



Nauman Bashir appointed Chief of State Protocol in Foreign Office

The federal government on Wednesday appointed Nauman Bashir as Chief of State Protocol in the Foreign Office in Islamabad. Before his current assignment, Nauman Bashir had served as Pakistan's Ambassador to Kazakhstan.



A Leading National Daily



Daily The Spokesman

فرمان رسول والذین علیہ
ہم سے عروہن علی نے بیان کیا، انہوں نے کہا
ہم سے فضیل بن سیدان نے بیان کیا، انہوں
نے کہا ہم سے مسلم بن ابی مریم نے بیان کیا،
کہا مجھ سے عبد الرحمن بن جابر نے ان صحابی
سے بیان کیا جنہوں نے نبی کریم ﷺ سے
سنا تھا کہ آپ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا اللہ
تعالیٰ کی حدود میں سے کسی حد کے سوا مجرم
کو دس کوڑے سے زیادہ کی سزا دی جائے۔
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Islamabad airport outsourcing

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Privatisation and Chairman Privatisation Commission, Muhammad Ali witnessing the signing of Transaction Advisory Services Agreement with the Asian Development Bank on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

ADB, Privatisation Commission sign agreement for Islamabad airport outsourcing

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Pakistan's Privatisation Commission have signed a Financial Advisory Services Agreement for the outsourcing of Islamabad International Airport, marking a key step in the government's privatisation

programme.

According to an official announcement, the ADB will serve as the financial adviser for the outsourcing process and provide comprehensive transaction advisory services.

The agreement was signed by the ADB's Country Director on behalf of the bank, while the Director General of the Privatisation

Commission signed on behalf of the Government of Pakistan. Privatisation Adviser and Chairman of the Privatisation Commission Muhammad Ali attended the signing ceremony.

Under the agreement, the ADB will provide technical, financial, legal, environmental and commercial advisory

services to support the outsourcing transaction. The announcement said the bank will help ensure that the privatisation process is conducted in a transparent, competitive and market-based manner.

Officials said the arrangement is expected to attract leading international airport operators and investors, with

the aim of improving operational efficiency, service quality and long-term investment at Islamabad International Airport.

The outsourcing initiative is part of the government's broader efforts to modernise key public assets and encourage private sector participation in infrastructure management.

Advisory council warns govt of looming fuel supply crisis in Pakistan

Commerce Desk

Islamabad: The Oil Companies Advisory Council (OCAC) has warned of a potential petrol shortage in parts of the country and urged the federal government to take immediate steps to avert a fuel supply crisis.

In an urgent letter addressed to the federal minister for petroleum, the OCAC said the country currently has petrol reserves sufficient for only 15 days, expressing concern that delays in customs clearance could disrupt the supply chain.

The council warned that upcountry areas are particularly at risk of facing petrol short-

ages if the situation is not addressed promptly. It added that fuel supplies are under further pressure due to the non-approval of Pakistan State Oil's (PSO) import cargo.

The OCAC also called for immediate payment of Rs66.7 billion in pending Price Differential Claim (PDC) dues, saying oil marketing companies are facing severe financial strain.

According to the council, the rising cost of petroleum imports has significantly increased the industry's working capital requirements, making it difficult for companies to maintain uninterrupted fuel supplies.

The letter urged the Ministry of Petroleum to remove the hurdles in customs clearance of imported petroleum products through the WeBOC system to ensure timely deliveries.

The OCAC warned that if immediate financial relief is not provided and import-related issues remain unresolved, the timely import of petroleum products could be affected, increasing the risk of fuel shortages across the country.

The council appealed to the Ministry of Petroleum to intervene without delay to stabilise the supply chain and prevent disruptions in petrol supplies.

Tarar chairs meeting of sub-committee on Pakistan Civil Awards to review 2026 nominations



News Desk

Federal Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar chairs meeting of the Sub-Committee on Pakistan Civil Awards to review nominations received for the Pakistan Civil Awards 2026.

According to official statement, the nominations were considered based on merit, transparency, and established policy.

The meeting emphasized ensuring representation for women, minorities, persons with disabilities, and the provinces. The representatives and Chief Secretaries from all provinces participated via video link. The sub-committee also reviewed nominations of individuals who have rendered outstanding services at the national level.

PM Shehbaz bids farewell to SAARC secretary general, reaffirms support for regional cooperation



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) as he received the organisation's outgoing Secretary General, Ambassador Muhammad Ghulam Sarwar, for a farewell call at the Prime Minister's House.

During the meeting, the prime minister appreciated Ambassador Sarwar's dedicated services and leadership in promoting regional cooperation throughout his tenure as SAARC secretary general.

Shehbaz reiterated Pakistan's unwavering commitment to the SAARC Charter and underscored the need to revitalise regional cooperation

to enhance connectivity, promote sustainable development and ensure shared prosperity for the people of South Asia.

The prime minister also conveyed his best wishes to Ambassador Sarwar for his future endeavours.

Ambassador Sarwar thanked Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for the support extended by Pakistan during his tenure as chair of SAARC and expressed appreciation for the country's continued commitment to the regional organisation.

The meeting reaffirmed the importance of strengthening regional collaboration to address shared challenges and advance economic and social development across South Asia.

Ishaq Dar reaffirms Pakistan's commitment to advancing SCO's objectives



City Desk

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday reaffirmed Pakistan's strong commitment to advancing the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)'s objectives.

Talking to the Secretary-General of the SCO, Nurlan Yermekbayev in Islamabad, the deputy prime minister expressed readiness to work closely with all Member States ahead of Pakistan assuming the Chairmanship of the SCO Council of Heads of State (CHS) in September 2026 and hosting the SCO Summit in 2027.

During the meeting, the two sides held a productive

exchange on the SCO priorities and ways to further strengthen cooperation among Member States in key areas, including economy, transport, and connectivity.

They also exchanged views on regional and international developments. The Secretary-General commended Pakistan's constructive contributions to promoting regional peace, stability, and cooperation.

The Secretary-General shared his perspective and proposals for further enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of the SCO, and briefed the DPM/FM on preparations for the forthcoming SCO Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) Meeting in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Balochistan security conference reviews counterterrorism operations

Bureau Report

QUETTA: Balochistan's political, military, and law enforcement leadership reviewed the province's security situation and counterterrorism operations at the 26th Hardening of the State Conference on Wednesday. Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Khan Bugti chaired the meeting in Quetta, focusing on militant threats, federal-provincial coordination, and measures to strengthen peace and state authority. The forum evaluated joint Operation Shaban, conducted by the Pakistan Army, Frontier Corps Balochistan, and police, expressing satisfaction with its progress. Participants agreed to continue



action against militant groups and facilitators with greater coordination and effectiveness. The meeting paid tribute to those killed in the Hanna-Urak and Mangi Dam attacks, pledging to persist with counterterrorism operations

for lasting peace in Balochistan. The government is working with security forces to enhance law and order and accelerate development projects, particularly in remote areas. Bugti stressed that sustainable peace and development are linked, with improved services and economic opportunities essential for stability. Attendees included representatives from the Pakistan Army, Frontier Corps, Pakistan Coast Guards, police, Federal Investigation Agency, Customs, and other federal and provincial institutions. They agreed that all agencies would continue operating under a coordinated strategy to protect citizens, restore state writ, and maintain peace across Balochistan.

Unexploded missile recovered in Islamabad

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: An unexploded missile was found during digging of a plot in Islamabad. The missile was found in the jurisdiction of the 1-9 Police Station in the federal capital.

Soon after receiving the report, teams of Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) and Rescue 1122 rushed to the spot



and examined the missile. Later, the missile was handed over to the security institutions as it was inoperative.

Bilawal Calls for Truth and Reconciliation Commission to Resolve AJK Crisis

 **Bureau Report**

MUZAFFARABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has called for an immediate, peaceful and credible political process to resolve the ongoing crisis in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), urging all stakeholders to prevent further loss of life and restore public confidence.

In a letter addressed to the Core Committee and Negotiating Committee of the Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JKJAAC), Bilawal described the recent fatalities as a national tragedy, extending condolences to the bereaved families and wishing a speedy recovery to the injured. He emphasized that the lives of both peaceful civilians and security personnel must be protected.

Bilawal reaffirmed the democratic right of AJK residents to peacefully raise their political, economic and



constitutional concerns, stressing that peaceful protesters should not be labelled as terrorists or anti-state elements. At the same time, he called for impartial investigations into all

incidents of violence involving both protesters and law enforcement agencies.

To break the political deadlock, the PPP chairman proposed the formation

of an independent Truth and Reconciliation Commission, constituted with the consent of all stakeholders, to investigate the current situation, review disputed issues and recommend a fair and lasting solution.

He also reiterated his support for the dignity and identity of the people of AJK, stating that no authority has the right to question who qualifies as a Kashmiri.

Bilawal appealed to JKJAAC to keep its movement peaceful and consider suspending its planned long march once consensus is reached on establishing the proposed commission. He also urged authorities to avoid further punitive measures during the reconciliation process.

The PPP chairman said his party stands ready to facilitate dialogue and support a peaceful resolution in the best interests of the people of Kashmir.

