



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول
بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
ہم سے ابراہیم نے ان سے پیروی کرنے اور ان
سے عبد اللہ بن مسعود رضی اللہ عنہ نے کر
نے کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا ہے
بہریر امان ہے اس کے بعد ان کو کون کا
اس کے بعد ہوں گے پھر جو ان کے بعد ہوں
گے اور اس کے بعد اپنے لوگ پیدا ہوں گے
جو قسم سے پیدا ہوں گے یہی گے ان کے
پہلے قسم کھائیں گے۔
(بخاری: حدیث نمبر 6420)
**Barkat Rice Mills
(Pvt) Limited**

President Zardari Approves Three Key Summaries on PM's Advice

President Asif Ali Zardari has approved three important summaries on the advice of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The President approved the conferment of the Hilal-e-Pakistan award on Miguel Ángel Moratinos, Fazl-e-Haq Abbasi resignation approved and approved the appointment of Zafar Hassan as a member of the Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC).



ECP decides to activate its Legal Reforms Committee

Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has decided to amend electoral laws and the Constitution ahead of the upcoming general elections and in this regard Election Commission has activated its Legal Reforms Committee. Officials from all wings of the Election Commission, including senior leadership, participated in the Legal Reforms Committee.

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Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting to review austerity measures in the evolving economic situation on Thursday.



Photo: PID

PM Shehbaz orders readiness amid regional tensions, urges nationwide austerity

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday directed the relevant authorities to maintain complete preparedness to counter any potential challenges arising from the prevailing uncertainty in the region and lauded the public support for the austerity and fuel-saving drive of the government.

Chairing a high-level meeting to review the impact of regional tensions on the national economy, the prime minister said that by the grace of Allah, the national economy remained stable at present, but stressed the need to formulate a comprehensive strategy to enable timely action.

The meeting was briefed that the country currently possessed sufficient reserves of petroleum

products to meet domestic requirements, and that measures had been put in place to ensure their continued supply in the future.

PM Shehbaz commended the effective and timely response of the government's strategy, which he said had ensured optimal management of the fuel supply situation in the country.

He noted that the govern-

ment had extended protection to the common man, motorcyclists, rickshaw drivers and transporters, and that subsidies provided by the state had helped contain the impact of any increase in fuel prices.

The prime minister directed that, in coordination with provincial governments, strict action be taken against elements responsible for creating an artificial shortage

of petroleum products in the market.

The meeting was attended by Federal Ministers Ahad Khan Cheema, Muhammad Aurangzeb, Ali Pervaiz Malik and Awais Khan Leghari, Minister of State Bilal Azhar Kayani, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Tariq Bajwa, State Bank Governor Jameel Ahmed, and senior government officials.

Naqvi visits Boeing HQ in Washington, discusses purchase of 16 new aircraft for PIA

Spokesman Report

Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visits Boeing Company headquarters in Washington along with a delegation representing PIA's new management. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi meets with Boeing Global President Brendan Nelson and discusses purchase of 16 new aircraft for PIA.

Discussions on the best options



for the purchase of 16 new aircraft for PIA. Both sides agreed to finalize the best deal as soon as possible.

Interior Minister Naqvi thanked Boeing Global President Brendan Nelson for the assurance of cooperation regarding the early procurement of new aircraft for PIA. Naqvi appreciated Boeing's pivotal role in the aircraft manufacturing industry.

Six family members perish in Peshawar house fire

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Six members of a family, including a man, his wife and their four children, were killed after a fire broke out at their home in Tehkal Payan tehsil of Peshawar, Rescue 1122 officials said on Thursday.

Rescue teams rushed to the scene after receiving reports of the blaze and launched a firefighting and rescue operation.

During the search, rescuers recovered the bodies of six people from a room inside the house.

The deceased were identified as 55-year-old Siraj, a local Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) leader, his 40-year-old wife, 11-year-old Harirah, nine-year-old Hanaya, four-year-old Hasnain and three-year-old Minhail.

According to Rescue 1122, all six victims were in the same room and were believed to have died from intense heat and smoke inhalation.

A Rescue 1122 spokesman said the fire broke out in the hall of the house, where furniture, foam and other household items were kept, causing the flames to spread rapidly.

Operation Shaban death toll rises to 91 as three more terrorists killed in Balochistan

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: At least three more militants were killed in the ongoing Operation Shaban in Balochistan, security sources said on Thursday, taking the total number of terrorists killed during the operation to 91.

The militants were killed in coordinated operations carried out by the Pakistan Army, Frontier Corps (FC) Balochistan and police, the sources said.

According to the sources, security forces targeted militant hideouts in difficult mountainous terrain during the latest phase of the operation, inflicting further losses on members of Fitna Al Khwarij.

The sources said the latest operation increased the number of militants elimi-



nated in Operation Shaban from 88 to 91.

They added that a total of 129 militants have been killed in Operation Shaban and other intelligence-based operations (IBOs) conducted since July 5.

Operation Shaban remains underway across Balochistan, with ground and aerial operations continuing to target militant strongholds, the sources said.

Security sources said the operation would continue until the last militant is eliminated, reaffirming the security forces' resolve to restore peace and stability in the province.

Chairman National Rahmatul-lil-Alameen Wa Khatam an-Nabiyyin Authority presents annual report to PM



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman National Rahmatul-lil-Alameen Wa Khatam an-Nabiyyin Authority Khurshed Ahmed Nadeem on Thursday called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and

discussed matters related to the mutual interests.

During the meeting, Khurshed Ahmed Nadeem also presented the annual report of the National Rahmatul-lil-Alameen Wa Khatam an-Nabiyyin Authority to the prime minister.

Ishaq Dar arrives in Shanghai to attend World AI Conference



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar arrived in Shanghai on Thursday for a two-day visit to attend the World Artificial Intelligence Conference and formalise Pakistan's participation in a new international artificial intelligence organisation, the Foreign Office said.

Dar will attend the opening ceremony of the World AI Conference on July 17 and sign an agreement establishing

the World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organisation (WAICO) as a founding member on behalf of Pakistan, the foreign office spokesperson said.

Dar was welcomed upon arrival by Shanghai Deputy Mayor, Pakistan's Charge d'Affaires Ijaz Khan and Consul General Shahzad Ahmed Khan.

During his visit, Dar will also hold bilateral meetings with foreign ministers of various countries in Shanghai to discuss issues of mutual interest, the spokesperson said.

Pakistan Reaffirms Commitment to Iran-US Mediation, Rejects Claims of Stepping Back

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has rejected claims that it has abandoned its mediation efforts between the United States and Iran, reaffirming its commitment to promoting dialogue, regional peace, and uninterrupted maritime trade through the Strait of Hormuz.

Speaking at the weekly media briefing, Foreign Office spokesperson Tahir Andrabi said Pakistan's peace efforts remain active despite recent regional tensions. He stressed that while peace initiatives may face temporary setbacks, diplomacy remains the only viable path to resolving disputes.

Andrabi said the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) continues to be a valid framework for future Iran-US negotiations whenever both sides choose



dialogue over confrontation. He reiterated Pakistan's consistent policy of supporting peaceful conflict resolution, respect for sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

The spokesperson warned that prolonged instability in the Middle East could disrupt global energy supplies, trade routes, and food

security, particularly affecting developing nations. He emphasized Pakistan's support for the uninterrupted flow of international trade through the Strait of Hormuz.

Highlighting recent diplomatic engagement, Andrabi said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, accompanied by Nawaz Sharif and Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, visited Qatar on July 13, while the prime minister also held separate discussions with Qatar's leadership and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, urging restraint and dialogue.

During the briefing, Pakistan also condemned India's charge sheets against Hurriyat leaders in IIOJK, rejected allegations over the Pahalgam incident, reaffirmed its commitment to protecting Chinese nationals in Pakistan, and clarified that a child abuse case involving a British national falls under UK jurisdiction.

PML-N Leaders urge unity in Dadyal as Raja Shoaib Abid withdraws, backs Azhar Sadiq

Abdul Majeed Tahir

DADYAL/MIRPUR: Federal Ministers Engineer Amir Muqam and Rana Sanaullah attended a ceremony in Dadyal honoring PML-N leader Raja Shoaib Abid, who announced his withdrawal from the electoral contest and pledged full support to party candidate Chaudhry Muhammad Azhar Sadiq. Addressing the gathering, Amir Muqam said the ticket was awarded on merit and strategy. He called Shoaib Abid a “valuable asset” and assured his role in the party would be strengthened, urging workers to unite to secure the “lion” symbol a major mandate from Mirpur Division. Rana Sanaullah acknowledged Shoaib Abid’s disappointment but praised him for prioritizing party interest. He highlighted PML-N’s development record in Pakistan and AJK, and relief measures including electricity and wheat subsidies. He reaffirmed the party’s commitment to the Kashmir cause, calling Kashmir



Pakistan’s “jugular vein.” Sanaullah also announced Nawaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz will address major rallies in Mirpur and Muzaffarabad, with dates to be finalized. Raja Shoaib Abid thanked supporters and reaffirmed faith in Nawaz Sharif. Azhar Sadiq pledged to work with him for victory. Party leadership directed intensified door-to-door campaigning.

AJK President House Hosts Spiritual Mehfil-e-Naat for Women from Diverse Backgrounds



Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: A dignified Mehfil-e-Naat was held at the President House, Muzaffarabad, under the auspices of the Your Kashmir Foundation and the Kashir Institute of Technical Education. The event was attended by women from diverse political and social backgrounds. The gathering was organized to express devotion and reverence to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him), the Mercy to Mankind, the Bearer of the Holy Qur’an, and his blessed family. Participants expressed their appreciation to the Acting President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Chaudhry Latif Akbar, and his spouse for hosting the spiritually enriching event. The ceremony featured recitations of Durood-o-Salam, devotional poetry (Naat), and Manqabat, creating an atmosphere of deep reverence and reflection. The speakers also highlighted the role of women in contemporary society in the light of the Holy Qur’an and the teachings of the Prophet (peace be upon him). The event concluded with special prayers for the peace, security, and prosperity of the country, as well as protection from natural calamities and disasters.

