

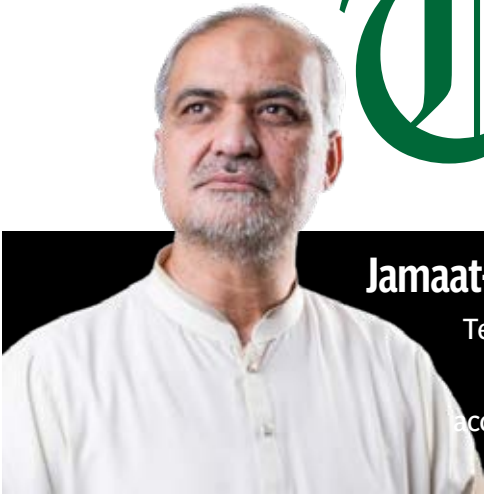


Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ہم سے ان شہاب نے بیان کیا ان سے سعید بن مسیب اور ابو طلحہ بن عبد الرحمن نے بیان کیا اور ان سے ابو ہریرہ رضی اللہ عنہ نے بیان کیا کہ رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا چاہئے اگر کسی کوڑھی گروں یا ان کا خون بہا پیش، تو میں میں گرنے کا کوئی خون بہائیں، کان میں دہنے کا کوئی خون بہائیں اور وہ فیہ میں پانچواں حصہ ہے۔
(بخاری ص 12، ج 69)
Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



Jamaat-e-Islami terms nominal cut in POL prices 'shameful'

Terming reduction in the prices of petroleum products by Rs1.97 per liter, 'unfortunate', 'shameful', and 'anti-people', Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Ameer Hafiz Naemur Rehman on Saturday demanded that the prices be fixed according to the prices which were in the international market prior to the start of the US-Iran war.



Nasir Madni suffers heart attack during Friday sermon

Renowned religious scholar Allama Nasir Madni was rushed to a hospital in Multan after reportedly surviving a heart attack while delivering a Friday sermon in Jahanian, Punjab, leaving him in critical condition. Nasir Madni was addressing worshippers at a mosque in Jahanian ahead of the Friday prayer when he suddenly fell ill.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

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Joint Press Conference

ISTANBUL: The President of Türkiye Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a joint Press Stakeout on Friday.



Photo: PID

Erdogan and Shehbaz Sharif Reaffirm 'One Soul in Two Bodies' Bond at Istanbul Summit

Spokesman Report

ISTANBUL: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan on Saturday reaffirmed the longstanding brotherly ties between Pakistan and Türkiye, vowing to deepen cooperation in trade, investment, regional peace and strategic partnership during a joint press briefing in Istanbul.

Welcoming Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his delegation, President Erdoğan said the relationship between the two countries continued to progress at a satisfactory pace, describing Pakistan and Türkiye as steadfast partners that have always stood by one another.

Erdoğan reiterated Türkiye's support for Pakistan's sincere efforts to promote peace and said Ankara was closely monitoring developments involving Israel, accusing it of attempting to sabotage ongoing negotiations. He described the Islamabad MoU as highly significant for international peace.

He reaffirmed that Türkiye would continue to extend full support to Pakistan in every sector, stressing that the two nations would always remain loyal to each other. Erdoğan also said both sides discussed ways to enhance trade, investment and economic cooperation, adding that the relevant ministries would remain in close coordination on special economic zones and that Türkiye would encourage its business community to invest in Pakistan.

Addressing the joint briefing, PM Shehbaz said Pakistan and Türkiye have always supported each other during wars, natural disasters and other difficult times, describing the relationship between the two countries as one rooted in deep affection and mutual trust.

"The people of Pakistan and Türkiye share a heartfelt bond. Pakistan and Türkiye are one soul in two bodies," the prime minister said, adding that the teachings of Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi and Allama Muhammad Iqbal continue to inspire both nations.

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Pakistan bags unprecedented success on global front in last 18-month: Kh Asif

Bureau Report

SIALKOT: Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif said Pakistan has achieved unprecedented success over the past 18 months as Islamabad has appeared as a symbol of peace from its earlier status as associated with terrorism.

Addressing the annual convocation of a private college in Sialkot, Kh Asif said that incumbent government has achieved several accomplishments that had no parallel in country's 78 year history.

He credited Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the Field Marshal for their role in brokering peace deal in the Middle East between US and Iran, safeguarding the region from instability.



Talking about education, the minister emphasized the importance of quality education by saying that an educated society could never default therefore learning should continue throughout life.

He expressed satisfaction over the high number of female graduates, noting that women made up around 80% of the graduating class.

Kh Asif called for a uniform curriculum across the country to strengthen national identity and urged politicians to prioritize Pakistan's development over political confrontation. He concluded by thanking the people of Sialkot, saying his political career was rooted in the city and his family would always remain grateful to this city.

Naqvi announces 1,712 vacant posts in Islamabad police are up for grabs

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has announced that Islamabad police is recruiting for 1,712 vacancies, dubbing it a long-awaited opportunity for

young boys and girls, reported 24NewsHD TV channel.

In a post uploaded on X platform on Saturday, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said "If you have the passion to serve Pakistan with honour, courage, and integrity, this is your chance."

The minister maintained that candidates from any province, region, and corner of Pakistan are encouraged to apply.

"Tests will be conducted in your nearby areas. Only four days remain, don't miss this opportunity," he said and added "Let me make it absolutely clear, merit will be the only criterion for selection."

Mohsin Naqvi said any attempt to influence the recruit-



US-Iran talks expected in Pakistan on July 11: Arab media



Monitoring Desk

RIYADH: The next round of negotiations between the United States and Iran is expected to take place in Pakistan on July 11, where the two sides are set to discuss several key issues.

According to Arab media, the talks will focus on US sanctions imposed on Iran, the release of Iran's frozen assets, and matters related to Tehran's nuclear programme.

Al Arabiya reported that a final decision on the leadership of the Iranian delegation

will be made after the burial of Iran's late supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The report further stated that an official announcement regarding the composition of the Iranian delegation is expected once the funeral proceedings have concluded.

Earlier, tens of thousands of Iranians thronged a vast outdoor prayer complex in Tehran on Saturday to view the coffin of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who ruled the Islamic Republic for 37 years before being killed at the start of the US-Israeli war on Iran.

Govt Plans Annual Evaluation of Judges, Expands Lawyers' Welfare Measures

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Saturday said the government is committed to improving legal education, lawyer training, and justice delivery.

Speaking at the inauguration of the Lawyers Education Council at Punjab Bar Council, he said work is underway on a comprehensive health insurance policy for lawyers and families, covering treatment for cancer, kidney, liver and heart diseases at public and private hospitals. Punjab govt has released Rs1.35 billion for bar associations and Rs20 million more for the Bar Vocational Course.

Tarar said the Directorate of Legal Education at Pakistan Bar Council is a key reform. A 7-member committee has been formed to ensure transparency in High Court judge appointments through interviews and recommendations to the Judicial Commission.



For the first time, a constitutional mechanism for annual evaluation of judges' performance via a Judges Evaluation Committee is being introduced. Poor performance could lead to a reference to the Judicial Commission and possible removal.

On the 28th Constitutional Amendment, he said it will not be rushed and will follow broad consultation. Punjab Bar Council also raised the Benevolent Fund to Rs600,000 and made HEC degree verification mandatory for licences.

Leghari Cites 45% Drop in Power Losses, Invites Turkish Investment in Metering, Transmission



Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Energy (Power Division) Sardar Ahmad Khan Leghari on Saturday said Pakistan has undertaken major power sector reforms, cutting distribution inefficiencies by over 45% in two years.

Addressing Turkish investors at the Pakistan-Türkiye Business Conference, he said DISCOs have been restructured and prepared for privatization. Legislation now bars the government from setting up new generation companies. Competitive electricity markets have been launched and an Independent System and Market Operator (ISMO) established for transparent grid dispatch. The National Grid Company was split into two

Continued on Page 7

Federal Minister urges party unity as Murtaza Gilani withdraws candidacy for PML-N interests

City Desk.

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan Affairs called on former Minister Murtaza Gilani candidate of LA-28 Muzaffarabad constituency at his residence.

After a detailed discussion during the meeting, Murtaza Gilani decided that he was in Pakistan PML-N and would withdraw his name in the interest of PML-N.

Murtaza Gilani said that he received numerous offers from different political parties, however he rejected all offers preferring party interest over personal interest.

On this occasion, Federal Minister Engineer Amir Maqam welcomed the decision of Murtaza Gilani and his colleagues and said that party interest should take precedence over personal interest.

The Federal Minister said that



God willing, we and our party will remain loyal to our comrades and move forward together to strengthen the party. Sardar Tariq was also present on the occasion.

Beat the heat

ISLAMABAD: A shopkeeper displaying portable mini fans to attract the customers at local market in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Punjab's Anti-Smuggling Drive Halts 1,470 Tonnes of Illegal Wheat Bound for KP

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: A sweeping anti-smuggling campaign by the Punjab Food Department has dealt a major blow to illegal wheat and flour trafficking from Punjab to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, with authorities intercepting dozens of vehicles and seizing large quantities of essential food commodities over the past six weeks.

Officials say intensified surveillance and strict enforcement at border checkpoints have made smuggling increasingly difficult,

forcing traffickers to abandon several attempts.

The Punjab Food Department has significantly stepped up its anti-smuggling operations along the Attock and Rawalpindi border with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, intercepting nearly 78 vehicles over the past one and a half months and recovering approximately 1,470 metric tonnes of wheat and flour that were allegedly being transported illegally into KP.

The intensified crackdown is part of the Punjab government's efforts to ensure the uninterrupted avail-

ability of wheat and flour for local consumers and to prevent artificial shortages caused by illegal cross-border movement.

Officials have established strict monitoring points at strategic border locations in Taxila and Hassan Abdal, where every suspected vehicle is subjected to thorough inspection.

