



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا ہے کہ جس نے میری امت کے ستر از ایسات تاکہ (راوی کو ان میں سے کسی ایک تھا اور ایک تک تھا) آری اس طرح وہاں ہوں گے کہ بعض بعض کو پکڑے ہوئے ہوں گے اور اس طرح ان میں سے اگلے پچھلے سب جنت میں داخل ہو جائیں گے اور ان کے چہرے پودھوں کی طرح چمکائی طرح روشن ہوں گے۔
(بخاری: صفحہ نمبر 6543)
Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



Elon Musk praises Pakistan's judiciary

Billionaire entrepreneur and X owner Elon Musk has sparked widespread discussion on social media after praising Pakistan's judicial system following a major court ruling in the high-profile motorway gang-rape case. Musk reacted to the decision of the Lahore High Court, which upheld the death sentences of two men convicted in the 2020 motorway gang-rape case.



Security concerns prompt ban on mango crates inside Sindh Secretariat

The Sindh government has imposed a ban on bringing mango crates into the Sindh Secretariat premises due to security concerns. According to an official notification, mango boxes will not be allowed inside the Secretariat building, including Barrack A-4 and B-4. The directive instructs security personnel to strictly enforce the orders and prevent the entry of any mango cartons into the premises under all circumstances.

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Review Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz chairs a review meeting on overall development of the national economy and implementation of National Tariff Policy on Thursday.



Photo: PID

PM directs authorities for effective NTP 2025-30 implementation

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday directed the authorities concerned to ensure the effective implementation of the National Tariff Policy (NTP) 2025-30 and modernize tariff-related institutions to facilitate investment, trade and industrial development. Chairing a high-level review meeting on the overall growth of the economy and the implementation of the National Tariff Policy 2025-30, the prime minister said achieving export-oriented development targets remained the government's foremost priority, a Prime Minister's Office news release

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif emphasized that an active and transparent National Tariff Commission was indispensable for promoting industry, trade and investment in the country. He instructed the commission to play a proactive role in facilitating investors and industrialists and called for institutional reforms based on international best practices. Prime Minister Shehbaz also directed the commission to adopt modern technologies, including Information Technology and Artificial Intelligence, to improve efficiency, transparency and service delivery.

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DPM Dar welcomes Sri Lanka's National Defence College delegation



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister / Foreign Minister (DP/FM), Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Thursday welcomed a delegation from the National Defence College of Sri Lanka who paid a call on him, here at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The delegation is visiting Pakistan as part of a foreign

study tour and received a briefing on Pakistan's foreign policy and regional challenges, a DPM's Office news release said. The DPM/FM wished the delegation a fruitful visit and pleasant stay in Pakistan. He underscored the importance Pakistan attaches to strengthening its relations with Sri Lanka across all domains.

Pakistan rejects claims of sharing Iran nuclear information with United States

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office on Thursday firmly rejected reports alleging that Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar shared information regarding Iran's nuclear programme during a recent meeting with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, describing the claims as speculative and baseless.

Speaking at a weekly press briefing, spokesperson Tahir Hussain Andrabi said the allegations were unfounded and appeared aimed at undermining ongoing diplomatic engage-



ments to ease US-Iran tensions. Andrabi said Dar's meeting with Rubio on May 29 included a detailed exchange of views on

developments in the Middle East and other regional issues. He added that Pakistan welcomed the United States'

constructive role in efforts to secure peace between Lebanon and Israel.

Referring to reports of a ceasefire agreement between Lebanon and Israel brokered through US efforts, the spokesperson described the development as encouraging and expressed hope for lasting peace in the region.

Responding to a question on the water aggression by India, Andrabi said Pakistan had taken note of reports that New Delhi had invited bids for the Chenab-Beas Link Tunnel project, which aims to divert up to 1.9 million acre-feet of water annu-

ally from the Chenab River to the Beas River.

He said any diversion of waters from the Chenab constituted a serious violation of the Indus Waters Treaty.

The spokesperson also raised concerns over a proposed sediment-flushing project at the Salal Dam, saying both initiatives violated the Indus Waters Treaty, the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, and international water laws.

According to Andrabi, India neither provided prior notification nor held consultations with Pakistan regarding the projects.

Continue on Page 7

JUI Challenges Child Marriage Law in Sharia Court Over Islamic Principles

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Pakistan (JUI) has filed a petition in the Federal Sharia Court challenging the Islamabad Capital Territory Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2025. The party argues that several provisions of the act contradict Islamic principles derived from the Quran and Sunnah, as well as Article 227 of the Constitution. JUI defines the definition of "child" as anyone under 18, asserting that Islamic jurisprudence recognizes puberty (Bulugh) as the marker for legal capacity, not a fixed age. They also object to the mandatory minimum marriage age of 18, the two-year minimum sentence, the classification of post-marital relations as child abuse in certain contexts, and the presumption of guilt against parents and guardians. JUI believes the law lacks judicial discretion for exceptional circumstances and fails to align with Islamic family law, guardianship, and marriage principles. They seek a review of the age definition, introduction of judicial discretion in sentencing, abolition of the presumption of guilt, and inclusion of mechanisms for judicial permission in extraordinary cases, urging the court to ensure the act conforms to Sharia.

Govt committed to protecting minority rights, promoting inclusive society: Attaullah Tarar



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Thursday reiterated the government's commitment to the protection of minority rights, saying consultations with representatives of minority and other communities play a vital role in ensuring that the views and needs of all citizens are effectively reflected in legislation and public policies.

He expressed these views during a meeting with a representative delegation of the Christian community, which was also attended by Federal

Minister for Law, Justice, and Human Rights Azam Nazeer Tarar.

The meeting featured a detailed discussion on minority rights, legal reforms, and issues related to the welfare of the Christian community.

Attaullah Tarar said the government was committed to promoting interfaith harmony, equal citizenship, and an inclusive society where every Pakistani, without discrimination, could contribute to national development.

The Christian community delegation appreciated the government's continued commitment to safeguarding the rights of minority communities and welcomed recent legislation, particularly the Child Marriage Restraint Act.

Speaking on the occasion, Federal Minister for Law, Justice and Human Rights Azam Nazeer Tarar said the consultative process was of great importance for promoting comprehensive legal and policy reforms.

Power Division rejects report on 'solar deterrent' tariff, says no plan to penalize industry

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Energy (Power Division) has refuted media claims about increasing fixed electricity charges to discourage solar energy adoption by industrial consumers, deeming the report "factually incorrect and misleading." The ministry clarified that no proposal penalizing industrial users for reduced grid consumption or for using solar energy was shared with the IMF. The report mistakenly interpreted an optional tariff framework under consideration. This proposed alternative tariff offers higher fixed charges and lower variable rates, differentiated by time, and is designed to be an optional choice for consumers, particularly beneficial for 24/7 operations. Consumers are free to choose this or continue with the existing tariff, with no compulsion or penalty for opting out or for adopting solar power. The ministry emphasized that public discourse should be based on accurate information, as misrepresenting an optional tariff as punitive measures creates unnecessary confusion.

PPP Chairman Vows Infrastructure and Health Reforms in GB Election Bid



Bureau Report

GILGIT: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari pledged to address the grievances of Gilgit Baltistan's people and usher in progress if voted into power. During an election campaign speech in Ghizer district, he outlined the PPP's public welfare agenda, promising radical improvements in infrastructure, including roads and power production, a survey for which was initiated by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. He drew parallels with the Sindh government's successes in the health sector, vowing to implement similar reforms in GB.

Bilawal highlighted his party's historical contributions to the region, such as Benazir Bhutto granting Ghizer district status and Asif Ali Zardari establishing its assembly, governor, and chief minister. He urged voters to elect a PPP majority, securing all three Ghizer seats on June 7, to ensure Islamabad respects GB's wishes and to secure the promised right to sovereignty and ownership of arable land. He also announced plans for a housing scheme in GB, similar to the Sindh People's Housing for Flood-Affected program, and reaffirmed the commitment to the right to employment.

Azad Kashmir PM extends olive branch to all parties, emphasizes refugee rights

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, said that all political parties, including the Action Committee, had been invited to the All Parties Conference for mutual consultation and to share their views.

He emphasized the integral role of refugees in the government and highlighted a joint resolution on their procedures that was unanimously adopted.

Addressing the Legislative Assembly, Rathore outlined the government's progress over seven months, including a comprehensive education package and ongoing development in remote areas such as the establishment of universities and improved infrastructure.

He reiterated his commitment to state affairs and negotiations, noting increased responsibilities in his current position. Rathore described the relationship with Pakistan as one of "love and mutual interest," asserting that Azad Kashmir enjoys more facilities than many Pakistani provinces. He



stressed the importance of understanding the state's position, resources, and capabilities for further development.

He added that his government has restored public confidence, improved governance, and opened the Prime Minister's House to the public, always prioritizing public interest. Reflecting on past tragedies caused by violations

of agreements, he urged the public to learn from such events to prevent future loss of life.

The government, he said, has taken steps to resolve issues by approving demands, making payments, and closing FIRs, aiming to bring the state out of chaos. Rathore stressed collective decision-making for the state's future and highlighted the PPP's commitment

to dialogue.

He called on citizens to recognize their responsibilities and consider the impact of current narratives on the state. During his seven-month tenure, he said, the government had strived to resolve all issues. He acknowledged the necessity of refugee representation, though he noted differing positions among parties.

Azad Kashmir PM Appoints Honorary Political Adviser for US

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, has appointed Khawaja Muhammad Farooq as his Honorary Political Adviser for the United States, according to an official notification issued by the Prime Minister's Secretariat. Khawaja Muhammad Farooq is a prominent member of the Pakistani and Kashmiri diaspora and editor of Pakistan Times. He is also a leading figure in the Pakistan Peoples Party and has remained actively engaged in promoting the party's vision and advocating the Kashmiri cause. His appointment has been widely welcomed by members of the Kashmiri diaspora community.