Jamaat-e-Islami North Punjab Ameer Meets University of Gujrat Vice Chancellor

Bureau Report

GUJRAT: Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami North Punjab, Dr. Tariq Saleem, called on the Vice Chancellor of the University of Gujrat (UOG), Prof. Dr. Zahoor-ul-Haq, to discuss the promotion of quality education and the development of young people in line with the demands of the modern era. During the meeting, both leaders exchanged views on the University of Gujrat’s outstanding role in higher education and its valuable contributions toward equipping students with the academic knowledge, professional skills, and ethical values required to meet contemporary challenges. They emphasized the importance of producing competent, responsible, and socially conscious graduates capable of contributing to Pakistan’s progress and development. Dr. Tariq Saleem appreciated the University’s efforts in promoting academic excellence, research, innovation, and character building. He acknowledged the institution’s commitment to preparing the younger generation for the rapidly evolving educational and professional landscape. On the occasion, Dr. Tariq Saleem presented copies of his books, including “Seerat-e-Muallim-e-Insaniyat (Peace Be Upon Him)” and his publication highlighting the life, achievements, and services of renowned journalist and intellectual Altaf Hassan Qureshi, as a token of goodwill. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zahoor-ul-Haq thanked Dr. Tariq Saleem and Raja Naeem Khawar, Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Gujrat City, for visiting the University of Gujrat. He appreciated their keen interest in promoting education, youth development, and constructive engagement between educational institutions and society. The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to encouraging educational excellence, character development, and meaningful collaboration aimed at empowering Pakistan’s youth to play a positive role in national development.

IHC seeks para-wise comments in NCCIA employees’ regularization case

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday directed all parties to file para-wise comments before the next hearing in a case concerning the regularization of 43 contract employees of the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) in Grade 16 and above. Justice Muhammad Azam Khan issued a two-page written order following the hearing. The court allowed the petitioners’ miscellaneous application seeking to place additional documents on record. The order noted that despite the passage of considerable time, the respondents had failed to submit their para-wise comments. Counsel for the federation, other respondents and the Additional Director of the NCCIA sought further time to file their replies. The court directed all respondents to submit their para-wise comments before the next hearing and fixed July 24, for further proceedings. The court’s earlier interim order restraining the NCCIA from taking disciplinary action against the petitioners will remain in force.

Beat the heat

ISLAMABAD: Youngsters taking bath to cool-off themselves during hot and humid day in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Election in AJK’s Sudhnoti-II Postponed After Candidate’s Death

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: A spokesperson for the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Election Commission has announced that polling for Constituency LA-24 Sudhno-

ti-II (Baloch) has been postponed following the demise of a candidate, Mr. Zahid Yaseen. The spokesperson stated that the Returning Officer submitted a formal request to the Election Commission,

upon which the Commission, in accordance with the applicable electoral laws and rules, ordered the postponement of the election. The Election Commission further clarified that, under

the relevant legal framework, polling in any constituency is postponed in the event of the death of a contesting candidate. A revised election schedule for the constituency will be issued in due course.





Government of Pakistan
Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences,
Islamabad.



Corrigendum Notice No.03/2026-27/PIMS

Reference to this Institute Tender Notice No.03/2026-2027/PIMS, published in the Daily Dunya, Islamabad and Daily Nawa-i-Waqat Islamabad etc) on 04-07-2026, the following amendment/ change has been made as under:-

PIMS Specifications:-	May be read as:-
Supply of Surgical Disposable Items & Suture Material, on annual contract basis during financial year 2026-27 & 2027-28, (Bulk Purchase):-	
In the above -mentioned tender where BPC is mentioned.	BP/BPC/USP.
Disposable Syringe 10ml leu lock blister pack registered.	Disposable Auto Disable Syringe 10ml leu lock blister pack registered.
Disposable Syringe 1ml 26G leu lock blister pack registered.	Disposable Auto Disable Syringe 1ml 26G leu lock blister pack registered.
Valid ISO 9001, 13485, 14001 (ISO Certificate issuing organization / authority must be approved from Pakistan National Accreditation Service (UKAS) / International Accreditation Forum (IAF) / International Accreditation Service (IAS) / Quality Management. System documents. The firm must provide all of three valid ISO Certificates.	ISO 13485 is mandatory requirement, however other ISO certifications are not required.
Supply of Surgical Disposable Items & Suture Material, on annual contract basis during financial year 2026-27 & 2027-28, (Bulk Purchase).	Contract period may be read as 2-years.

The Corrigendum Notice is also available at PPRA website www.ppra.org.pk as well as at PIMS Website www.pims.gov.pk.

Executive Director PIMS
Ph: 051-9260490

PIDQ/466/26

AJK Supreme Court Delegation Visits Pakistan SC to Boost Judicial Collaboration



City Desk.

ISLAMABAD: In line with the vision of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Justice Raja Saeed Akram Khan, to strengthen institutional capacity and promote judicial excellence, a delegation of officers from the Supreme Court of Azad Jammu & Kashmir undertook a two-day visit to the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

During the visit, the delegation called on the Chief Justice of Pakistan, Justice Yahya Afridi, who underscored the importance of institutional collaboration, professional capacity building, and the exchange of best practices to enhance judicial administration and ensure timely and effective delivery of justice. The delegation was briefed on the Supreme Court of Pakistan’s ongoing reform agenda, with particular

emphasis on technology-driven initiatives, including e-filing, video-link hearings, digital case management, the National Judicial Analytics Dashboard, and the Public Facilitation Centre. The delegation also visited the Public Facilitation Centre, the Supreme Court Museum, and the IT Directorate to gain first-hand insight into the Court’s administrative and technological innovations. The visiting delegation commended

the Supreme Court of Pakistan’s reform initiatives and reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening institutional cooperation, particularly in the areas of digital services, case management, and judicial modernization. Both institutions reiterated their shared resolve to promote continuous collaboration, professional development, and the exchange of best practices in support of a transparent, accessible, and citizen-centric justice system.



Islamabad

30° – 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 3:29 am
Zohr 12:14 pm
Asr 5:11 pm
Maghrib 7:19 pm
Isha 8:59 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

Safety work to disrupt power supply from Satellite Town grid station: IESCO

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Thursday announced a temporary power suspension from several feeders linked to the 132kV Satellite Town Grid Station due to emergency safety work on Friday morning.

According to an IESCO spokesperson, electricity supply will remain suspended from 5:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. to facilitate emergency maintenance work on the Tariq Shaheed feeder cable.

The affected feeders include Shaheed Muhammad Din, Shamsabad, Sadiqabad, Syedpur Road, C Block, Shakrial, Noor Muhammad Road, Asghar Mall, Ojri Camp, Afandi Colony, National Market, Abdul Rehman, Urology, Haideri Chowk, Fourth Road, Commercial Centre, New Millpur, Ghausia Chowk, E Block, Abu Bakar, Farooq-e-Azam and Jamia Masjid Road.

The spokesperson requested consumers in the affected areas to cooperate during the temporary outage and observe necessary safety precautions.

IESCO also apologized for the inconvenience caused by the scheduled power interruption.



CM Punjab launches e-bus service in five more districts

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz on Thursday digitally inaugurated the electric bus (e-bus) service for Layyah, Okara, Sialkot, Chiniot and Murree, reaffirming her government's commitment to introducing 5,000 electric buses across the province over the next five years and establishing what she described as Pakistan's largest public transport system.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony, the chief minister said the government aimed to make 1,100 electric buses operational across Punjab by the end of August. She announced that 1,100 buses would be inducted under the first phase

of the project, while another 1,500 buses would be added during the current financial year.

She appreciated Transport Minister Bilal Akbar and Transport Secretary Imran Sikandar Baloch for their efforts in implementing the project.

According to a briefing given by Transport Minister Bilal Akbar, 51 electric buses will operate on 10 routes in Layyah, Okara, Sialkot, Chiniot and Murree. Another 101 buses will be introduced by the end of July in Gujranwala, Gujrat, Sheikhupura, Multan, Vehari, Kasur, Lodhran, Nankana Sahib and Narowal.

The briefing stated that in Layyah, the buses will run from the General Bus Stand to Paharpur and Tehsil Hospital. In

Chiniot, 10 buses will operate from Tehsil Chowk to Bhowana and Lalian. In Okara, the routes will run from Sahiwal Bypass to KFC Bypass and from the General Bus Stand to Shergarh via Akhtarabad. In Sialkot, the buses will operate from the General Bus Stand to Daska and Pasrur, while in Murree, they will run from the General Bus Stand to Kotli Sattian and 17-Mile.

Speaking on the occasion, CM Punjab said the launch of the electric bus service in Layyah, Okara, Sialkot, Chiniot and Murree was a matter of satisfaction and gratitude. She congratulated the people and elected representatives of the five districts on the launch of the service.

National Day of Arab Republic of Egypt

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan along with Egyptian Ambassador to Pakistan, Dr. Ihab Abdelhamid and others cut the cake during a reception to celebrate National Day of Arab Republic of Egypt at local hotel, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan Visits M-5 Motorway

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Federal Minister for Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan, paid a comprehensive visit to the Jalalpur Pirwala section of the Motorway (M-5) to personally inspect the progress of various ongoing development works on the Motorway.

During the visit, the Federal Minister was accompanied by the Secretary Communications and the Chairman National Highway Authority (NHA).

While reviewing the development sites, Minister Abdul Aleem Khan issued strict directives to expedite the pace of work. "All ongoing development projects on the motorway must be completed as soon as possible without any further delay," the Minister emphasized.

As part of his visit, the Federal Minister also inspected



the M-5 service and rest areas. He thoroughly reviewed the overall standard of cleanliness, as well as the newly constructed restrooms and kitchen facilities.

Expressing his resolve to uplift commuter services, the Minister stated that passengers travelling on the motorway

deserve the highest quality of service. "The rest areas must provide passengers with top-tier, world-class amenities," he said.

