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 ہم سے ابو نعیم نے بیان کیا کہ ہم سے اسحاق نے بیان کیا وہ سعید کے بیٹے ہیں، ان سے سعید نے اور ان سے ابن عباس نے بیان کیا کہ نبی کریم ﷺ کے زمانہ میں اپنے ہاتھوں سے ایک گھر بنایا تاکہ بارش سے حفاظت رہے اور وہ عویب سے سایہ حاصل ہو اللہ کی مخلوق میں سے کسی نے اس کام میں میری مدد نہیں کی۔ معلوم ہوا کہ ضرورت کے لئے گھر بنانا درست ہے۔
 (بخاری، حدیث نمبر 6302)
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Daily The Spokesman



Bilawal arrives Gilgit to attend GB Chief Minister's oath ceremony

Chairman of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, arrived in Skardu on Sunday ahead of the oath-taking ceremony of Chief Minister-elect Amjad Hussain Advocate. The PPP chairman later departed for Gilgit to attend the swearing-in ceremony of the newly elected chief minister.



Drivers of smoke-emitting vehicles to face licence suspension in Lahore

Punjab authorities have decided to suspend the driving licences of motorists operating smoke-emitting vehicles as part of an intensified campaign to combat air pollution and reduce smog in Lahore.

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US Independence Day celebration

ISLAMABAD: A motorcycle rider going in front of decorative world map with colorful lights in connection with U.S.A celebrations of 250th anniversary of independence, at Constitution Avenue in the Federal Capital.

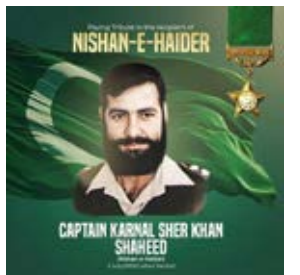


Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

PM pays tribute to hero of Kargil war

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif paid rich tributes to the hero of the Kargil War (1999), Captain Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed Nishan-e-Haider, on his 27th martyrdom anniversary, and appreciated his great sacrifice and unparalleled bravery.



In a statement, he said, "The extraordinary bravery and eternal sacrifice of Captain Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed in the most adverse circumstances is a shining chapter in the military history of Pakistan, which is a testimony to the highest traditions of loyalty to the motherland and bravery."

"Defence of the beloved homeland is a sacred duty, and the great sacrifices made by the sons of the pure land are

the guarantor of our peace and sovereignty today," he added.

He reiterated the firm resolve of the government and the people of Pakistan that they stand shoulder to shoulder with their armed forces against any external or internal threat facing the country.

"This great sacrifice of Captain Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed reminds us that our freedom and sovereignty are due to the sacred blood of our martyrs," he added.

Four AJK police officials abducted by banned JAAC in Rawalakot

Bureau Report

RAWALAKOT: Four personnel of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Police were allegedly abducted in Rawalakot by individuals identified by authorities as members of a banned Action Committee, according to official claims.

Authorities said the alleged incident occurred amid an ongoing protest in Rawalakot, which they claimed had seen limited public participation.

Officials alleged that following the protest's failure to attract significant support, members of the banned Joint Awami Action



Constable Muhammad Ishtiaq



SG (Selection Grade) Constable Shahid Shafique



Constable Zeeshan Ishaq



SG (Selection Grade) Constable Muhammad Saghir

Committee resorted to unlawful activities and attempts to create unrest.

According to the official

account, individuals led by Khawaja Mehran allegedly abducted four police personnel while they were travelling from

their homes to Rawalakot to report for duty.

The abducted officers have been identified as Selection

Grade Constable Shahid Shafiq, Selection Grade Constable Muhammad Sagheer, Constable Muhammad Ishtiaq and Constable Zeeshan Ishaq.

Officials said the four policemen remain in the custody of the alleged members of the banned organisation.

Authorities further claimed that members of the same group had previously abducted an assistant sub-inspector (ASI) of the AJK Police and subjected him to severe torture.

They also alleged that the group had earlier attacked the Combined Military Hospital (CMH).

Ahsan Iqbal Invites Overseas Pakistanis to Partner in URAAN Pakistan for Healthcare and Economic Growth

ORLANDO: Federal Minister for Planning Prof. Ahsan Iqbal urged overseas Pakistanis, especially healthcare professionals, entrepreneurs and investors, to partner in Pakistan's development under the government's URAAN Pakistan initiative during the 49th APPNA Convention.

Addressing Pakistani-American physicians, he proposed a "Telemedicine Backup" model with panels of 10 US-based specialists for each of Pakistan's 60 districts to support junior doctors in underserved areas. He also called for AI-driven healthcare solutions and digital health platforms to modernize the sector.

The minister highlighted challenges including hepatitis

C, diabetes, TB, polio, population growth and stunting. He said PM Shehbaz Sharif approved a National Population Council and that hepatitis elimination and diabetes awareness programs are underway.

In meetings with the business community, Iqbal invited diaspora investment for exports, technology partnerships and industrial growth. He outlined URAAN Pakistan's focus on export-led, innovation-driven growth, and said Pakistan's next challenge is Maarka-e-Macceshat — winning economic strength.

He reaffirmed commitment to policy continuity, rule of law and called the diaspora a strategic asset for a globally competitive Pakistan.

AJK Election 2026: EC releases final list of 852 candidates for 45 constituencies

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: The Election Commission (EC) of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) has released the final list of candidates for the General Elections 2026.

Overall 852 candidates will contest across 45 constituencies after 313 candidates withdrew their nomination papers. A total of 1,255 nomination papers had initially been filed for the elections.

According to the revised list, the highest number of candidates will contest from Kotli Division (135), followed by Muzaffarabad District (126) and Poonch Division (126). Meanwhile, 98 candidates will contest from Muzaffarabad Division, 83 from Bagh, 82 from Haveli, 63 from Mirpur, 54 from Leepa Valley, 51 from Neelum, and 34 from Jhelum Valley.

Election activities are expected to gain momentum across Azad Kashmir as the final list is published.

Political parties and independent candidates have formally entered the campaign phase as they prepare to seek public support ahead of polling day.

The Election Commission said the completion of the nomination process marks the beginning of a competitive electoral campaign, with 852 candidates now set to contest for seats in the 45 constituencies of the Azad Kashmir Legislative Assembly.

Telecom Amendment Bill 2026 will not allow occupation of private land: Shaza Fatima

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja clarified that the proposed Pakistan Telecommunication (Re-organization) (Amendment) Bill, 2026 does not allow anyone to occupy private land.

At a press conference with Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar, she said the bill updates the 1996 Act to address modern needs like 5G and digital connectivity. The bill was tabled in January, passed by the National Assembly in June after PPP-backed amendments, and is now with a Senate committee. PM Shehbaz Sharif formed a committee headed by Tarar to review it amid public concerns.

Shaza Fatima said the amendments aim to attract investment, expand high-speed internet, and ease right-of-way issues for fibre-optic networks and towers. Fibre connections have risen from 3 million to over 5 million, with a target of 10 million households in 3 years.



Tarar stressed owner consent remains mandatory for laying cables on private property, and citizens can refuse. He rejected allegations of financial benefit against the IT minister and secretary, saying the NA passed the bill with 6 amendments and no evidence of favoritism was found.

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AJK Prime Minister reviews law and order situation with Chief Secretary and IGP

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Chaudhry Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, held separate meetings with Chief Secretary Khushhal Khan and Inspector General of Police (IGP) Liaqat Ali Malik to review the overall law and order situation and administrative affairs in the state.

During the meetings, detailed discussions were held on the prevailing security environment and measures aimed at ensuring peace, stability, and effective governance across Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Chief Secretary Khushhal Khan briefed the Prime Minister on key administrative matters and the progress of various government initiatives. Separately, IGP Liaqat Ali Malik provided a comprehensive briefing on the law and order situation, the professional performance and operational readiness of the police force, and the measures being taken to safeguard the lives and property of the people.

The Prime Minister appreciated the performance of both the civil administration and the police, acknowledging their efforts in main-



taining peace and public order. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to further strengthening the rule of law and enhancing the protection of citizens' lives and property across

the state. Prime Minister Rathore emphasized that ensuring peace, security, and good governance remains among the top priorities of the government

and directed the relevant authorities to continue working with dedication to provide a safe and secure environment for the people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Beat the heat

LAHORE: A large number of citizens bathing in a Canal to cool off during hot and humidity weather, in the Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Radio Pakistan Pensioners Face Financial Hardship, Demand Release of Pending Dues

News Desk

KARACHI: Nearly 3,500 pensioner families of Radio Pakistan are facing severe financial hardship and have urged the government for urgent relief, citing unpaid dues and lack of medical support.

Pensioners say gratuity payments pending since 2020 remain unpaid, while arrears related to budget-announced relief measures have also not been fully released. Many elderly retirees report they cannot afford proper treatment or medicines, and some have died due to the ongoing strain.

They are demanding immediate



payment of outstanding gratuity, and a medical allowance for both serving and retired employees. The group claims they have approached multiple forums, including the Prime Minister's Complaint Cell, the Supreme Court Human Rights Cell, and the Federal Ombudsman, but received no response.

Officials confirmed a committee was formed six months ago by the Prime Minister to address Radio Pakistan's issues, but no formal meeting has been held so far.

Pensioners are calling for lawful relief and effective administrative steps to resolve the institution's financial challenges and improve its functioning.