According to officials, advanced screening procedures are being employed to detect concealed consignments, making it increasingly difficult for smugglers to evade law enforcement. Food Department

teams have conducted daily operations at these checkpoints, seizing numerous consignments of flour and wheat bran that were allegedly being transported illegally from flour mills into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The sustained enforcement campaign appears to have yielded visible results. Local markets across Attock and Rawalpindi continue to report an adequate supply of quality flour at government-approved prices, with traders and consumers acknowledging improved market stability.

Governor Kundi expresses grief over deaths of former MNA Fauzia Habib, journalist Tariq Mateen

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Saturday expressed deep sorrow over the demise of former Member of the National Assembly Fauzia Habib and Daily Mashriq Deputy News Editor Tariq Mateen.

In separate condolence messages, the Governor prayed for the eternal peace of the departed souls, forgiveness, and elevated ranks in Jannat. He also extended heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved families and prayed for their strength and patience to bear the irreparable loss.

Expressing grief over the death of senior journalist Tariq Mateen due to cardiac arrest, Governor Kundi said he was a talented, hardworking and responsible journalist who rendered valuable services to the profession.

He said the journalistic community had lost a sincere and dedicated professional, adding that his services would be remembered for a long time.

The Governor prayed that Almighty Allah grant both the departed eternal peace, forgive their shortcomings, and bless their families with patience and fortitude during this difficult time.

Police Deny Assault Claims at Raulakot Dirik Eidgah Sit-In, Call Social Media Campaign Misleading

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: A systematic campaign is being run on social media since this morning alleging alleged assault, shelling and firing by law enforcement agencies on Raulakot Dirik Eidgah sit-in. This campaign is misleading rather than fact-based. No action was taken on the Derek-Eidgah sit-in, a press release issued by the spokesperson of Inspector General of Police, Azad Kashmir, said.



Popular people from the People's Action Committee are using old videos to create anxiety among the people and undermine public confidence in the state and law enforcement agencies. Why doesn't the Public Action Committee condemn its loss of credibility, public lack of interest in the sit-in and fear of return of large numbers of people from the sit-in? It will be given.

We appeal to all our peaceful citizens and social media users to verify any news or video that violates responsibility, restraint and national interest. Just believe the information available. Avoid being part of any misleading, hateful or provocative campaign. Our first priority is peace, the rule of law and the protection of the people. We respect the constitutional and statutory rights of every citizen and act in accordance with the precepts of the law in all cases added spokesperson.

High Court orders closure of all private schools in residential areas of Mirpur

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MIRPUR/MUZAFFARABAD: Private educational institutions to vacate residential buildings within 90 days, High Court ordered in a case.

The Azad Jammu and Kashmir High Court in a landmark judgment directed all private schools and colleges set up in residential buildings across Azad Kashmir to vacate their buildings within 90 days. Justice Khalid Rasheed Chaudhry delivered the verdict after hearing the case "Sahibzada Qurban Ali v. Mirpur Development Authority (MDA) and others" directed institutions to shift all private and commercial educational institutions set up in residential buildings across the state within 90 days, the court in its judgment directed all relevant government institutions and Private schools and colleges established in private residential buildings should be vacated immediately in accordance with rules and regulations, appeared while private parties Nos. 21 and 22 including Chaudhry Altaf Advocate on behalf of Judge Zahid Hussain and others advocated, residents had established a private school on plot No. 281-B, which is located with their residence No. 281-A. The quotation of the Supreme Court's judgment was taken by the relevant government authorities.



Internet Shutdown in A7K Challenged in High Court, Notice Issued to Key Authorities

Bureau Report.

MUZAFFARABAD: A writ petition Filed in Azad Jammu and Kashmir High Court against month-long internet shutdown in Azad Kashmir. Court issued notice to Azad Kashmir Council, Special Communication Organisation (SCO) and PTA (PTA) for July 15 after hearing constitutional writ petition.

Hearing the writ petition, Justice Sardar Ejaz. The court granted the request for a preliminary hearing seeking answers in all relevant affirmative. Petitioner Counsel Syed Basit Gilani submitted that prolonged internet shutdown in any area is illegal. Petitioner Pursuant to Pakistan Telecommunications Reorganization Act, 1990 which was adopted in AU 2005. Under Article 54(3), the Government is empowered to act in a specified area only in case of emergency.

Muslim Conference Unveils Candidates for Azad Kashmir General Elections

Abdul Majeed Tahir:

RAWALPINDI: All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference has announced party tickets in Azad Kashmir general elections under the recommendations of Parliamentary Board.

After interviewing the party candidates, the Parliamentary Board compiled recommendations and submitted them to President Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan. The president Muslim Conference has approved the recommendations of the Parliamentary Board for 37 constituencies as under detail:

Constituency LA 1 - Didial - Chaudhry Shaikat Ali, Constituency LA 3 - Mirpur - Muhammad Shakur Mughal, Constituency LA 4 - Khadi Sharif - Raja Zafar Maroof

Constituency LA 5 - Barnala - Mirza Muhammad Shafiq Jaral, Constituency LA 6 - Samahni - Chaudhry Khazar Hayat, Constituency LA 7 - Bhambar - Raja Tahir Iqbal Khan, Constituency LA 9 - Nikyal - Sardar Abdullah Tariq Advocate, Constituency LA 10 - Kotli - Malik Muhammad Rizwan Advocate, Constituency LA 11 - Sahansa - Raja Elias Mustafai Advocate, Constituency LA 13 - Khoi Ratta - Raja Muhammad Saghir Khan Advocate, Constituency LA 14 - Dhirkot - Sardar Atik Ahmad Khan, Constituency LA 15 - Central - Sardar Abdul Rashid Chaghtai Advocate, Constituency LA 16 - East - Syed Azhar Ali Shah, Constituency LA 18 - Abbaspur - Zafar Iqbal Abbasi, Constituency LA 19 - Ditch Herd - Dr. Irrfan Ashraf, Constituency LA 20 - Hajira - Sardar Muhammad Salim

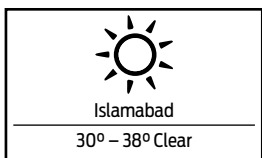


Khan Advocate, Constituency LA 21 - Raulakot City - Sardar Azhar Nazir Khan, Constituency LA 22 - Pachut - Sardar Nikaur Rehman Chaghtai, Constituency LA 23 - Palandri - Sardar

Abid Razak Khan, Constituency LA 24 - Baloni - Rai Abdul Rauf Khan Advocate, Constituency LA 25 - Sapphire Valley - Sharda - Abid Andlib Butt, Constituency LA 26 - Wadi Neclam -

Ms. Shamim Ali Malik, Constituency LA 27 - Coal - Mohammad Salim Awan, Constituency LA 28 - Pictures - Syed Yasir Naqvi Advocate, Constituency LA 29 - Muzaffarabad - Sajad

Anwar Abbasi, Constituency LA 30 - Manian Dupatta - Syed Tassoor Abbas Mousavi, Constituency LA 31 - Khawaza - Raja Mahtab Zarin Advocate, Constituency LA 32 - Chakar - Sardar Asad Shahzad, Constituency LA 33 - Lipa Valley - Gohar Zaman Abbasi Advocate, Constituency LA 34 - Jammu 1 - Chaudhry Muhammad Saud Mukhtar, Constituency LA 35 - Jammu 2 - Waheed ul Haq Hashmi Advocate, Constituency LA 36 - Jammu 3 - Mohammad Afzal Humayun, LA 37 - Jammu 4 - Rana Sadagutlah Khan, LA 39 - Jammu 6 - Abdul Khatib Chaudhry, Constituency LA 42 - Valley 3 - Rana Sarfraz Ahmed, Constituency LA 44 - Valley 5 - Ms. Mehr Al-Nisa and Constituency LA 45 - Valley 6 - Khawaja Dilawar Wani.



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

Punjab becomes first province to Digitally Map Health, Demographic Data of Citizens

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab has become the country's first province to digitally map the health and demographic profiles of its citizens, with the largest-ever digital health census nearing completion under Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's Community Health Inspectors Programme.

More than 85% of the population in 18 districts has been covered. Five districts

have achieved 100% coverage, while five others have crossed 95%. In total, 94.3 million health and demographic profiles have been registered. Every household has been assigned a unique ID through digital mapping. Around 14,300 Community Health Inspectors conducted door-to-door visits to collect medical, demographic and socio-economic data.

Reviewing a digital dashboard at a high-level Health and Population

Department meeting, the CM said healthcare services will now be planned using 100% verified data, not estimates. "Without authentic data, no policy can be effective," she noted, stressing data is key to estimating patients, medicines, and disease trends.

The meeting was informed that 16 cardiac catheterisation laboratories (Cath Labs) will be operational by December. Five are already functional. The CM directed early operationalization



in Bhakkar, Bahawalnagar and Layyah, and weekly performance reports. She also ordered improvements to medicine home delivery and a comprehensive population management campaign.

A proposal for the Maryam Nawaz Sehatmand Gharana Programme was presented to link citizens with primary healthcare centres and digitally monitor

patients of diabetes, hypertension, hepatitis, cancer and malnutrition. A modern disaster recovery site will also be set up to secure the health database.

The CM directed completion of Phase-II Cath Labs in 8 more districts by end-July and lauded anti-polio efforts, noting negative environmental samples from 19 districts.

Khulli Kachehri

JHELUM: Minister of State for Finance and Railways, Bilal Azhar Kayani, listening to public grievances during an open court (Khuli Kachehri) at the District Council Hall on Friday.



Photo: PID

Dr. Wajeaha Nusrat Leads Skin Care Lecture at PAFP Familycon



Tahir Amin Malik

A informative exclusive and high informative session was held at Lahore. The session was focussed on skin problems and was very effective for rash management and skin disease. Dr. Wajeaha Nusrat, Aesthetic Physician, Laser Specialist and Senior Registrar Mayo Hospital/ KEMU was guest speaker and deliver the lecture in this topic. PAFP Familycon arranged this event with the collaboration of Ferozsons. On this occasion Dr. Naheed Nadeem, Dr. Tahir Ch, Dr. Sajjad Malik, Dr. Abdul Rehman, Dr. Yaqoob Anwar Ch, Dr. Samiya Omar, Dr. Mehboob Elahi, and Dr. Farzana Kausar were present. Mr. Kashif of Ferozsons along with PAFP team presented the Bouquet to Guest Speaker Dr. Wajeaha Nusrat.