CM Maryam Nawaz Announces 100,000 Laptops, 50,000 More Honhaar Scholarships for Punjab Students



Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif announced the distribution of 100,000 laptops and 50,000 additional Honhaar Scholarships to support students in higher education. She also allocated Rs40 billion for renovation of bathrooms, classrooms and furniture in government schools across Punjab.

Addressing the inauguration of 10 Nawaz Sharif Schools of Eminence in Sahiwal Division at Arifwala, she said the government plans 300 such schools province-wide with AI, IT, STEAM and computer labs, qualified teachers, and air-conditioned classrooms.

She said skill training for 500,000 students is underway and Rs300,000 Parwaaz Cards will be given to skilled youth seeking Gulf jobs. Graduates unable to afford higher education will get Honhaar Scholarships, and business loans will be offered to help them become independent.

Other announcements included 100,000 electric bikes for students — with no down payment for girls — free travel on 1,100+ green electric buses for students, women and seniors, and expansion of the school nutrition program reaching 1.2 million children.

TikTok Expands AI Literacy Efforts in Pakistan to Boost Transparency and Safety

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: TikTok announced new initiatives to help users identify and understand AI-generated content and ensure a safer digital experience amid the rise of generative AI.

To strengthen AI literacy, TikTok partnered with the News & Media Literacy Alliance (NAMLE) and deepfake researcher Henry Ajder to develop a practical guide on recognizing AI content and using AI tools responsibly. In the coming weeks, TikTok will launch an in-app AI literacy hub in Pakistan offering resources when users search AI-related topics.

Tom Varghese, AI Lead for TikTok's Global Public Policy, said the goal is to give people "context, confidence and control" over AI experiences. Since Nov 2025, partners like No Filt and Raspberry Pi have produced AI literacy content with 200+ million views. TikTok has committed over US\$4 million to the program.

On safety, TikTok removed 86 million fake accounts in Q1 2026 and will test enhanced detection for AI-generated spam, especially in politics, finance, and health.

TikTok also highlighted Pakistani creators like @rooshtech, @draque4, @muboy_, @ahadanimates using AI for education and creativity.

The platform, first to use C2PA Content Credentials, has now joined the C2PA Steering Committee and has labeled over 3 billion videos with AI markers.

FPCCI Organizes Bone Cancer Awareness Session, Spotting Early Sarcoma Detection

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), through its Central Standing Committee on Laboratories & Diagnostic Centers, successfully hosted a Bone Cancer Awareness Session on "Lumps & Bumps" at FPCCI Head Office, Karachi.

A key highlight of the session was the insightful talk by Dr. Khalil Khatri, a distinguished Orthopedic Consultant specializing in musculoskeletal tumors. Dr. Khatri emphasized the critical importance of early recognition and diagnosis of sarcoma, underscoring how timely intervention can significantly improve patient outcomes and save lives.

The event, convened by Prof. Dr. Farhan Essa Abdullah, brought together leading healthcare professionals, business leaders, and industry stakeholders, reaffirming FPCCI's commitment to promoting public health awareness and fostering stronger collaboration between the medical and business communities.

Youth Trained on Digital Rights and Civic Leadership at Hamdard University Under "Digital Voices" Initiative

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: SheSpeaks Civic Initiative (SSCI) successfully concluded a four-day series of youth capacity-building workshops under its "Digital Voices: Youth-Led Civic Engagement and Transparency" project at Hamdard University Islamabad from 13 to 16 July 2026.

More than 100 university students participated, with 25-30 students in each one-day session. The training focused on digital rights, information integrity, Right to Information (RTI), ethical use of AI, media literacy, women's digital inclusion, and youth leadership.

Led by Dr. Ansar Abbas and supported by Ms. Quraba Tul Naseem and Ms. Madiha Yousaf,



the workshops used case studies, group discussions, and action-planning exercises.

Dr. Abbas urged youth to use digital platforms responsibly and contribute to transparency and democratic processes.

Ms. Rabia Hafeez, Executive Director SSCI, said the program invests in a generation that can lead with responsibility and strengthen democratic values.

Participants learned skills to counter misinformation, protect digital privacy, file RTI requests, and design youth-led civic initiatives for their campuses and communities.

The project is implemented by SSCI with support from Accountability Lab under DDI South Asia.

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Dutch Home Textile Leader The Beddinghouse to Open Lahore Office

Pakistan’s economic diplomacy has secured another significant milestone as The Beddinghouse, one of the Netherlands’ leading home textile companies, announced plans to substantially expand its long-term engagement with Pakistan by establishing a permanent corporate presence, investing in skilled human capital and partnering in circular textile innovation.

The announcement came during a meeting between Pakistan’s Ambassador to the Netherlands, H. E. Syed Haider Shah, and The Beddinghouse Chief Executive Officer Ms. Henriette van Beynum at the Head Office of The Beddinghouse in Lisse, The Netherlands.

Having sourced textile products from Pakistan for several decades, the company informed the Ambassador that it now regards Pakistan as a strategic partner for future growth rather than merely a sourcing destination. As part of this vision, The Beddinghouse is finalising the establishment of its first corporate office in Lahore and has initiated the recruitment of senior Pakistani professionals to lead its local operations.

The company also unveiled its “Circular Dreams” initiative, aimed at developing a circular textile value chain by converting post-consumer textile waste collected in the Netherlands into recycled yarns and finished products through Pakistan’s advanced textile manufacturing ecosystem. Company executives observed that Pakistan’s vertically integrated textile industry, technical expertise and growing focus on sustainability make it well-positioned to become a key partner in Europe’s transition towards a circular economy.

The Beddinghouse CEO further appreciated the significant progress made by Pakistani textile manufacturers in renewable energy, water stewardship, emissions reduction, social compliance, workforce development and women’s empowerment, describing these developments as enhancing Pakistan’s competitiveness in global markets.

Welcoming the company’s expansion plans, Ambassador Syed Haider Shah termed the decision a strong vote of confidence in Pakistan’s textile industry and a reflection of the country’s growing reputation as a reliable and sustainable manufacturing partner. He said the Embassy would continue to facilitate stronger business-to-business partnerships and connect Dutch companies with investment opportunities in Pakistan’s priority sectors.

Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan welcomed the development, saying it reflected the success of the Government’s policy of strengthening economic diplomacy and promoting value-added exports.

“The decision by a leading Dutch company to expand its footprint in Pakistan is a strong endorsement of our textile industry’s competitiveness, resilience and commitment to sustainability. It is also a testament to the dedicated efforts of our Embassy in The Hague under Ambassador Syed Haider Shah and Trade & Investment Counsellor Muhammad Shafiq Haider Virk, who have been actively building strategic partnerships and creating new opportunities for Pakistani businesses in the Netherlands. The Government remains committed to facilitating such collaborations that generate investment, create skilled employment and enhance Pakistan’s value-added exports,” the Minister said.

The Missing Guarantor in U. S.-Iran Diplomacy

President Donald Trump has consistently portrayed himself as a man of faith who draws guidance from Christian values and surrounds himself with pastors, priests, and religious leaders. Christianity teaches honesty, compassion, humility, forgiveness, keeping one’s promises, protecting the innocent, respecting one’s neighbors, and seeking peace before conflict. These ideals also reflect many of the civic virtues that Americans deeply value—integrity, fairness, accountability, respect for the law, and honoring one’s commitments.

America’s global influence has never rested solely on its unmatched military or economic power. Equally important has been its reputation that its word carries weight. Allies have cooperated with Washington because they generally believed that American commitments would endure beyond immediate political circumstances. That credibility has often proven more valuable than military strength itself.

It is against this backdrop that President Trump’s foreign policy approach since returning to office in January 2025. His strategic unpredictability is designed to maximize leverage. His frequent policy reversals, shifting deadlines, changing public positions, and abrupt diplomatic turns have created uncertainty among allies, mediators, financial markets, and adversaries alike.

The recent diplomatic efforts involving

the United States and Iran illustrate this concern. Multiple rounds of diplomacy took place over many months with the assistance of regional mediators. Discussions began in Egypt, later continued through negotiations in Pakistan and Geneva, and culminated in a Memorandum of Understanding brokered with the assistance of countries including Pakistan, Qatar, Oman, Egypt, and Türkiye.

There is a recurring pattern. Negotiations would begin with optimism. Temporary understandings would be announced. Deadlines would be established. New demands, military developments, sanctions, or conflicting public statements would follow. Each cycle reduced confidence that diplomatic commitments would survive until implementation. The perception itself matters enormously in diplomacy. Once confidence is weakened, every subsequent negotiation becomes significantly more difficult.

This raises a deeper structural weakness in modern international mediation. Mediation succeeds only when agreements can realistically be implemented and monitored. Yet many of today’s mediators possess diplomatic goodwill but very limited leverage over the parties they seek to reconcile.

Pakistan, Qatar, Oman, Egypt, and Türkiye have each invested considerable diplomatic capital in attempting to reduce tensions and facilitate dialogue. Their role deserves recognition. However, none possesses sufficient political, economic, or military leverage to compel either Washington or Tehran to comply with an agreement if either side ultimately decides otherwise. Their influence depends almost entirely upon persuasion and goodwill rather than enforceable authority.

This reveals perhaps the greatest weakness of such agreements. When the guarantors are less powerful than the parties themselves, enforcement becomes largely voluntary. If one party concludes that strategic circumstances have changed, there is often no effective international mechanism capable of ensuring compliance or imposing meaningful consequences.

The imbalance becomes even more pronounced when one party is the world’s most powerful nation. The United States possesses unmatched economic influence, military capability, financial reach, and diplomatic weight. No mediator can realistically compel Washington to implement an agreement against its own policy choices. Likewise, Iran cannot be

expected to rely solely on assurances if it believes commitments may change unexpectedly.