Two Traders Allegedly Assaulted Following Road Blockade in Rawalakot Area

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD/RAWALAKOT: Two local residents, including Anjuman Tajran Arja General Secretary Sardar Nasir Arbab and his cousin Hassam, were allegedly subjected to a prolonged assault by a group of masked individuals reportedly affiliated with the banned Joint Awami Action Committee, according to local sources.

The incident reportedly

occurred near Jandala Cross, where the group had allegedly blocked the main road by felling a tree, causing severe disruption to traffic. Sources claimed that an ambulance carrying a deceased person was also stranded due to the blockade. According to the reported account, Sardar Nasir Arbab, accompanied by several local youths, reached the site to help clear the road and facilitate the ambulance's passage. It is



alleged that shortly after their arrival, a group of around 20 to 25 masked individuals opened fire. Although no casualties were reported in the firing, Nasir Arbab and his cousin were allegedly detained at gunpoint.

The two men were reportedly assaulted and taken from the scene to Halan Bazaar before being transported in a vehicle to Paniola, where they were allegedly subjected to further

physical abuse for several hours. According to the claims, both victims repeatedly pleaded for mercy during the ordeal.

The victims were later allegedly abandoned in an injured condition near Halan Bazaar before the assailants fled. They were subsequently shifted for medical treatment.

The incident has reportedly sparked anger among the local business community and residents of Arja.

Altaf Shakoore Says ML-1 Exclusion is an Opportunity, Not a Setback

News Desk

KARACHI: Pasban Democratic Party Chairman Altaf Shakoore said the exclusion of ML-1 from CPEC is not a setback, but a chance for a more sustainable railway strategy.

He urged Pakistan to modernize the Karachi-Peshawar corridor using domestic financing and private sector support instead of new foreign loans. Upgrades should include converting single-track to double-track, fencing, and installing digital signaling to boost speed, safety, and capacity.

He said Pakistan Railways has the capacity to lead this with local resources. If foreign debt is needed, it should fund a transformative project: Pakistan's first high-speed bullet train.

Shakoore called on PM Shehbaz Sharif, Minister Hanif Abbasi, and stakeholders to prioritize economic sovereignty and build a railway system matching Pakistan's future aspirations.

Punjab Police Intensifies Anti-Narcotics Crackdown in Toba Tek Singh

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: In line with Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's vision, Punjab Police has intensified its anti-narcotics campaign across the province.

Under directives of IGP Punjab Rao Abdul Karim, supervision of RPO Faisalabad Sohail Akhtar Sukhera and leadership of DPO Akhlaq Ullah Tarar, daily operations, intelligence-based raids, and modern investigations are being conducted in Toba Tek Singh.

DPO Tarar said drug abuse threatens youth and national development. SHOs have been ordered to submit strong challans to ensure strict punishment, with no concessions for influential persons.

Special surveillance has been increased at schools, colleges, parks, and bus terminals. Awareness campaigns are also underway.

The DPO urged parents, teachers, scholars, and citizens to report drug activity, assuring confidentiality. He reaffirmed commitment to making Toba Tek Singh a peaceful, secure, and drug-free district.



AC Kamalia Pays Surprise Visit to Maryam Nawaz Health Clinic in Chak 737 GB

Zafar Chishti

TOBA TEK SINGH: Assistant Commissioner Kamalia Erum Shahzadi paid a surprise visit to the Maryam Nawaz Health Clinic in Chak No. 737 GB to inspect healthcare services for the public.

During the visit, she reviewed medical facilities, availability of medicines, cleanliness, staff attendance, and overall administrative management. She also interacted with patients to inquire about the quality of care being provided.

The AC directed staff to ensure timely delivery of quality medical treatment and facilities to all patients.

Speaking on the occasion, Erum Shahzadi said that, in line with Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's vision, providing quality healthcare in rural areas remains a top government priority. She stressed that no negligence in service delivery would be tolerated.

IRM National Seminar Highlights Women's Role in Economic Growth



Abdul Majid

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Rural Management (IRM), in collaboration with HRDN, organized a national seminar titled "Closing the Skills Gap: Women, Work and Sustainable Economic Growth" to discuss strategies for boosting women's workforce participation through skills development and inclusive policies.

Chief Guest Barrister Nabeel Ahmad Awan, Secretary Establishment Division, said women's economic participation is a national priority. He stressed the need for market-driven skills, digital literacy, entrepreneurship, financial inclusion, and stronger job-market linkages for sustainable growth.

IRM CEO Dr. Roomi S. Hayat reaffirmed commitment to human capital development, calling for stronger partnerships among government, industry and academia. Keynote speaker Dr. Noor Fatima highlighted investing in education and future-ready skills to unlock Pakistan's potential.

Former Federal Secretary Fareena Mazhar urged outcome-oriented training focused on employment, entrepreneurship, digital skills, financial literacy, and climate-smart livelihoods instead of certificate-based programs.

Participants agreed closing the skills gap requires collaboration among government, academia, industry, and civil society. IRM noted it has trained over 1.5 million people in 30+ years.

Faisalabad Prime M&F Club Holds Seat Change Ceremony, New Team Takes Charge

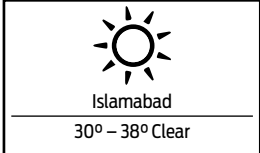
Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: The seat change ceremony of Faisalabad Prime M&F (M&F) Lion Club was held at a local hotel.

Former President Muhammad Babar Shahzad handed over charge to new President Shabbir Ahmed. Former General Secretary Junaid Mahmood was replaced by Saad Tahir, and former Finance Secretary Mohsin Raza was replaced by Zahid Iqbal. The outgoing team welcomed the incoming team with garlands and bouquets. New President Shabbir Ahmed thanked the former team and participants, saying the new team would organize programs jointly with all Lion members. He added that education and water issues in the city would be a priority.

The ceremony concluded with prayers and dinner.





SERVICES
Namaz Timings

Fajr	3:20 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 & 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

Farzan Ahmad Khan become the first Pakistan to receive the Oxford-Pershing Square Graduate Scholarship



Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Farzan Ahmad Khan from Lahore has made history by becoming the first Pakistani to receive the prestigious Oxford-Pershing Square Graduate Scholarship, one of the world's most competitive academic awards.

According to a press release, Farzan has also achieved another milestone as the first graduate of NYU Abu Dhabi to earn the scholarship since its inception. Awarded to only five outstanding scholars globally each year, the scholarship covers full tuition fees and living expenses for recipients pursuing a paired Master's degree and MBA at the University of Oxford. The 30-year-old scholar will undertake a Master of Science in Education, specializing in Higher Education, alongside a Master of Business Administration (MBA) at Oxford.

Public Overjoyed to See Electric Buses in Small Cities & Towns After District HQs

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif noted that public is overjoyed as electric buses reach from district headquarters to small cities and towns; as electric buses have been launched on 13 routes in Khanewal, Khushab, Bhakkar, Attock, Mandi Bahauddin, and Hafizabad. Authorities concerned briefed her that in Khushab, 15 state-of-the-art buses have started operating; while 09 in Khanewal, 09 in Bhakkar, 09 in Attock, 09 in Mandi Bahauddin, and 09 buses have been launched in Hafizabad. They said that in Khushab, electro-bus routes are active from General Bus Stand to Girot Chowk, besides Mitha Tiwana and Mangwal routes; while in Khanewal, rush of passengers is seen on 09 electro-buses operating on Khanewal-Jahanian and Kabirwala routes. They added that in Bhakkar, 09 electric buses are plying on routes from General Bus Stand, Bhakkar to Darya Khan, and Behal route; while in Attock, 09

electro-buses have started running on POF Sanjwal-Hazro and Hakimabad-Attock Khurd routes. They highlighted that in Mandi Bahauddin, electro-buses have started on Kathiala Sheikh-Rasul Village and College Chowk-Manochak routes; while in Hafizabad, 09 buses have started operations on Jinnah Chowk (Inter-city) and Ghora Chowk-Jalalpur Bhattiyan routes.

Relevant authorities briefed Chief Minister Punjab that by the end of July 2026, electro-bus service will be extended to 14 more districts of Punjab; and said that Chiniot, Layyah, Okara, and Sialkot will get 10 buses each; while Lahore, Gujranwala and Multan will get 12 buses each; and 11 buses each for Murree, Gujrat, and Sheikhupura will become functional by the end of July. They noted that Vehari, Kasur, Lodhran, Nankana, and Narowal will also receive 11 buses each by the end of July; as additional 488 electro-buses will arrive in Pakistan, and will become operational in various districts by the end of August 2026.



Enjoyment

ISLAMABAD: A family enjoying traditional horse Baggi ride during Sunday holiday at Daman-e-Koh in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Maryam Nawaz Mourns Martyrdom of PAF Hero Who Sacrificed Life Saving Woman in Islamabad

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif expressed a deep sense of grief and sorrow over martyrdom of Pakistan Air Force Group Captain Asim Tariq, who lost his precious life while saving a woman in Islamabad. She offered sincere condolences and extended her heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family of martyr, Asim Tariq.

Pakistan Test squads announced for West Indies and England tours

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Pakistan Men's National Selection Committee has announced Test squads for the tours of the West Indies and England during a press conference at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore.

Babar Azam has been named captain for both series. Pakistan will play a two-match Test series against the West Indies from 25 July to 6 August, followed by a three-match Test series in England from 19 August to 13 September.

