weekend after Venezuela's devastating twin earthquakes, the country's interim president said, including several children, while tens of thousands remained unaccounted for, with time for finding additional survivors running short.

The death toll from Wednesday's twin earthquakes rose above 1,400 as of Saturday as foreign rescue teams poured into coastal La Guaira, the hardest-hit state.

Families and volunteers spent and bodies from the rubble before the arrival of the more than 1,600 foreign rescue workers, often complaining of scant heavy equipment and a limited official presence, as hundreds of aftershocks deepened damage and kept residents on edge.

The government—headed by interim President Delcy Rodríguez since her predecessor was removed by the US in a January raid—had thanked civilian volunteers ferrying aid to La Guaira, but then heavily tightened access to the road, saying traffic was preventing efficient movement of emergency vehicles and that only accredited people could use the roadway.

Although the government has given a figure of hundreds missing or trapped, just under 50,000 people were listed as



unaccounted for on a website promoted by the country's political opposition on Sunday.

The figure is a slight decline from Saturday, when 55,000 people were marked as missing.

Limited time for finding survivors The US Geological Survey estimated more than 10,000 deaths were possible from the magnitude 7.2 and 7.5 quakes, which would place them among Latin America's deadliest of the last century.

The clock is ticking for rescuing people still living amid the rubble.

"There exists a window of roughly three days, 72 hours, where the probability afterwards decreases that you can save people alive," Sebastian Eugster, the leader of the Swiss rescue team, told

Reuters on Saturday.

The 80-strong team had found multiple people alive in the rubble thanks to alerts from their eight search dogs, but had not been able to pull them out in time to save them, he added.

Saturday evening marked 72 hours since the quakes.

The Swiss team will jointly define with other teams and local authorities when rescue operations will end, Eugster said, but will remain on the ground to help with other aid work.

Rescued children

The US State Department hailed the rescue of an infant by US rescue crews on Saturday, posting a video on X showing helmet-clad rescuers removing the blanket-wrapped and wailing child



from the rubble.

A Colombian rescue team saved an 11-year-old boy, Moises, who had been trapped some 3 meters (10 feet) deep in rubble, after identifying his location with a scanner, Reuters TV reported.

He was removed on a stretcher with a broken arm, his eyes covered by a cloth to protect them from the shock of daylight. His mother and sister were killed.

Mexican rescuers working at a collapsed building in the town of Caraballeda rescued another 11-year-old boy, Rodríguez posted on X late on Saturday, showing crews carrying a small figure on a stretcher out of the rubble.

"In these hours, each life is hope for Venezuela," Rodríguez said, as the

government also shared a video of a young man being removed from ruins by rescuers.

The government also posted videos of Rodríguez meeting with international rescuers, where she gave the figure of people saved on Saturday.

The government has also said more than 3,000 people were injured, and a similar figure was living in shelters.

In Caraballeda on Saturday, US rescuers worked alongside remaining civilian volunteers, some of whom were searching for their own family members.

Rescuers had originally spray-painted the rubble with the name of the apartment building that used to stand there. By Saturday evening, they

had marked debris with coding indicating they believed no living person remained in the ruins.

Pope Leo on Sunday told worshippers gathered for the Angelus prayer in Rome that he wanted "to express my closeness to the Venezuelan sisters and brothers affected by the recent earthquakes" and expressed gratitude to rescue workers.

European Union foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said on X that the EU had mobilised 5 million euros (\$5.9 million) in emergency assistance and that its Copernicus satellite system is helping map the damage and direct assistance to the areas most in need.

A senior US official said on Saturday that a funding package worth hundreds of millions of dollars is expected to be announced within the next day or so, in addition to \$150 million that the Trump administration had already committed.

The disaster could have political consequences for Rodríguez, who has portrayed herself as an agent of change even though she served as vice president under predecessor Nicolas Maduro.

Power throughout the region was gradually returning, Venezuela's power, crippled by years of underinvestment and economic sanctions, regularly experiences problems, leading to daily, hours-long blackouts in some regions.

## WHO: Over 1,300 deaths linked to heatwave across Europe

Wafa

GENEVA: The World Health Organization (WHO) said on Sunday that more than 1,300 people have died due to a severe heatwave affecting Europe since June 21. WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a post on the platform X that over 1,300 additional deaths have been recorded since June 21 as a result of extreme heat.

He added that around one million people are currently exposed to extreme temperatures, with hundreds of deaths reported, schools closed, and electricity grids under severe strain.

Several European countries recorded record-breaking temperatures, including Denmark (37°C for the first time since 1874), the



Czech Republic (exceeding 40°C for the first time, reaching 40.6°C), and Germany (a new high of 41.5°C, with nighttime temperatures reaching 39.5°C). As the heatwave moved toward northeastern Europe, France, Switzerland,

Germany, Austria, and Hungary declared the highest level of heat alert.

The WHO noted that extreme heat can lead to fatalities caused by drowning, heatstroke, heart attacks, and other complications.

## Water supply to Ramallah main station suspended due to pipeline rupture

Wafa

RAMALLAH: The Jerusalem Water Undertaking announced on Sunday the suspension of water pumping to the main Ramallah station following a break in the main supply line.

In a brief statement, the undertaking said that the Israeli water company Mekorot had informed it of the temporary halt in pumping due to a rupture in the main pipeline feeding the station.

It noted that most areas within its service jurisdiction will be affected by the water distribution schedule until pumping resumes, stressing that the situation is beyond its control and calling for public understanding and cooperation.

The undertaking urged residents to rationalize water consumption to help ensure water reaches the largest possible number of citizens.