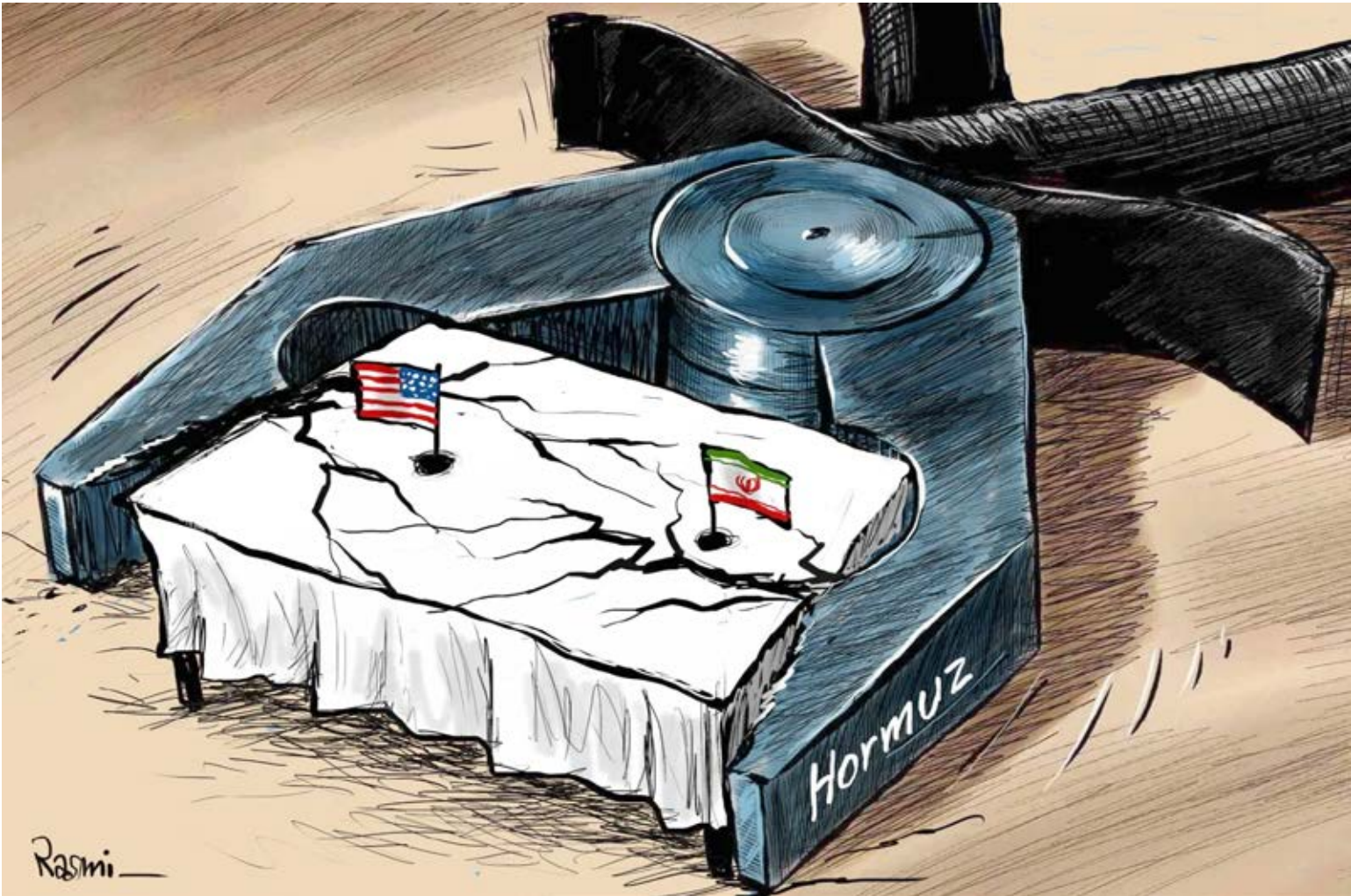
Consequently, the durability of any agreement depends less upon external enforcement than upon the willingness of the parties—especially the more powerful one—to demonstrate consistency, restraint, and respect for the commitments they voluntarily undertake.

History offers many examples in which successive U. S. administrations have withdrawn from, revised, or renegotiated international agreements negotiated by previous administrations. These frequent reversals have weakened confidence among allies and negotiating partners, who may begin questioning whether any agreement will remain durable beyond the next political transition. This is not merely a legal issue. It is fundamentally a question of credibility.

Markets understand this reality immediately. Every presidential statement concerning sanctions, military deployments, shipping routes, tariffs, or energy policy affects oil prices, insurance costs, shipping rates, exchange markets, and stock exchanges worldwide. Investors dislike uncertainty more than almost anything else. When official messaging changes frequently, volatility naturally increases.

The Strait of Hormuz demonstrates this dynamic vividly. Even conflicting public statements regarding freedom of

Continued on Page 7



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

The Silent Mental Health Crisis Among Pakistani Youth

Eushaib Ahmed

Pakistan is home to one of the largest youth populations in the world. Young people are often called the future of the country because they have the potential to bring innovation, economic growth, and positive social change. However, behind this potential lies a growing problem that is often ignored, the mental health crisis among Pakistani youth.

I see many of my peers struggling with stress, anxiety, and emotional exhaustion. The pressure to perform well academically, meet family expectations, build a successful career, and keep up with the fast-paced digital world has become overwhelming for many young people. While these challenges are real, conversations about mental health are still surrounded by stigma, making it difficult for students to seek help.

Research shows that this issue is more serious than many people realize. A study published in the Journal of Mental Health involving 1,124 adolescents in Rawalpindi found that 17.2% experienced symptoms of depression, while 21.4% suffered from anxiety. The study also found that financial difficulties and stressful life events significantly affected young people’s mental well-being (Khalid et al., 2019).

Another recent study published in the Journal of the Pakistan Medical Association reported that more than half of the adolescents surveyed

showed mild to severe symptoms of depression. Factors such as family income, age, and gender were found to influence mental health (Mahmood et al., 2026). These findings remind us that mental health is not just a personal issue, it is a social challenge that deserves serious attention.

One of the biggest contributors to this crisis is academic pressure. Many students believe that their entire future depends on grades and examinations. The fear of failure often creates constant stress and anxiety. Instead of encouraging learning and personal growth, our education system sometimes makes students feel that one poor result defines their worth.

Economic uncertainty also adds to this burden. Many graduates worry about unemployment, rising inflation, and limited career opportunities. After years of hard work, the fear of not finding a stable job leaves many young people feeling discouraged and uncertain about their future.

Social media has become another important factor. Although it helps people stay connected, it also encourages constant comparison. Every day, young people are exposed to carefully edited images of success, wealth, and happiness. This creates unrealistic expectations and often leads to low self-esteem, loneliness, and the feeling that everyone else is doing better.

Unfortunately, many young Pakistanis remain silent because mental health is still considered a taboo topic. Some fear being judged, while others worry that they will not be taken seriously. As a result, many continue to

struggle without seeking professional support. The World Health Organization has emphasized the importance of raising awareness and encouraging open conversations about mental health, especially among young people.

Another challenge is the limited availability of mental health services. Pakistan has a shortage of trained psychologists and psychiatrists, particularly in rural areas, making professional support inaccessible for many people who need it the most.

Despite these challenges, there is hope. Schools and universities should provide counselling services and organize awareness programs to educate students about mental health. Families should create supportive environments where young people feel comfortable discussing their emotions without fear of criticism. Society must understand that seeking help is a sign of courage, not weakness.

Mental health should receive the same attention as physical health. A healthy mind enables students to learn, work, build relationships, and contribute positively to society. If we continue to ignore this issue, we risk losing the full potential of an entire generation.

Pakistan’s youth are one of its greatest strengths. Investing in their mental well-being is not only an investment in individuals but also in the country’s future. It is time to replace silence with understanding, stigma with compassion, and indifference with action.

The writer is student of National Defense University, Islamabad

The Skills Gap Pakistan Cannot Ignore

M Rashid Tabassum

Every year on July 15, the world marks World Youth Skills Day to highlight the importance of equipping young people with the skills needed for employment, entrepreneurship, and the future of work. The 2026 theme, “Skills for a Better Shared Future,” reflects a changing global reality: technical knowledge alone is no longer enough. Alongside digital and vocational expertise, young people also need communication, teamwork, creativity, and problem-solving skills to succeed in an increasingly complex world.

The Fourth Industrial Revolution is driving this transformation through artificial intelligence, automation, and digital technologies. According to the World Economic Forum’s Future of Jobs Report 2025, nearly 39 percent of workers’ core skills will change by 2030. In other words, many of today’s skills will not be sufficient for tomorrow’s jobs. As a result, countries around the world are redesigning their education systems to place greater emphasis on practical skills alongside academic qualifications.

Against this global transformation, Pakistan continues to face a widening gap between education and employability. According to official figures, Pakistan now has 244 public and private chartered universities that produce roughly 445,000 graduates each year. Yet this expanding higher education system has not translated into better employment outcomes, as many graduates struggle to find jobs that match their qualifications.

The skills gap is particularly visible in engineering and information technology. Around 25,000 engineering and IT graduates enter the job market annually, but only 20 percent meet industry standards, according to sector estimates. Similarly, research by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) shows that 31 percent of university graduates remain unemployed, largely because they lack market-relevant skills. These figures point to a deeper problem: the education system continues to reward rote learning over practical competence.

Furthermore, students often complete their degrees with

limited exposure to real-world work. Schools, colleges, and universities provide few opportunities for hands-on training, while weak collaboration between educational institutions and industry prevents curricula from keeping pace with changing technologies. As a result, graduates are often unprepared for modern workplaces.

The rise of artificial intelligence has made this challenge even more apparent. According to UNESCO, 62 percent of young people use AI tools, yet only 30 percent have received formal AI training. This gap highlights the urgent need to modernize education. Learning to use technology is important, but understanding how to apply it responsibly and effectively is even more critical.

At the same time, this year’s World Youth Skills Day sends another important message. While AI can automate many routine tasks, it cannot replace uniquely human abilities. Critical thinking, creativity, communication, leadership, teamwork, and emotional intelligence remain among the most valuable skills in today’s labour market. The 2026 theme also emphasizes green skills and responsible citizenship, encouraging young people to contribute to sustainable development and climate resilience.