Sardar Umar Nazir Kashmiri Thanks Military and Overseas Foundation for Kashmir Focus

 **News Desk**



RAWALAKOT: Addressing the sit-in at Rawalakot, Sardar Umar Nazir Kashmiri expressed his gratitude to Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir and Chairman of the Pakistan Overseas Foundation, Syed Qamar Raza, for their attention to the prevailing situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

He stated that a letter had been addressed to Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, following which an official response was issued. He further said that, in view of the current circumstances in Jammu and Kashmir, Chairman of the Pakistan Overseas Foundation, Syed Qamar Raza, had been entrusted with a specific mandate to engage in dialogue and consultations on the matter.

Sardar Umar Nazir Kashmiri expressed hope that these efforts would contribute positively towards addressing the prevailing situation through constructive engagement and dialogue.

Governor calls for clean energy revolution as Sindh emerges as Pakistan's energy powerhouse



 **Bureau Report**

KARACHI: Sindh Governor Syed Muhammad Nehal Hashmi has called for a clean energy revolution, emphasizing the province's vast energy potential for Pakistan's long-term security and economic growth. Speaking at the 2nd Sindh Energy Diversity Conference in Karachi, he stressed the importance of renewable sources like solar and wind power, urging local manufacturing of equipment such as panels and batteries to reduce imports. Hashmi highlighted that increased investment in the energy sector would boost the economy, create jobs, and drive sustainable industrial growth. He noted the government's support for eco-friendly projects and called for collaboration among policymakers, industrialists, and experts to foster innovation. Federal Minister for Investment Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh stated that Sindh's energy resources could catalyze Pakistan's industrial revival, export growth, and foreign investment. He praised the Thar coal public-private partnership and assured investor facilitation through the Board of Investment. Sindh Energy Secretary Shahab Qamar Ansari reaffirmed commitment to harnessing indigenous resources, citing expansions in Thar coal, mine-mouth power plants, solar projects, and the Gharo-Jhimpir wind corridor (producing ~1,875 MW). The long-term strategy aims to maximize local production, reduce fuel imports, and enhance energy independence while meeting climate goals. CEO of Inverex Solar Energy Zakir Ali called for affordable bank financing for rooftop solar adoption, while other officials outlined clean electricity initiatives. Conference Chairman Naeem Qureshi noted the platform's role in uniting stakeholders to unlock Sindh's energy potential for Pakistan's sustainable future. On this occasion Ruqiyah Naeem, Director Admin and Finance, Asif Haider Mirza, Financial Consultant, Thar Coal Energy Project, Ahmad Sadiq, Section Manager, Fauji Fertilizer Company, Anis Younus, MD, EMBA Corporation, Kumail, National Sales Manager C&I, ITEL Energy, Khalique Jafrani, Chairman, SOGO Group, Ch. Abdul Qayyum Deputy CEO, Shanghai Electric, Mutahir ul Islam, Director Operations-QuantexIQ, Yasir Hussain, CEO, Climate Action Plan, Abubakar Ismail-Head of Supply - KE, • Muhammad Umar, Director Power and Energy, EV, NEECA, Bashir Hussain-Deputy Director Bus Operations-SMTA, Rashid Azeem, Head of Sustainability, ESG and Climate Risk- Pakistan & GCC • UBL-United Bank Limited and others also addressed.

Power looms industry faces worst crisis amid institutional interference, warns Association Chief



 **Asim Tanveer**

MULTAN: A meeting of the All Pakistan Power Looms Association in Multan addressed the industry's severe crisis due to institutional interference. Central President Khaliq Qandeel Ansari stated that departments like MEPCO, WASA, and others prioritize personal interests, making business survival difficult. He warned of a nationwide protest if interference isn't halted. MP Maqsooda Begum promised to raise these issues with the Punjab Chief Minister. PMU-N's Aqeel Ahmed Ansari emphasized the industry's foreign exchange and employment contributions, urging immediate problem resolution. He assured that every possible role will be played to protect the industry and solve the problems. Bashir Ahmed Ansari, Saeed Ahmed, Younis Ansari, Irshad Qadri, Nazir Ahmed Ansari, Sanaullah Ansari, Muhammad Ashraf Goga, Abdul Razzaq Ansari, Amjad Nazir Ansari, Mushtaq Ahmed Shakargarhi, Muhammad Ilyas Pehlwan, Sufi Niaz Ahmed, Imran Waris, Habibur Rehman, Majid, Sardar Nasir Iqbal, Aslam, Hasnain Pappu, Asghar Bagga Ansari, Jan Ansari, Abdul Latif and other speakers also addressed the gathering and demanded an immediate solution to the problems faced by the power loom industry.

Breathtaking view

ABBOTTABAD: A breathtaking view of the beautiful village of Gray Mandi nestled amidst lush green mountains.



Photo: Online by Sultan Dogar

BilawaBhutto Zardari Chairs Key Organisational and Political Meeting

 **Abdul Majeed Tahir**

MUZAFFARABAD: Chairman of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, chaired a meeting in Muzaffarabad to review the election campaign across Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and discuss the political situation.

Party leaders reported that the campaign is vigorous with public enthusiasm. Bilawal urged ending a 30-day protest and returning to dialogue, stressing solutions through constitutional means. He criticized election boycotts, advocating democratic participation.

He proposed interim observer representation for AJK in the National Assembly and permanent representation at the National Finance Commission to voice Kashmiri concerns at the federal level.

Emphasizing youth empowerment, he said AJK cannot rely solely on grants, warning that unmet aspirations may allow disruptive forces to exploit frustra-



tion.

Bilawal proposed a constitutional forum to deliberate on AJK's future governance

framework and announced he would remain in AJK until the campaign's conclusion, overseeing party outreach.

The meeting reaffirmed the PPP's commitment to democratic participation and protecting AJK's political and economic rights.

Attock: Pushcart Vendors Protest Eviction, Demand Restoration of Livelihoods

 **Raza Naqvi**

ATTOCK: Following the directives of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the district administration, under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Dr. Mudassar Ahmed Shah, along with the Municipal Committee Attock and the PERA force, launched an operation against encroachments that resulted in the removal of numerous pushcart vendors from city markets. The affected vendors staged a protest, demanding the resto-

ration of their means of livelihood.

According to details, during the ongoing development and anti-encroachment campaign in Attock city, pushcart vendors were removed from major commercial areas. In response, hundreds of vendors, led by Ehtesham-ur-Rehman Khan, President of the Fruit and Vegetable Commission Agents Association, General Secretary Raja Yasir, and other office-bearers, held a demonstration outside the Deputy Commissioner's Office despite the intense heat.

Speaking to the media, Ehtesham-ur-Rehman Khan said that pushcart vendors had been earning their livelihood for decades within the designated limits marked by the district administration. He claimed that the recent operation had deprived hundreds of families of their only source of income, pushing many daily wage earners into severe financial hardship.

He further stated that changes in the city's traffic arrangements had already increased congestion on Siddiqui Road,

and the removal of vendors from there had further reduced their opportunities to earn a living. According to him, many vendors now return home empty-handed after spending the entire day searching for work, leaving their families struggling to meet even their basic needs.

The protesters appealed to the district administration to allocate a suitable alternative location for pushcart vendors so they could continue earning an honest livelihood with dignity and support their families.



Islamabad
30° – 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr3:28 am
Zohr12:14 pm
Asr5:11 pm
Maghrib7:19 pm
Isha8:59 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police 9266044
Motorway Police 9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance115
PIA Flight Info 114
PIA Cargo..... 9280979
Railway Inquiry117
Railway Exchange9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi5555489
CAA 9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH561111
MH561116
MH561116
Cantt Hospital.....9270907-11
DHQ5556311-4
RGH9290301-7
Holy Family.....9290322-7
PIMS9261170-79
Polyclinic 9218300-09
Shifa International4603666

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8,9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-89266316
Wapda Islamabad.....9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint.....119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank
Rawalpindi.....0331-5022125

MD Wasa Kamran Kahlon Supervises Rainwater Clearance

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Following heavy rainfall in Toba Tek Singh, the Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) launched an emergency operation to drain rainwater accumulated at Shahbaz Chowk, one of the city's busiest intersections. Managing Director WASA Toba Tek Singh Chaudhry Kamran Kahlon personally visited the site and supervised the drainage operation.

During the visit, the Managing Director directed the concerned officers and field staff to ensure uninterrupted drainage of rainwater so that commuters and residents would not face any inconvenience. WASA teams remained actively engaged in the operation, using modern machinery, dewatering pumps and other equipment to remove the accumulated water on an emergency basis. Speaking on the occasion, Chaudhry Kamran Kahlon said that all WASA field teams were on high alert during the monsoon season and were continuously monitoring low-lying areas across the city.

CM launches interest-free pink salt financing scheme to boost exports, jobs

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz launched the Chief Minister Pink Salt Value Addition Financing Scheme to boost industry, employment, and exports through pink salt value addition.

She inaugurated the scheme digitally and announced a 110-acre Pink Salt Mineral Processing Zone near Quaidabad. Over 200 processing units will be established, attracting Rs150 million investment and creating 10,000 jobs.

A Business Facilitation Centre and a Model Retail Outlet will support investors.

Under the scheme, new investors can get interest-free loans up to Rs50 million for salt processing, grinding, refining, cleaning, and packaging. Loans from Rs5 million to Rs50 million are available for machinery and export-standard technology, repayable in five years.

