



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ہم سے سونے بیان کیا، انہوں نے کہا ہم سے جہاد بننے سے بیان کیا کہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے عموماً بن عمر رضی اللہ عنہما سے کہا کہ اللہ عزوجل کا ذکر تو فرمایا ہے کہ اللہ عزوجل نے ایک عورت سے ایک لفظ کے برابر سونے پر شادی کی ہے۔ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ اللہ تمہیں برکت عطا فرمائے، وگرنہ ایک بھاری گاہی ہو۔ (بخاری: صحیح، 6386)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



PM Shehbaz arrives in Istanbul to boost Pakistan-Turkiye ties

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif arrived in Istanbul on Friday for a bilateral visit to Turkiye at the invitation of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Turkiye's Trade Minister Omer Bolat, Pakistan's Ambassador to Turkiye Yousaf Junaid, and senior officials from both the Turkish Foreign Ministry and the Pakistani embassy received the prime minister at Istanbul's Ataturk Airport, the Prime Minister's Office said.



ISLAMABAD HIGH COURT ISLAMABAD

IHC suspends NHA's 50% extra toll surcharge on non-M-Tag vehicles

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has suspended the National Highway Authority's (NHA) notification imposing a 50 per cent additional toll surcharge on vehicles without an M-Tag or with insufficient M-Tag balance until the next hearing. Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir passed the order on Friday while hearing a petition filed by Advocate Jalal Haider.

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Prayers

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Bilawal Bhutto and CM Sindh Murad Ali Shah offer prayers at the funeral of the late Supreme leader of Iran, Shaheed Ayatollah Sayyed Ali Khamenei, in Tehran.



Photo: PID

PM Shehbaz Sharif attends funeral of Iran's Supreme Leader

Waseem Khokhar

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at the invitation of the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr Masoud Pezeshkian, attended the funeral ceremony of the late Supreme Leader of Iran, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, who was martyred on 28th February, during the attacks on Iran.

The prime minister led a high-level delegation that included Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Forces,

Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Interior Minister, Syed Mohsin Naqvi, Information Minister, Attaullah Tarar, Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, and other senior government officials, a Prime Minister's Office news release said here on Friday.

The prime minister expressed full solidarity with Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei, President of Iran, Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian and the brotherly people of Iran in this moment of national grief and prayed to Allah Almighty for forgiveness of the departed leader.

PM Shehbaz Bans Substandard Syringes Nationwide to Curb AIDS, Hepatitis C



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday ordered a complete ban on the manufacturing and use of substandard syringes across Pakistan to stop the spread of infectious diseases including AIDS and Hepatitis C.

Chairing a review meeting on infectious disease prevention, the PM directed legal action against individuals and hospitals found using substandard syringes or showing criminal negligence. He also ordered the formation of an expert committee to control infectious diseases, with provincial consultations for its recommendations.

The Ministry of Law was tasked to propose amendments to the legal and regulatory framework with relevant institutions. DRAP was directed to develop policy measures with the medical equipment industry to permanently block disease transmission via syringes.

The PM stressed a comprehensive national strategy, international partner support, better medical equipment manufacturing, and health-care staff training.

A Special Task Force and the Ministry of National Health Services briefed the meeting on measures taken. Attendees included Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, Minister of State for Health Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad Bharath, Attorney General Mansoor Awan, Global Fund's Izaskun Gaviria, health experts, DRAP, and senior officials.

40 Killed, eight injured as passenger bus plunges into ravine near Balochistan-KP border

Rafullah Mandokhel

ZHOB: A tragic road accident claimed the lives of at least 40 passengers and left eight others injured when a Peshawar-bound passenger bus plunged 70 to 80 feet into a deep ravine near the Dhanasar area on the Balochistan-Khyber Pakhtunkhwa border on Friday. The New Mekhtar bus was travelling from Quetta to Peshawar and was carrying 48 passengers, including women and children. Rescue 1122 teams, police, district administration officials, and local volunteers launched a difficult rescue operation in the rugged mountainous terrain, shifting the injured to the Trauma Centre at Zhob District Headquarters Civil Hospital while the



bodies were transported for identification. Hospital officials said the bus had become overcrowded after picking up passengers from another bus that had broken

down on the highway. Authorities have not yet determined the exact cause of the crash, though preliminary investigations point to possible mechanical failure, speeding, overloading, or driver error. One survivor claimed the driver lost control after a heated argument with passengers, but officials have not verified the allegation.

The Balochistan government has ordered a comprehensive inquiry into the incident, warning that negligence will not be tolerated. Governor Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhel and Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti expressed deep sorrow over the tragedy, which has once again highlighted Pakistan's ongoing road safety challenges, particularly on mountainous highways.

Pakistan Stands with Iran, Leadership United in Support: Danyal Chaudhry

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Information Barrister Danyal Chaudhry expressed condolences to Iran's leadership and bereaved families, saying Pakistan stands "shoulder to shoulder" with Iran with civilian and military leadership united.

He said Pakistan's political and military leadership remains committed to regional peace, stability, and diplomacy, with a foreign policy based on mutual respect, sovereignty, and peaceful coexistence. Islamabad continues to encourage engagement and mediation.

A Pakistani delegation is in Tehran for the funeral to express solidarity. Chaudhry added Pakistan's unified stance sends a clear message that any threat to regional peace or sovereignty will be addressed firmly.

He noted Pakistan's principled diplomacy is gaining international recognition.

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia Vow to Deepen Historic Ties in Jeddah Meeting

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi met Acting Governor of Makkah Region Prince Saud bin Mishaal bin Abdulaziz in Jeddah, with both sides reaffirming commitment to strengthen Pakistan-Saudi Arabia's longstanding, brotherly relations.

Also present were Jeddah Governor Prince Saud bin Abdullah bin Jalawi, Taif Governor Prince Saud bin Nahar bin Saud, and members of the Saudi royal family.

Naqvi thanked Saudi authorities for exceptional Umrah and Hajj arrangements, and specifically praised Prince Saud bin Mishaal for ensuring high service standards for millions of pilgrims, including Pakistanis. Prince Saud reiterated Saudi Arabia's strong commitment to Paki-



stan and pledged continued cooperation on mutual interests.

The Acting Governor welcomed the recent PCB-Saudi Arabian Cricket Federation agreement as a positive step for sports cooperation. He lauded the plan to build Jeddah's first international-standard cricket stadium

and assured full Makkah Region support, including facilitating PCB in construction, citing growing Saudi interest in cricket development.

The meeting underscored close diplomatic, religious, and people-to-people ties, and both sides' intent to expand cooperation in sports and regional development.

PM Shehbaz condoles deaths in bus accident on Zhob-Sherani highway

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday expressed deep grief over the loss of precious lives in a bus accident in the Danasar area on the Sherani-Zhob highway, located on the border between Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The prime minister, in a statement, prayed for peace for the departed souls and expressed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families of the victims.

He also prayed for the early recovery of those injured in the accident and directed the relevant authorities to provide them with all possible medical assistance.

Pakistan, Türkiye Pledge Closer Maritime and Transport Ties

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Türkiye have agreed to boost cooperation in maritime affairs and transport to strengthen economic connectivity, modern infrastructure, and sustainable growth.

The understanding came in an Istanbul meeting between Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry and Türkiye's Transport and Infrastructure Minister Abdulkadir Uraloglu.

The ministers reviewed existing collaboration and discussed expanding ties in

maritime infrastructure, logistics, and modern transport systems, noting their role in trade facilitation and regional connectivity. They also explored sustainable develop-



ment and mutual investment opportunities.

Both sides reaffirmed commitment to deepen the longstanding Pakistan-Türkiye partnership and expand cooperation across strategic economic sectors.

Protest

KARACHI: Activists of religious parties hold a protest against local broadcast service, in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

JKDFP Condemns Confiscation of Dr. Mubeen Ahmad Shah's Property

Abdul Majeed Tahir



SRINAGAR: The Jammu Kashmir Democratic Front Party [JKDFP] has strongly condemned Indian authorities' confiscation of property belonging to Kashmiri leader and businessman Dr. Mubeen Ahmad Shah.

Spokesperson Advocate Arshad Iqbal said Shah has consistently backed the Kashmiri people's cause through peaceful, political, and diplomatic means, and continues to advocate for self-determination from exile. He called the action "political vengeance" and a violation of human rights and rule of law.

Iqbal alleged a systematic policy of seizing assets of pro-freedom leaders and using arrests, raids, and coercion to suppress aspirations. He said such measures will not weaken the movement or resolve the dispute.

JKDFP urged the UN, human rights bodies, and democratic governments to take note, protect Shah and other affected Kashmiris, and help secure a just, peaceful resolution in line with Kashmiri aspirations.

APHC AJK, Palestine Foundation Pakistan Vow Joint Solidarity on Kashmir, Palestine



Spokesman Report

KARACHI: All-Party Hurriyat Conference AJK Convenor Ghulam Muhammad Safi said the struggles of Kashmir and Palestine are a shared fight against occupation, repression, and human rights violations.

Meeting Palestine Foundation Pakistan leaders at its Karachi headquarters, Safi said Palestinian resilience has strengthened Kashmiri resolve for self-determination. He alleged India is using force to suppress voices in IOJK, but military measures cannot end the freedom movement. He urged the international community to act on rights violations and implement UN resolutions.

Palestine Foundation leaders reaffirmed Pakistan's solidarity with both causes and pledged to highlight them nationally and internationally. Both sides agreed to expand media, digital outreach, and public/academic programs.

Safi appealed for participation in a July 8, 2026 "Shaheed Burhan Wani" rally at Karachi Press Club from 5-6 pm to show solidarity with Kashmiris.

AJK High Court Quashes 71 Medical Officer Appointments, Refers Case to Accountability Bureau

Bureau Report

MIRPUR: The Azad Jammu and Kashmir High Court has canceled 71 "ill-merited" Medical Officer appointments in the Health Department and ordered the Accountability Bureau to investigate those responsible.

In a detailed judgment by Justice Khalid Rashid Chaudhry, the court ruled the appointments were exceptions to the law and must be quashed. It directed recovery of salaries paid to all affected medical officers. The court also flagged over 250 other alleged illegal appointments for scrutiny and expressed strong disagreement with the recruitment process.

Petitioners were represented by Senior Advocate Sheikh Adil Masood and Advocate Khawaja Muhammad Afaq. Dr. Osama Zafar and others had challenged the appointments. The High Court has sought a report from the Accountability Bureau following further investigation.