Deputy Commissioner Attock Inaugurates New Residential Building at Gymkhana Club

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Deputy Commissioner Attock, Rao Atif Raza, formally inaugurated the newly constructed modern residential building at Gymkhana Club Attock.

The ceremony was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Aneel Saeed, Assistant Commissioner Arif Qureshi, Director Operations Mehria Town Malik Rehan, Gymkhana Club Manager Arshad Javed, members of the Club's Board of Governors, senior officials, and other distinguished guests.

Following the inauguration, the Deputy Commissioner toured the building and reviewed the guest rooms, facilities, and overall arrangements. Officials briefed him that the accommodation was developed to provide high-quality lodging



for club members and distinguished guests. The rooms are equipped with all essential modern amenities and offer facilities comparable to a five-star hotel.

Appreciating the quality of construction and standard of facilities, DC Rao Atif Raza said the continued improvement of Gymkhana Club and provision of a pleasant envi-

ronment with quality amenities is a welcome development. He noted that modern infrastructure enhances the institution's beauty and ensures comfortable accommodation for members and visitors.

He directed the administration to ensure regular maintenance, cleanliness, security, and efficient management so members continue

to receive quality services. He expressed confidence that the club would further improve its facilities with the same dedication.

Participants appreciated the development initiatives and expressed hope the project would significantly contribute to providing quality residential and recreational facilities to members.

President SHA Women's Wing Announces Sindh Squad for Junior U-21 Women's Hockey Championship in Islamabad

Sports Desk

KARACHI: Ms. Syeda Shehla Raza (MNA), President, Sindh Hockey Association Women's Wing, has announced a 19-member Sindh squad for the Junior U-21 Women's Hockey Championship to be held in Islamabad from July 2 to July 13.



According to a statement issued by the Sindh Hockey Association, the team will be led by Ayesha Arif as Captain. Zulfiqar Hussain will serve as Team In-charge, Dr. Qamar Raza as Team Manager, and Batool Kazim as Team Coach.

The selected players are: Ayesha Arif (Captain, Karachi), Shifa'at Zahra (Vice-Captain, Nawabshah), Hafsa Bint Zafar, Mahnoor, Maryam Zahid, Gulnaz Ghulam Nabi, Ayesha Nadeem, Yusra Mubeen, Huma Amani, Asia Mehr, Hafsa, Iqra, Iqra Dahar, Iqra Gul, Faiza Altaf, Azra Batool, Syeda Raja, Hamna Nadeem, and Maryam.

The Sindh squad was selected following trials held in Sukkur and Karachi. In a historic development, due to the efforts of Ms. Syeda Shehla Raza, the Sindh Women's Team traveled to Islamabad by air. For the first time in Pakistan hockey history, a provincial women's team has traveled by air to participate in a domestic event.

WASA Toba Tek Singh Briefs MPA on Ongoing Civic Works



Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: WASA Managing Director Chaudhry Kamran Kahlon briefed MPA Chaudhry Anjad Ali Javed on development projects aimed at improving civic amenities in line with Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif's vision.

During the visit to the WASA office, the MD detailed work on drainage and sewerage upgrades, cleanliness, complaint redressal, and other citizen services. He said all schemes are being executed at an accelerated pace using available resources to ensure a clean environment and modern facilities.

MPA Anjad Ali Javed appreciated WASA's dedication and professionalism, calling timely project completion and public issue resolution top priorities of the Punjab government. Both reaffirmed commitment to transparent, quality municipal services.

Punjab Govt Fast-Tracks Data Darbar Development Ahead of Urs of Hazrat Data Gunj Bakhsh (RA)

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Secretary/Chief Administrator Auqaf Punjab Dr. Ehsan Bhutta has reaffirmed the Punjab government's commitment to devote facilitation, stating that Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has issued clear directives to provide maximum comfort and state-of-the-art amenities to pilgrims during the upcoming annual Urs Mubarak of Hazrat Ali Hajveri (RA), popularly known as Hazrat Data Gunj Bakhsh.

During a high-level field review at the historic shrine, accompanied by Chief Engineer TEPA Iqrar Ahmad, Chief Engineer C&W Muhammad Ashraf, S.

E. C&W Muhammad Essa, XEN C&W Fahad Naveed, Director Projects Auqaf Rafiq Wattoo, Project Director TEPA Muhammad Asad, Administrator Data Darbar Muhammad Ali, and XEN Auqaf Qaiser Munir, Dr. Bhutta paid homage at the shrine before inspecting ongoing development schemes.

He conducted a detailed walk-through of the main courtyard and directed the C&W team to accelerate slab construction, mandating completion by the 25th instant to ensure readiness ahead of Urs celebrations.

Reviewing basement, front plaza, and pedestrian underpass projects with TEPA and LDA officials, he instructed that all external work by TEPA be final-

ized by the 25th to ensure smooth crowd management and traffic flow. He clarified that while essential components must be functional for Urs, remaining phases of the grand development project will continue systematically, with final completion by June 2027.

Dr. Bhutta also inspected newly constructed parking facilities and public restroom blocks at Parinda Market, directing swift completion of ancillary finishing works.

He stressed that no delays would be tolerated and urged all departments to work in synergy to deliver a dignified, safe, and well-facilitated spiritual experience for devotees.



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Martyrdom That Defeated a Superpower-I

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei lies in state in Tehran, his coffin surrounded by black mourning flags as Iran begins a week of funeral ceremonies before his burial in Mashhad. Former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, senior Chinese lawmaker He Wei, Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Iraqi President Nizar Amedi were among the foreign leaders and officials joining Iranian clerics, generals and mourners to pay their respects. Their presence gave the ceremony a significance extending far beyond Iran's borders.

The gathering of such senior dignitaries from major powers and important regional states offered a striking answer to those who expected Iran to emerge from the war diplomatically isolated and internally broken. Khamenei, killed with members of his family in the opening US-Israeli airstrike on February 28, was being mourned not merely as Iran's Supreme Leader but honoured by representatives of countries commanding enormous geopolitical weight.

Equally important was the attendance of Gulf delegations, including Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Oman, at a moment when Israel and the United States had expected Arab and GCC states to stand firmly against Iran. The reported presence of Saudi Deputy Foreign Minister Waleed Al-Khuraji and other Gulf repre-

sentatives sent a chilling diplomatic message: the war had not ruptured Iran's relationship with its neighbourhood. Despite deep differences, geography, religion, neighbourly necessity and regional fraternity had again pulled Iran and the Gulf states towards one another, showing that their ties could not be broken simply by the strategic wishes of Israel and the United States.

The funeral, therefore, is more than the burial of a leader who ruled Iran for 37 years. It is a moment to measure the consequences of the decision to kill him. The United States and Israel apparently expected that removing Iran's most powerful religious figurehead would deepen despair, fracture an already pressured society and accelerate conditions for regime change. Four months later, the question is unavoidable: did his killing weaken Iran, or did his martyrdom strengthen its national cohesion?

The assumption behind leadership decapitation appeared straightforward. Iran had endured years of sanctions, economic hardship and recurring internal unrest. Remove the man at the centre of its religious and political structure, deepen the psychological shock by killing members of his close family and the state might collapse under its own

contradictions. Without Khamenei, Washington and Tel Aviv seemingly calculated, Iran would lose its ideological anchor at the moment of maximum military pressure.

The calculation proved disastrously wrong. Khamenei's killing, together with his daughter, son-in-law, baby granddaughter and another close family member, did not tear Iran apart. It transformed a political and military crisis into what millions of Iranians perceived as an existential national struggle. Domestic disagreements suddenly competed with the image of foreign powers killing the country's supreme religious leader and members of his family in the opening strike of a war.

Martyrdom achieved what decades of speeches, military parades and revolutionary slogans could never have accomplished with comparable force. It brought large sections of Iranian society closer to their armed forces and transformed Khamenei from a controversial political ruler into a symbol of resistance. Even Iranians dissatisfied with their government were confronted with a distinction between opposing domestic policies and allowing foreign powers to determine Iran's political future through bombs.

Instead of creating a leadership

vacuum, the strike created a martyr. Instead of producing national despair, it generated anger, defiance and an instinct for survival. The attempt to weaken Iran by eliminating its most recognisable figurehead elevated Khamenei beyond the limitations of a living political leader. The black flags hanging across Iranian cities demonstrate how rapidly political death can acquire religious permanence in a society deeply shaped by sacrifice.

The second contradiction of the war is even more consequential. The United States and Israel justified their attack by claiming Iran was racing towards nuclear weapons. An extraordinary atmosphere of urgency was created, as though Tehran were only days or weeks away from converting fissile material into atomic bombs and preparing to use them against Israel. Yet the man killed in the opening strike was arguably Iran's strongest institutional barrier against nuclear weaponisation.

For years, Khamenei maintained a religious prohibition against the production and use of nuclear weapons. His fatwa rested on the argument that atomic weapons are inherently indiscriminate. They cannot distinguish between soldiers and children, aggressors and innocent civilians. Their destructive effects extend beyond battlefields and generations and were therefore, in his religious reasoning, incompatible with Islamic morality and the fundamental principles of humanity.

Continued on Page 7



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

President Zardari felicitates U. S. leadership on Independence Day

President Asif Ali Zardari has extended felicitations to the President of the United States of America, Donald Trump, and the American people on the momentous occasion of the United States' 250 years since the Declaration of Independence.