A 16-member squad has been named for the West Indies series, while a 17-member squad has been announced for the England series. Saud Shakeel has been included as the 17th member for the England series, subject to fitness.

Left-arm spinner Ali Usman, right-handed batter Muhammad Awais Zafar, right-arm fast bowler Ubaid Shah and wicket-keeper batter Muhammad Ghazi Ghori are the uncapped players in the squad.

16-member squad (in alphabetical order) for West Indies series: Babar Azam (captain), Aamir Jamal, Abdullah Fazal, Ali Usman, Azan Awais, Imam ul Haq, Khurram Shahzad, Mohammad Abbas, Mohammad Ali, Mohammad Rizwan (wicket-keeper), Mohammad Awais Zafar, Muhammad Ghazi Ghori (wicket-keeper), Sajid Khan, Salman Ali Agha, Shan Masood and Ubaid Shah

17-member squad (in alphabetical order) for England series: Babar Azam (captain), Aamir Jamal, Abdullah Fazal, Ali Usman, Azan Awais, Imam ul Haq, Khurram Shahzad, Mohammad Abbas, Mohammad Ali, Mohammad Rizwan (wicket-keeper), Muhammad Awais Zafar, Muhammad Ghazi Ghori (wicket-keeper), Sajid Khan, Salman Ali Agha, Saud Shakeel (subject to fitness), Shan Masood and Ubaid Shah

Schedule for West Indies series:
25-29 July - First Test, Brian Lara Cricket Academy, Tarouba
2-6 August - Second Test, Queen's Park Oval, Port of Spain, Port of Spain
Schedule for England series:
19-23 August - First Test, Leeds
27-31 August - Second Test, Lord's
9-13 September - Third Test, Birmingham



AIOU Opens Fall 2026 Admissions for Overseas Pakistanis and International Students

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has announced admissions for the Fall 2026 Semester for overseas Pakistanis and international students, reaffirming its commitment to accessible, borderless education through its advanced online system.

AIOU is offering fully online programs including Matriculation, Intermediate, Associate Degree, BS, B. Ed, and Post-graduate Diplomas. Details of all offerings are available on the university's official website. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr.



Nasir Mahmood said the LMS-based system is designed

to meet the needs of learners abroad, allowing them to earn internationally recognized qualifications from their home countries. The Directorate of International Collaboration provides ongoing guidance during admission and studies.

Currently, students from 40 countries are enrolled at AIOU, with international admissions up 30% from the last semester. All activities - admissions, assignments, workshops, and exams - are conducted online via the LMS, ensuring a seamless learning experience for the global student community.

Commissioner Reviews Qila Kohna Qasim Bagh Restoration Project, Sets Key July-December 2026 Deadlines

Zain Khan Malghani

MULTAN: Commissioner Multan Division Amir Kareem Khan inspected the Qila Kohna Qasim Bagh Old City Restoration Project, reviewing progress on conservation works to transform it into a major cultural and tourist destination. He visited Damdama, Nigar Khana, the historic library, library café, retaining wall, fortification wall, and landscaping.

The commissioner announced the Municipal Library and Library Café would open on July 15, while the Langar Khana and Craft Bazaar would open before the annual Urs of Hazrat Shah Rukn-e-Alam (RA). He directed that all schemes be completed by July, August, and September 2026, with no compromise on construction quality, and



stressed nighttime illumination of historical structures.

Officials reported that landscaping between the shrines of Hazrat Shah Rukn-e-Alam and Hazrat Bahauddin Zakariya would be completed by July 15, 2026, with remaining landscaping by September 2026.

Three towers of the new fortification wall and retaining wall

cladding would finish by August 10, 2026, while other towers await land acquisition.

Food Street, external landscaping, and retaining wall work would also complete by August 10, 2026, with remaining shops by September 2026.

Electrical and underground systems on Hussain Agahi Road are scheduled for

December 2026. Restoration of Damdama Museum, Top Roof Café, and overhead water tank will finish by August 10, 2026.

Langar Khana and Auqaf Office handover on July 15, 2026, with courtyard finishing by September 2026.

Restoration of the historic library and Nigar Khana is due by July 15, 2026. Soil retention

and retaining wall work will complete by December 2026.

Three shuttle vehicles have been received, with three more coming from Lahore; public shuttle services start August 10, 2026. Section 4 for new roads is notified, and land acquisition under Section 5 is ongoing, with Rs164 million deposited for acquisition.



ILM Newly Elected Office-Bearers Take Oath

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: The newly elected office-bearers of the Islamic Lawyers Movement (ILM), District Rawalpindi, took oath in a ceremony held at the District Bar Association Rawalpindi on Saturday following the reorganization of the district chapter.

Zafar-ul-Hasan Joiya, President of ILM North Punjab Region, presided over the event, while Imran Shafiq, Advocate Supreme Court and former President of ILM North Punjab, administered the oath.

Advocate Zahid Kiani was sworn in as President and Hammad Abbasi, Advocate, as General Secretary. Senior Vice Presidents include Saqib-ur-Rehman Chauhan, Anees-ur-Rehman Abbasi, and Malik Mumtaz Awan. Vice Pres-

idents are Muhammad Ishraq Abbasi, Izhar-ul-Haq, and Sajid Khokhar. Zeeshan Farooq took charge as Deputy General Secretary.

Other positions: Tanveer Abbas Bhatta-Joint Secretary; Zahid Khokhar-Press Secretary; Mudassar-Deputy Press Secretary; Sakhawat-Assistant Press Secretary; Danish Bilal and Usman Afridi-Coordina-tors; Raja Sikandar Gakhar-Liaison Secretary; Abdul Aziz-Special Assistant.

In his address, President Zahid Kiani reaffirmed ILM's commitment to constitutional supremacy, rule of law, impartial justice, Islamic values, and judicial strengthening. He stressed collective efforts for lawyers' welfare and professional dignity. A large number of lawyers attended and expressed confidence in the new leadership.

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Martyrdom That Defeated a Superpower-II

The third dimension of Khamenei's death lies in Karbala. In Shia Islam, the sacrifice of Imam Hussain, grandson of Prophet Muhammad, is not merely a seventh-century tragedy remembered through annual rituals. Karbala represents a permanent moral command: stand against tyranny, refuse submission to oppression and remain beside the victim even when resistance carries an unbearable personal cost.

The symbolism is now visible throughout Khamenei's funeral ceremonies. His coffin is to travel through Qom, Najaf and Karbala before his burial in Mashhad. Black mourning flags recalling the martyrdom of Imam Hussain hang over Iranian streets. The journey itself connects Khamenei's death with the religious geography and historical memory that have shaped Shia political consciousness for centuries.

Iran has consistently interpreted Palestine through this ideological prism. Palestinians have endured displacement, occupation, bombardment, hunger and repeated military devastation. Gaza has been reduced to rubble on a catastrophic scale, families have disappeared beneath destroyed buildings and civilian suffering has horrified much of the world. The confrontation has repeatedly expanded into Lebanon, spreading destruction across a region already exhausted by decades of conflict.

One may condemn particular tactics used by Hamas, Hezbollah or other armed organisations and still ask why these groups continue to exist and retain support. Their political justification is deeply connected to the unresolved Palestinian question. Resolve that conflict justly and the strategic architec-

ture of armed resistance begins to lose its rationale. Without the wound, organisations created around resisting that would face an inevitable crisis of purpose.

A credible two-state settlement could fundamentally transform the Middle East. Give Palestinians the right to choose their government, protect their social and religious traditions, preserve their language and maintain a recognised connection with their land. Once Palestinians possess dignity, political agency and a viable national future, the justification for maintaining a permanent kinetic posture against Israel will inevitably weaken.

Iran could have chosen silence. It could have followed the cautious path adopted by much of the Muslim world. Türkiye, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and numerous Muslim states have spoken for Palestine diplomatically, but none willingly absorbed the scale of military, economic and strategic consequences Tehran accepted by directly challenging the Israeli-American strategic order. Iran understood the price of its policy and still refused to retreat.

Had Tehran treated Palestinian suffering as somebody else's problem, it might have secured economic comfort, sanctions relief and international accommodation. Yet a state that invokes Karbala cannot easily preach the sacrifice of Imam Hussain at home while remaining permanently silent when it believes another people are subjected to occupation, collective punishment and overwhelming military force abroad.

This explains why Khamenei's martyrdom may prove strategically

more powerful than his political life. His killing did not eliminate the philosophy of resistance associated with his leadership. It liberated that philosophy from the limitations of an individual ruler and embedded it more deeply in Iran's national consciousness. His coffin, moving towards Qom, Najaf, Karbala and ultimately Mashhad, has itself become a travelling symbol of that narrative.

Iran's military response subsequently demonstrated the logic of asymmetric warfare. Tehran did not need to match the United States aircraft for aircraft, carrier for carrier or dollar for dollar. It expanded the battlefield horizontally, imposed costs on military infrastructure supporting attacks against Iran and threatened strategic arteries upon which global economies depend. Conventional military superiority was confronted by calculated strategic disruption.

Iran's calculation was brutally simple. It did not have to defeat the United States in a traditional battlefield contest; it only had to make continuation of the war economically, politically and strategically unbearable. By stretching the theatre of confrontation and exploiting regional dependencies, a militarily weaker state demonstrated how disproportionate costs could be imposed upon adversaries possessing vastly superior weapons and resources.