It added that crews will resume normal distribution once pumping is restored, and that updates will be provided to subscribers as developments occur.



## Israeli authorities issue demolition notice for home in Silwan

Wafa

JERUSALEM: Israeli occupation authorities on Sunday issued a demolition notice for the home of a Palestinian resident in the town of Silwan, south of Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied Jerusalem.

According to the Jerusalem Governorate, staff from the Israeli municipality raided the Al-Bustan neighborhood in Silwan and handed Maher Samer Sarhan a notice ordering the demolition of his home, which has stood for about 30 years and houses a family of four.

The Governorate said the notice is part of Israel's policy of demolishing Palestinian homes in occupied Jerusalem, aimed at restricting the Palestinian presence in the city and imposing further facts on the ground.

Jerusalem, particularly the town of Silwan and the Al-Bustan neighborhood, has witnessed a continued escalation in demolition orders, notifications, and forced eviction measures. Israeli authorities continue to target Palestinian homes under the pretext of unlicensed construction while imposing strict restrictions that make it extremely difficult for Palestinians in Jerusalem to obtain building permits.

The Jerusalem Governorate stressed that these policies form part of broader plans to reduce the Palestinian presence in occupied Jerusalem and expand Israeli settlement projects, in violation of international law and relevant international resolutions.



## Ukraine's drone assault ignites major oil refinery in Russia

AP

KYIV, UKRAINE: Ukraine kept up its heavy drone assault on Russia, setting fire to a major oil refinery in the south and killing at least two people, Russian authorities said Sunday.

Ukraine has markedly stepped up its long-range attacks on Russian military industries and energy facilities in recent months, aiming to cut Moscow's revenue for its invasion — now in its fifth year — and make Russians feel the consequences.

The campaign has choked Russian fuel supplies and military deliveries. According to Western analysts, it has also slowed Moscow's efforts on the battlefield, heaping pressure on the Kremlin to come to the negotiating table.

"Tonight, our 'long-range

sanctions' reached two oil refineries in Russia," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy wrote on the Telegram messaging app on Sunday. "Each (strike) means a reduction in the resources that fuel the Russian war machine, and another step toward peace."

Debris from downed Ukrainian drones sparked a blaze at the refinery in Slavyansk-na-Kubani, a town in Russia's Krasnodar region, east of occupied Crimea, according to Gov. Veniamin Kondratyev. The falling debris killed one person in Slavyansk and injured another in a nearby village, according to regional authorities.

The Slavyansk site is one of southern Russia's major refineries, processing close to 4 million tons of crude per year, according to its operator's website. It is also a key source of

petroleum products intended for export through Russia's Black Sea ports, including fuel oil, naphtha and marine fuel.

Photos and videos circulating on Russian social media showed a thick cloud of smoke over what users said was the Slavyansk facility. The Associated Press was not immediately able to verify the images.

Zelenskyy also claimed that a second Russian refinery, in the Yaroslavl region around 700 kilometers (435 miles) from the Ukrainian border, was hit during the nighttime strikes.

There were no immediate reports from Russian authorities about the Ukrainian strike on the Yaroslavl refinery. Local Gov. Mikhail Evraev reported on Sunday morning that some roads between Moscow and the region's capital, Yaroslavl,

were temporarily closed due to "an enemy attack by Ukrainian drones".

Yaroslavl's airport also briefly closed overnight, along with others in southern and western Russia, according to the country's civil aviation agency.

Elsewhere, Ukrainian drone strikes killed one person and injured another in Russia's border region of Belgorod, its acting Gov. Alexander Shuyayev reported on Sunday.

Russia's Defense Ministry said its forces shot down 213 Ukrainian drones during the night, including over Russia, occupied Crimea and the Black and Azov seas.

Meanwhile, Russia attacked Ukraine with 142 long-range strike drones and eight missiles overnight, according to the Ukrainian air force. Of those,



125 drones and seven missiles were struck down, the air force said.

## Dialogue, Democratic Reforms, and Public Welfare in Azad Jammu & Kashmir

For more than two weeks, the strike led by the Action Committee in Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) has continued, affecting the daily lives of ordinary citizens. While governments have a responsibility to maintain law and order, they also have an obligation to ensure that essential goods—including food, medicines, and infant formula—reach the people without interruption. Reports and public observations have indicated that trucks carrying these essential supplies have been stopped or delayed at various locations, creating hardships for families, patients, and children. Regardless of the political situation, access to basic necessities should

never become a casualty of political disputes.

It is important to recognize that not every resident of Azad Jammu & Kashmir is a member or supporter of the Action Committee. Ordinary citizens should not be made to suffer because of disagreements between the government and political groups. The protection of public welfare must remain the government's highest priority.

Although several demands of the Action Committee have reportedly been accepted, one of its most significant concerns remains unresolved: the 12 reserved refugee seats in the Azad Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly. Critics argue that these seats have, at different times,

influenced changes in government through party defections by elected representatives. Such developments have raised questions about democratic accountability and public trust in the political system.

If the government and state institutions believe that abolishing these reserved seats is not a practical option, they should instead introduce meaningful legal reforms. A reasonable solution would be to pass legislation requiring any representative elected on one of these seats to resign before changing political parties. Only after resigning

should they be free to join another party and seek public support again. Such a reform would strengthen democratic values, discourage political opportunism, and increase public confidence in elected institutions.