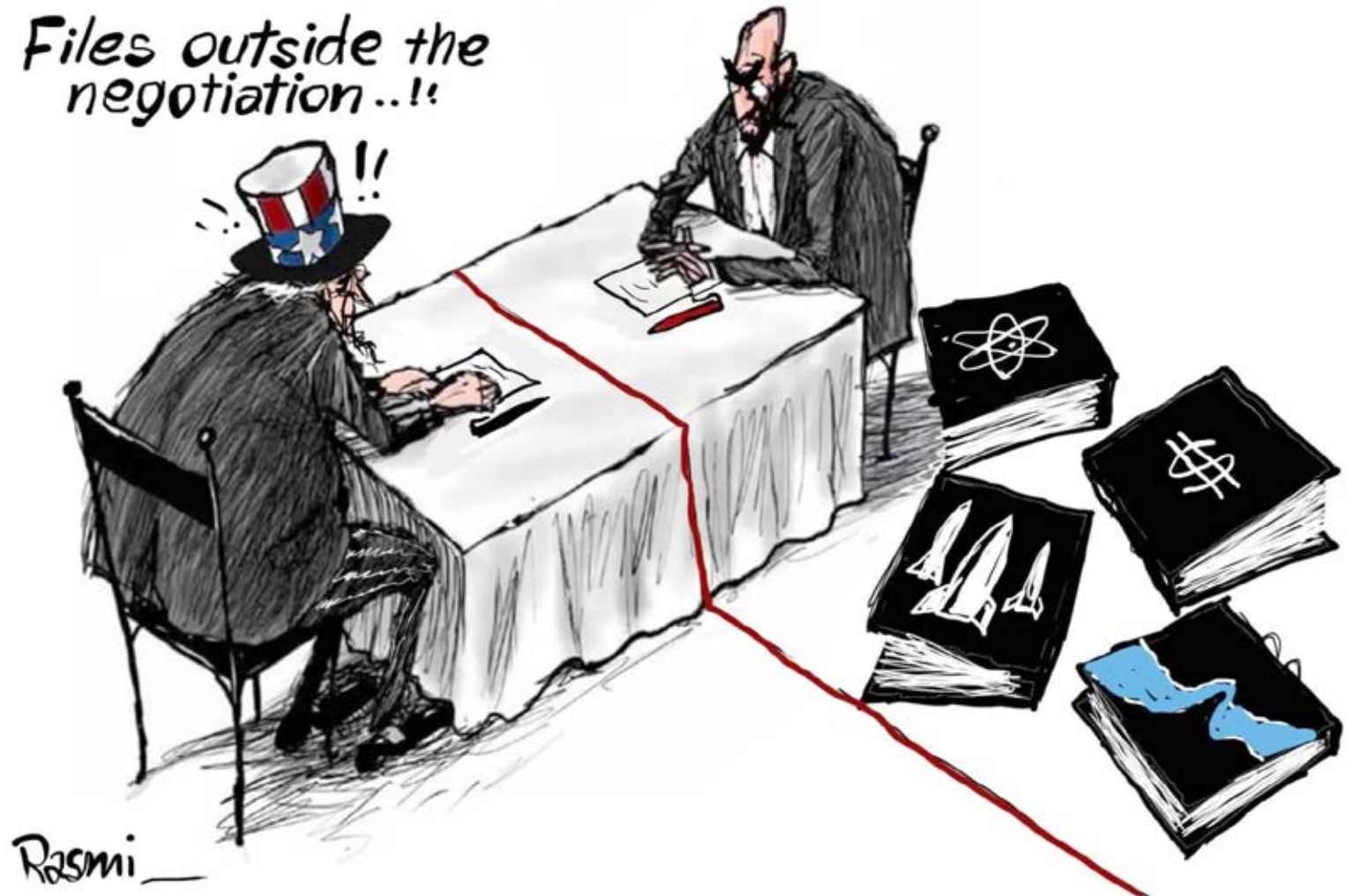
In his letter to the U. S. President, he stated that the United States continues to build upon its enduring legacy of strength, innovation and commitment to the ideals of freedom, democracy and opportunity. He noted that the remarkable achievements of the American people over the past two and a half centuries have contributed significantly to global progress and prosperity.

President Zardari said that Pakistan and the United States share a long-standing relationship based on mutual respect, shared interests and a common commitment to advancing peace, security and prosperity. He emphasised that these enduring ties have been further strengthened by the vibrant Pakistani-American community, whose achievements and contributions continue to enrich both societies while serving as a lasting bridge of friendship and understanding. Describing the bilateral relationship as being on an ascendant trajectory, characterised by renewed engagement and a shared determination to build a stronger, future-oriented partnership, the President stressed the importance of sustaining this momentum through structured engagement in energy security, trade and investment, defence and counter-terrorism, and other areas of mutual interest.

Underscoring that a strong Pakistan-U. S. partnership directly contributes to regional peace and security, the President noted that its inherent value was validated last year in May, when President Trump led the successful brokering of a ceasefire between the two nuclear-armed states. He further added that, with an evolving global landscape, this partnership strengthens, expressing appreciation for the trust and confidence placed by the U. S. in Pakistan's mediatory role for negotiations with Iran. The President expressed his firm conviction that a sustainable solution can only be achieved through dialogue, diplomacy and de-escalation.

President Zardari conveyed that the people of Pakistan would be honoured to host President Trump in Islamabad at his earliest convenience.

Files outside the negotiation..!!



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

Funeral Diplomacy: Khamenei's Supreme Sacrifice

"Indeed, to Allah we belong and to Him we shall return." (Surah alBaqarah 2:156)

The funeral of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was not merely a farewell to the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic; it was a carefully choreographed act of political theatre, steeped in symbolism and scripture. In the hushed cadence of Qur'anic recitation, Iran unveiled a subtle yet unmistakable lexicon of diplomacy. Each foreign delegation was greeted with verses chosen not at random, but with deliberate precision — verses that spoke to their histories, struggles, and the regime's perception of their place in the Islamic and geopolitical order.

This was not ritual for ritual's sake. It was a masterclass in cultural statecraft, where theology became rhetoric, and scripture became signal. Iran's planners transformed the funeral into a stage where the Qur'an itself became the language of international relations.

For Hamas, the verse from Surah alAhzab canonized sacrifice: "Among the believers are men who have proven true to what they pledged to God..." reminding that martyrdom and steadfastness are the currency of legitimacy. Iran's message was clear: Hamas's struggle is sanctified, its martyrs immortalized, its pledge unbroken.

To Hezbollah, Tehran offered resilience: "Do not falter or grieve, for you will have the upper hand..." situating endurance within a cosmic rhythm ordained by God. It was both balm and battle cry, affirming that suffering is cyclical but victory divinely assured.

Palestinian Islamic Jihad was elevated with a

verse of forgiveness and triumph: "So that God may forgive you... and help you with a mighty victory." Iran's intent was unmistakable — to elevate PIJ's militancy from tactical resistance to divinely sanctioned destiny.

Perhaps most striking was the verse chosen for China: "Victory comes only from God." In invoking this, Iran extended its theological lexicon beyond the Muslim world, signalling to Beijing that its rise is not merely geopolitical but providential. It was a gesture of respect, cloaked in scripture, affirming China's partnership as part of a divine order.

For Iraq's Hashd alShaabi, Iran recited: "Never say that those martyred in the cause of God are dead; in fact, they are alive!" consecrating Iraq's fallen fighters and binding their sacrifice to Iran's narrative of martyrdom.

To Riyadh, the verse of battle — "There was certainly a sign for you in the two armies that met in battle..." — was a subtle admonition, reminding Saudi Arabia that its choices remain under divine scrutiny. It was a reminder that past enemies are not forgotten, but judged by God's scales.

Qatar received the same verse as PIJ, a deliberate duplication signalling inclusion. This was not oversight but emphasis: Iran sees Doha as both mediator and ally, deserving of divine forgiveness and destined for victory.

For Ankara, the verse was aspirational: "God has elevated in rank those who strive with their wealth and their lives..." acknowledging Turkey's activism and restless pursuit of influence, framing it as jihad in the Qur'anic sense.

To Pakistan, Iran recited: "My Lord! Grant me an honourable entrance and an honourable exit..." A profoundly diplomatic gesture, recognizing Islamabad's delicate balancing act

— entering and exiting alliances with dignity, seeking authority from God.

Finally, Egypt was offered reconciliation: "Their reward with their Lord will be Gardens of Eternity..." affirming its place in the ummah despite estrangement. It was a verse of peace, not battle — a subtle olive branch extended through scripture.

What emerges from this tapestry of verses is a portrait of Iran's funeral diplomacy. The Qur'an became a mirror, reflecting back to each delegation how Tehran perceives them. Allies were exalted, adversaries admonished, mediators reassured. The funeral was not only a farewell to Khamenei but a reaffirmation of Iran's worldview, articulated through divine text.

In this choreography, Iran demonstrated that scripture can be more than liturgy; it can be strategy. The verses were not random recitations but coded messages, calibrated to resonate with each delegation. It was diplomacy in the cadence of revelation, a reminder that in Iran's political theatre, theology and geopolitics are inseparable.

And above all, the ceremony was a testament to Ayatollah Khamenei's own sacrifice. The Qur'an declares: "Do not think of those who are slain in the cause of Allah as dead. No, they are alive, with their Lord, receiving provision." (Surah AalImran 3:169). In this verse lies the essence of his departure: a life spent in struggle, now sanctified in martyrdom.

Khamenei's decades of leadership were marked by resistance, defiance, and an unyielding commitment to the Islamic Republic's mission. His passing was not framed as an end, but as continuity — the supreme sacrifice of a leader whose mission transcends mortality. To mourn him was to acknowledge that his struggle lives on, embodied in the alliances he nurtured and the worldview he defended.