Officials noted that value addition could

generate \$300 million in annual foreign exchange.

Bids worth Rs471 million were received in the first phase, and Rs2.5 billion in the second. Digitalisation of lease and licence auctions by the Mines and Minerals Department increased revenue.

CM Maryam Nawaz said the scheme

would create jobs and boost revenue through industrialisation and exports. She stated pink salt products will carry the "Made in Pakistan" label, and natural resources will be protected. The initiative aims to increase global exports of processed, packaged, and decorative pink salt products.



Sufism & Cultural

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani viewing the art of Roomi & Aiman during exhibition titled Sufism & Culture at Pakistan National Council of the Arts in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Protest in Hyderabad over delay in arrest of Kashif Baghi Murder suspect

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Political and social activists staged a protest outside the Hyderabad Press Club over the alleged failure to arrest the main accused, Waleed Farooqui, in the murder case of PPP-Shaheed Bhutto leader Kashif Baghi.

Led by the victim's brother Asif Qaim Khani, along with Imtiaz Mirani and Lala Qurban Sodhar, the demonstrators said that despite considerable time passing, Hyderabad Police had not arrested the principal nominated accused. They claimed SSP Hyderabad had given repeated assurances but no tangible progress was made.

Protesters also alleged that one arrested suspect was



receiving undue facilities in jail, calling it an injustice that undermines the legal process.

They demanded the immediate arrest of Waleed Farooqui and warned that if he was not

taken into custody soon, they would launch a province-wide protest movement for justice.

AIOU Reaffirms Commitment to Promoting Iqbal's Thought and Philosophy

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University(AIOU) has reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to promoting the thought and philosophy of Allama Muhammad Iqbal through sustained academic, research and intellectual initiatives. The commitment was reiterated during a distinguished scholarly session organized to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of the Poet of the East, Allama Muhammad Iqbal.

In his presidential address, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood said that Allama Muhammad Iqbal's message continues to serve as a beacon of intellectual, moral, and spiritual guidance for the younger generation. He emphasized that in keeping with its name and mission, AIOU considers



the promotion of Iqbal's thought a national, academic and cultural responsibility.

Speaking on "The Intellectual

Legacy of Allama Iqbal" Ifthikhar Arif said that Allama Iqbal portrayed the tragedy of Karbala as an enduring symbol of truth, justice, freedom,

dignity and resistance against oppression. He observed that the sacrifices of Imam Hussain (RA) and the Ahl al-Bayt stand as a timeless declaration that truth must be upheld at any cost and that one should never submit to tyranny, injustice, or falsehood.

Prof. Dr. Abdul Aziz Sahir, Director of the Iqbal Chair and Sufi Thought announced on the occasion the launch of a unique project to produce an audio recording of Kuliyat-e-Iqbal in the voice of Ifthikhar Arif.

The event was attended by faculty members, researchers, students and literature enthusiasts who paid tribute to Allama Iqbal's enduring contributions to Islamic thought, literature and the intellectual awakening of the Muslim world.

CM Maryam Nawaz meets MPAs, pledges more development for Mandi Bahauddin

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif met MPAs Khalid Mehmood Ranjha and Chaudhry Akhtar Abbas Bosal from Mandi Bahauddin on Wednesday. The lawmakers briefed her on public issues and needs in constituencies PP-42 and PP-43, and the prevailing political situation. The CM directed relevant authorities to ensure prompt resolution of the concerns raised. The MPAs appreciated the launch of the electric bus service in Mandi Bahauddin and praised her efforts for city beautification across Punjab. Maryam Nawaz said more electric buses would be introduced in Mandi Bahauddin and other districts. She said PML-N has fulfilled its commitments with Allah's blessings. The construction and expansion of over 32,000 km of roads will boost economic activity. She noted international recognition for programs like Apni Chhat Apna Ghar, Safe City, and Suthra Punjab reflects the government's commitment to good governance.

Hazro Police arrest suspect in multi-million rupee overseas employment fraud case

ATTOCK: Hazro Police have arrested a suspect allegedly involved in defrauding a citizen of millions of rupees by falsely promising to send him abroad and later issuing a bogus cheque. Further investigation is underway.

According to police, a citizen, Sami Ur Rehman, lodged a complaint at Hazro Police Station stating that the accused, Tanveer Iqbal Awan, had promised to arrange his travel to Canada and collected Rs. 4.7 million for visa processing, air tickets, and other related expenses. However, the suspect neither facilitated his travel abroad nor returned the money.

The complainant further alleged that the accused later issued a cheque worth Rs. 4 million, which was dishonoured by the bank due to insufficient funds. When he demanded the return of his money, the accused allegedly threatened him with dire consequences.

Acting on the complaint, Hazro Police registered a case and arrested the suspect, Tanveer Iqbal Awan, son of Jahangir Iqbal Awan, a resident of Taxila, Rawalpindi District. Police said further investigation into the case is in progress.

PML-N's Jahanzaib Safdar meets DC Faisalabad, discusses Mamukanjan Development

Zafar Chishti

MAMUKANJAN: PML-N ticket holder and MPA candidate for PP-103 Mamukanjan, Chaudhry Jahanzaib Safdar, met Deputy Commissioner Faisalabad Muhammad Nauman Siddique to discuss public issues and development projects in the constituency.

Safdar briefed the DC on problems faced by shopkeepers, traders and residents, including civic facilities, sanitation, traffic management, drainage, encroachments and other administrative matters. He said timely resolution would boost commercial activity and public convenience.

The DC assured that relevant departments would be directed to address the issues on a priority basis.

The meeting also reviewed ongoing projects. Safdar gave recommendations to improve the carpet road project and construction of the twin bridge over Sim Canal, stressing quality, transparency and timely completion. He also urged immediate rehabilitation of rural roads across PP-103.

At the end, Safdar invited the DC to visit Mamukanjan. Siddique accepted and pledged to visit soon and coordinate with departments for resolution of issues and completion of projects.

Awaam Pakistan Leaders Condemn Fazlur Rehman's Remarks on Martyrs

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Awaam Pakistan Party leaders Chaudhry Inam Zafar and Hafiz Usman Abbasi strongly condemned JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman's recent remarks on Pakistan Armed Forces martyrs, calling them regrettable and hurtful to the nation. In a joint statement, they said Fazlur Rehman linked the sacrifices of martyrs to their salaries during a rally in Kasur while discussing the security situation in KP and Balochistan. As a senior political and religious leader, they said, he should have shown more responsibility. They stated that the Pakistan Armed Forces are the pride of the nation and that today's peace and stability are due to the sacrifices of soldiers and martyrs. Reducing those sacrifices to salaries reflects moral insensitivity.



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Reforming Pakistan’s Umrah System: A Timely Step Towards Greater Transparency

The federal government’s approval of comprehensive reforms to Pakistan’s Umrah management system marks an important milestone in improving religious travel services. For years, thousands of Pakistani pilgrims have relied on private operators to arrange their sacred journey to the Holy Cities of Makkah and Madinah. While many service providers have fulfilled their responsibilities with professionalism, the sector has also witnessed numerous complaints involving fraud, poor management, misleading packages, and inadequate services. The newly approved regulatory framework seeks to address these longstanding issues and restore public confidence in the Umrah sector.

At the heart of the reforms is the decision to allow only companies certified by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony to organize Umrah services. This move introduces much-needed accountability into an industry that has often operated with varying standards of professionalism. By bringing all administrative, regulatory, and supervisory responsibilities under a single government authority, the reforms are expected to eliminate ambiguity and establish uniform standards for service providers.

The importance of these reforms extends beyond administrative efficiency. Performing Umrah is a deeply spiritual experience for Muslims, and pilgrims deserve to undertake this sacred journey without the anxiety of financial exploitation or logistical uncertainty. Unfortunately, many families invest their life savings to perform Umrah, only to encounter cancelled bookings, substandard accommodation, hidden charges, or even fraudulent travel agencies. Such incidents not only cause financial loss but also leave lasting emotional distress. Stronger regulation can significantly reduce these risks.

The government’s emphasis on transparency and structured oversight is therefore both timely and necessary. A properly regulated system will encourage healthy competition among licensed operators based on service quality rather than misleading advertisements or unrealistic pricing. It will also help authorities monitor compliance, address complaints more effectively, and take prompt action against companies that violate established standards.

However, regulations alone will not guarantee success. Effective implementation will determine whether these reforms achieve their intended objectives. The Ministry of Religious Affairs must establish a transparent licensing process, conduct regular audits of Umrah operators, and maintain an accessible digital portal where pilgrims can verify the registration status of travel companies, compare approved packages, and lodge complaints. Technology should play a central role in ensuring transparency and minimizing bureaucratic hurdles.

Public awareness is equally important. Pilgrims should be educated about the new regulations and encouraged to book only through authorized companies. Clear information campaigns, both online and through traditional media, can help protect citizens from fraudulent operators who may attempt to continue their activities outside the regulated framework.

The reforms should also encourage travel companies to improve customer service, staff training, and emergency support for pilgrims abroad. A modern Umrah management system must focus not only on regulatory compliance but also on enhancing the overall pilgrimage experience with professionalism, efficiency, and compassion.