Therefore, Pakistan must rethink its approach to education. Skill-based learning should begin at the primary level, combining digital literacy with practical life skills. At the same time, technical and vocational education should become a national priority. Every district should have access to modern skills development centres, universities require advanced AI laboratories, and stronger partnerships between industry and academia must ensure that graduates are prepared for real jobs. Continuous teacher training and effective career guidance at the secondary level are equally essential.

Ultimately, Pakistan’s young people are its greatest national asset. But this potential can only be realized through an education system that prepares them for the future rather than the past. In the twenty-first century, nations compete not only through economic strength but through innovation, creativity, and skills. If Pakistan continues to focus only on degrees, it risks falling further behind. Degrees may open classroom doors, but skills open the doors to opportunity, innovation, and national prosperity.

Pakistan launches National Wastewater Surveillance Strategy and Genomics Dashboard

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Health Services Syed Mustafa Kamal officially launched Pakistan's Wastewater Environmental Surveillance (WES) Strategy and the National WES Genomics Dashboard at a ceremony hosted by the National Institute of Health (NIH).

The event was attended by officials from federal and provincial health departments, municipal authorities, academia, and development partners including Aga Khan University (AKU) and Duke-NUS Centre for Outbreak Preparedness, Singapore.

Minister Kamal called WES a strategic investment for early warning, outbreak detection, and evidence-based decision-making, and urged stronger wastewater treatment systems and continued collaboration to sustain the program.

Dr. Muhammad Salman, CEO NIH, said the WES platform will enable



early detection of priority pathogens and enhance Pakistan's capacity to respond through a One Health approach. The National WES Dashboard hosted by NIH will integrate surveillance and lab data for real-time

monitoring, mapping, and trend analysis.

Dr. Afreenish Amir, NIH, noted pilot sites in Lahore, Rawalpindi, Islamabad, and Karachi have proven WES works as an early warning tool

and can support targeted vaccination.

Developed with AKU and Duke-NUS, the strategy provides a national framework, standardized protocols, and genomic surveillance to monitor multiple infectious diseases.

Pakistan-China TCM Collaboration Aims to Strengthen Healthcare Sector

Tahir Amin Malik

ISLAMABAD: Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) offers major opportunities to strengthen Pakistan's healthcare sector through bilateral research and pharmaceutical innovation, said Adeel Munawar, Commercial Ambassador of Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI), at a meeting at the PCJCCI Secretariat.

He highlighted the establishment of the Sino-Pakistan Cooperation Center on Traditional Chinese Medicine (SPCCTCM) at Hunan University of Medicine, China and the University of Karachi. The center will serve as a platform for joint R&D of herbal medicines, health and nutritional products, academic exchanges, clinical treatment, industrial collaboration, and capacity building.

Munawar noted that TCM gained global recognition during COVID-19 when China shared treatment protocols and herbal expertise with Pakistan and others, demonstrating the value of international health cooperation.

The SPCCTCM will bring together experts from both countries to work on medicinal plant cultivation, phytochemistry, quality assurance, clinical



research, and safety evaluation, and will support registration and commercialization of herbal products in both markets.

He added that Pakistan has strong potential in medicinal plants while China offers advanced TCM expertise. The initiative is expected to drive

technology transfer, investment, and innovation, and serve as a flagship platform under the Pakistan-China strategic partnership.

Director Livestock Dr. Haider inspection Civil Veterinary Hospital Kamalia

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Director Livestock Faisalabad Division Dr. Haider Ali Khan visited Toba Tek Singh district and conducted a detailed inspection of Civil Veterinary Hospital Kamalia and the Deputy Director Livestock Office Kamalia.

During the visit he reviewed OPD services, ultrasonography facilities, medicine store, cold-chain vaccine storage, cleanliness, staff attendance, record maintenance, and diagnostic and treatment services. He also inspected the Punjab Livestock Card (PLC) Phase III Help Desk established under the Chief Minister Punjab's initiative and assessed facil-



itation being provided to eligible livestock farmers.

Later, Dr. Haider chaired a meeting at the Additional Director Livestock

Office Toba Tek Singh with Dr. Hina Zafar and district officers to review progress of departmental development programs and PLC Phase III implementation.

He directed officers to ensure timely guidance for farmers and strict compliance with departmental instructions. Dr. Haider presented a shield to Dr. Hina Zafar for achieving 100% recovery under PLC Phase II and appreciated the district team's performance.

He further instructed on quality veterinary services, proper management of medicines and vaccines, accurate record keeping, timely data upload on SPMS-9211 portal, and effective facilitation under PLC Phase III.

Birthday Ceremony Held in Jeddah



News Desk

JEDDAH: A birthday cake-cutting ceremony was organized by senior Yaran Jeddah Group member and businessman Chaudhry Ghulam Mustafa Gujar to celebrate the birthday of Chaudhry Noor-ul-Hassan Gujar, Chairman of the Pak Media Journalists Forum.

The event was attended by members of the Yaran Jeddah Group, Pak Media Journalists Forum, and prominent figures from the overseas Pakistani community, including social, political, and business leaders.

Speakers praised Chaudhry Noor-ul-Hassan Gujar for his contributions to journalism, his efforts to raise issues faced by overseas Pakistanis, and his commitment to responsible and community-focused reporting. Participants cut the cake and offered prayers for his health, success, and long life.

Distinguished guests included Chaudhry Akram Gujar, Chairman PML-N; Chaudhry Azhar Abbas Waraich, former Adviser to CM Punjab; and Chaudhry Dilpazeer, Chairman Hazaray Wal Overseas Pakistanis Forum.

Addressing the gathering, Chaudhry Noor-ul-Hassan Gujar thanked the host and guests for their support and affection.

The ceremony featured a specially designed cake by Jeddah-based chef Afshan, and another sponsored by Cake Fantastic, concluding with group photos and warm wishes.

Experts urge Skills-Based Labor Strategy to Align Pakistan with Saudi Vision 2030

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) held an Eminent Speaker Series talk on "Pakistan's Labor Mobility Strategy and the Saudi Vision 2030: Future Opportunities" with Mr. Haroon Sharif, Chairman PREF and Former Minister for Investment.

Ambassador Jauhar Saleem, IRS President, noted Saudi Arabia remains Pakistan's largest destination for overseas workers and a key source of remittances. He said Pakistan's young population is a strategic advantage amid global workforce aging, but realizing it requires investment in education, technical training, and skills. He added that Saudi Arabia's shift to a diversified, knowledge-based economy under Vision 2030 offers new opportunities for Pakistani workers.

Mr. Sharif said Pakistan-Saudi ties are moving beyond traditional migration toward innovation, technology and human capital. With 1.2 billion youth globally seeking jobs and 4 million Pakistanis entering the workforce yearly, he stressed a shift to skill-based employment. AI and growth in healthcare, IT, renewable energy and advanced manufacturing are creating new demand.

He highlighted the Saudi-Pakistan Economic Cooperation Framework (SPECF) and Human Resource Deployment Plan (2025-2039) to deploy 1 million Pakistani workers. He urged Pakistan to attract greenfield investments from Saudi Arabia's \$1.4 trillion economy and \$500 billion PIF, and proposed triangular partnerships with countries like China.

He cautioned that \$40 billion in remittances support reserves but don't replace productive investment, and advocated moving from "brain drain" to "brain circulation" by enabling skilled Pakistanis abroad to return as entrepreneurs.

Kazakhstan moves to strengthen Just Energy Transition Partnership with EBRD

ASTANA: Kazakhstan's Energy Ministry hosted a high-level meeting with representatives of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) to discuss the continued development of the country's Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP). Qazinform News Agency reports via the Ministry. The meeting, led by Kazakhstan's Vice Minister of Energy Bakytzhan Ilyas, brought together Felicity Spors, Director of the EBRD's Climate Strategy Delivery and Head of the Sustainable Infrastructure Group; Yerlan Ramazanov, EBRD Deputy Head for Kazakhstan and Regional Head of Energy for Eurasia; Christian Carraretto, Deputy Director of Climate Strategy Delivery and Head of Energy Transition; and others.

During the discussions, both sides reviewed the next steps for developing the JETP project portfolio, strengthening cooperation with international partners, and enhancing the institutional framework supporting the initiative in Kazakhstan.

Opening the meeting, Vice Minister Ilyas emphasized that the Just Energy Transition Partnership is a key instrument for Kazakhstan in achieving its national climate objectives, attracting investment, and introducing advanced technologies while ensuring the sustainable development of the country's energy sector.

A significant portion of the discussions focused on institutionalizing the partnership. The Ministry of Energy stressed the importance of establishing the platform's core principles and operational mechanisms within the national legal framework. Officials also highlighted the need for transparent rules governing stakeholder participation and a stable institutional foundation to support the long-term implementation of the initiative.

The Ministry welcomed the EBRD's willingness to assist in strengthening the institutional framework of the JETP and expressed interest in receiving the bank's technical expertise in developing the necessary regulatory and organizational mechanisms.

Kaspersky has detected a multi-stage phishing attack targeting manufacturing facilities in Europe, Asia and the Middle East

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Kaspersky experts have uncovered a phishing campaign targeting manufacturing facilities in multiple countries across Europe, Asia and the Middle East. The attackers are sending English-language emails, allegedly from potential customers interested in respective products, attempting to extort corporate data. The campaign began in April 2026 and is still ongoing.

The phishing scheme includes several stages. First, potential victims receive an email from an alleged interested buyer asking for clarification on the product, such as the exact pricing

or availability.

If the recipient responds, they are then sent a link to download a file with the product's technical specifications, either immediately in a subsequent email or after further discussion and questions. Clicking on the link takes the user to the next phishing page mimicking a popular cloud service for working with PDF documents.

The user is then directed to an "authorization form" asking for corporate email address and password – allegedly for security purposes to prevent unauthorized access to the file. In reality, this is a ploy by attackers to trick users into revealing corporate data.

"We see spear phishing campaigns evolving. Attackers are increasingly moving from simple schemes to complex campaigns consisting of multiple stages, as this increases the chances of a successful attack. They also thoroughly prepare, researching organizations to craft the most convincing cover stories. For example, they develop attack scenarios tailored to the specific operating conditions of manufacturing companies. Attackers often employ AI tools to craft phishing emails or automate other processes. To reduce risks, organizations need to pay increased attention to security – implementing reliable technical tools and improving employees' cyber literacy," comments

Roman Dedenok, Anti-Spam Expert at Kaspersky.