Another development that deserves attention is the reaction of the overseas Kashmiri community. For decades, overseas Kashmiris, particularly in the United Kingdom, have organized demonstrations outside the Indian High Commission to express their views on the Kashmir issue. However, according to participants

and observers, this is the first time in approximately 75 years that overseas Kashmiris have protested outside the Pakistani High Commission. This development reflects the depth of frustration felt by some members of the diaspora regarding the current situation. It also highlights the importance of addressing public concerns through meaningful engagement and dialogue.

History demonstrates that prolonged political crises can create instability and provide opportunities for external actors to exploit internal divisions. For this reason, all stakeholders should learn from past experiences and work to resolve disputes peacefully through constitutional and democratic means rather than

allowing tensions to escalate.

The current situation requires wisdom, patience, and responsible leadership from all sides. Constructive dialogue, democratic reforms, and respect for the welfare of ordinary citizens offer the best path toward a lasting solution. A peaceful resolution based on mutual understanding will not only strengthen democratic institutions but also restore public confidence and protect the interests of the people of Azad Jammu & Kashmir.

The writer is a Editor of Daily The Spokesman, Editor, Daily IMROZE, Founder President, Tourism Association of Pakistan, Convener FPCCI standing committee on Heritage & Hospitality. He can be reached at naveedspeaksman@gmail.com



Naveed Ahmad Khan

## 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

# Pakistan-Iran Trade Reset: Barter Deals Could Unlock a \$36 Billion Neighbor Market

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: SAARC chamber of commerce and industry former president Iftikhar Ali Malik on Sunday said now its high time, Pakistan must unlock vast trade potential of \$36 billion Iran market through enhanced barter trade in the wake of landmark US-Iran peace. In a statement here today he said the easing of geopolitical tensions is poised to revive regional commerce, strengthen investor confidence and create a conducive environment for enhancing Pakistan-Iran economic cooperation.

Pakistan, sharing a 900-kilometre border with Iran, is well positioned to significantly increase bilateral trade by promoting barter particularly in border regions, he added. He said barter trade offers a practical solution to overcome payment constraints while reducing dependence on foreign exchange. It will particularly benefit small and medium enterprises, border communities and exporters seeking access to a large



neighbouring market. He was of the opinion timely policy reforms and proactive engage-

ment counterparts would enable Pakistan to capitalize on emerging opportunities and strengthen long-term economic integration with its western neighbour.

Iftikhar Ali Malik said Pakistan has tremendous export potential in rice, textiles, surgical instruments, sports goods, pharmaceuticals, processed food including Zia snacks, fruits, vegetables, halal meat, leather products and engineering goods.

In return, Pakistan can import petroleum products, petrochemicals, fertilizers, minerals and other industrial raw materials from Iran under mutually beneficial arrangements.

He urged the both countries to accelerate the establishment of border markets, improve customs procedures, enhance transport connectivity and facilitate business-to-business interactions. He also called for the revival of joint economic commissions and regular trade exhibitions to identify new investment opportunities and promote joint ventures.

## New Arrival

ISLAMABAD: A vendor sells Lychees in fruit and vegetable wholesale market, sector I-II in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Chinese Importers Eager for High-Quality Pakistani Snacks, says FPCCI Official

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Convener Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Regional Committee on Food, Shahid Imran, on Sunday said that Chinese importers are showing keen interest in buying top-quality Pakistani snacks that meet international food safety and quality standards.

According to a message received here today from China Pak food delegation from south Punjab currently touring china at the invitation of Chinese importers to explore export markets and ink joint ventures and collaboration in food production. He said Zia snacks are in great demand in Chinese markets because of its excellent standard with best taste and flavours. He said Pakistan's food processing industry has made remarkable progress in producing a wide range of premium



snacks, including potato chips, corn snacks, biscuits, confectionery and traditional savory products that have strong export potential in the Chinese market.

He hoped with effective government support, improved logistics and strict compliance with international standards, Pakistan's snack industry could significantly increase its exports to China, earning valuable foreign exchange while creating employment opportunities and strengthening the country's food export sector.

## RCCI Urges Banks to Boost MSME Financing for more job creation at World MSME Day

Commerce Desk

RAWALPINDI: President of the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), Usman Shaukat, has called on commercial banks to significantly increase financing for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), describing them as the backbone of Pakistan's economy and a key driver of employment, innovation and exports.

Addressing the World MSME Day 2026 ceremony at Chamber House, organized jointly by the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) and RCCI, he said MSMEs currently receive only 7 percent of commercial bank lending, despite their immense contribution to economic growth. "It is time for commercial banks to play a more proactive role in supporting MSMEs. Investing in small businesses is investing in Pakistan's economic future," he remarked.

The event was attended by Rizwan Khaleel Shamsi, Chief Manager State Bank of Pakistan, Rawalpindi, RCCI Senior Vice President Khalid Farooq Qazi, Vice President Fahad Barlas, District Officer SMEDA Mohammad Asghar Nasar, representatives of trade associations, financial institutions, academia, women and young entrepreneurs, and members of the business community.

Speaking on the occasion, Mohammad Asghar Nasar highlighted SMEDA's ongoing initiatives, including business development services, entrepreneurship support, policy advocacy, export promotion, access to finance facilitation and capacity-building programs aimed at strengthening Pakistan's MSME sector.



Participants discussed key challenges facing MSMEs, including access to finance, business formalization, digitalization, exports and regulatory hurdles. The ceremony concluded with a renewed commitment from all stakeholders to foster an enabling business environment, strengthen entrepreneurship and promote sustainable economic growth through a vibrant MSME ecosystem.