Cyber Politics

Cyber politics has emerged as one of the most significant concepts in the contemporary global political landscape, fundamentally transforming traditional understandings of state power, governance, diplomacy, national security, and public participation. The rapid advancement of information technology, the Internet, artificial intelligence, social media, big data, and cyberspace has shifted politics beyond geographical boundaries into a global digital environment where information, public opinion, and political influence transcend borders within seconds. Today, political decision-making, public movements, election campaigns, international relations, and national security are all closely connected to the cyber domain. Consequently, cyber politics has become a fundamental pillar of twenty-first-century global politics.

Cyber politics refers to all political activities, strategies, state policies, and international interactions that are conducted through or influenced by digital technologies and cyberspace. It encompasses online election campaigns, digital diplomacy, cybersecurity, information warfare, political communication through social media, digital surveillance, electronic voting, online protest movements, and cyber competition among states. In the modern world, cyberspace is no longer merely a medium for communication; it has evolved into a strategic arena of political power, national interests, and global influence.

The digital revolution has completely transformed the nature of political communication. In the past, political

parties primarily relied on newspapers, radio, and television to reach the public. Today, however, social media platforms have become the most effective means of political communication. Political leaders communicate directly with citizens, explain their policies, receive public feedback, and organize election campaigns through digital platforms. This transformation has made politics more dynamic, participatory, and responsive, although it has also introduced serious challenges such as fake news, hate speech, and the widespread dissemination of misinformation.

Information occupies a central position in cyber politics. In the contemporary world, states and institutions possessing accurate, timely, and comprehensive information enjoy significant political and diplomatic advantages. Big data, data analytics, and artificial intelligence are increasingly used to examine voter behavior, political trends, and public preferences, enabling policymakers and political parties to formulate more effective strategies. As a result, information has become a new source of political power and one of the most valuable strategic assets in the digital age.

Cyber politics has also broadened the concept of national security. Traditionally, states were primarily concerned with threats originating from land, sea, and air. Today, cyberattacks constitute one of the most serious threats to national security. Government institutions, financial systems, power grids, communica-

tion networks, defense establishments, and electoral infrastructure have become potential targets of cyberattacks. Such attacks not only cause severe economic damage but also undermine political stability, public confidence, and governmental legitimacy. Consequently, most countries have incorporated cybersecurity into their national security strategies as a fundamental priority.

In international politics, cyberspace has emerged as a new arena of strategic competition. States are investing heavily in enhancing their cyber capabilities.

While many countries focus on strengthening cyber defense, others are simultaneously developing advanced offensive cyber capabilities. This trend has initiated a new cyber arms race that presents significant challenges to international peace and security. Therefore, there is an increasing need to establish international legal frameworks, confidence-building measures, and norms that encourage responsible state behavior in cyberspace.

Social media has added an entirely new dimension to cyber politics. Today, it plays a decisive role in shaping public opinion. Discussions surrounding political events, government decisions, and public issues spread globally within hours. On the positive side, social media has expanded opportunities for freedom of expression, governmental transparency, and democratic accountability. However, it has also facilitated the spread of misinformation, fake accounts, automated bots,

hate campaigns, and foreign interference in domestic political processes. For this reason, the credibility of information, digital ethics, and media literacy have become increasingly important components of cyber politics.

Artificial intelligence has introduced revolutionary changes to cyber politics. AI technologies are being used to analyze public sentiment, improve political communication, identify misinformation, evaluate electoral data, and support policymaking processes. At the same time, deepfake technologies, automated propaganda, algorithmic influence campaigns, and the irresponsible use of artificial intelligence have created new threats to democratic institutions. These developments have intensified international discussions regarding ethical standards and regulatory frameworks for the responsible development and application of artificial intelligence.

Digital sovereignty has become another important aspect of cyber politics. Many states argue that they should exercise complete authority over their national data, digital infrastructure, and online information. Accordingly, numerous countries have invested in domestic data centers, cybersecurity legislation, data protection policies, and digital regulatory institutions. Conversely, supporters of an open and global Internet advocate minimizing unnecessary restrictions and preserving the free flow of information across borders. Achieving a balance between these competing perspectives represents one of the most significant challenges facing international politics in the digital era.

Continued on Page 7



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

Missing Piece in the Peace Puzzle

Peace remains one of humanity’s most indefinable yet essential goals. Throughout history, societies have pursued peace through various mechanisms including diplomacy, conflict resolution, international treaties and institutional frameworks. Despite these effort conflict persists globally suggesting that conventional approaches to peacebuilding may be incomplete.

The missing piece in the peace puzzle often lies not in the structural mechanisms of peace agreements or international law but rather in the fundamental human capacity for reconciliation and the transformation of deep-seated grievances. While political agreements and legal frameworks form the scaffolding of peace, the genuine foundation must be built upon psychological healing, intergenerational dialogue, and the cultivation of empathy among formerly hostile groups. Peacebuilding efforts overlook, arguing that sustainable peace requires not merely the absence of violence but the active reconstruction of social bonds and collective memory.

Contemporary peace efforts have historically emphasized institutional and diplomatic solutions. International organizations such as the United Nations have developed sophisticated mechanisms for conflict prevention, mediation and peace-keeping operations. Galtung’s seminal work on structural violence, peace encompasses more than a cessation of direct conflict; it requires the elimination of structural inequalities that fuel resentment and perpetuate cycles of violence. Many peace processes fail because they address only the

symptoms of conflict the active warfare-while neglecting the underlying conditions that generated hostility in the first place.

The missing piece emerges when examining post-conflict societies that technically achieved peace through agreements but continued experiencing violence and psychological trauma. Some transitional justice mechanisms, including truth commissions and tribunals, reveal that while these institutions serve important functions in establishing accountability and historical record, they frequently fail to address the deeper human need for acknowledgment, apology and genuine remorse. Without addressing these psychological dimensions, peace remains superficial and fragile.

The role of forgiveness and reconciliation has gained increasing recognition in peace studies literature. Forgiveness, particularly in contexts of severe trauma and atrocity, represents not weakness but profound strength. When victims choose to transcend their pain and acknowledge the shared humanity of perpetrators, they break cycles of retribution that otherwise perpetuate violence indefinitely.

Forgiveness cannot be forced or rushed. Lederach’s concept of transformational peacebuilding emphasizes that sustainable peace requires addressing relationships at multiple levels: individual, group, structural, and cultural. This comprehensive approach acknowledges that peace processes must simultaneously work toward justice, healing, and systemic change to address root causes of conflict. Many contemporary peace efforts concentrate solely on structural agreements while neglecting these relational and psycholog-

ical dimensions.

Another critical missing piece involves the role of narratives and memory in peace processes. Conflict generates competing narratives-different communities remember events differently, often in ways that justify their own actions while demonizing opponents. Successful peace processes must acknowledge these multiple narratives rather than attempting to impose a single authoritative version of history.

The importance of historical consciousness emerged prominently in Northern Ireland’s peace process, where commemorations and memory work became essential to preventing the past from poisoning the present. Similarly, in Rwanda and Colombia, communities have engaged in dialogical storytelling to humanize those on the opposing side. When people hear personal stories from those they previously viewed as enemies, it significantly increases empathy and reduces likelihood of renewed violence.

Education represents another frequently overlooked piece of the peace puzzle. While peace agreements often address political and military dimensions, they rarely transform the educational systems that may have perpetuated intergroup hostility. Curricula that present one-sided historical narratives, textbooks and educational structures that segregate communities along ethnic or religious lines all undermine peace prospects.

Comprehensive peace requires educational reform that promotes critical thinking, teaches multiple perspectives and facilitates inter-group contact among young people. When students from divided communities learn together and encounter diverse viewpoints, prejudices diminish and social trust increases. Yet many post-conflict societies neglect this crucial dimension, allowing educational systems to continue

Continued on Page 7

Peace Begins Within: Building a Better World One Step at a Time

In a world often challenged by conflict, division, and uncertainty, peace remains one of humanity’s greatest aspirations. While many people think of peace as the absence of war, true peace is much deeper. It begins within individuals and gradually spreads outward to families, communities, nations, and ultimately the entire world.

The foundation of lasting peace is inner peace. When individuals develop self-awareness, calmness, compassion, and gratitude, they are better equipped to handle life’s challenges with wisdom and patience. A peaceful mind creates a positive outlook and encourages understanding rather than conflict.

From inner peace grows peace at home. Families that nurture love, respect, and understanding create environments where people feel safe and valued. Strong family relationships help children and adults alike develop emotional strength and a sense of belonging.

The next step is peace in neighborhoods and communities. Communities thrive when neighbors trust one another, offer support, and work together for the common good. Acts of kindness, cooperation, and mutual respect help create safer and more welcoming places for everyone.

Beyond the neighborhood lies the importance of peace in social relationships. Friendships, workplaces, and social groups flourish when people practice respect, empathy, and understanding. Healthy relationships reduce misunderstandings and build stronger bonds among individuals.

Equally important is peace within institutions. Schools, businesses, courts, and public organizations play a crucial role in shaping society. Ethical leadership, fairness, transparency, and accountability help build public trust and ensure that everyone is treated with dignity and justice.