To defend organizations against this threat, Kaspersky recommends deploying a proven mail server security solution such as Kaspersky Security for Mail Server that provides secure corporate email exchange, countering spam, email-borne infections, all forms of phishing, business email compromise (BEC), QR code attacks, and other threats. Providing cybersecurity teams with up-to-date information on the latest tactics, techniques and procedures of attackers by using Kaspersky Threat Intelligence services. Improving employees' cyber literacy through specialized courses or training,



such as those on the Kaspersky Automated Security Awareness Platform.

 Bull & Bears

PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
178,123.56	175,285.78
Day's High	Day's Low
178,431.73	175,672.33
Index Value	Change
25,807,066,034	+2837.78
Percentage	Time
+1.62%	16 Jul, 2026 4:30 pm
Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
10,572.24	+56.32
Percentage	Time
+0.54%	16 Jul, 4:35 pm GMT+1
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
52,551.05	−107.59
Percentage	Time
−0.20%	15 Jul, 1:22 pm GMT-4
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
66,835.54	−1,915.97
Percentage	Time
−2.79%	16 Jul, 3:45 pm GMT+9
Open Market Forex Rates	

FPCCI President Celebrates 250th US Independence, Highlights Investment Opportunities in Pakistan

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Atif Ikram Sheikh, President of FPCCI, speaking at the Chamber's ceremony marking the 250th Anniversary of the Independence of the United States of America, extended heartfelt congratulations to the Government and people of the United States on this historic milestone.

Atif Ikram Sheikh stressed that Pakistan offers significant opportunities for American investors in information technology, artificial intelligence, renewable energy, advanced manufacturing, agriculture, healthcare, critical minerals, and digital services. The business community also underscored the need for policy consistency, regulatory reforms, improved ease of doing business, and stronger investment protection to unlock the full potential of bilateral economic relations.

Mr. Stetson Sanders, U. S. Consul General in Lahore, thanked the FPCCI for hosting a ceremony commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the Independence of



the United States.

During his visit to the FPCCI Regional

Office, he also planted a tree as a symbol of friendship and the enduring partnership between Pakistan and the United States.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Sanders emphasized that people-to-people connections remain the foundation of strong bilateral relations. He described the event as a wonderful opportunity to strengthen cooperation, foster engagement, and further expand economic and commercial ties between the two countries.

Zaki Aijaz, Regional Chairman and Vice President FPCCI and S. M Tanveer, Patron in Chief United Business Group (UBG) said the Federation will continue to serve as a bridge between the business communities of both countries by promoting trade delegations, investment forums, business-to-business networking, and strategic partnerships.

They concluded their remarks by expressing confidence that the next chapter of Pakistan–United States relations would be built on the pillars of trade, investment, innovation, and shared prosperity.

High level meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain chairs a high-level meeting with a Chinese delegation to discuss strengthening bilateral cooperation in the livestock sector and promoting Pakistan's meat exports to China.



Photo: PID

A Developed Capital Market is indispensable for sustainable economic growth: Arif Habib at SECP Talk Series

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Veteran businessman Arif Habib said a developed capital market is indispensable for sustainable economic growth while speaking at the SECP Talk Series, sharing insights from over five decades in Pakistan's capital markets.

The session, attended by SECP Chairman Dr. Kabir Ahmed Sidhu, Commissioners, market institutions, academia and business leaders, focused on market evolution, long-term investing, and reforms to boost investor participation.

Dr. Sidhu said the Talk Series aims to connect regulators with market practitioners for evidence-based policymaking. He highlighted SECP reforms including digital investor onboarding, T+1 settlement cycle, and efforts to expand the investor base to 2.5 million through financial inclusion. "Our objective is to build a capital market ecosystem that is transparent, accessible and aligned with global standards," he said.



Mr. Habib traced the market's journey from open-outcry trading to a tech-driven system. He noted the Pakistan Stock Exchange delivered 22% average annual returns over 22 years and 14% dollar returns in the last 5 years. He stressed discipline, patience, and long-term investing in strong companies create

wealth despite short-term volatility.

He also emphasized capital markets' role in mobilizing savings, financing businesses, strengthening governance, and creating jobs, while calling for greater financial literacy among youth. The session ended with Q&A and a commemorative shield presented to Mr. Habib.

LIVOLTEK Pakistan Trains Installers on IP66 Hybrid Inverters, Secures Bulk Energy Storage Deal

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: LIVOLTEK Pakistan held a comprehensive IP66 Hybrid Inverter Series Technical Training Workshop to strengthen its installer network and support the country's growing solar industry.

The workshop also marked a key commercial milestone with the announcement of a bulk procurement agreement for LIVOLTEK's Residential Energy Storage System – a 6kW IP66 Hybrid Inverter paired with a 5kWh Battery Bank. The deal was led by Mr. Zia Khalid Ch, Country Sales Manager, with support from Mr. Syed Waqar of NRTC and Mr. Max, Director Sales. LIVOLTEK's authorized distributors ZSK Engineering & Sunbridge Solar qualified



for the project.

As the first phase, technical training was conducted for installers from ZSK Engineering, Makkays Engineering & Installers, and other regions. The hands-on sessions covered live demos, commissioning, system configuration, troubleshooting, monitoring, battery compatibility, safety standards, and best installation practices for the 6kW–12kW IP66 Hybrid Inverter Series.

Mr. Zia Khalid Ch said installer training is key to customer satisfaction and industry growth. Mr. Aamir Shahzad highlighted technical education as part of LIVOLTEK's channel strategy, while Mr. Saif Zia, Technical Head, stressed practical learning to reduce errors and improve reliability.

Possible Petrol Shortage Looms in Pakistan, Govt Urged to Act Immediately

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan Petroleum Dealers Association Chief Advisor Malik Khuda Bakhsh has warned of a possible petrol shortage and urged the federal government to take emergency measures.

Bakhsh said Pakistan currently has petrol stocks sufficient for only 15 days, calling the situation "highly alarming." He said any disruption could severely impact the public, economy, and transport system.

He stated that delays in the WeBOC system are slowing clearance of imported petrol consignments at ports, creating bottlenecks in timely fuel transportation. If unresolved, the supply chain could be badly disrupted. PPDA called on the government, ministries, FBR and Customs to urgently fix WeBOC issues, ensure prompt clearance of imports, and coordinate with oil marketing companies to maintain uninterrupted supply and prevent public hardship.

Gold prices rise by Rs400 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The prices of gold witnessed an increase in the local market on Thursday, with the price of 24-karat gold per tola rising by Rs400 to Rs425,436, according to rates issued by the All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association.

Similarly, the price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold increased by Rs343 to Rs364,742, while the price of 10 grams of 22-karat gold went up by Rs314 to Rs334,358. In the international market, the price of gold increased by US\$4 to US\$4,030 per ounce.

Meanwhile, the price of 24-karat silver per tola declined by Rs134 to Rs6,155, while the price of 10 grams of silver decreased by Rs115 to Rs5,276.

MG Motor Pakistan Trains Dealership Teams for All-New MG HS Hybrid+ and HS Super Hybrid

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: MG Motor Pakistan conducted a nationwide technical training program for dealership technicians and service teams on the all-new MG HS Hybrid+ and MG HS Super Hybrid to strengthen after-sales support in Pakistan's growing New Energy Vehicle (NEV) market. Supported by MG's international technical team, including SAIC Motor China trainer Mr. Ye, the program focused on product knowledge, diagnostics, hybrid technology, and service protocols for next-generation MG vehicles. Training also covered the MG4 Urban and other advanced technologies. Mr. Jianqiang Shao, CEO MG Motor Pakistan, said customer experience extends beyond vehicle delivery. "The real responsibility



begins after the customer takes delivery. This training ensures our dealership teams are prepared with the right technical knowledge, service standards and after-sales confidence."MG emphasized that as Pakistan moves toward hybrids, plug-in hybrids and EVs, factors like trained manpower, parts availability, and service quality are critical. The initiative aims to build a complete NEV ecosystem with trained field engineers, advanced diagnostics, complete service operations, and genuine parts at competitive prices, redefining the after-sales experience for hybrid and electric vehicle owners.

Petroleum Minister Urged to Restore Gas Supply in Karachi's Federal B Area Block 14

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Hundreds of households in Federal B Area's Block 14, Naseerabad, have been without gas for over a month. Residents have appealed to Federal Petroleum Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik to restore supply and hold SSGC accountable.

Families say they cannot cook at home and are forced to buy hotel meals three times a day amid rising costs. Low-income households report skipping meals. "Should we pay bills or buy

cooked food?" residents asked.

Complainants allege SSGC's 1199 helpline gave 24–48 hour assurances but never restored gas. Cases were later closed as "resolved" without any staff visit, raising concerns over transparency.

Residents called the situation "unacceptable" and urged the minister to order immediate restoration and an inquiry into SSGC's Ayesha Manzil center and technical staff for closing complaints without resolution.

Beyond the Classroom: How PPG Course Can Shape Future Leaders

Vision for Transforming the MPDD into World-Class Centre of Leadership

Maqbool Malik

Professional learning is often measured by certificates earned, but its true value lies in the transformation it brings to one's thinking, leadership, and public service. My two-and-a-half-month journey at the Management and Professional Development Department (MPDD), Govt of the Punjab, Lahore, as a participant in the 29th Public Policy and Governance (PPG) Course, was one such transformative experience. It reshaped my perspective on governance, leadership, technology, and the future of public administration in Pakistan.

I must admit that I began this training course with a degree of skepticism. Like many civil servants, I wondered whether it would simply be another routine government training programme centred on lectures and presentations. However, within the first few days, those doubts gradually disappeared. What unfolded instead was an intellectually stimulating, professionally enriching, and personally rewarding learning experience.