GCWUF Degree Show 2026 Highlights Women's Creativity and Resilience



Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Government College Women University Faisalabad [GCWUF] opened its two-day Degree Show 2026, organized by the Department of Art & Design.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Kanwal Ameen, FCCI President Farooq Yousaf Sheikh, and Interloop's Farzana Musaddiq inaugurated the exhibition featuring work by seven graduating students. The projects addressed contemporary social issues and reflected young women's creativity, resilience, and aspirations.

Guests praised the students' artistic excellence and confidence, noting art and design's role in the creative economy, entrepreneurship, and youth empowerment.

Prof. Dr. Ameen said degree shows showcase talent and professional capability, and reaffirmed GCWUF's commitment to nurturing empowered graduates. She lauded Dr. Tooba Najam and her team for organizing the event.

Faculty, students, industry representatives, and guests attended. The exhibition remains open to the public until tomorrow.

PPP Unveils Full Candidate List for Azad Kashmir Legislative Assembly Elections

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has duly released its list of candidates for the upcoming Legislative Assembly elections. PPP Azad Kashmir Central leader and Communication Secretary, DG Political Affairs to Minister Prime Minister Zeeshan Amir said on behalf of the party. Muhammad Afsar Shahid from LA-1 Mirpur-1 (Dadial), Chaudhry Qasim Majid from LA-2 Mirpur-2 (Chakswari), LA-3 Mirpur-3 (Mirpur-Choutani, Sasar-A-Chautani City) Sahib Arshad from Mirpur-4 (Khari Sharif), Chaudhry Pervez Ashraf from LA-5 Bhambar-1 (Barnala), Khazar Rehman Raja from LA-6 Bhambar-2 (Samahani) and LA-7 from Bhambar City-3 (Bhambra).

Similarly, Zafar Iqbal Malik from LA-8 Kotli-1 (Raj Mahal), Chaudhry Javed Iqbal Badhanvi from LA-9 Kotli-2 (Nkial), Chaudhry Muhammad



Chaudhry Yasinh A-11 from Kotli-3 (Kotli City) from LA-1 Chaudhry Mohammad Yasin from Mohammad Akhlaq, LA-12 Kotli-5 (Charhoi), LA-13 Kotli-6 (Khuerta) Sechoudhry Mohammad Walid has been nominated as revolutionary candidate. Imbasher Ijaz, Sardar Zia-al-Qmar from LA-15 Bagh-2 (central), Sardar Qamar-ul-Zaman Khan from LA-16 Bagh-3 (East), Faisal Mumtaz Rathore from LA-17 Bagh-4 (Mansion), Faisal Mumtaz Rathore from Sarjab Pakh (LA-18) Khan, Sardar Saud Sadiq from LA-19 Poonch (Hjera), Sardar Muhammad Yaqub Khan from LA-20 Poonch (Ali Sujal), Sardar Abid Hussain Hasdar Abid (Sardar Poonch, LA-22) from LA-21 Poonch

(Rawalakot City) Maulana Saeed Yousuf from LA-23 Poonch and Siddhnoti (Palandri) has been nominated as a candidate under an electoral alliance with Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI). Fahim Akhtarbani from LA-24 Poonch and Siddhanvati (Baloch), LA-25 from Wadi Neelam-1 (Upper Neelam), Abdul Heed from LA-26 from Wadi Neelam-2 (Athamqam) to Abddar Muzfarot A-21 (LA) (LA) Mohammad Javed Ayub, Syed Bazal Ali Naqvi from LA-28 Muzaffarabad-2 (Lachharat), Sardar Mukhtar Ahmad Khan from LA-29 Muzaffarabad-3 (Muzaffarabad City), LA-30 Muzaffarabad-4 (Hatian L, Mani Sa-3 Adopat) Chaudhry Latif Akbar from Muzaffarabad-5 (Khawra),

Muhammad Ashfaq Zafar from LA-32 Muzaffarabad-6 (Chakar) and Diwan Ali Khan Chaghtai from LA-33 Muzaffarabad-7 (Lepa) have been issued party tickets.

Chaudhry Abdul Qadir Chauhan from LA-34 Jammu-1 (Punjab/Sindh/Baluchistan), Muhammad Asif from LA-35 Jammu-2 (Gujranwala), LA-36 from Jammu-3 (7 Ahlsan A-4) Shaheen Kosar Dar from (Narowal), Raja Shahid Iqbal from LA-38 Jammu-5 (Gujarat), Chaudhry Fakhar Zaman from LA-39 from Jammu-6 (Jhelam/Rawalpindi), LA-40 Valley-1 (Sindh, El-Baluchastan) Ghulam Abbas Mir from Valley-2 (Lahore Division), Muhammad Asim Sharif from LA-42 Valley-3 (Multan, Sahiwal), Javed But from LA-43 Valley-4 (Rawalpindi), LA-44 Rawalbad Valley-5 (Rawalpindi) Abdul Majid Khan has been nominated as party candidate from A-45 Valley-6 (Khybar Pakhtunkhwa). The candidate has been running a massive election campaign in his constituencies.

Government of Pakistan
Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences, Islamabad.
Tender Notice No. 03/2026-2027/PIMS

Sealed bids are invited in accordance with Rule 36(b) "Single Stage Two Envelope" procedure of the PPRA Rules, 2004 for below mentioned tender categories from reputed firms, having vast experience in the relevant fields. Interested bidders must be registered with the Income Tax, Sales Tax Departments and must be listed on the Active Taxpayers List (Sales Tax) of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR):-

Sr. #	Description	Bids opening date & Time
1	Supply of Linen Store items for the financial year 2026-27.	23 - 07 - 2026 at 11:30AM
2	Supply of Furniture Store Items for the financial year 2026-27.	-do-
3	Supply of Housing Keeping Store Items for the financial year 2026-27.	-do-
4	Supply of Horticulture items for the financial year 2026-27.	-do-
5	Supply of Computer Store items for the financial year 2026-27.	-do-
6	Provision and installation of Spare Parts for 30-Beds Mortuary Installed in PIMS Hospital Islamabad for the period of 01-year.	-do-
7	Supply of Blood Bags, Anti - Sera, Kits and Disposable items etc, to be used in Blood Bank PIMS on Annual Contract basis, for the financial year 2026-27.	-do-
8	Supply of Surgical Disposable Items & Suture Material, on annual contract basis during financial year 2026-27 & 2027-28, (Bulk Purchase).	-do-
9	Purchase of Blood Bag Shakers required for Blood Bank at PIMS, (2 nd time).	-do-
10	Purchase of Tube Welder required for Blood Bank at PIMS, (2 nd time).	-do-
11	Installation of Fully Automated Hemoglobin Electrophoresis on Reagent / Rental basis for the period of 03 -years at Hematology Section of Pathology Department PIMS, (3 rd time).	-do-

Documents required for obtaining tender receipt - Tender request on firms letter head pad along with copies of FBR Income Tax & Sales Tax Registration Certificate and proof of 100% Active Taxpayer List Sales Tax. (Each page duly signed & stamp).

Tender issue venue. Purchase Department, PIMS.

Tender Fee (Non-refundable) Rs. 2,000/- per tender obtain from Accounts Branch PIMS in person after vetting from purchase department PIMS.

Last date for issuance of Tender Schedule(s). 22-07-2026 at 1:00 PM.

Tender submission and opening place with date & time.

- SBDs are available at E-PADS PPRA Website Version 2.0 & and firm/vendor will proceed through E -PADS Version 2.0 and upload their offers/ bids with requisite enclosures accordingly.
- The firm/bidder will submit original CDR, and original Undertaking on Judicial Paper, and copy of tender receipt, in tender box available at the Purchase Department PIMS G-8/3, Islamabad, by 11:00 AM on 23-07-2026.
- Bids submitted through E-PADS Version 2.0 will be entertained. Online submitted bids will be opened at 11:30AM on the same day in the Purchase Committee Meeting at PIMS.
- Manual bids shall not be accepted.

CDR Value:- As mentioned in tender schedule i.e. Standard Bidding Documents (SBDs).

Note:-
 > Tender is also available at PPRA website and PIMS Website.
 > Grievances received only through EPADS Version 2.0 within stipulated / prescribed period will be addressed under PPRA Rules.
 > The supplier/bidder will submit call deposit / bid money in the name of Executive Director PIMS.
 > PIMS reserves the right to reject or accept all bids / proposals at any time prior to the acceptance of a bid in accordance with rule 33(1) of PPRA 2004.

Executive Director PIMS Ph. 051-9260490 PID(1)75/26

RPO Faisalabad Holds Open Court, Resolves 85 Public Grievances On-Spot



Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Regional Police Officer Sohai Akhtar Sukhera held a Khuli Kachehri at the Regional Police Office, in line with Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif's vision for accessible justice.

Over 170 complainants presented applications directly to the RPO. Immediate relief was granted in 85 cases through on-the-spot orders, while remaining matters were referred to concerned officers for inquiry with deadlines for report submission.

Sukhera said protecting lives, property, and ensuring timely justice are top police priorities. He stressed zero tolerance for misconduct, delays in FIR registration, or negligence in duty.

He directed supervisory officers to conduct merit-based investigations without pressure and process all pending complaints within legal timelines, adding that open courts aim to give citizens, especially the vulnerable, direct access to senior police leadership.



Islamabad
30° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 3:19 am
Zohr 12:12 pm
Asr 5:12 pm
Maghrib 7:22 pm
Isha 9:05 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

COMPLAINTS

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

Affected families thank CM Maryam Nawaz for timely relief and medical assistance

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif visited the Eid Gah locality of Kahna to offer condolences to the families of chil-

dren who lost their lives in the tragic roof collapse. She met the bereaved parents, particularly the mothers of the deceased children, expressed profound sympathy and offered Fateha for the departed souls.



Speaking to the affected families, the Chief Minister said the grief she felt upon receiving news of the children's deaths was beyond words.

"Your loss is immense. I am a mother myself and can understand your pain," she said.

The Chief Minister observed that once the children informed their

teacher that bricks had begun falling from the roof, the class should have been dismissed immediately.

Maryam Nawaz also met two children who survived the incident, comforted them and inquired about their well-being.

The children told the Chief Minister that they had asked their teacher to let

them leave after bricks started falling from the roof, but the teacher did not dismiss the class.

The affected families expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif for personally visiting them, extending timely financial assistance and ensuring prompt medical treatment for the injured.

Khaji (Yellow dates)

ISLAMABAD: A vendor displaying dates to attract the customers at Ninth Avenue in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Hyderabad Fixes Flour at Rs. 130/kg Retail After Wheat Price Spike

Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Deputy Commissioner Zain-ul-Abedin Memon chaired a meeting with food, supply, flour mills, atta chakki, kiriyana, and supermarket representatives after open-market wheat rose to Rs. 11,500-11,800 per 100kg, pushing flour to Rs. 150/kg in some areas.