The war intended to fracture Iran instead strengthened its cohesion. The campaign justified by fear of an Iranian atomic bomb killed the religious leader whose fatwa had restrained nuclear

weaponisation. The attempt to destroy a philosophy of resistance provided that philosophy with its most powerful martyr. These contradictions now hover over every funeral procession moving through Iran and Iraq.

The presence in Tehran of senior representatives from Russia, China, Pakistan, Iraq and other states adds another dimension to the moment. Iran was supposed to emerge isolated, humiliated and broken. Instead, as Khamenei lies in state, representatives of major powers and regional governments are standing before his coffin, while the funeral journey prepares to cross national borders and the great centres of Shia faith.

As Khamenei is carried towards his final resting place in Mashhad, the ultimate irony is difficult to escape. His enemies possessed superior aircraft, larger arsenals, advanced intelligence systems and enormous financial resources. Yet his death gave Iran something military technology could neither manufacture nor easily destroy: a renewed story of sacrifice, dignity and collective resistance.

The superpower possessed the larger arsenal, but the martyr left behind the stronger story. History repeatedly demonstrates that military power can destroy buildings, eliminate leaders and devastate economies, but it cannot always determine which narrative survives a war. In Khamenei's case, the attempt to kill a leader may instead have immortalised his cause and strengthened the nation his death was intended to break.

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



Qamar Bashir

India's Suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty Raises Regional and Global Concerns

The Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), signed between India and Pakistan in 1960 with the mediation of the World Bank, has long been regarded as one of the world's most successful transboundary water-sharing agreements. The treaty allocated the eastern rivers to India while granting Pakistan primary rights over the western rivers, establishing mechanisms such as the Permanent Indus Commission and dispute resolution through neutral experts and arbitration. These provisions helped both countries manage water disputes peacefully for more than six decades.

In April 2025, India announced that it was placing the treaty in "abeyance," a move that has generated significant legal and diplomatic debate. According to the article, this action effectively suspends India's treaty obligations without following the formal dispute resolution procedures outlined in the agreement. Critics argue that such a unilateral step weakens international treaty obligations and undermines confidence in established mechanisms for resolving transboundary disputes.

The article highlights that Pakistan depends heavily on the Indus River system for agriculture, hydropower generation, drinking water, and livelihoods. It argues that upstream infrastructure projects, including dams on shared rivers, combined with changes in water management, could affect downstream river flows, potentially impacting agricultural production, energy generation, and ecological balance.

Environmental concerns are also raised, with the article alleging that industrial and urban pollution from upstream areas affects water quality downstream. It argues that untreated sewage and industrial waste entering shared rivers could damage aquatic ecosystems and pose public health risks through increased waterborne diseases.

From a legal perspective, the article contends that India's action challenges the international principle of pacta sunt servanda, which requires states to honor their treaty commitments. It argues that bypassing the treaty's institutional mechanisms could set an unfavorable precedent for international agreements governing shared natural resources.

The article further links water security to broader human rights concerns, emphasizing that reliable access to clean water is essential for health, food security, and economic stability. It also notes that climate change—including glacier melt, changing monsoon patterns, and extreme weather—makes cooperation over shared water resources increasingly important.

In conclusion, the article calls for greater international attention to the issue, urging the global community to encourage dialogue, transparency, and adherence to international agreements. It argues that preserving the integrity of the Indus Waters Treaty is vital not only for regional stability between India and Pakistan but also for maintaining international norms governing the peaceful management of shared water resources.



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

Effects of Digital Media on Cultural Values of Women

The digital revolution has transformed human communication, social interaction, and access to information on an unprecedented scale. Smartphones, social media platforms, online streaming services, and digital content have become integral parts of daily life. Among the groups most significantly influenced by this transformation are women, who now have greater opportunities for education, entrepreneurship, social networking, and self-expression. However, alongside these benefits, digital media has also brought significant changes to cultural values, social norms, and perceptions regarding the role of women in society. In a culturally rich and diverse country like Pakistan, understanding the effects of digital media on the cultural values of women has become increasingly important.



Dr. T. M. Malik

Digital media has emerged as a powerful platform for women's empowerment. Through social networking sites, online learning resources, and digital communities, women can access information, develop skills, and participate in public discourse more actively than ever before. Women entrepreneurs use digital platforms to market products, professionals build careers through online networking, and students gain access to educational resources beyond geographical limitations. These opportunities have contributed to greater confidence, independence, and social participation among women.

One of the most positive impacts of digital media is the promotion of awareness regarding women's rights, education, health, and social issues. Campaigns addressing gender equality, domestic violence, child marriage, and

women's health have gained visibility through social media. Digital platforms have provided women with spaces to share experiences, raise concerns, and advocate for social change. As a result, many women are becoming more informed about their rights and opportunities.

However, digital media has also introduced cultural challenges. Global content is now accessible to audiences across different societies, often exposing users to lifestyles, values, and social norms that differ significantly from local traditions. For many young women, social media influencers, celebrities, and online personalities become role models whose lifestyles may not always align with cultural values and social realities. This exposure can create tensions between traditional norms and modern influences.

The increasing emphasis on appearance and online popularity is another concern. Social media platforms often promote idealized images of beauty, fashion, and lifestyle. Many women, particularly young girls, feel pressure to meet unrealistic standards presented through digitally edited photographs and carefully curated content. Such comparisons can negatively affect self-esteem, body image, and mental well-being. The desire for social approval through likes, comments, and followers may sometimes overshadow more meaningful measures of personal achievement.

Family relationships and social interactions have also been influenced by digital media. Traditionally, Pakistani society places strong emphasis on family bonds, interpersonal relationships, and community engagement. Excessive use of digital platforms can some-

times reduce face-to-face communication and weaken family interaction. Individuals may become more engaged with virtual communities than with their immediate social environments, potentially affecting social cohesion and cultural continuity.

Digital media has also altered perceptions regarding gender roles. Exposure to diverse cultures and perspectives has encouraged many women to challenge traditional limitations and pursue educational and professional opportunities. This shift has contributed positively to women's empowerment and participation in public life. However, it has also generated debates regarding the balance between modernization and cultural preservation. The challenge lies not in rejecting change but in adapting to it while maintaining cultural identity and social values.

The influence of digital media on consumer culture is equally noteworthy. Online advertising, influencer marketing, and lifestyle content encourage consumption-oriented attitudes. Fashion trends, beauty products, and luxury lifestyles are frequently promoted as symbols of success and happiness. While consumer choice is not inherently problematic, excessive materialism can shift attention away from traditional cultural values such as simplicity, modesty, and social responsibility.

Education plays a crucial role in addressing these challenges. Digital literacy should become an essential component of educational curricula, enabling young women to critically evaluate online content, identify misinformation, and use technology responsibly. Schools, colleges, and universities must equip students with the skills necessary to navigate digital spaces while preserving their cultural identity and ethical values.

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Punjab Jail Reforms

Punjab is undertaking one of the country's comprehensive prison reform programmes, seeking to transform correctional facilities from overcrowded places of detention into institutions that emphasize rehabilitation, education, healthcare and human dignity alongside security. Through investment in infrastructure, administrative reforms and technological innovation, the provincial government is pursuing a correctional model that aims not only to enforce the law but also to prepare prisoners for successful reintegration into society.

The reforms come as Punjab's prisons continue to face severe overcrowding. The prison population fluctuates between 68,000 and 79,000 inmates. Nearly 73 percent of prisoners are under-trial detainees, highlighting the need for faster criminal trials and stronger probation and parole mechanisms. To ease the pressure, prison capacity has already increased from 30,000 to 39,000, with a target of expanding it further to 43,718 by 2027.

Infrastructure development remains central to the reform agenda. An additional Rs1.3 billion has been allocated to accelerate construction of the Nankana Sahib prison, while new prisons at Nankana Sahib and Samundri are scheduled for completion this year. Construction of 27 additional barracks is also underway across Punjab, with new correctional facilities planned for Chinot and Murree.

Alongside expanding prison capacity, the provincial government is introducing measures to improve inmates' welfare and access to justice. A formalised Legal Aid Agency is providing free legal assistance to financially disadvantaged prisoners, while work is underway to strengthen probation and parole systems and support quicker disposal of criminal cases. Prison hospitals are now subject to

regular inspections by the Punjab Healthcare Commission. Between January and June 2026, 91,266 prisoners received medical screening and treatment, while 74 professional psychologists have been engaged to improve mental healthcare within prisons.

Women and children have become an important focus of the reforms. Mothers living in prison with children up to six years of age are receiving nutritional support, while improved hygiene facilities have been introduced for female inmates. Three modern women's prisons are under construction in Lahore, Faisalabad and Rawalpindi. At juvenile correctional institutions, education, vocational training and recreational facilities are being expanded to promote rehabilitation rather than punishment.

Education and skills development are at the heart of Punjab's correctional strategy. Under the Chief Minister's Literacy Programme, 4,141 inmates have enrolled in formal education. Through the "One Barrack, One Library" initiative, 472 prisoners have completed matriculation, 367 intermediate education and 140 graduation. Vocational training is being provided in computer applications, mobile phone repair, welding, tailoring, cooking, motorcycle and tractor maintenance, while prison industries operating in 15 correctional facilities produce furniture, carpets, tuff tiles, melamine crockery, sports goods and household products, helping inmates acquire employable skills before release.