When these values extend to towns and cities,

local peace emerges. Communities become more inclusive, secure, and prosperous when citizens work together to address challenges and create opportunities for all.

At the national level, peace is strengthened through justice, unity, and equal opportunities. A nation that values the well-being of all its citizens creates a foundation for stability and progress. When people feel heard, respected, and protected, societies become stronger and more resilient.

Peace also extends beyond national borders. Regional cooperation allows neighboring countries to solve common challenges, promote economic growth, and foster mutual understanding. Collaboration and dialogue can transform differences into opportunities for shared success.

Ultimately, the highest goal is global peace. A peaceful world is built on respect for human life, appreciation of diversity, and a shared commitment to protecting our planet. Global peace requires nations and people to work together, recognizing that humanity’s future is interconnected.

The journey toward a peaceful world does not begin in government offices or international conferences. It begins in the hearts and actions of ordinary people. Every act of kindness, every moment of understanding, and every effort to resolve differences peacefully contributes to a larger culture of harmony.

Peace is not a distant dream. It is a continuous process that starts with the individual and expands outward, touching families, communities, nations, and the world. By cultivating peace at every level of society, humanity can build a future marked by unity, compassion, and hope for generations to come.

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

First Lady of Pakistan Welcomes Indonesian Ambassador, Highlights Deepening Bilateral Ties

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Her Excellency Ms. Asifa Bhutto Zardari, Honorable First Lady of Pakistan, received the Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Pakistan, His Excellency Mr. Chandra Warsenanto Sukotjo, who called on her at Bilawal House, Karachi, today. The Ambassador was accompanied by his spouse.

Welcoming the Ambassador and his spouse to Karachi, the First Lady congratulated him on the successful organisation of the Pakistan-Indonesia Investment Forum in Karachi and appreciated his efforts to further strengthen bilateral economic engagement.

The First Lady observed that Pakistan and Indonesia enjoy longstanding and friendly relations founded on mutual respect, shared values, and close cooperation. She said that the two countries have consistently supported each other and worked together to promote peace, development, and prosperity in the region and beyond.

Recalling the historical bonds between the two nations, the First Lady said that Indonesia's founding President, Dr. Ir. Sukarno, shared a close personal friendship with her grandfather, Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. She noted that both leaders were united by their commitment to the dignity



of newly independent nations, Asian solidarity, and a more equitable international order. Their friendship, she remarked, imparted added warmth and depth to Pakistan-Indonesia relations and continues to inspire efforts to further strengthen the partnership between the two countries.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on expanding cooperation in trade and investment, agriculture, education, healthcare, technology transfer, vaccine development, women entrepreneurship, tourism, cultural exchanges, and people-to-people contacts.

The First Lady underscored the importance of enhancing agricultural cooperation, noting that Indonesia remains an important desti-

nation for Pakistan's rice exports, particularly premium rice produced in Sindh. She welcomed the ongoing efforts of both governments to revive the Government-to-Government rice cooperation framework, expressing confidence that it would further strengthen agricultural collaboration and create new opportunities for farmers and exporters. She also highlighted the significance of continued cooperation in palm oil and other agricultural commodities for the mutual benefit of both countries.

Highlighting opportunities for future collaboration, the First Lady said that agriculture, food security, women-led entrepreneurship, education, and stronger people-to-people exchanges offer considerable potential



for further broadening bilateral cooperation. She also expressed interest in benefiting from Indonesia's successful experience in family planning and population management, as well as expanding cooperation in healthcare, including technology transfer, vaccine development, and Pakistan's ongoing efforts towards the eradication of polio.

The Ambassador briefed the First Lady on his recent visit to various parts of Sindh and shared his posi-

tive impressions of the province's agricultural, economic, and investment potential. He reaffirmed Indonesia's commitment to further strengthening bilateral cooperation, particularly in trade, agriculture, palm oil, rice, investment, healthcare, and cultural exchanges.

The Ambassador also presented the First Lady with a commemorative publication containing infographics and historical timelines depicting the

evolution of Pakistan-Indonesia relations.

The First Lady asked the Ambassador to convey her warm greetings and best wishes to the Government and the people of Indonesia. She expressed confidence that the friendship between Pakistan and Indonesia would continue to flourish and that the two countries would further expand cooperation across diverse fields for the mutual benefit of their peoples.

D-8 Secretary-General Participates in 4th Shusha Global Media Forum in Azerbaijan

Spokesman Report

SHUSHA, AZERBAIJAN: The H. E. Sohail Mehmood, Secretary-General of the Developing-8 (D-8) Organization participated in the 4th Shusha Global Media Forum, held in Shusha, Azerbaijan, on 13-14 July under the theme, "The Mission of the Media in Promoting Peace: Restoring Truth and Rebuilding Trust."

The international forum brought together approximately 160 prominent media leaders, senior government officials, academics, and communication professionals from more than 50 countries to discuss the evolving role of the media in an increasingly complex global information landscape.

Discussions focused on key issues shaping today's media environment, including the impact of rapid technological advancements such as artificial intelligence, the growing challenges of misinformation and disinformation, and the responsibility of media organizations to promote accurate information, strengthen public trust, and contribute to peacebuilding.

The Secretary-General also participated in a three-hour high-level session with the President of Azerbaijan, H. E. Ilham Aliyev, during which the President shared Azerbaijan's foreign policy priorities and perspectives on major regional and international developments.

Following the session, the Secretary-General had the opportunity to briefly meet President Aliyev and expressed appreciation for Azerbaijan's continued support and valuable contributions to the D-8 Organization since becoming a full member in 2025.



He also acknowledged the President's leadership in strengthening Azerbaijan's engagement with the Organization.

The Secretary-General described the forum as a valuable platform for

dialogue and international cooperation, highlighting the essential role of responsible journalism and credible media in fostering peace, rebuilding trust, and addressing the challenges of the modern information age.

Algeria Invites Pakistani Businesses to Participate in REVADE 2026

International Waste Recovery Exhibition to Promote Green Technologies and Global Partnerships



Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of Algeria in Pakistan has invited Pakistani businesses, government institutions, and industry organizations to participate in the 10th International Waste Recovery and Fair (REVADE 2026), which will be held in Algiers from October 6 to 8, 2026.

According to an official statement issued by the embassy, the exhibition will be organized by the Algerian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in collaboration with the Algerian Company for Exhibitions and Export and the National Waste Agency, at the Pine Maritime Exhibition Palace in Algiers.

Recognized as one of Algeria's

premier international events for the environmental and waste management sectors, REVADE 2026 will bring together industry experts, businesses, investors, policymakers, and public and private sector representatives from around the world. The event will focus on waste management, recycling, waste recovery, circular economy initiatives, and innovative environmental technologies.

The exhibition aims to encourage the exchange of knowledge, showcase modern technologies, and foster business partnerships and investment opportunities among global stakeholders.

The Algerian Embassy has urged interested Pakistani organizations to register through the official REVADE

website and contact the event organizers for further information.

The invitation has been extended to key Pakistani institutions, including the Ministry of Commerce, Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), Ministry of Communications, Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Civil Aviation Authority, Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), SITE Association of Industry Karachi, and chambers of commerce and industry across the country.

The embassy expressed hope that Pakistan's participation would strengthen bilateral economic cooperation and create new opportunities for collaboration in environmental sustainability and green technologies.

Restoring Smiles, Rebuilding Lives

The Humanitarian Mission of Cleft Care Foundation Islamabad

Aziz-ur-Rehman Mujahid

A smile is one of the simplest yet most powerful expressions of human dignity. For most children, it comes naturally. But for thousands of children born with cleft lip and palate, smiling, speaking, eating, and even socializing can become lifelong challenges. Beyond the physical condition lies an emotional struggle marked by social stigma, limited access to specialized healthcare, and financial hardship—especially for families living in remote and underserved areas of Pakistan.

Against this backdrop, the work of the Cleft Care Foundation (CCF), Islamabad, stands as a remarkable example of compassionate healthcare transforming lives.

Led by renowned plastic surgeon Dr. Afif Umar Zia, the Foundation has embraced a philosophy that goes far beyond performing corrective surgery. CCF recognizes that cleft treatment is a long-term medical journey requiring coordinated care from plastic surgeons, orthodontists, maxillofacial surgeons, ENT specialists, audiologists, and speech therapists. This multidisciplinary approach ensures that patients



receive comprehensive treatment under one roof, addressing not only their physical condition but also their confidence, communication, and quality of life.

What makes the Foundation particularly inspiring is its commitment to serving those who need help the most. Through monthly free cleft camps, deserving families receive expert medical assessments, treatment planning, and access to life-changing services regardless of their financial circumstances. For many parents, these

camps represent the first real hope that their child can receive proper treatment and enjoy a brighter future.

Equally commendable is the Foundation's determination to reach communities beyond Islamabad. Awareness and screening camps organized in Dinga, Gujranwala, Mandi Bahauddin, Gujar Khan, Swat, and the upcoming camp in Mian Channu, in collaboration with the Maulana Tariq Jamil Foundation, demonstrate a vision that extends across Pakistan. These outreach initiatives help



identify children who might otherwise remain untreated due to poverty, distance, or lack of awareness.

Such efforts deserve national recognition because healthcare should never be limited by geography or financial status. Every child deserves the opportunity to smile with confidence, communicate without hesitation, and participate fully in society.