Azad Kashmir Bar and Journalists Call for Talks, Offer Mediation



Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Lawyers and journalists from Azad Kashmir have urged the Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and the People's Joint Action Committee to resume talks and have offered mediation to resolve the ongoing tension. Following a consultative session, they emphasized the need for patience, tolerance, and negotiation to protect lives and property, while warning against a repeat of the damages caused during past protests. They called for meaningful dialogue and suggested that both the government and the Action Committee soften their positions and sit together in the public interest. The Azad Kashmir Bar Council, Central Press Club, and Central Bar Association expressed readiness to facilitate negotiations across all districts, noting that lawyers and journalists remain deeply concerned about the current situation. They appealed to the federal government to constitute a negotiation committee and stressed that resolution should be sought through dialogue, understanding, and mutual respect, rather than confrontation. The bodies emphasized that state institutions and the public are integral to society and that conflict must be avoided. They proposed the formation of a reconciliation committee comprising representatives of the Bar Council, Press Club, and Bar Association to find an acceptable solution and restore peace, stability, and the rule of law.

JKDFP Slams Demolitions, Property Confiscations as Systematic Repression



Abdul Majeed Tahir

The Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (JKDFP) has voiced strong condemnation and grave concern regarding the recent property confiscations, seizures, and demolition campaigns carried out by Indian authorities in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. A DFP spokesman highlighted that these demolition drives, particularly impacting marginalized Gujjar and Bakarwal communities in Jammu, have left thousands homeless and are viewed as systematic repression and "colonial-era tactics" aimed at economic crippling and marginalization. The party also decries the attachment of properties belonging to human rights activists, intellectuals, and political leaders under laws like UAPA and money-laundering probes, which they argue fosters fear and trauma. Furthermore, the JKDFP expressed distress over the prolonged imprisonment of party president Shabir Ahmed Shah and other Kashmiri prisoners, urging international human rights organizations to advocate for their release from what they deem fabricated cases.

Multan Police Rejects Social Media Claims of Rift Between RPO, CPO

Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN: Multan Police has dismissed as baseless and misleading a number of claims and allegations circulating on social media regarding the department, clarifying that there is no truth to reports of differences, a cold war, or administrative tensions between the Regional Police Officer (RPO) Multan and the City Police Officer (CPO) Multan.

In a statement, the police said Multan Police is a well-organized institution where all administrative and professional affairs are conducted strictly in accordance with departmental rules and regulations. Appointments, transfers, disciplinary proceedings, and other administrative matters are handled under the relevant laws and prescribed procedures.

The statement further said that the spread of unverified information on social media appears aimed at creating public anxiety and fostering a false perception about the institution.

Multan Police reiterated that its primary focus remains the elimination of crime, protection of citizens' lives and property, and the delivery of effective policing services. Officers and personnel, it added, continue to perform their duties with professionalism and responsibility.

The department urged the public to refrain from believing rumors and unverified reports and instead seek information through the official channels of Multan Police.

Sub-National Polio drive reaches 18.6 mln children

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan successfully concluded its sub-national polio vaccination campaign in 79 districts of the country.

According to National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC), during the drive, polio drops were administered to more than 18.6 million children.

The campaign targeted selected districts across the country, vaccinating over 6.06 million children in 10 districts of Punjab, 5.74 million in 20 districts of Sindh, more than 4.39 million in 23 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and 1.96 million in 25 districts of Balochistan.

In Islamabad, nearly 435,000 children received polio vaccine drops. The NEOC reported that 2.1 percent of children were initially missed due to their absence from home during vaccination visits. However, extensive follow-up activities enabled teams to reach 88 percent of these missed children.

A polio review meeting, chaired by Prime Minister's Focal Person for Polio Eradication Ayesha Raza Farooq, assessed the campaign's performance.

She praised polio workers for their dedication, stating that the campaign's success was the result of their tireless efforts.

Press conference

QUETTA: Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Mehmood Khan Achakzai addressing a press conference at Quetta Press Club in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

AJK Assembly Backs Self-Determination, Condemns Indian Rights Abuses

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: The Legislative Assembly of Azad Jammu & Kashmir unanimously adopted a resolution moved by several ministers, reaffirming strong support for the right to self-determination of the people of Jammu & Kashmir in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions and international law.

The resolution condemned human rights violations and atrocities committed by Indian forces in Indian-administered Jammu & Kashmir, and deplored the illegal detention of Hurriyat leaders and political activists.

The Assembly emphasized that democratic continuity in Azad Jammu & Kashmir is the foundation of state stability and pledged to further



strengthen democratic institutions. While acknowledging political dissent as vital to democracy, it warned against its misuse to undermine state order or institutional processes. It called for tolerance, dialogue, and peaceful political struggle to ensure lasting peace in the region.

The Assembly valued national security institutions as key pillars of state stability and expressed concern over

India's alleged use of social media and organized propaganda to create rifts between state institutions and the democratic structure.

The resolution paid tribute to the sacrifices of Jammu & Kashmir refugees for the Kashmir freedom movement, i.e., Tehreek-e-Takmeel-e-Pakistan. It recognized their historical and constitutional representation in Pakistan, but noted that reforms to

address electoral complexities could be introduced through the Legislative Assembly in accordance with the Constitution.

Constitutional amendments were described as the exclusive prerogative of elected representatives and would follow a broad-based consultative process with political parties, bar associations, civil society, and constitutional experts.

Kashmiri Children's Suffering Ignored on International Day

Abdul Majeed Tahir.

Islamabad: On the "International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression," Mushtaq Ahmed Butt of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference highlighted the plight of Kashmiri children suffering under Indian occupation.

He stated that while the day globally commemorates children victimized by war and repression, Kashmiri children face ongoing atrocities with international indifference and criminal silence.

Decades of Indian military operations, sieges, and state repression have instilled fear and insecurity, robbing children of their childhoods, education, and futures, forcing an entire generation to grow up with peace as a distant



dream. Since 1989, hundreds of Kashmiri children have been killed by Indian forces, including infants, students, and teenagers. Over 105,000 Kashmiri children are orphans, and thousands have witnessed parents disappear.

Many families live in agony, awaiting news of missing relatives. These conditions violate international human rights principles. Butt detailed how Kashmiri children are deliberately

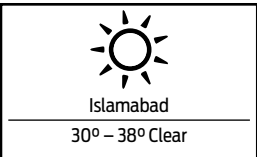
subjected to fear through raids on schools, night operations, arrests, torture, and the indiscriminate use of pellet guns, causing permanent physical and psychological disabilities, including blindness and severe mental trauma.

He expressed deep concern that the UN, human rights organizations, and world powers have failed to take effective action, questioning the credibility of the international human rights system.

The All Parties Hurriyat Conference urged the international community, UN, OIC, EU, and UNICEF to: 1. Immediately address human rights violations against children in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. 2. Dispatch a UN independent fact-finding mission

to investigate atrocities. 3. Increase diplomatic, political, and legal pressure on India to cease violence against children. 4. Establish a permanent international monitoring system for Kashmiri children's protection and rehabilitation. 5. Ensure accountability for those involved in severe human rights violations against children.

Butt appealed for global attention to the silent cries of Kashmiri children, who are denied justice, protection, dignity, and their right to self-determination. He warned that continued international inaction would make the world a silent spectator to a human tragedy, and called for a renewed commitment to championing the rights of oppressed children worldwide.



SERVICES
Namaz Timings

Fajr	3:16 am
Zohr	12:06 pm
Asr	5:05 pm
Maghrib	7:15 pm
Isha	8:57 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 & 4451122
& Rescue Services	9270831-5
Motorway Police	9266044
Motorway Police	9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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PIA Flight Info	114
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WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service	
E-7, F-10 & F-11	9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8	9203883

HESCO's Delayed Transformer Repair Leaves Daur's Model Colony in Darkness

Bureau Report

NAWABSHAH: An electricity transformer in Model Colony Loni of Daur has been damaged for three days. Due to the delay in repairing the transformer by HESCO Daur, the people of the area are deprived of electricity. Citizens are worried due to severe heat and shortage of drinking water. They have demanded the installation of a 200KV transformer from HESCO officials. According to the details, a 100KV transformer in Model Colony of Daur has been damaged for the last three days, due to which the people of the area are deprived of electricity. HESCO Daur has taken the transformer down for repair, but despite the passage of three days, the transformer has not been installed yet. Due to the lack of electricity, citizens are suffering from severe heat on one hand and on the other hand, they are also facing shortage of drinking water. General Counselor Dr. Syed Habib Ahmed Shah Jilani said that this electricity transformer breaks down every day, in the name of which HESCO Daur collects money. In the area, a 200KV transformer has been installed. A transformer is needed.

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif's Efforts Bear Fruit: Punjab Enters Agri Mechanization Era

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif's hectic efforts for

the development of agriculture and welfare of farmers in the province bore fruit, as Punjab has entered an era of agricultural mechanization. She noted that high-pow-



er green tractors, high-tech combined harvesters, and super seeders have reached fields of Punjab under her Green Tractor Scheme. She said that a subsidy of PKR 1 million is being provided on 9,500 high-power tractors; while 10,000 tractors ranging from 50 to 65 horsepower are being given to farmers with a subsidy of PKR 500,000. She directed the authorities concerned that 20,000 more green tractors should be provided to farmers in the next fiscal year; with a subsidy of PKR

1.5 million on high-horsepower tractors, and a subsidy of PKR 750,000 on tractors ranging from 50 to 65 horsepower.

Chief Minister Punjab said that for the first time in Punjab, a scheme offering interest-free loans up to PKR 30 million for the purchase of 12 types of high-tech machinery has been introduced; and noted that in Punjab, approximately 200 high-tech combined harvesters have been made available to farmers through interest-free loans.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said that agricultural mechanization will not only reduce costs but will also increase production. She was happy to note that the use of super seeders is clearly reducing environmental pollution; and the use of modern agricultural machinery has become indispensable for farmers. She underscored that they are also providing facilities for small farmers in Punjab to obtain modern agricultural machinery on rent.

Relief in summer

ISLAMABAD: Vehicles drive 9th Avenue during rain in the Federal Capital.