## SITE Hyderabad Alarms Over Drainage Crisis as Factory Units Face Flood Risk

Commerce Desk

HYDERABAD: SITE Association of Trade and Industry Chairman Zubair Ghangra has expressed serious concern over severe drainage problems in Hyderabad's SITE industrial area, warning that inactivity at the Darya Khan Pumping Station has left roads inundated and water entering factories.

Ghangra said accumulated water is now flowing into industrial units due to high canal levels and backflow, threatening production, machinery, raw materials, power systems and other assets.

"If immediate steps are not taken, industries will face production losses and valuable assets could be severely damaged," he



cautioned. He noted that SITE Hyderabad is a major industrial hub employing thousands. Standing water is disrupting raw material deliveries, finished goods dispatch and worker movement, while also damaging newly built roads and ongoing development works funded from the national exchequer.

## Federal Ombudsman urges swift action as Pakistan braces for heavy monsoon rains

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Coordinator to the Federal Tax Ombudsman Saif Ur Rehman on Sunday called for prompt action and timely precautionary measures as floods and landslides loom across different parts of the country amid forecasts of more heavy rainfall than previous year during the ongoing monsoon season.

In a statement here today he said vulnerable communities residing near rivers, streams and hilly areas should be informed well in advance about potential risks through effective early warning systems. He also called for the immediate clearing of drainage channels, strengthening of embankments and deployment of emergency response



teams in flood-prone regions. He

appealed to citizens to strictly follow weather advisories, avoid unnecessary travel to high-risk areas and cooperate with local authorities during emergency operations.

He said public awareness and community participation are essential in reducing the impact of natural disasters. He stressed the need for coordinated

efforts among rescue services, district administrations and relevant departments to minimize loss of life and property. He hoped that with proactive planning, improved coordination and timely preventive measures, Pakistan can effectively mitigate the adverse effects of monsoon-related floods and landslides while safeguarding lives, infrastructure and livelihoods.

## Structural Reforms Key to Boosting Exports, Not Just Incentives: PFC CEO



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Chief Executive Officer Pakistan Furniture Council, Mian Kashif Ashfaq (Tamgha-i-Imtiaz), on Sunday said that incentives alone would not be sufficient to boost exports unless its deeper structural constraints were addressed on a priority and consistent economic policies were pursued without interruption.

Chairing here today a board of directors meeting he said with pragmatic reforms, improved ease of doing business and close public-private sector collaboration, Pakistan can substantially increase its exports, strengthen economic stability and create ample employment opportunities. He urged the government to adopt a comprehensive export-led growth strategy focusing on value addition, technological modernization, product diversification and skill development. Special attention, he added, should be accorded to promoting the furniture industry, which has significant potential to earn valuable foreign exchange due to its craftsmanship and growing global demand. He said long-term policy consistency is vital for restoring investors' confidence and enabling exporters to make sustainable business and investment decisions. Frequent policy shifts, he observed, discourage industrial expansion and weaken export performance. He said Pakistan possesses immense export potential, but businesses continue to face challenges including high production costs, expensive energy, limited access to finance, cumbersome taxation, inadequate infrastructure and regulatory bottlenecks. Removing these barriers, he said, is essential to enhance the competitiveness of Pakistani products in international markets.

# Banned JAAC: An Open Letter to UN

The international community must recognize that AJK's crisis is being dangerously misrepresented by the banned JAAC, which rejects electoral democracy and relies on mob rule rather than the ballot box. The government has already conceded thirty-five of thirty-eight demands, including subsidized electricity and flour, while the sole outstanding issue—twelve reserved seats for refugees from Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK)—is purely constitutional and cannot be settled by street pressure, yet JAAC refuses legal processes. Financially, AJK collects only 65 billion rupees against 350 billion in expenses, with Pakistan covering the entire deficit, making JAAC's claim that reserved seats consume local funds absurd; geographically, the river Jehlum originates in IIOJK and merely flows through AJK, yet JAAC wants its hydropower benefits while denying representation to those same refugees, exposing clear hypocrisy. The group's timber stick cultural claim is false, and their June 9th march, aimed at an armed attack on Muzaffarabad, was halted at Rawalakot to prevent bloodshed, while their threatened UN petition misrepresents the issue, as the actual violations stem from JAAC's own

violent tactics. Experts have proposed making AJK a full Pakistani province to permanently cancel the reserved seats and grant greater NFC benefits and national assembly representation—a democratic path JAAC rejects in favor of violence, which has severely harmed ordinary citizens by shutting down tourism and businesses, blocking students from schools, patients from hospitals, and laborers from earning, while internet blackouts and soaring grocery prices (higher than nearby Pakistani cities) have created a severe economic crisis—these are the genuine human rights abuses committed by JAAC. India and its media are celebrating this chaos, revealing JAAC's dubious allegiances, though common AJK residents are isolating from the group and yearning for normalcy. Pakistan entirely sustains AJK, which produces nothing on its own and would collapse without Pakistani supplies; despite this, JAAC leaders have disgracefully insulted the martyrs from all Pakistani provinces who died for Kashmir and have even incited Kashmiri soldiers in the Pak Army to rebel—an act of treason. Nevertheless, the overwhelming love of Kashmiris for Pakistan and the Pak Army remains unbreakable, and analysts assert that this militant faction must be dealt with firmly for their