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Sanctions as Soldiers: The Rise of the Financial Battlefield

Economic statecraft has widely been used in International Relations by the states to achieve their foreign policy objectives. Economic tools such as Foreign aid, trade, and policies governing the international flow of capital can be used as foreign policy tools and are considered the most common forms of economic statecraft. Marshall Plan launched by the United States in 1948 is an example of the economic statecraft used to achieve particular goals. Though in the very early times when the battles were being fought through swords and spears the main target the armies would

was dead. During the siege, Mehmed's navy of around 300 ships completely surrounded the city from the Sea of Marmara and the Bosphorus to ensure no Western European relief ships could slip through with food or weapons. By using the economic coercion thus the Mehmed conquered the most prominent city at that time.

Centuries later after World War 2 the same economic coercion is still used by the powerful states to suppress the vulnerable states. The methods have evolved but the tool is used the same as was used centuries ago which is the economy. Now the major states have adopted modern techniques such as economic sanctions, tariffs and trade barriers, cut offs of foreign aid, Debt Trap Leverage and Export Controls and Technology Blacklists. These modern methods paralyse a state economically after which it has to surrender its resources to the major powers. The great powers have established various institutions in this respect that are utilized to suppress the states through various tactics and strategies. The weak states are thus compelled in a way that serves the interests of the dominant states.

Weaker nations mostly rely on a single major powerful state to buy their primary exports (agricultural goods, textiles, or raw materials). Major Powers exploit this vulnerability by cutting the imports from the small country. For the weaker nation, it means immediate economic devastation, bankrupt farmers, and massive domestic political pressure on the government to capitulate. The US used this particular tool in order to suppress Venezuela. In 2019, the United States intensified its economic pressure on Venezuela by sanctioning the state owned oil company PDVSA it barred the US companies from buying Venezuelan oil

Continued on Page 7



Analysis

Zohaib Khan Durrani

Rwanda High Commission Marks Kwibohora 32 with Grand Reception in Islamabad

Pakistan and Rwanda Reaffirm Commitment to Expanding Bilateral Cooperation

By Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Barrister Aqeel Malik, Pakistan's Minister of State for Law and Justice, congratulated the government and people of Rwanda on the occasion of their 32nd Liberation Day and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening bilateral relations with Rwanda. He addressed the gathering at the event.

The High Commission of the Republic of Rwanda in Pakistan celebrated 'Kwibohora 32', the 32nd Liberation Day of Rwanda, with a grand reception at the Serena Hotel in Islamabad on Saturday.

Mr. Hamid Asghar Khan, Additional Foreign Secretary (Africa) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Pakistan H. E. Mr. Atadjan Movlamov, senior government officials, ambassadors, high commissioners, business leaders, academics, media representatives, members of the Rwandan community in Pakistan, and Friends of Rwanda also attended the event.

The Minister said Pakistan highly values its friendly relations with Rwanda and is keen to expand cooperation across a wide range of sectors, including defence, trade, investment, health, education, agriculture, tourism, information technology, and parliamentary diplomacy. He also appreciated the close coordination between the two countries at the United Nations and other international forums, particularly on issues related to peacekeeping, climate action, sustainable development, and regional stability.

Reflecting on the significance of 'Kwibohora', Barrister Aqeel Malik described it as a celebration of Rwanda's successful journey from tragedy to unity, reconciliation, and socio-economic progress. He praised the resilience of the Rwandan people and acknowledged the country's remarkable achievements in governance, economic development, and national reconstruction over the past three decades.

The minister expressed confidence that the growing partnership between Pakistan and Rwanda would continue to



flourish through enhanced economic engagement, increased people-to-people contacts, and stronger institutional cooperation for the mutual benefit of both nations.

Welcoming the distinguished guests, Rwanda's High Commissioner to Pakistan, H. E. Hare-irimana Fatou, described 'Kwibohora' as a defining chapter in Rwanda's history and a symbol of hope, resilience, and national unity. She paid tribute to the brave men and women who stopped the Genocide against the Tutsi and liberated the country, particularly honoring the soldiers

of the Rwanda Patriotic Army (RPA) who sacrificed their lives to restore peace and stability.

The High Commissioner said the courage, dedication, and patriotism of those who fought for Rwanda's freedom would always remain a source of inspiration for future generations. She noted that under the visionary leadership of President Paul Kagame and the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF), Rwanda has emerged as one of Africa's fastest-growing economies and a model of innovation, good governance, and sustainable development.



She highlighted that Rwanda has transformed itself into a gateway to Africa by investing in education, technology, infrastructure, healthcare, and economic reforms. She also underscored the

country's commitment to regional peace, international cooperation, and inclusive development, which has earned Rwanda growing recognition on the global stage. A ceremonial cake-cutting was

held to mark the 32nd Liberation Day, symbolizing Rwanda's continued progress and the enduring friendship between the two countries. The celebration was attended by a large number of diplomats, senior government officials, members of parliament, representatives of the business community, civil society leaders, and members of the media, reflecting broad support for stronger Pakistan-Rwanda relations.

The evening also showcased Rwanda's vibrant cultural heritage through traditional music and cultural performances, providing guests with an opportunity to experience the country's rich traditions. A dedicated Rwandan Coffee Corner attracted

significant attention, allowing visitors—particularly young participants—to sample Rwanda's internationally acclaimed specialty coffee, one of the country's most renowned agricultural exports.

The event concluded with a renewed commitment by both sides to deepen cooperation in trade, investment, tourism, education, culture, innovation, and people-to-people exchanges. Participants expressed optimism that the strong friendship between Pakistan and Rwanda would continue to expand, creating new opportunities for collaboration and contributing to peace, prosperity, and sustainable development in both countries.

Photos Sultan Bashir

Thailand Ranked Among World's Top Healthcare Systems

By Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Thailand has achieved a major international milestone by securing eighth place globally and first position in Southeast Asia in the 2026 Health Care Index published by Numbeo. The country earned an impressive overall score of 77.5, reflecting the quality, efficiency, and accessibility of its healthcare system.

The latest ranking highlights Thailand's continued success in delivering high-quality medical services supported by effective healthcare management and broad public access to treatment. The achievement further reinforces the country's reputation as one of the world's most trusted healthcare providers.

Government officials attributed the recognition to the success of Thailand's Universal Coverage Scheme, widely known as the 30-baht healthcare scheme. The program has played a pivotal role in ensuring that citizens have access to affordable and comprehensive medical care, covering everything from primary healthcare services to the treatment of chronic and complex diseases.

The Universal Coverage Scheme has long been regarded as one of Thailand's most significant public health initiatives, reducing financial barriers to healthcare while improving health outcomes across the country. Its emphasis on equitable access has enabled millions of people to receive timely and quality medical treatment regardless of their economic status.

The international recognition also strengthens Thailand's position as a premier destination for medical tourism. Every year, the country attracts millions of interna-



tional patients seeking advanced medical treatment, specialized healthcare services, and internationally accredited hospitals at competitive costs.

Health experts note that Thailand's healthcare system is built not only on high levels of spending but also on efficient management, strategic service delivery, strong public health policies, and equal access to care. The country's success serves as an example for many developing nations seeking to improve healthcare outcomes through sustainable and inclusive policies.

With its world-class hospitals, skilled medical professionals, modern healthcare infrastructure, and commitment to universal access, Thailand continues to strengthen its reputation as a global leader in healthcare excellence and medical tourism.

President Tokayev Unveils AI-Driven Growth Strategy, Invites Global Investors at Foreign Investors' Council

Spokesman Report

ASTANA: President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has reaffirmed Kazakhstan's commitment to sustainable economic growth, digital transformation and foreign investment while addressing the 38th plenary session of the Foreign Investors' Council.

Speaking before international investors, business leaders and development partners, President Tokayev said Kazakhstan remains focused on adapting to the rapidly changing global economic and political landscape while maintaining macroeconomic stability and strengthening investor confidence.

He highlighted the country's strong economic performance, noting that Kazakhstan's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by 6.5 percent last year and has now surpassed the \$300 billion mark. He added that Kazakhstan continues to lead Central Asia in attracting foreign direct investment, having accumulated more than \$150 billion in net FDI—representing nearly 70 percent of all foreign investment flowing into the region.

The President said the country's economic achievements are underpinned by political stability and constitutional reforms that provide stronger legal protection for investors. He also announced the launch of the National Digital Investment Platform, designed to serve as a one-stop digital gateway for investors and streamline investment procedures.

President Tokayev said Kazakhstan offers long-term incentives for international businesses, including the Altyn Visa program, which provides tax advantages and simplified migration procedures for foreign investors. He stressed, however, that the government remains committed to further reforms to improve the



investment environment.

A major focus of the President's address was Kazakhstan's ambition to become a regional leader in artificial intelligence and digital innovation. Declaring 2026 as the Year of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Development, he said AI would play a central role in public administration, education, investment promotion and industrial modernization.

To support this vision, Kazakhstan has established a Ministry of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Development and launched an AI Development Council. The government has also introduced a Digital Code, a new Artificial Intelligence Law and the Digital Kazakhstan Strategy to provide a comprehensive framework for technological advancement.

President Tokayev announced that Kazakhstan has successfully launched two advanced supercomputers and is developing a Data Center Valley, which has already attracted global technology companies including Amazon and G42.

He emphasized that investment in human capital remains a national priority. Kazakhstan has opened next-generation educational institutions, including Tumo and the Tomorrow School, while introducing AI into the national education system. The country is also establishing Central Asia's first specialized Artificial Intelligence University to develop future technology leaders.

The President highlighted AI-driven modernization across



multiple sectors, including logistics, agriculture, oil and gas, financial services and manufacturing. He noted that the Smart Cargo digital platform is transforming Kazakhstan's transport corridors by digitizing customs and logistics procedures, reducing transit times and improving efficiency along key Eurasian trade routes.

Kazakhstan is also expanding its role in the global critical minerals market by digitizing geological records, introducing AI-powered exploration technologies and creating a Regional Research Center for Rare Earth Metals in Astana to attract international investment.

In agriculture, President Tokayev said precision farming, drones, satellite technology and AI-powered forecasting have helped Kazakhstan achieve record grain harvests of 27 million tonnes for two consecutive years. The government is now accelerating the digital transformation of agriculture while promoting smart farming and value-added food processing industries.