The cohort comprised 34 officers representing diverse departments, including the Provincial Management Service (PMS), Prisons, Finance, Minerals and Mines, Directorate-General Public Relations (DGPR), and other government departments. The diversity of backgrounds proved to be one of the programme's greatest strengths. Every participant brought unique experiences, administrative challenges, and innovative ideas, creating an environment where learning extended far beyond the classroom.

One of the defining features of the course was its emphasis on preparing civil servants for a rapidly changing governance landscape. In an era where governments increasingly rely on data, technology, and evidence-based policymaking, the curriculum appropriately included sessions on Artificial Intelligence and Governance, Prompt Engineering, Generative AI, Google Analytics, Digital Governance, Human Resource Management Information Systems (HRMIS), Data Analytics, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Health Reforms, Constitutional Amendments, Economic Intelligence, Political Economy, Pakistan Crypto Council, Block Chain & Cryptocurrency, Role of Public Representatives in Public Policy, Environment and Climate Change, Media Handling and Communication Strategies to Improve Public perception.

These sessions highlighted a simple but profound reality: future governments will not merely be digital; they will be intelligent. Civil servants who understand artificial intelligence, predictive analytics, and digital governance will be better equipped to design citizen-centric public policies and improve service delivery.

Another significant component of the course focused on strategic communication. Sessions on Social Media Management and Navigating Propaganda were particularly relevant in an age where misinformation spreads faster than facts. Governments can no longer rely solely on conventional communication channels; they must engage citizens proactively, transparently, and digitally.

Equally valuable were the leadership development modules covering Emotional Intelligence, Anger Management, Innovative Thinking, Stress Management, Team Building, and Conflict Resolution. These sessions reinforced an often-overlooked principle: governance is ultimately about people. Technical competence alone does not make an effective public servant. Empathy, emotional resilience, communication, and collaborative leadership



are equally indispensable.

The programme also strengthened participants' analytical and research capabilities through modules on Research Methodology, Case Study Writing, Institutional Development Exercise (IDE), and Effective Presentations using the PREP Model. These practical assignments encouraged participants to move beyond theoretical discussions and propose implementable policy solutions based on evidence and structured analysis.

Equally comprehensive was the exposure to key public policy sectors. Experts delivered lectures on Agricultural Development, Industrial Growth, Political Economy, Local Government Systems, Water Security, Pakistan's Power Sector, Healthcare Reforms, Livestock Development, Poverty Alleviation, Housing Initiatives, Public Procurement, Financial Management, Supply Chain Management, And Institutional Governance.

The legal and regulatory framework governing public administration was also extensively covered, including PERA Act 2024, PPRA Rules, Companies Rules, PEEDA Act, E-FOAS, Punjab Delegation of Financial Powers Rules 2016, NFC Award, Budget Utilisation, and E-Procurement Systems. These sessions strengthened participants' understanding of administrative accountability and financial governance.

Learning at MPDD, however, extended well beyond lecture halls.

Sports competitions, team-building activities, a memorable Cultural Night, and numerous informal interactions fostered camaraderie among participants from different departments. These engagements demonstrated that effective governance is built not only on institutional knowledge but also on trust, collaboration, and interpersonal relationships.

The four-day study tour to Karachi was another highlight of the programme. Expo-

sure to major public institutions, infrastructure projects, Unilever, Karachi Stock Exchange, State Bank Of Pakistan and Naval Base provided valuable practical insights into Pakistan's development challenges and opportunities. Such experiential learning bridges the gap between theory and practice far more effectively than classroom instruction alone.

As the programme concluded with the certificate distribution ceremony, participants departed not only with enhanced knowledge but also with renewed confidence, broader professional networks, and lasting friendships. **Looking Ahead: From Training Institute to Global Centre of Excellence**

While MPDD has established itself as one of Punjab's premier civil service training institutions, its future potential is far greater. With strategic reforms, the institute can evolve into a globally recognised centre for public policy research, executive leadership, and governance innovation.

1. Establish a Public Policy Research Centre
MPDD should create a permanent multidisciplinary research centre dedicated to evidence-based policymaking. Faculty members, serving civil servants, academics, and international researchers should jointly undertake applied policy research addressing Punjab's governance challenges.

2. Develop an AI and Digital Governance Lab
Artificial Intelligence is transforming governance worldwide. MPDD should establish Pakistan's first dedicated AI Governance Laboratory where officers receive practical training in predictive analytics, policy simulation, generative AI, data visualisation, and digital decision-support systems.

3. Build International Academic Partnerships
Strategic collaborations with globally renowned institutions such as the Harvard Kennedy School, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Oxford's Blavatnik School of Government, the Civil Service College Singa-

pore, and leading UN agencies would significantly enhance MPDD's academic standards, faculty exchange, and research output.

4. Introduce Executive Fellowships
Senior civil servants should periodically undertake six-to-twelve-month research fellowships focusing on governance reforms, institutional innovation, and public policy implementation, with findings published as policy papers.

5. Launch a Punjab Governance Journal
A peer-reviewed international journal dedicated to governance, leadership, public administration, digital transformation, and policy innovation would position MPDD as a recognised contributor to academic and policy discourse.

6. Create Leadership Simulation Centres
Modern governance requires practical decision-making under pressure. Simulation laboratories replicating crises such as floods, cyberattacks, pandemics, fiscal emergencies, and media crises would significantly improve executive preparedness.

7. Institutionalise Continuous Learning
Civil servants should have access to lifelong learning through online courses, digital libraries, podcasts, webinars, and executive masterclasses, enabling continuous professional development throughout their careers.

8. Promote International Study Visits
Regular exposure visits to countries recognised for governance excellence—including Singapore, South Korea, Estonia, Finland, Malaysia, and the United Kingdom—would broaden participants' understanding of global best practices.

9. Strengthen Innovation and Policy Incubation
MPDD should establish a Governance Innovation Lab where officers design, test, and pilot practical administrative reforms before recommending their wider implementation across government departments.

10. Measure Training Outcomes
Training effectiveness should not end with

certificate distribution. A structured post-training evaluation system should measure how participants apply acquired knowledge in their respective organisations, linking learning outcomes to institutional performance improvements.

Investing in Leadership is Investing in the State.
The future of governance depends less on buildings and more on people capable of making informed, ethical, and innovative decisions. Institutions such as MPDD occupy a strategic position in shaping those leaders.

The challenges confronting Pakistan—digital transformation, climate change, rapid urbanisation, economic uncertainty, misinformation, and increasing citizen expectations—require a new generation of public servants who combine technical competence with strategic vision, emotional intelligence, and ethical leadership. The 29th Public Policy and Governance Course demonstrated that such transformation is possible. It was not merely a training programme; it was a journey of intellectual curiosity, collaborative learning, professional growth, and personal reflection.

As participants return to their respective departments, they carry more than certificates. They carry new perspectives, stronger professional networks, renewed confidence, and a shared commitment to improving public service.

If MPDD continues to innovate, embrace international standards, invest in research, and cultivate future-ready leadership, it has every potential to emerge not merely as Punjab's leading civil service academy but as one of South Asia's most respected centres for public policy, governance research, and executive leadership.

That would not simply be an institutional achievement—it would be an investment in the future of governance itself.

The writer is Director Public Relations at Government of Punjab.

Auqaf Chief Inspects Data Darbar Preparations for Annual Urs, Pledges World-Class Facilities for Pilgrims

Bureau Report

LAHORE: "Millions of devotees and spiritual followers from Lahore, across Pakistan, and various countries abroad visit the shrine of Hazrat Data Ganj Bakhsh (Hazrat Ali Hajveri) every year to participate in the Annual Urs and pay homage to the revered saint.

The Annual Urs is not merely a religious congregation but a profoundly sacred spiritual occasion that demands flawless administrative planning, exemplary civic coordination, and the provision of world-class facilities for the pilgrims," stated Secretary/Chief Admin-

istrator Auqaf Punjab, Dr. Ehsan Bhutta, while undertaking a comprehensive inspection of the revered Data Darbar shrine ahead of the forthcoming Urs celebrations.

Accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising ADC Kashif Jaleel, AC Rana Amir, Administrator Data Darbar Muhammad Ali Khan, and senior officials from municipal, police, traffic, and utility departments, Dr. Ehsan Bhutta conducted an extensive review of all logistical, security, and infrastructural arrangements. During the visit, the delegation toured all major sites and entry gates surrounding the shrine to inspect

parking facilities, public access points, arrangements for Sabeels and Langar distribution, and other essential amenities being established for the convenience of devotees.

Officials also meticulously examined crowd-management strategies, traffic diversion plans, designated parking areas, and the arrangements for Samaa gatherings to ensure the comfort, safety, and smooth movement of pilgrims arriving from different parts of the country and abroad. Senior officials further reviewed the ongoing development works around the shrine complex, including the construction of concrete

slabs and other civic upgrades aimed at enhancing accessibility and facilitating the uninterrupted flow of visitors during the Urs festivities. Emphasising the importance of seamless inter-departmental coordination and uninterrupted public services, Dr. Ehsan Bhutta directed all concerned agencies to maintain the highest standards of preparedness, vigilance, and administrative efficiency throughout the celebrations. Concluding the detailed visit, he, along with the accompanying officials, offered Fateha and special prayers at the shrine for the peace, stability, and continued prosperity of Pakistan.

US-Iran Tensions Pose Serious Threat to Global Peace, Warns Awaam Pakistan Party Balochistan

KARACHI/QUETTA: Syed Aman Shah, Provincial President of Awaam Pakistan Party Balochistan, expressed deep concern over escalating US-Iran military tensions, warning the conflict could trigger a severe economic and political crisis worldwide, especially for developing countries like Pakistan.

He said ongoing missile strikes and tensions around the Strait of Hormuz threaten international peace. Any disruption to oil supplies could cause sharp fuel price hikes, higher inflation, trade disruptions, and economic instability with direct impact on Pakistan.

Awaam Pakistan Party supports dialogue and diplomacy over war. Shah urged the UN, OIC, UN Security Council, and global powers to act immediately to secure a ceasefire and enable negotiations to protect millions of innocent lives.