Dr. Afif Umar Zia's journey reflects the true spirit of medical service. Coming from a family dedicated to

healthcare, he has transformed his professional expertise into a humanitarian mission that continues to restore hope for countless families. His work reminds us that the noblest achievements in medicine are not measured solely by surgical success, but by the lives transformed and futures rebuilt.

The Cleft Care Foundation is also a model of how public awareness, community partnerships, and specialized medical expertise can work together to address complex health-

care challenges. It highlights the importance of preventive outreach, early diagnosis, and coordinated treatment in improving long-term outcomes.

As Pakistan continues to strengthen its healthcare system, initiatives like CCF deserve greater institutional support from government agencies, corporate donors, philanthropists, and civil society. Expanding such services nationwide would ensure that no child is denied treatment because of poverty or limited access to specialized care.

Ultimately, the Foundation's mission is about much more than correcting a facial condition. It is about restoring dignity, rebuilding confidence, strengthening families, and giving children the opportunity to embrace life without fear or discrimination.

Every restored smile tells a story of hope. Every successful treatment represents a renewed future. And every child who regains confidence through the work of the Cleft Care Foundation reminds us that the greatest form of healthcare is one that heals both the body and the human spirit.

May the dedicated team of the Cleft Care Foundation continue to expand this noble mission across Pakistan, bringing hope, healing, and countless smiles to those who need them most.

 Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
175,285.78	173,518.81
Day's High	Day's Low
176,701.38	173,870.27
Index Value	Change
18,455,108,528	+1766.97
Percentage	Time
+1.02%	15 Jul, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
10,515.92	-13.47
Percentage	Time
-0.13%	15 Jul, 4:35 pm GMT +1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
52,509.41	+1.14
Percentage	Time
+0.0022%	15 Jul, 1:22 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
68,751.51	+1,008.01
Percentage	Time
+1.49%	15 Jul, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	194.93	197.45
Bahrain Dinar	741.55	751.90
Canadian Dollar	197.72	201.65
China Yuan	38	38.75
Danish Krone	42.56	43.25
Euro	319.80	322.40
Hong Kong Dollar	35.22	36.23
Indian Rupee	2.75	3.20
Japanese Yen	1.7114	1.8100
Kuwaiti Dinar	890.70	900.85
Malaysian Ringgit	67.00	68.05
NewZealand \$	159.77	161.75
Norwegians Krone	27.99	28.29
Omani Riyal	726.35	736.65
Qatari Riyal	75.45	76.47
Saudi Riyal	74.60	75.25
Singapore Dollar	214.18	217.95
Swedish Korona	28.25	28.90
Swiss Franc	343.59	348.25
Thai Bhat	8.55	8.80
U.A.E Dirham	76.35	77
UK Pound Sterling	373.46	376.15
US Dollar	279	279.05

*Khurram Ijaz Calls
for Independent
Evaluation of
Pakistan Customs'
Group-less
Assessment Model*



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Khurram Ijaz, Chairman FPCCI Advisory Council on Customs and former Vice President of Federation Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), has called for an Independent Performance Evaluation (IPE) of the Group-less Assessment Model introduced following the implementation of Faceless Customs Assessment (FCA). He clarified that the proposal is not a criticism of Faceless Assessment, which is an important reform aimed at enhancing transparency, integrity, and uniformity in customs assessments. However, he emphasized that the abolition of sector-specialized assessment groups alongside FCA represents a major structural change whose impact should now be evaluated through an objective, evidence-based study. Khurram Ijaz noted that while Pakistan adopted a completely group-less assessment model, several leading customs administrations have followed a different approach. India strengthened commodity specialization after introducing Faceless Assessment by establishing National Assessment Centers (NACs) and Faceless Assessment Groups (FAGs), while the United States, the European Union, Canada, Australia, and Singapore continue to rely on sector-specific expertise for technically complex assessments.

Mian Zahid Hussain calls for
integrated development plan
to unlock Loralai's \$1 Billion
Economic Potential

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: President of the Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum (PBIF) and Chairman of the FPCCI Policy Advisory Board, Mian Zahid Hussain, has urged the government to adopt a comprehensive development strategy for Balochistan's Loralai district, saying the region has the potential to generate nearly \$1 billion annually through agriculture, mining, livestock and trade. He said Loralai's strategic location, connecting Balochistan with Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Afghanistan and Central Asia via the N-70 Highway, makes it a key commercial hub. However, poor security, inadequate

infrastructure, electricity and water shortages, weak road connectivity, limited processing facilities and a lack of skilled manpower continue to hinder investment and economic growth. Mian Zahid highlighted that over 62 percent of Loralai's population is under the age of 20 and stressed the need for vocational training in digital skills, mining, solar technology, food processing and transport to create employment opportunities. He also called for greater support for women's skills development. He emphasized the district's strong potential in olives, apples, almonds and apricots, urging the establishment of agro-processing zones, cold storage facilities, packaging centers and olive oil extraction plants to increase exports



and farmers' incomes. He further recommended value-added mineral industries, including marble processing and fluorite grading units, while calling for improved security through a Safe City project, CCTV surveillance, coordinated checkpoints and better policing along the N-70 Highway. Mian Zahid also stressed the importance of water conservation, improved irrigation systems and the appointment of a District Economic Commissioner to coordinate development efforts. He said modern infrastructure, stronger governance and local participation could transform Loralai into a major agricultural, industrial and export hub.

Green Electric Bus Service

CHINIOT: Green Electric Bus Service launched in city under part of the Punjab government's modern eco-friendly public transport initiative.



Photo: Online

FPCCI President Welcomes
Constitutional Court's Verdict on
Nasla Tower and Monal Cases

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Atif Ikram Sheikh, has welcomed the Constitutional Court's decision to overturn the Supreme Court's earlier rulings regarding the Nasla Tower and Monal cases, describing it as a positive development for investors, the business community, and Pakistan's economy. In a statement, Atif Ikram Sheikh said the Constitutional Court's verdict reflects the state's commitment to protecting investment, promoting business activity, and ensuring greater legal certainty for investors. He noted that previous decisions in such cases had created uncertainty among local and foreign investors, negatively affecting the country's investment climate. The FPCCI president said the business community firmly believes in the rule of law, transparency, and compliance with



legal regulations. However, he emphasized that balanced and pragmatic judicial decisions are essential to maintaining investor confidence and fostering a stable business environment. He observed that Pakistan is currently in urgent need of increased investment,

employment opportunities, and sustainable economic growth. According to him, decisions that strengthen investor confidence and support private-sector development will play a vital role in economic recovery and attracting both domestic and foreign investment.

Iftikhar Malik calls for SME
Cluster Centre of Excellence
to Drive Innovation and
Digital Growth



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: SAARC chamber of commerce and industry former President Iftikhar Ali Malik on Wednesday stressed the urgent need for establishing cluster centre of excellence for SMEs mainly focused on advancing innovation, digital integration and financing which contribute 40 percent to GDP in developing economies and 70 percent in developed countries. In a statement here today octogenarian trade leader of South Asia said SMEs are the backbone of our economy and foundation of regional economic

integration. He said our SMEs particularly in textile, surgical instruments, information technology, light engineering, agro based products and food processing are globally recognised for their quality and competence which he added still badly need their global competence. He hoped D-8 SME Cooperation Framework would help strengthen the internationalisation of SMEs, facilitate global value chain integration and foster international market development. He said trade volume among D-8 nations swelled to \$157.06 billion last year indicating a 10 percent increase from previous year and their intra-trade will boost to \$500bn by next five years with creation of 70 percent new jobs under its Decennial Roadmap and PTA.

ChenOne Group and
Superior University
Join Forces to Bridge
Academia-Industry Gap



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: ChenOne Group on Wednesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Art and Design Department, Superior University marking the beginning of a strategic partnership aimed at strengthening the bridge between academia and industry. This collaboration reflects a shared commitment to innovation, excellence, and creating meaningful opportunities for students through industry engagement, internships, knowl-

edge exchange, and collaborative initiatives. The ceremony was graced by Mian Kashif Ashfaq, CEO ChenOne Ms Mariya Tauqir Executive Director Corporate ChenOne, Dr Waqar Ch Arain Chenone Advisor, Vice Chairman Hamza Abdur Rehman, Rector Dr Sumaira, Dean, School of Art & Design, Samiullah Bajwa, and faculty members. Rector Dr Sumaira and Mian Kashif Ashfaq held a productive discussion on advancing industry academia collaboration and preparing future ready graduates. Both appreciated the initiative and reaffirmed their commitment to fostering innovation, practical learning, and long-term institutional collaboration.

Pakistan Needs Faster, More Predictable Climate
Finance, Says Dr. Shezra Mansab Ali Khan

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Climate Change Dr. Shezra Mansab Ali Khan said climate change is a defining threat to Pakistan's economic stability, food and water security, public health, and development, calling for enhanced climate finance, technology transfer, stronger institutions, and international partnerships. Speaking at IRS's High-Level Policy Dialogue on "Climate Finance and International Cooperation," she noted that despite contributing less than 1% of global emissions, Pakistan remains among the most climate-vulnerable countries. She stressed climate finance must be more accessible, predictable, and responsive to support

vulnerable nations. IRS President Ambassador Jauhar Saleem said climate finance enables resilient development and innovation. UNDP's Dr. Samuel Rizk urged stronger governance and policy coherence, saying finance must deliver tangible benefits to communities. Experts called for a single coordinating authority for climate finance, transparency, ring-fencing of funds, and innovative tools like blended finance and risk-sharing. CVF-V20's Hamza Haroon highlighted inequities in global finance and backed Pakistan's Climate Prosperity Plan. NDRMF's Amir Goraya stressed shifting from disaster response to risk-informed investment and resilient infrastructure.