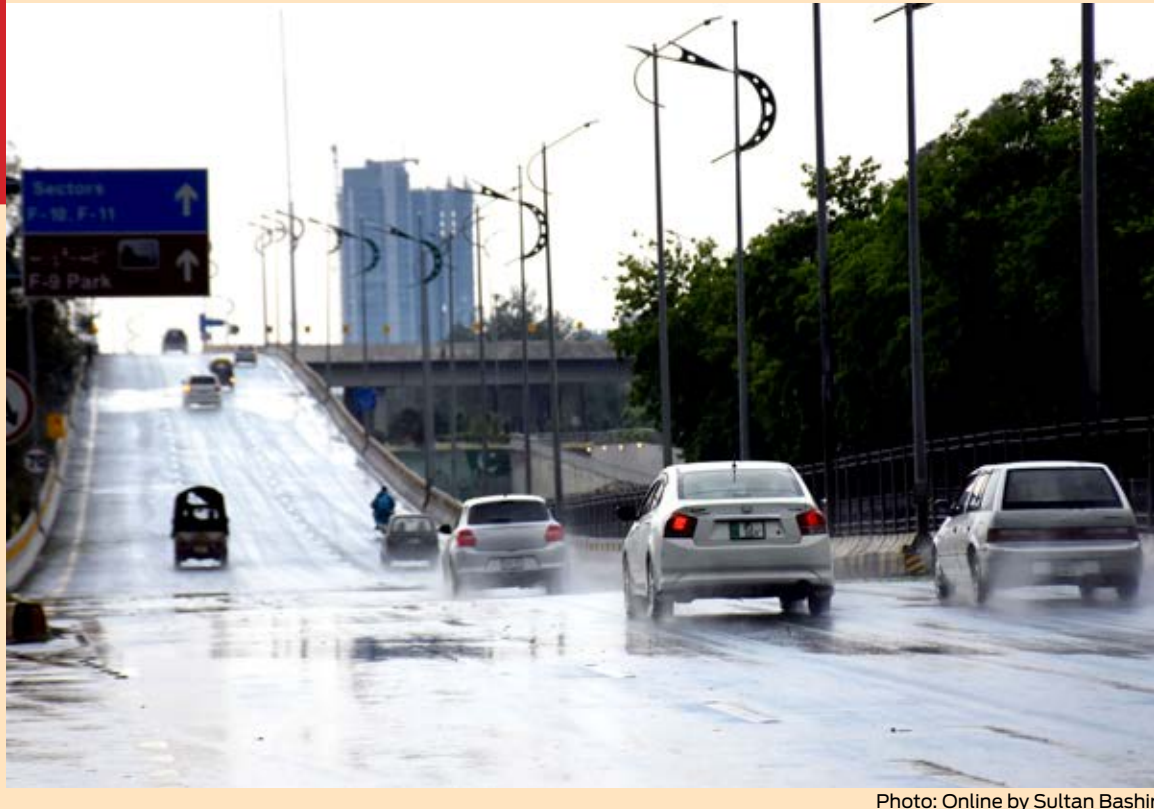


Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

VC GC Women University Faisalabad Inaugurates First-Ever Language Lab to Advance Language Learning

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Kanwal Ameen (T. I.) inaugurated the first-ever Language Lab at Government College Women University Faisalabad, established in the Department of English under the Faculty of Arts and Humanities. The facility is the University's first dedicated laboratory for language learning, linguistics, communication skills, and technology-enhanced language education.

Appreciating the efforts of the Faculty and the Department, Prof. Dr. Ameen termed the Lab a significant academic development and emphasized its effective utilization for strengthening students' language proficiency, communication skills, and professional development.



Dr. Shazia Adnan, Coordinator, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, and Dr. Sadia Waheed, Chairperson, Department of English,

thanked the Vice Chancellor for her support and patronage in establishing the lab.

The ceremony included a curtain-raising, ribbon-cut-

ting, and cake-cutting, and was attended by heads of academic and administrative departments, faculty members, and students.

Advocate Bhatta Commends Pakistan's Diplomatic Prowess Amidst Regional Instability



High Court Advocate Tanveer Abbas Bhatta commends Pakistan's balanced and responsible role amidst Iran-US tensions, highlighting its commitment to peace and diplomacy. He praises the leadership of the Chief of Defence Forces and Prime Minister for safeguarding national interests and promoting regional stability. Bhatta emphasizes Pakistan's foresight, wisdom, and national unity, reinforcing its belief in peace and dialogue. He notes

Pakistan's recent foreign policy successes, strengthened global engagement, and constructive role in fostering peace and cooperation. Bhatta believes Pakistan's coordinated leadership has enhanced its international standing as a peace-loving nation, earning global respect. He anticipates continued positive contributions to regional harmony and global peace through principled diplomacy.

Rawalpindi Businesses Vow Action Against New Taxes



Zahid Baktawari, President of the Central Traders Organization Rawalpindi Division, warned of protests if the upcoming federal budget burdens businesses already struggling with inflation, taxes, and rising costs. An emergency meeting of over 60 market leaders in Rawalpindi Cantonment echoed these concerns, strongly rejecting new taxes, reduced business hours, and lockdown-like measures. They demanded the government immediately withdraw such notifications and consult trader organizations for business-friendly policies. An Action Committee will be formed to strategize future protests.

Attock DC Chairs Peace Committee Meeting, Emphasizes Interfaith Harmony

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: A District Peace Committee meeting, chaired by Deputy Commissioner Attock, Rao Atif Raza, was held at the DC Office Attock. The gathering included the DPO, religious scholars, administrative officials, and law enforcement representatives. Discussions focused on the district's law and order, interfaith harmony, and security for religious events. Participants were briefed on the administration's code of conduct and safety measures. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized Attock's tradition of peace and tolerance, urging all factions to contribute to its maintenance. He assured that the administration and police are actively ensuring district-wide peace. Key decisions included a zero-tolerance policy for provocative or anti-state content, strict legal action against weapon displays, hate speech, and online incitement. Religious gatherings and processions must adhere to schedules and ending times, with strict loudspeaker regulations enforced. Respect for all sects, religious figures, and beliefs was underscored, with a call to avoid actions detrimental to sectarian harmony. Committee members pledged their full cooperation to the administration and police. DPO Attock, Sardar Mowarhan Khan, detailed police efforts to protect citizens and property, including enhanced security at sensitive sites, intensified border monitoring, and robust security plans for religious events. The meeting concluded with a renewed commitment from committee members to jointly promote peace, brotherhood, and religious harmony in Attock District. The Deputy Commissioner reiterated the administration's dedication to safeguarding citizens' lives and property and maintaining a peaceful environment.

Nepra cuts electricity tariff by Rs1.98 per unit under quarterly adjustment

The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) has approved a reduction of Rs1.98 per unit in electricity tariffs; however, June bills will reflect a net relief of Re0.80 per unit after the application of a Rs1.19 fuel charge adjustment (FCA).

Under the new decision, electricity tariffs have been reduced by Rs1.98 per unit under the first quarterly adjustment of 2026, resulting in estimated consumer relief exceeding Rs67 billion.

The reduction will remain in effect for three consecutive months, specifically covering the June, July and August billing cycles.

WUM Celebrates World Environment Day with Industry Partners

Iram Asim

MULTAN: Women University Multan's Department of Environmental Sciences, in collaboration with Pak Arab Fertilizers, Mumtaz Seeds, Coca-Cola Pakistan, and the EPA, hosted a World Environment Day celebration. The event aimed to raise environmental awareness, promote climate action, and foster sustainable development, bringing together academics, industry leaders, students, and young learners. Dr. Shaiza Jabeen inaugurated the ceremony, emphasizing collective responsibility in environmental stewardship. Dr. Wazir Ahmed discussed climate change's impact on



agriculture and Pakistan's vulnerability, Ms. Shaima highlighted Multan's environmental issues and lauded WUM's

initiatives like the Clean and Green Environmental Society. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Syeda Shahida Batool, the chief guest, stressed universities' role in driving societal change and urged students to embrace personal responsibility for environmental protection. She planted a tree and toured innovative student projects, including smart city models and ecological restoration efforts. Competitions recognized student achievements, with Fouzia Munir winning the poster competition and Aliha Babar and Amna Sajjad topping the model competition. The event concluded with a renewed commitment to environmental sustainability.

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World Environment Day

On the occasion of World Environment Day, Pakistan joins the global community in reaffirming its unwavering commitment towards environmental protection of the planet.

The preservation of our environment is a shared global responsibility. Only through collective efforts, effective international cooperation, and sustained commitment can we ensure an environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient future.

This year's theme, "Climate Action," serves as a powerful reminder that urgent and coordinated global action is indispensable for addressing the environmental challenges confronting humanity. The growing threats posed by climate change underscore the need for comprehensive strategies founded on international cooperation and practical measures.

Devastating floods, prolonged droughts, extreme heatwaves, melting glaciers, water scarcity, and worsening air pollution provide compelling evidence that climate change is no longer a distant concern but a stark reality affecting millions of lives across the globe.

Pakistan is among the countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change despite contributing a negligible share in global environmental degradation. Pakistan continues to bear significant human and economic costs arising from environmental degradation. Collective commitment and cooperation at the individual, governmental, and international levels remain the only way to effectively address these challenges.

The Government of Pakistan remains firmly committed to promoting renewable energy, restoring forests, conserving biodiversity, improving water resource management, reducing pollution, advancing climate-smart agriculture, and fostering green industries. The Government is also pursuing policies aimed at restoring natural ecosystems.

The capabilities, energy, and innovative spirit of our younger generation will play a vital role in building a greener, safer, and more climate-resilient Pakistan. By equipping them with knowledge, technology, and opportunities, we can cultivate environmental awareness and lay the foundation for a sustainable and prosperous society.

Today, I call upon every citizen and institution, farmers, business and agricultural stakeholders to regard environmental protection and climate resilience as a national responsibility.

Let us renew our commitment to adopting environmentally responsible lifestyles. In particular, the conservation of water and energy resources, afforestation, and the protection of wildlife must remain among our national priorities.

Let us reiterate our shared resolve to build a greener, healthier, cleaner, environmentally friendly, and climate-resilient Pakistan so that future generations may benefit from a better and more sustainable future.