To ensure uniform, affordable prices, new rates were agreed: Flour mills to sell at Rs. 127/kg wholesale and Rs. 130/kg retail. Atta chakkis/retail shops set at Rs. 145/kg wholesale and Rs. 148/kg retail.

The DC ordered strict enforcement against overcharging, hoarding, and profiteering, and urged the public to report violations for legal action.

All associations pledged full cooperation to implement the notified prices.

Kazakhstan Backs Chess Growth: New Era of Pakistan-Kazakh Sports Diplomacy

Abdul Waheed Khan

ISLAMABAD: Chess Federation of Pakistan President Syed Zeeshan Ali Naqvi led a delegation of CFP officials Mr. Anwar Saleem (SVP), Ms. Nadia Gillani (Hon VP) and Raja Gauhar Iqbal (General Secretary) to meet Kazakhstan's Ambassador, H. E. Mr. Yerzhan Kistafin.

The discussion centered on sports diplomacy and chess cooperation.

The Ambassador congratulated the new CFP office bearers and assured full support in infrastructure, coaching, and technical development.

Exchange of delegations between the two federations was also agreed upon.

The President thanked the Ambassador for his continued support.



Commissioner Multan Division Aamir Karim Khan Paid a Surprise Visit to Nishtar Hospital Multan

Quratulain Asim

MULTAN: Commissioner Multan Division Aamir Karim Khan paid a surprise visit to Nishtar Hospital Emergency. Commissioner Aamir Karim Khan conducted a detailed inspection of the emergency wards and reviewed the medical facilities provided to the patients.

Commissioner Aamir Karim Khan met the patients and their families and inquired about the treatment, availability of medicines and other facilities.

On this occasion, Commissioner Aamir Karim Khan said that the Punjab government is taking practical steps to provide



quality and timely medical facilities to the citizens. On the instructions of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the quality of medical facilities in government hospitals is being further improved.

He said that uninterrupted supply of medicines to the patients is the top priority of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, no negligence will be tolerated in this regard.

Commissioner Aamir Karim Khan directed the hospital administration to provide immediate medical assistance, best treatment and all possible facilities to the patients coming in emergency.

DC Reviews Examination Arrangements in T T Singh

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Deputy Commissioner Umar Abbas Mela of Toba Tek Singh made a surprise visit to the Government Model High School Jhang Road examination centre to review ongoing arrangements. He inspected exam halls, security, cleanliness, drinking water, electricity, seating, and other amenities, along with staff attendance, duty rosters, monitoring, and rule compliance. He ordered officers to ensure a peaceful, secure, transparent, and well-facilitated environment for candidates, stressing continuous supervision for discipline and transparency. Mela stated no compromise on merit, transparency, or discipline, warning that negligence or irregularities would not be tolerated, with strict legal action against violators. He emphasized that a transparent exam process is the district administration's top priority, urging all departments to perform duties with dedication, integrity, and responsibility.

Al-Khair Hajj Group's Global Success a Source of National Pride: Awaam Pakistan Balochistan



Commerce Desk

KARACHI/QUETTA: Awaam Pakistan Party Balochistan Provincial Convener Syed Aman Shah lauded Al-Khair Hajj Group for earning international recognition through sincere service, honesty, transparent management, and high standards for pilgrims.

He congratulated Group Head Danish Affan, saying his leadership and selfless service have set a globally admired benchmark in Hajj and Umrah. Shah noted Affan's work inspires youth that integrity and public service lead to success.

He added Hajj teaches brotherhood, equality, and discipline, and called pilgrim service a blessed responsibility deserving national respect.

Shah highlighted former PM Shahid Khaqan Abbasi's presence as chief guest, along with Miftah Ismail, Dr. Zafar Mirza, FPCC's Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, Zubair Tufail and business leaders. He prayed for the Group's continued success and Pakistan's global respect.

Karandaaz, D-Tech Launch 'MIA' AI Assistant to Ease Digital Payments in Pakistan



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Karandaaz Pakistan has partnered with D-Tech & Consultancy Private Ltd. (DTC) to develop 'My Intelligent Assistant' (MIA), a Context-Aware AI Companion for its 'AI in Digital Payments Program'.

MIA will provide real-time, multilingual, personalized guidance to help users navigate Pakistan's digital finance interfaces. Karandaaz noted that while digital adoption and financial infrastructure have grown rapidly, limited digital literacy, language barriers, and lack of in-app support still prevent many customers from completing transactions independently, eroding confidence.

By embedding intelligent, context-sensitive help directly in financial apps, MIA aims to bridge literacy gaps, make services more accessible and inclusive, and expand financial outreach. Karandaaz and DTC plan a scalable framework for deploying AI solutions across Pakistan's digital financial ecosystem.

Karandaaz CEO Waqas ul Hasan said AI can transform engagement with digital finance and Karandaaz is committed to user-friendly, responsible tech adoption. DTC CEO Adeel Dayo said MIA will make mobile wallets and payment services more intuitive, supporting financial inclusion and digital transformation.

Through MIA, the partners aim to build trust, improve engagement, and create a more inclusive financial ecosystem.

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The Yemenite Children Abduction: A Stain on Humanity's Conscience

For decades, a dark cloud has hung over the founding of the State of Israel—one that involves the systematic disappearance of thousands of children from immigrant families, primarily of Yemenite descent. This is the Yemenite Children Affair, a chapter of history so painful that its official records were sealed for seventy years, until 2071. The wound has been reopened by recent remarks attributed to Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, who has reportedly admitted that these children were abducted and sold to the United States for medical experimentation. His heartless statement has once again forced the world to revisit a humanitarian tragedy that has haunted thousands of families for more than seven decades.

This renewed attention comes at a time when Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir has repeatedly drawn worldwide criticism for inflammatory public rhetoric. His verified statements calling for "all of Lebanon to burn," declaring that "for every teardrop of an Israeli mother, a thousand Lebanese mothers need to cry," and advocating overwhelming military force against Israel's enemies have been condemned by governments, international organizations, and even political figures within Israel.

Reuters, The Times of Israel, the BBC, CNN, and other international media have extensively reported these remarks. Critics argue that such rhetoric reflects

a broader political mindset that has increasingly alarmed much of the international community. Whether one agrees with that assessment or not, the renewed debate surrounding the Yemenite Children Affair has inevitably become part of that larger discussion.

The Yemenite Children Affair is not merely an Israeli controversy. It is a humanitarian tragedy whose consequences continue to devastate families to this day. Between 1948 and 1954, shortly after the establishment of the State of Israel, tens of thousands of Jewish immigrants from Yemen, along with immigrants from Iraq, Morocco, Libya, Tunisia and other Middle Eastern and North African countries, arrived in the new state under extremely difficult conditions. During those years, hundreds—and according to many families and researchers, possibly more than a thousand—babies and toddlers disappeared after being admitted to hospitals or immigration camps.

Parents consistently recounted strikingly similar experiences. They were told that their child had suddenly died, often without ever seeing the body. Many said they received no death certificate, no burial location, and no convincing explanation. Instead of closure, they were left with uncertainty that lasted not months or years, but generations.

Israeli governments established three major commissions of inquiry to investigate the affair. Those commissions generally concluded that the majority of the missing children had died from disease during the difficult conditions prevailing in the early years of the state. They also acknowledged that some cases could not be conclusively resolved because records were incomplete or missing. Many families, however, rejected those conclusions, arguing that the investigations failed to answer fundamental questions and left significant contradictions unresolved.

One of the most controversial aspects of the affair was the decision by the 2001 Kedmi Commission to seal large portions of its evidence until 2071. That extraordinary decision itself became a source of public suspicion. Many asked a simple question: if there was nothing to hide, why should crucial evidence remain inaccessible for seventy years?

Growing public pressure eventually led the Israeli government to reconsider. In 2016, the Knesset Constitution, Law and Justice Committee unanimously approved the release of hundreds of thousands of classified documents relating to the affair. Minister Tzachi Hanegbi, appointed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to examine whether the archives should be opened, concluded

that the authorities' handling of the affair "did not reflect the values of the Jewish state." He also acknowledged that he found it difficult to accept the bureaucratic explanations that had long been offered for many of the disappearances.

The release of documents represented an important step toward transparency, but it did not end the controversy. Instead, it reinforced the determination of many families to continue searching for answers.

In 2021, the Israeli government approved approximately NIS 162 million in compensation for eligible families affected by the affair. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu acknowledged the suffering endured by the families and expressed hope that the compensation would provide at least some measure of recognition. Yet many recipients responded that they had never sought money. What they wanted was truth.

Some family representatives described the compensation as an attempt to close the chapter without fully addressing it. They insisted that financial payments could never replace knowledge of what happened to their children. They demanded access to every remaining document, every available DNA record, every adoption file permitted by law, and every piece of evidence capable of revealing the fate of their loved ones.

That demand is neither political nor ideological. It is profoundly human. Every parent possesses an inalienable right to know what happened to a

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Analysis

Qamar Bashir

Pakistan team wins top honors in first CICA Skills Competition in Guangzhou

The Pakistani delegation claimed championship in the high-voltage cable intelligent operation and inspection category at the inaugural CICA International Skills Competition held in Guangzhou from June 30 to July 4 and also received the Outstanding Organization Award for their rigorous conduct, orderly coordination and active engagement in the exchange.

The Pakistan delegation was led by Gulmina Bilal Ahmad, Chairperson of Pakistan's National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTC), with Wang Chunping, President of Heroboss Technology, serving as team leader. Competitors include Waqas Rasool from Huaneng Group and Saeed Azhar from Heroboss Technology.

Waqas Rasool clinched first place in the high-voltage cable intelligent operation and inspection category, demonstrating near-zero error accuracy, efficient fault diagnosis capabilities and skilled use of smart test equipment. The event consists of two modules: high voltage plastic cable preprocessing, and cable length measurement and path detection.

The competition requires a high level of physical endurance, stability, precision and familiarity with technical drawings, with dimensional tolerances controlled at the millimeter level and insulating surface roughness at the micron level, China Economic Net reported on Friday.

The CICA Skills Competition, organized by the All-China Federation of Trade Unions and held at Guangdong Lingnan Modern Technician College, brought together nearly 80 frontline workers, experts, scholars and officials from 23 countries. As the first cross-border workers' skills competition under the CICA framework, the event centered on three dimensions — "leadership, commonality, and practicality" — and featured three categories: bricklaying, UAV assembly and maintenance, and high-voltage cable intelligent operation and inspection.