Technology is also modernising prison administration. Digital remission management, biometric verification, X-ray screening systems and integrated security mechanisms are being introduced to improve transparency and efficiency. Eleven district lock-ups have

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Iranian Ambassador Thanks Pakistan for Highest-Level Participation in Funeral of Martyred Supreme Leader

By Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan H. E. Dr. Reza Amiri Moghadam has expressed profound gratitude to the Government and people of Pakistan for sending a high-level delegation to attend the ceremony held in Tehran to pay homage to the Martyred Supreme Leader of Iran, Shahid Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

In a statement, the Ambassador said that, on behalf of the Government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran, he extends his deepest appreciation to Pakistan for its solidarity during this historic and solemn occasion.

The Ambassador conveyed special thanks to Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz



Sharif, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Defence Staff, Chairman of Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Federal



Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Minister for Information Attaulah Tarar, as well as other senior government officials, eminent religious scholars, political leaders, and cultural personalities who attended the funeral ceremony.

He stated that Pakistan participated in the ceremony at the highest possible level, making the Pakistani delega-

tion both the most senior and the largest foreign delegation present at the event. According to the Ambassador, the presence of such a distinguished delegation reflected the enduring friendship, mutual respect, and deep fraternal relations between the two neighbouring Islamic countries.

The Iranian envoy said the gesture demonstrated the

historic bonds and shared values that have united Iran and Pakistan through decades of cooperation, adding that the two nations have consistently stood together in times of both joy and adversity.

He emphasized that Pakistan's participation reaffirmed the strength of bilateral relations and underscored the spirit of solidarity that continues to define ties between Tehran and Islamabad.

Concluding his message, the Ambassador prayed to Almighty Allah to preserve the long-standing friendship and brotherhood between the two countries and to bless the peoples of Iran and Pakistan with lasting peace, prosperity, and dignity. He also expressed hope that bilateral relations would continue to grow stronger for generations to come.

Iran mourns Ayatollah Ali Khamenei as foreign leaders join state funeral

TEHRAN: Tens of thousands of mourners gathered in the Iranian capital on Sunday as state funeral ceremonies for the late Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, began at the Imam Khomeini Grand Mosalla, marking one of the largest public gatherings in Iran in recent years.

The funeral, which is scheduled to continue over several days with ceremonies in multiple cities, has emerged as both a deeply religious occasion and a significant political event. Iranian authorities described the ceremonies as a demonstration of national unity and resilience, while mourners dressed in black filled streets surrounding the Grand Mosalla, carrying Iranian flags and religious banners.

The funeral follows the death of Ayatollah Khamenei during the recent conflict involving Iran, Israel and the United States. The event has drawn widespread international attention because of its implications for Iran's political future and regional stability.

Iranian state media broadcast emotional scenes of men and women offering prayers, reciting verses from the Holy Quran and participating in traditional Shia mourning rituals. Many mourners beat their chests rhythmically while chanting religious slogans and prayers in tribute to the late leader.

According to Iranian officials, delegations from around 30 countries attended the funeral ceremonies. Senior representatives from Russia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Oman, Qatar, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Egypt, Ghana, Nicaragua, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Serbia, Cuba, Tunisia, Lebanon, Namibia, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand and The Gambia were among those present. Representatives of regional organisations, including the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO), also attended.

Pakistan was represented by a high-level delegation led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The delegation included Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir. They attended the funeral prayers in Tehran and conveyed con-



lenes on behalf of the Government and the people of Pakistan.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif paid tribute to Ayatollah Khamenei, describing him as a leader whose wisdom, leadership and influence would be remembered for generations. He reaffirmed Pakistan's solidarity with the people of Iran during their period of national mourning and underscored the longstanding brotherly relations between the two neighbouring countries.

Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir also paid his respects alongside senior international dignitaries. During the visit, the Pakistani delegation held meetings with Iranian officials, reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to strengthening bilateral ties and promoting regional peace and stability.

Pakistan's participation reflected the longstanding diplomatic, cultural and

religious relationship between Islamabad and Tehran, as well as both countries' commitment to expanding cooperation in regional peace, security and economic development.

Iranian authorities have yet to release an official final attendance figure for foreign delegations, and no comprehensive list of participating dignitaries has been formally confirmed.

Security was heightened across Tehran as authorities implemented extensive arrangements for the state funeral. Thousands of volunteers assisted mourners by distributing food, water and refreshments, while temporary road closures were imposed along major procession routes.

The funeral ceremonies are expected to continue in several holy cities, including Qom, Najaf, Karbala and Mashhad, where Ayatollah Khamenei is expected to be laid to rest. Iranian officials said the multi-city procession would allow people across the region to pay their final respects.

Political analysts believe the funeral

carries significance beyond mourning. Coming after months of regional conflict, the ceremonies are expected to influence discussions on Iran's future leadership, domestic politics and foreign policy.

Senior Iranian political, military and religious leaders joined funeral prayers throughout the day as crowds continued to arrive at the Grand Mosalla. Religious scholars led Quran recitations and prayers in accordance with Islamic traditions. However, there is no verified official information indicating that different Quranic verses were recited for specific visiting countries or delegations.

International observers said the funeral had evolved into both a religious and diplomatic event, bringing together representatives from numerous countries despite continuing geopolitical tensions.

As Iran observes several days of national mourning, the funeral ceremonies have become a symbol of remembrance as well as political significance, reflecting the country's effort to project unity during a period of regional uncertainty. The coming days are expected to focus on memorial events, diplomatic engagements and discussions about the future direction of the Islamic Republic following one of the most consequential moments in its modern history.

Despite the large crowds and heightened security, Iranian authorities maintained public access across much of Tehran. Unlike some previous high-security events, no shipping containers were used to block roads, and internet services remained operational throughout the funeral proceedings, allowing mourners, journalists and visitors to communicate freely.

'Brave' Muniba Maqsood, Honored as DC Attock for a Day, Passes Away



By Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Little Muniba Maqsood, who courageously battled thalassaemia, has passed away, leaving her family, friends and staff of the Thalassaemia Center in deep grief.

Muniba won hearts with her strength, determination and ever-present smile. On June 22, she was symbolically appointed as Deputy Commissioner of Attock for 24 hours during a visit by DC Attock Rao Atif Raza to the Thalassaemia Center. The initiative aimed to honor her extraordinary courage.

During the event, Muniba carried out ceremonial responsibilities at the DC Office as media representatives witnessed. Her confidence and radiant spirit touched everyone present and inspired many.

Today that brave young soul has fallen silent, but her optimism and love for life will always be remembered. The honor of serving as DC for a day and the joy on her face during that experience will remain etched in hearts.

Following her passing, people from social, government and public circles expressed grief and condolences to her family.

May Allah grant Muniba mercy, the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous, and give her parents patience. Ameen.

CCD Seeks Business, Legal Community Support to Eliminate Crime: SSP Wattoo

By Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: On the directions of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the Crime Control Department (CCD) is making dedicated efforts to eliminate crime across the province, said Regional Officer CCD Rawalpindi Range SSP Hassan Jahangir Wattoo.

Addressing a joint meeting with the legal fraternity and business community at the District Officer CCD office, he stressed that achieving this goal requires full support and cooperation from both sectors.

Attendees included District Bar President Malik Rab Nawaz Hayat Bilal, Sarafa Association leaders Muhammad Iftikhar Saraf and Chaudhry Iftikhar Ahmad, City Traders Union President Haji Muhammad Almas, Attock Press Club's Shehzad Anjum Butt, DO CCD Yasir Matlab Kiani, and other officials.

SSP Wattoo said justice must be on merit and the law is equal for all. He noted system weaknesses and warned that influential people cannot expect law enforcement to serve personal interests. "No offender is above the law and no criminal can escape legal action," he said, urging support to eradicate crime and social evils.

Who turned Tawaifs into Prostitutes: Another exploit of British

The defame, damage and the decline of the tawaif, as a recognised artist in South Asia is often told as a story of changing tastes. The history reads something different: a shift carefully planned by British colonial law, economic disruption, and the social politics of the independence era.

Let's first understand, Who the Tawaif Was Before 1857.

In the times of Mughals the word "Tawaif" was not limited to body, but intelligence, art, and etiquette. In cities like Delhi, Lucknow, Lahore, and Hyderabad, a tawaif was a respected professional musician-dancer, trained for years in ghazal, thumri, Urdu adab, and kathak. Many ran independent kothas, owned property, taught elite women, and held cultural influence through patronage from courts and urban elites. Nawabs send their son to learn adab, etiquette, gazal

and poetry.

Among these learning women was Ghaur Jan in 1902 from Calcutta, who was the first to record her songs in Gramophone and almost recorded 600 songs in times, another lady named Rasolan Bai from Banaras who's Thumri still bring tears in eyes of listener. Moreover, today's Semi classic music born among those khotas.

However, their knowledge and influence was not just limited to music and arts, but they were an active partner in the fight for independence. Many were funding, sheltering and part of secret information networks. The revered Azizan Bai from Khanpur was one of the name that history couldn't forget, since Azizan let her Khota to be used as secret headquarter in the 1857 revolt, meals were prepared in that kitchen, injured were nursed and she physically joined the rebellion against British while riding a horse and carrying weapons. However, this was

the turning point... where everything changed, from a respectable house to a whorehouse.

British is no doubt a very wicked nation, who for their personal gains can forget the difference among God and demon. Everything is fair in war, a phrase said by Francis Edward Smedley in 1789, who was a British no doubt.