Iran War Sparks Congressional Revolt

Qamar Bashir
 The recent congressional hearings involving Secretary of State Marco Rubio and senior military officials may ultimately be remembered as one of the most revealing moments of President Donald Trump's second term. What unfolded in the hearing rooms of Congress was far more than a routine examination of foreign policy and budget priorities. It became a public referendum on the Iran war, America's expanding global commitments, the erosion of diplomatic influence, and the growing concern that policies intended to project strength abroad may be diminishing America's ability to lead the world.

For hours, lawmakers challenged Rubio on nearly every aspect of the administration's foreign policy. The intensity of the exchanges reflected not merely partisan disagreement but a deep unease among many elected representatives who believe that America is becoming increasingly entangled in conflicts whose costs are rising while their strategic benefits remain uncertain.

Representative Gregory Meeks, the ranking Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, was among the most persistent critics. He repeatedly questioned whether the administration had adequately considered the economic consequences of military action against Iran. Rising fuel prices, higher shipping costs, inflationary pressures, and disruptions to global trade, he argued, are ultimately borne not by policymakers in Washington but by ordinary American families. Meeks challenged Rubio on whether the administration had

fully anticipated the consequences of instability in the Strait of Hormuz and whether the resulting economic burdens were worth the costs.

Senator Chris Murphy focused on what he described as a fundamental contradiction in U. S. policy. Previous administrations, he noted, had relied primarily on sanctions and diplomacy to pressure Iran. The current administration, by contrast, had tied the stability of global energy markets and international commerce to the uncertain outcome of military confrontation. Murphy repeatedly pressed Rubio to explain what conditions were required to end the blockade and restore normal maritime traffic, warning that prolonged disruption would continue harming consumers and allies alike.

Senator Chris Van Hollen expanded the debate beyond Iran itself. He argued that the administration's policies had weakened America's moral standing, reduced humanitarian assistance, restricted refugee admissions, and damaged the country's international reputation. His criticism became personal when he publicly stated that he regretted voting to confirm Rubio as Secretary of State. That statement reflected a broader sentiment among many Democrats who had once viewed Rubio as a traditional internationalist but now see him as a defender of policies they believe undermine long-standing American values.

Several senators openly expressed

disappointment in Rubio's stewardship of U. S. foreign policy. Senator Jacky Rosen stated that she was no longer angry but simply disappointed by what she viewed as the administration's role in weakening American global leadership. Much of the criticism centered on the dismantling of USAID, deep cuts to humanitarian programs, and concerns that reducing America's international presence would create opportunities for strategic competitors such as China.

Representative Sara Jacobs focused heavily on Gaza and humanitarian assistance. She challenged the effectiveness of new aid mechanisms and questioned whether America's traditional role as a humanitarian leader was being sacrificed for political considerations. Representative Greg Stanton raised concerns about transparency and potential conflicts of interest, arguing that the appearance of financial entanglements among individuals involved in sensitive diplomatic initiatives could undermine public confidence in government decision-making.

Yet the criticism did not stop with Secretary Rubio. After questioning the administration's political justification for the war, lawmakers turned their attention to the military leadership responsible for executing it. If Rubio's hearings focused on the political and economic consequences of the conflict, the testimony of Admiral Charles Cooper focused on whether the battlefield results justified those consequences.

The transition from Rubio's testi-

mony to Cooper's was revealing because lawmakers carried the same concerns into both hearings. They were not simply questioning diplomatic decisions or military operations in isolation. They were asking whether the overall strategy was working.

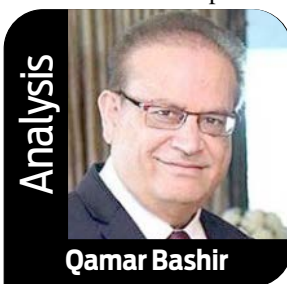
Representative Seth Moulton of Massachusetts delivered one of the most memorable exchanges. Cooper repeatedly described Iran's military capabilities as "significantly degraded." Moulton immediately challenged the language, reminding the committee that Americans had previously been told Iran's capabilities were "obliterated." What, he asked, was the difference between "obliterated" and "significantly degraded"?

The question was not merely semantic. It reflected a broader concern that administration claims of success might be overstated. Moulton repeatedly pressed Cooper on issues that had surfaced during Rubio's testimony: the continued closure of the Strait of Hormuz, rising energy prices, unresolved nuclear negotiations, and reports of Iranian efforts to rebuild portions of its military infrastructure. If the operation had been such a decisive success, Moulton asked, why did so many strategic problems remain unresolved?

Perhaps the most striking moment came when Moulton summarized his concern bluntly: "It feels like we're losing."

That statement captured the essence of what many lawmakers were attempting to convey throughout the hearings. Their criticism was not based on a belief that American forces lacked military superiority. Rather, it stemmed from doubts

Continued on Page 7



Qamar Bashir



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

The Burden of National Debt and the Future of Our Generations

The 97,307 Billion Rupee Question: A Debt We Pass to Our Children. The news that Pakistan's total debt has reached Rs 97,307 billion is not just a statistic. It is a warning that every patriotic citizen must take seriously. Debt is not only an entry in government ledgers. It is a burden placed on future generations who will repay it through their labor, taxes, and reduced opportunities. Yet despite the scale of this crisis, public debate and political priorities rarely reflect the urgency it demands. Borrowing itself is not wrong. Many countries take loans to build infrastructure, develop industry, and strengthen economies.

The problem arises when loans fund extravagance, political patronage, corruption, and mismanagement instead of productive investment. In that case, debt stops being a development tool and becomes a path to economic decline. Pakistan has seen this cycle repeat for decades. Each government blames its predecessor, then follows the same pattern once in power.

A major reason for rising debt is that ruling elites have often treated public resources as personal privileges, not a national trust. Instead of cutting wasteful spending, lavish lifestyles have been prioritized. Instead of strengthening institutions, political interference has weakened them. National wealth has been used for short-term political gains rather than public welfare.

The result is chronic budget deficits, forcing the state to borrow more each year just to cover expenses. The harsh truth is that those who pay the price did not take the loans and did not benefit from their misuse. Farmers, workers, teachers, government employees, and

the middle class bear the cost through inflation, higher taxes, and reduced services. When governments raise electricity, gas, and fuel prices, or cut development spending to service debt, ordinary citizens suffer most. Worse, this burden will not end with us.

Children in school today, youth searching for jobs, and generations yet unborn will inherit the obligation to repay today's debt. Debt is therefore not just an economic issue; it is a moral and national responsibility. No generation has the right to mortgage the future for short-term political gains. Our political culture compounds the problem. Personality cults and blind party loyalties often override national interest.

Admiring a leader is natural, but uncritical devotion is dangerous. Many defend every policy and failure of their chosen leader regardless of its impact on the country. Real political awareness means judging leaders by results, not by slogans, emotional speeches, or personal ties. There is also a double standard. Many powerful people with offshore assets, businesses, and foreign residency options can protect their families if a crisis hits. Ordinary citizens have no such exit.

They are rooted in Pakistan and have the most at stake in its future. Their concern for the country's direction should be the greatest. Nations progress when voters choose with reason, not emotion. A vote is a trust. It should be cast for the national interest, not for party loyalty, ethnicity, clan, or temporary slogans. Whoever is in power must be asked hard questions: What is the plan to reduce debt? How will tax collection be reformed? What steps will stop waste of public money? What concrete actions

will improve citizens' lives? We cannot blame politicians alone.

As a society, we must also face our own faults. Corruption, nepotism, tax evasion, disrespect for law, and misuse of public resources exist at many levels. If we want a better Pakistan, we must collectively adopt honesty, hard work, rule of law, and responsibility. Institutions like media, universities, intellectuals, and civil society must spread political and economic awareness.

Nations are not transformed only on election day. Change comes through continuous education, accountability, and putting national interest above personal gain. When citizens ask tough questions, demand performance, and vote based on facts, leaders are forced to improve. Pakistan has immense potential: fertile land, a young population, mineral resources, and strategic location.

These assets can drive development if we use them wisely. What we need is leadership that is honest, patriotic, and visionary—leaders who fear only God, understand both contemporary and religious knowledge, and put national interest above personal or party interests. We must also reduce dependence on loans, strengthen institutions, and make national priorities supreme. Today, we must move beyond personality worship, blind loyalties, and empty slogans to focus on the nation's future.

The rising debt is a red alert we cannot ignore. To ignore it is to betray our children. If we care about their prosperity, national sovereignty, and economic security, we must choose wisdom over emotion, performance over slogans, and principles over personalities. Only then can we break the debt cycle and build a strong, self-reliant, prosperous Pakistan.

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Muhammad Asif

Book Review: Animal Symbols, Similes & Metaphors in Sindhi Language

Book by Dr. Nazeer Ahmed Khokhar, published by Sindhi Language Authority. Dr. Nazeer Ahmed Khokhar's book is a landmark research work and, to date, the most detailed study on animal-related symbols, similes, and metaphors in the Sindhi language. Published recently by the Sindhi Language Authority, it examines how animal symbols, signs, and expressions function in Sindhi society, daily communication, literature, and culture. The book also explores why humans use animal symbols in language. Linguistic symbols are broadly animate or inanimate. This research focuses on animate symbols, specifically countless animal-related ones in Sindhi. For example, calling someone a "lion" instantly conveys bravery and courage, while "jackal" implies cunning, cowardice, and timidity without further explanation. The work is organized into three parts and twelve chapters. 1. Humans, Animals, and Culture

The first section examines the historical and cultural relationship between humans, animals, society, and language. Animals have always been central to human life. From early civilization, humans lived close to animals for food, transport, farming, protection, and companionship. In every society, animals are more than living creatures; they are symbols of emotions, ideas, culture, and beliefs. Animal social behavior also influences human thought. Birds fly in flocks, lions hunt in groups, and ants live in organized colonies. Their cooperation, discipline, and survival strategies teach humans

valuable lessons. Yet humans remain distinct through language, culture, and intelligence, which allow the creation of civilizations. The research compares human and animal traits to understand the basis of human superiority. 2. Society and Animals

The second part traces human social evolution — hunting, agriculture, and industrial stages — and the changing role of animals at each stage. In hunting societies, animals provided food. In agricultural societies, they became labor and helpers. Animals

also addressed social needs: traditional medicine used milk, butter, and oils; horses, elephants, and camels served in battles; and animals aided transport, communication, and survival. Even today they remain vital in rural economies. Prolonged interaction with animals produced beliefs, totems, and taboos. Some animals became auspicious,

others inauspicious. Owls symbolize mystery, doves peace, black cats bad luck, pigeons love, and camels patience and endurance. Certain animals were elevated to parental or divine status and worshipped. Tribal identities were also formed around animal associations, reinforcing their social and symbolic importance. 3. Language and Animals

The third part analyzes how animals entered language as symbols, similes, and metaphors. Since ancient times, humans depended on cows, buffaloes, camels, goats, horses, and donkeys for farming, transport, and trade. Dogs guarded homes; birds provided beauty and carried messages. This closeness made

Continued on Page 7

Kyrgyz Republic has been elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: On 3 June 2026, with Your support, the Kyrgyz Republic achieved a historic victory in the elections of non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council for the term 2027-2028.