Alongside the core skills event, the five-day competition also features technical exchange forums and cultural exhibitions that highlight Guangzhou's local craftsmanship alongside advanced robotics, paving a collaborative path for regional talent cultivation and industrial cooperation.

Established in 1992, Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) now has 28 member states and 15 observer countries and international organizations, covering more than 90 percent of Asia's territory and representing more than half of the global population. It acts as a key multilateral forum for promoting peace, security and stability in Asia.



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

Iran's Shadow Strategy: How Proxy Warfare Redefined Power in the Post-Arab Spring Middle East

Muqaddas Tariq

After 1979 revolution, Iran tried to maintain its influence beyond its borders. However, Iran adopted alternative method of power projection due to economic sanctions, limitations in conventional military capabilities, and pressure from regional and international rivals. Proxy warfare is one of the most significant tools of Iranian foreign policy. Proxy warfare is a strategy in which a country uses Non-State Actors to serve its interests. Iran provides funding, weapons, training, political support and intelligence to various groups including Hezbollah in Lebanon, Shiite militias in Iraq, Houthis in Yemen, Palestinian resistance groups, and pro-government forces in Syria to increase its influence across Middle East. Through these groups Iran developed an extensive regional network known as "Axis of Reference". Popular uprising, civil wars, regime changes, and state fragmentations created both challenges and opportunities for regional powers. Especially the conflicts in Iraq, Syria, Yemen became the most important and provided opportunities for Iran to employ its strategy.

Among all, Syria became one of the most critical battlegrounds. When antigovernment protests started in Syria, Iran took it as a potential collapse of strategic partner and weaken of "Axis of Resistance" against Israel and United States and disrupt Iranian access to Hezbollah. In response, Iran launched one of the most extensive foreign interventions, instead of deploying conventional troops, Iran

heavily relied on proxy warfare. Iran provided support to the Syrian government by coordinating the mobilization of foreign fighters and these foreign fighters became one of the essential supports of the Pro- Assad coalition. Iran's support and 2015 Russian intervention helped the Syrian government to regain its control. This led to prevention of the hostile regime in Damascus, and secured land corridor that facilitated transfer of weapons, personnel, and resources to Hezbollah.

Arab spring indirectly affected Iraq but the emergence of ISIS in 2014 represents a turning point in Iraq's history. Iran quickly positioned itself in the fight against ISIS. The IRGC and Quds Force provide assistance to Iraqi security forces and Shiite militias, many of these militias became integrated into Popular Mobilization Force (PMF). This organization was officially recognized by the Iraqi Government and helped in defeating ISIS. This led to strengthened Iran's position as a reliable security partner of Iraq, secondly many Iranian backed militia groups became part of political process, and it provided Iran an opportunity to increase its influence not only militarily but also politically. Iran also expanded trade relations, especially energy exports with Iraq and in this way, Iraq became critical regional ally. Many militia organizations became part of government institutions but retained strong ideological and operational connections with Iran and it provided an opportunity for Iran to maintain leverage over Iraqi security and political affairs. IN 2014, the Houthi movement, also known as Ansar Allah, captured the capital of Yemen and expanded its control. During the conflict, Iran provided military training, technological

assistance, and political backing to Houthis. For Iran, this support provides several strategic opportunities. It helps Iran to impose costs on its regional rival Saudi Arabia and reduces Riyadh's ability to focus on other regional issues. Secondly, it also influences Iran's strategic reach as Yemen is located near Bab al- Mandab strait, which is one of the most important Maritime Checkpoints connecting red sea with Gulf of Aden. It provided Iran with additional leverage in international trade routes and in regional security calculations. So, proxy warfare allowed Iran to increase its influence beyond borders and maintain its position as one of the most influential actors in the Middle East.

Although proxy warfare increased Iran's influence across the middle east but Iran also faced challenges due to Proxy warfare strategy. Due to economic sanctions, Iran faced serious economic problems and supporting proxy groups is very expensive as Iran must provide money, weapons, training, and other materials to proxy groups and it requires billions of dollars. This led to inflation, unemployment, and falling value of Iranian currency. Ordinary people faced challenges and criticized the government for spending large amounts of money on conflicts and allies abroad. This domestic criticism pressurized the government to limit its expenses on proxy networks. There is a perception that Iran's regional strategy is based on sectarian identity as most of the groups Iran helped are Shiite organizations, and it created suspicion among Sunni government and communities. Saudi Arabia and other few Gulf states often portray that Iran is trying to increase Shiite influence in the region.

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Pakistan's Pragmatic Diversification from US Dollar: Navigating a Multipolar World

Hazrat Hafsa

Pakistan's gradual shift towards de-dollarization is a response to its economic vulnerabilities and changing geopolitical circumstances. With a shortage of foreign exchange and high external debt servicing costs, Pakistan is making concerted efforts to lessen its dependence upon the US dollar as this currency is used in huge quantities for imports and remittances as a result of which Pakistan is facing serious problems with foreign exchange. The main measures involve enhancing RMB settlement of trade with China through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and strengthening RMB currency swap with regional countries, and increasing local currency trade with regional countries. It is not a direct attempt to challenge dollar dominance, but a wise approach of minimizing exchange rate risks, transaction cost and creating resiliency through diversified financing. The aim is to establish a more equitable financial system through the cooperation such as CPEC and possible BRICS ties.

De-dollarization in the context of Pakistan does not imply complete de-dollarization but rather measures which are incremental and practical. These involve settlement of bilateral trade transactions in local or partner currencies (particularly RMB with China), applying currency swaps to prevent foreign exchange mismatch, and establishing new cross-border payment channels. Further advances have been made in trade with China, with almost one-quarter of bilateral trade now settled in renminbi, and strengthened currency swap facilities (providing liquidity in yuan). It is

about the operational feasibility and about risk reduction, not about replacing the dollar as the global reserve currency.

However, Pakistan's economy is still susceptible to external shocks because of its continued current account deficits, high dollar-denominated debts and repeated hedging depreciations. These can compound costs in times of financial crises, compress reserves and worsen fuel inflation. Having more than one currency for payment is helpful: Currency swaps and RMB financing match revenues and expenses with key trading partners. Many payment options buffer geopolitical tensions, liquidity shocks or sanctions. Local currency settlement reduces transaction fees, speedup settlements and boost the amounts of trade volume with China and other partners.

CPEC is playing a major role in this as it allows for the construction of infrastructure and energy projects in RMB, thus reducing the need to convert foreign currencies. The two units are Trade Settlements and Reserve Management. Pakistan will focus on bilateral and Multilateral local currency trade arrangements in those countries in which volumes of trade warrant such arrangements, mainly with China. The plan to convert the dollar to a reserve currency is a much longer term goal. Success lies in slow diversification, such as rising amount of non-dollar trade settlements, development of more effective hedging instruments, and enhancing the interoperability of payment systems. Pakistan is still keeping dollar reserves for IMF obligations, macroeconomic stability and international transactions.

Several hurdles are Lack of full convertibility of the rupee and weak markets for hedging in RMB, Volatility in macroeconomic activity and

Continued on Page 7

Chairman Senate Gillani arrives in Tehran and meets with Iranian Government High Officials

Asim Tanveer

TEHRAN: Chairman Senate of Pakistan, Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani Arrived in Tehran, the capital of the Islamic Republic of Iran, where he was accorded an official welcome by the Deputy Speaker of the Iranian Parliament and presented with a Guard of Honour. And Meet With irani Government High Officials. Governor Khyber pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim kundi was also present with the chairman Senate.



Following the reception, Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani held a meeting with the Deputy Speaker of the Iranian Parliament. During the meeting, the two leaders held detailed discussions on Pakistan-Iran bilateral relations, parliamentary cooperation,

and a wide range of issues of mutual interest.

After the meeting, Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani and the Deputy Speaker of the Iranian Parli-

ament jointly addressed a press conference, reaffirming the importance of strengthening bilateral engagement and parliamentary collaboration between the two countries.

The meeting was also attended by the Chairman of the Pakistan-Iran Parliamentary Friendship Group. Pakistan's Ambassador to Iran, senior officials of the Pakistan Embassy, and high-ranking Iranian officials were present to receive the Chairman Senate upon his arrival.

Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani also met with political leaders, representatives of civil society, religious scholars, and members of the media. On the occasion, both sides reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening the longstanding brotherly relations between Pakistan and Iran, enhancing parliamentary exchanges, and expanding bilateral cooperation across diverse sectors for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

CM Maryam Nawaz Chairs National Paigham-e-Aman Committee, Stresses Unity, Tolerance

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif chaired a National Paigham-e-Aman Committee meeting with religious scholars of all schools of thought and minority leaders. The committee lauded the government's Muharram arrangements and initiatives for Eid, Muharram, and minority festivals, and paid tribute to PM Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir for diplomatic achievements and Marka-

i-Haq's success.

CM Punjab said the committee's role against terrorism and extremism is commendable. She stated minorities in Punjab feel secure under provincial policies with no discrimination, and that laws are enforced against criminals, not citizens. She praised Home Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique, ministers Bilal Yasin and Shafay Hussain, IGP, home secretary, and officials for law and order, and noted prison reforms.

She paid tribute to Punjab Police

for 18-hour duties in extreme heat during Muharram and stressed SOPs for religious rituals. She said Pakistan gained international respect during Iran-US tensions due to civil-military leadership and the Foreign Office, and warned against "invisible enemies" spreading hate and misinformation.

On the Sargodha child rape-murder, she said the suspect was arrested via forensics and pledged swift action in women/child violence cases, claiming crime has declined.

She urged parents to ensure child safety, warned against manhole cover theft, and flagged drug smuggling and corporal punishment concerns.

She called on mosques and scholars to promote tolerance, announced Eid Miladun Nabi preparations, and cited shrine upgrades at Data Ganj Bakhsh, Baba Farid, and Bibi Pak Daman. She urged reporting online hate. The committee backed the peace agenda and praised Muharram security, medical, water, and sanitation services.