betrayal and destruction. The banned JAAC is treating both India and Pakistan with the same scale, which is completely unfair and unjust. The great and positive role of Pakistan for AJK and the atrocities of India in IIOJK are in front of the whole world. The ultimate destiny for Kashmiris is Pakistan, and they reject all those elements who want to make divisions between Pakistan and AJK. The banned JAAC is making a hole in the same plate in which it is eating, biting the hand that feeds it. The banned JAAC is sowing the seeds of division and hate into the minds of Kashmiris for Pakistan. People and analysts say that in the current financial crisis, it is extremely difficult for a person to move from one city to another as it costs too much, but the banned JAAC is mobilizing groups of people in AJK without any apparent financial issues. For people and experts, this clearly shows that they are getting foreign funding from our enemies and using this money to sabotage the peace of AJK. The actions of the banned JAAC have now converted into armed violence and open betrayal against the State and its

institutions. Spreading hate, division, and negativity among the society is not the welfare of the society and is not a matter of human rights; it is a matter of national security and survival. It should also be noted that the situation in AJK is quite different from that of IIOJK. IIOJK is facing worse atrocities and human rights violations from the Indian government, while in AJK, the banned JAAC has created this artificial situation and is involved in human rights violations and betrayal just because of its unlawful and unrealistic demands. The role of the State in the case of AJK has been remarkable, and it has shown remarkable patience and restraint in dealing with this group. The heinous actions of the banned JAAC are far away from people's rights. In simple words, the actions like burning Pakistani flags, chanting slogans against Pakistan and the Pak Army, asking Kashmiris serving in the Pak Army to do insurgency and fight against Pakistan, attacking civilian and government assets, attacking hospitals, cross-firing on law enforcement agencies, threats of throwing the law enforcement agencies and Pak Army personnel into the

Mangla Dam, threats of a mob attack on Muzaffarabad and Islamabad, and many other such acts are not people's rights. In simple words, these heinous actions are the worst form of terrorism, and such actions are strictly treated even anywhere in the world. The people of AJK are demanding the government to revive the State's writ and want to get rid of such violent protests which are badly violating human rights, destroying the historical and exemplary peace of AJK, and destroying the business and routine activities of the region. The internet is closed in AJK, and it is just because of the banned JAAC and their false propaganda against the State and its institutions. The banned JAAC has pushed AJK into ancient and stone times, halting all progress. The leaders and members of the banned JAAC sitting in a sit-in in Rawalakot are posing a great threat to the State and its writ. They are chanting and delivering speeches openly against the State, Pakistan, and the Pak Army. They are targeting law enforcement agencies and, in a desperate act, using children and women as human shields. According to security sources, they also have weapons. Just for the sake of legal and constitutional matters, they have disturbed and hijacked the entire state. The so-called movement which was started on the name of people's rights

has now converted into an insurgency and armed movement against the State and its machinery. Also, drawing a resemblance of the Rawalakot sit-in with the tragedy of Karbala from a few elements is also wrong and does not match with the true spirit of Karbala. Here in the Rawalakot sit-in case, according to the teachings of Islam and civilized norms, it is very clear that the State is right and the protestors are wrong. The State has shown utmost tolerance and patience, but now people say that if the government decides to treat such riots strictly, then such a decision will be warmly welcomed by the people of AJK as it will be aimed to ensure peace in the state and restore the human rights and the writ of the state. The mature people of AJK are showing isolation from the banned JAAC because of its violent and anti-state actions. The people of AJK demand the government to get rid of the lives of the people from the dirty actions of the banned JAAC. The people of AJK also demand the UN and the world to take serious notice of the human rights violations of the banned JAAC in AJK and appeals to the UN and the world to label the banned JAAC as an internationally banned terrorist group. This is the only way to ensure peace and stability in the region.



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

## Why Education Needs the Spirit of Karbala

It is heartening to see that every year millions of people across the world commemorate the supreme sacrifice of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA). Yet, I often find myself asking a simple question: have we confined Karbala to history and remembrance while overlooking its immense educational significance? I may be wrong, but I think one of the greatest shortcomings of contemporary education is that we have become remarkably successful at producing knowledgeable individuals without paying equal attention to producing men and women of character. Being a corporate communicator turned educationist, I have had the privilege of witnessing two very different worlds. One measured success largely through competition, profit and perfor-

mance; the other often measures it through grades, examinations and academic achievement. While both have their strengths, they frequently overlook the very qualities that sustain individuals and societies alike—integrity, compassion, justice, courage and service to humanity. This realization led me to reflect more deeply upon the timeless legacy of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA). His stand at Karbala was not merely a defining moment in Islamic history; it was an enduring lesson in ethical leadership. It demonstrated that knowledge, however vast, loses its purpose when divorced from character. Knowledge becomes truly meaningful only when it is guided by integrity, compassion and an unwavering commitment to truth. Modern education understandably places great emphasis on academic

excellence and professional competence. These are essential objectives. However, they represent only one dimension of education. The ultimate purpose of learning is not simply to equip individuals with skills to earn a livelihood, but to cultivate the wisdom and moral conviction to use those skills in the service of truth, justice and humanity. Among the most profound lessons of Karbala is that true leadership is never measured by popularity, influence or worldly success. It is measured by the courage to stand for what is right, even when standing alone; by remaining faithful to principles when compromise appears convenient; and by

choosing truth over acceptance, justice over expediency, and service over self-interest. Knowledge without character may produce skilled professionals, but knowledge guided by character produces ethical leaders, responsible citizens and compassionate human beings. Our schools and universities should aspire to nurture both intellectual excellence and moral excellence. After all, societies do not flourish merely because their people are educated; they flourish because their education is anchored in values. The enduring message of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) reminds us that

truth must never be sacrificed for acceptance, nor principles abandoned for popularity. In an age where social approval often overshadows ethical responsibility, this lesson has become more relevant than ever. Moral courage is not a historical virtue confined to Karbala; it is an indispensable quality for every generation. For some time now, I have been striving to promote these timeless educational values through newspaper articles, educational posters and social media campaigns. God willing, I shall continue this endeavour because I firmly believe that the teachings of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) offer not only spiritual inspiration but also a practical framework for character education and ethical leadership in our schools and communities. Let me conclude with a simple

thought. The world today does not suffer from a shortage of knowledge; it suffers from a shortage of wisdom, integrity and compassion. If education can successfully combine knowledge with character, achievement with humility, and success with service, it will have fulfilled its highest purpose. After all, knowledge fills the mind, but character guides the conscience. Education worthy of its name must strive to cultivate both. *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.*