Kyrgyzstan considers this victory as a strong expression of reliance by the international community, as well as a great responsibility before all Member States of the United Nations.

During its membership in the United Nations Security Council, the Kyrgyz Republic intends to consistently promote priorities aimed at strengthening international peace and security, preventing conflicts, developing preventive diplomacy, supporting peaceful settlement of



disputes, enhancing the role of small and developing States in the international system, and taking into account climate, water, mountain and environmental challenges in the context of global security.

We express our sincere gratitude to all States that supported our candidacy and reaffirm our commitment to serve as a responsible, constructive and open partner in the United Nations Security Council, acting in the interests of peace, stability and strengthening of multilateralism.

The Kyrgyz Republic also expresses its special appreciation to the Republic of the Philippines for its dignified participation in the election campaign and constructive competition conducted in the spirit of mutual respect and commitment to the principles of the United Nations.

Distinguished Heads of UN Member States,

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration, as well as my best wishes for peace, well-being and prosperity to Your peoples.

Newham Volunteers Initiative Draws Strong Community Support

Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah

LONDON: A successful community event promoting volunteering opportunities in Newham was held recently, bringing together local residents, community leaders, and volunteers from across the borough.

The event was attended by the Chief Guest, Mayor of Newham, Forhad Hussain, who highlighted the vital role volunteers play in strengthening communities, supporting local initiatives, and fostering social cohesion. He praised the dedication of volunteers and encouraged more residents to get involved in community service.

The Newham Volunteers team showcased a range of volunteering opportunities available across the borough, emphasizing the benefits of gaining new skills, building



confidence, making new friends, and contributing positively to society. Among those attending were many local residents, including Junaid Ali BEM, who expressed support for the initiative and commended the efforts being made to

connect volunteers with organisations in need of assistance.

The event provided an excellent platform for residents to learn about both short-term and long-term volunteering opportunities and to engage directly with community organisations seeking volunteers.

Organisers described the event as a great success, reflecting Newham's strong spirit of community engagement and commitment to helping others. "Volunteering not only benefits the community but also enriches the lives of those who give their time and skills," said attendees, echoing the positive atmosphere of the event. The Newham Volunteers programme continues to welcome new volunteers and organisations looking to make a difference in the local community.

YTO-HRL Logistics Launches in Pakistan, Eyes Regional Connectivity

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The YTO-HRL Logistics joint venture, a collaboration between China's YTO Express and Pakistan's HRL Group, officially launched in Islamabad, signifying a major step in the China-Pakistan economic partnership.

This venture aims to transform Pakistan into a critical logistics hub connecting China, South Asia, and Central Asia.

The launch ceremony was attended by Pakistani federal ministers and ambassadors from ten Central Asian countries, highlighting the strategic importance of the initiative.

YTO Express brings its extensive global logistics network and advanced technology, while HRL Group contributes its deep understanding of the Pakistani market and nationwide presence.

Together, YTO-HRL Logistics will



offer integrated logistics solutions, including express delivery, e-commerce fulfillment, warehousing, and freight services.

The venture plans to introduce world-class operational standards, create numerous jobs, transfer advanced logistics technology to Pakistan, and enhance service levels for businesses and consumers.

Beyond its domestic impact, the company is poised to position Pakistan as a key transit trade corridor for

landlocked Central Asian markets, providing them with reliable access to Pakistani ports and global trade routes. This aligns with the broader vision of strengthening regional connectivity and economic cooperation. Statements from the leadership of both HRL Group and YTO Express emphasized their shared ambition, long-term commitment, and belief in Pakistan's future.

They highlighted the venture's potential to redefine logistics in Paki-

stan, set new industry benchmarks, and unlock new market opportunities. With its operations now live, YTO-HRL Logistics will focus on expanding its nationwide service network, investing in infrastructure, and deploying digital platforms to provide customers with enhanced visibility and control over their shipments. The venture is seen as a prime example of successful Pakistan-China cooperation translating into tangible economic benefits.

Cigarette Taxation Could Generate Rs. 51 Billion in Additional Annual Revenue: SPARC

City Desk



ISLAMABAD: The Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC) has highlighted the public health and fiscal implications of cigarette, estimating that it could generate Rs. 51 billion in additional revenue while lowering tobacco consumption and associated costs.

Dr. Khalil Ahmad, Program Manager at SPARC, highlighted the need for strengthened

tobacco taxation in the context of Pakistan's public health and fiscal challenges. He added that international evidence shows tobacco taxation is commonly associated with reduced tobacco use. Such measures may contribute to increased revenue generation, lower consumption levels, reduced healthcare costs, and fewer preventable deaths.

Over the same period, Pakistan has witnessed a steady increase in fuel prices and the cost of essential commodities, contributing to broader inflationary pressures on household budgets. In contrast, cigarette taxation has remained largely unchanged since 2023, leading to relatively stable cigarette prices compared to other goods and services. This divergence has, in real terms, increased the affordability of cigarettes, especially low-priced brands, despite the overall rise in the cost of living.

Dr. Khalil Ahmad stated that the economic burden of tobacco use is substantial. Health-related costs attributed to tobacco are estimated at approximately Rs. 1,835 billion, around 1.6 percent of GDP, which far exceeds the Rs. 266 billion collected in tobacco tax revenue. This indicates that for every rupee earned from tobacco taxation, Pakistan spends nearly seven rupees on treating tobacco related diseases, resulting in a significant net economic loss.

To address this crisis, SPARC has proposed an increase in the Federal Excise Duty (FED) on cigarettes in the forthcoming federal budget. The proposal recommends raising taxes by Rs. 35 per pack on low cost cigarette brands and Rs. 21 per pack on premium brands, alongside a gradual transition toward a uniform tax structure. This reform aims to reduce cigarette affordability particularly among children and young people and to discourage consumers from switching to cheaper brands.

Aligned with global best practices, including the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) and the WHO's MPOWER strategy, SPARC emphasized that increasing tobacco taxes delivers a dual benefit: safeguarding public health and enhancing government revenue.

Hyderabad SSP Office disturbance case, Maria Sario and 14 transgender persons sent to jail



Qayoom Sarohi

HYDERABAD: In the case of alleged protest, disturbance, and vandalism on the premises of the SSP Hyderabad office, arrested lady police official Junior Clerk Maria Sario and 14 transgender persons were presented in court. The court ordered all the arrested individuals to be sent to jail on 14-day judicial remand.

According to police, Junior Clerk Maria Sario and the transgender persons were arrested in the case registered after the protest and alleged vandalism at the SSP office.

The accused were produced before the court under strict security. However, during the court proceedings, the accused avoided speaking to the media.

Tight security arrangements were made by Cantt Police on the occasion of the hearing. Police requested the court for further legal action and remand, but the court rejected the request and ordered all arrested individuals to be sent to jail on 14-day judicial remand.

According to court sources, the In-charge Consumer Court approved the 14-day judicial custody remand request filed by SHO Cantt Malik Javed in Case No. 100, after which Junior Clerk Maria Sario and the arrested transgender persons were transferred to Women Jail, Hyderabad.

Police state that a case was registered against Maria Sario for allegedly inciting transgender persons and for charges of attacking a government office after she was removed from her post. SSP Hyderabad Shahzaib Chachar had already suspended Maria Sario.

Tobacco and Nicotine addiction is a growing threat to Pakistan's health and economy

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Heart Association (PANAHA), in collaboration with Armed Forces Institute of Cardiology & Military Hospital (AFIC-MH), organized a World No Tobacco Day 2026 awareness event at AFIC-MH Rawalpindi. The event was attended by youth students, health professionals, civil society representatives, and public health advocates.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Nadir

Khan, stressed that tobacco consumption is a major contributor to cardiovascular diseases, which are already responsible for a large proportion of deaths in Pakistan. He urged young people to reject tobacco and nicotine products and adopt healthy lifestyles.

Addressing the gathering, President PANAHA, Maj. Gen. (R) Masud-ur-Rehman Kiani, said that tobacco use remains one of the leading preventable causes of death worldwide and in Pakistan. He emphasized

that smoking and smokeless tobacco significantly increase the risk of heart disease, stroke, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases, and premature death.

General Secretary PANAHA, Sana Ullah Ghumman, highlighted that Pakistan faces an alarming burden of tobacco-related diseases. He noted that tobacco use not only damages health but also imposes a heavy economic burden through healthcare costs and productivity losses.

Col. Dr. Abdul Rehman

Jokhio and Dr. Shazia Fatima emphasized that nicotine addiction affects nearly every organ of the body and increases the risk of cancers, heart attacks, lung diseases, diabetes, and adverse pregnancy outcomes. They stressed the importance of prevention, public awareness, and cessation support services.