When in India our Kingdom believed in justice and fairness even in war or love.

Coming to the point, after 1857, when British acknowledged the power and independence of these ladies they initiated "Anti-Naught movement" and ended their court patronage. Beside introducing the "Contagious Diseases Acts" and "Cantonment Regulations" subjected women associated with male clients to licensing,

medical inspection, and police zoning. Records from that period do not distinguish between artists, entertainers, and brothel workers. All were grouped under one administrative category.

At the same time, princely courts lost revenue and authority. Without court mehfil, the main economic base for tawaif lineages weakened. Victorian moral discourse further stigmatised public female performance, pushing music and dance training out of "respectable" households.

All of this had a compounding effect. Artistic patronage declined, legal categories hardened, and stigma increased. By Partition, the term "tawaif" had been collapsed in law and public discourse into the single category of

"prostitute," with little institutional space left for the older artist-courtesan model.

Pakistan and India's early post-colonial laws criminalised brothels and trafficking, but did not create a separate legal category for courtesan-artists. Cinema and recorded music replaced live kotha performance as the main public outlet for song and dance. In Lahore's Heera Mandi and other urban quarters, communities became more economically vulnerable and more heavily policed.

The tawaif's marginalisation was mainly caused by one factor: British.

My suggestion we need to learn honest history, not flattened categories. The tawaif was first an artist. British Colonial policy which triggered economic change, and the politics of "respectability" during the freedom struggle helped turned that identity into a criminalised one. Restoring the distinction is a matter of record — and

Analysis

Naveed Ahmad Khan



Analysis

Munaza Kazmi



of justice.

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
NewZealand \$	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

Pakistan Must Prioritize Bilateral Trade with Iran and Global Marketing for Prosperity: Iftikhar Malik

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: SAARC chamber of commerce and industry former president Iftikhar Ali Malik on Sunday stressed the need to urgently accelerate efforts to convert US-Iran diplomatic triumphs into sustainable economic growth on top priority.

In a statement here today he said a two-pronged approach on Iran ties and global marketing is needed to achieve the desired results of economic prosperity. He said government must focus on aggressively scaling up direct bilateral economic ties with Iran, securing institutional mechanisms for energy, trade and logistics that benefit both countries over the long term. He said government must also attach high priority to invest heavily in showcasing Pakistan across regional, bilateral and global economic platforms. He said Pakistan possesses a highly talented, capital-rich tier of family-owned businesses with millions – and in some cases, hundreds of millions – of dollars



invested in industrial estates. He said let's private sector to lead the economy once again. He said by offering targeted fiscal and monetary incentives through commercial banks, streamlined tax policies and the unified Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) one-window operations, Pakistan can help solidify these economic foundations for the decade ahead.

He predicted that immediate advantages will be quite visible in a short span of time such as increased trade with Iran, potentially cheaper energy supplies, a massive reduction in smuggling, and lower cross-border transactional costs – the true value lies deeper. It rests on the fundamentally transformed global image of Pakistan, he added. He hoped diplomatic groundwork laid by Pakistan's top leadership – including the prime minister Shehbaz Sharif and the field marshal Asim Munir – will pay dividends and what we need is export-led growth, value addition, foreign direct investment, job creation, import substitution and rapid technology transfers.

Buying ice

RAWALPINDI: People are buying ice from a roadside vendor during hot summer day in the city in the city.



Photo: Online

From \$1,900 to \$5,000: How a 'Top 1000 Club' Could Transform Pakistan's Economy by 2060

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman Saif ur Rehman on Sunday said "Top 1000 Club" of private-sector leaders holds the key to elevating Pakistan from a \$1,900 per capita economy to \$5,000 per capita by 2060.

Talking here today to a delegation of traders he said achieving this target requires a sustainable, long-term approach: maintaining a steady overall GDP growth rate of 5% to 5.5% for the next three decades, and effectively managing and reducing the population growth rate to ensure a net GDP per capita growth of at least 3% annually. He said a strong partnership between the public and private sectors is essential for achieving higher productivity, attracting foreign investment and improving the ease of doing business. He said policy consistency, political stability, investment in human capital



and modern infrastructure would enable the private sector to unlock its full potential. With collective determination and visionary leadership, he added, Pakistan

can achieve inclusive prosperity, strengthen its industrial base and emerge as a resilient upper-middle-income economy by 2060 he concluded.

Milli Rickshaw Union protests LPG overpricing, seeks enforcement of official rates

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Milli Rickshaw Union (MRU) staged a protest at Qurtaba Chowk against excessive LPG prices, illegal profiteering by dealers, and the authorities' failure to enforce official rates.

The demonstration was attended by President MRU Rana Shamsad, Pakistan Markazi Muslim League (PMML) City President Muaz Ishtiaq, General Secretary Hafiz Inam, and a large number of rickshaw drivers. As a symbolic protest, participants placed LPG cylinders on the road alongside their rickshaws and demanded immediate govern-



ment intervention.

Addressing the gathering, the speakers said the OGRA has fixed the official LPG

price at Rs241 per kilogram, but many dealers in Lahore are allegedly charging between Rs450 and Rs500 per kilogram. They said the inflated prices have significantly increased operating costs for rickshaw drivers while also placing an additional financial burden on consumers.

The speakers alleged that despite the existence of official price notifications, the relevant authorities, including price control departments and the district administration, have failed to ensure compliance. They urged the government to take strict action against dealers involved in overcharging and ensure the availability of LPG at the officially notified rate.

Pakistan's Industrial Future Hinges on Supporting Local Brands, Says FPCCI Leader

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Convener Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry regional committee on food Shahid Imran on Sunday said "Made in Pakistan" has become a turning point to promote the use of locally manufactured products and strengthen the national economy by reducing dependence on imported brands.

Speaking here today to a delegation of industrialists he said every purchase of a locally made item contributes directly to employment generation, industrial growth and economic stability. He said vibrant domestic manufacturing sector can help reduce the import bill, conserve valuable foreign exchange reserves and improve the country's trade balance. By choosing quality Pakistani brands, people can play a vital role in promoting self-reliance and sustainable economic development. Pakistan



possesses immense potential in textiles, sports goods, surgical instruments, leather products, engineering goods, processed food and information technology, all of which can successfully compete in international markets if given adequate support, he added.

He hoped a strong national commitment to supporting indigenous brands would accelerate industrialization, create thousands of new jobs, enhance exports and pave the way for a resilient, self-sustaining and prosperous economy.

GCC Customs Delays, Shipping Disruptions Hit Pakistan's Export Competitiveness: Ismail Suttar

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: Ismail Suttar, Founder Chairman of the Salt Manufacturers Association Pakistan (SMAP), has voiced concern over the continuing disruption to regional shipping and customs operations across the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), warning that prolonged delays and rising logistics costs are undermining Pakistan's export competitiveness and disrupting regional trade flows.

In a statement, Ismail Suttar said exporters and importers across the region continue to face mounting challenges as delays in customs clearance, particularly at Dubai and other major GCC gateways, have become increasingly common despite shipments



reaching their destinations on schedule.

"Businesses are no longer dealing only with elevated freight rates," he said. "The growing delays in customs processing after cargo arrives at destination ports are resulting in additional storage, detention and administrative costs, significantly increasing the landed cost of goods and creating uncertainty throughout the supply chain."

Livestock card holders urged to clear outstanding dues

FAISALABAD: Additional Director Livestock Faisalabad Rubina Anjum has urged livestock farmers to immediately clear all outstanding loans and other liabilities obtained under the Phase-II Livestock Card Scheme by depositing dues at the Bank of Punjab, otherwise, the defaulters would not be eligible to benefit from the upcoming Phase-II programme.

Appealing to livestock breeders and farmers, she said that Punjab government had almost completed preparations for the launch of Phase-II Livestock Card Scheme, under which only those beneficiaries who had fully repaid their Phase-I financial obligations within the prescribed timeframe would qualify for fresh assistance.

Blood Donation: Saving Three Lives with One Pint, Says PFC Chief



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Chief Executive Officer Pakistan Furniture Council Mian Kashif Ashfaq, Tamgha-I-Imtiaz on Sunday said one pint of blood saves three lives of patients of thalassemia, cancer, childbirth complications, and other life-threatening conditions.

Talking here today to a delegation of Sundas Foundation led by its founder and President Dr Muhammad Yasin Khan, Sitar-I-Imtiaz he said there lives solely depend on voluntary blood donors for survival. Allah Almighty says in the Holy Quran: "Whoever saves one life, it is as if he has saved all of mankind." (Surah Al-Ma'idah 5:32) highlighting the immense spiritual reward and moral responsibility of helping those in need. Blood donation is a practical manifestation of selflessness enshrined by Islam. He said according to medical research, it never affects the health of a donor and fresh blood is naturally reproduced in the body after a short span of time without affecting the health. By donating blood every few months, eligible individuals can make a lasting difference without any significant risk to their own health. Let us promote a culture of voluntary blood donation and inspire our youth to become regular donors, helping save precious lives and strengthening the bonds of humanity and brotherhood, he added.

Young and healthy people should come forward and donate blood regularly, a hope and a second chance at life to those in desperate need. He highly appreciated the unprecedented services of Sundas Foundation for timely ensuring full blood to patients free of cost whereas their attendants were also provided free food and facilitate them bringing their kids to centre.