Analysis

Muhammad Rabnawaz Awan

## The Water Wars of the AI Age

In the past, the wars were fought to seize territory, oil and strategic influence. Global wars were characterized by large merchant fleets, weapons and naval forces. Their armies were easily fulfilled by mere food or small amount of water from a pond. Whereas the modern governments are racing to develop powerful technologies, digital eco-systems, and computing infrastructures to showcase their dominance in the global world. Simultaneously, the world is seeing the rise of a transformative technology – Artificial intelligence that will transform the battlegrounds. Yet amid the innovative excitement surrounding AI's power, a concerning question remains unresolved: what about the unquenchable thirst of AI when water runs out? Water, the source of life, has become indispensable to the working of these hegemonic data centers, complex ecosystems and algorithms. According to United Nations, by 2030, the global data centers powering artificial intelligence water usage will be equal to the needs of 1.3 billion people. It posits that water will not only become central to survival, but it will also become a 'national security concern'. The giant tech companies are deliberately creating situations of drought and famine vis-à-vis massive data centers to create a cycle of 'dependency', where people become dependent on these

companies for even a single drop of water. The problem is not the usage of water, but it is the placement of these data-centers within drought-stricken areas. The same data centers in Scotland with rain all around the year consuming 1 million gallons of water supposedly do not pose a problem, but as soon as they are built in drought prone areas like Nevada or Arizona – the consumerism of one-million-gallon water is a threat to the living ecosystem. Water is already an issue on a global scale, nearly half the world and population already suffers from acute water shortage for at least part of the year. While more than two billions of people suffer from no access to safe and regulated drinking water. From the Colorado river in the United States to the Nile River in Egypt or the Indus River in South-Asia, water insecurity is emerging as a 'national security concern'. Yet, AI progress and innovation are happening, as if the Earth has unlimited reservoirs of water. Artificial intelligence's water dependency is already encroaching the people's access to their right for clean water without consent. There is an inherent lack of global and national governing mechanisms that asks critical questions like why are these data centers being built in climate-affected areas or who bears the cost of their water



usage, and how are they held accountable. The global technological companies like Google, Microsoft Azure, and Nvidia data centers in United States have alone estimated to consume 626 million liters of water in 2021, yet the real climatic impact remains unhidden. Now, the people living near these massive AI data centers are experiencing the results like change of rainfall pattern, more droughts, immense noise and light pollution, and the deteriorating quality of 'drinkable water'. This pattern reflects that AI's revolution is a not a merely technical competition, but it is also a race for 'natural resources'. And among these resources, 'water' has become the most strategically important feature. This perpetuates a troubling paradox for the national

security that the world is embracing such a technology whose expansion is dependent on a resource (water) that is becoming increasingly scarce. Previously, the word 'water wars' itself sounded like a hyperbole at a time, but it appears to be more and more possible today. Overtime, the access to freshwater may become a central element in the geographical location of AI. This creates a new form of strategic competition, where having best technology is not the sign of superiority, but it is the resources that makes the national dominance possible. The contrasting paradox has devastating consequences for developing countries, particularly in the global south that are already 'water-stressed'. Whilst these states are

looking to integrate AI as a part of digital economy, they risk complete drying up off their water resources. Along with intense water vulnerability, the south is also an acute victim of climate change, population growth, trans-boundary water disputes, and lack of transparency. As a result, the objectives of the progressing countries may collide that may lead to further turbulent domestic conditions. However, it simultaneously raises various national concerns that if the South does not integrate these technologies due to water dependency—they will be left behind in this digital age or should developing countries foremost prioritize water resilience projects, before moving towards AI incorporation. This dilemma is not limited to developing countries of the South, even the most progressive nations like United States is beginning to encounter tensions between AI expansionism and environmental sustainability. The issue therefore, transcends the traditional environmental debates where the AI technology itself is a danger to the global ecosystem. Rather it has become more complicated where its elimination risks sending country to the stone ages, whereas its amalgamation in national economy endangers the survivability of living beings. What makes the identification of underlying threats within AI is the 'invisibility

factor, where most people, nations, and communities view it as an innovation or progress. Few perceive these hegemonic AI data centers a threat to national resources, national influence and national sovereignty. In summarization, the global future is not entirely dependent upon the breakthrough of more competitive AI machinery, but also on the access to critical resources like water, energy and semi-conductors. This highlights how AI is not reducing geographical borders rather it is becoming increasingly dependent upon them for its survival. As data centers and several AI apps proliferate digital ecosystems, national governments are finding themselves in a conundrum – where they are tackling economic competitiveness along with environmental sustainability and resource scarcity. Amidst this backdrop, the greatest irony is that the human's most magnificent invention is itself a great threat to their survival, and is highly dependent on the most basic necessity of life – water. Thus, the policymakers must treat AI as an interdisciplinary instead of solely as a digital error. The future of AI will not only be determined by powerful algorithms or massive data-centers; it will also be determined by 'who controls the tap'. *The writer is BS International Relations graduate from National Defense University, Islamabad. An aspiring researcher who is focused on building expertise in foreign policy, human rights and nuclear security studies.*