Problems, Challenges, and Necessary Measures for the Improvement of People with Albinism in Pakistan

Albinism is a genetic condition where the body produces insufficient melanin, the pigment responsible for coloring skin, hair, and eyes and protecting against the sun. It is not a disease and cannot be transmitted through contact, yet misconceptions persist. In Pakistan, research on albinism is scarce, with no accurate data or national database to guide government policies or healthcare, education, and social services. People with albinism have equal intelligence, talent, and potential as others, but societal judgment based on appearance leads to name-calling, ridicule, and exclusion. This behavior damages self-confidence, especially in children, causing feelings of inferiority and hindering their development. Society often overemphasizes physical appearance, while true identity lies in character and abilities. Public awareness is extremely limited, contributing to discrimination. In educational institutions, teachers and students lack understanding, so affected students don't receive needed support like seating at the front, large-print materials, or proper lighting for low vision. Schools should also provide sun protection during outdoor activities. The healthcare system offers limited specialized services. Every major hospital should have regular dermatologist and ophthalmologist screenings for early diagnosis of skin and eye problems. Many with albinism cannot afford sunscreen or protective clothing due to financial constraints. Sun exposure causes sunburn, irritation, and higher risk of skin cancer in Pakistan's intense sunlight. Visual impairments include difficulty seeing distant objects, photophobia, and nystagmus, requiring prescription glasses, magnifiers, or larger fonts. In rural areas, access to eye care is limited, leading to delayed diagnosis. To improve quality of life, the government, educational institutions, media, healthcare professionals, and social organizations must work together. Key steps include specialized healthcare services in every district, free or subsidized sunscreen and protective eyewear for low-income individuals, education for parents on sun protection, and counseling programs in hospitals. Health is a fundamental right, and overlooking medical needs causes physical, emotional, and psychological challenges. The healthcare system must become more inclusive and equitable for people with albinism to lead safe, healthy, dignified lives. The first and most important step is changing societal attitudes to recognize equal rights, respect, and dignity for all.



Syeda Abiha Batool

Analysis

Uzbekistan boosts green energy production

ASTANA: Since the beginning of 2026, Uzbekistan's solar and wind plants have generated 6 billion kWh of electricity, Qazinform News Agency reports. According to the Energy Ministry of Uzbekistan, solar plants produced 3.8 billion kWh, while wind farms generated 2.2 billion kWh of electricity.

Compared to the same period in 2025, the country's renewable electricity generation increased by 24.3%, saving 1.6 billion cubic meters of natural gas. Earlier, it was reported that Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Azerbaijan plan to begin exporting green energy to Europe by 2030.

Historical Background of the Dombra

"The dombra is the ancient chronicle of the nomadic people, the melody of the soul of a wise elder who has witnessed the passage of time"

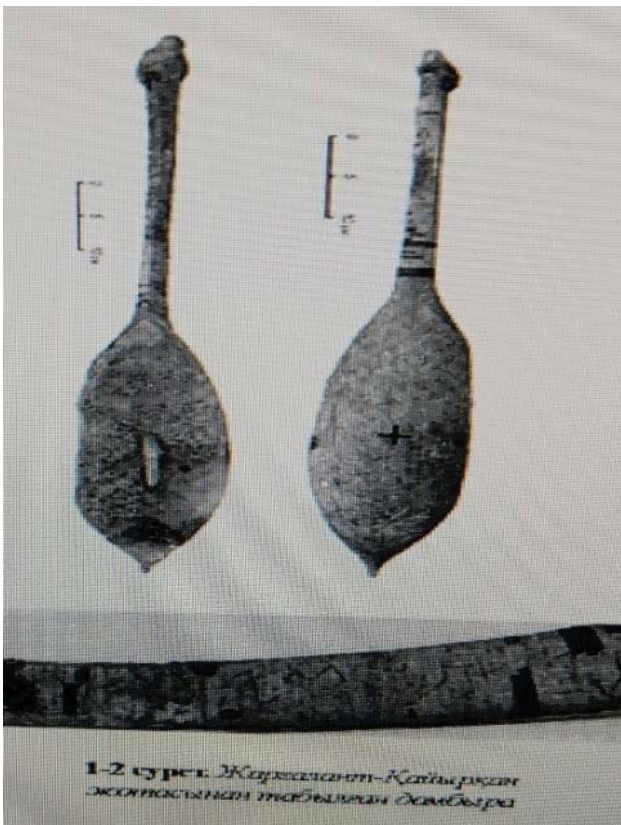
Akhmet Zhubanov

On 5 July, Kazakhstan celebrates National Dombra Day. Among the many forms of traditional Kazakh art, the dombra and the art of kui performance represent a unique cultural tradition with a history spanning many centuries. According to archaeological and ethnographic evidence, dombra-like instruments were used across the Eurasian steppe thousands of years ago. Some historical sources suggest that the instrument's origins date back between 2,000 and 6,000 years.

The dombra holds a special place in the spiritual life of the Kazakh people. The formation of this musical instrument dates back to ancient times. The dombra was widely used among Turkic-speaking peoples from Altai to Anatolia. The Altai Mountains, regarded as the cradle of Turkic peoples, are considered to be one of the earliest places where the first dombra-like instruments emerged.

Academician Akhmet Zhubanov once said: "The dombra, the most cherished and sacred musical instrument of the Kazakh people who inhabited the vast steppe, with its deep resonant and thoughtful plucked sounds, is pleasing to the ear and close to the heart; its silvery ringing tone reveals many hidden stories."

The oldest examples of dombra-like instruments were discovered in caves of the Zhargalant-Khairkhan mountain

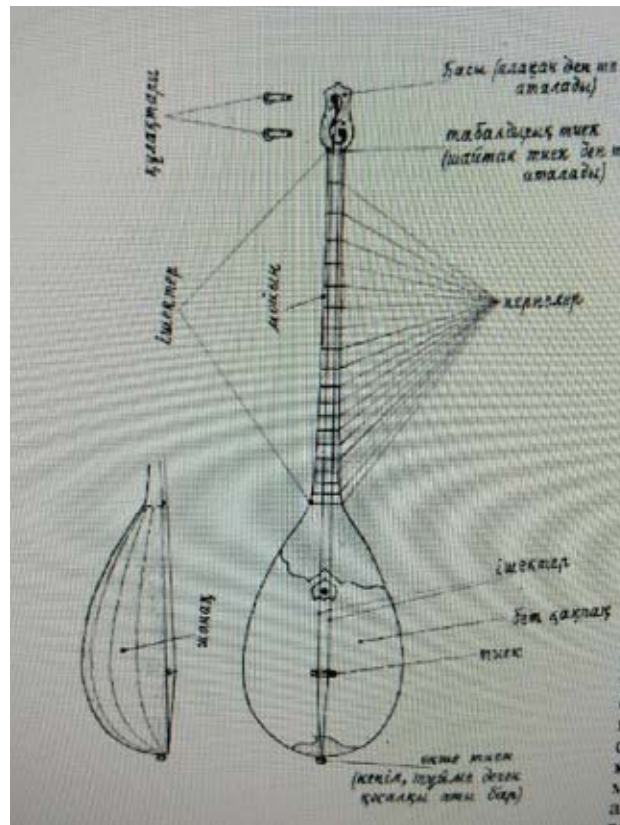


range in the Altai-Mongolian region. A two-stringed fretted instrument resembling the dombra was found there. Ancient inscriptions were discovered on the body of the instrument. These inscriptions were deciphered by Berlin-based Turkologist Peter Sieme. According to Turkologist K. Sartkozhauly, the inscription reads: "The melody of the fragrant kui fills us with love." This valuable artifact dates back to the 5th-6th centuries BC.

Structure of the Dombra

and most sacred musical instruments of the Kazakh people. It is a two-stringed, multi-fretted plucked instrument and is considered an inseparable part of Kazakhstan's spiritual and cultural life.

The dombra is usually tuned in two main ways: the fourth tuning and the fifth tuning. It consists of several parts: the head, tuning pegs, frets, neck, body, soundboard and bridge. Traditionally, the dombra is carved from wood. Different regions of Kazakhstan have developed various



forms of the dombra. Across the Kazakh steppe, the shape and features of the instrument evolved depending on local conditions, lifestyle and traditions, schools of song, epic poetry and kui performance, the individual performing style of musicians, and the craftsmanship of instrument makers.

Prominent Figures Who Advanced the National Art of Kui Through the Dombra

The art of dombra performance flourished among the Kazakh people during the 19th century. Over time, two principal traditions of kui performance developed: the Tokpe style, characterized by its energetic and dynamic execution, and the Shertpe style, known for its



lyrical and expressive character. Throughout Kazakhstan's history, a number of outstanding kui composers and performers devoted their lives to the dombra and laid the foundations of the country's traditional schools of kui performance. Among the most renowned masters are Kurmangazy, Tattimbet, Seitke, Sugir, Turkes, Dauletkeye, Kazangap, Esbai, Kozheke, Alshekei, and Dina Nurpeisova. Their compositions and performing traditions remain an essential part of Kazakhstan's cultural heritage.

Many original dombra instruments that once belonged to these legendary musicians are preserved in the Ykylas Dukenuly Museum of Folk Musical Instruments in Almaty. Today, the dombra is more than a national musical instrument, it has become one of

Kazakhstan's cultural symbols and an important element of the country's national identity. Contemporary performers and professional orchestras continue to elevate the art of dombra performance, introducing its unique musical traditions to audiences around the world. Contemporary Representatives of Dombra Art Kurmangazy Kazakh National Orchestra of Folk Instruments Kurmangazy Kazakh National Orchestra of Folk Instruments Saken Turysbekov, People's Artist of Kazakhstan Batyrzhan Myktybayev, Artistic Director of the Kurmangazy Kazakh National Orchestra of Folk Instruments, Honoured Musician of Kazakhstan Agul Ulkenbayeva, People's Artist of Kazakhstan Asylbek Ensepov, Honoured Musician of Kazakhstan



Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
185,372.20	184,520.96
Day's High	Day's Low
185,668.65	184,462.65
Index Value	Change
31,670,068,197	+851.24
Percentage	Time
+0.26%	2 Jul, 2026 4:30 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
10,652.87	+174.53
Percentage	Time
+0.46%	3 Jul, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
52,900.07	+594.83
Percentage	Time
+1.14%	Jul 2, 4:42 PM EDT

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
69,744.07	+1,010.92
Percentage	Time
+1.47%	3 Jul, 3:45 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	191.45	194.80
Bahrain Dinar	738.61	748.71
Canadian Dollar	197.48	201.20
China Yuan	38.10	38.85
Danish Krone	42.56	43.25
Euro	318.94	322.17
Hong Kong Dollar	35.07	36.06
Indian Rupee	2.75	3.02
Japanese Yen	1.7285	1.7254
Kuwaiti Dinar	887.10	897.90
Malaysian Ringgit	67	67.85
New Zealand \$	157.30	159.85
Norwegians Krone	27.97	28.27
Omani Riyal	723.42	733.55
Qatari Riyal	75.19	76.20
Saudi Riyal	74.35	75
Singapore Dollar	214.23	217.26
Swedish Korona	28.2	28.85
Swiss Franc	345.06	349.89
Thai Bhat	8.50	8.65
U.A.E Dirham	76.00	76.75
UK Pound Sterling	372.55	376.52
US Dollar	279.00	279.20

Tax Digitalization, Lower Rates to Drive Revenue Without Hikes: Finance Minister Aurangzeb

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb said taxation is being digitalized to plug leakages and raise revenue without increasing rates, addressing FCCI members today.