The dialogue was attended by government officials, diplomats, and development partners.

Senate Chairman Urges National Consensus on Population Planning to Secure Pakistan's Future

Kiran Asim

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani has called for a national consensus on responsible population planning, emphasizing that Pakistan's future depends on empowering its youth through greater investment in education, healthcare and skills development.

Addressing a ceremony marking World Population Day 2026 in Islamabad, the Chairman Senate said Pakistan's growing population presents both a challenge and an opportunity. He noted that with more than 65 percent of the population under the age of 30, the country possesses a significant demographic dividend that can only be realized through sustained investments in human development.

Highlighting the pressures of rapid population growth on healthcare, educa-



tion, employment, water resources and the environment, he stressed that population planning must be integrated into Pakistan's economic and development strategies. He described family plan-

ning as a key tool for improving maternal and child health, reducing poverty and advancing sustainable development.

Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani called for cross-party cooperation and reaffirmed

Parliament's commitment to supporting legislative and policy measures aimed at promoting responsible population planning and strengthening parliamentary oversight.

The Chairman Senate also urged political leaders, religious scholars, community representatives and the media to play their role in raising awareness and dispelling misconceptions regarding family planning, terming it a collective national responsibility.

He commended the Ministry of National Health Services, provincial governments, UNFPA and development partners for their contributions to Pakistan's population and development agenda, and expressed confidence that through coordinated action the country could transform its population into a source of national strength and prosperity.

NAB Academy Holds Third Anti-Money Laundering Briefing for District Judges in Islamabad

Pakistan Anti-Corruption Academy (PACA) Hosts Third Briefing for District Judiciary on Anti-Money Laundering and Financial Investigation Strategies

With a firm commitment to enhancing the capacity of the state's legal framework, the Pakistan Anti-Corruption Academy (PACA) organized its third consecutive orientation workshop today for judges of the Islamabad District Judiciary. This session served as a high-level platform for legal experts and judicial officers, aimed at synchronizing mutual efforts to address the complex landscape of Anti-Money Laundering (AML).

Similar to its previous sessions, this briefing was held in the presence of top leadership, reflecting a robust, sustainable, and shared commitment to augmenting judicial capabilities in cases related to financial crimes.

Chairman of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), Lieutenant General (Retd) Nazir Ahmed, inaugurated the session, emphasizing that money laundering poses a grave threat to Pakistan's economic integrity. He highlighted the need for synergy between financial institutions, investigators, and the courts, stating that



NAB is committed to combating sophisticated financial crimes through the use of modern technology.

Honorable Justice of the Islamabad High Court, Mr. Justice Inaam Ameen Minhas attended as the Chief Guest. In his concluding address, he commended PACA for organizing this vital training session once again, noting that continuous knowledge exchange and professional capacity building within the judiciary are indispensable for the accurate interpretation and effective enforcement of modern financial laws.

Deputy Chairman NAB, Mr. Sohail Nasir, provided a detailed overview of the Anti-Money Laundering Act, 2010. He offered guidance on the judicial powers to seize and attach assets derived from criminal



activities. Furthermore, he shed light on modern forms of money laundering, such as the misuse of shell companies and cryptocurrency. Director General of the Special Investigation Division (SID) of NAB, Mr. Muhammad Tahir, focused on global standards, discussing the roles of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). He also clarified the procedures and practical significance of international asset recovery through Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA).

Master Trainer from the Financial Monitoring Unit (FMU), Ms. Noor-us-Sahar, highlighted the critical role of the goAML portal and the importance of Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs) in curbing

financial crimes to provide solid evidence for successful prosecutions.

The event concluded with the distribution of certificates to the participating judges, acknowledging their commitment and professional dedication to promoting high standards of financial justice. A commemorative shield was presented to the Chief Guest, Mr. Justice Inaam. Amin Minhas, marking the successful conclusion of the third session of this significant collaborative initiative. Through this continuous focus on capacity building, PACA is equipping the judiciary with the tools necessary for evidence-based and robust judicial decisions, ensuring that Pakistan's financial system is effectively protected from illegal activities.

UMT's Two-Day Thesis Exhibition 2026 Spotlights Next-Gen Talent in Design and Textiles



Bureau Report

LAHORE: The University of Management and Technology (UMT) inaugurated its Two-Day Final Year Thesis Exhibition 2026, organized by the School of Design and Textiles, showcasing the creative and research-based achievements of graduating students. A total of 190 final-year students from the disciplines of Graphic Design, Interior Design, Textile Design and Fashion Design presented innovative thesis projects aligned with contemporary industry trends and market demands. The exhibition attracted widespread appreciation from academics, industry professionals and experts from the design sector.

The event was graced by Vice Chancellor of the University of the Punjab, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali Shah, as the Chief Guest. Rector UMT Air Vice Marshal (R) Prof. Dr. Asif Raza, Dean, School of Design and Textiles, Prof. Dr. Mumtaz Hassan Malik, and Chief Advisor Innovation, Prof. Abid Sherwani, also attended the inauguration.

During the exhibition, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali Shah and Prof. Dr. Asif Raza visited the student's thesis displays, closely reviewed the projects and interacted with students to discuss their research concepts, creative ideas, and innovative design solutions.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali Shah praised the students for their creativity, innovative thinking and professional capabilities. He remarked that the exhibited projects reflected excellence in research, innovation and creative expression while meeting international and industrial standards. He emphasized that young professionals have the potential to drive positive transformation in Pakistan's textile and design industries through innovation, adding that such creative talent will play a significant role in strengthening the country's industrial development.

UMT Rector Air Vice Marshal (R) Prof. Dr. Asif Raza said that UMT is committed to preparing students for the future through practical, research-driven, and professionally oriented education. He described the Thesis Exhibition as an excellent example of collaboration between academia, research and industry, providing students with a valuable platform to showcase their talents, transform creative ideas into practical solutions, and establish meaningful connections with industry professionals.

Rector UMT Air Vice Marshal (R) Prof. Dr. Asif Raza presented a souvenir to the Chief Guest, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali Shah, in recognition of his participation.

ISSI hosts International Conference on 'Pakistan in a Transforming Geopolitical Environment'

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), in collaboration with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), Pakistan office, hosted a one-day International Conference, titled 'Pakistan in a Transforming Geopolitical Environment.'

Mr. Murtaza Solangi, Spokesperson for the President of Pakistan, was the Chief Guest at the inaugural session. Speakers included Dr. Amina Khan, Director CAMEA; Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman, BOG ISSI; Mr. Felix Kolbitz, Country Director, FES Pakistan; and Mr. Arno Kirchhof, Charge d'Affaires, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Islamabad.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, while giving his welcome remarks,



stated that Pakistan finds itself in a regional and global environment that is changing rapidly, with strategic competition intensifying, regional alignments shifting, with conflicts producing wider political and economic consequences. He said that the line between traditional and non-traditional security

challenges is becoming increasingly blurred.

Dr. Amina Khan, in her introductory remarks, said that the annual CAMEA-FES Conference continues to promote deeper dialogue and understanding of shared challenges and the evolving regional dynamics. She was of the

view that Pakistan is located in what has been constantly called a 'tough neighbourhood.' The region continues to confront a complex interplay of traditional and non-traditional security challenges, further compounded by geopolitical rivalries, great-power competition, and protracted

conflicts.

Mr. Murtaza Solangi, while speaking at the occasion, said that this conference is very timely and important as it brings together experts from across the world at a very consequential moment. He went on to say that we live in a transformative arena where we

see a transition from a unipolar to multipolar order. The order created after the second world War is collapsing and the big global powers are creating their own spheres of interest. Pakistan today is also at the intersection of several transitions; unsettled Pakistan Afghanistan relations and a fast moving global order.

Mr. Arno Kirchhof presented European Union as an example to express optimism regarding the functionality and sustainability of the 'rule-based world order', despite persistent challenges. He identified several key areas in which Pakistan could establish and strengthen its partnership with Germany and other European countries. He stressed the need to further enhance trade, investment, and human resource exchange between Pakistan and Germany.

In his remarks, Mr. Felix Kolbitz applauded Pakistan's

recent global diplomatic maneuvering in the region and beyond as remarkable. With successfully brokering a peace deal between Iran and the United States as well as concluding a defense agreement with Saudi Arabia, Pakistan has emerged as a net security provider for the region. Indicating Pakistan's unique geography, he identified several key challenges facing Pakistan such as water and climate security and transnational terrorism. He stressed that these were shared challenges that require collective strategy and shared response by the global community.

Conference's schedule includes three separate working sessions on: Afghanistan, Central Asia and the Future of Regional Stability, Pakistan and the Middle East in a Transforming Geopolitical Environment and Non-Traditional Security Challenges Across a Changing Regional Landscape.