Green Pakistan Initiative

Strengthening National Food Security Through Agricultural Transformation



Professor Dr. Muhammad Jalal Arif

Analysis

Agriculture has always been the backbone of Pakistan's economy, providing livelihoods to millions, contributing significantly to the national GDP, and ensuring food security for a rapidly growing population. However, changing climatic conditions, water scarcity, declining productivity, fragmented landholdings, outdated farming practices, and increasing food demand require a comprehensive transformation of the agricultural sector.

The Green Pakistan Initiative (GPI) represents one of Pakistan's most ambitious national development programmes, aiming to revitalize agriculture through scientific innovation, institutional coordination, private-sector investment, and sustainable resource management. It reflects a shared national commitment to transforming agriculture into a modern, competitive, climate-resilient, and knowledge-based sector capable of ensuring long-term food security and economic prosperity.

The National Seminar on Food Security, held on 10 July 2023 at the Convention Center, brought together policymakers, agricultural scientists, researchers, universities, development organizations, progressive farmers, agribusiness leaders, and representatives of federal and provincial institutions. The seminar emerged as a landmark platform that reinforced national consensus on agricultural transformation and highlighted the importance of science, innovation, and collaboration in shaping Pakistan's agricultural future.

General Syed Asim Munir's Vision: Agriculture as the Foundation of National Strength

General Syed Asim Munir presented a forward-looking vision in which agriculture is recognized not merely as an economic sector but as the foundation of Pakistan's national security, economic stability, and sustainable development.

He emphasized that Pakistan possesses extraordinary natural advantages, including fertile agricultural land, one of the world's largest irrigation systems, diverse climatic zones, abundant water resources, rich mineral wealth, and a dynamic farming community. These resources, if managed through modern science and technology, can transform Pakistan into a globally competitive agricultural economy.

General Asim Munir stressed that future agricultural development must be driven by innovation, mechanization, digital technologies, precision agriculture, climate-smart farming, efficient water utilization, and modern value chains. He underscored the importance of translating research into practical field applications that directly benefit farmers and strengthen national food security.

He appreciated the pioneering role of the Fauji Foundation's agricultural wing and FENGROW in promoting modern agriculture, supporting farming communities, and fostering collaboration among research institutions, universities, government depart-

ments, private industry, and progressive farmers. Such partnerships, he observed, are indispensable for achieving sustainable agricultural transformation. **Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif's Vision: Leading Pakistan's Second Green Revolution**

Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif has consistently positioned agriculture at the very centre of Pakistan's economic recovery and long-term national development strategy. As the chief guest at the launch of the Green Pakistan Initiative and at the subsequent National Seminar on Food Security, the Prime Minister described the programme as nothing less than Pakistan's second Green Revolution, one capable of paving the way for lasting prosperity and progress across the country.

The Prime Minister has repeatedly underlined that Pakistan's farmers, who work tirelessly to feed millions of citizens, deserve modern resources, fair returns, and reliable institutional support. Under his government's economic reform agenda, agriculture has been placed at the heart of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), with an anticipated investment of thirty to fifty billion dollars envisioned over the coming years to modernize irrigation, mechanization, seed systems, and agro-processing capacity nationwide.

PM Shahbaz Sharif's vision for agricultural transformation rests on several interconnected pillars: attracting foreign and domestic investment into corporate and smallholder farming alike; strengthening research institutions such as the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council through closer collaboration with globally recognized bodies; expanding climate-resilient and water-efficient cultivation practices; and building international partnerships with Gulf states, China, and other partners to transfer technology, expertise, and capital into Pakistan's fields.

He has directed federal ministries to develop clear, time-

driven transformation of agriculture. Through his scholarly writings, public lectures, and contributions to national policy discussions, he has emphasized that Pakistan's agricultural future depends upon innovation, research excellence, technology transfer, and institutional collaboration.

Dr. Khan had the opportunity to brief General Syed Asim Munir

on Pakistan's agricultural potential and outlined the strategic role that the University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) can play in strengthening national food security through research, innovation, and capacity building.

During his tenure as Vice Chancellor of UAF, Dr. Khan transformed the university into one of South Asia's leading centres of agricultural excellence. His leadership promoted precision agriculture, biotechnology, climate-smart farming, digital agriculture, mechanization, and efficient resource management. More importantly, he championed the transformation of knowledge into goods and services through commercialization of research, university-industry partnerships, entrepreneurship, and technology transfer.

He strongly believes that universities must become engines of innovation that directly improve farmers' livelihoods while contributing to national development. According to Dr. Khan, the Green Pakistan Initiative offers a historic opportunity to integrate scientific research with national policymaking, ensuring

the seminar reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to achieving food self-sufficiency, improving rural livelihoods, attracting investment, generating employment, reducing poverty, and positioning agriculture as a major driver of national economic growth.

Dr. Iqar Ahmad Khan: Architect of Agricultural Innovation

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The seminar produced a comprehensive roadmap for strengthening Pakistan's agricultural sector through coordinated institutional action. Major outcomes included:

- Promotion of precision agriculture and digital advisory systems.
- Expansion of climate-smart and resource-efficient farming technologies.
- Modernization through mechanization and advanced farm machinery.
- Strengthening certified seed production and implementation of the National Seed Policy.
- Improved irrigation efficiency and integrated water resource management.
- Development of livestock and dairy sectors as engines of rural prosperity.
- Expansion of value addition, agro-processing, and agricultural exports.
- Stronger collaboration among universities, research organizations, industry, and policymakers.
- Promotion of entrepreneurship, innovation, and commercialization of agricultural technologies.
- Increased investment under the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

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The Green Revolution transformed South Asia through improved seed varieties, irrigation, fertilizers, and extension services. China modernized agriculture by integrating research institutions with farmers and investing heavily in rural infrastructure. The Netherlands became one of the world's largest agricultural exporters through precision farming, greenhouse technologies, efficient water management, and strong university-industry partnerships.

Similarly, Brazil transformed previously unproductive land into one of the world's largest agricultural production systems through scientific research and innovation, showing how targeted investment in soil science and crop breeding can unlock vast new productive capacity.

These international experiences clearly show that sustainable agricultural transformation depends upon long-term political commitment, modern technology, institutional coordination, and continuous investment in agricultural research—principles that lie at the heart of Pakistan's Green Pakistan Initiative.

tion services, financial advisory, digital agriculture, crop protection, and expert technical guidance under one roof.

The Agri Mall concept significantly reduces farmers' transaction costs while improving access to quality agricultural inputs. It also minimizes counterfeit products, strengthens extension services, accelerates technology transfer, and ensures that scientific innovations developed by research institutions reach farming communities efficiently.

The model has the potential to revolutionize agricultural service delivery across Pakistan.

Universities as Engines of National Development

Agricultural universities remain central to Pakistan's agricultural modernization.

The University of Agriculture Faisalabad, a world-recognized university in agriculture and forestry, continues to lead national efforts in agricultural research, innovation, human resource development, and technology transfer. Building upon the remarkable legacy established by Dr. Iqar Ahmad Khan, the university is continuing its mission under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Zulfikar Ali, whose emphasis on quality seed systems, climate-resilient agriculture, applied research, and university-industry collaboration is further strengthening UAF's contribution to the objectives of the Green Pakistan Initiative.

Universities must continue generating scientific knowledge while ensuring that innovations are translated into practical technologies that improve productivity, conserve natural resources, and enhance farmers' incomes.

Challenges and the Way Forward

Despite its enormous promise, the Green Pakistan Initiative must address critical challenges, including efficient water governance, climate change, protection of smallholder farmers, sustainable land management, and stronger coordination among federal and provincial institutions.

Transparent policymaking, inclusive stakeholder participation, environmental sustainability, and equitable access to modern technologies will be essential for ensuring the Initiative's long-term success.

Pakistan's agricultural transformation must remain farmer-centric, science-based, environmentally responsible, and economically inclusive.

Conclusion

The Green Pakistan Initiative represents one of Pakistan's most significant national development programmes of the twenty-first century. More than an agricultural project, it is a comprehen-

sive strategy for strengthening national food security, promoting rural development, generating employment, enhancing exports, and ensuring sustainable economic growth.

General Syed Asim Munir has articulated a compelling national vision that places agriculture at the centre of Pakistan's future prosperity. His emphasis on innovation, institutional collaboration, scientific agriculture, and sustainable resource management provides a strategic roadmap for transforming Pakistan into a globally competitive agricultural nation.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif has reinforced this national resolve by championing large-scale investment, institutional reform, and international partnership as the pillars of a modern, export-oriented agricultural economy, framing the Initiative as Pakistan's second Green Revolution.

Complementing this vision, Dr. Iqar Ahmad Khan has demonstrated through decades of academic leadership and scientific excellence that research, education, innovation, and technology transfer are indispensable pillars of agricultural transformation. His contributions have strengthened the bridge between scientific knowledge and practical farming solutions, making him one of the foremost architects of Pakistan's modern agricultural development.

Supported by progressive institutions such as the University of Agriculture Faisalabad, visionary leadership, committed policymakers, dedicated researchers, and an empowered farming community, Pakistan possesses every ingredient required to realize the aspirations of the Green Pakistan Initiative.

If implemented with continuity, transparency, scientific rigor, and national consensus, the Green Pakistan Initiative can become Pakistan's second Green Revolution—one that not only increases agricultural productivity but also secures food sovereignty, environmental sustainability, rural prosperity, and a resilient future for generations to come.