Dr. Abdul Qayyum Awan, Senior Vice President PANAHA emphasized for stronger implementation of tobacco control laws, increased taxation on all



tobacco and nicotine products, comprehensive bans on advertising and promotion, enhanced awareness campaigns in educational institutions, and smoke-free public spaces, and in educational institutions.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
171,175.50	170,190.64
Day's High	Day's Low
171,455.76	170,563.40
Index Value	Change
18,798,498,714	+984.86
Percentage	Time
+0.58%	4 Jun, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
10,360.32	+28.02
Percentage	Time
+0.27%	4 Jun, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
51,524.98	+837.91
Percentage	Time
+1.65%	4 Jun, 2:21 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
67,470.69	-931.45
Percentage	Time
-1.36%	4 Jun, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	196.62	202.55
Bahrain Dinar	733.85	743.95
Canadian Dollar	199.46	206.22
China Yuan	38.00	38.75
Danish Krone	43.37	43.77
Euro	322.05	327.55
Hong Kong Dollar	34.89	35.89
Indian Rupee	2.73	2.98
Japanese Yen	1.7218	1.8209
Kuwaiti Dinar	883.35	893.75
Malaysian Ringgit	67.15	67.85
New Zealand \$	161.58	166.81
Norwegians Krone	27.85	28.15
Omani Riyal	719.15	730.25
Qatari Riyal	74.80	75.75
Saudi Riyal	73.85	74.65
Singapore Dollar	214.96	220.81
Swedish Korona	30.25	30.55
Swiss Franc	350.32	356.80
Thai Bhat	8.52	8.67
U.A.E Dirham	75.37	76.37
UK Pound Sterling	372.55	378.25
US Dollar	278.20	279.45

Supernet Technologies Declared Successful Bidder for PKR 1 Billion Critical Communications Infrastructure Project

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Supernet Technologies Limited (PSX: STL) has been declared the successful bidder for a project valued at approximately PKR 1 billion, marking another significant milestone in the company's expanding technology and communications infrastructure portfolio.

The project, awarded by a leading organization in Pakistan, involves the provision of hardware and related services aimed at enhancing and modernizing critical communications infrastructure. The execution of the project is expected to take place during FY

2026-27.

According to the company, the project is expected to contribute meaningfully to Supernet's revenue growth and profitability over the execution period, further strengthening its position as a key technology solutions provider in Pakistan.

The development comes at a time when public and private sector organizations are increasingly investing in secure, resilient and modern communications systems to support operational efficiency, digital transformation and mission-critical connectivity needs.

Supernet Technologies Limited has more than three decades of experience in delivering

communications infrastructure, connectivity, cybersecurity, managed services and digital transformation solutions. The company serves a wide range of clients across defense, telecommunications, enterprise, government and international markets.

The successful bidding for this project reinforces Supernet's growing role in supporting Pakistan's digital and communications infrastructure, particularly in areas requiring reliability, security and scale.

The company said the achievement reflects its continued focus on delivering innovative, secure and high-performance technology solutions for clients in Pakistan and abroad.



SUPERNET GLOBAL
Your Digital Partner

Joint Commission meeting

Federal Minister for Power Division Sardar Awais Leghari and Tajikistan's Minister for Energy and Water Resources Juma Daler Shofaqr co-chair the 8th Joint Commission meeting between both countries in Dushanbe on Thursday.



Photo: PID

PCJCCI Praises \$1.12bn CPEC Fertilizer Plant for Boosting Pakistan's Agriculture

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) praised Pakistan's first CPEC coal-based fertilizer plant (\$1.12 billion), a "game-changing initiative" to boost agriculture, food security, jobs, and industry. PCJCCI President Nazir Hussain stated reducing import reliance via indigenous coal will stabilize supply, lower costs, and improve crop yields and exports. Senior VP Brig. Mansoor Saeed Sheikh highlighted China's agricultural modernization

lessons, suggesting Pakistan adopt advanced irrigation, rice-fish models, and climate-resilient Chinese farming techniques for diverse zones.

VP Amir Ali sees the plant as a catalyst for reforms, leveraging China's expertise in mechanization, smart farming, aquaculture, and agro-industry.

Secretary General Salauddin Hanif proposed joint innovation centers and research facilities for knowledge transfer, asserting the plant will bolster agricultural reforms, food security, exports, and sustainable growth.

BBYD Pakistan's 'Time Machine' Episode Uncovers Sindh's Hidden Gems

KARACHI: BYD Pakistan presents "Time Machine," the third episode of "The Great Pakistan Adventure," a series exploring Pakistan's landscapes and heritage.

Hosted by Maryam Raja, this episode journeys through Sukkur, the Indus River, and Gorakh Hill, highlighting Sindh's history, nature, and traditions. It emphasizes the connection between people and their environment, featuring the endangered blind Indus dolphin and the communities protecting it.

The episode also showcases Sindh's cultural richness through local hospitality and food in Gorakh Hill. The BYD Shark 6, Pakistan's first PHEV pickup, is used to navigate diverse terrains, demonstrating its adaptability. Syed Haider Mujtaba, Head of Marketing at BYD Pakistan, stated the series aims to tell stories that go beyond destinations, focusing on people, cultures,



and unique communities.

"Time Machine" reflects Sindh's richness through its landscapes, traditions, relationships, and histories, aligning with BYD Pakistan's goal to spotlight overlooked regions and untold stories.

SECP Eases IPO Requirements to Facilitate Access to Capital Markets

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has made it easier for established businesses to raise capital through the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX).

Businesses operating as partnerships, Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs), and carved-out business divisions can now use their historical profitability record to qualify for an Initial Public Offering (IPO).

The facilitation has been provided through amendments to the Public Offering Regulations, 2017. The reforms are aimed at reducing barriers to listing, promoting corporatization, improving ease of doing business, and broad-



ening access to capital markets.

Under the revised framework, eligible businesses can now rely on their historical profitable track record prior to incorporation as a company to satisfy the two-year profitability requirement for an IPO. This removes a major

hurdle for established businesses seeking to access capital markets and raise growth capital.

The amendments are expected to encourage more businesses to enter the corporate sector, access financing through the stock market, and

contribute to economic growth and job creation. However, to protect investor interests, the amended regulations introduce a number of safeguards.

Eligible businesses will be required to prepare revised financial statements for at least the preceding two financial years, duly audited by a Quality Control Review (QCR)-rated audit firm. They must also submit audited financial statements of the issuer for the period during which it has operated as a public limited company. In addition, the entire shareholding of sponsors will remain subject to a two-year post-listing lock-in requirement.

The notification containing the amendments to the Public Offering Regulations, 2017 is available on the SECP website.

AI Hype Fuels Cybercrime Surge: 92,000+ Attacks Disguised as AI Services

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Kaspersky has identified over 92,000 cyberattacks disguised as AI services between January and May 2026, with fake ChatGPT applications being the most prevalent (49%). Cybercriminals are exploiting the popularity of AI tools like ChatGPT, Claude, and Gemini to distribute malware, including banking trojans and spyware. A specific campaign linked to the Silver Fox APT group targeted users with fake Claude AI applications across multiple operating systems. Kaspersky advises

organizations to implement robust security solutions like Kaspersky Next and leverage managed services such as MDR and Incident Response. They also recommend using Kaspersky Threat Intelligence for in-depth visibility.

For individual users, sticking to reputable AI services and employing security software like Kaspersky Premium are crucial to prevent data theft and malware infections. The evolving threat landscape emphasizes the critical need for reliable security measures in both corporate and personal digital lives.

realme C100i and 3 Musafir Gear Up for the 7000mAh Survival Test

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: In just a few days, the ultimate test of endurance begins. The tickets have been earned, the backpacks are loaded, and a group of ambitious young hustlers is about to embark on an epic, off-the-grid adventure with Pakistan's most influential youth travel tribe, 3 Musafir.

Their destination? Skardu, the rugged gateway to the world's highest peaks, is characterized by high-altitude cold deserts, treacherous rocky trails, and vast, unplugged valleys. As they prepare to head into this

unforgiving terrain, they aren't weighing themselves down with bulky power banks or tangled cords. Their primary survival gear is already in their hands: the upcoming realme C100i.

To take on the extreme landscapes of Baltistan, where power grids are a rare luxury, you need more than just a standard smartphone; you need a titan. Setting a new benchmark for the "Ahead Generation," the realme C100i is engineered specifically to eradicate battery anxiety, anchored by an unprecedented 7000mAh Titan Battery.

Meezan Bank Surpasses PKR 1 Billion in Housing Finance Disbursements under Prime Minister's Apna Ghar Program



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Meezan Bank's Easy Home Housing Finance has achieved a significant milestone under the Prime Minister's Apna Ghar Housing Finance Program - "Ghar Ho Tu Apna", surpassing PKR 1 billion in housing finance disbursements since the launch of the initiative.

This achievement reflects Meezan Bank's strong commitment to supporting the Government of Pakistan's vision of promoting affordable homeownership and expanding access to housing finance for underserved segments of society. As Pakistan's leading Islamic bank, Meezan Bank remains dedicated to making homeownership more accessible through Shariah-compliant financing solutions that address the needs of salaried individuals and low-to-middle-income households.

The Bank is actively offering housing finance facilities under the program through its network of over 350 designated branches across Pakistan, with a particular focus on enabling lower-income and salaried customers to realize their dream of owning a home. Through its customer-centric and Shariah-compliant financing approach, Meezan Bank continues to play a key role in advancing financial inclusion and supporting the development of the housing sector in the country.

The milestone also contributes to the State Bank of Pakistan's broader objective of promoting affordable housing and expanding access to formal housing finance, supporting national efforts aimed at financial inclusion, economic development, and improved living standards.

PK Pakistan VS Australia Three One Day International Cricket Match Series

Pakistan Defeated Australia by 4 wickets and win the One Day Int'l Match Series by 2-1

Asim Tanveer

LAHORE: Pakistan won the third consecutive ODI series against Australia, Babar Azam's cautious batting on the turning pitch. For the first time in the history of one-day bilateral ODI series, Pakistan succeeded in winning the third consecutive series against Australia. Before this, the Green Caps had never won 3 consecutive series against Australia. After winning in Pakistan in 2022 and Australia in 2024, Pakistan has now won the series once again on home soil. By the way, it was the 14th ODI series between the two countries. Pakistan has won the sixth. Australia is ahead with 8 series wins.