Highlighting infrastructure development, the President reaffirmed Kazakhstan's ambition to become a major logistics hub connecting Europe and Asia. More than 85 percent of China-Europe rail

freight passes through Kazakhstan, supported by investments exceeding \$35 billion in transport and logistics infrastructure over the past 15 years.

President Tokayev also presented the vision for Alatau City, which is being developed as Kazakhstan's first fully digital city. The project will feature advanced digital governance, integrated public services and a regulatory framework supporting cryptocurrency exchanges, digital assets and financial innovation.

Concluding his address, President Tokayev stressed that artificial intelligence and digital sovereignty will be key drivers of Kazakhstan's long-term economic resilience and competitiveness. He called for stronger collaboration between the government, international investors and the private sector to accelerate reforms, foster innovation and build a prosperous digital economy.

The plenary session was also addressed by senior representatives of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Citi, China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) and Air Liquide, reflecting broad international support for Kazakhstan's investment and digital transformation agenda.

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

Bank Alfalah and British International Investment Sign USD 50 million Facility to Advance Climate Finance in Pakistan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Bank Alfalah and British International Investment have signed a USD 50 million facility to advance climate finance in Pakistan. The partnership aims to build resilience and support sustainable economic growth by expanding financing for climate projects, including climate-smart agriculture and water irrigation systems, particularly aiding vulnerable agribusinesses.

BII will provide technical assistance to help Bank Alfalah develop a pipeline of eligible climate assets. The deal reflects both parties' commitment to Pakistan's sustainable development, with BII targeting at least 40% of new investments in climate-related opportunities under its five-year strategy.

Pakistan Banking Summit 2026 to Convene in Karachi on 7-8 July

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Pakistan Banks Association (PBA) has announced the second edition of the Pakistan Banking Summit 2026 (PBS'26), to be held on 7-8 July 2026 in Karachi.

Hosted under PBA, the Summit has become the banking industry's premier platform for collaboration, sharing global best practices, and advancing policy dialogue for Pakistan's financial sector. Building on last year's success, PBS'26 will bring together senior leaders for two days of strategic discussions on opportunities, challenges, and policy priorities.

Announced at a press conference by Atif Bajwa, Chairman of the Summit Steering Committee & President & CEO Bank Alfalah; Zafar Masud, Chairman PBA & President & CEO The Bank of Punjab; and Muneer Kamal, CEO & Secretary General PBA, the



event will feature nine thematic sessions.

Key topics include the global and domestic economic outlook, financing for agriculture,

SMEs and low-cost housing, digital banking solutions to build a stronger, future-ready

financial sector.

bank-capital market synergies, Islamic banking, and next-generation talent.

The Summit will convene over 1,200 participants including policymakers, regulators, bankers, corporates, academia and development partners. It will feature 15+ international speakers, 20+ local thought leaders, and representation from 48+ financial institutions. A special video address will be delivered by Syed Babar Ali, Founding Pro Chancellor LUMS.

Keynote speakers include Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue; Jameel Ahmad, Governor State Bank of Pakistan; and Bilal Azhar Kayani, Minister of State for Finance & Railways.

Speakers stressed PBS'26 comes right after the Federal Budget and will focus on moving from policy announcements to implementation and practical solutions to build a stronger, future-ready financial sector.

Sugarcane

ISLAMABAD: Vendor buying sugarcanes at Fruit and Vegetables Market I-11 in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

SECP Makes Apna Ghar Housing Loans More Accessible Through NBFCs

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Access to affordable housing finance is set to become easier for citizens, particularly underserved and non-banking segments, as the Federal Government has approved the inclusion of lending Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) as Participating Financial Institutions (PFIs) under the Prime Minister's Apna Ghar Program (PM-APG).

The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), recognizing the potential of NBFCs to expand housing finance, proposed their inclusion in the program. The initiative will not only enhance the availability of housing loans but also strengthen the role of NBFCs in Pakistan's financial sector.

Under the scheme, non-banking housing finance companies and investment finance companies will provide housing loans of up to PKR 10 million, while micro-finance companies will offer loans of up to PKR 5 million. The inclusion of NBFCs

will provide people with additional channels to access subsidized housing finance, especially those with limited access to traditional banking services. With their wider outreach, flexible financing models, and focus on underserved customers, NBFCs are expected to help more families move towards owning their first homes.

The Prime Minister's Apna Ghar Program aims to promote affordable housing by providing mark-up subsidies and risk coverage for housing finance. Under the scheme, eligible first-time home buyers can obtain loans for a maximum period of 20 years at a subsidized mark-up rate of 5 percent for the first 10 years.

To facilitate effective implementation, SECP has introduced a comprehensive regulatory framework enabling eligible lending NBFCs to provide housing finance directly through their own resources or in collaboration with other NBFCs, commercial banks, and development finance institutions.

Faisalabad Travel agents urged to prepare for new IATA Guarantee Policy

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Travel industry experts have urged local agents to proactively prepare for the expected new IATA guarantee policy, saying timely awareness, professional readiness, and proper insurance guidance will help the sector meet future challenges and align with international standards.

The views were expressed at an awareness workshop organized by the International Tourism Standing Committee of Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) in collaboration with Security General Insurance Pakistan (SGI) at the FCCI complex.

A large number of Faisalabad's travel trade members attended. Experts explained key aspects of the anticipated IATA policy, its likely implications, and associated business requirements, while briefing participants on the evolving global regulatory environment.

Senior Vice Chairman of Travel Agents Association of Pakistan (TAAP) Muhammad Ilyas, along with Agha Tariq



Siraj and Hassan Masood from Lahore, attended as special guests. They highlighted industry challenges, emerging global trends, new opportunities, and stressed that continuous professional development is now indispensable.

SGI representative Amir Jameel gave a detailed overview of the insurance mechanism linked to the proposed policy, outlining the role of insurers, available facilities, and operational procedures.

SGI CEO Farrukh Aleem later answered participants' questions on the guarantee framework.

Chairman FCCI International Tourism Standing Committee Nadeem Iqbal said the chamber is committed to providing timely information and exposure to global trends. He termed the workshop successful and said similar awareness programs will continue to enhance the professional capacity of the travel industry.

Pakistan-Kenya Bilateral Trade Crosses Historic US\$1 Billion Mark

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Pakistan-Kenya Business Council celebrated bilateral trade surpassing US\$1.023 billion in FY 2025/26, with Pakistan's exports to Kenya hitting a record US\$434.7 million.

Council President Rafique Suleman called it a milestone reflecting strong economic cooperation and untapped potential. Key Pakistani exports include rice, textiles, hosiery, garments, and pharmaceuticals, while Kenyan

tea exports to Pakistan continue to grow.

Suleman credited both governments, Ministry of Commerce, TDAP, and diplomatic missions, especially Pakistan's High Commission in Nairobi and Kenya's High Commission in Islamabad, for their role.

To mark the achievement, the Council will hold celebration events in Nairobi and Pakistan to honor officials and stakeholders, aiming to further boost trade, investment, and industrial cooperation.

PEF Hosts 7th Business Networking Meetup in Riyadh, Signs Historic MoU to Unify Pakistani Investor Forums

Commerce Desk

RIYADH: The seventh Business Networking Meetup, organized by the Pakistani Executive Forum (PEF), was held in Riyadh with a large gathering of Pakistani business leaders, investors, CEOs, and community representatives from Riyadh, Jeddah, Dammam, and Dubai.

Dr. Shagufta Zareen, Minister for Trade and Investment at the Embassy of Pakistan in Saudi Arabia, attended as chief guest. Prominent Dubai-based businessman Mian Munir Hans was the special guest.

The highlight of the event was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) among PEF, Pakistan Investors Forum, and several other Pakistani business and investor organizations in Saudi Arabia. The

agreement aims to create a unified platform to promote investment in Pakistan, strengthen business collaboration, create employment opportunities, boost exports, and support national economic development.

Participants described the MoU as a historic milestone for the overseas Pakistani community, saying it would enhance investor confidence, encourage industrial cooperation, and contribute to Pakistan's long-term growth.

Addressing the gathering, PEF Chairman Munir Ahmad Shad said the forum has chapters in 20 countries and is committed to connecting Pakistani business communities worldwide. He emphasized that overseas Pakistanis are a vital pillar of the national economy.

Chief guest Dr. Shagufta Zareen conveyed the Ambassador's message, urging all Pakistani business forums

in Saudi Arabia to work together under a common platform for investment, trade, and economic stability. She expressed confidence the MoU would strengthen bilateral trade ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

Pakistan Investors Forum President Chaudhry Shafiqat Mahmood said the agreement reflects mutual trust and national unity, and that closer cooperation would generate jobs, increase exports, and strengthen investor confidence.

Mian Munir Hans stressed that unity among business forums and investors would unlock major opportunities for investment, industrial growth, and job creation, and called for prioritizing national interests.

Renowned community leader Qazi Ishaq Memon "Baba Riyadh" honored PEF Chairman Munir Ahmad Shad



with a traditional Sindhi Ajrak. The event, hosted by Shakeel Ahmed Kiani, concluded with commemorative shields

presented to the chief guest and distinguished participants. Organizers reaffirmed their commitment to the unified

platform for promoting investment, trade, and sustainable growth in Pakistan.

Pakistan Senate Chairman Pledges Solidarity with Iran at Critical Juncture

Asim Tanveer

TEHRAN: Chairman Senate of Pakistan, Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, met with the Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran, Dr. Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, in Tehran. The meeting featured a comprehensive exchange of views on Pakistan-Iran bilateral relations, parliamentary cooperation, regional peace and stability, challenges facing the Muslim Ummah, and the promotion of global peace.

During the meeting, Chairman Senate expressed his heartfelt condolences to the Government, Parliament, and people of Iran on the martyrdom of the Supreme Leader. He reaffirmed Pakistan's solidarity with the brotherly nation during this difficult time and stated that peace, stability, and prosperity are essential for lasting peace and development across the region.

Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani said that Pakistan and Iran are bound by deep-rooted historical, religious, cultural, and fraternal ties, which should be further strengthened through enhanced cooperation. He emphasized the importance of expanding parliamentary exchanges, economic collaboration, trade, and people-to-people contacts between the two countries.

Speaker of the Iranian Parliament, Dr. Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, appreci-



ated Pakistan's steadfast support and solidarity during Iran's difficult times. He remarked that Pakistan has consistently proven to be a sincere and reliable friend of Iran in times of trial and that

the Iranian leadership and people hold Pakistan and its people in the highest esteem.

Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening

Pakistan-Iran relations and enhancing cooperation for regional peace, stability, prosperity, and the promotion of global peace through sustained bilateral engagement.

Field Marshal and Service Chiefs Lead Nation in Paying Tribute to Captain Karnal Sher Khan's Bravery

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), HJ, Chief of Army Staff & Chief of Defence Forces; Admiral Naveed Ashraf, NI, NI (M), T Bt, Chief of the Naval Staff; Air Chief Marshal Zabeer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, NI (M), HJ, Chief of the Air Staff; and the Armed Forces of Pakistan solemnly commemorate the 27th martyrdom anniversary of Captain Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed, Nishan-e-Haider, paying

profound tribute to his unmatched courage, unwavering devotion, and supreme sacrifice in the service of the nation.

During the Kargil conflict of 1999, Captain Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed displayed extraordinary gallantry and resolute leadership while defending the motherland against overwhelming odds. Leading from the front with exceptional determination, he embraced martyrdom in the finest traditions of the Pakistan Army, leaving behind a legacy of honor,

and selfless service.

His immortal sacrifice continues to inspire generations of Pakistanis and remains a timeless beacon of courage, patriotism, and steadfast commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Pakistan. The people and Armed Forces of Pakistan reaffirm their enduring resolve to uphold the ideals for which Captain Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed laid down his life, ensuring that his legacy will forever endure in the nation's history.



NSU Marks Leadership Transition as Prof. Dr. Saud Altaf Assumes Vice Chancellorship

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: National Skills University Islamabad held a dignified induction ceremony at Al-Mukhtar Auditorium to mark the end of Prof. Dr. Muhammad Mukhtar's tenure as founding Vice Chancellor and the assumption of office by Prof. Dr. Saud Altaf.

The event signaled a new era for Pakistan's premier institution for technical, vocational, and skills-based higher education.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Mukhtar completed his tenure on June 30, 2026. Under his visionary leadership, NSU was conceived and developed into a nationally and internationally recognized university known for its commitment to technical education, innovation, sustainability, and



global partnerships. The ceremony began with recitation

of the Holy Quran and the National Anthem by faculty, staff and students.

Prof. Dr. Mukhtar congratulated Prof. Dr. Saud Altaf and expressed confidence that NSU would reach new heights under his leadership. He reflected on NSU's journey as a pioneer in skills-based education. Faculty, staff and students presented gifts to Prof. Dr. Mukhtar in appreciation of his services.

The charge of the university was formally handed over to Prof. Dr. Saud Altaf. His appointment is expected to open new avenues focused on industry-driven learning, technological advancement, entrepreneurship, and developing a skilled workforce aligned with national priorities.

Senior officers, faculty, staff and students attended the ceremony, making it a memorable occasion for the NSU community.

Sanctions as Soldiers: The Rise of the Financial Battlefield

Continued from Page 4

which accounted for over 90% of Venezuela's export revenue. The US also froze Venezuelan government assets held under U. S. jurisdiction. These measures aimed to deprive the Maduro government of critical financial resources and compel political change without military intervention.

The financial assistance is rarely free, it comes with invisible geopolitical strings attached. When the indebted country does not behave in a way expected by the major power it can pull up the strings and strangle the weak economically. China also uses economic means to pursue its national interests. It mostly uses debt trap economic coercion to dominate the weaker state economy. Sri Lanka took loans from China to construct the Hambantota port. In 2010 the

port was bleeding money, operating at massive losses, and drawing fewer than 200 ships a year. Concurrently, Sri Lanka was drowning in overall external debt. The vast majority of which was actually owed to Western sovereign bonds, the IMF, and Wall Street, not China. Desperate for foreign exchange reserves to pay off its global creditors, the Sri Lankan government made a sovereign decision in 2017 to sign a 99-year lease handing over a 70% stake of the port's operations to a state owned Chinese enterprise, China Merchants Port Holdings, in exchange for \$1.12 billion in cash.

Five centuries after Sultan Mehmed II proved that choking a strategic waterway was more effective than storming a physical fortress, modern statecraft has returned to the logic of the siege. Today's battlefields are not

fought with wood and iron, but with SWIFT codes, semiconductor embargoes, and 99-year commercial leases. While this reliance on economic coercion is often celebrated as a peaceful alternative to kinetic warfare, it is ultimately a dangerous illusion. By turning international trade into a weapon, major powers are replacing global cooperation with deep seated systemic mistrust, forcing smaller nations to retreat into defensive economic blocs. If every commercial transaction becomes a geopolitical vulnerability, the 'Cold Peace' will eventually freeze global progress entirely. The weapons of the 21st century do not fire shots, but they are fully capable of dismantling the modern world order from within.

The writer is Student of BS International Relations at National Defence University Islamabad

Martyrdom That Defeated a Superpower-I

Continued from Page 4

This decree cannot simply be dismissed as ceremonial theology. Iran's armed forces operate within a system in which the supreme leader exercises ultimate command authority. When that authority explicitly prohibits nuclear weapons on religious grounds, converting enriched material into an atomic arsenal becomes more than a scientific or military decision. It directly challenges the religious and command structure under which Iran's military and nuclear institutions operate.

The uncomfortable question must therefore be asked: who actually prevented Iran from developing an atomic bomb? Was it Israel's threats and airstrikes? Was it American sanctions and military pressure? Or was it Khamenei's fatwa? My conclusion is that the principal internal restraint was neither Washington nor Tel Aviv

but the religious prohibition imposed by the very man their bombs killed. This is why the narrative of an immediate nuclear emergency deserves rigorous scrutiny. Israeli explanations have repeatedly blurred the critical distinction between possessing an operational atomic weapon and travelling along a technological path that might eventually provide the capability to manufacture one. A country may possess scientists, enrichment facilities, technical knowledge and fissile material without assembling a bomb or taking the political decision to use it.

If Iran was on a path that might have enabled it to produce a weapon years later, that was undoubtedly a serious proliferation concern. It was, however, fundamentally different from being days away from launching a nuclear attack. The image of an imminent Iranian bomb created the

urgency necessary to justify war, but urgency cannot substitute for verifiable evidence and technological capability cannot automatically be treated as proof of immediate nuclear aggression. There is another historical irony. Iran, whatever criticism may legitimately be directed towards its regional policies, has not built its modern national history around repeatedly invading neighbouring countries. Israel, by contrast, has remained in almost continuous military confrontation across its neighbourhood. Yet Iran was presented as the uniquely imminent aggressor whose possible future intentions justified a preventive war before the alleged weapon even existed.

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

Sindh Minister Warns Any Indian Move to Stop Pakistan's Water Will Be Treated as Act of Aggression



Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

HYDERABAD: Sindh's Provincial Minister for Irrigation, Jam Khan Shoro, has warned that any attempt by India to stop or divert Pakistan's share of water will be regarded as an act of aggression with serious consequences.

Addressing a press conference at Hyderabad Press Club on Saturday, he said India is violating the Indus Waters Treaty by unilaterally suspending hydrological data sharing and water-related cooperation, calling it a serious threat to regional peace and stability.

Referring to 1947, Shoro said attempts to use water as a political tool against Pakistan were resisted through national resilience. He highlighted the historical, geographical and religious significance of the Indus River, stating its identity is linked to Sindh and that under international principles, riparian communities have the foremost right to its waters.

The minister alleged India has extensively diverted eastern rivers allowed to it under the Treaty, causing environmental degradation, reduced freshwater flows, and damage to the Indus Delta and agriculture. He said climate change has already reduced water availability, making interference more dangerous, with Sindh facing the worst impact from any reduction in Indus flows.

Shoro added that India has stopped providing mandatory hydrological data, hindering flow monitoring. He noted international law prohibits upstream states from obstructing natural river flows, and that the Treaty provides Pakistan clear legal safeguards.

Issuing a stern warning, he said Pakistan will not remain a silent spectator to any physical interference with the Indus. "Any attempt to stop or divert our water will be treated as an act of war," he stated, adding Pakistan will defend its rights through legal, diplomatic and all available means, and will not allow 240 million people to be deprived of water or compromise national sovereignty.

Leghari Cites 45% Drop in Power Losses, Invites Turkish Investment in Metering, Transmission

Continued from Page 1

for better efficiency. Leghari highlighted investment openings: modernizing and digitizing metering systems to curb losses and theft, with \$1.7 billion in opportunities over 2-3 years. Transmission lines offer another \$830 million over four years. Five DISCOs not in phase-1 privatization are being prepared for \$100-\$150

million advanced metering projects each. On transmission, two clusters worth \$518 million and \$312 million are identified, with 4 lines due by 2029 and 3 by 2030. Feasibility studies are done, environmental assessments underway, and bankable studies will be finalized by August. He also noted growing focus on battery energy storage for grid stability.

Funeral Diplomacy: Khamenei's Supreme Sacrifice

Continued from Page 4

The invocation of martyrdom at his funeral was not accidental. It was a deliberate framing of his life as jihad — a striving in the path of God — and his death as shahada, martyrdom. In this narrative, Khamenei joins the pantheon of those who gave their lives for faith and nation, alive in eternity, provisioned by God.