He termed the meeting the start of next financial year's budget, initiated from Faisalabad, with the Finance Division now leading budget work and FBR focusing on tax administration and collection.

He said the private sector must lead economic growth. The policy rate has fallen from 22% to 11.5%, with scope for further cuts if the Iran conflict eases.

For exporters, the budget includes an incremental allocation, with more incentives planned next year. Cross-subsidies in electricity have been removed, which should lower tariffs. After two years of discussions, advance



and super tax have been abolished.

The IT sector exported Rs 4.5 billion, he noted, adding the government is improving its environment. Construction will be encouraged, but "file business" will not. Digitization, starting with sugar, added Rs 60 billion in sales tax. NADRA and FBR records will be linked to cut leakage.

A medium-term tax strategy for SMCs will lower tariffs, while regulatory duty and advance tax on agri-machinery are now zero. FCCI President Farooq Yousuf Sheikh welcomed budget consultations, sought 10-year policies, and invited the minister to the July 24-26 Faisalabad Expo in Lahore and to back an Expo Centre in Faisalabad.

A separate SME allocation and anti-dumping duty review with stakeholders were pledged. The minister soft-launched the Expo and received an FCCI shield.

After Devastating fire

ISLAMABAD: Following the devastating fire at Islamabad's H-9 Sunday Bazaar in the Federal Capital, Stall holders taking matters into their own hands to clean and restore their livelihoods without official assistance is a testament to incredible resilience. When governments fail to provide timely disaster relief, vendors are forced to bypass bureaucratic delays and self-fund their recovery.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

InfraZamin, PIDG Host London Roundtable to Scale Pakistan's Sustainable Investment

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: InfraZamin Pakistan, with the Private Infrastructure Development Group (PIDG), convened senior public and private sector leaders during London Climate Action Week 2026 at PIDG Headquarters for a roundtable titled "Investing in Pakistan's Sustainable Transformation."

Chaired by Maheen Rahman, CEO InfraZamin Pakistan, and Philippe Valahu, CEO PIDG, the forum brought together 30+ representatives from DFIs, commercial banks, investors, and climate organizations. Attendees included H. E. Jane Marriott, British High Commissioner to Pakistan; Zafar Masud, Chairman PBA and OGDCL; Atif Bajwa, CEO Bank Alfalah; and Ayesha Khan, MD Acumen Funds.

Participants agreed Pakistan offers strong climate and infrastructure investment opportunities, but scaling requires



collaboration among investors, blended capital providers, developers, and government. Key needs identified: a robust pipeline of investable projects, enabling policies, and practical financing solutions.

Outcomes: create a multi-stakeholder task force and platform to build the pipeline; strengthen research and market

intelligence; prioritize climate-resilient agriculture; and enhance targeted policy and regulatory incentives.

The roundtable closed with a commitment to mobilize more private capital for Pakistan's greener, resilient, inclusive economy, with participants commending InfraZamin for the dialogue.

Pakistan's Corporate Sector Achieves Record Growth in FY 2025-26

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) registered 43,559 new companies in FY 2025-26, a 24% year-on-year increase from 35,087 in the preceding year, bringing the total number of registered companies in Pakistan to 301,615. The Commission recorded its highest monthly registrations of 4,323 in June 2026. These milestones reflect SECP's regulatory reforms, digital transformation, and commitment to easing doing business, fostering a dynamic and transparent corporate ecosystem that promotes entrepreneurship and economic growth.

Public companies grew by 25%, private companies by 27%, single-member companies by 20%, and limited liability partnerships by 28%, while Section 42 licensed and

foreign companies posted 5% growth each. Punjab recorded 22,364 registrations in 2025-26 against 18,198 previously, followed by Islamabad with 8,340 against 7,117, Sindh with 6,691 against 5,124, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with 3,820 against 3,130, Gilgit-Baltistan with 1,585 against 961, and Balochistan with 759 against 557.

Sectorally, IT and e-commerce (8,700), trading (6,615), services (5,368), real estate and construction (4,042), tourism and transport (2,763), food and beverages (2,060), education (1,583), mining (1,051), marketing (979), and textile (992) led new incorporations, collectively accounting for 34,153 companies (78% of total) with an average growth of 27%. Trading posted the highest sectoral growth at 41%.

Foreign participation remained strong, with 1,014 companies incorporated

involving 1,512 foreign shareholders and paid-up capital of approximately Rs. 2.5 billion, compared to 935 companies, 1,334 subscribers, and Rs. 2 billion in the previous year. Twenty-two foreign companies were registered during the year. Key investor countries included China, Afghanistan, the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Australia, Nigeria, Canada, Spain, and Russia. The NBF sector saw an 85% surge in foreign participation, signaling growing confidence in Pakistan's financial services industry.

These record incorporations, regional expansion, rising foreign investment, and sectoral diversification underscore the resilience and maturity of Pakistan's corporate sector and reaffirm SECP's commitment to fostering a business-friendly environment for sustainable economic growth.

Pak-Qatar Family Takaful Wins Global Award at London Takaful Summit 2026

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pak-Qatar Family Takaful Limited has received a global accolade at the 14th International Takaful Summit 2026 for surpassing Pakistan's Takaful growth ceiling through product innovation, digital ecosystems, customer value enhancement, and Shariah-compliant pension solutions.

The award was presented by UK MP Naz Shah, Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Islamic and Ethical Finance, to Board Member Muhammad

Kamran Saleem.

Saleem said the recognition reflects the company's commitment to customer-centric, Shariah-compliant solutions and credited policyholders, shareholders, employees, and digital transformation efforts. He added it reinforces focus on sustainable stakeholder value and Islamic finance growth in Pakistan and beyond.

Pak-Qatar Family Takaful remains Pakistan's leading Family Takaful operator and an authorized Pension Fund Manager for government schemes in Punjab and KPK.

Pakistan Cement Despatches Rise 7.21% in FY2025-26 on Strong Local Demand

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's cement sector posted 7.21% growth in FY2025-26, with total despatches at 50.515 million tons vs 47.116 million tons last year, per APCMA data.

Local sales led the gain, rising 9.5% to 41.507 million tons from 37.906 million tons. Exports slipped 2.19% to 9.008 million tons from 9.210

million tons.

June 2026 despatches jumped 18.38% YoY to 4.331 million tons. Domestic despatches rose 26.78% to 3.541 million tons, while exports fell 8.73% to 789,840 tons. North mills grew 16.39% YoY in June; South mills rose 23.23%.

APCMA expects demand to remain firm ahead, citing hopes for stable energy costs and eased geopolitical tensions.

Pakistan's Trade Deficit Hits 4-Year High at \$39.5bn in FY26



Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan's trade deficit widened to US\$39.5 billion in FY2025-26, the highest in four years, as exports fell and imports rose, PBS data shows.

Exports totaled about US\$30.1 billion while imports reached US\$69.6 billion. In June 2026 alone, the deficit was US\$4.5 billion, with exports at US\$2.2 billion, down 9.6% YoY and 17.2% MoM, and imports at US\$6.8 billion, up 39.6% YoY and 28% MoM. Overall, the deficit expanded 50% YoY, driven by higher global oil prices, a larger import bill, and sluggish export growth.

Analysts warn the gap could strain FX reserves, the

rupee, and macro stability, urging measures to boost exports, industrial output, and curb non-essential imports.

UBG Patron SM Tanveer called the \$39.5bn deficit "alarming," noting 8% import vs 6% export growth, and urged a business-friendly environment, lower production costs, and export relief. FPCCI President Atif Ikram Sheikh cited June's 16.7% MoM export fall, reflecting industrial challenges. UBG President Zubair Tufail blamed high interest rates for weak industry and sought rate cuts, long-term reforms, and sustainable export policies from PM Shehbaz Sharif and the Finance Minister.

SECP and PSX Host Webinar on Prudential, AML/CFT Compliance for Brokers*

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), with the Pakistan Stock Exchange Limited (PSX), held a webinar on "Promoting Transparency and Market Integrity: Prudential and AML/CFT Compliances" to strengthen regulatory compliance and protect investor interests.

SECP officials outlined core Securities Broker obligations under the Securities Act, 2015 and the Brokers (Licensing and Operations) Regulations, 2016. These include holding a valid license, operating within scope, segregating client assets, maintaining capital adequacy, proper books and audit trails, and robust internal controls and complaint handling.

The session also covered AML Act, 2010 and AML/CFT/CPF Regulations, 2020 requirements: risk assessment, KYC, CDD, independent audit, compliance function, and reporting. Brokers were urged to adopt a risk-based approach, conduct CDD/EDD for high-risk clients, file CTRs and STRs, and identify Ultimate Beneficial Owners.

CCTV cameras mandatory for all shops within one month

FAISALABAD: The City Police have made the installation of Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras mandatory for all commercial establishments and directed the shopkeepers to complete installation within one month or face legal action including sealing of their businesses.

Police spokesman said here on Friday that the directive applies to all small and large shops across Faisalabad including grocery stores and every category of commercial outlet operating within the city.

PIA's Privatization is an economic milestone: Mian Zahid

KARACHI: Mian Zahid Hussain, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum (PBIIF) & All Karachi Industrial Alliance (AKIA), Chairman National Business Group Pakistan (NBG), Chairman FPCCI Policy Advisory Board and Former Provincial Minister of Information Technology, has welcomed the transfer of management of Pakistan International Airlines to the Arif Habib Consortium, calling it an important milestone in Pakistan's economic reform journey. He said that PIA is not merely an airline, but an institution connected with Pakistan's identity, overseas connectivity, tourism, trade, investment and national image. For decades, PIA remained sick due to political interference, weak governance, debt burden, outdated fleet, poor route management, weak service quality and loss of confidence in important international markets. He said that the privatization of PIA would now provide passengers with timely flights, clean aircrafts, better baggage handling, competitive fares, effective customer service and

stronger domestic and international connectivity. Mian Zahid Hussain said that under this transaction, the total investment commitment stands at Rs180 billion, including Rs55 billion payable to the Government of Pakistan and Rs125 billion to be invested in PIA for revival and improvement. He said another Rs45 billion is expected to be invested within the next twelve months. This capital would be used for fleet modernization, technology, route development, operational discipline and customer experience. He said that under the new management, PIA is entering a highly tough and competitive aviation market. At the domestic level, PIA faces competition from Airblue, AirSial, Serene Air and Fly Jinnah. According to market assessments, in 2024-25, Fly Jinnah held around 31 percent share of the domestic market, followed by PIA at 29 percent, Airblue at 16 percent, AirSial at 13 percent and Serene Air at 10 percent. This clearly shows that PIA must win



passenger confidence through performance, competitive prices, quality and trust.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the international market is even more challenging, as PIA has to compete with strong regional and global airlines such as Emirates, Qatar Airways, Etihad, Saudi Airlines, flydubai, Air Arabia and Turkish Airlines, which have modern fleets, powerful networks, strong balance

sheets and better transit hubs. Pakistan's international passenger market has grown from 6.75 million passengers in 2006-07 to around 26.8 million passengers in 2025, while the number of active international airlines has increased from 28 to 40. This proves that Pakistan's aviation market is growing, but competition has also become much tougher than before.