Pakistan defeated the Kangaroos by 4 wickets in the third and decisive ODI match played at the Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore. The visiting team won the first toss of the current series in the last match and made the same decision that Shaheen Afridi had been making after winning the toss. The decision to bat first was not beneficial for the visiting team. The entire team was bowled out for 157 runs in 42 overs. At one point, there were only 2 outs for 98 runs and 22 overs were played, but after that, 8 wickets



in the next 20 overs could add only 59 runs to the score. Captain Josh Inglis was outstanding by playing an innings of 65 runs, but after him, Alex Carey and Marnus Labuschagne had the second highest individual scores of 19 runs each. Matthew Short went for nil. Cameron Green made 7 and Matthew Renshaw made 4. In the end, Adam Zampa made 10. The gap was 13 runs. For Pakistan, captain Shaheen Shah Afridi took 3 wickets for 30 runs. Haris Rauf took the important wicket of Alex Carey, after which Australia was in the line. Abrar Ahmed gave 19 runs in 10 overs and took 2 wickets. Shadab Khan shone today and gave 28 runs in 9 overs and

took 2 wickets. Arafat Mahnas gave 27 runs in 6 overs and could not take any wickets.

In reply, Pakistan started with 27 runs. Here Sahibzada Farhan made 6. Moaz Sadaqat returned to the pavilion on a score of 41 for 27. Babar Azam played a test innings but was dismissed for 8 runs with Ghazi Ghauri on a total of 60. Australia got their fourth victory at 93 when Salman Ali Agha was dismissed for 15 runs. Pakistan completed 100 runs in the 27th over. Australia returned to the match at a score of 112, when top-down set batsmen Babar Azam and Arafat Mahnas were dismissed. Babar Azam was bowled by Matthew

Khanman for 40 off 84 balls. He hit only 3 fours while Arafat Mahnas was caught by Green off the ball of Ranshaw after making 9 runs. Pakistan was 112 for 6 while Australia's sixth wicket fell on 126. There was still hope from Shadab Khan. Shadab and Abdul Samad The score gradually increased.

Pakistan completed the target for 6 wickets in 41.5 overs, winning the match by 4 wickets and the series 1-2. The first match of the series was won by Pakistan and the second by Australia. Shadab Khan scored 29 runs and Abdul Samad scored 18 runs. For Australia, Matthew Khanman took 3 wickets for 38 runs.



Strengthening the Architecture of Human Rights in Sindh: A New Era of Accountability, Justice and Reform

The appointment of Justice (Retired) Maqbool Baqar as Chairperson of the Sindh Human Rights Commission represents far more than an administrative decision, it signals a renewed commitment to the principles of justice, human dignity, constitutional governance and institutional accountability in Sindh. At a time when societies across the world are grappling with complex human rights challenges, the strengthening of independent human rights institutions has become essential for protecting citizens and reinforcing democratic values.

Justice Maqbool Baqar's distinguished career as a Judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, Chief Justice of the Sindh High Court and later as Caretaker Chief Minister of Sindh has earned him a reputation for integrity, impartiality and unwavering adherence to the rule of law. His appointment is expected to enhance the credibility, independence and effectiveness of the Sindh Human Rights Commission, enabling it to play a more proactive role in safeguarding fundamental rights across the province.

Equally significant is the progress being made by the Human Rights Department

under the leadership of Special Assistant to the Chief Minister Sindh Rajvir Singh Sodha and Secretary Human Rights Khalid A. K. Chachar. Their commitment to strengthening institutional mechanisms and advancing a rights-based governance framework is creating new momentum for human rights protection and promotion throughout Sindh. A strong Sindh Human Rights Commission is indispensable for any society seeking sustainable peace, social justice and inclusive development. Such an institution serves not merely as a watchdog but as a catalyst for reform. It provides oversight, investigates violations, supports victims, promotes awareness and advises the government on legislative and policy measures necessary to uphold human rights standards. The coming years present a unique opportunity to advance several landmark initiatives. Effective implementation of the National Action Plan on Human Rights, the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights and the Sindh Human Rights Policy can establish a comprehensive

framework that integrates human rights principles into governance, public administration and economic development. These initiatives can help ensure that growth and progress are accompanied by respect for human dignity, equality, and social inclusion. Gender equality must remain at the heart of this agenda. Empowering women and girls, addressing discrimination, combating gender-based violence and expanding equal opportunities in education, employment and leadership are not merely social objectives but fundamental human rights obligations. A strengthened human rights framework can significantly contribute to creating a more equitable society where every individual enjoys equal protection under the law.

Furthermore, the review and advancement of pending human rights legislation will require strong institutional leadership and public engagement. The Sindh Human Rights Commission can serve as a bridge between government institutions, civil society organizations, academia and affected communities, ensuring that laws

and policies reflect both constitutional guarantees and international human rights commitments.

Perhaps most importantly, victims of human rights violations must receive timely assistance, protection and access to justice. Responsive institutions capable of addressing grievances effectively are critical for restoring public trust and ensuring that rights exist not only in legal texts but also in everyday reality. The strengthening of the Sindh Human Rights Commission under the leadership of Justice (Retired) Maqbool Baqar therefore represents a historic opportunity. It offers the prospect of building a more accountable, inclusive and rights-respecting society where justice is accessible, institutions are responsive and human dignity remains at the center of public policy. The true measure of progress is not only economic growth or administrative efficiency, but the extent to which the rights and freedoms of every citizen are protected. Sindh now has an important opportunity to demonstrate that human rights are not merely aspirations but the foundation of good governance and sustainable development.

The writer is Defender & International researcher on Human Rights



Analysis

Nazia Naz

Pakistan rejects claims of sharing Iran nuclear information with US

Continued from Page 1

He warned that attempts to use water as a political tool were dangerous and could threaten Pakistan's economy and regional stability.

"Pakistan will not accept India's illegal attempts against its water security and reserves all options to protect its rights," he said.

On Afghanistan, the spokesperson said Pakistan's advocacy of dialogue also applied to relations with Kabul and that there were no restrictions on negotiations or diplomatic engagement with Afghanistan.

However, he stressed that Pakistan could not allow the continuation of terrorist attacks originating from Afghan territory.

Andrabi said he was not aware of any planned Pakistan-Afghanistan talks in Istanbul.

Commenting on broader regional diplomacy, he said temporary setbacks in the Middle East should not discourage efforts toward peace and reiterated Pakistan's optimism regarding ongoing negotiations.

He added that Pakistan remained willing to host a future round of talks between Iran and the United States if requested.

Pakistan Launches PKR 7.1 Billion Facility to Boost Agri-Storage

Continued from Page 8

The program complements the State Bank of Pakistan's Electronic Warehouse Receipt (EWR) system and the Prime Minister's ZARKHEZ-E program. Expected broader benefits include job creation in warehousing, logistics, processing, and allied sectors, stimulating rural community development, and enhancing food security.

Mr. Pasha stressed the importance of capacity building and awareness for impact financing, acknowledging contributions from Karandaz Pakistan, Pakistan Banks Association, and the State Bank of Pakistan. Highlighting recent agricultural finance growth, Mr. Pasha noted disbursements reaching PKR 3.1 trillion, with outstanding credit

at PKR 1.2 trillion, and aspirations to reach an additional 1.5 million farmers next fiscal year. He urged more financial institutions to join, emphasizing agriculture's multiplier economic effect. This facility is a product of the Social Impact Financing Committee and the Ministry of Finance-led Task Force. Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb affirmed the government's commitment to private sector-led innovative financing for measurable development outcomes and addressing structural challenges in agriculture. Ms. Maheen Rahman (InfraZamin CEO) and other banking leaders underscored the facility's role in strengthening agricultural resilience, value chains, food security, and financial ecosystems.

PM directs authorities for effective NTP 2025-30 implementation

Continued from Page 1

During the meeting, the officials briefed the prime minister on the implementation framework of the National Tariff Policy 2025-30. The briefing highlighted that tariffs across various sectors would be reduced gradually under the policy to support export-driven economic growth and enhance Pakistan's competitiveness in international markets.

The officials informed the meeting that duties on reefer containers and semi-trailers would be abolished to promote the logistics sector and improve supply chain efficiency.

The meeting was also told that customs duties on specialized vehicles and machinery were being reduced to encourage growth in the construction sector.

In a major relief measure for the phar-

maceutical industry, customs duties on key raw materials, particularly those used in the production of cancer medicines, would be eliminated to support local manufacturing and improve access to essential medicines.

The prime minister reiterated that tariff reforms and institutional modernization would play a key role in enhancing exports, attracting investment and sustaining long-term economic growth.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, Climate Change Minister Musadik Malik, Economic Affairs Minister Ahad Khan Cheema, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, Petroleum Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik, Minister of State for Finance and Railways Bilal Azhar Kayani, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Haroon Akhtar, and senior government officials.

Iran War Sparks Congressional Revolt

Continued from Page 4

about whether military achievements were translating into strategic gains.

The administration presented a very different narrative. Rubio argued that the conflict was necessary to prevent Iran from developing a stronger military deterrent and ultimately a more dangerous regional posture. Cooper defended the operation by emphasizing degraded missile forces, weakened military infrastructure, and reduced Iranian power projection capabilities. Supporters of the administration portrayed the campaign as a necessary demonstration of American resolve and military effectiveness.

The disagreement therefore centered on how success should be measured. Administration officials pointed to destroyed

targets, damaged facilities, and weakened adversaries. Congressional critics focused on broader outcomes: economic disruption, regional instability, strained alliances, humanitarian crises, and continuing uncertainty.

Many lawmakers also connected the Iran conflict to a wider pattern of American over-extension. They cited ongoing commitments in Ukraine, tensions within NATO, disputes involving Venezuela and Cuba, continuing instability in Gaza, and increasing friction with traditional allies. Their concern was that America was becoming simultaneously engaged in too many confrontations without a coherent long-term strategy.

This debate comes at a critical moment. The United States is approaching important midterm elections while preparing to host the FIFA World Cup 2026, one

of the largest international events in modern history. Both developments will place America under intense global scrutiny. Political polarization, economic uncertainty, and geopolitical instability will inevitably influence how the world views American leadership.