Ayatollah Khamenei's funeral was thus both elegy and epilogue, a moment where Iran fusing mourning with messaging. By weaving Qur'anic verses into the fabric of diplomacy, Tehran

elevated the ceremony into a statement of continuity: that the struggle, the alliances, and the worldview of the Islamic Republic endure beyond the life of its leader. In the solemnity of recitation, Iran spoke volumes. The Qur'an became its envoy, the funeral its stage, and the verses its coded communiqués. It was a farewell not only to a man, but a reaffirmation of a mission — sanctified, strategic, and enduring. The writer is a retired Group Captain of PAF. He is a columnist, analyst and TV talk show host, who has authored six books on current affairs, including three on China

Meeting

ISTANBUL: The President of Türkiye Recep Tayyip Erdogan and the Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif hold meeting at Vahdateen Palace in Istanbul on Friday.



Photo: PID

AJK elections: Aleem Khan's party fields candidates in 35 constituencies

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) of federal minister Aleem Khan has announced its candidates for 35 seats of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Legislative Assembly ahead of the upcoming elections.

IPP President Aleem Khan formally awarded party tickets to the candidates during a ceremony attended by IPP Azad Kashmir President Sardar Tanveer Ilyas, who has also been nominated to contest in three constituencies.

According to the party, Muhammad Maroof has been nominated in LA-02, Tasleem Arif in LA-03, Taimur Hassan in LA-04, Zulfiqar Ali in LA-08 and Tahir Farid in LA-09.

Muhammad Yousof will contest in LA-10, Muhammad



Talib in LA-11, Sabiha Siddique in LA-12 and Nisar Ansar in LA-13.

Former AJK Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas has been fielded in three constituencies — LA-15,

LA-22 and LA-25.

The party also named Ijaz Ahmed in LA-16, Aamir Nazir in LA-17, Murtaza Ahmed in LA-18, Shahzad Aziz in LA-19, Bilal Shakeel in LA-21, Sardar Raees Inqilabi in LA-24,

Sardar Inayatullah in LA-27, Sardar Tabarakullah in LA-29 and Maqbool Gujjar in LA-30.

Among other nominees, Raja Mazhar Qayyum will contest in LA-31, Iftikhar Hussain in LA-35, Adeeb

Amjad Butt in LA-36, Abdul Qadeer in LA-39, Muhammad Tahir Khokhar in LA-40, Saleem Butt in LA-41, Saeed Dar in LA-42 and Bilal Butt in LA-43.

The party has also awarded tickets to Raja Faheem Farooq in LA-14, Saeed Awan in LA-05, Ali Shan Soni in LA-06, Hamza Bazmi and Kausar Taqdis Gilani from LA-28. In addition, candidates have been nominated for reserved and refugee constituencies representing Lahore, Multan, Rawalpindi and Balochistan.

Speaking on the occasion, Aleem Khan congratulated all the party nominees and extended his best wishes for the election campaign. He said the remaining candidates for other constituencies would be announced later on Saturday or by Sunday.

PML-N holds key meeting to finalise strategy for AJK elections

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) held a high-level meeting to review preparations for the upcoming Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) elections and finalize its campaign strategy.

PML-N leader Khawaja Saad Rafique presided the meeting at the party's Model Town secretariat by focusing on organizational matters aimed at making the election campaign more effective, well-coordinated and successful. During the session, campaign responsibilities were



assigned to party leaders and lawmakers for the AJK election drive.

The meeting was attended by PML-N Lahore President Saiful-Malook Khokhar, Khawaja Imran Nazir, Rashid Nasrullah, Saadia Taimoor, as well as Members of the National and Provincial Assemblies, including Mujtaba Shuja-ur-Rehman, Shaista Pervaiz Malik, Anusha Rahman and Kiran Dar. Khawaja Saad Rafique also conveyed a special message from former prime minister Nawaz Sharif to party legislators regarding the election campaign.

PM felicitates US President Trump, people on 250th Independence Anniversary

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Saturday, extended his warm felicitations to President Donald J. Trump and the people of the United States on the historic occasion of the 250th Anniversary of American Independence.

"Pakistan joins the United States in celebrating this remarkable milestone and the enduring values of freedom, resilience, and democracy. Our two nations enjoy a partnership spanning more than seven decades, strengthened by the invaluable contributions of the Pakistani-American community," the prime minister said in a post on X handle.



As the two countries looked towards a bright and promising future, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan remains fully committed to further strengthening its partnership with the United States, based on mutual respect, shared interests, and constructive, mutually beneficial

engagement.

<https://x.com/CMShehbaz/status/2073336709765365900>

He further observed that history had proven time and again that the US and Pakistan stood together at the most consequential moments, whenever peace and security of the world had been at stake.

"We acknowledge and appreciate President Trump's vital contribution to peace in South Asia, which helped save hundreds of millions of lives in a potentially devastating war, as well as his steadfast efforts that helped end several major conflicts around the globe," he further posted.

Sharjeel Memon Slams Sattar's Karachi Demand as 'Political Blackmailing'

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon rejected MQM-P leader Farooq Sattar's call to place Karachi under federal control, calling it "political blackmailing" and a "conspiracy" against the federation.

Responding to Sattar's presser, Memon said MQM-P still relies on shortcuts instead of public mandate because it has "lost the trust of the masses." He added that seeking federal intervention or dragging state institutions into politics is "an exercise in futility."

Memon asserted that Sindh's people gave a clear mandate to PPP, which cannot be changed through threats or press conferences. He asked MQM-P to explain its own failures despite federal representation, and vowed not to compromise on Karachi's mandate, constitutional powers, and provincial autonomy.

PM Shehbaz Invites Turkish Investors to Pakistan's Industry, Power, IT, and Privatization

Spokesman Report

ISTANBUL: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday invited Turkish businessmen to invest in Pakistan's industry, mines and minerals, power, IT, and privatization sectors at the Pakistan-Türkiye Business Conference.

He said Pakistan wants to learn from Türkiye's 20-year success under President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in industry, automobiles, textiles, agriculture, privatization, and SEZs. The government has earmarked 1,000 acres for Turkish investors in President Erdogan's Special Economic Zone in Karachi. He highlighted scope in mining, AI, IT, and alternative energy, noting 60% of Pakistan's

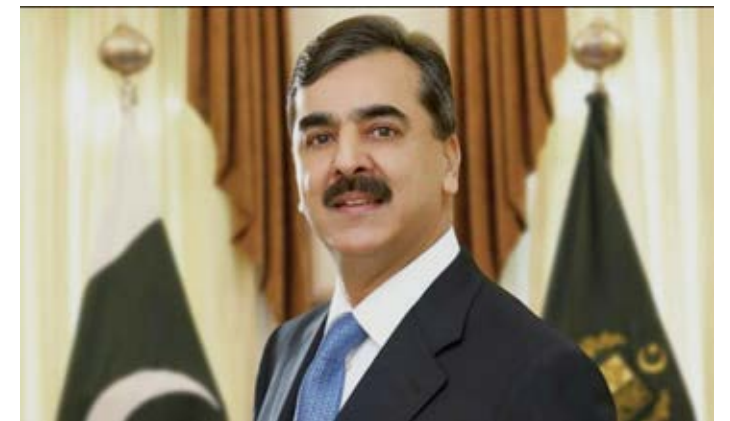
240 million population is youth.

Shehbaz said Pakistan aims to privatize loss-making power entities and seeks investment in solar and wind. He proposed government-to-government agreements and praised Türkiye's support.

Turkish Vice President Cevdet Yılmaz said Türkiye is ready to deepen cooperation and set a \$5 billion bilateral trade target. Deputy PM Ishaq Dar stressed economic diplomacy and welcomed Turkish investment in energy, mining, IT, logistics, tourism, and defense.

Ministers briefed on reforms in privatization, power, petroleum, and IT. Pakistan's IT exports are growing 20% with 26,000 registered companies.

Chairman Senate Congratulates US on Independence Day



Kiran Asim

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate of Pakistan, Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani has extended warm congratulations to the Government and the people of the United States of America on the occasion of their Independence Day.

In his message, the Chairman Senate Syed Yousof Raza Gillani highlighted the values of freedom, democracy, and equal opportunity as key drivers of America's progress and prosperity. He expressed satisfaction over the positive trajectory of Pakistan-United States relations and emphasized the impor-

importance of further strengthening bilateral cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

He reaffirmed that Pakistan and the United States share a long-standing partnership and expressed confidence that this relationship will continue to grow, particularly in trade, investment, education, and people-to-people exchanges.

The Chairman Senate also reiterated Pakistan's commitment to enhancing friendly relations with the United States and promoting regional and global peace, stability, and sustainable development through constructive engagement.

GB supreme appellate court orders re-polling at Diامر

Saif ur Rehman

GILGIT: Supreme Appellate Court of Gilgit-Baltistan has ordered re-polling at a polling station in the GBA-15 Diامر constituency.

In its ruling, the court directed the ECP to conduct fresh polling at Loshi Thak polling station after accepting the appeal filed by a candidate of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl.

The latest order comes a day after the Supreme Appellate Court directed re-polling at eight polling

stations in the GBA-17 Darel constituency in response to another petition filed by the same party's candidate.

The dispute arose after the ECP ordered the issuance of Form-49 in GBA-17 based on the available election results. Challenging that decision, the candidate approached the Supreme Appellate Court for re-polling at 11 polling stations. The Election Commission is expected to implement the court's directives and announce the schedule for the fresh polling.

Farooq Sattar demands Karachi be placed under centre, threatens protest

Bureau Report

KARACHI: MQM-P senior leader Farooq Sattar said the sense of deprivation in Karachi has "crossed all limits" and urged PM Shehbaz Sharif to take control of the port city from the Centre and create new administrative units.

At a Bahadurabad press conference, he asked Bilawal Bhattu and CM Murad Ali Shah to implement the March 30, 2022 agreement on Karachi's development, warning that failure would force MQM-P to launch a protest movement. "If Kara-

chi's people come to the streets, they will be unstoppable," he said.

Sattar clarified he is not seeking governor's rule, but supports a



referendum on Karachi's administrative status. He also criticized the quota system and fake domiciles.