About the Author: Prof. Dr. Muhammad Jalal Arif, Former Professor & Chairman, Department of Entomology, University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF), Agricultural Scientist | Researcher | Science Communicator | International Agricultural Affairs Analyst, Advocate of Sustainable Agriculture, Climate-Smart Farming, Agricultural Innovation, Food Security, Knowledge Transfer, and Rural Development in Pakistan.

Effects of Digital Media on Cultural Values of Women

Continued from Page 4

Parents also have an important role in guiding digital media usage. Open communication, awareness, and constructive engagement can help young women benefit from technology without becoming vulnerable to its negative effects. Rather than imposing strict restrictions, families should encourage balanced and responsible use of digital platforms.

Religious, cultural, and educational institutions can contribute by promoting positive digital content

that reflects local values and social realities. Creating culturally relevant educational programs, awareness campaigns, and online resources can help counter negative influences while leveraging the benefits of digital technology.

In conclusion, digital media has significantly influenced the cultural values of women in Pakistan by creating both opportunities and challenges. It has enhanced access to education, information, and empowerment while simultaneously raising concerns related to

cultural identity, mental well-being, consumerism, and online safety. The need of the hour is not to resist technological progress but to promote its responsible use. By combining digital literacy, cultural awareness, family guidance, and ethical education, Pakistani society can ensure that digital media serves as a force for positive development while preserving the values that strengthen its social fabric.

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Punjab Jail Reforms

Continued from Page 4

already been upgraded, while five major prisons have shifted to solar energy. Prisoners now have access to audio and video calling facilities, along with 80 minutes of weekly telephone communication through prison PCO services. Since 2024, 2,554 inmates have been transferred to prisons closer to their home districts, making it easier for families to maintain regular contact. The provincial government is also remodelling 30 prison transport vehicles with air conditioning, onboard washrooms, surveillance cameras and improved seating to ensure safer and more dignified transportation.

The reforms are grounded in Pakistan's constitutional and legal framework.

Article 14 of the Constitution guarantees the inviolability of human dignity, while prison administration is governed by the Prisons Act, 1894 and the Punjab Prison Rules. Pakistan is also a State Party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Convention against Torture (CAT), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The reform agenda also reflects the principles of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), the internationally recognized benchmark for humane prison administration.

The reforms are equally consistent with Islamic teachings that emphasise justice, compassion and respect for human dignity. The Holy Quran states, "Indeed, We have honoured the children of Adam" (17:70), affirming the inherent dignity of every human being. By combining expanded infrastructure with healthcare, legal assistance, education, vocational training and modern prison management, Punjab is seeking to build a correctional system that protects society while offering prisoners a genuine opportunity for rehabilitation and a productive return to their communities to start a new phase of life.

(The writer is a Lahore-based public policy analyst and can be reached at quadratu@gmail.com)

On a hot Summer day

ISLAMABAD: Jul 05- A couple taking selfie at deserted Daman-e-Koh picnic point during hot summer day, in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Gillani calls July 5, 1977, a dark day in Pakistan's democratic history

Asim Tanveer

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Yousaf Raza Gillani on Sunday termed July 5, 1977, a "Dark Day" (Yaum-e-Siyah) in the nation's history, saying it was the day when the constitutional and democratic government of the country's first elected prime minister, Quaid-e-Awam Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, was unlawfully overthrown.

In his message on the occasion, the Senate chairman said the unconstitutional act of July 5 was not merely the end of a government but a severe blow to Pakistan's Constitution,



federation, and democratic institutions.

He said Zulfikar Ali Bhutto gave the nation the consensus Constitution of 1973, which serves as the ultimate guar-

antee of the country's survival and security, adding that its suspension pushed the nation into the darkness of dictatorship.

Yousaf Raza Gillani paid

tribute to the sacrifices made by Quaid-e-Awam Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto for democracy and the rights of the people.

He said the leadership and workers of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) had historically endured floggings, imprisonment, and even laid down their lives for the restoration and survival of democracy.

The Senate chairman added, "On this day, we must reiterate our resolve that the supremacy of Parliament, the sovereignty of the Constitution, and the sanctity of the people's

vote will never be compromised. Those who launched a midnight assault on democracy have faded into the oblivion of history, while the name and philosophy of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto live on in the hearts of millions."

He concluded by saying that the only path to national stability and progress lay in a strong Parliament and uninterrupted democratic continuity, adding that the Senate of Pakistan would continue to play its pivotal role in strengthening the federation and upholding constitutional supremacy.

Govt Ready for Dialogue, Urges PTI to Show Political Maturity: Aun Chaudhry

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Aun Chaudhry, called on PTI leadership to prioritize national interests by demonstrating political maturity and active participation in Parliament before presenting demands.

Speaking to media, he said the government is willing to

listen to PTI's reservations but stressed the party must first show seriousness. "They contested elections only to resign later instead of fulfilling parliamentary duties. They neither ensure meaningful participation nor raise public issues on the floor. This is not how democratic politics works," he remarked.

Chaudhry said dialogue offers to PTI have been repeated, but talks can only

be meaningful with a responsible approach. "The doors for dialogue remain open, but PTI must prove its commitment to democratic and parliamentary politics."

On Gilgit-Baltistan elections and Kashmir narratives, he said PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is a respected leader and consultations were positive, with PPP accepting some GB-related reservations. He expressed confidence PPP



will remain an allied party. He added election campaign statements are a democratic right and that political narratives in Kashmir are common,

provided they reflect public will. He concluded that national stability is PML-N's priority and urged political unity.

Momina Iqbal Questions Legal Process as MPA Saqib Chadhar's Bail Extended Again

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Actress Momina Iqbal has questioned the legal process after a Lahore sessions court again extended the interim pre-arrest bail of Punjab MPA Saqib Chadhar and his wife until July 13.

During Thursday's hearing, the court directed the couple to join the investigation and sought a progress report from the prosecution at the next hearing.

Following the proceedings, Momina shared an Instagram Story saying she once believed influence was limited to Bhowna, but now feels "the full advantage of being an MPA is being used."

She alleged her representatives have been repeatedly harassed,



followed, and pressured. She also asked whether ordinary citizens get the same treatment or if repeated adjournments are reserved for influential people.

The case began in May when Momina alleged prolonged online harassment, cyberbullying, and death threats by the lawmaker.

She later named Chadhar, claiming he threatened her and her fiancé after she rejected his marriage proposal, and that her sister also received threats.

Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz had warned against using political influence in the case.

NCCIA registered a case against Chadhar on June 4 under cyber-crime laws. He got interim bail on June 5, which has been extended multiple times.

PPP observes Black Day against martial law on July 5th in 1977



Abdul Ghafoor Sarohi

LARKANA: The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) District Larkana organized 'Salam Quaid Awam' at the mausoleum of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto to protest the imposition of martial law on July 5, 1977, and to pay tribute to the party founder.

PPP local leadership participated in the ceremony at Garhi Khuda Bakhsh Bhutto. Workers visited the mausoleums of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto and other martyrs, laid floral wreaths and recited Fateha. In his message, Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon termed July 5, 1977 a "black day in history" when "the

people's right to rule was bloodshed." He said the undemocratic act had a profound negative impact on politics, society and national development. He added that today is a day to renew commitment to constitutional supremacy, democratic continuity and protecting the right to vote. Memon said Shaheed Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto waged a historic struggle for democracy, the constitution and people's rights, calling their political struggle "an important chapter" in promoting democratic values in Pakistan. He pledged that the Sindh government, in line with PPP leadership's vision, will continue struggling for democratic values and public service.

Govt to Provide Education to 100,000 More Children of Registered Workers



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: In line with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's vision, Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Chaudhry Salik Hussain has directed Workers Welfare Fund Secretary Zulfikar Ahmad to implement an initiative to provide educational facilities to an additional 100,000 children of registered workers, from Grade 1 to 12.

The Minister said the move reflects the state's commitment to securing a brighter future for working families. "We are not merely providing educa-

tion to 100,000 children; we are giving hope and dignity to 100,000 families," he stated.

He emphasized that education is a fundamental right and that children of workers deserve equal access to quality education. The initiative aims to expand access nationwide and ensure no deserving child is deprived due to financial constraints.

Salik Hussain reaffirmed plans to make the Workers Welfare Fund a modern, transparent, and people-centric institution.

"The hands that built Pakistan will now see their children write Pakistan's future."

PAF Group Captain killed in Islamabad while helping woman



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: A Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Group Captain was shot dead after intervening to help a woman allegedly being taken against her will on Ninth Avenue, police said on Sunday.

According to police, Group Captain Asim was passing through the area when he saw a motorcyclist, identified as Saad, allegedly forcing a woman to accompany him. The officer stopped his vehicle and stepped in to assist.

During the confrontation, the woman ran to the other side of the officer's vehicle. Police said Saad argued with Group Captain Asim before opening fire. The officer

sustained critical injuries and died at the scene. The suspect fled.

Authorities registered a criminal case and recorded the woman's statement. She alleged the suspect, a colleague from her office, offered to drop her at work but changed the route and tried to take her elsewhere against her will. When she resisted, he allegedly tried to force her, before the officer intervened.

Police said raids are underway at multiple locations to arrest the suspect. The investigation is ongoing.

Group Captain Asim is survived by his wife, a daughter, and a son. The incident has drawn widespread public tributes on social media praising the officer's courage.