Whether history ultimately judges the Iran war as a success or a mistake remains uncertain. What is already clear, however, is that Congress has begun openly questioning the trajectory of American power. The voices of Gregory Meeks, Chris Murphy, Chris Van Hollen, Jacky Rosen, Sara Jacobs, Greg Stanton, Seth Moulton, and others reflect a growing concern that military force alone cannot sustain global leadership.

Their message was clear. America's strength has historically rested not only on mili-

tary power but also on diplomacy, alliances, economic influence, humanitarian leadership, and international credibility. If those foundations are weakened, then even impressive battlefield achievements may fail to produce lasting strategic success.

That is the debate now unfolding in Washington. It extends far beyond Iran and touches the very question of what kind of global leader the United States seeks to be in the years ahead. The answer may become one of the defining political and strategic questions of the Trump era.

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Book Review: Animal Symbols, Similes & Metaphors in ...

Continued from Page 4

animals powerful linguistic symbols tied to human emotion and thought. All languages use animal signs and representations. People adopted animal similes, metaphors, and allegories to make speech vivid and impactful. These symbols simplify and emotionalize explanations of human behavior. The study discusses how animal names, sounds, body parts, actions, qualities, habitats, food, diseases, offspring, and hunting experiences became expressive symbols. It also shows how people, places, and tribes received animal-based names. 4. Sindhi Society, Language, and Animals

The book gives a detailed review of animal-related terms in Sindhi society, grounded in local experience, concepts, and beliefs. In Sindhi's agricultural setting, domestic animals like buffaloes, cows, camels, goats, sheep, and donkeys are central to village life. Birds such as hens, pigeons, parrots, and peacocks are also culturally significant. The research explains how animal names, sounds, body parts, actions, qualities, habitats,

food habits, diseases, offspring, and hunting experiences became symbolic elements in Sindhi. Place names reflect this too: Gau Mukhi, Mamni Jo Dhoru, Mor Jabal, Miani, Jhok, Jhrik, and Ghorabari all carry animal associations. Personal names also derive from animals: Mithoo, Totoo "Parrot", Papat "Butterfly", Maina, etc. Tribal and clan names like Babeeha, Bhonar, Bagha/Baghia, Jhirak, and Khachri emerged from animal links. Many castes and communities — Shikari, Balishahi, Thori, Mari, Kassai, Machhi, Khas Kheli, Changa, Panhwar, Bozdar, Gorchani, Saati, Jatt — are named after occupations or lifestyles connected with animals. Conclusion

Overall, Khokhar's research demonstrates that animals are not only physical beings in Sindhi life but also deep linguistic and cultural symbols. Through symbols, emotions, and metaphors, animals remain woven into Sindhi language, traditions, poetry, and daily communication. The book provides a comprehensive framework for understanding how animal imagery shapes meaning and identity in Sindhi society.

Souvenir

ISLAMABAD: Mr. Chuan Wee Meng, Chief Executive Officer of the Singapore International Mediation Centre (SIMC), presenting a souvenir to Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi, Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan, at the Supreme Court of Pakistan Thursday.



PM Orders AI-Driven Tax Pilot in Islamabad

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed the launch of an AI-driven automated tax system pilot in Islamabad to modernize Pakistan's tax administration through technology, transparency, and reduced human intervention. Chairing a high-level FBR reforms review, the PM was briefed on

a comprehensive plan to make Inland Revenue collection efficient, transparent, and "faceless." He said the automated tax management system would be a milestone in the reform agenda. Minimizing human discretion, he added, is essential to ensure transparency and restore public trust. "The implementation of this system will enhance tax revenues and promote transparency, fair-

ness and confidence in the tax regime," he stated. PM Shehbaz reiterated commitment to documenting the economy and expanding the tax net. He ordered the pilot phase of the automated income tax system to start from the federal capital before nationwide rollout. Officials said the new system will use AI to analyze data on properties, vehicles, and bank transactions to detect under-

reported income and hidden assets. A National Faceless Audit Wing, National Assessment Wing, and Field Operations Wing will be set up to improve compliance. The PM also appreciated provincial action against illegal cigarette trade, which is expected to add Rs40 billion to the exchequer this fiscal year.

The meeting was attended by Federal Ministers Rana Tanveer Hussain, Azam Nazeer Tarar, Musadik Masood Malik, Ahsan Iqbal Cheema, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Attaullah Tarar, Shaza Fatima Khawaja and Ali Pervaiz Malik, Minister of State for Finance Bilal Azhar Kayani, Attorney General Mansoor Usman Awan, Special Assistant Haroon Akhtar and senior government officials.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi assures Sindh govt support for combating crimes

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi on Thursday said that the federal government would provide all possible assistance to the Sindh government for ensuring law and order and the elimination of drug smuggling in the province.

He was speaking to Senior Sindh Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon in Karachi.

Praising the Sindh Police, he said that the Force had played a key role in the restoration of law and order in the province by demonstrating gallantry, professionalism and commitment in challenging circumstances.

He congratulated the Sindh minister on conducting successful operations against the dacoits of katcha area.

Speaking on the occasion, Memon said that effective coordination and collaboration



between the federal and provincial governments was the best recipe for dealing with the challenges confronting the country. He stressed the need for

working together in matters of national interest.

The provincial minister, on the occasion, expressed his government's resolve to

continue to make efforts for the elimination of crimes, ensuring peace and protection of residents of the province.

Both ministers concurred that both the governments would increase contact with each other for the resolution of the issues confronting the masses.

Pakistan vows to strengthen cultural, tourism ties with Ethiopia: Aurangzeb Khichi

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Aurangzeb Khan Khichi, met with the Ethiopian Ambassador, Dr. Oumer Hussien Oba, to discuss strengthening cultural and tourism ties. Khichi expressed Pakistan's keenness to enhance people-to-people contacts and expand cooperation in culture and heritage, suggesting initiatives like Ethiopian Cultural Days in Pakistan and reciprocal visits of cultural troupes. He highlighted Pakistan's successful cultural outreach programs and invited Ethiopian participation in Lok Virsa events.

The Ambassador appreciated the hospitality, shared insights into Ethiopia's rich cultural heritage, and emphasized the role of Ethiopian Airlines in boosting connectivity and exchange. He proposed an MoU to institutionalize cooperation, which the minister welcomed, believing it would deepen mutual understanding and friendship between the two



nations. The Secretary of the National Heritage and Culture Division also supported increased engagement.

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Four terrorists killed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Operations



City Desk

RAWALPINDI: On night 3/4 June 2026, four khwarij belonging to Indian-sponsored Fitna-Al-Khwarij were killed in two separate engagements in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province.

On reported presence of khwarij, an intelligence based operation was conducted by Security Forces in Dera Ismail Khan District. During conduct of the operation, own troops effectively engaged khwarij location and after intense exchange of fire, two khwarij, belonging to Indian-sponsored Fitna-al-Khwarij were sent to hell.

Another intelligence based operation was conducted by Security forces in Mohmand District. In ensuing

skilful engagement, two more khwarij were effectively neutralised.

Weapons and ammunition have also been recovered from killed Indian sponsored khwarij, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area.

Sanitization operations are being conducted to eliminate any other Kharji found in the area, as relentless Counter Terrorism campaign under vision "Azim e Istehkam" (as approved by Federal Apex Committee on National Action Plan) by Security Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies of Pakistan will continue at full pace to wipe out the menace of foreign sponsored and supported terrorism from the country.

President, PM pay tribute to security forces for successful operations against terrorists in KP

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Zardari and PM Sharif lauded security forces for successful intelligence-based operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, resulting in the elimination of four India-backed terrorists in Dera Ismail Khan and Mohmand districts. PM Sharif affirmed that operations would continue until terrorism is eradicated, valuing the sacrifices of armed forces and security institutions.

He stressed that conspiracies against Pakistan's peace would be defeated and that terrorists and their facilitators have no place in the



country.

Both leaders reiterated commitment to eliminating terrorism under the "Azim-e-Istehkam" initiative and expressed confidence in the security forces' capabilities, with unwavering national support for the ongoing fight.

Pakistan Launches PKR 7.1 Billion Facility to Boost Agri-Storage



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: InfraZamin Pakistan, in partnership with The Bank of Punjab, Faysal Bank Limited, and Pak Brunei Investment Company Limited, has launched a PKR 7.1 billion Social Impact Financing Facility to bolster Pakistan's agricultural storage infrastructure. This initiative aims to attract private sector investment for warehousing, silos, and cold storage, addressing crucial gaps and improving agricultural productivity. Advisor to the Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue, Mr. Adnan Pasha, hailed it as a significant milestone, a step towards reducing post-harvest losses, and enhancing farmer financial inclusion, marking Pakistan's second major social impact

financing transaction after the Pakistan Skills Impact Bond. The facility, led by the private sector without sovereign guarantees, utilizes InfraZamin's partial credit guarantee mechanism to de-risk investments. It will mobilize up to PKR 7.1 billion, including PKR 5.0 billion in debt and PKR 2.1 billion in equity, supported by a PKR 2.5 billion guarantee from InfraZamin. This financing will fund the renovation, expansion, and development of storage facilities, expected to create and upgrade over 300,000 metric tons of storage capacity within two years. This will empower farmers to preserve produce, reduce wastage, access better markets, and gain financing against stored commodities, leading to higher and more stable incomes.

Punjab unveils 2026 budget with focus on AI and broadband

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Punjab government on Thursday presented its development budget proposals for 2026, allocating billions of rupees for IT and artificial intelligence projects.

The proposed development program includes more than Rs 4.22 billion worth of new schemes. Among the allocations, Rs 10 billion is earmarked for the Chief Minister's Priority Program, Rs 10 billion for smog eradication, and

Rs 88 billion for the Chief Minister's Internship Program Phase II.

The budget also proposes Rs 72.5 billion to expand broadband coverage in urban areas. Plans to establish a modern AI platform and government cloud infrastructure for monitoring industrial pollution across Punjab have been included.

Additional allocations have been made for socio-economic data collection, freelancing and bootcamp programs, One Map Punjab, and sustainable development goals.