## Israel's Mission Impossible

Continued from Page 4

would remain powerful, but it would be a more vulnerable, more expensive, more isolated, and more constrained military power. The recent U. S. attempt to restrain Israeli action against Lebanon shows that Washington still has leverage. Israel may resent that leverage, but it cannot easily escape it. If the price of independence is the weakening of its air force, the squeezing of its economy, the reduction of civilian prosperity, and the erosion of its ability to sustain long occupations, then independence becomes less a strategy and more a self-inflicted wound. Israel therefore faces a choice. It can continue chasing permanent military dominance at the cost of economic balance, regional stability, and moral legitimacy. Or it can accept the limits of force, respect international boundaries, reduce occupation, and become a responsible member of the international community. The wiser path is not to militarize the economy further, but to demilitarize national thinking.

The lesson is clear: Israel cannot bomb its way into permanent security, nor can it easily break away from the country that underwrites its military power. Military independence from the United States may sound like strategic courage, but in reality it would expose Israel's deepest dependency. For Israel, the path to security does not lie in endless expansion or in defying its principal ally. It lies in restraint, diplomacy, lawful borders, and recognition that no state can build lasting security by living permanently at war with its neighborhood. Israel's mission impossible is not merely military independence from America. Its real mission impossible is trying to remain economically prosperous, militarily dominant, politically unrestrained, and regionally expansionist all at the same time. That equation cannot hold forever. *The writer is Press Secretary to the President (Rtd), Former Press Minister, Embassy of Pakistan to France, Former Press Attaché to Malaysia and Former MD, SRBC. He is living in Michigan, USA.*

## Creating a Collaborative School ..

Continued from Page 4

earnings to real-world challenges and encourage practical application of classroom knowledge. They also help schools access additional resources and expertise. Technology has emerged as a powerful tool for promoting collaboration and innovation. Digital platforms enable teachers to share resources, communicate effectively, and collaborate beyond geographical boundaries. Students can work together on projects, access diverse learning materials, and connect with experts worldwide. In Pakistan, expanding access to educational technology can significantly enhance collaborative learning opportunities, particularly in remote areas. Despite its benefits, creating a collaborative school culture presents challenges. Resistance to change, limited resources, heavy workloads, and traditional mindsets can hinder collaborative efforts. Some educators may be reluctant to share practices or adopt new approaches. Over-

coming these barriers requires strong leadership, professional development, and a clear vision for school improvement. Teacher training institutions must also emphasize collaboration as a professional competency. Future educators should learn how to work in teams, engage in reflective practice, and contribute to professional learning communities. Developing these skills during teacher preparation programs can facilitate the creation of collaborative school cultures. Policy support is equally important. Educational authorities should encourage collaborative practices through curriculum frameworks, professional development initiatives, and school evaluation systems. Recognition and incentives for innovative and collaborative schools can further motivate educational institutions to adopt these approaches. In the context of Pakistan, collaborative school cultures can contribute significantly to educational quality and national development. Schools that promote cooperation, innovation,

and shared responsibility are better equipped to address educational challenges and prepare students for a rapidly changing world. Such environments foster creativity, adaptability, and lifelong learning – qualities essential for success in the modern era. In conclusion, creating a collaborative school culture is fundamental to fostering innovation and educational excellence. When teachers, students, parents, administrators, and communities work together, schools become vibrant centers of learning and creativity. Collaboration strengthens professional growth, enhances student achievement, and encourages innovative thinking. For Pakistan, investing in collaborative educational environments can help transform schools into institutions that not only impart knowledge but also inspire future generations to become creative, responsible, and productive members of society. *The writer holds a PhD in Media Sciences, Rawalpindi. Email: maliktariq.media@gmail.com*

## Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Finance and Railways, Bilal Azhar Kayani, chairs a consultative meeting regarding the two Jhelum-related seats in the Azad Jammu and Kashmir elections.



Photo: PID

## PPP reveals full list of 35 candidates for AJK Legislative Assembly elections

## Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) on Sunday officially announced its candidates for the 2026 elections to the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Legislative Assembly, fielding nominees in 35 constituencies across the region.

According to the party's list, candidates have been nominated for constituencies in Mirpur, Bhimber, Kotli, Bagh, Sudhnoti, Poonch, Neelum Valley, Muzaffarabad, Jammu refugee seats and Valley refugee constituencies.

In the Mirpur Division, the PPP awarded tickets to Afsar Shahid (LA-1 Mirpur-I), Qasim Majeed (LA-2 Mirpur-II/Chakswari), Yasser Sultan (LA-3 Mirpur City), Chaudhry Sohaib Arshad (LA-4 Khari Sharif) and Chaudhry Pervez Ashraf



(LA-5 Bhimber-I/Barnala).

For the Kotli Division, Malik Zafar will contest from LA-8, Javed Iqbal Bhadhanvi from LA-9, Chaudhry Yasin from both LA-10 and LA-12, and Chaudhry Akhlaq from

LA-11.

The party also named Sardar Qamar Zaman, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, Sardar Amjad Yousaf, Sardar Saud Sadiq, Sardar Yaqoob, Sardar Muhammad Abid Khan

and Sardar Faheem Akhtar Rabbani as its candidates for various constituencies in Bagh, Sudhnoti and Poonch.

In Neelum Valley and Muzaffarabad, tickets were awarded to Mian Abdul

Waheed, Sardar Javed Ayub, Syed Bazil Naqvi, Sardar Mukhtar Ahmed Khan, Mubashir Munir Awan, Ashfaq Zafar and Dewan Ali Chughtai.