Cyber Politics

Continued from Page 4

For developing countries such as Pakistan, cyber politics presents both significant opportunities and considerable challenges. Digital transformation, e-governance, information technology exports, online education, and a youthful population provide substantial prospects for economic growth and international competitiveness. Nevertheless, these opportunities are accompanied by persistent challenges, including cyberattacks, limited technical expertise, digital inequality, inadequate legal frameworks, and increasing cybercrime. Addressing these

issues requires effective cybersecurity legislation, investment in education and research, the development of skilled cyber professionals, and stronger international cooperation.

Cyber politics has also transformed democratic governance. Online voter registration, electronic governance, digital public consultation, governmental transparency, and direct citizen participation have the potential to make governance more efficient and inclusive. However, these innovations must be accompanied by robust cybersecurity measures, privacy protections, data security, and

transparent electoral systems. Without these safeguards, digital technologies may weaken rather than strengthen democratic institutions.

The importance of cyber politics is expected to grow even further as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, blockchain technology, fifth-generation (5G) communications, and other emerging technologies continue to reshape global politics. In the coming decades, countries that successfully integrate technological innovation, cybersecurity, scientific research, and responsible digital governance into their national strategies

will enjoy greater influence in international affairs. At the same time, the international community must develop comprehensive legal principles and cooperative frameworks that transform cyberspace from a domain of conflict into a platform for cooperation, trust, sustainable development, and global peace.

Cyber politics has become an unavoidable reality of the modern international system. Political power today depends not only on military capabilities and economic resources but also on digital capacity, information superiority, technological innovation, and cyber-

security resilience. States that effectively utilize the opportunities provided by cyberspace while intelligently managing its risks will be better positioned to safeguard their national interests and strengthen their role in global politics. Therefore, cyber politics should not be viewed merely as a technological issue but rather as a fundamental pillar of national strategy, democratic stability, international cooperation, and sustainable development in the twenty-first century.

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Missing Piece in the Peace Puzzle

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transmitting the ideologies that generated conflict.

The role of civil society and grassroots peacebuilding has historically received insufficient attention in formal peace processes dominated by government elites and international diplomats. Psychological demons of survivors exhibiting elevated stress responses and emotional dysregulation even when not directly exposed to violence. Without addressing intergener-

ational trauma through counseling, education, a family-centered healing incomplete. Survivor's families perpetuate narratives victimhood and grievance, and perpetrators families may harbor shame and defensive aggression. Comprehensive peace requires therapeutic attention to these psychological legacies that carry conflict into future generations.

The writer is a Post-Doctorate (Peace Education) at International Islamic University Islamabad

Called on

ISLAMABAD: United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Mr. Tom Fletcher called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

PM stresses preparedness, resilience to tackle growing climate threats

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said the increasing frequency and intensity of climate-related events underscored the urgent need for greater preparedness, resilience and closer coordination among national, regional and international stakeholders to effectively respond to disasters.

Talking to United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Tom Fletcher who called on him at the Prime Minister House, he appreciated the invaluable humanitarian work being undertaken by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in responding to complex emergencies across the world.

He acknowledged OCHA's continued support to Pakistan, particularly during the devastating floods of 2022, and thanked the organization for its assistance in strengthening the country's disaster response efforts.

During the meeting, Mr. Fletcher briefed the prime minister on the humanitarian situation in Gaza and the challenges being faced by OCHA in delivering urgently

needed assistance to the affected population. He also expressed appreciation for Pakistan's continued support to OCHA's humanitarian efforts in Afghanistan.

The prime minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to working closely with the United Nations and OCHA to strengthen global humanitarian cooperation, enhance disaster preparedness, and support relief efforts

for vulnerable communities affected by conflicts and natural disasters.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Adviser to the Prime Minister Dr. Syed Tauqir Shah, Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik, and other senior officials attended the meeting.

Finance Minister Aurangzeb, UK Envoy Discuss Economic Reforms and Bilateral Cooperation

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb met British High Commissioner Jane Marriott to discuss Pakistan's economic reform agenda, financial stability and expanding bilateral cooperation.

According to the Finance Ministry, talks covered Pakistan-UK economic ties, the federal budget for 2026-27, and measures to strengthen financial stability.

Aurangzeb reaffirmed the government's commitment to structural reforms for sustainable growth. He said priorities include expanding the tax net and boosting investor confidence. The government is also working to broaden access



to global capital markets through bonds, Sukuk and Panda bonds.

He highlighted new financial initiatives including tokenisation of sovereign debt. FBR reforms are underway using artificial intelligence, a faceless tax system and risk-based mechanisms to improve transparency and efficiency.

The meeting also reviewed energy sector reforms and privatisation of state-owned enterprises.

Both sides agreed to strengthen cooperation in trade, investment, financial markets and climate change. The British High Commissioner welcomed Pakistan's progress toward stability and reiterated UK support for the reform agenda.

DPM Dar Reaffirms Pakistan's Support for OCHA's Humanitarian Work

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to supporting the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), particularly for the humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

In a meeting with UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Tom Fletcher, Dar appreciated OCHA's role in providing aid during disasters and conflicts worldwide. He also acknowledged OCHA's assistance during climate-induced disasters in Pakistan.

Fletcher commended Pakistan's efforts for regional peace and stability, and praised its long-standing contributions to the United Nations.

Supreme Court Clears Major Backlog, Disposes 608 Death Appeals and 1065 Family Cases Since Oct 2024

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan has significantly reduced case backlogs under the Judicial Reform Action Plan launched in November 2024, the Registrar Office said.

According to the statement, the Court prioritized cases involving life, liberty, family, taxation and rent matters through targeted case management, data monitoring and technology-driven reforms.

Key progress:

- Death Appeals: Advanced from hearing 2015 cases in Oct 2024 to



2026 cases by July 2026. 608 appeals disposed, pendency reduced to 22 cases of 2026.

- Bail Before Arrest: Moved from 2020 to 2026. 2,156 petitions disposed, only 23 of 2026 pending.

- Bail After Arrest: Advanced 17 years, from 2009 to 2026. 2,303 petitions decided, 66 of 2026 pending.
- Family Cases: Advanced from 2010 to 2026. 1,065 cases decided, with 150 remaining, 122 from 2026.
- Taxation Cases: Progressed from 2011 to 2019. 506 cases decided, 842 pending, mostly 2025-2026.
- Rent Cases: Advanced from 2011 to 2026. Pendency cut to 46 cases of 2026.

The Supreme Court said it remains committed to prioritizing matters of personal liberty, family rights and commercial certainty.

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PM directs NDMA to boost coordination with provinces, PDMAs during monsoon



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday directed the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to further improve coordination with the provincial governments and Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs) during the monsoon rains.

The prime minister issued the

directives in a meeting with the NDMA Chairman Lt. General Inam Haider Malik, who called on him here.

The NDMA chairman briefed the prime minister on the preparedness to handle any emergency situation during the monsoon rains, as well as the progress on making the early warning system fully functional, and cooperation with the Ministry of Climate Change in this regard.

Govt Links Ad Policy to Workers' Welfare, Warns Media Over Layoffs



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Attaullah Tarar announced measures to protect media workers, warning that outlets resorting to layoffs, salary cuts or non-payment of wages could face suspension of government advertisements or reduced ad rates.

Briefing the Senate Standing Committee on Information, chaired by Senator Sarmad Ali, he said government ad payments must translate into employee welfare. Citing Suno News, he said ads were suspended after layoffs and several workers were reinstated following talks. Existing laws already allow salary complaints.

Tarar said the 2024 Advertisement Policy ensures transparent distribution, with electronic media getting the largest share. The 2021 digital policy, amended in 2022, uses Google Analytics

and third-party verification. He stressed digital media should not be promoted at the cost of print and TV.

Key Proposals

1. Mandatory Welfare: EOBI/social security registration for media employees, compulsory life insurance with govt contribution, and compensation for families of deceased workers.
2. ITNE & Regional Media: Appointment of ITNE chairman to be notified soon. PID to identify genuine regional papers, especially from Balochistan.
3. Institutional Reforms: Considering merger of ABC with Press Registrar. PTV reported financial stability and timely salaries.

The committee recommended withholding ads from defaulters and mandatory EOBI/life insurance. It also directed NCCIA not to harass newspapers and sought verified data on social media accounts.

DPM Ishaq Dar to Visit Shanghai for WAICO Signing and AI Conference

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar will visit Shanghai, China from 16 to 17 July at the invitation of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

According to the Foreign Office, on 16 July Dar will attend the signing ceremony for the establishment of the World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organization (WAICO) and will

sign the agreement on behalf of Pakistan as a founding member.

On 17 July, he will participate in the opening of the 2026 World Artificial Intelligence Conference (WAIC) and the high-level meeting on Global AI Governance.

On the sidelines, Dar will hold a bilateral meeting with Wang Yi and other counterparts to discuss matters of mutual interest.

The FO said Dar will present Pakistan's perspective on strengthening international AI cooperation, focusing on Global South priorities.

He will stress bridging the global AI divide, equitable access to AI technologies, capacity-building, and ensuring AI benefits support sustainable development and shared prosperity.