Mian Zahid Hussain appreciated Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb Khan, the Privatisation Commission, regulators and all relevant institutions for completing this complex transaction. He also appreciated the vital role of Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir in steering investor confidence and encouraging strategic investment in PIA. He said that PIA has now been given capital, a robust professional private management and a new opportunity; now it must deliver positive results to the people of Pakistan.

Serena Hotels Wraps Up 4th Tee to Triumph Golf Camp for Young Girls



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels, with Margalla Greens Golf Club, has successfully concluded the 4th edition of the Tee to Triumph Golf Training Camp for Young Girls under its Sports Diplomacy Initiative, reaffirming its commitment to empowering women through sport.

Now in its fourth year, the camp gave 48 aspiring young golfers structured coaching under qualified Margalla

Greens coaches. The programme focuses on introducing girls to golf while building confidence, discipline, teamwork, and resilience, and has become a key platform encouraging female participation in the sport.

Commodore (Retd.) Majid Satti, Secretary, Margalla Greens Golf Club, said Tee to Triumph has grown into an impactful platform with professional guidance, and the partnership with Serena Hotels reflects a shared commitment to youth and women in

sports.

Mr. Aziz Boolani, CEO Serena Hotels, said sport is a tool for empowerment and inclusion. He noted Tee to Triumph inspires excellence, confidence, and teamwork, and Serena remains committed to initiatives with lasting community impact.

Through Sports Diplomacy, Serena Hotels continues to promote youth engagement, women's participation, and a more inclusive sporting culture across Pakistan.

foodpanda Rolls Out 2,500 Rest Stations for Riders Amid Heatwave

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: foodpanda Pakistan has launched a nationwide heat relief network for its delivery fleet as summer temperatures peak. The platform has set up 2,500 dedicated rest stations at partner restaurant locations across Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad, establishing a new standard for gig-economy worker welfare.

The initiative targets both physical and mental well-being, foodpanda installed water coolers at all pandamart outlets and partnered with juice brands for weekly distribution drives. Employees will personally distribute 5,000 juice units to riders. Weekly "Ice Cream Days" and upcoming "Mango Day" events will address on-road fatigue, while recreation programs include water park trips, "Movie Days," and an indoor snow experience for riders.

"Our delivery partners are the absolute backbone of our ecosystem, and their safety during peak summer is non-negotiable," said Ahsan Malik, Director Logistics at foodpanda Pakistan. "This year, we didn't just want to provide basic relief; we deliberately scaled our infrastructure to 2,500 rest stations at partner restaurant locations to ensure help is always within a rider's reach. By pairing critical hydration with community-building events, we are ensuring our fleet feels valued, protected, and respected."

"The rollout reflects foodpanda's push toward sustainable gig-work practices during Pakistan's harshest weather months.

Auqaf Punjab Penalizes Ex-Deputy Director Asif Ejaz for Misconduct

Bureau Report

LAHORE: In line with the Punjab CM's zero-tolerance policy on financial corruption, Chief Administrator Auqaf Punjab Dr. Ehsan Bhutta has imposed major penalties on Asif Ejaz, ex-Deputy Director Admin HQ Lahore and currently Deputy Director Estate (South) Dera Ghazi Khan, under the PEEDA Act 2006.

Following Inquiry Officer Dr. Shahid Yaqoob's report dated 11.06.2026 and a personal hearing by the Additional Secretary Admin, 6 of 8 charges were fully proved and 2 partially proved. Proven misconduct included delaying PEEDA action against ex-Manager Okara for non-deposit of revenue; delaying PPSC regularization of 10 contractual staff; withholding death grants from ex-Manager Tahir Farooq Chughtai's heirs; evicting the widow and children from Quarter B-5 against Allotment Policy 2024; illegal field appointments of non-cadre officials; submitting false data to S&GAD; re-categorizing Residence A-3 for illegal allotment to Sheikh Jamil Ahmad; and issuing 4 malicious PEEDA notices to XEN HQ Mr. Zohaib.

On 03.07.2026, Dr. Bhutta ordered "One step down lower grade for 5 years" and "Forfeiture of past 5 years' service" under PEEDA Section 4(1)(b). Asif Ejaz is barred from HQ/field Admin posts and restricted to Finance/Audit as Assistant Director. A fresh inquiry was ordered against officers who approved the illegal allotment of House A-3.

Zone-VI Fourth Consecutive Victory in Regional Inter District U-19 (Karachi Region) One Day Cricket League Tournament

Sports Desk

KARACHI: The highlights of the days play was brilliant 130 by Talah Irfan Sheikh, Unbeaten 101 by Muhammad Azaan, Equally some good batting by Abdul Sami 79, Huzaifa Ahsan 68, Ali Sher 59 not out, Aliyan Asif 60 and All-round Performance by Majid Ali 7/24 and Unbeaten 76, Deadly Bowling by Jawad Ahmed 5/12.

The Tournament is being organized by Pakistan Cricket Board.

Scores in Brief: Zone-VI beat Zone-I by 160 runs in their 4th Consecutive Match at KCCA Stadium. Zone-VI 302/3 in 50 overs. Muhammad Azaan 101 8x4 2x6 not out, Abdul Sami 71 11x4, Huzaifa Ahsan 68 8x4 1x6, Rehmat ullah 25. Muhammad Fasih 2/50.

In reply Zone-I 142 all out in 45.2 overs. Sahil Nisar 39, Muhammad Farman 25, Muhammad Fasih 24. Jawad Ahmed (sla) 5/12, Saad Sakhawat 2/25, Muhammad Tahir 2/30.

In the 2nd Match at UBL Sports Complex Zone-VII beat Zone-IV by 81 runs.

Zone-VII 280/4 in 50 overs. Talah Irfan Sheikh 130 19x4 6x6, Ali Sher 59 8x4 not out, Sahil 46 5x4, Riaz Ahmed 21 not out. Huzaifa Bin Sajid (sla) 3/60.

In really Zone-IV 199 all out in 48.3 overs. Aman ullah 41, Muhammad Bilal 38, Saad Murtaza 28. Shamroz Khan (sla) 4/25, Riaz Ahmed 2/19, Muhammad Humza 2/63.

In the 3rd Match at Eid Gah Ground Korangi Zone-V beat Zone-II by 6 Wickets Zone-II 149 all-out in 37.3 overs. Aliyan Asif 60 7x4 1x6, Muhammad Haris 38, Zain Ali Jaffri 20. Majid Ali (sla) 7/24.

In reply Zone-V 150/4 in 33.1 overs. Majid Ali 76 7x4, Rayyan Chuohan 47 7x4 both not out. Muhammad Huzaifa 2/24, Abdul Rauf 2/25.



Iran's Shadow Strategy: How Proxy Warfare Redefined Power in the Post-Arab Spring Middle East

Continued from Page 4

The United States, Israel, and few Gulf States opposed Iran's Proxy war strategy and consider it as a threat to regional stability and security. This led to economic sanctions and diplomatic pressure. Israel and United States Targeted Iranian linked positions in the region and conducted airstrikes on some of its proxy organizations and their installations. This increases the cost of maintaining these proxy networks and it becomes difficult for Iran to operate freely. Iran aid proxy groups but cannot control them completely as proxy groups sometimes develop their own interests and priorities and their goals may not completely match with Iranian objectives. In such cases they act independently and make

decisions that creates uncertainty and led to the actions damaging Iran's priorities. Iran's proxy war strategy faced serious challenges due to recent developments in the Middle East.

Fall of Bashar al-Assad's government in Syria in 2024 brought the biggest setback. Syria was Iran's most important ally and a tool for supporting Hezbollah in Lebanon. After Assad's removal, Iran lost its ability to provide equipment to Hezbollah due to loss of influence in Syria. Hezbollah Iran's strongest proxy network faced challenges due to Israel's operation in Lebanon and deaths of senior commanders and isn't strong enough as it was in previous years. Iran backed militia groups in Iraq are also divided and increasingly focused on their local interests and it makes it difficult for Iran

to maintain its influence at the same level. Due to current USA-Iran war and Iran's attack on regional countries, many Gulf countries are also making security cooperation and diplomatic efforts to reduce Iran's influence and power of Iranian backed group in the region. Houthis in Yemen are still one of the most loyal and effective partners, but they are also facing international criticisms due to attacks on shipping routes in the red sea.

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Pakistan's Pragmatic Diversification from US Dollar: Navigating a Multipolar World

Continued from Page 4

uncertainty regarding the regulatory framework, which limits private sector involvement. Geopolitical balancing: keeping ties with the US, IMF and Gulf allies while strengthening ties with China and Technical and institutional shortcomings for handling multi-currency systems.

Realistic success means that the rate of trade concluded in local currencies increased, particularly with China and Neighbouring countries, increased currency swaps and non-dollar project financing,

enhanced interoperability of payments and less foreign exchange vulnerabilities and appropriate spread of resources.

It is not a dollar elimination strategy, it's a diversification and resilience strategy. It seeks to enhance the efficiency of trade, the balance of its external payments and the economic autonomy in a multipolar world. Pakistan is taking the gradual steps to de-dollarization with proper caution considering the economic realities of the country. CPEC, RMB trade settlements and currency swaps are making significant alternatives, espe-

cially in vulnerable industries. In the current context of liquidity constraints, macroeconomic instability and strong international integration into the global dollar system, these initiatives represent a new policy direction toward financial resilience and policy space. Through this diversification, Pakistan is improving its leverage for regional integration and for a sustainable growth, as a worldwide trend in the diversification of the Global South.