For the Jammu refugee constituencies, the party nominated retired Colonel Qadeer Chauhan, Chaudhry Asif Gujar, Chaudhry Ahsan Ismail Gujar, Shaheen Kausar Dar, Raja Shahid Iqbal Advocate and Chaudhry Fakhar Zaman.

Meanwhile, Amir Abdul Ghaffar Lone, Ghulam Abbas Mir, Javed Butt, Muhammad Rashid Islam Butt and Abdul Majeed Khan were nominated for the Valley refugee seats.

The party leadership directed all candidates to launch a vigorous election campaign and expressed confidence that the PPP would secure victory in the AJK elections with strong public support.

## KPT Records Highest-Ever Cargo Volume in 138-Year History

## Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry on Sunday said Karachi Port Trust (KPT) has achieved the highest annual cargo handling volume in its 138-year history, calling it a sign of a growing maritime sector and improved port efficiency.

Chaudhry said KPT surpassed its previous record of 54.685 million tonnes during the current fiscal year. He attributed the milestone to enhanced operational efficiency, effective management and expanded port capacity.

The minister described the record as significant progress for Pakistan's maritime economy, infrastructure



and trade. He said it reflects the success of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs' reform agenda and KPT's profes-

sional capabilities.

He congratulated KPT Chairman Rear Admiral (R) Shahid Ahmed, the

port's officers, employees and stakeholders, crediting "coordinated planning, teamwork and sustained

efforts" for the achievement. Chaudhry added that the government is pursuing measures to modernize ports, expand capacity, strengthen logistics and align facilities with international standards to boost Pakistan's position as a regional maritime and trade hub.

He reaffirmed the ministry's commitment to modernizing all national ports, attracting investment and promoting trade to support growth.

KPT Chairman Rear Admiral Shahid Ahmed also lauded the workforce, saying the result reflects professionalism, strategy and teamwork, and pledged continued efforts to further improve performance and competitiveness.

## Former PHC Bar General Secretary Imran Khan Matta Joins PML-N with Thousands of Supporters

## Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Advocate Imran Khan Matta, former General Secretary of the Peshawar High Court Bar and a prominent lawyer, formally joined the Pakistan Muslim League (N) along with his family and thousands of supporters during a meeting at Federal Minister Engineer Amir Muqam's residence in Peshawar Cantonment.

Engineer Amir Muqam, Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON and PML-N KP President, welcomed Matta into the party by presenting him with the party cap and congratulated him on the decision. Paying tribute to the legal



community, Muqam said lawyers have always played a pivotal role in upholding constitutional supremacy and the rule of law.

Speaking at the event, Advocate Matta expressed full confidence in PML-N leadership. He said that under PML-N President Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, and Engineer Amir Muqam, he would actively advance the party's vision, manifesto, and public service mission.

Also present were Peshawar High Court Bar General Secretary Ashfaq Ahmad Dadozai, Muslim Lawyers Forum President Hidayatullah Khan, General Secretary Akbar Yousaf Khan, and other forum office-bearers.

## Saudi Aramco helicopter crash kills 14, state new agency says



## Agencies

A helicopter belonging to Saudi oil giant Aramco crashed on Sunday in Ras Tanura on Saudi Arabia's eastern coast on the Gulf, west of the Strait of Hormuz, killing 14 nationals, the state news agency reported, adding that the cause was unknown.

Aramco had resumed crude oil loadings on Friday at its Ras Tanura terminal in the Gulf after they were halted for nearly four months.

"The relevant authorities have launched a full investigation to deter-

mine the cause of the crash," the state news agency added.

Aramco did not respond immediately to an emailed request for comment. The incident took place at 6 am local time (0300 GMT), the state agency said, without providing further details.

Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, has joined a rush to move cargoes after Middle East producers ramped up oil and gas output and exports ahead of an interim deal to halt the war between the United States and Iran.

## More fuel price relief possible if global oil price falls further



## Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Petroleum Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik said the government has provided a subsidy of Rs130 billion to provide relief to the public and could extend further relief if global oil prices reach \$76 per barrel.

Speaking to reporters, Malik said the government was also working to reduce oil prices further.

He said people had been affected by the increase in petrol and diesel

prices. The government had passed on more relief to consumers than the decline in global oil prices, and, on the instructions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, public service remained the government's top priority.

On the Iran gas pipeline project, Malik said the matter was currently under trial in a court in Paris and that the government was effectively pursuing the case.

He said Pakistan would work with Iran to find a solution.

## Ishaq Dar offers condolences to Saudi Arabia over deadly helicopter crash



## City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Sunday held a telephonic conversation with the Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia, Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, to discuss regional developments and convey heartfelt condolences over the deaths in a tragic helicopter crash.

During the conversation, the deputy prime minister expressed sincere condolences on behalf of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, himself, the Government, and the people of Pakistan over the incident of a helicopter crash

in Saudi Arabia, which resulted in the loss of 14 precious lives.

Prince Faisal bin Farhan thanked Deputy Prime Minister Dar and deeply appreciated the brotherly gesture.

The two leaders also held an in-depth discussion on recent developments in the region and expressed deep concern over the evolving situation.

Dar reiterated Pakistan's resolve to continue working towards the prevalence of peace in the region in pursuance of the "Islamabad MoU".

Prince Faisal also conveyed that he planned to visit Pakistan on mutually convenient dates at the earliest. DPM Dar welcomed the announcement and expressed hope that the visit would materialise soon.