He called on the Government of Pakistan to monitor the situation closely and take steps to protect energy security, economic stability, and public welfare, while playing a balanced diplomatic role for regional peace.

The Missing Guarantor in U. S.-Iran Diplomacy

Continued from Page 4

navigation, proposed shipping arrangements, economic measures, or maritime security can produce significant movements in global energy markets within hours. In today's interconnected economy, presidential rhetoric alone can affect the daily lives of billions of people through higher transportation costs, inflation, and energy prices.

This tactical uncertainty may produce short-term bargaining advantages while gradually eroding the strategic trust that underpins alliances, diplomacy, and long-term American leadership. If partners become uncertain whether today's commitments will remain valid tomorrow, they may increasingly seek alternative security arrangements or reduce their reliance on Washington.

For a superpower, leadership requires more than overwhelming strength. It also requires steadiness. The strongest reason should ideally demonstrate confidence rather than impulsiveness, consistency rather than contradiction, and principled leadership rather than purely transactional calculations.

The United States remains uniquely positioned to shape

the international order. That position carries extraordinary responsibility. Because American decisions influence virtually every region of the world, they inevitably affect not only governments but also ordinary families whose livelihoods depend upon stable energy markets, predictable trade, secure shipping, and peaceful diplomacy.

Ultimately, America's greatest asset is neither its aircraft

carriers nor its financial markets. It is the confidence others place in its word. Military power can compel compliance. Economic power can impose costs. But only credibility inspires lasting partnerships and voluntary cooperation.

If the United States consistently demonstrates that it honors its commitments, respects international law, protects humanitarian principles, and approaches

diplomacy with patience and predictability, its leadership will continue to command respect across the globe. If, however, unpredictability becomes its defining characteristic, countries may continue to cooperate out of necessity while gradually losing confidence in American leadership.

History suggests that fear can produce obedience, but only trust produces enduring influ-

ence. For a nation that has long presented itself as the leader of the free world, preserving that trust may prove to be its greatest strategic challenge in the years ahead.

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

First meeting on GM Corn

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, chairing the first meeting of the Committee on Genetically Modified (GM) Corn at the Finance Division, on Thursday.



Photo: PID

Finance Minister Aurangzeb chairs first meeting of committee on GM corn commercialization

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb chaired the first meeting of the Committee on Genetically Modified (GM) Corn, constituted by the Prime Minister to conduct an objective, science-based review of Pakistan's policy on commercializing genetically modified maize.

Opening the meeting, the Finance Minister said the

Committee's role is to examine scientific, economic and policy evidence in a factual and balanced manner. He stressed that all stakeholder perspectives must be considered before recommendations are finalized, and that agriculture is central to Pakistan's economic transformation, food security, and farmer welfare.

The Ministry of National Food Security and Research briefed members on the National Agricultural Biotech-

nology Policy, its consultative development, international regulatory practices, and biosafety frameworks. The Committee reviewed global experiences with GM and non-GM maize coexistence, including regulatory mechanisms, productivity gains, climate resilience, and impacts on farmer incomes.

Discussions covered Pakistan's poultry, livestock and industrial demand for maize, export opportunities, and requirements of non-GM

export markets. Members also examined trade practices, certification, supply chain management, and measures needed for coexistence of GM and non-GM systems.

Representatives from government institutions, regulatory bodies, the private sector, exporters, and technical experts presented views on potential benefits, implementation challenges, regulatory preparedness, and international market requirements.

Senator Aurangzeb emphasized that recommendations must be grounded in evidence, objective analysis, and national interest. He highlighted the need for implementation capacity, regulatory readiness, environmental safeguards, and market access to guide any future policy.

The meeting was attended by the Coordinator to PM on Agriculture and Food Security, CEO Pakistan Green Initiative, and experts from industry and science.

Pakistan Summons Japanese Ambassador Over Reference to Islamabad in Japan-India Joint Statement

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has lodged a formal protest with Japan over a reference to Islamabad in the recent Japan-India joint statement that alleged Pakistan's involvement in cross-border terrorism.

Foreign Office spokesperson Tahir Andrabi said the Japanese ambassador was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where Pakistan expressed concern over the inclusion of the allegation. He noted that Japan's policy toward Pakistan has not changed,

and that India has consistently sought to insert unilateral references in joint statements with other countries.

The spokesperson also rejected India's latest charge sheet filed by the National Investigation Agency against senior All Parties Hurriyat Conference leader-

ship related to a three-decade-old incident. He called it part of India's policy of using "sham legal processes" to target Kashmiri leadership and discredit the struggle for self-determination under UN Security Council resolutions.

Pakistan further categorically rejected India's

attempts to link it to the Pahalgalam attack, calling the allegations baseless and politically motivated. Andrabi said Pakistan has repeatedly called for an independent, transparent investigation, but India has failed to provide any credible evidence.

FCC rejects appeal filed against appointment of masters degree holder as sweeper

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Rejecting an appeal filed against the appointment of a candidate, holding master's degree, as a sweeper in KP, the Federal Constitutional Court (FCC) on Thursday upheld the verdict given by the Peshawar High Court (PHC) in the case, reported 24NewsHD TV channel.

A three-member bench, headed by Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi, heard the appeal.

Naseemullah Khan, the appellant, had argued that instead of giving the job of a sweeper to him, who was the most suitable candidate for the profession, it was given to the candidate, who held master's degree.

During the hearing, Justice Rizvi wondered whether a person, holding master's degree, would now work as a sweeper. "The very fact that educated people have been forced by circumstances to do such jobs is a slap on the face of the system," he remarked.

He, however, said it would be inappropriate to fire him especially when he had completed 10 years of his service. "The provincial government is ordered to give the complainant a job in any other department." Speaking on the occasion, additional advocate general said that right now there was no vacancy for a sweeper in the province.

Surprised to hear that, Justice Rizvi asked whether KP is so neat and clean that there was no need for a sweeper there.

Bank Robbery Gang Behind Dr. Akash Murder Uncovered, 3 Suspects Arrested in Karachi

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Karachi police have arrested three suspects linked to the murder of young doctor Dr. Akash Kumar near Teen Talwar, uncovering an organized bank robbery gang allegedly responsible for the killing.

According to investigators, the gang operates from Quaidabad and is led by Aslam alias Baba. Police said Aslam was in the getaway vehicle with a woman during the robbery. The suspects confessed to dividing the stolen cash after the incident.

One suspect transferred Rs125,000 to his brother in his village via Easypaisa. Another, Ram Chand, received Rs70,000 and used Rs30,000 for rent. Ram Chand told police he met Aslam in Landhi Jail in 2021 and later formed the robbery gang with



him.

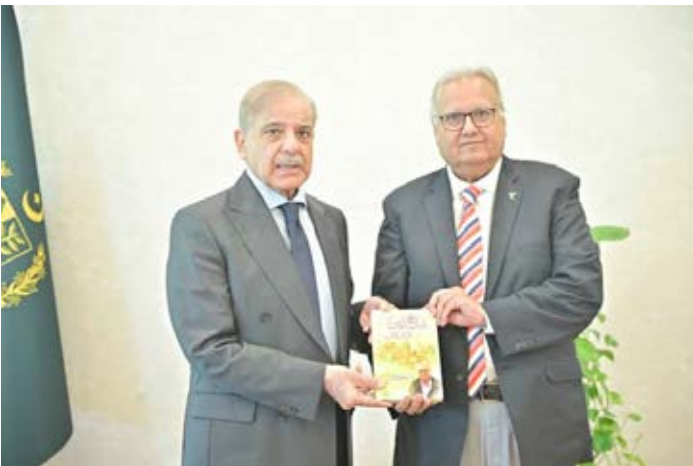
Investigators said the group carried out three major bank robberies in the first 12 days of July, looting Rs100,000 and Rs200,000 in separate incidents, in addition to the Clifton robbery that killed Dr. Akash.

Dr. Akash was shot dead on Monday after withdrawing Rs5

million from a bank. Attackers escaped with Rs2.5 million.

Police arrested the suspects within 36 hours using 100+ CCTV feeds including Safe City cameras. The three are on seven-day physical remand as efforts continue to arrest remaining members, including Aslam.

PM Shehbaz lauds Dr Farooq Adil’s literary contributions, role in strengthening Pakistan-Türkiye ties



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday lauded renowned scholar, author and columnist Dr Farooq Adil for his outstanding literary and intellectual contributions, particularly his efforts to promote closer cultural and people-to-people relations between Pakistan and Türkiye.

The prime minister expressed these views during a meeting with Dr Farooq Adil here at the Prime Minister's Office, a PM Office news release said.

Dr Farooq Adil presented his travelogue titled "Shakh-e-Zareen ke Dayen Bayen" (On Both Sides of the Golden Branch) to the prime minister.

DPM signs agreement on artificial intelligence cooperation



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Thursday signed the an agreement with the Establishment of the World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organization (WAICO) on behalf of Pakistan at the signing ceremony held in Shanghai, China.

As a founding member of WAICO,

Pakistan reaffirmed its commitment to advance international cooperation in the area of artificial intelligence, especially from the perspective of Global South, said a news release issued here.

Pakistan looked forward to working closely with fellow WAICO member states in efforts to help bridge the global Artificial Intelligence (AI) divide and to promote equitable access to AI to advance development for all.

OPF Chairman Issues Clarification on Contact with Banned Joint Awami Action Committee

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF), Syed Qamar Raza, has issued a clarification regarding a recent press release circulated by the banned Joint Awami Action Committee, rejecting its claims and describing the statement as a distortion of facts based on speculation.

In a statement issued on Thursday, Qamar Raza said his contact with members of the committee was undertaken solely on his personal initiative to explore a peaceful resolution to the issue. He stressed that the welfare of overseas Pakistanis and addressing their concerns remain his foremost responsibility.

The OPF chairman said the purpose of the engagement was to persuade committee members to refrain from violence and adopt a peaceful course of action. According to him, the majority of those

contacted responded positively and constructively to the proposal for dialogue and reconciliation.

However, he alleged that certain individuals were attempting to exploit his sincere and well-intentioned efforts for "cheap media publicity" by presenting misleading narratives.