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The Yemenite Children Abduction: A Stain on Humanity's Conscience

Continued from Page 4

missing child. If a child died, where is the grave? If a child was adopted, who authorized it? If records exist, why were they hidden? If mistakes were made, why were they never fully acknowledged? These questions transcend nationality, religion and politics.

The recent circulation of the video has once again intensified public debate. Supporters of the video's interpretation argue that it confirms long-standing allegations surrounding the affair. The renewed attention demonstrates that the issue remains unresolved in the minds of countless families and observers around the world.

Meanwhile, Ben-Gvir's own recent conduct has further fueled international concern. His call for Lebanon to "burn," his celebration of controversial legislation introducing the death penalty for certain terrorism offenses tried in military courts—a law widely criticized by opponents as discriminatory because of its practical application—and his repeated inflammatory language toward Palestinians have generated condemnation from governments, human rights organizations and international media. His rhetoric has become, for many critics, symbolic of a political climate that warrants closer scrutiny of unresolved historical

controversies.

History teaches an important lesson: societies become stronger, not weaker, when they confront difficult truths honestly. The Yemenite Children Affair deserves precisely such an approach. No democratic society should fear opening archives, encouraging independent historical research, facilitating DNA identification, or allowing families to learn the fate of their loved ones. Transparency strengthens public confidence; secrecy erodes it.

For this reason, the time has come for the international community to assist—not to prejudge, but to estab-

lish the fullest possible historical record. An independent commission under United Nations auspices, composed of internationally respected historians, forensic specialists, archivists, legal experts, and human rights professionals, should be invited to examine all available evidence, including previously classified records, adoption files where legally accessible, DNA evidence, and testimony from surviving families and witnesses. Its mandate should not be political. Its mandate should be truth.

If that independent inquiry establishes that individuals or institutions unlawfully removed children from their families or

committed other crimes, those findings should also be made public, and accountability should follow in accordance with applicable law. Justice cannot be selective. It must be guided by evidence rather than ideology.

The greatest injustice is not merely that children disappeared. The greatest injustice is that so many parents died never knowing whether their sons or daughters lived or died. Some spent their entire lives waiting for a knock at the door that never came. Others carried photographs of missing children to their graves. Their suffering cannot be measured in financial compensation.

This is why the Yemenite Children Affair remains a burden on the conscience of humanity. Regardless of nationality, religion or political belief, every civilized society should stand with families seeking truth about missing children. That principle is universal.

The search for truth is not an act of hostility toward Israel or toward any nation. It is an act of respect for human dignity. History ultimately belongs not to governments but to the victims, the witnesses, and future generations who deserve an honest account of the past.

Only when every available archive has been opened, every

credible lead investigated, every possible DNA match pursued, and every family given the fullest answers that history can provide, will this painful chapter begin to close. Until then, the Yemenite Children Affair will remain not merely a historical controversy, but an unfinished moral obligation owed to every parent who never stopped asking one simple question: What happened to my child?

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

Departmental Briefing

ISLAMABAD: Senior officials from Pakistan Railways, IESCO, and the Highway Department brief the Minister of State for Railways and Finance, Bilal Azhar Kayani, on technical solutions for utility shifting and crossing extensions along the Lillah-Jhelum corridor on Friday.



Photo: Online

Belarus and Russia Release Third Joint Human Rights Report, Criticize Rights Record in Selected Countries

Spokesman Report

MINSK/MOSCOW: The Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Belarus and the Russian Federation have jointly released the Third Joint Report on the Human Rights Situation in Certain Countries, calling for the universal and impartial application of international human rights standards while criticizing what they describe as "double standards" in the global human rights system.

In a joint foreword, Igor V. Sekreta, Deputy Minister

of Foreign Affairs of Belarus, and Dmitry E. Lyubinsky, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, said the report coincides with the 60th anniversary of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as well as the 40th anniversary of the UN Declaration on the Right to Development, both being observed in 2026.

The report examines civil, political, economic, social,

and cultural rights in selected countries and raises concerns over issues including racism, discrimination in law enforcement, prison overcrowding, restrictions on peaceful demonstrations, expanded police powers, and manifestations of anti-Semitism, Romaphobia, Russophobia, and Islamophobia. It also criticizes the glorification of Nazi criminals in certain countries.

According to the joint report, increased access to education and healthcare, humane treatment of pris-

oners, support for mothers and children, protection of indigenous peoples' traditions, and respect for freedom of expression and peaceful assembly are fundamental components of human rights.

The authors stress that human rights are universal and should be enjoyed by all individuals regardless of nationality, race, gender, age, disability, religion, or other status. They argue that these rights should be applied consistently across the world without political selectivity or "double

standards."

The report also calls on the international community to address human rights concerns through dialogue and respect for international law, rather than interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states. The Belarusian and Russian foreign ministries expressed hope that the publication would serve as a useful resource for policymakers, academics, human rights experts, and the wider public interested in international human rights issues.

Minister Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh Meets Silicon Village, Chinese Delegation to Boost Tech Investment

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Board of Investment Mr. Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh met a delegation led by Brigadier Abid Cheema, CEO of The Silicon Village and Executive Director, Business Development, Capital Smart City, and David Dai, Executive Director, Sino British Regional Development Fund Management Co. Ltd. Additional Secretary BOI Erfa Iqbal, DG Mehmood Tufail, and SAPM on China Mr. Zafaruddin also attended.

Mr. Dai highlighted his



experience in technology transfer and said Pakistan has potential in chip packaging,

conductors, green energy chargers, advanced manufacturing, and research.

Brigadier Cheema briefed on The Silicon Village, including Pakistan's first tax-free tech zone and the country's first AI-powered data centre, which the Minister termed landmark achievements.

Mr. Dai said his firm runs a China tech park and is considering sister parks with The Silicon Village. Chinese investors also showed interest in lithium technologies, Southern Pakistan, Karachi, and Pakistan Steel Mills. The Minister cited ongoing Russia talks on PSM and a recent iron ore discovery in Chinio,

and invited a Karachi visit.

He outlined SEZ incentives: 9-year income tax exemption and zero import duty on machinery, under PM Shehbaz Sharif's push for JVs and China MoUs.

Ms. Iqbal noted policy work on solar and EVs. SAPM Zafaruddin said the PM seeks stronger China JVs and B2B links, and urged the delegation to share interest areas for BOI facilitation.

The meeting ended with a commitment to cooperation, tech transfer, and partnerships. BOI reaffirmed support to investors.

NA Commerce Committee Clears Copyright, Insurance Bills; Defers Trade Orgs Amendment

City Desk

ISLAMABAD, JULY 3, 2026: The National Assembly Standing Committee on Commerce, chaired by Mr. Muhammad Jawed Hanif Khan, met at Parliament House and considered three bills along with trade policy briefings.

The Committee reviewed the Sub-Committee report on the Copyright (Amendment) Bill, 2026, Insurance Bill, 2026, and Trade Organizations (Third Amendment) Bill, 2026. On copyright, the Chairman said protection for educational literary works must be clear; the Ministry cited Section 57, which the Chairman accepted. After detailed scrutiny, the Committee recommended the Copyright (Amendment) Bill, 2026 for



National Assembly passage.

The Insurance Bill, 2026, aimed at replacing a 25-year-old law, seeks to close regulatory gaps, develop the insurance market, strengthen SECP supervision, add policyholder safeguards, create a Federal Insurance

Ombudsman for disputes, allow SECP third-party evaluations, and set a full framework for insurers' assets and liabilities. Following in-depth review, the Committee recommended it for passage.

Consideration of the Trade Organ-

izations (Third Amendment) Bill, 2026 was deferred due to the Mover's absence.

The Secretary, Ministry of Commerce briefed the Committee on how conflicts in Afghanistan, Iran, and the Middle East have disrupted supply chains, raised freight costs, hurt exports to GCC and CARs, and challenged imports/exports. Mitigation steps include route diversification, expanded air cargo, alternative corridors, and regional engagement.

Attendees included MNAs Muhammad Numan, Shaista Pervaiz, Kiran Haider, Tahira Aurangzeb, Farhan Chishti, and Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani, plus senior officials from Commerce, Law & Justice, SECP, and the Secretariat.

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President Zardari felicitates Belarusian leadership on Independence Day



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has extended felicitations to the President of the Republic of Belarus, Mr Aleksandr Lukashenko, and the people of Belarus on their Independence Day.

The President said that this historic day, commemorating the liberation of Minsk from Nazi occupation, symbolises the courage, resilience and steadfast determination of the Belarusian people in their

quest for freedom and sovereignty. He noted that it serves as a proud reminder of the remarkable journey of Belarus towards peace, stability and national unity.

President Zardari stated that Pakistan deeply values the cordial, cooperative relations between the two countries, which are rooted in mutual trust and shared aspirations for progress. He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further enhancing bilateral ties across various fields for the mutual benefit of both nations.

Pakistan Pitches Olive Sector Investment to Portugal, Seeks Agri-Tech Partnership



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain met Portuguese Minister for Agriculture and the Sea H. E. José Manuel Fernandes in Lisbon to expand cooperation in agriculture, food security, olives, and climate-resilient farming.

Rana Tanveer said Pakistan has planted over 7 million olive trees across 55,669 acres, with modern extraction units, processing facilities, testing labs, and a growing value chain. He cited investment potential in cultivation, processing, packaging, and value-added products, backed by SIFC and BOI incentives: 100% foreign ownership, long-

term land leases, duty-free agri-machinery imports, tax benefits, and one-window facilitation.

He invited Portuguese firms for JVs and PPPs, calling Pakistan an emerging hub for sustainable agri-investment. Both sides discussed research, mechanized harvesting, extraction tech, certification, capacity building, climate-smart agriculture, water management, drip irrigation, and sustainable land use.

The Minister reaffirmed Pakistan's IOC permanent membership and commitment to international standards. He invited Fernandes to visit Pakistan to see the National Olive Programme. Portugal welcomed progress and expressed interest in deeper collaboration.

IPP's Abdul Aleem Khan Pledges Education, Transparency and New Motorways for AJK



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party President Abdul Aleem Khan said ending deprivations in Azad Jammu & Kashmir, ensuring quality education for 100% of children, civic facilities, and transparent governance are top IPP priorities. He vowed all AJK decisions would reflect public aspirations and pledged merit, transparency, and personal accountability for corruption.

He urged democratic acceptance of election results and criticized parties that governed for years yet left public hardships unresolved. On infrastructure, he cited rapid motorway work including Lahore-Sialkot expansion, Lahore-Islamabad via Kharian cutting 100km, and planned Islamabad-Murree to Muzaffarabad and Muzaffarabad-Mansehra links.

Former AJK PM Sardar Tanveer Ilyas led a delegation that joined IPP.